



PEGNet Newsletter Volume 31

Welcome to the final PEGNet Newsletter of 2017. We would like to report on this year's PEGNet Conference that took place in Zurich, Switzerland and, as usual, we will also provide you with information on the latest developments at our partner institutes. This and past editions are available online: [PEGNet Newsletter Archive](#).

PEGNet Conference

This year's PEGNet Conference took place in Zurich, Switzerland, on 11-12 September. Researchers, policy makers and practitioners presented their work and discussed the theme „Understanding national inequalities and how to address them“. It was attended by 170 participants.

The **Conference Booklet** includes the program and short biographies of speakers. Information on the plenary, parallel sessions, a selection of photos and the feedback is available on the [website](#).

This year, the **Best Practice Award** was awarded to the project **Incentivizing Bureaucrats through Performance-Based Postings in Pakistan**. Adnan Khan received the Best Practice Award on behalf of all researchers involved in the project. The project demonstrated excellent cooperation between researchers from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), the Harvard Kennedy School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and practitioners from the Center for Economic Research (CERP) in Pakistan.



Finally, we want to thank very much the participants for their contribution to the dinner fee, where **1767,37€ were donated to Solidar Suisse** and their project that works with the **Casual Workers Advice Office (CWAO)** in South Africa. The CWAO was founded in 2011 to support casual labourers, contract workers and others working in the informal economy to defend their rights. The organisation networks with other organisations and institutions such as Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation & Arbitration (CMMA) and the Department of Labour.

[More information](#)

New PEGNet Policy Brief



The eleventh Policy Brief titled "Identifying Key Sectors and Key Policies of a Pro-Poor Growth Strategy" has been authored by **Christian Henning** and **Johannes Hedtrich** from the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kiel.

The authors point out that identifying key sectors and key policies of a Pro-Poor Growth Strategy requires modelling both growth-poverty and policy-growth linkages. They present results from a simulation analysis that incorporates these two linkages for Ghana, Senegal and Uganda, and indicate higher PPG-potentials in non-agriculture compared to agriculture. The authors argue that optimal budget allocations should target a high share of roughly 70% to non-agriculture. Finally they state that given allocations in 2015, a reallocation towards the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) in all 3 countries, would still be necessary.

Previous editions of the PEGNet Policy Brief are available here. Authors who are interested in contributing to the PEGNet Policy Brief Series are invited to contact the PEGNet Team: pegnet@ifw-kiel.de

[More information](#)

News from the German Economic Association

The Research Group on Development Economics invites papers to be submitted for consideration to the **2018 Annual Conference** of Development Economics and Policy. The conference will take place on **June 28-29, 2018**, at the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Switzerland. The Keynote Speakers are Rohini Pande (Harvard University) and James Robinson (University of Chicago).



This conference will bring together international scholars and researchers of development economics and neighboring fields. Plenary sessions with keynote speakers, parallel sessions with contributed papers, and a poster session (with two discussants for all posters) will reflect the current state of research in development economics and provide a forum for exchange between researchers and practitioners.

Interested contributors are invited to fill a **submission form** and upload their full paper before **February 15, 2018**. Acceptance notes with detailed information will be sent by early April 2018. The conference will start in the afternoon of **June 28, 2018**. There will be a conference fee of CHF 50.

[More information](#)

News from DIE.



New research group: Transforming carbon consumption patterns of the new middle classes. The growth of the new middle classes in middle income developing countries implies a strong growth in both consumption and carbon emissions. On August 1, the BMBF-funded interdisciplinary research group "Sustainable Middle Classes in Middle Income Countries: Transforming Carbon Consumption Patterns" has started working on this topic. During the next four

years, **Babette Never**, **Hanna Fuhrmann** and **Sascha Kuhn** will analyse the individual motivations for, trends in and impacts of middle class consumer behaviour in Ghana, Peru and the Philippines. They will focus on the emission intensive sectors i.e. transport, housing and appliances. The group will jointly develop concrete strategies and interventions for advancing sustainable consumption with local research partners and stakeholders. These will be tested in experimental settings to inform policy.

As "international fellows", researchers from the Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) in Peru, the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) are core partners. By way of the research group, the DIE has become a member of the UNEP "10 YFP Sustainable Consumption and Production – Sustainable Lifestyles and Education Programme".



[More information](#)

News from the DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme

Growth
Research
Programme

Publication: The DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme has just published a '**Research in Context**' brief summarising and setting in context findings from a research project on the impact of malaria on agricultural labour productivity in Nigeria.

Impact case study: The DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme has recently added a **new 'impact' page** to their programme website, to share how DEGRP research projects are contributing to change. You can find short or longer case studies on issues such as the diffusion of innovation in low-income countries, breaking down gender barriers in Bangladesh's garment industry, and raising agricultural productivity in Uganda, among other issues.

[More information](#)

News from the African School of Economics (ASE)

The **2018 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society (AFES 2018)**, hosted by the African School of Economics (ASE) will be held at the Golden Tulip Hotel and the Novotel Hotel in Cotonou, Benin from **12th to 14th July, 2018**. Tim



Besley (LSE) will deliver the Presidential Address, and there will be six invited lecturers in addition to paper presentations (to be confirmed at a later date).

Prior to the Meeting, the 2018 Summer Institute of the Econometric Society (SIES) will take place at Chant d'Oiseau in Cotonou from **July 5 to July 11, 2018** and will gather students and junior faculty from universities around the African continent as well as overseas. The Summer Institute will cover topics including Advances in Development Economics, Theory of Organizations, and Structural Econometrics.

The deadline for submissions is **February 16, 2018**. Papers can only be submitted electronically up to the 1st of December, 2017 on the [website](#). At least one of the authors must be a member of the **Econometric Society**, and all participants must register for the conference. Each person may submit and present only one paper; however, each person is allowed to be a co-author of several papers submitted to the conference.

[More Information](#)

News from Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP)



From how introducing a minimum wage can improve well-being to why youth become entrepreneurs, PEP has published a series of articles comparing key findings from multiple projects focused on similar themes from different countries and regions. The findings come from projects carried out under the first phase of PEP's **Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment initiative (PAGE 2012-2016)**.

PAGE supported **274 local developing country researchers** to carry out **65 projects** in **34 countries** (45% low-income, fragile or conflict states). Projects investigated local economic policy questions relating to global priority issues, in direct consultation or collaboration with policy makers and other stakeholders. Findings from 1 in 3 projects have already been taken up to inform relevant policy processes.

Following the conclusion of the initiative, a number of themes have emerged from PAGE project findings that traverse countries and research methods.

For example, projects in Argentina, Ecuador, Cameroon, Bolivia, and Kenya investigated the impact of setting or raising the minimum wage. The cross-country findings concur that this type of intervention can have positive effects on income and well-being, provided it is managed appropriately.

Similarly, findings from projects in Nigeria, Argentina and Serbia all indicate that cash transfer schemes can successfully reduce poverty and increase well-being in very different contexts.

[More information](#)

News from the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)

The Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) seeks applications for a position as **Postdoctoral Researcher in International Finance and/or Political Economy** in its research area "Global Macroeconomics and Global Governance".



The research group focuses on topics in international finance and international macroeconomics as well as political economy. Much of their research is empirical and often takes a long-run perspective, drawing on decades or even centuries of data. Therefore the position is strongly research oriented.

The planned contract period is three years (starting between spring and fall 2018), but a shorter contract is possible. Also an extension of up to six years is possible. The position is full-time, however part-time employment is possible. Please submit your application **online**, using your family name as the file name (ID-No. "PostDoc_GlobalMacro"). The review process starts in early December and continues until the position is filled.

[More information](#)

News from the Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowships



The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has just launched the Commonwealth Rutherford Fellowship scheme aimed at postdoctoral researchers from other Commonwealth countries wishing to spend one or two years at a UK university.

The purpose of the scheme is to support world-class research and innovation, and to contribute to the UK's research base by attracting high-calibre international candidates and encouraging links and collaboration. The intended beneficiaries are highly motivated PhD graduates whose proposed research topic is innovative, timely, and likely to lead to wider impact beyond the academic community and build research collaboration between the UK and other Commonwealth countries. Up to **50 fellowships** are available and fellows must be in post before **31 March 2018**. The deadline for applications is 12:30 on **11 December 2017**.

News from the World Bank Development Economics (DEC)

The **Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE)**, organized by the World Bank Development Economics (DEC) Vice Presidency, is one of the world's best known series of conferences for the presentation and discussion of new knowledge on development. The conference aims to promote the exchange of cutting-edge research among researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners. The next conference will take place on **June 25-26, 2018** at the **World Bank in Washington, D.C.** The theme of the conference will be "**Political Incentives and Development Outcomes.**"

The ABCDE Organizing Committee is issuing a **call for papers** that examine in innovative ways the link between politics and development. Those interested should **submit** a paper (proposals will not be accepted) **by February 28, 2018** through the ABCDE **website**. Authors of selected papers will be invited, though not required, to submit their papers for a **special issue of the World Bank Economic Review (WBER)**. The Organizing Committee will evaluate all papers in terms of originality, analytical rigor, and policy relevance. Authors of accepted proposals will be contacted by **March 15, 2018**. A final draft will be required by **May 15, 2018**.



For authors of selected papers, travel and accommodation expenses for the conference will be covered. Additional information on the overall conference program will be posted on this website over the coming months. The ABCDE secretariat can be contacted via email at abcde@worldbank.org.

[More information](#)

Media Partner:

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