

Development Economics

Collegio Carlo Alberto - Summer 2023

Instructor: Juan S. Morales

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Office hours (by appointment)

Lecture schedule below

Course Description:

This course presents an overview of topics in Development Economics. This field studies issues related to developing countries: the possible reasons why some countries are poor and others rich - geography, history, institutions, culture; the progress that we have seen over the last century and potential interventions - urbanization, trade, health, education; and some of the challenges currently faced - corruption, conflict. The course provides a broad look at these issues through guided reading of a mix of seminal books and papers.

Pre-requisites:

Econometrics I

Applied Economics

Grades:

Online Test (50%)

Presentation (50%)

Outline and reading list (*required)

1. Introduction

Zoom lecture, date TBD

*Rosling (2007) Ted Talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_reveals_new_insights_on_poverty

*Ferguson and Lohman (1994) "The Anti-Politics Machine: "Development" and bureaucratic power in Lesotho". *The Ecologist* (+Book Preface)

*Amartya Sen (1999) Development as Freedom, Chapter 1 (+ Preface & Introduction)

*Pande (2019) "A New Home for Extreme Poverty: Middle-Income Countries" *New York Times*:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/28/opinion/inequality-poverty-global-aid.html>

De Silva and Tenreyro (2017) "Population Control Policies and Fertility Convergence". *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

Nunn (2020) "Restraining Ourselves: Helping by Not Hurting".

2. Geography and History

Monday May 22, 10-12

*Jared Diamond (1998) Guns, Germs and Steel, Chapter 10 (+ Preface & Prologue)

*Henderson et al (2017). "The Global Distribution of Economic Activity: Nature, History and The Role of Trade". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

*Nunn and Puga (2012). "Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa". *Review of Economics and Statistics*

*Nunn (2008) "Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

*Nunn and Qian (2011) "The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from an Historical Experiment". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Nunn (2014) "Historical Development". *Handbook of Economic Growth*

Michalopoulos and Papaioannou (2012) "Pre-Colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development". *Econometrica*

Banerjee and Iyer (2005) "History, Institutions and Economic Performance: The Legacy of Colonial Land Tenure Systems in India". *American Economic Review*

Dell (2011) "The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita". *Econometrica*

Easterly and Levine (2003). "Tropics, Germs, and Crops: How Endowments Influence Economic Development". *Journal of Monetary Economics*

Lowes, Nunn, Robinson and Weigel (2017) "The Evolution Of Culture And Institutions: Evidence From The Kuba Kingdom". *Econometrica*

3. Culture and Institutions **Wednesday May 24, 16-18**

*Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson (2012) Why Nations Fail, Chapters 1 & 2 (+ Preface)

*Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001) "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation". *American Economic Review*

*Alesina, Giuliano and Nunn (2013) "On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

*Enke (2019) "Kinship, Cooperation, and the Evolution of Moral Systems". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Alesina and Giuliano (2015) "Culture and Institutions" (Sections 1 and 2). *Journal of Economic Literature*

Knack and Keefer (1997) "Does Social Capital have an Economic Payoff?". *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Algan and Cahuc (2010) "Inherited Trust and Growth". *American Economic Review*

Guiso, Sapienza and Zingales (2006) "Does Culture Affect Economic Outcomes?". *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

4. Trade, Urbanization and Migration **Friday May 26, 10-12**

*Pietra Rivoli (2005) The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy, (Chapters 6, 7, 8 + Prologue)

*Pascali (2017) "The Wind of Change: Maritime Technology, Trade and Economic Development". *American Economic Review*

*Hamory, Kleemans, Li and Miguel (2020) "Reevaluating Agricultural Productivity Gaps with Longitudinal Microdata". *Journal of the European Economics Association*

Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2019) Good Economics for Hard Times, (Chapter 2)

Atkin, Khandelwal and Osman (2017) “Exporting and Firm Performance: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Gollin, Lagakos and Waugh (2014) “The Agricultural Productivity Gap”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Topalova (2010), “Factor Immobility and Regional Impacts of Trade Liberalization: Evidence on Poverty from India”. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

Munshi (2003). “Networks in the Modern Economy: Mexican Migrants in the U.S. Labor Market”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

5. Health and Education

Monday May 29, 10-12

*Angus Deaton (2013) *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*, Chapters 2 & 3 (+ Preface)

*Miguel and Kremer (2004) “Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities”. *Econometrica*

*Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2011) *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, Chapters 1 & 4 (+ Foreword)

*Duflo (2001) “Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence from an Unusual Policy Experiment”. *American Economic Review*

Cohen and Dupas (2010) “Free Distribution or Cost-Sharing? Evidence from a Malaria Prevention Experiment”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Duflo, Dupas and Kremer (2011) “Peer Effects, Teacher Incentives, and the Impact of Tracking: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation in Kenya”. *American Economic Review*

6. Media, Corruption, and Conflict

Wednesday May 31, 10-12

*Raymond Fisman and Edward Miguel (2008) *Economic Gangsters: Corruption, Violence, and the Poverty of Nations*, Chapters 4, 5 & 6

*Eisensee and Strömberg (2007) “News Droughts, News Floods, and U. S. Disaster Relief”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

*Ferraz and Finan (2008). “Exposing Corrupt Politicians: The Effect of Brazil’s Publicly Released Audits on Electoral Outcomes”. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

*Nunn and Qian (2014). “US Food Aid and Civil Conflict”. *American Economic Review*

*Crost, Felter and Johnston (2014) "Aid under Fire: Development Projects and Civil Conflict". *American Economic Review*

Miguel, Satyanath and Sergenti (2004) "Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach". *Journal of Political Economy*

Manacorda and Tesei (*forthcoming*) "Liberation Technology: Mobile Phones and Political Mobilization in Africa". *Econometrica*

Dube and Vargas (2013) "Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia". *Review of Economic Studies*

Morales (2021) "Legislating During War: Conflict and Politics in Colombia". *Journal of Public Economics*

Bonilla-Mejía and Morales (*forthcoming*) "Jam-Barrel Politics". *Review of Economics and Statistics*

7. Student Presentations
Monday June 5, 10-12