

Masters Course
Topics in Development
SUMMER SEMESTER 2018

Instructor: Dr. Rajesh Ramachandran

Time and Location: Check LSF for room and days

Contact: Ramachandran[at]econ.uni-frankfurt[dot]de

Office Hours: By appointment

Overview and Objectives

The course explores the process of economic and social development around the world. The course though primarily relies on literature from the field of economics, it will however also draw on research from the fields of anthropology, development studies and political science. The course is divided into two primary parts and is intended to introduce the participants to a wide range of micro and macro perspectives on the process of economic development ranging from the role of institutions, geography, human capital and culture to the micro processes underlying human capital formation. The first part takes a long run view to understanding the macro processes that help explain the current level of cross country income differences. The second part of the course will take a more micro perspective on identifying the impact of social and economic policies, with a special emphasis on education and health. A brief listing of the main topics and some of the associated readings to be covered is provided below:

Course Outline

1. State formation and collapse: Theoretical and comparative perspectives.
 - Besley, Timothy and Torsten Persson. State Capacity, Conflict, and Development, *Econometrica*, 78 (2009): 1-34.
 - Herbst, Jeffrey. *States and power in Africa: comparative lessons in authority and control*. Princeton University Press, 2014. (Ch. 1 The challenge of state building in Africa)
 - Bates, Robert H., John H. Coatsworth, and Jeffrey G. Williamson. "Lost decades: post-independence performance in Latin America and Africa." *The Journal of Economic History* 67.04 (2007): 917-943.
 - RH Jackson and C.G. Rosberg Why Africas Weak States persist: the empirical and the juridical in statehood *World Politics* 1982: 35(1): 1-24

2. The rise of Europe

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. The Rise of Europe: Atlantic Trade, Institutional Change, and Economic Growth, *American Economic Review* 95 (3) (2005): 546-79.
- Blaydes, Lisa, and Eric Chaney. The feudal revolution and Europe's rise: Political divergence of the Christian west and the Muslim world before 1500 CE, *American Political Science Review* 107.01 (2013): 16-34.
- Pollock, Sheldon. *The language of the gods in the world of men: Sanskrit, culture, and power in premodern India*. University of California Press, 2006. (Ch.11 Europe Vernacularized)

3. Some debates on the role of geography, human capital and institutions in comparative development

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson. Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117, (2002): 1231-1294
- Glaeser, E., La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F., and Shleifer, A. Do Institutions Cause Growth? *Journal of Economic Growth*, 9 (2004): 271-303.
- Diamond, Jared M. *Guns, germs and steel: a short history of everybody for the last 13,000 years*. Random House, 1998. (Ch. 4 Farmer Power)
- Laitin, D.D., and Rajesh Ramachandran. Language policy and human development. *American Political Science Review* 110.3 (2016): 457-480.

4. Power games and institutions: The role of external actors

- Dube, Arindrajit, Ethan Kaplan, and Suresh Naidu. Coups, corporations, and classified information. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 126.3 (2011): 1375-1409.
- Berger, D., Corvalan, A., Easterly, W., Satyanath, S. Do superpower interventions have short and long term consequences for democracy? *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 41(1) (2013): 22-34.
- Charbonneau, Bruno. *France and the new imperialism: security policy in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2008. (Ch. 1 and 4)

5. Ethnicity

- Alesina, Alberto, and Eliana La Ferrara. "Ethnic diversity and economic performance." *Journal of economic literature* 43.3 (2005): 762-800.
- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. (2007). Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision? *American Political Science Review*, 101 (4): 709-725.
- Esteban, Joan, Laura Mayoral, and Debraj Ray. (2012). Ethnicity and Conflict: An Empirical Study, *American Economic Review*, 102(4): 1310-1342.

- Michalopoulos, Stelios, and Elias Papaioannou. "The long-run effects of the scramble for Africa." *American Economic Review* 106.7 (2016): 1802-48.
- Laitin, D.D., and Rajesh Ramachandran. Linguistic diversity, official language choice and National Building. Working Paper (2018).

6. Culture

- Henrich, Joseph, Robert Boyd, Sam Bowles, Colin Camerer, Herbert Gintis, Richard McElreath and Ernst Fehr. (2001). In search of Homo Economicus: Experiments in 15 Small-Scale Societies, *American Economic Review*, 91(2): 73-79.
- Nunn, Nathan. "Culture and the historical process." *Economic History of Developing Regions* 27.sup1 (2012): S108-S126.
- Nunn, Nathan and Leonard Wantchekon. (2011). The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa, *American Economic Review*, 101(7): 3221-3252.
- Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano and Nathan Nunn. (2012). On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128(2): 469-530.

7. Education

- Kremer, Michael, Conner Brannen, and Rachel Glennerster. "The challenge of education and learning in the developing world." *Science* 340.6130 (2013): 297-300.
- Glewwe and Kremer, Schools, Teachers, and Education Outcomes in Developing Countries, in *Handbook on the Economics of Education*, Elsevier, 2006.
- Glewwe, Paul, and Karthik Muralidharan. "Improving education outcomes in developing countries: Evidence, knowledge gaps, and policy implications." *Handbook of the Economics of Education*. Vol. 5. Elsevier, 2016. 653-743.

8. Health

- Dupas, Pascaline, and Edward Miguel. "Impacts and determinants of health levels in low-income countries." *Handbook of economic field experiments*. Vol. 2. North-Holland, 2017. 3-93.
- Dupas, Pascaline. "Getting essential health products to their end users: Subsidize, but how much?" *Science* 345.6202 (2014): 1279-1281.
- Glewwe, P., and Miguel, E.A., (2007), "The impact of child health and nutrition on education in less developed countries. In: T.P. Schultz, J.A. Strauss (Eds.), *Handbook of Development Economics*, volume 4, chapter 56. Elsevier, Amsterdam, pages 3561-3606.

9. The Indian enigma: Why are Indian children so short?

- Coffey, D. and Deaton, A. and Dreze, J. and Spears, D. and Tarozzi, A. (2013), 'Stunting among Children: Facts and Implications', *Economic Political Weekly*, vol. 48, no. 34.
- Deaton, A. (2007), 'Height, Health, and Development', *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 104(33): 13232-237.
- Panagariya, A (2013), 'Does India Really Suffer from Worse Child Malnutrition Than Sub-Saharan Africa?' *Economic Political Weekly*, 48(18): 98-111.
- Spears, D. (2013), 'How much International Variation in Child Height Can Sanitation Explain?' Princeton Research Program in Development Studies Working Paper.

10. African development: Putting some pieces together

- The last session will synthesize the material covered in the other modules to try and understand the historical pathways and the way forward for African development. Readings to be announced later.

Course Evaluation

The evaluation will be based on a combination of (1) class presentations to be held during the mid term, (2) final term paper; and (3) class or take home examination. More details will follow.