

Olivia Bertelli

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development microeconomics, agricultural economics, impact evaluation

EDUCATION

2012 - present: **Ph.D. Candidate** in Economics, Paris School of Economics
2011 - 2012: **M.A.** Public Policies and Development (M2 Research), Paris School of Economics
2009 - 2011: **M.A.** Advanced Development Economics, University of Florence

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2016: Visiting fellow at the International Institute of Economic Studies (Stockholm), PODER network.
June 2013 - present (Uganda, France): **Research associate**. Extensive field-work activity for the project "Dissemination of new agricultural technologies in Africa: making extension work." Implementation and data collection for large RCT. With Professors Luc Behagel, Jérémy Gignoux, Karen Macours.
2009 - 2010: **Project assistant** for "Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe" (Brussels)

TEACHING

Fall 2013: **Teaching Assistant** for "Introduction to Economics (Micro 1 and Macro 1)" (Prof. Pascal Da Costa) École Centrale de Paris.

GRANTS

EU Commission Marie Curie grant (PODER network) 2015-2016.
INRA Graduate scholarship (2012-2015).
EU Commission FoodSecure grant (2012).
Erasmus scholarship for visiting at Sussex University, UK (2006).

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2015: AEL conference IWL Kiel Institute, CSAE Conference Oxford University, European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Oxford Development Economics Workshop, Royal Economic Society Conference, Spanish Economic Association Symposium, CFD Seminar Paris School of Economics, Brown bag seminar Stockholm University, Lunch seminar IIES Stockholm, PODER and SSDEV Summer Schools.
2014: ASWEDE Conference (Stockholm)

REFERENCES

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**JOURNALS
REFEREE**

Contemporary economics, Land economics, Journal of Demographic Economics

**JOB MARKET
PAPER**

The more the merrier? Adjusting fertility to weather shocks. *PSE working paper n.2015-38*

Despite the worldwide decrease of fertility rates, Sub-Saharan Africa is still an exception, showing an almost non-declining trend in the past 50 years. This paper tests the hypothesis that parents might prefer to anticipate the risk of child mortality with a hoard of children, leading to high fertility rates. By exploiting positive exogenous weather shocks together with household panel data, I find that abundant rainfall affect household fertility decisions. Fewer children die and, on average, fertility increases among the young households analysed. Yet, the higher the number of children they already have, the smaller the increase. The theoretical framework shows that the magnitude of the fertility adjustment depends, among other factors, on the number of children alive at the moment of the shock. The empirical strategy tests this prediction, by using the gender of the first-born as instrument for the initial number of children. Households get on average larger, as more children survive and parents only partially reduce their fertility. Consistent with such partial adjustment, household food security and children's anthropometric measures get worse.

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: Italian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent).

Softwares: Stata 13, R, GIS softwares, L^AT_EX.

Rock-climber, rock-climbing teacher.

**ABSTRACTS OF
WORKS IN
PROGRESS**

O. Bertelli **Who benefits from development programs? The role of social networks, experimental evidence from Uganda.**

Assuring participants take up and avoiding elites capture is a challenge for development policies and programs. When identifying the injection point of a policy at the village level, his/her connections can play a key role in inducing beneficiaries to participate. This paper tests how different non-monetary incentives affect turn out and technology adoption from program beneficiaries, given the social network characteristics of the injection point. I exploit a village-level random allocation of incentives for participating in an agricultural technology adoption program implemented in Uganda that targets one farmer (injection point) per village, as elected by the community. I look at participation rates and injection points effort (in terms of number and frequency of training sessions organised, number and types of technologies taught) under the different incentive schemes.

O. Bertelli **Investing in cattle as an alternative to lack of saving services? Evidence from rural Uganda.**

This paper investigates whether cattle investment is a substitute for saving services in a context where saving supply is lacking. I find that profits from cattle are slightly positive when assuming zero labour cost and largely negative when dropping this assumption. In addition, the more milking animals, higher profits and rates of return farmers have, the higher the probability of using saving services is. Livestock seem to act as a substitute for saving only for farmers with large herds, whereas small farmers tend to be more productive and more likely to use saving services.

O. Bertelli **Food security measures in Sub-Saharan Africa. A validation of the LSMS-ISA scale.**

The FAO defines food security based on food availability, accessibility and utilization. Yet, the current economic literature mainly uses indicators capturing only one of those dimensions and often considers the consequences of being food insecure, without measuring the food security status per se. Yet, hunger scales have been developed in the nutrition literature which combine these three main dimensions and result in a overall score of food security. The comparability of these scales across countries is still however an open question. This study therefore assesses the validity of such hunger scale that was included in the World Bank LSMS-ISA questionnaire administered in Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania by applying Item Response Theory models. The innovative contribution of this paper is to validate the scale not only at the country level, but cross-country and in a panel dimension. The scale performs very well within each country and the sub-set of common

items across countries perform globally well.

O. Bertelli and K. Macours (2013), **Food Security and Agriculture in Developing Countries: Measurement and hypotheses for impact evaluations**, FoodSecure working paper

This paper reviews the challenges related to establishing credible causal links between particular interventions and aggregate food security. A first set of challenges result from the lack of a common measurement of food security, with a multitude of indicators and definitions being used in different studies, making comparisons and broader inferences particularly hard. We discuss various measures and the existing evidence on their validity. We also line out a possible approach to validating some of the multi-dimensional measures in a more comprehensive way. A second set of challenges comes from the need to have credible exogenous variation in order to establish a causal relationship between an intervention and resulting food security outcomes. We review the literature and conclude that there are still many open questions regarding the type of interventions that might be most effective to increase food security. Likely, the optimal policy will also be strongly context-specific, and understanding the sensitivity of impacts to contextual changes hence is equally important.

O. Bertelli **The impact of parental death on children's outcomes. A long-term analysis on Indonesia.**

Little is known about the impacts of losing a parent on children's well-being in the short and long run. It can be detrimental for children, but with a high degree of heterogeneity according to children and households characteristics. I explore such heterogeneous impacts in terms of children's age, gender and time of exposure to orphanhood, by investigating short and long term effects, from 1993 to 2007 with a panel dataset from Indonesia. I estimate a Propensity Score model for dealing with selection into becoming an orphan and estimate Difference-in-Differences regressions. Results show that only children becoming orphans between 13 and 18 years old experience a worsening of health status, educational attainments and live in poorer households. I also find a relevant differential impact according to children's gender: female orphans have a lower educational level, while male orphans have a lower Weight-for-Age and Height-for-Age. In addition, the economic loss is larger in households with older daughters. Households with older children are more dramatically affected in terms of monthly income, informal transfers and expenditures, even in the long term.

Last updated: December 16, 2015