

2023 年度政策研究センター長期学術会議支援事業成果報告

Development Economics Workshop (P241CL01)

日本国内、海外から優れた研究を行っている研究者を招き、Development Economics Workshop を 2024 年 4 月から 2025 年 1 月まで計 7 回開催した。

セミナーでは、討論者を割り当てることにより、より活発な議論を促すことができた。東京地域の研究者と遠方の研究者の交流を深め、GRIPS の学生を含む若手研究者を刺激する場を提供することができた。

木島陽子、後藤潤、高橋和志

1. April 3, 2024

Date: April 3, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Room J, GRIPS

Presenter: Asad Islam (Monash U)

Discussant: None

Title: Delivering Remote Learning in Developing Countries using a Low-tech Solution: Evidence from Bangladesh

Abstract: Learning losses resulting from prolonged school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic pose significant challenges to global recovery efforts. This study focuses on Bangladesh, where school closures were extensive, exacerbating existing educational disparities. Leveraging the prevalence of basic feature phones, we implemented a low-tech remedial education intervention using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) technology. Targeting secondary school students, the intervention provided pre-recorded math and English lessons accessible via phone. A randomized controlled trial evaluated the intervention's effectiveness, revealing moderate to significant improvements in learning outcomes, particularly among students receiving additional tutoring alongside IVR lessons. We also observed positive effects on aspirations and a growth mindset. Further analysis indicates higher utilization rates correspond to improved academic performance. Our findings underscore the potential of scalable, ICT-based interventions to mitigate learning losses, contributing valuable insights to education policy and practice.

Language: English

Attendants: 22 (Students: 14, GRIPS Faculty: 5, Other guest: 3)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima, Kazushi Takahashi, Alistair Munro and Dainn Wie

Organizer: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos



2. April 25, 2024

Date: April 24, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Room K, GRIPS

Presenter: Joris Mueller (National University of Singapore)

Discussant: None

Title: China's Foreign Aid: Political Determinants and Economic Effects

Abstract: There has been much speculation -- but little causal evidence -- on the motives behind the large sums of foreign aid some countries provide to other countries. I address this question in the context of China, one of the largest but also most poorly understood donors. Using unique micro data, I document that the Chinese state's paramount goal of domestic political stability is an important driver of its aid allocation. In response to labor unrest in China, infrastructure aid contracts are allocated to state-owned firms in the affected areas, resulting in increased employment and subsequent stability. In addition, I show that domestic unrest also affects the allocation of Chinese aid to recipient countries through connections with these firms. Finally, I exploit this granular variation to develop a novel instrument for identifying the causal effects of Chinese aid on recipients. I find positive short-term effects on GDP but no effects on long-term economic growth, household consumption or employment.

Language: English

Attendants: 20 (Students: 13, GRIPS Faculty: 4, Other guests: 3)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima, Kazushi Takahashi, Yutaro Izumi

Organizer: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos



3. May 15, 2024

Date: May 15, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Room K, GRIPS

Presenter: Susan Olivia (The University of Waikato)

Discussant: None

Title: Cigarette Demand in Indonesia with Controls for Cigarette Quality

Abstract: Most studies of cigarette demand ignore quality variation. In general, consumers may respond to price rises by reducing quantity consumed, but also by downgrading the quality of what they consume. If each type of response is not allowed for, what is estimated as a price elasticity of quantity demand will combine the effects of quantity and quality adjustments. We distinguish between 16 brands of cigarettes in Indonesia, where prices of the dearest brands are over double those of the cheapest. Using Indonesian Family Life Survey data, we estimate individual level demand for cigarettes, comparing estimated own-price elasticities when brand-level controls for quality are included and when they are excluded (as in most prior studies). The own-price elasticity of quantity demand for cigarettes purchased is -0.82 if brand effects are ignored, but is just -0.54 once the brand effects are used. There is a similar gap for the price elasticities of cigarettes smoked. We use these results to simulate a 10% rise in the excise tax and find that the effect of the tax hike in reducing the number of cigarettes smoked would be overstated by 56% if the brand-level controls for quality choice are not used.

Language: English

Attendants: 25 (Students: 19, GRIPS Faculty: 3, Other guests: 3)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Kazushi Takahashi, Yoko Kijima

Organizers: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos



4. October 09, 2024

Date: October 09, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Lecture Room K, GRIPS

Presenter: Lisa Murken (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research)

Discussant: None

Title: The role of tenure security in farmers' decision-making on investment in improved seeds: Insights from mental models

Abstract: This paper applies a mental model approach to study the role of tenure security in farmers' decision-making on agricultural investment in Uganda. We investigate the role that both perceived tenure security and formal land rights play, measured by the possession of land certificates. Our focus is on investment in improved seeds, a widely applied strategy in agricultural development and climate change adaptation. The study design leverages the roll-out of a large land demarcation and registration project, which creates exogenous variation in farmers' formal tenure security. Results show that, in contrast to expectations derived from economic theory, tenure security plays only a minor role in farmers' decision-making process to invest in improved seeds. Out of 15 potential factors determining a farmer's investment decision, both perceived tenure security and possession of a land certificate are among the least chosen factors, regardless of whether or not households participated in the land registration project. An instrumental variable analysis shows that participation in the land registration project had no effect on the perceived importance of tenure security in the investment decision-making process.

Language: English

Attendants: 21 (Students: 12, GRIPS Faculty: 4, Other guests: 5)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Kazushi Takahashi, Yoko Kijima, Alistair Munro

Organizers: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

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5. November 20, 2024

Date: November 20, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Online, Zoom

Presenter: Claude Raisaro (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Discussant: None

Title: Incentives Justifying Nonconformity: Experimental Evidence from Motortaxi Organizations in Uganda

Abstract: What role do financial incentives play in mitigating harmful peer norms? This paper studies whether financial incentives can be more powerful when they help justify choices that have social image costs among peers. I test this hypothesis in the high-stakes context of road safety in low-income countries. I run multiple experiments with 360 motor taxi drivers in Uganda, offering financial incentives to avoid speeding. First, I provide incentivized evidence that speeding is viewed as admirable among coworkers. In a Demand Experiment, I randomize the visibility of incentives to coworkers and show that (i) drivers are more likely to take up financial incentives when they can be used as justification. In an Impact Experiment, I find that randomly offering visible incentives with justification properties is (ii) twice as effective in promoting compliance with speed regulation relative to private incentives, and (iii) has a positive effect on drivers' productivity. At least since Coase, economists have considered financial incentives as a tool to reward desirable behavior. This paper illustrates that they can also reduce the social image costs to defy peer norms, achieving the same behavioral change with lower but visible monetary incentives.

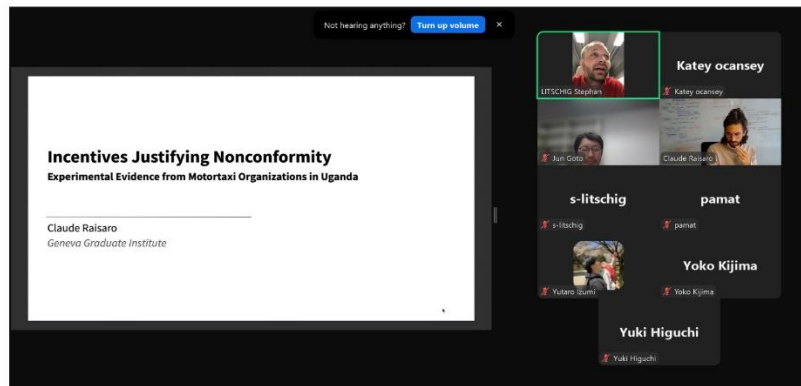
Language: English

Attendants: 9 (Students: 4, GRIPS Faculty: 4, Other guests: 1)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Stephan Litschig, Yutaro Izumi, Yoko Kijima

Organizers: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos



Study Setting: Road Safety in Kampala, Uganda



Policy Implications

- Leverage justification properties to **increase efficiency** of financial incentives
 - **reduce negative externalities**
 - back-of-the-envelope within experimental setting:
 - 15-25% reduction in carbon footprint
 - \$-value of justification property = \$ 1.5-3
- Fight **harmful norms**:
 - "Stepping stone" circumvent vs eradicate peer norms
 - amplifier effect
- Incentives **within firms**:
 - help respond to consumers' preferences when harmful peer norms impact workers

6. December 11, 2024

Date: December 11, 2024

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Lecture Room K, GRIPS

Presenter: Mari Tanaka (University of Tokyo/Hitotsubashi University)

Discussant: None

Title: The Last or Lasting Samurai? The Impact of Secondary Schools on Elite Formation in Early Development

Abstract: We investigate the long-run impact of secondary education on occupational and upward intergenerational mobility in late 19th century Japan. The enrollment rate in post-elementary education was still low but increasing due to rapid construction of secondary schools across regions. Using cohort-specific discontinuities in access to the newly established neighborhood schools, we examine how improved access to secondary schools altered the chances of reaching leadership positions in private and public sectors for individuals with different social backgrounds, particularly former samurai (who used to inherit public sector occupations) and commoners (who used to inherit private sector occupations). We find that the expansion of secondary education increased both samurai and commoner elites, mainly from non-elite families, but most of these new elites chose the same occupations as their ancestors.

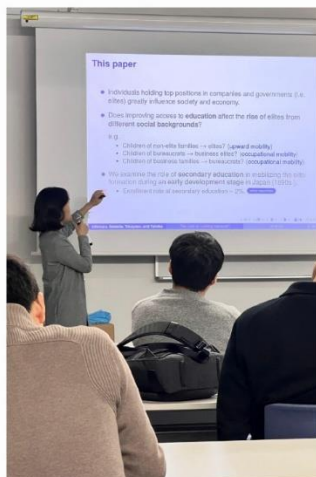
Language: English

Attendants: 18 (Students: 11, GRIPS Faculty: 3, Other guests: 4)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Kazushi Takahashi, Yoko Kijima

Organizers: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos



7. January 07, 2025

Date: January 07, 2025

Time: 16:40 – 18:10

Location: Lecture Room L, GRIPS

Presenter: Martin Mattsson (National University of Singapore)

Discussant: None

Title: Dual Misbeliefs and Technology Adoption: Evidence from Air Purifiers in Bangladesh

Abstract: Dhaka, Bangladesh, consistently ranks as one of the world's most polluted cities, yet fewer than 1% of the middle-class households we contacted own an air purifier. Why don't these households, who can afford air purifiers, adopt them despite the extremely high levels of ambient air pollution? We found that while indoor air can be nearly as polluted as outdoor air, households believe it is much cleaner. Furthermore, although air purifiers are highly effective at filtering indoor pollutants, households are uncertain about their effectiveness. This uncertainty reduces their willingness to pay for these devices to less than a tenth of the retail cost. To address these misconceptions, we conducted a multi-phase field experiment by providing air monitors and purifiers to these households. Households with air monitors realized their indoor air was more polluted than those without monitors, but this did not increase their willingness to pay for purifiers. Similarly, providing air purifiers reduced uncertainty about their effectiveness, yet households seldom used them—even when compensated for electricity costs. However, households that received both monitors and purifiers significantly increased both their usage and valuation of the purifiers. Our findings suggest that correcting misperceptions about both the severity of the problem and the effectiveness of the solution is necessary to boost the adoption and use of certain preventive health technologies.

Language: English

Attendants: 16 (Students: 8, GRIPS Faculty: 3, Other guests: 5)

GRIPS Faculty: Jun Goto, Kazushi Takahashi, Yoko Kijima

Organizers: Jun Goto, Yoko Kijima and Kazushi Takahashi

Photos

