



**政策研究大学院大学**

NATIONAL GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
FOR POLICY STUDIES

**APPLIED MICRO SEMINAR**

**April 2019 – February 2020**

**Activities Report**

This report is divided into 2 parts.

- Part A reports on all 5 applied micro seminars during academic year 2019/20.
- Part B reports on the overall evaluation of the applied micro seminar

## Part A. Event Reports

### 1. More Women in Tech? Evidence from a Field Experiment addressing Social Identity

**Date:** April 24 (Wed)

**Time:** 16.40 - 18.10

**Place:** Room J (5th floor)

**Speaker:** Maria Guadalupe from INSEAD

**Language:** English

**Attendants:** 18(Students: 12, GRIPS faculty: 5, Guest: 1)

GRIPS faculty: Stephan Litschig Yoko Kijima, Stacey Chen, Kazushi Takahashi, Alistair Munro.

**Organizer:** Stephan

**Photo:**



#### Abstract:

This paper studies how social identity considerations interact with comparative advantage to determine whether women will attempt a career in technology. We implement two field experiments with potential applicants to a five-month software-coding program offered to low-income women in Peru and Mexico. When we counterbalance the male stereotype of a career in technology - through role models, information on returns and access to a female network - application rates double and self-selection patterns change, suggesting that identity considerations are a strong deterrent for women to attempt a career in technology, in particular for some high-cognitive skill women who would benefit from it.

## **2. From Fog to Smog: The Value of Pollution Information**

**Date:** October 9 (Wed)

**Time:** 16.40 - 18.10

**Place:** Room J (5th floor)

**Speaker:** Eric Zou from the University of Oregon

**Title:** From Fog to Smog: The Value of Pollution Information

**Language:** English

**Attendants:** 17 (Students: 10, GRIPS faculty: 6, Guest: 1)

**GRIPS faculty:** Stephan Litschig, Yoko Kijima, Dainn wie, Minchung Hsu, Kazushi Takahashi, Akio Yamazaki.

**Organizer:** Stephan

**Photo:**



### **Contents and Achievements:**

This paper presents the first empirical analysis of the impact of a large-scale pollution monitoring and disclosure program on a range of household behavior and health outcomes. During 2013-2014, China launched a nation-wide, real-time air quality monitoring and disclosure program, the first-of-its-kind in its history. Exploiting this natural experiment and its staggered introduction across cities, we show that pollution information is a key determinant of pollution avoidance and associated health impacts. Household activities such as online searches, day-to-day shopping, and housing demand are much more responsive to pollution when information becomes widely available. The information program reduces air pollution's mortality cost by nearly 7%, amounting to an annual benefit of RMB 120 Billion, an order of magnitude larger than the cost of the program itself and avoidance behavior. Our findings highlight large benefits

from improving access to pollution information in developing countries that are experiencing the world's worst air pollution but lack basic information infrastructure.

### **3. The Environmental and Economic Consequences of Internalizing Border Spillovers**

**Date:** November 6 (Wed)

**Time:** 16.40 - 18.10

**Place:** Room J (5th floor)

**Speaker:** Shaoda Wang (University of Chicago)

**Title:** The Environmental and Economic Consequences of Internalizing Border Spillovers (with Zenan Wang)

**Language:** English

**Attendants:** 14 (Students: 6, GRIPS faculty: 7, Guest: 1)

**GRIPS faculty:** Stephan Litschig, Stacey Chen, Dainn Wie, Yoko Kijima, Kazushi Takahashi, Akio Yamazaki, Alistair Munro.

**Organizer:** Stephan

**Photo:**



#### **Contents and Achievements:**

This paper investigates a question central to the long-standing debates on federalism and decentralization: how does decentralized decision-making distort the governments' incentives to internalize border spillovers, and what are the associated economic and welfare consequences? We exploit the fact that in the event of a township merger, a polluting firm adjacent to the original "merging border" suddenly becomes at the center of the newly merged township, changing it from "polluting your neighboring township" to "polluting your own township," which should lead to an abrupt increase in the township government's incentive to internalize its negative environmental externalities. Collecting novel firm-level geocoded emission and production panel

datasets, and exploiting more than 3000 cases of township mergers happened in China between 2002 and 2008, we find that when a polluting firm suddenly switches from “border” to “center,” it receives lower government subsidies, faces higher de facto tax rates, which would lead to reduced pollutant emissions and decreased productivity. Utilizing another transaction-level dataset containing the universe of land auctions in China, we estimate a simple hedonic model to quantify the overall welfare effects of internalizing border externalities. Simulations of our model could also shed light on the optimal zoning policies to minimize welfare loss caused by inter-township spillovers.

#### **4. Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage: Results from a RCT of JKN Mandiri**

**Date:** November 20 (Wed)

**Time:** 16.40 - 18.10

**Place:** Room J (5th floor)

**Speaker:** Sudarno Sumarto, Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia

**Title:** Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage: Results from a RCT of JKN Mandiri

**Language:** English

**Attendants:** 21 (Students: 13, GRIPS faculty: 6, Guests: 2)

**GRIPS faculty:** Stephan Litschig, Yoko Kijima, Dainn wie, Minchung Hsu, Kazushi Takahashi, Chikako Yamauchi.

**Organizer:** Stephan

**Photo:**



#### **Contents and Achievements:**

In January 2014, Indonesia launched Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional (JKN), a national, contributory health insurance program aimed at providing universal coverage by 2019. Currently, government (BPJS- government run health insurance) is running a deficit of 727 million USD in 2016. Government of Indonesia was motivated to understand whether subsidies could help boost



enrollment for those working in the informal sector. We worked with them to experimentally test for the effect on enrollment and claims of offering half and full subsidies for a year, as well as assisted internet registration to reduce the hassle costs to sign up and informational treatments about insurance. Our preliminary findings show that subsidies boost enrollment of health insurance; hassles appear to be a deterrent to enrollment (while informational constraints do not appear to be an issue). During subsidy period: Subsidies appear to bring in people who self-report as healthier at baseline, but government incurs greater losses (even with half subsidy); No subsidy group tends to have large claims and more claims at start of insured period (but, then they stop paying premiums), and subsidy groups make smaller claims, but they stay enrolled longer with steady smaller claims.

## **5. Ulysses Revisited: Preferences for External Control Reveal the Limit of Willpower**

**Date:** February 19 (Wed)

**Time:** 16.40 - 18.10

**Place:** Room L (5th floor)

**Speaker:** Dr. Meng-yu Liang, Academia Sinica

**Title:** Ulysses Revisited: Preferences for External Control Reveal the Limit of Willpower

**Language:** English

**Attendants:** 6 (Students: 3, GRIPS faculty: 2, Guests: 1)

**GRIPS faculty:** Minchung Hsu, Stacey Chen

**Organizer:** Stacey



### **Contents and Achievements:**

Being "hooked" on tempting goods is a serious problem for today's society. Modeling such behavior with tractable utility functions can help us understand better the predicament facing such "wretched men." We use revealed preference approach to identify preferences for external control when willpower constraint is binding for self-control. We revisit the classic story of

Ulysses and the Sirens to demonstrate such choice behavior over menus that cannot be accommodated by uphill self-control cost.

### **Part B. Overall Report**

We organized five seminars from April 2019 to February 2020. Participation was highest for Dr. Sumarto's talk (21). The average number of participants was about 14. The majority of the participants were GRIPS students and faculty. In addition, there were participants from other institutions: ANU and IUJ.

All seminars were open to the public. The organizers made announcements by email and disseminated seminar information through the website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/applied-micro-seminar/home>.