

**Advanced Topics in Economic Development**  
**Professor Taryn Dinkelman**  
**ECON 70614, Spring 2021**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Class meetings: Wednesdays 2.20-5.05pm, 109 Pasquerilla Center  
Class zoom: Zoom Meeting ID: 931 4712 9899 (use this for office hours/meetings too)  
Passcode: 0689403835  
Office hours: Thursdays 3-5pm on Zoom, or email me for appointment  
Email: [tdinkelm@nd.edu](mailto:tdinkelm@nd.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a 1.5 credit (7 week) graduate-level class and is part of the development economic sequence. It assumes that you have taken at least one of the two-semester sequence in the microeconomics of development. The goal of this class is to cover further topics in development with a micro-economic focus. We start by discussing some history of the field and current important methodological issues (e.g. the rise of RCTs in development, big vs. smaller questions). Specific topics this semester include gender in development, internal and international migration, infrastructure, and employment and job creation in rural and urban developing country labor markets.

The class has three goals. To get you to:

1. **Engage with** (think and talk!) about recent research in development economics and develop a sense of what good research looks like. Beyond the specific content in the papers, the process of our discussions will support your professional development more broadly.
2. **Reflect** on (i.e. write about) working papers to identify the strengths and weaknesses of any paper. This is to get some practice in digesting research, and in writing referee reports, an important part of engagement in the profession.
3. **Generate** your own feasible third (or fourth!) year paper topic. This is the most important goal of the class.

We will achieve these goals by completing required readings (\*) on the reading list before each class, being actively engaged in class discussion, preparing one referee report, one paper proposal idea, and taking the lead on presenting and discussing two research papers in class.

In addition, students are encouraged to attend the **Development Economics Working Group Meetings**, Wednesdays 12.30-1.30pm on Zoom (please let me know if you need to be added to the listserv) and the **Applied Micro seminar series**, Tuesdays 3.30-5pm on Zoom (email Professor Jim Sullivan if you want to be on that listserv). Both of these meetings start in March.

## GENERAL COVID HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Please conduct your health check every day! Do not come to class if you do not have a Green Pass. Do not come to class if you have any symptoms. We will be able to have hybrid classes with Zoom participants should the need arise. I will record class on days when at least one person is missing and not able to join via Zoom. Please email me (if you can) before class if you are not going to be able to attend in person.

We may open windows for some of the class time, so dress warmly!

In this class, as elsewhere on campus, students must comply with all University health and safety protocols, including:

- **Face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth will be worn by all students and instructors;**
- **Physical distancing will be maintained in all instructional spaces;**
- **Students will sit in assigned seats throughout the semester, which will be documented by faculty for purposes of any needed contact tracing; and**
- **Protocols for staged entry to and exit from classrooms and instructional spaces will be followed.**

We are part of a community of learning in which compassionate care for one another is part of our spiritual and social charter. Consequently, compliance with these protocols is an expectation for everyone enrolled in this course. If a student refuses to comply with the University's health and safety protocols, the student must leave the classroom and will earn an unexcused absence for the class period and any associated assignments/assessments for the day. Persistent deviation from expected health and safety guidelines may be considered a violation of the University's "[Standards of Conduct](#)," as articulated in [du Lac: A Guide for Student Life](#), and will be referred accordingly.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Students will be required to turn in one referee report (by week 6), prepare to lead discussion of two papers in class (in weeks 2-6), and submit a short research proposal (3-5 pages) at the end of class. Class participation is also required.

- a) **Referee report** (20%) I will flag recent papers by development economists (#) and ask you to return a 2-page referee report to me by week 6, **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Instructions and paper choices will follow.
- b) **Two in-class paper presentations** (20% total) each person should select two of the (\$) readings on the reading list to present to the class in the relevant week. [Sign up](#) for paper presentations at the link in the class drive. This is good practice for communicating research design and results – a key skill to develop. Instructions on how to prepare the presentation will follow.
- c) **Class participation** (20%) Most of each class will be devoted to discussing a handful of specific papers. Required readings are denoted (\*) on the reading list. Additional recommended readings are useful to read to deepen your understanding of the relevant literature. To participate in class you will need to *at least* read the required readings each week. You will also be expected to provide constructive feedback to classmates on their research proposals in the final class.
- d) **Research proposal** (40%) To help move you along in the process of coming up with research ideas, I would like you prepare a 3-5 page research proposal. You will first submit one paragraph on each of two different research ideas to me by **18 Feb**; then based on feedback from me, develop a short literature review on your chosen topic by **March 4**. Two days before our last class, you will circulate the draft of your research proposal. In our final class, you will briefly present your idea to us and we will provide roundtable feedback to refine your proposal. A final version of the proposal will be due to me by **March 23**. More instructions to follow.

## HONOR CODE

You are expected to adhere to the Academic Code of Honor Pledge: *“As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.”* The full *Code* and a *Student Guide to the Academic code of Honor* are available at: <http://honorcode.nd.edu>.

## COURSE MATERIALS

Classes will mostly rely on academic journal articles. Required readings are available in our class folder on the Drive: [Econ 70614 Grad Dev Spring 2021](#) All other readings can be obtained through the library. Please read the required articles before coming to class and be prepared to actively engage in class discussion.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Topic by week	Required Readings by week	Assignments due by week
History of the field/recent methodological issues in development [Feb 3]	Deaton (2020) Duflo (2020) Ravallion (2020); Pritchett (2019)	<b>By 2.6.21:</b> Sign up for two in-class paper presentation choices
Gender in development [Feb 10]	Bandiera and Zipfel 2019 Jayachandran 2015 Duflo 2003; Qian 2008 Bernhardt et al 2019 De Mel et al 2009*2014 Machhiavello et al 2020	<i>In class paper presentations</i>
Internal (rural-urban) migration: causes and consequences [17 Feb]	Clemens 2011 Harris and Todaro 1970 Bryan et al 2014 Hicks et al 2020 Meghir et al 2020 Beegle et al 2011 Kinnan et al 2017	<i>In class paper presentations</i>  <b>By 2.18.21:</b> Submit one paragraph each on two possible research questions, so I can give feedback
International migration: causes and consequences [24 Feb]	Battiston 2020; Dinkelman et al 2016; Gibson et al 2011, Yang 2006 and 2008	<i>In class paper presentations</i>
Labor markets and job creation [3 March]	Lam et al 2019 Jayachandran 2006 Bandiera et al 2016 Abebe et al 2020 Carranza et al 2020 Hjort et al 2019	<i>In class paper presentations</i> <b>By 3.4.21:</b> short literature review on your research topic due to me
Infrastructure for development [10 March]	Burgess et al 2015 Donaldson 2018 Dinkelman 2011 Lee et al 2020 Jensen 2007	<i>In class paper presentations</i> <b>By 3.11.21:</b> Referee report due to me
Research roundtable [17 March]	Each student reads everyone's research proposal before class on <b>3.17.21</b>	<b>By 3.15.2021:</b> circulate your research proposal to the class Present research proposal in class, gather feedback  <b>By 3.23.21:</b> send me the revised version of your proposal

## ECON 70614 - READING LIST Spring 2021

This is not an exhaustive list of readings by topic. Required readings are denoted (\*), readings for paper presentations are denoted (\$), and readings for referee reports are denoted (#).

### 1. A brief history of the field and recent methodological issues

Bardhan, Pranab. 1993. "Economics of development and the development of economics" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring, 1993), pp. 129-142  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2138203>

Cohen, Jessica and William Easterly. 2009. What Works in Development?: Thinking Big and Thinking Small. Brookings Institution Press

(\*) Deaton Angus. 2020. "Randomization in the Tropics Revisited: a Theme and Eleven Variations" *NBER Working Paper* No. 27600 Issued in July 2020

Deaton, Angus. 2010. "Instruments, Randomization, and Learning about Development" *Journal of Economic Literature*, 48(2): 424-55.

(\*) Duflo, Esther. 2020. "Field Experiments and the Practice of Policy", *American Economic Review*, Vol. 110(7): 1952-1973

Duflo, Esther. 2017 "Economists as Plumbers", Richard T. Ely Lecture, *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*, 107(5): 1-26 <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.p20171153>

Duflo, Esther and Abhijit Banerjee. 2009 "The Experimental Approach to Development Economics," *Annual Review of Economics*, Vol. 1: 151-178, (also see CEPR working paper No. DP7037, NBER working paper No. 14467).

Meager, Rachael. 2019. "Understanding the Average Impact of Microcredit Expansions: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of Seven Randomized Experiments." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 11 (1): 57-91.

(\*) Pritchett, Lant. 2019. "Big Picture and Big Questions in Development: Randomization, Method or Madness?" Working Paper, July

(\*) Ravallion Martin, 2020. "Should the Randomistas (Continue to) Rule?" *NBER Working Paper* No. 27554

Rodrik, Dani 2008. "The New Development Economics: We Shall Experiment, but How Shall we Learn?" (in What Works in Development?: Thinking Big and Thinking Small. Jessica Cohen, William Easterly Editors. Brookings Institution Press, 2009)

Vivalt, Eva. 2020. "How Much Can We Generalize From Impact Evaluations?" *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Volume 18, Issue 6, December 2020, Pages 3045-3089, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jeea/jvaa019>

## 2. Gender in development

*Basics: Gender gaps in time use, LFP, labor market discrimination, nutritional status, etc*

(\*) Bandiera, Oriana and Celine Zipfel. 2019. "Gender, jobs, and poverty: An agenda for research and policy", *G2LM Synthesis Paper* No. 11, November.

Brown, Caitlin, Martin Ravallion, and Dominique van de Walle. 2019. "Most of Africa's nutritionally deprived women and children are not found in poor households" *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 101 (4) pp: 631-644

Dinkelman, Taryn and Rachel Ngai. 2021. "Home production, women's market work, and structural transformation", *Working Paper*.

Goldberg, Penelopi, Marie Hyland, and Simeon Djankov, 2020 "Gendered laws and women in the workforce" *American Economic Review: Insights*

(\*) Jayachandran, Seema 2015 "The roots of gender inequality in developing countries", *Annual Review of Economics*

Ravallion, M. <https://economicsandpoverty.com/read/gender-and-poverty/>

### *Gender inside the household*

(\$) (\*) Duflo, Esther. 2003. "Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old-Age Pensions and Intrahousehold Allocation in South Africa" *World Bank Economic Review*. 17. 1-25. 10.1093/wber/lhg013.

Deaton, Angus "Looking for boy-girl discrimination in household expenditure data," *World Bank Economic Review*, 1989.

Doepke, M., Tertilt, M. 2019 "Does female empowerment promote economic development?." *Journal of Economic Growth* **24**, 309–343 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10887-019-09172-4>

Doepke, M., & Tertilt, M. 2009 "Women's liberation: What's in it for men?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(4), 1541–1591.

(#) Field, Erica, Rohini Pande, Natalia Rigol, Simone Schaner, Charity Troyer Moore, 2020 "On Her Own Account: How Strengthening Women's Financial Control Impacts Labor Supply and Gender Norms", *Working paper*.

(#) Rangel Marcos and Duncan Thomas, 2019 "Decision making in complex households" *NBER Working Paper* No. 26511

Pieters, Janneke and Stephan Klasen, 2020. "Randomization for women's economic empowerment? Lessons and limitations of randomized experiments" *World Development*, Volume 127, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.104820>.

(\*) Qian, Nancy, 2008 “Missing women and the price of tea in China: The effect of sex-specific earnings on sex imbalance”, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*,

Udry, Christopher, 1996. “Gender, Agricultural Production, and the Theory of the Household,” *Journal of Political Economy* Vol 104(5) pp: 1010-1046

### *Gender inside the firm*

BenYishay, A., and M. Jones, et al. “Gender Gaps in Technology Diffusion,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 143, 2020

(\$) (\*) Bernhardt, Arielle Field, Erica Pande, Rohini Rigol, Natalia “Household Matters: Revisiting the Returns to Capital among Female Microentrepreneurs” *American Economic Review: Insights* 1 2 141-60 2019 10.1257/aeri.20180444  
<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aeri.20180444>

Delecourt, Solène and Anne Fitzpatrick, 2020. “Childcare matters: Female business owners and the baby-profit gap”, *Management Science*

(\$) (\*) de Mel, Suresh, David Mackenzie and Chris Woodruff. 2014. “Business Training and Female Enterprise Start-up, Growth, and Dynamics: Experimental evidence from Sri Lanka.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 106: 199-210.

(\*) de Mel, S., McKenzie, D., & Woodruff, C. 2009. Are women more credit constrained? Experimental evidence on gender and microenterprise returns. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(3), 1-32.

Heath, Rachel and A. M. Mobarak, “Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 115: 1-15, July 2015

(\$) (\*) Macchiavello, Rocco, Andreas Menzel, Atonu Rabbani, and Christopher Woodruff. 2020. “Challenges of Change: An Experiment Promoting Women to Managerial Roles in the Bangladeshi Garment Sector”, *NBER Working Paper* No. 27606

## **3. Migration in development**

### *Basics and background*

Borjas, George. 1987. Self-Selection and the Earnings of Immigrants, *American Economic Review*, Vol. 77, No. 4 (September), pp. 531-553 (application of the Roy model)

(\*) Clemens, Michael. 2011. Economics and Emigration: Trillion-Dollar Bills on the Sidewalk? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (Summer) pp. 83-106

(\* ) Harris, John R. and Michael P. Todaro. 1970. "Migration, Unemployment and Development: A Two-Sector Analysis", *American Economic Review*, Vol. 60, No. 1, pp. 126-142

Sjaastad, Larry A. 1962. The Costs and Returns of Human Migration, *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 70, No. 5 (October Part 2: Investment in Human Beings) pp. 80-93

#### *Causes of rural-urban migration*

(\$) (\*) Bryan, Gharad, S. Chowdhury and A. M. Mobarak. 2014. "Under-Investment in a Profitable Technology: The Case of Seasonal Migration in Bangladesh," *Econometrica*, 82(5): 1671-1748.

de Janvry, Alain, Marco Gonzalez-Navarro, Kyle Emerick, and Elisabeth Sadoulet. 2015. "Delinking land rights from land use: Certification and migration in Mexico." *American Economic Review*, 105(10): 3125-49

(\* ) Hicks, Joan Hamory, Marieke Kleemans, Nicholas Y. Li, Edward Miguel. 2020. "Reevaluating agricultural productivity gaps with longitudinal microdata" *Journal of the European Economic Association*. Forthcoming

Hornbeck, Richard, and Suresh Naidu. 2014. "When the Levee Breaks: Black Migration and Economic Development in the American South". *American Economic Review* 104(3): 963-990.

(#) Jensen, Robert and Nolan Miller. 2017. "Keepin' 'Em Down On The Farm: Migration and Strategic Investment In Children's Schooling." *NBER Working paper*.

(#) Kleemans, Marieke 2015 "Migration choice under risk and liquidity constraints", *Working paper*

(\$) (\*) Meghir, Costas, A. M. Mobarak, C. Mommaerts, M. Morten, 2020 "Migration and Informal Insurance: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial and a Structural Model," *Review of Economic Studies*, Forthcoming [Paper](#)

Munshi, Kaivan, and Mark Rosenzweig. 2016. "Networks and Misallocation: Insurance, Migration, and the Rural-Urban Wage Gap." *American Economic Review*, 106(1): 46-98.

#### *Consequences of rural-urban migration*

(\* ) Beegle Kathleen, Joachim De Weerd, and Stefan Dercon. 2011. Migration and economic mobility in Tanzania: Evidence from a tracking survey, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 93, No. 3, pp: 1010-1033

Kleemans, Marieke and Jeremy Magruder. 2018. Labour market responses to immigration: Evidence from internal migration driven by weather shocks, *Economic Journal*



(\$) (\*) Kinnan, Cynthia, Shing-Yi Wang, Yongxiang Wang, 2017. "Access to migration for rural households", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

Lagakos, David, S. Marshall, et al. "Migration Costs and Observational Returns to Rural-Urban Migration in the Developing World," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 113: 138-154, August 2020.

#### *Causes and consequences of international migration*

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Platt Boustan, And Katherine Eriksson. 2012. Europe's Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration, *American Economic Review*, Vol. 102 No. 5, pp. 1832-1856

(#) Battiston, G. Rescue on Stage: Border Enforcement and Public Attention in the Mediterranean Sea, Job market paper

Dinkelman, Taryn, Grace Kumchulesi and Martine Mariotti. 2020. Labor Migration, Capital Accumulation, and the Structure of Rural Labor Markets, *Working paper*

(\*) Dinkelman, Taryn and Martine Mariotti. 2016. The Long-Run Effects of Labor Migration on Human Capital Formation in Communities of Origin, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 8 No. 4, pp. 1-35

(\*) Gibson, John, David McKenzie, and Steven Stillman. 2011. The impacts of international migration on remaining household members: Omnibus results, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 93 No. 4: pp. 1297- 1318

(#) Khanna, Gaurav, Caroline Theoharides, and Dean Yang. 2020. "Abundance from abroad: Migrant income and long-run economic development", *Working paper*

Wang, Shing-Yi, Suresh Naidu, Yaw Nyarko 2016. "Monopsony Power in Migrant Labor Markets: Evidence from the United Arab Emirates", *Journal of Political Economy*. Vol 124 (6)

Woodruff, Christopher and Rene Zenteno. 2007. Migration networks and microenterprises in Mexico, *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol 82, pp. 509-528

(\$) (\*) Yang, Dean. 2006. Why do migrants return to poor countries? Evidence from Philippine migrants' responses to exchange rate shocks, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 88 No 4, pp. 715-735

(\*) Yang, Dean. 2008. International migration, remittances, and household investment: Evidence from Philippine migrants' exchange rate shocks, *Economic Journal*, Vol. 118, No. April. Pp: 591-630

#### **4. Labor markets and job creation**

## Basics

Fox, Louise. 2016 "What will it take to meet the youth employment challenge in sub-Saharan Africa?", *GLM/LIC Synthesis Paper* No. 2, April

(\* ) Lam, David, Murray Leibbrandt, and James Allen 2019. "The demography of the labor force in sub-Saharan Africa", *GLM/LIC Synthesis Paper* No. 10, November

## Rural labor markets

(\* ) Jayachandran, Seema. 2006 "Selling Labor Low: Wage Responses to Productivity Shocks in Developing Countries," *Journal of Political Economy*, 114(3), 538-575.

Kaur, Supreet. 2019. "Nominal Wage Rigidity in Village Labor Markets." *American Economic Review*, 109 (10): 3585-3616.

(\$ ) (\* ) Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Narayan Das, Selim Gulesci, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman. 2016. "Labor Markets and Poverty in Village Economies." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

## Urban labor markets

(\$ ) (\* ) Abebe, Girum, Stefano Caria, Marcel Fafchamps, Paolo Falco, Simon Franklin, Simon Quinn. 2020. "Anonymity or Distance? Job search and labor market exclusion in a growing African city", *Review of Economic Studies*, Forthcoming

Alfonsi, Livia, Oriana Bandiera, Vittorio Bassi, Robin Burgess, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman, and Anna Vitali 2020. "Tackling youth unemployment: Evidence from a labor market experiment in Uganda", *Econometrica*, Vol. 88(6) November

Brooks, Wyatt, Kevin Donovan and Terence Johnson. 2018. "Mentors or Teachers? Microenterprise Training in Kenya." *American Economic Review: Applied Economics* 10(4): 196-221.

(\$ ) (\* ) Carranza, Eliana, Robert Garlick, Kate Orkin, and Neil Rankin. 2020. "Job search and hiring with two-sided limited information about workseekers' skills", *Working paper*

Groh, Matthew, Nandini Krishnan, David Mackenzie and Tara Vishwanath. "Do wage subsidies provide a stepping stone to employment for recent college graduates? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Jordan," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98(3): 488-502, 2016

(#) Hardy, Morgan and Jamie McCasland "Are Small Firms Labor Constrained? Experimental Evidence from Ghana"

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/mqdhmnmk6ha0mgs/McCasland\\_JMP.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/mqdhmnmk6ha0mgs/McCasland_JMP.pdf?dl=0)

(\$ ) (\* ) Hjort, Jonas, and Jonas Poulsen. 2019. "The Arrival of Fast Internet and Employment in Africa." *American Economic Review*, 109 (3): 1032-79.

(#) Mangal, Kunal. Chasing Government Jobs: How Aggregate Labor Supply Responds to Public Sector Hiring Policy in India <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/kmangal/files/jmp.pdf>

McKenzie, McKenzie and Chris Woodruff. 2014. "What Are We Learning from Business Training and Entrepreneurship Evaluations around the Developing World?" *The World Bank Research Observer* 29(1): 48-82.

#### **4. Infrastructure for development**

##### *Planes, trains, automobiles, and bridges*

Brooks, Wyatt and Kevin Donovan. 2020. "Eliminating Uncertainty in Market Access: The Impact of New Bridges in Rural Nicaragua", *Econometrica*, Vol. 88(5): 1965 - 1997.

(\$) (\*) Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria and Gerard Padró i Miquel. 2015. "The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya." *American Economic Review* 105(6): 1817-1851.

(\$) (\*) Donaldson, Dave. 2018. "Railroads of the Raj: Estimating the Impact of Transportation Infrastructure." *American Economic Review*, 108 (4-5): 899-934.

##### *Electricity*

(\*) Dinkelman, Taryn. 2011. "The Effects of Rural Electrification on Employment: New Evidence from South Africa." *American Economic Review*, 101 (7): 3078-3108.

(\$) (\*) Lee, Kenneth, Edward Miguel, and Catherine Wolfram, 2020. Experimental evidence on the Economics of Rural Electrification," *Journal of Political Economy* Vol. 128 (4) April

##### *Telecoms*

(\$) (\*) Jensen, Robert T. (2007). "The Digital Divide: Information (Technology), Market Performance and Welfare in the South Indian Fisheries Sector," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(3), p. 879 - 92.

##### *Sanitation*

Houde, Jean-Francois, Terence Johnson, Molly Lipscomb, and Laura Schechter. 2020. "Using Market Mechanisms to Increase the Take-up of Improved Sanitation in Senegal." *Working paper*