

PEGNet Newsletter Volume 6

In the sixth PEGNet Newsletter I would like to highlight that the registration to this year's PEGNet conference in Hamburg in September is now open. PEGNet will also organise a parallel session at the ABCDE conference that will be held in Paris from May 29 to June 1.

Finally, as part of an evaluation of PEGNet's networking activities, we would like to know from you how you have used PEGNet in the past. Did you initiate or take part in cooperation projects with other PEGNet members or beyond where PEGNet has played a role? For instance, did you meet your current or future cooperation partners at a PEGNet event? Were the first steps of the cooperation facilitated by a PEGNet travel or small project grant? We would be glad if you could send us a short Email with a specific example.

I hope you will enjoy our newsletter. This and past newsletters are as always available online at: www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de.



Topics in this volume

1. PEGNet Conference 2011 in Hamburg: registration is now open

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network's (PEGNet) conference 2011 on "**Poor Countries, Poor People, and the New Global Players**" will be held at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany, September 7 to 9, 2011. Confirmed Speakers include **Justin Lin** (World Bank), **John Page** (Brookings Institution), and **Nancy Qian** (Yale University).

The registration is now open. To register, please go to the [conference website](#), download the **registration document** and send it to pegnet@ifw-kiel.de.

[> more](#)

2. PEGNet at ABCDE 2011

PEGNet organizes a parallel session on “**Evaluating cash transfers –Latin American and African Experiences**” at the **World’s Banks ABCDE conference 2011 in Paris, May 29 - June 1, 2011**. In accordance with PEGNet’s focus on fostering the exchange between academics and practitioners, the session will bring together experts from both spheres to present and discuss challenges and potentials of cooperation.

Speakers will include Andrea Vigorito (winner of the PEGNet Best Practice Award 2009), Robert Darko Osei (presenter at PEGNet conferences 2010 and 2008) and Eva Terberger (PEGNet member and co-organizer of the PEGNet conference 2011).

[> more](#)

3. PEGNet co-organizes the CAADP-Workshop at Kiel Institute, 2-3 July 2011

PEGNet co-organizes the CAADP-Workshop at Kiel Institute, 2-3 July 2011 on: Modelling and Evaluation of CAADP-Policies: Theory, Methods and Application.

More information about the workshop can be found [here](#). The program is available for download [here](#).

4. Call for papers for conference on Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries

The Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) at the Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany, together with the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and the German Agency for International Development (GIZ) is convening the International Conference on ‘Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries’. The event will take place from 20 – 21 October 2011 in Bochum, Germany. The abstract submission deadline is 20th June 2011.

[> more](#)

5. VW Stiftung: Call for Pre-Proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Social Sciences in Sub-Saharan Africa

Knowledge for Tomorrow –Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa:

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation and other European partners aims at supporting young African postdoctoral researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa, providing an opportunity to enhance both skills and academic qualifications (2) strengthening partnerships between African and European scholars, and (3) developing and extending academic networks inside Africa.

[> more](#)

6. Series of new CGE models available in PEP Research Network

A series of new standard CGE models has recently been developed within the PEP Research Network.

[> more](#)

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1. PEGNet Conference 2011 in Hamburg, Germany

The Poverty Reduction, Equity, and Growth Network (PEGNet) conference 2011 on poor countries, poor people, and the new global players will be held at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany, September 7 to 9, 2011.

Conference Format

The Conference will provide a platform for high-level dialogue between development researchers, practitioners and policy-makers. The conference days will feature parallel-sessions based on invited and contributed papers and project presentations. These will be complemented by a debate, a roundtable discussion, and keynote speeches by renowned speakers from academia, economic policy and development practice. Confirmed speakers include **Justin Lin** (World Bank), **John Page** (Brookings Institution), and **Nancy Qian** (Yale University).

In addition, the PEGNet Best Practice Award will be awarded for the third time to best-practices in cooperation between researchers and practitioners.

The registration is now open. Please go to the [conference website](#), download the **registration document** and send it to pegnet@ifw-kiel.de.

Organisers

The conference is co-organised by the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), the Courant Poverty Research Centre at the University of Göttingen, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and supported by the KfW Development Bank.

2. PEGNet at ABCDE 2011

PEGNet organizes a parallel session on “**Evaluating cash transfers –Latin American and African Experiences**” at the **World’s Banks ABCDE conference 2011 in Paris, 30 May - 1 June 2011**.

Speakers will be **Andrea Vigorito** (Universidad de la Republica (Uruguay), winner of the PEGNet Best Practice Award 2009), **Robert Darko Osei** (Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, presenter at PEGNet conferences 2010 and 2008), and **Eva Terberger** (KfW Development Bank, FZ-Evaluierung, PEGNet member and co-organizer of the PEGNet conference 2011)

The session centres on the evaluation of social protection programs that distribute cash to the poor, a topic that has been widely discussed by members of the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet). In accordance with PEGNet’s focus on fostering the exchange between academics and practitioners, the session will bring together experts from both spheres to present and discuss challenges and potentials of cooperation.

Experiences from conditional cash transfer programs in Latin America and unconditional cash transfer programs in Africa are presented by researchers. Then the research perspective is confronted with views from development practice regarding program implementation in the field. The aim of the session is to study the transfer of knowledge between research and practice using the example of cash transfers, not to present the most representative examples of cash transfer programs.

The first key question to be raised during the session concerns the feasibility as well as the willingness of stakeholders to integrate evaluation into project design and implementation.

Second, the geographical dispersion between unconditional and conditional cash transfers gives rise to a set of questions on the context that might be conducive to the success of such interventions.

By comparing experiences from the two most prominent regions for such programs, represented and illustrated by the two different programs presented, we aim to come closer to answering the questions on the role of different contexts. What are the relevant lessons learnt from the Latin American impact evaluations for policy makers in Africa? And, vice versa, what can Latin American policy makers learn from the examples of unconditional and non-contributory cash transfer programs in Africa?

The Latin American example gives evidence of a successful cooperation between a university and the Ministry of Social Development in Uruguay. The presentation offers insights into the positive outcomes as well as challenges of this cooperation during the design and the implementation phase of a large temporary poverty relief program - the Uruguayan PANES. Furthermore, the impact of PANES on birth outcome is estimated. Using program administrative data and longitudinal vital statistics the outcome is a significant and precisely estimated reduction in the fraction of low-weight newborns in the order of 10 to 20% as a result of the treatment.

The African example gives evidence of clear linkages between research results and policy. The presentation investigates how a universal non-contributory pension program and a child support grant impacts on poverty and inequality in Ghana. In addition, the study also looks at the sustainability of these two types of social grants from a government fiscal position. In particular, it not only asks the question of how much it will cost the government to finance this program, it also looks at the implications of different financing options for poverty and inequality. The study shows that social grants can have a positive impact on poverty and inequality. However the magnitude of the effect will be reduced depending on how governments finance the social grants.

The presentation from the perspective of evaluation practice in an implementing agency raises the provocative question: Evaluation for better project design or project design for better evaluations? Taking the rise of "rigorous impact assessment" in evaluation as a starting point which undoubtedly is a very successful field of cooperation between academia and development practice, the presentation asks whether the call for the incorporation of evaluation into project design (better baselines, control groups) is always going hand in hand with the ultimate goal of making development interventions more effective. Drawing on the very positive results of cooperation between researchers and practitioners in the evaluation of cash transfer programs the presentation tries to elaborate whether certain types of questions

and interventions are especially suited for a fruitful cooperation while in other areas the call for more rigorous evaluation might not be followed for good reasons.

4. Call for papers for conference on Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries

REFORMING SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Determinants and Strategies of Institutional Change

International Conference, 20-21 October 2011

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE) at the Ruhr-University of Bochum, Germany, together with the Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and the German Agency for International Development (GIZ) is convening the International Conference on 'Reforming Social Protection Systems in Developing Countries'. The event will take place from 20 – 21 October 2011 in Bochum, Germany.

The Bochum Conference will provide an international platform for academics, policymakers, and experts from public and private bodies. It aims at analyzing ongoing reforms of social protection systems in developing countries from both a political economy and legal point of view.

CONFERENCE THEME

The conference theme will focus on fostering a closer understanding of these political reform processes. The two overarching questions are:

- What are the major determinants impacting on the political feasibility of social protection reforms, and, thus, for explaining reform successes and reform failures?
- What are successful strategies in building political and public support for these reforms?

The conference aims at addressing the outlined focus from a multidisciplinary perspective as well as enabling a mutual exchange between practitioners and academics. Therefore, theo-

retical, empirical as well as case study-oriented contributions or policy papers dealing with the conference theme are welcome. However, given the multidisciplinary approach as well as considering the fact that the conference is aiming both at academics and practitioners, all contributions should be prepared in a manner suitable for such a diverse audience. Submissions are invited from authors from all relevant disciplines (e.g. economics, law, political science, sociology, social policy) and from various backgrounds, including academics, policymakers, and experts from both public and private sector bodies. An abstract (300 words) and a CV should be submitted as an email attachment to the conference organisers at mail@social-protection-conference.com until 20th June 2011. Those who have submitted an abstract will be informed by 15th July 2011 whether their proposal has been accepted. The full papers should be submitted after the conference and will be published in an edited volume.

The full call for papers can be downloaded from the PEGNet website at: <http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/announcements/iee-cfp>.

More information regarding the conference is available on the conference website www.social-protection-conference.com.

5. Knowledge for Tomorrow –Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa

Call for Pre-Proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Social Sciences in Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Objectives

This Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation and other European partners aims at providing sustainable support for research in Sub-Saharan Africa. Besides an African-European cooperation, special emphasis is put on the development and extension of academic networks within Africa.

This call is part of the Foundations' career development strategy for African researchers in which junior and senior postdoctoral fellows should take responsibility for developing and executing their own research project and show leadership responsibilities for their research

group (in the case of senior fellows). The project must be carried out in collaboration with a European partner institution. The call is open to all scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa active in the research fields mentioned below.

2. Thematic Scope

Current social, economic and political developments in contemporary Sub-Saharan societies are at the core of this call for proposals. Cultural and religious as well as historical questions and approaches can be included but should not be the main focus of the project. Projects understanding African countries as entangled in global interdependencies will be given preference. These interdependencies refer to North-South as well as South-South relations. Processes of globalization in the African context and their social and/or cultural impact on societies can be an important aspect of the project. Possible research areas include: processes of urbanization, the emergence and scope of violent conflicts, peace building strategies, foreign actors in Africa, inter-African relationships, questions of social order, measures aiming at poverty reduction. All projects should have a strong reference to present questions and problems concerning Sub-Saharan Africa and transcend disciplinary boundaries and limitations by exploring linkages between disciplinary

Deadline for Pre-Proposals

The programme is open to applications from disciplines like sociology, cultural sociology, political science, economics, social anthropology, and social or political history. Only researchers from Sub-Saharan countries are eligible for funding.

3. Funding Opportunities

This Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme aims at supporting young African postdoctoral researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa by (1) providing an opportunity to enhance both skills and academic qualifications (2) strengthening partnerships between African and European scholars, and (3) developing and extending academic networks inside Africa. The programme includes both junior and senior fellowships. For both fellowship types, a cooperation with a European partner institution is required. Furthermore, up to 25,000 EUR for an associated European Postdoctoral Fellow - to enhance the exchange of scholarly expertise - can be applied for. Additionally, the possibility of an accompanying assistance by mentors is given. The applications for junior and senior fellowships should include a statement by the Fellow concerning the institution she/he intends to collaborate with and what research topics will be

covered. The official grant recipient will be the academic institution in Africa where the Fellow will be employed. Basic infrastructure should be provided by the African institution; the fellowship may include administrative costs for this institution up to a maximum of 5,000 EUR.

Junior fellowship

A three year fellowship (36 months) is offered to outstanding African junior researchers holding a Ph. D. (not more than three years after completion of Ph. D.). Project ideas must be developed independently by the applicant and should be realized primarily at an African institution. The fellowship covers salary, research, and travel costs up to a maximum of 90,000 EUR.

Senior fellowship

A three year fellowship (36 months) is offered to researchers with a substantial research experience (3 to 6 years of postdoctoral experience). Applicants will need to demonstrate experience and achievements (as documented by their publication record) appropriate to the extended funding and research group leader responsibilities. The fellowship covers salary, research and travel costs up to a maximum of 120,000 EUR.

4. Application and Selection Process

The application is organized as a three-stage process, and pre-proposals must be submitted as one pdf file in English by **15 June 2011** to socialsciences2011@volkswagenstiftung.de, or alternatively via the electronic application system (<https://portal.volkswagenstiftung.de/vwsantrag/login.do?siteLanguage=en>).

Stage 1

The pre-proposal applications will be reviewed by an international expert committee. Decisions including recommendations will be communicated by October 2011. Please, note the attached check-list for pre-proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships for the Social Sciences in Sub-Saharan Africa. Successful applicants of stage 1 may apply for funding of preparatory meetings of the prospective Fellow with the European partner institution and the European Postdoctoral Fellow (if applicable). Date, venue, participants, and costs of these meetings have to be specified already in the pre-proposals.

Stage 2

Successful applicants of stage 1 **will be invited to submit full proposals**. All full proposals will undergo an international review process. Details of the requirements for full proposals including the recommendations made by the review committee will be forwarded to the successful applicants of stage 1.

Stage 3

Successful applicants of stage 2 **will be invited to present their project** at a selection workshop to be held in Africa in early 2012. During the conference they will also be interviewed by an international review panel.

5. Notes for Applicants

The Foundations can only provide funds to academic institutions. Furthermore, it is not possible to fund projects for development aid or short-term applications. The Foundations cannot consider applications which have been submitted at the same time either in the same or some similar form to other funding institutions. Also, the Foundations are not able to allocate funding to cover commitments entered into prior to the receipt of the grant letter.

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More information:

http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/fileadmin/downloads/merkblaetter/MB_81g_e.pdf

6. Series of new CGE models available in PEP Research Network

PEP-MPIA Research Network: cutting-edge development, open-source dissemination, timely modelling applications

MPIA research and economic modelling

The [Modelling and Policy Impact Analysis \(MPIA\)](#) network assists developing country researchers in constructing models of their national economy to simulate the impact of macro-economic shocks/policies on various dimensions of poverty and welfare. To do so, it resorts to a combination of macro-micro modelling and simulation techniques.

The macroeconomic approach uses a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model to account for the structural aspects of a country's economy, i.e. the interactions among sectors and institutions, and their links with the global economy. The CGE framework is then combined to a micro-econometric behavioural model – based on information provided by national representative surveys - in order to assess the various impacts of structural movements on the country's individuals and households, in terms of welfare.

For almost twenty years, PEP-funded researchers in developing countries have been successfully trained and supported in the use of such techniques. In recent years however, MPIA leaders came to find that there was a need for reference models that were more elaborate and closer to real-life conditions than the ones that had been used so far. Moreover, they realized policymakers face new challenges that call for impact assessments that look forward in time, and beyond national boundaries to the global economy. And so, lead researchers of the MPIA network ([Bernard Decaluwe](#), [Andre Lemelin](#), [Helene Maisonnave](#), [Veronique Robichaud](#)) have devoted time and energy to creating a series of new standard CGE models.

The growing family of PEP standard CGE models

The first of these models, [PEP 1-1](#), designed for country-level studies, was developed as an operational tool for researchers to easily adapt a relatively standard model to their national economy. Building on this basic model, [PEP 1-t](#) was created to include evolution in time. Technically speaking, PEP 1-t is a «recursive dynamic» version of PEP 1-1 (which is a static or single-period model): it extends the analysis to multiple periods, linking each one to the past through variables inherited from the previous period.

Since the beginning of 2011, no less than 3 new PEP standard CGE models have been put online. [PEP-w-1](#) is a single-period WORLD model and [PEP-w-t](#) is its recursive dynamic version. These new models are based on the [Global Trade Analysis Project](#) (GTAP) world-level data base. The latest innovation of the PEP-MPIA team is [PEP-w-t-F](#), which is, to our

knowledge, the only recursive dynamic world model that includes international financial assets.

Free public access

All of these models are truly «open source»: free public access is available via the links below. Each model is fully documented and all the relevant programs are freely accessible. Better still, with the kind permission of GTAP, a 14-region, 4-commodity, aggregated database is also made available to calibrate the new world models.

PEP is proud to offer the international modelling community, models that are not only fully operational for applied studies, but also perfectly suitable for training. Indeed, the MPIA team has made painstaking efforts to produce documentation that is complete, including references to theoretical underpinnings and detailed mathematical developments that link model equations and calibration procedures with the theory.

For detailed information on each model and access to related tools and files, follow the links below:

[PEP-1-1 \(SINGLE-COUNTRY, STATIC VERSION\)](#)

Bernard Decaluwe, Andre Lemelin, Helene Maisonnave, Veronique Robichaud

[PEP-1-t \(SINGLE-COUNTRY, RECURSIVE DYNAMIC VERSION\)](#)

Bernard Decaluwe, Andre Lemelin, Helene Maisonnave, Veronique Robichaud

[PEP-w-1 \(MULTI-REGION, SINGLE-PERIOD WORLD MODEL\)](#)

Andre Lemelin, Veronique Robichaud, Bernard Decaluwe and Helene Maisonnave

[PEP-w-t \(MULTI-REGION, RECURSIVE DYNAMIC WORLD MODEL\)](#)

Veronique Robichaud, Andre Lemelin, Bernard Decaluwe and Helene Maisonnave

[PEP-w-t-F \(RECURSIVE DYNAMIC WORLD MODEL WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSETS\)](#)

Andre Lemelin, Veronique Robichaud, Bernard Decaluwe

The PEGNet Newsletter is not sent out on a regular basis, but depending on new developments or events within PEGNet and from our partners and members.

We are happy to include news from your side, if they are related to poverty reduction, equity and growth and in particular to the interaction between policy, practice and research in de-

velopment. Please send the news you want to be distributed to our Email. This could include calls for papers, reports of conferences or workshops, published papers or books, grants, new projects, programmes, or related initiatives.

If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future please write a short notice to pegnet@ifw-kiel.de.

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