

Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research

Award-Winners 2019

Category: Scientific Excellence		
Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Lorenzo Casaburi (University of Zürich)	“Time versus State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Contract Farming in Kenya”, published in <i>American Economic Review</i>	Lorenzo Casaburi and his co-author study how the intertemporal transfer of money affects take-up of crop insurance among Kenyan farmers. Using an experimental approach, they show that offering insurance contracts without the intertemporal transfer lead to a substantial increase in take-up.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Sarah Langlotz (PhD at University of Heidelberg)	“Conflict, Income Shocks, and Foreign Policy: Macro- and Micro-Level Evidence”	Sarah Langlotz’s dissertation shows high scientific quality, methodological innovativeness and practical relevance. At the macro-level, she examines the relationship between bilateral foreign aid flows and conflict intensity in recipient areas and the effects of aid on growth. At the micro-level, she further explores the consequences of the presence of foreign military troops on social cohesion and trust in Afghanistan as well as how opium-related income shocks affect conflict.
2 nd Prize: Maria-Theres Schuler(PhD at University of Zürich)	“Disability and Logistics of Distribution in a Ugandan Refugee Settlement”	Maria-Theres Schuler’s dissertation is an anthropological work that examines the effects of a paradigm change in humanitarian aid on the role and social relationships of refugees with disabilities. Her conclusions run in part contrary to established working hypotheses of development cooperation and call for a critical reflection on current approaches in humanitarian aid.
3 rd Prize: Valentin Lang (PhD at University of Heidelberg)	“Political Decisions, Economic Effects: How International Organizations Govern the Globalized Economy”	Valentin Lang investigates the decision making processes of international organizations, with special emphasis on the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He further explores the consequences of IMF-interventions in developing countries. His research suggests that the decision-making of international organizations are prone to the political influence of powerful member states. He further shows that IMF programs affect key economic outcomes like inequality and capital market access.
Price Committee: Simone Dietrich (University of Geneva), Javier Revilla Diez (University of Cologne), Gregor Dobler (University of Freiburg), Axel Dreher (University of Heidelberg), Roland Hodler (University of St. Gallen), Patric Shirzadi and Sebastian Prediger (KfW Development Bank)and Herman Waibel (University of Hannover).		

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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Dina Pomeranz (University of Zürich)	“Dodging the Taxman: Firm Misreporting and Limits to Tax Enforcement”, published in <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i>	Dina Pomeranz and her co-authors examine the effectiveness of third-party information as a means of verifying taxpayer reports in Ecuador. They report widespread misreporting on taxes and show that firms responding to notifications about detected revenue discrepancies increase both reported revenue and costs, resulting in minor increases in tax revenue. Their results show that tax enforcement through third-party reporting can be severely limited in developing countries.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1st Prize: Rahul Lahoti (PhD in Economics at University of Göttingen)	“Essays in Poverty, Inequality, and Political Economy”	Rahul Lahoti compiles a unique database on poverty and inequality that is more comprehensive, transparent and allows for more flexible usage than existing data bases. He further demonstrates that multidimensional poverty measures tend to underestimate the incidence of individual poverty and inequality within households, and proposes an alternative approach for measuring multidimensional poverty at individual level.
2 nd Prize: Mirjam Anna Brüderle (PhD in Economics at University of St. Gallen)	“Essays on Development Economics”	Mirjam A. Brüderle analyses the health-impacts of onshore oil spills in Nigeria, the influence of extreme weather events on crime in South Africa, the impact of electrification programs on microenterprise development in Nepal, and the association between survey-based development outcomes and satellite data on nighttime lights at local level. All her essays have direct implications for practitioners.
3 rd Prize: Felix Haaß (PhD in Political Sciences at GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies)	“Buying Democracy? The Political Economy of Foreign Aid, Power-Sharing Governments, and Post-Conflict Political Development”	Felix Haaß examines the effects that post-conflict power sharing and foreign aid have on democratic development in post-conflict societies. He shows that aid and power sharing promote clean(er) elections, but motivates elites to weaken the rule of law and to provide fewer public goods.

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Toman Barsbai (IfW Kiel)	“The Effect of Labor Migration on the Diffusion of Democracy: Evidence from a Former Soviet Republic”, published in <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i>	Toman Barsbai and his co-authors examine how migration into western countries affects political preferences in home countries. They show that migration from Moldova increased pro-democratic votes in elections. Thus migration has not only economic but also political effects.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1st Prize: André Gröger (PhD in Economics at the University of Frankfurt)	“On the Causes and Consequences of Migration in Developing Countries”	Combining satellite and household survey data, André Gröger shows that migration can be an effective mechanism for reducing income risk. He shows that money transfer from urban migrants helped households affected by a typhoon deal with production and income shocks.
2 nd Prize: Muhammad Baba Bello (PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of Kiel)	“Three Essays on Modeling Consumer Preferences in the Presence of Hypothetical Bias and Attribute Non-Attendance in Food Choice Experiments”	Muhammad Baba Bello analyses the consumption preferences for organic food in Nigeria. Using experimental methods he identifies different consumer types, allowing designing products for different consumer market segments.
3 rd Prize: Vera Eichenauer (PhD in Economics at the University of Heidelberg)	“The Political Economy of Foreign Aid, Allocation, Timing, and Effectiveness”	Vera Eichenauer examines multi-bilateral aid in her dissertation. This aid modality is administered by international organizations in a variety of country-specific, sectoral trust funds. Her research contributed to better understand donors’ decision whether to allocate funds to bilateral, multi-bilateral or multilateral aid.
Price Committee: Margit Bussmann (University of Greifswald), Javier Revilla Diez (University of Cologne), Gregor Dobler (University of Freiburg), Axel		

Dreher (University of Heidelberg), Joachim Heidebrecht (KfW Development Bank), Roland Hodler (University of St. Gallen) and Hermann Waibel (University of Hannover).

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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Raji Jayaraman (ESMT Berlin)	"Anatomy of a Contract Change", published in <i>The American Economic Review</i>	Raji Jayaraman and her co-authors study the productivity impact of a contract change among Indian tea pluckers. The fixed component of the tea pluckers' compensation is increased due to a rise in minimum wages, while the variable component remains unchanged. They find that psychological factors matter in the short run, while in the long-run only monetary motives matter for productivity.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1st Prize: Richard Bluhm (PhD in Economics at Maastricht University)	"Growth Dynamics and Development. Essays in Applied Econometrics and Political Economy"	Richard Bluhm explores how the quality of political institutions relates to economic stagnation. A weak executive paired with ethnic conflicts undermines cooperation and thus prolongs economic crisis.
2 nd Prize: René Umlauf (PhD in Sociology at the University of Bayreuth)	"Mobile Tests - Einfaches Wissen. Zur Laboratorisierung und Projektifizierung der Malariadiagnose im ländlichen Uganda"	René Umlauf examines the take-up of rapid malaria testing in Uganda looking at organizational, technological and sociological aspects. He identifies obstacles and emphasizes that a different comprehension of the new technology would actually stabilize its usage.
3 rd Prize: Tobias Stöhr (PhD in Economics at the University of Kiel)	"Social and Economic Effects of Migration"	Tobias Stöhr explores migration decisions from the perspective of migrants' families. Migrants have to decide whether to stay to take care of the elderly or migrate to improve household income. The dissertation helps understand how social security policies affect migration decisions.
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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Sebastian Vollmer (University of Göttingen), Kenneth Harttgen (ETH Zürich)	“Is Economic Growth Associated with Reduction in Child Undernutrition? Evidence from 115 Demographic and Health Surveys from 37 Low- and Middle-income Countries”, published in <i>The Lancet Global Health</i>	The authors investigate the relationship between economic growth and childhood undernutrition. While it is a common belief that undernutrition diminishes in the course of economic growth (growth of incomes), the authors find that this is not the case. The results show that growth does not automatically entail reductions in childhood undernutrition.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Simona Alder (PhD in Economics at the University of Zurich)	“Essays in Economic Policy and Development”	Simon Alder develops a model that helps to improve the allocation of funds for optimizing the economic outcome of transport infrastructure investments. He shows that if India had followed the same transport infrastructure investment strategy as China, India would have achieved higher growth and a more equitable income distribution.
2 nd Prize: Jan Beek (PhD in Anthropology at the University of Mainz)	“Boundary Work: The Police in Ghana”	Jan Beek provides a thorough description of the police in Ghana. The dissertation allows for deep insights in the behavior of police representatives and for starting points to further increase police efficiency.
3 rd Prize: Vera Molitor (PhD in Economics at the University of Mannheim)	“Family Economics in Developing Countries”	Vera Molitor investigates female genital mutilation (FGM). She tests whether the decision to circumcise is also driven by economic incentives. The results show that affecting these incentives, e.g. through education or income transfers, could reduce FGM.

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Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research Award-Winners 2014

Category: Scientific Excellence		
Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Roland Hodler (Economics, University of St. Gallen)	“Regional Favoritism”	Roland Hodler and his co-authors investigate the allocation of public investment by using an innovative data set that employs satellite measurements of light intensity at night as a proxy for public investment. Results suggest that home regions of political leaders receive more public investment in comparison to others.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Livia Schubiger (PhD in Political Science at the University of Zurich)	“Repression and Mobilization in Civil War: The Consequences of State Violence for Wartime Collective Action”	Livia Schubiger contributes to the understanding of the dynamics of civil war. Among other results she finds that haphazard state repression can lead to the fragmentation and new formation of rebel movements which prolongs a conflict in the long run.
2 nd Prize: Andreas Landmann (PhD in Economics at the University of Mannheim)	“Essays on Formal Insurance and Informal Solidarity in Developing Countries”	Andreas Landmann shows by means of experiments that the implementation of formal insurances can lead onto the crowding-out of informal insurances. His dissertation is immediately practice-oriented and emphasizes that insurances bear a developmental meaning that goes beyond the coverage of emergencies.
3 rd Prize: Katrin Merhof (PhD in Law at the University of Giessen)	“Law and unlawfulness using the example of employment law and the flower industry in Columbia”	Katrin Merhof analyzes the divergence between legal rights and their factual implementation. Her results suggest clear policy guidelines as the results show that institutional capacities concerning the implementation of law have to be improved rather than reforming existing law.

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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Dominic Rohner (Assistant Professor University of Lausanne)	“War Signals: A Theory of Trade, Trust and Conflict”, published in <i>Review of Economic Studies</i>	The paper deals with the causes of civil wars and the role of trade. Inter-ethnic trade is shown to foster trust among various ethnic groups. Further, it is a route to achieve appeasement among conflicting parties.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1st Prize: Kristina Czura (PhD in Economics at the University of Frankfurt)	“Empirical Essays on Microfinance in South Asia – Financial Product Design, Borrower Welfare, and Risk Coping”	Kristina Czura shows that lending groups exert excessive group pressure and apply punishments to its members to ensure repayment. Flexible repayment schemes help to overcome liquidity constraints and increase the productivity of investments
2nd Prize: Philipp Kolo (PhD in Economics at the University of Göttingen)	“New Approaches to the Dynamics, Measurement and Economic Implications of Ethnic Diversity”	Philipp Kolo provides new insights in various issues of ethnic diversity. The dissertation has strong political relevance based on the importance of ethnic diversity for development and peace.
3rd Prize: Lena Luise Kroeker (PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Bayreuth)	“In between Life and Death - HIV-Positive Women in Lesotho and their Obstetric Choices”	Lena Kroeker investigates the domestic decision making of pregnant women who are HIV-positive and receive antenatal care. One practice-oriented finding of her dissertation is that simple changes in official counselling can improve the health of mothers and children.
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Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research Award-Winners 2012

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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Isabel Günther (ETH Zurich), Andrey Launov (University of Mainz)	“Competitive and Segmented Informal Labor Markets”, published in <i>Journal of Development Economics</i>	The authors show that a large share of individuals employed in the informal economy dispose of a surprisingly high productive potential. However, tapping the full potential requires targeted support provided by donors.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Nadine Reis (PhD at University of Bonn)	“Tracing and Making the State - Policy Practices and Domestic Water Supply in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam”	Nadine Reis analyzes a micro-finance program for the improvement of water supply in Vietnam and points at the importance of independent monitoring to prevent local stakeholders from securing the project benefits for their own clients.
2 nd Prize: Kerstin Maria Humberg (PhD at University of Cologne)	“Poverty Reduction through Social Business? Lessons Learnt from Grameen Joint Ventures in Bangladesh”	Kerstin Maria Humberg focuses in her dissertation on the potential and impact of social business enterprises in Bangladesh.
3 rd Prize: Melanie Feuerbach (PhD at University of Bremen)	„Alternative Übergangsrituale: Untersuchung zu Praktiken der weiblichen Genitalverstümmelung im subsaharischen Afrika und deren Transformationen im Entwicklungsprozess“	Melanie Feuerbach investigates how cultural initiation rituals can be modified to prevent the degrading and health-damaging practice of female genital cutting.
Price Committee: Thomas Bierschenk (University of Mainz), Margit Bussmann (University of Greifswald), Joachim Heidebrecht (KfW Development Bank), Stephan Klasen (University of Göttingen), Katja Michaelowa (University of Zurich) and Hermann Waibel (University of Hannover).		

Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research Award-Winners 2011

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Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Martin Qaim (University of Göttingen)	“Benefits of Genetically Modified Crops for the Poor: Household Income, Nutrition, and Health”, published in <i>New Biotechnology</i>	Martin Qaim demonstrates that Indian farmers benefit from higher returns of (genetically modified) Bt Cotton, suggesting that there is a high potential for poverty reduction.
Benedikt Korf (University of Zurich)	“The gift of disaster: On the commodification of good intentions in Sri Lanka after the tsunami”, published in <i>Disasters</i>	Benedikt Korf shows that post-tsunami aid in Sri Lanka has been distributed along an existing patrimonial system. Those not benefiting accepted this as they adhere to prevailing local rules.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Kristina Kis-Katos (PhD at the University of Freiburg)	“Globalization and Child Labor”	Kristina Kis-Katos shows that trade liberalization can lead to an increase in child labor, although boys and girls are affected differently.
2 nd Prize: Patrick Sakdapolrak (PhD in Geography at the University of Bonn)	„Orte und Räume der Health Vulnerability. Bourdieus Theorie der Praxis für die Analyse von Krankheit und Gesundheit in megaurbanen Slums von Chennai, Südindien“	Patrick Sakdapolrak examines in Chennai, India, how slum dwellers cope with the occurrence of diseases. He shows that the slum dwellers own perceived health does not coincide with established medical views. As a consequence, slum dwellers do not seek (free) medical advice.
3 rd Prize: James Rao (PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of Göttingen)	“High-value Agricultural Markets and Implications for Rural Development – The Case of Vegetables in Kenya”	In recent years, supermarkets in developing countries are a common occurrence. It is unclear to what extent smallholder farmers benefit from these modern supply chains. James Rao shows that smallholders farmers in Kenya can benefit, but only if they have certain characteristics such as sufficient levels of education.
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Prize for Excellence in Applied Development Research Award-Winners 2010

Category: Scientific Excellence		
Name and affiliation	Paper	Short description of research
Axel Dreher (University of Heidelberg), Jan-Egbert Sturm (ETH Zürich)	“Development Aid and International Politics: Does membership on the UN Security Council influence World Bank decisions?”, published in <i>Journal of Development Economics</i>	The authors investigate whether elected members of the UN Security Council receive favorable treatment from the World Bank. They find positive relationship between temporary UN Security Council membership and the number of World Bank projects a country receives.
Category: Young Researcher		
Name and affiliation	Dissertation	Short description of research
1 st Prize: Devesh Rustagi (University of Zurich)	“Behavioral Heterogeneity and Human Cooperation”	Devesh Rustagi explores heterogeneity in human behavior with regard to cooperation in the management of public goods, for instance in the context of common property forests of the Bale Oromo people in Ethiopia. He identifies behavioral traits under which cooperation can be maintained.
2 nd Prize: Johannes Gräß (University of Göttingen)	“Econometric Analysis in Poverty Research – With Case Studies from Developing Countries”	Johannes Gräß uses innovative statistical methods to examine how development aid can be made more effective.
3 rd Prize: Simone Rettberg (Free University Berlin)	„Das Risiko der Afar - Existenzsicherung äthiopischer Nomaden im Kontext von Hungerkrisen, Konflikten und Entwicklungsinterventionen“	Simone Rettberg examines the livelihoods and the coping strategies of the nomadic Afar in northern Ethiopia with respect to crises. She finds that the economic welfare of is fundamentally determined by access to range land and water.
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