

Conference: Impact Measurement in Development Aid

April, 17th 2009, 2pm – 6pm,
Graduate Memorial Building (GMB)



Institute for International Integration Studies
Trinity College Dublin

2pm

Welcome Address

Alan Matthews

Head of IIS and Professor of Economics, TCD

2.10pm

Aims and Context of the Conference: A New Initiative on Aid Effectiveness

Pedro Vicente

Lecturer in Economics, TCD, and Research Affiliate, CSAE (Oxford University) and Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development

2.20pm-3.10pm

Can Post-conflict Development Aid Strengthen Community Cohesion? Evidence from Liberia

Macartan Humphreys

Associate Professor of Political Science and Research Scholar, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Professor Humphreys will present on the evaluation of a large-scale 'community-driven reconstruction' project undertaken by NGO International Rescue Committee in Liberia. He will report on randomization methods and on measurement of long-run effects of community cooperation and cohesion. Professor Humphreys graduated from Trinity College Dublin, and holds an MPhil from Oxford University, and AM and PhD degrees from Harvard University. He has extensive experience in designing and conducting experiments in African countries in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

3.10pm-4.00pm

Votes and Violence: Evidence from an Informational Campaign in Nigeria

Pedro Vicente

Dr. Vicente will present findings from a field project undertaken with ActionAid International Nigeria during the 2007 elections. That NGO implemented a randomized information campaign against electoral violence with activities in a selected number of villages of six Nigerian states. He will discuss the measurement of violence and electoral behaviour and the impact of the information campaign. Dr. Vicente holds an MSc from the London School of Economics, and MA and PhD degrees from the

University of Chicago. He has designed and conducted household surveys and experiments in Cape Verde, Kenya, Nigeria, and Sao Tome and Principe.

- Coffee Break -

4.20pm-5.10pm

Does Digital Divide or Provide? The Impact of Cell Phones on Grain Markets in Niger

Jenny Aker

Assistant Professor of Economics, Tufts University, Research Fellow, Center for Global Development

Professor Aker presents on the effect of cell-phones on development outcomes including farmers' and traders' welfare, labour outcomes, literacy rates and early warning systems, made possible by extensive fieldwork conducted in Niger. Professor Aker graduated from Duke University and holds MA and PhD degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. Before pursuing graduate studies, Professor Aker worked for Catholic Relief Services for 5 years where she was Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa in Ghana.

5.10pm-6.00pm

Discussion - Ireland and Development Aid Impact Evaluation: Opportunities for Systematic Measurement and Precise Estimation?

Chair: Michael King

Senior Research Officer, Institute for International Integration Studies

The speakers will be joined by:

Marie Gaarder

Deputy Director, International Initiative on Impact Evaluation

Fintan Farrelly

Director, Evaluation Unit, Irish Aid