

MARGINAL MEMOS

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Editor: Sadie Brendalen

Announcements

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowships at MPC

MPC will once again work with the Graduate School to support Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellows in 2021-2022. Students interested in applying for an MPC-based IDF for 2021-22 should review the Graduate School's instructions ([here](#)) as well as MPC's instructions (on the MPC web site [here](#)). Note that preliminary applications are due to MPC by October 19, 2020.

Reconciling Research and Treatment: Seeking Answers & Saving Lives

Friday, October 16, 2020

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Central time

[Register now](#)

COVID-19 presents tremendous challenges for researchers as they evaluate the efficacy and safety of medical interventions while also meeting the pressing clinical needs of their patients.

Join our expert panelists as they discuss how to balance the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 patients with the need for clinical trials, how past pandemics, like the Ebola crisis, may provide insights into COVID-19, and other issues related to research and treatment. This webinar is free and open to the public.

Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), will moderate a conversation with:

Robert M. Califf, MD, MACC, Head of Clinical Policy and Strategy for Verily and Google Health; Holly Fernandez Lynch, JD, MBe, Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania; and Arturo Casadevall, MD, PhD, Chair, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, Johns Hopkins University.

October 7- Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar

The seminar will be held on Wednesdays at 11 am Central US time.

The seminar this week will be held on October 7, 2020. Maulik Jagnani, University of Colorado-Denver will present, "*Women Leaders Improve Local Environmental Outcomes*"

If you would like to register, see the OARES website [here](#), and make sure to sign up with your institutional address. The OARES website includes a schedule of forthcoming talks as well.

Jobs

Agricultural Economist: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Little Rock, AR

The selected candidate provides economic assistance for all Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and serves as the economist responsible for the development and technical adequacy of the economics portions of all conservation programs with NRCS responsibility.

[Apply online](#)

Postdoctoral Opportunities (2): University of Georgia

Applications are invited for two Postdoctoral Research Associates in the Odum School of Ecology and Center for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases, at the University of Georgia, associated with a project recently funded by NIH "Spillover of Ebola and other filoviruses at ecological boundaries."

Position 1 (Statistical Modeling of Spillover Risk): The successful candidate will build statistical models of spillover of Ebola and other African filoviruses, participate in database development (both of spillover events and of predictor variables including ecological, environmental and socioeconomic factors), and developing project workflows in R. Knowledge of statistics, proficiency with R and experience either with macroecological analyses or statistical analyses of disease dynamics are required. Knowledge of disease ecology, Ebolavirus ecology and evolution, economic development, GIS or phylogenetic comparative methods are welcome but not essential.

Position 2 (Mathematical Modeling): The successful candidate will develop deterministic and stochastic multi-patch models of disease transmission. A strong working knowledge of dynamical systems, dynamic programming, and R are essential. Knowledge of disease ecology, Ebolavirus ecology and evolution, economic theory, economic epidemiology, or community ecology are welcome but not essential.

[Apply online](#)

Research Assistant: Resources for the Future

Research Assistants are essential members of the Resources for the Future (RFF) Research and Policy Engagement team. They are responsible for providing technical support that, under the direction of RFF Fellows, allows for the production of compelling and impactful research that aligns with RFF's mission of improving environmental, energy and natural resource decisions through impartial economic research and policy engagement. Research Assistant typically serve two one-year appointments, with the option of being promoted to Senior Research Assistant at the conclusion of the second year. Promotions are contingent on performance and budget availability.

RFF's research and engagement activities center on the economics of: (1) sectoral and economy-wide strategies for reducing emissions; (2) measuring environmental impacts and strategies for adaptation and resilience; and (3) cross-cutting issues and strategies. RFF seeks impact with decisionmakers in key venues, including at the federal, state, and international levels, and with the business community. Much of RFF's current work is focused on strategies for addressing the climate challenge.

[Apply online](#)

Economist: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe, NM

BLM is seeking dynamic and energetic individuals to join our team to serve as Economists in the Energy, Minerals, and Realty Directorate. There are 2 vacancies - one in Santa Fe, NM, and one in Cheyenne, WY. Information about each area can be found at the [Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce](#) websites.

[Apply online](#)

Labor Economist (2 positions): Congressional Budget Office

The Congressional Budget Office is a small nonpartisan agency that provides economic and budgetary analysis to the U.S. Congress. CBO seeks an economist who will focus on modeling individual behavior in a microsimulation framework, drawing on labor economics, public economics, demography, health economics, and the study of aging.

The analyst's wide-ranging responsibilities will include the following:

Conducting research about and performing modeling of projected labor force participation, employment, and earnings distributions; Social Security retirement or disability-claiming decisions; and individuals' marital and childbearing decisions. Working closely with a team to provide the Congress with 30-year projections of federal spending and to analyze the long-run economic and budgetary effects of retirement and disability policies under consideration by the Congress. Preparing reports and testimonies.

The analyst will be part of the team working on CBO's annual Long-Term Budget Outlook and analyses of Social Security policy. The analyst will work closely with others throughout CBO, including economists focusing on macroeconomics, health, and fiscal policy.

[Apply online](#)

Departmental Seminars

Trade & Development Seminar

Friday, October 9

10:30-12:00 p.m.

Zoom (link will be sent this week)

Lauren Falcao Bergquist, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, will present "Scaling Up Agricultural Policy Interventions: Theory and Evidence from Uganda," (coauthored with Benjamin Faber, Thibault Fally, Matthias Hoelzlein, Edward Miguel, and Andres Rodriguez-Clare).

Abstract:

Interventions aimed at raising agricultural productivity in developing countries have been a centerpiece in the global fight against poverty. These policies are increasingly informed by evidence from field experiments and natural experiments, with the well-known limitation that findings based on local variation generally do not speak to the general equilibrium (GE) effects if the intervention were to be scaled up to the national level. In this paper, we develop a new framework to quantify these forces based on a combination of theory and rich but widely available microdata. We build a quantitative GE model of farm production and trade, and propose a new solution method in this environment for studying high-dimensional counterfactuals at the level of individual households in the macroeconomy. We then bring to bear microdata from Uganda to calibrate the model to all households populating the country. We use these building blocks to explore the average and distributional implications of local shocks compared to policies at scale, and quantify the underlying mechanisms.

Seminars in other departments

Federal Bag Lunch

Tuesday, October 6

12:00 p.m.

VENKY VENKATSWARAN (New York University), "Scalable Expertise"

MN Demography and Aging Seminar

Monday, October 5

12:15 p.m.

Janet Fast (University of Alberta), "Life course trajectories of family care: Implications for care policy."

To have Economics Department and Fed workshops automatically entered into your calendar program, from your google calendar page click "add a friend's calendar," use the plus symbol at the right to select "from url" and paste in the following link :

http://www.google.com/calendar/ical/umn.edu_iolnsocgnepgcst7drr734n5ao%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

Note:

If you wish to attend a seminar at the Fed, please contact Nancy Moua at nancy.moua@mpls.frb.org for the zoom link .

Departmental publications

Book Review: Ford Runge

Ford Runge provided a book review for the Journal of Economic Literature, Volume LVIII (September 2020), "History of Economic Thought, Methodology, and Heterodox Approaches." If you would like to read the review, please email [Sadie Brendalen](mailto:Sadie.Brendalen), who will provide you with a copy.



APPLIED ECONOMICS

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