



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Department of
**APPLIED
ECONOMICS**

Trade and Development Seminar

Spillovers without Social Interactions in Urban Sanitation

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10:30 am – 12:00 pm

119 Ruttan Hall

While there is substantial evidence that social network effects are important in encouraging technology adoption in rural environments, there is little evidence on these mechanisms in urban environments. We study four mechanisms which might explain spillovers which increase adoption of mechanized desludging in an urban environment: social pressure, reciprocity, learning from others, and increasing returns. We do not find evidence of social pressure, reciprocity, or learning from others. We do find evidence suggestive of increasing returns to scale: as more neighbors adopt more sanitary technologies, it seems to become more worthwhile for other households to adopt as well.