

Claire Duquenois

Contact Information

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Academic Positions

University of Pittsburgh	Assistant Professor of Economics	2020-Ongoing
University of Colorado, Denver	Economics Instructor	2009-2015

Education

University of California, Berkeley	Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics	2020
University of California, Berkeley	M.Sc. Agricultural and Resource Economics	2017
London School of Economics	M.Sc. Urbanization and Development	2009
University of Colorado Boulder	B.A. Economics and International Relations	2007

Publications

“Fictional Money, Real Costs: Impacts of Financial Salience on Disadvantaged Students”

American Economic Review, 2022, 112(3):798-826. [Available here](#)

Disadvantaged students perform differentially worse when randomly given a financially salient mathematics exam. For students with socio-economic indicators below the national median, a 10 percentage point increase in the share of monetary themed questions depresses exam performance by 0.026 standard deviations, about 6% of their performance gap. Using question-level data, I confirm the role of financial salience by comparing performance on monetary and highly similar non-monetary questions. Leveraging the randomized ordering of questions, I identify an effect on subsequent questions, providing evidence that the attention capture effects of poverty affect policy relevant outcomes outside of experimental settings.

“Labor Calendars and Rural Poverty: A case study for Malawi.”(with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet). *Food Policy*, 2022, 109. [Available here](#)

The persistence of rural poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is a major challenge for meeting the Sustainable Development Goal on poverty eradication. Using detailed data for Malawi, we investigate the association between seasonality in labor calendars and low consumption. We find that (1) seasonality in rural labor calendars runs deep, accounting for 2/3 of total rural underemployment, (2) we do not observe activities with labor requirements that run clearly counter-cyclical to the main agricultural season, (3) gaps in rural-urban annual consumption are strongly associated with differences in time worked due to seasonality differentials. The implication is that reducing rural seasonality in labor calendars should be a major objective in seeking to increase rural consumption levels. Methodologically, we show that labor calendars can be constructed from standard annual rural household survey data with information on labor use by crop and task.

“Climate Change, Agricultural Production and Civil Conflict: Evidence from the Philippines.”(with Benjamin Crost, Joseph H. Felter and Daniel I. Rees) *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 2018, 88, pp 379-395. [Available here](#).

Using unique data on conflict-related incidents in the Philippines, we exploit seasonal variation in the relationship between rainfall and agricultural production to learn about the mechanism through which rainfall affects civil conflict. We find that an increase in dry-season rainfall leads to an increase in agricultural production and dampens conflict intensity. By contrast, an increase in wet-season rainfall is harmful to crops and produces more conflict. Consistent with the hypothesis that rebel groups gain strength after a bad harvest, we find that negative rainfall shocks lead to an increase in conflict incidents initiated by insurgents but not by government forces. These results suggest that the predicted shift towards wetter wet seasons and drier dry seasons will lead to more civil conflict even if annual rainfall totals remain stable. We conclude that policies aimed at mitigating the effect of climate change on agriculture could have the added benefit of reducing civil conflict.

Working Papers

“Financial Concerns and Sleeplessness.”(with Maulik Jagnani) [Available here.](#)

Do people worried about their personal finances experience lower quality sleep? Using a regression discontinuity research design, we find that eligible household heads surveyed just after the disbursement of an unconditional cash transfer in Indonesia report a 0.3 standard deviation improvement in sleep quality as compared to those surveyed just before the cash disbursement. The cash transfer appears to have alleviated financial concerns amongst household heads, who are responsible for satisfying the daily necessities of the household. Immediately after disbursement, eligible households report an increase in savings, and eligible household heads report feeling less worried, frustrated, and tired. Consistent with evidence from sleep medicine, eligible household heads displayed improved performance on memory and attention tests but not on reasoning or problem-solving tests. These patterns of results are not observed for household heads ineligible for the cash transfer, which suggests that our results are not driven by seasonal confounders or aggregate shocks. These results are also not observed for other members of eligible households, who are not responsible for satisfying the household’s financial needs. We also argue that nutrition, time in bed, and labor supply cannot explain our results.

Research in Progress

“From Sesame Street to the Polls: The Voting Impacts of Representation in Child Media.”

“Migration Opportunities and Human Capital Investments.” (with Esther Gehrke).

“Changes in Labor Seasonality in Malawi.” (with Joachim De Weerd and Adriana Oliveres Mallol).

“Work, Gender Identity Norms and Psychological Well-being.” (with Megan Lang and Jian Qi Tan).

“Separation Failures: Market-Level Evidence for Labor Misallocation. ” (with Supreet Kaur, Jeremy Magruder, Aprajit Mahajan).

Teaching

At the University of Pittsburgh

As Lecturer

Economics Undergraduate, *Econometrics 2* Spring 2023

Economics Ph.D, *Topics in Economics Development* Fall 2021, ‘22

Economics Ph.D, *Seminar in Labor and Economic Development* Fall 2020

Masters in Quantitative Economics, *Economic Inference from Data* Fall 2020, ‘21, ‘22

As Guest Lecturer

Undergraduate Economics, *Economics and Diversity Seminar* Spring 2021 & 2022

At the University of California Berkeley

As Lecturer

Dept. ARE, *Professional Preparation: Teaching of Environmental Economics* Fall 2017

Dept. ARE, *Intro. to Environmental Economics and Policy* Summer 2016 & 2017

As Graduate Student Instructor

Dept. ARE, *Introductory Applied Econometrics* Spring and Fall 2019

with Jeremy Magruder and Sofia Villas-Boas

Dept. ARE, *Intro. to Environmental Economics and Policy* Spring 2017, Fall 2016 & 2017

with Peter Berck and Gordon Rausser

At the University of Colorado Denver- Denver and Beijing Campuses

As Lecturer

Dept. Economics, *Principles of Microeconomics* 2009-2015

Dept. Economics, *Principles of Macroeconomics* 2010-2015

Dept. Economics, *Intermediate Microeconomic Theory* 2009-2013

Dept. Economics, *Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory* 2010-2014

Dept. Economics, *Economic Development: Theory and Policy* 2010-2015

Dept. Economics, *Economics of Race and Gender* 2012-2013

Dept. Economics, *Independent Study Supervisor*

Refereeing

Journal of Development Economics, National Science Foundation

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards	2018	Graduate Division Summer Research Grant
	2017	Teaching Effectiveness Award
	2017	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor
Talks	2023	<i>Scheduled: Aix-Marseilles School of Economics Conference in Applied Econometrics; Society of Economics of the Household Conference; Western Economics Association Conference; Early Career Behavioral Economics Conference</i>
	2022	IFPRI Malawi; FAO Technical Network on Poverty Analysis; Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening
	2021	NBER Children's Conference; MIT Applied Microeconomics; Univ. of Colorado Denver
	2020	Seattle Univ: Department Seminar; Univ. of Pittsburgh: Department Seminar; Pacific Development Conference; Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening (canceled due to COVID-19); Discrimination and Disparities Virtual Seminar
	2019	Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening; UC Berkeley: ARE Department Seminar & Development Lunch Series
	2018	UC Berkeley: WEB Conference, Development Lunch Series
Activities	2021-2023	Undergraduate committee member, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2021	Hiring committee member, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2020	Labor and development seminar organizer, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2020	Labor and development brownbag organizer, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2019	Ph.D. Admissions committee member, UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics
Languages	English (native), French (native), Mandarin (intermediate).	