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September 14, 2015

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Education:

2015 (exp.)	PhD	Sustainable Development	Columbia University
2013	MPhil	Sustainable Development	Columbia University
2006	MPA	Public Administration	Columbia University
2002	MA (Distinction)	International Studies	University of London
2000	BA (1 st Hons. equiv.)	Humanities	University of Freiburg

Fields of specialization: Development, environmental and health economics

Job market paper: “Mines: the local wealth and health effects of mineral mining in developing countries,” with Prabhat Barnwal.

Abstract: Do residents of mining communities face health-wealth trade-offs? We conduct the first extensive assessment of this question using micro-data from communities near about 800 mineral mines in 44 developing countries. Households in mining communities enjoy a substantial medium-term gain in asset wealth (0.3 standard deviations), but experience a ten percentage point increase in the incidence of anemia among adult women, and a five percentage point rise in the prevalence of stunting in young children. Prior evidence links both of these health impacts to metal toxicity – and in particular, exposure to high levels of lead. We observe health impacts only near mines of a type where heavy metal pollution is to be expected, and find no systematic evidence that health is affected in ways that are not specific to exposure to such pollutants. Benefits and costs are strongly concentrated in the immediate vicinity (≤ 5 km) of a mine. Consistent results emerge from a range of distinct identification strategies. Baseline results come from a cross-sectional fixed effects model, and mine-level and mother-level panels. An instrumental variables approach serves as a robustness check. To demonstrate that the observed health impacts are due to pollution, we develop two difference-in-difference tests tailored to the known association of certain mine types with heavy metal pollution, and to the pathophysiology of lead toxicity. Our results add to the nascent literature on health impacts near industrial operations in developing countries.

Working papers:

“Cost-sharing in environmental health products: evidence from arsenic testing of drinking-water wells in Bihar, India.” (with Prabhat Barnwal, Alexander van Geen, and Chander Kumar Singh)

“Geolocation error and the use of DMSP-OLS night lights as high-resolution wealth proxies.” (Revise and resubmit, *Remote Sensing of Environment*)

Ongoing work:

“Household-level impacts of CGIAR’s modern seed varieties since 1960.” (with Prabhat Barnwal, Ram Fishman, Nathan Mueller, and Gordon McCord)

“Bias when distance is a regressor” (with Prabhat Barnwal and Ruinan Liu)

“The impact of landmine clearance on household welfare – evidence from Cambodia” (with Prabhat Barnwal and Ofir Reich)

Selected fellowships and awards:

Columbia University Faculty Fellow (2010-2015)
Short-list, Columbia Presidential Teaching Award (2013)
Columbia School of International and Public Affairs Fellow (2005)
German Academic Merit Foundation European Recovery Program Fellow (2004-2006)

Selected work experience:

Economist, Co-Financing and Partnerships, World Bank, Washington, D.C. (2011-2012)
Visiting Senior Associate, Climate Change, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C. (2009-2011)
Junior Professional Associate, Office of the Chief Economist, World Bank, Washington, D.C. (2006-2008)
Research Expert, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. (2002-2003)

Selected policy publications:

“Seeing Drought Impacts in Coarse Resolution – Weather Shocks, Welfare, and Safety Nets in Pakistan, 1998-2005.” (Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Development Studies*)
“High Stakes in a Complex Game: A Snapshot of the Climate Change Negotiating Positions of Major Developing-Country Emitters,” Working Paper Number 177, Center for Global Development, 2009.
“It’s One Climate Policy World out There... Almost – Lessons from a Survey on Climate Policy Options,” with Nancy Birdsall. Working Paper Number 195, Center for Global Development, 2009.

Teaching experience:

Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Trade for policy master’s students. Introductory Macroeconomics.

References:

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