

MARGINAL MEMOS

Volume 62, Number 36, October 12, 2020

Editor: Sadie Brendalen

Announcements

New Grant Award

"Maintenance and Upgrades to the Dairy Margin Coverage Decision Tool"

Funding agency: USDA Food Service Agency

September 9, 2020 - September 30, 2021

PI: Marin Bozic

Funding opportunity for Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine)

Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine) is an exciting new research initiative aimed at generating a comprehensive body of evidence on the causal impact of digital financial services (DFS) on women's economic empowerment (WEE). Based at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Initiative will support rigorous research projects exploring this theme in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

WEE is a crucial and complex development issue, which DFS can impact through a number of pathways. Understanding the pathways between DFS and WEE as well as how to overcome the existing barriers to women's access to DFS is essential for advancing practical recommendations for the effective use of DFS to empower women economically. But rigorous and generalizable evidence on how digital finance impacts WEE, particularly on the causal mechanisms between the two, is limited. Therefore, to identify and fill the many existing gaps in our understanding of the causal mechanisms, the WEE-DiFine Initiative seeks to fund rigorous research to generate evidence and add to the growing body of literature around the impact of DFS on WEE.

WEE-DiFine will fund five main categories of research projects:

- Large-scale greenfield evaluations
- Extensions to existing studies
- Measurement experiments
- Qualitative methods as extensions to full scale RCT studies
- Pilot studies

[Apply online](#)

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 14- 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 14, 2020. Eeshani Kandpal, The World Bank, will present "Cash Transfers, Food Prices, and Nutrition Impacts on Nonbeneficiary Children."

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

Postdoctoral research associate: Mississippi State University

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University is seeking applicants for a postdoctoral researcher to work in the areas of environmental and natural resource economics. The successful candidate will contribute to an interdisciplinary team developing a model of coupled natural and human coastal and marine ecosystems for the Gulf of Mexico region. The successful candidate will be under the direct supervision of Drs. Daniel Petrolia and Seong Yun and will work with multi-institutional and multidisciplinary researchers.

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Postdoctoral fellow: University of Idaho

The Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology within the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is recruiting a full-time postdoctoral scholar. The initial appointment is one year with the possibility of extension.

The postdoctoral position primarily involves empirical research in the field of air pollution and agricultural policies and practices. We are interested in the effects government programs (e.g. CRP), irrigation technologies, fertilizer applications, tillage practices, and general land-use management have on particulate matter emissions. We are also interested in evaluating the amenability of producers to modify practices in exchange for compensation or other benefits.

The postdoctoral fellow will work directly with Drs. Alexander Maas (University of Idaho), Jude Bayham (Colorado State University), and James Crooks (National Jewish Health) to conduct primary research using secondary data from existing air quality monitoring

networks (EPA, Purple Air, etc.).

The goal for the assessment is to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of how land-use decisions influence particulate matter emissions, and ultimately human health. As part of this position, the postdoctoral fellow will be expected to identify key researchers in the field and coordinate the completion of a large USDA funded Foundational and Applied Sciences proposal

[Apply online](#)

Research Assistant: Green Dairy Bonds

The Dairy Green Bonds Research Cohort has positions for up to four part-time undergraduate students for the 2020/2021 school year. The cohort students will collectively assist with: providing literature reviews, online research, data collection and organization, assisting with stakeholder convenings in the dairy and sustainable finance industries, and various administrative processes. Activities for this position will include online research and literature review about Minnesota's dairy industry, greenhouse gas reduction strategies and costs, green bond financing approaches, carbon/methane pricing, and/or other relevant topics. The cohort will also assist with connecting to, and communicating with stakeholders; notetaking and logistical help during stakeholder meetings (online); and other project organizational tasks.

To learn more or apply visit the University of Minnesota Employment website and search for job ID 337500.

Departmental Seminars

Trade & Development Seminar

Will resume the week of October 19.

Seminars in other departments

Federal Bag Lunch

Tuesday, October 13

12:00 p.m.

Reka Juhasz, Columbia University, TBA

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

Runge, Carlisle Ford. 2020. Review of Frank Ramsey: A Sheer Excess of Powers, IN: Book Reviews. Journal of Economic Literature 58 (3): 793–803. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jel.58.3.793>.



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