

London School of Economics & Political Science

Department of Economics

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16 Richmond Crescent
London, N10LZ
United Kingdom

Gender: Male

Citizenship: Germany

Pre-Doctoral Studies

2011 – 2012 **Master of Research in Economics** (with Merit)
London School of Economics and Political Science
2010 – 2011 **Master of Science in Economics** (with Distinction)
London School of Economics and Political Science
2007 – 2010 **Bachelor of Arts in Economics**
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
Exchange Semester: University of Southern California, Los Angeles

Doctoral Studies

PhD in Economics

London School of Economics and Political Science

Dates: 09/2012 - present

Thesis Title: “Essays on Public Organization, Poverty and Development”

Expected Completion Date: April 2017

Thesis Advisors and References

Professor Oriana Bandiera
Department of Economics
London School of Economics
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Professor Henrik Kleven
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Professor Robin Burgess
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Desired Teaching and Research

Primary Fields: Development Economics
Secondary Fields: Public Economics, Organizational Economics

Teaching Experience

2016 – 2017 LSE Teaching Assistant, EC221 Principles of Econometrics
2012 – 2014 LSE Teaching Fellow, EC402 Econometrics for MSc
2013 LSE Summer School, EC312 Principles of Econometrics
2012 LSE Summer School, EC212 Introduction to Econometrics
2011 – 2012 LSE Teaching Assistant, EC220 Introduction to Econometrics

Relevant Positions Held

2016 Consultant for the **World Bank** - Development Impact Evaluation Unit
2014 – 2015 Visiting Research Fellow
Harvard University, Center for International Development
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Invitation by Professor Rohini Pande
2014 - 2016 Consultant for the **Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations**
2013 Consultant for the **World Bank** - Agriculture and Environmental Services
Department
2013 Research Assistant for the **International Growth Centre**
2011 – 2014 Research Assistant for Oriana Bandiera, Henrik Kleven, and Ethan Ilzetzki

Languages **English:** Fluent spoken and written
German (native): Fluent spoken and written
French: Basic spoken and written

Scholarships, Honours and Awards

2016 – 2017 Royal Economics Society Junior Fellowship
2015 Agricultural Economics Society Poster Prize
2014 LSE Teaching Prize
2011 – 2014 LSE Economics Department Scholarship
2011 – 2012 Zempelin Scholarship
2012 Karl and Adeline Goeltz Scholarship
2010 – 2011 Hölderlin Scholarship
2007 – 2012 German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes)

Grants

Project: “The Value of Discretion”

IGC Research Programme - State Capabilities	Amount: GBP 40,000
Food and Agricultural Organization Research Grant	Amount: USD 50,000
JPAL Governance Initiative	Amount: USD 56,000
STICERD Grant	Amount: GBP 9,828

Project: “Behavioural Responses to Inheritance Taxation”

STICERD Grant	Amount: GBP 3,000
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Completed Papers

Job Market Paper

The Value of Discretion: Price-Caps and Public Service Delivery

It is often argued that price-caps – a ceiling on prices charged by monopolistic suppliers - are necessary to redistribute surplus and make essential goods and services affordable. I explore whether price-caps lead to welfare improvements through a field experiment in which I randomize whether public livestock extension agents are subject to a price-cap or not. This intervention has three effects. First, conditional on being served, the treatment increases the consumer surplus available to recipients: the price-cap reduces average prices by 17% and the within-agent standard deviation of prices by 42%. Second, the intervention increases the affordability of extension services: the price-cap increases the share of previously unserved and needy customers in the beneficiary pool by 15% and 9%, respectively. Third, the price-cap reduces the geographic coverage of services by decreasing the likelihood that agents will serve remote villages by 25%. This suggests that price-cap regulation creates a tension between making services affordable and providing incentives for agents to serve remote recipients. In light of this trade-off, I show that the marginal welfare effect of reducing discretion over prices can be expressed as a function of two sufficient statistics: the elasticity of the proportion of served villages in a service area with respect to the price-cap and the price elasticity of demand. Calculating the welfare effects, I find that any reduction of agents' discretion reduces social welfare.

Working Paper

Food for Thought: Nutrition and Agricultural Technology

Over the past twenty years nutritional intake in India has decreased across the income spectrum. This paper tests the hypothesis that the marginal product of calories has changed with the introduction of labour saving agricultural technologies, so that caloric intake has decreased because households receive a lower return to calorie consumption. I first estimate a demand function for calories, relating calorie intake to prices and mechanized tube-wells, which is a wide-spread labour saving technology. I achieve a causal identification of the effect of mechanized tube-wells by using hydrogeological structures as an instrumental variable for tube-well adoption. The results suggest that the introduction of tube-wells has indeed caused calorie intake to decline. To further support the notion of a strong substitution effect between calories and labour-saving technology, I adopt a sufficient statistics approach to measure the marginal product of calories at the household level and relate this measure to mechanized tube-well adoption. Results suggest that the adoption of labour- saving technologies indeed reduced the marginal product of calories.

Research in Progress

Tests versus Interviews in the Search for Civil Servants: Evidence from a Field Experiment

(with Eric Mvukiyehe and Guo Xu)

Behavioural Responses to Inheritance Taxation: Evidence from Germany

Other Writings

Data Poverty makes it harder to fix real poverty. That's why the UN should push countries to gather and share data. *The Washington Post*. July 2015.

(with Rohini Pande)

Ohne Daten keine Entwicklung (in German). *Die Zeit*. September 2015.

(with Rohini Pande)

IGC Evidence Paper – State Effectiveness, Growth and Development. 2013.

(with Oriana Bandiera, Henrik Kleven, Eliana La Ferrara, Gerard Padro i Miquel, Michelle Tejada and Michel Azulai)

Conferences

2016 (including scheduled)	IGC Growth Week, NEUDC, African Agricultural Economics Association Conference
2015	Global Food Security Conference, Agricultural Economics Society Conference

Software

Stata, EViews, Matlab, ArcGIS