



Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2019 Project Description

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School/Department:	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
Project Title:	Nutrition in Times of Economic Transition: Evidence from Asia
Abstract:	<p>Obesity is a pressing health problem facing a number of middle-income and emerging economies. Nutrition and dietary habits around the world are changing rapidly and about 62% of obese people live in such countries (Ng et al. 2014). Economic development and globalization have been accompanied by profound changes in population health around the world. While malnutrition is on a slow decline in many middle and low-income countries, “rich country” diseases like obesity are on the rise.</p> <p>This project proposes to study the <i>nutrition transition</i> from an economic point of view focusing on children and their parents – because early childhood health and nutrition are vital for a healthy and productive life.</p> <p>Recent nutrition dynamics are likely to put a double burden on the health system given that child stunting rates are still elevated in many countries. Over and under-nutrition (as well as the combination of the two, i.e. short and overweight children) lower the chances of a healthy and productive life.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to study what policymakers <i>in Asia, for instance in countries like China, Indonesia, Vietnam</i>, can do to mitigate the obesity epidemic. The project fills an important knowledge gap, as economic research on obesity is currently almost exclusively undertaken in the US and Europe. <i>The project will build on the supervisors ongoing experimental work on interventions aimed at reducing unhealthy food consumption and, ultimately, obesity rates among schoolchildren in urban Vietnam and Indonesia</i></p> <p>The project will leverage existing anthropometric surveys and study economic determinants of nutritional changes including international trade, labor markets and migration (for a recent paper written by the supervisor Dr. Matthias Rieger along these lines see “Weight Gains from Trade in Foods: Evidence from Mexico (with Osea Giuntella and Lorenzo Rotunno), NBER Working Paper 24942, August 2018.). This part of the project requires econometric skills.</p>

	<p>The project will also study information provision, nudges and financial incentives to boost healthy habits among school children using field experiments. This part of the project requires knowledge of behavioral sciences and experimental techniques.</p>
<p>Requirements of candidate:</p>	<p>Background: economics, econometrics, statistics, behavioral sciences, public health or epidemiology (and any related fields). The candidate should have strong quantitative/econometric skills and knowledge of statistical software such as STATA/R.</p> <p>Master's degree: Yes</p> <p>English requirement: IELTS Grade: 7.0 (<i>minimal 6.0 per component</i>) or TOEFL: 100 (<i>minimal 20 per component</i>) (<i>or exemption if MA degree was in English</i>)</p>
<p>Supervisor information:</p>	<p>Supervisory Team: Dr. Matthias Rieger and Prof. Dr. Arjun Bedi (Details are provided below)</p> <p>Dr. Matthias Rieger <i>rieger@iss.nl</i> <i>matthiasrieger.weebly.com</i></p> <p>Health and Nutrition: Universal Health Coverage at the Macro Level: Synthetic Control Evidence from Thailand (with Natascha Wagner and Arjun Bedi), <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>, 2017, 172: 46-55.</p> <p>Polygyny and Child Health Revisited (with Natascha Wagner), <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> (Letter), 2016, 113(13): E1769–E1770.</p> <p>Trans Fat and Cardiovascular Disease Mortality: Evidence from Bans in Restaurants in New York (with Brandon Restrepo), <i>Journal of Health Economics</i>, 2016, 45: 176-196. <i>Media coverage: NYT, VOX or the World Economic Forum.</i></p> <p>Age-Specific Correlates of Child Growth (with Sofia Trommlerová), <i>Demography</i>, 2016, 53: 241-267.</p>

	<p>Denmark's Policy on Artificial Trans Fat and Cardiovascular Disease (with Brandon Restrepo), <i>American Journal of Preventive Medicine</i>, 2016, 50(1): 69-76. <i>Media coverage: CNN, NYT, Le Monde, VOX, TIME, Jyllands-Posten etc.</i></p> <p>Risk aversion, Time preference and Health Production: Theory and Empirical Evidence from Cambodia, <i>Economics and Human Biology</i>, 2015, 17: 1-15</p> <p>Child Health, its Dynamic Interaction with Nutrition and Health Memory –Evidence from Senegal, (with Natascha Wagner), <i>Economics and Human Biology</i>, 2015, 16: 135-145.</p> <p>The Impact of Landmines on Child Health in Angola (with Jean-Louis Arcand and Aude-Sophie Rodella-Boitreaud), <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i>, 2015, 63(2): 249-279</p> <p>Polygyny and Child Growth: Evidence from 26 African Countries (with Natascha Wagner), <i>Feminist Economics</i>, 2015, 21(2): 105-130.</p> <p>HIV/Aids and Conflict: Micro Evidence from Burundi, <i>Forum for Health Economics and Policy</i>, 2013, 16(1).</p> <p>Maternal Height and the Sex Ratio (with Jean-Louis Arcand), <i>Journal of Evolutionary Psychology</i>, 2012, 10(2), 69-81.</p> <p>Behavioral and Experimental Economics: Intuitive Help and Punishment in the Field (Luis Artavia-Mora and Arjun Bedi), <i>European Economic Review</i>, 2017, 92: 133-145.</p> <p>Are Women Better Police Officers? Evidence from Survey Experiments in Uganda (with Natascha Wagner, Wil Hout and Arjun Bedi), <i>Journal of African Economies</i>, 2017, 26(4): 492-515.</p> <p>Community-Driven Development and Social Capital: Evidence from Morocco (with Tu Chi Ngyuen), <i>World Development</i>, 2017, 91: 28-52.</p> <p>Gender, Ethnicity and Teaching Evaluations: Evidence from Mixed Teaching Teams (with Natascha Wagner and Katherine Voorvelt), <i>Economics of Education Review</i>, 2016, 54(C): 79-94. <i>Media coverage: Times Higher Education Supplement.</i></p> <p>Trust and Trustworthiness in Young and Older Adults (Phoebe Bailey,</p>
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	<p>Gillian Slessor, Matthias Rieger, Peter Rendell, Ahmed Moustafa and Ted Ruffmann), <i>Psychology & Aging</i>, 2015, 30(4): 977-986.</p> <p>On the Generality of Age Differences in Social and Non-Social Decision Making (with Rui Mata), <i>The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences</i>, 2015.</p> <p>Macro-Development Economics: Corruption and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (with Elissaios Papyrakis and Emma Gilberthorpe), <i>Journal of Development Studies</i>, 2017, 70(1): 200-212.</p> <p>Prof. dr. Arjun Bedi Professor of Development Economics Email address bedi@iss.nl Personal website: www.iss.nl/bedi</p> <p>“Effects of decentralized health care financing on maternal care in Indonesia” (with Renate Hartwig, Robert Sparrow, Sri Budiayati, Athia Yumma, Nila Warda, Asep Suryahadi), forthcoming in <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i>. Available online, at https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/698312.</p> <p>“The Impact of a Household Biogas Programme on Energy Use and Expenditure in East Java” (with Robert Sparrow, Luca Tasciotti), <i>Energy Economics</i> 68 (2017): 66-76.</p> <p>“Uptake of Health Insurance and the Productive Safety Net Program in Rural Ethiopia” (with Zemzem Shigute, Anagaw Mebratie, Robert Sparrow, Zelalem Yilma, Getnet Alemu). <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> 176 (2017): 133-141.</p> <p>“Intuitive Help and Punishment in the Field” (with Luis Artavia-Mora, Matthias Rieger). <i>European Economic Review</i> 92 (2017): 133-145.</p> <p>“Universal Health Coverage at the Macro Level: Synthetic Control Evidence from Thailand (with Natascha Wagner and Matthias Rieger). <i>Social Science & Medicine</i> 172 (2017): 46-55.</p> <p>“Protocol for a randomized controlled trial evaluating mobile short message services (SMS) to promote retention and adherence to anti-retroviral therapy for people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Burkina Faso” (with Wagner N, Ouedraogo D, Artavia-Mora</p>
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