Jeffrey Dickinson

Education

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Geneva

PhD in Development Economics

2014- September 2020

Supervisors: Jean-Louis Arcand and Nicolas Berman

Geneva

Master's in International Economics

2012–2014

Supervisors: Jean-Louis Arcand and Nicolas Berman

Atlanta

Bachelor's in Economics

Emory University

2010-2012

Job Market Paper

Title: Constraints to Tanzanian Agricultural Development: Input Use in Households Under Non-Separability

This paper builds on the literature testing for labor market inefficiencies in developing countries using a panel data survey from Tanzania. Empirical tests first reject the homogenous contribution of family and hired labor to output, and then reject labor market 'separation' or completeness meaning that farm household production relies principally on family members for farming tasks. Nearly all empirical specifications are robust to the inclusion of household-specific effects, which control for heterogenous household preferences, and village-specific shocks. I also incorporate high-resolution annual population estimates from the LandScan database, which uses satellite imagery to construct population estimates, and find that in areas with higher population density, less family labor is used and more hired labor is used.

Working Papers

Title: Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: What Drives Human-Made Light?

This paper expands on our understanding of the lights-income relationship by linking the newest generation of nighttime satellite images derived from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometry Suite, VIIRS, to nationwide, panel data on population and income from 2012-2018 for both Brazil and the United States including 3,104 US counties, and 5,570 municípios. I leverage the quality and frequency of those data sources and the VIIRS lights images to decompose the links between population changes, GDP changes, and nighttime lights changes at the county and município level. I find decreasing marginal effects of GDP on nighttime light as well as decreasing marginal effects of population on nighttime light, a result which holds across many specifications and that is robust to sub-sample analysis and placebo tests. Interactions among controls also appear to be present. Using sub-sample analysis, I also find that nighttime light does a poor job of capturing less-wealthy areas. Finally, I use a between-county estimator to identify the effects of time-invariant infrastructure features on night-time light. Roads, rail, ports, airports, and border crossings I find to be strong contributors to increases in light.

Conferences

Accepted: North American Regional Science Council Annual Conference, November 2020

Experience

Teaching.

The Graduate Institute

Geneva

Graduate Macroeconomics

2017-2018

Teaching Assistant to Professor Cedric Tille; taught student seminars which included many technical elements.

The Graduate Institute

Geneva

Intro Micro and Macro for Public Policy Students

2016-2017

Teaching Assistant to Professor Ugo Panizza and Damien Neven; taught the seminars and contributed to the development of problem sets and exams.

Professional.....

World Bank (PT; 20hrs/wk)

Geneva

Consultant, Trade and Competitiveness Group

2016

Produced analysis of agricultural households in Ethiopia and their potential for sensitivity to trade shocks. This work also incorporated gender analysis, giving particular attention to female-headed households.

International Monetary Fund (PT; 20hrs/wk)

Geneva

Project Officer

2015-2016

Conducting analysis on Uganda bank loans using nighttime lights data and highly disaggregated population loan data from the Bank of Uganda.

International Food Policy Research Institute (PT; 20hrs/wk)

DC

Intern, Consultant

2014-2015

Developing SMS-based survey instrument for use in Tanzania. Identifying strategy to use remote sensing data to update urban maps of sub-Saharan Africa. Developing follow-up SMS-based survey instrument for use in Tanzania. Processing and basic data analysis of the survey results.

Languages

English: Native

French: Intermediate, B2 Certificate

Spanish: Intermediate

Computer skills

Programming Languages, and Software: Python, Latex, R, STATA, ArcGIS

References

Jean-Louis Arcand Professor of Economics,

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies jean-louis.arcand@graduateinstitute.ch; +41 22 908 5945

Cedric Tille Professor of Economics,

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

cedric.tille@graduateinstitute.ch +41 22 908 5928

Nicolas Berman Professor of Economics,

University de Aix Marseille: nicolas.berman@graduateinstitute.ch; +33 413552527