

PEP Talk

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DETAILED VERSION

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

Poverty and Employability Effects of Workfare Programs in Argentina

Lucas Ronconi, Lecturer in Economics at the Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina)

In the early nineties Argentina began implementing public workfare programs. Workfare became a central policy in 2002 when, in reaction to a deep economic and political crisis, the government increased the number of beneficiaries to two million in a country of 38 million. Workfare beneficiaries are required to work in a community project with a public or non-profit organization in exchange for a fixed monthly benefit.

Why does the Argentinean government rely so heavily on workfare? Success in terms of poverty reduction is reported to be the motivation for keeping the number of beneficiaries so high. Indeed, previous studies found that benefits are effectively assigned to people in need and that the income gain during participation in the program is approximately 50 percent of the benefit, which is quite a high figure given the incentive the program generates to reduce other income-generating activities.^[1]

However, PEP researchers in Argentina suspect that the above evidence is based on a biased sample since it excludes beneficiaries who refused to report their address and fails to take account of unobserved time-invariant characteristics of beneficiaries. Using a different dataset that addresses these two issues (i.e. the Permanent Household Survey which is the main household survey in Argentina), PEP researchers find that, while targeting was pro-poor, more than 30 percent of beneficiaries in 2001 did not satisfy the eligibility criteria, and that the income gain during participation was positive, but only 25 percent of the benefit. They also find that one third of participants received the benefit for at least 18 consecutive months (the official maximum length of the program in 2001 was between 3 and 6 months) and many of them never actually worked in a community project. These findings are consistent with media reports suggesting that at least some workfare funds are exploited by incumbent politicians to buy votes. In the opinion of these PEP researchers, an independent agency, not the executive branch of the government, should manage workfare funds.

^[1] Ministerio de Trabajo (2003), "Impacto del Plan Jefes y Jefas de Hogar en la Pobreza", Dirección General de Estudios y Formulación de Políticas de Empleo, Argentina. Jalan J. and Ravallion M. (2003), "Estimating the Benefit Incidence of an Antipoverty Program by Propensity-Score Matching", Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, January 2003, Vol. 21 No. 1.

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Morocco's EPA with the EU moderately reduces poverty, especially in rural areas

Touhami ABDELKHALEK, professeur titulaire, INSEA

In 1996, Morocco signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU), its principal trading partner, involving substantial tariff reductions over a 12-year period beginning in 2000. With nearly one-fifth of its population – and more than a quarter of its rural population – in poverty in 2000, it is a pressing policy issue to determine how the Moroccan poor have been affected by this agreement so far. To examine this issue, a model of the Moroccan economy was constructed in order to simulate the poverty impacts of this agreement. The model traces the impacts of tariff reductions throughout the economy, from product and factor markets to household-level income and consumer prices. 5129 Moroccan households from a 1998 national household survey are individually modelled.

Results indicate that the first five years of this FTA did contribute moderately to poverty reduction in Morocco: by 1.6 percent in the country as a whole and by 1.8 percent in rural areas. Rural households benefit more given that tariff cuts affect industrial goods more. These results compare with an estimated actual reduction in the poverty headcount of 25 percent. The limited nature of the EU-FTA impact is largely due to the low initial level of tariffs between Morocco and the EU and the partial nature of the reductions scheduled for the 1998-2005 period analysed. Nonetheless, two-thirds of households – and nearly three-quarters of rural households – are shown to benefit. Generally speaking, a household is more likely to benefit if it is poor and rural.

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Trade Liberalization and Poverty in Tunisia: Short-term Pain for Long-Term Gain

Sami BIBI and Rim CHATTI

Trade liberalization was an integral part of the structural adjustment program adopted by Tunisia in 1986. This process was accelerated with the signing of a free trade agreement with the European Union in 1995. The agreement called for a gradual removal of all tariff and non-tariff barriers on industrial goods and the creation of a non-agricultural free-trade zone over a twelve-year transition period.

A team of two Tunisian researchers have attempted to evaluate the impacts over time of non-agricultural trade liberalization on poverty in Tunisia. Using a layered dynamic CGE-microsimulation approach, the evolution of prices and income by household category are simulated under continued protection and freer trade assumptions. The model results are then fed into a 1995 household survey database in order to contrast the impacts on individual households and, consequently, on poverty. Simulation results show that trade openness slows down poverty reduction in the short run. However, to the extent that it leads to new investments in infrastructure and human capital, it enhances poverty reduction in the long-run. These results apply to both urban and rural areas, although the impact on rural poverty is less important in both the short and long runs given the industrial nature of the liberalisation and the ensuing industrial export expansion. Furthermore, as they spend more on food items, rural households benefit less than urban households from the reductions in industrial consumer prices engendered by cheaper imports.

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MERCOSUR and the Uruguayan Labor Market: Increase in vulnerability may outweigh gains from integration

María Inés Terra^[1], Marisa Buchelf^[1], Carmen Estrades^[1], Silvia Laens^[2]

Uruguay is a small economy, vulnerable to external shocks. Its entry into MERCOSUR has increased exposure to regional macroeconomic instability and has also affected the unskilled labour market, raising informality and unemployment. The wage gap between skilled and unskilled, and formal and informal labour has increased. Indeed, a team of Uruguayan researchers funded by the PEP network has estimated a wage gap of 60 percent between formal and informal workers.

This team went on to simulate the impact of regional integration and other macroeconomic shocks on the country's labour market and poverty using a CGE model and microsimulation analysis. The CGE model is conventional except that formal sector unskilled workers are assumed to receive a wage premium in order to avoid shirking or because of training costs (efficiency wage specification). If a formal worker is fired, s/he moves to the low productivity informal sector.

The main findings are:

Changes in the share of the main partners in total trade have different impacts on the labour market. If exports to Argentina increase, demand for unskilled labour decreases and informality increases. The opposite happens when exports to Brazil increase.

Given regional macroeconomic instability, negative external shocks from MERCOSUR partners have had a stronger impact than any change in tariffs that are currently being negotiated with regional partners. As long as regional instability persists, Uruguay should be cautious with trade integration policies and try to avoid an excessive regional dependency.

It is important to take into account the existence of imperfections in the labour market. The effects of external shocks are clearly different when we assume "efficiency wages" in the unskilled formal labour. In this case, when the economy specializes in unskilled labour intensive sectors, there is an efficiency loss. This result underscores the need to make an appropriate analysis of the labour market.

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^[2] CINVE.

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Labor supply responses to adverse shocks under credit constraints: Evidence from Bukidnon, Philippines

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The Philippines' fertile land and tropical climate is ideal for agricultural production and yet, based on the latest poverty statistics, nearly half of the country's rural population still lives in poverty. PEP-funded researchers in the Philippines analyze how Filipino agricultural households use labor to cope when unexpected occurrences disrupts income. Indeed, the poor have limited or no access to credit, and thus their labor is their most important asset. But, in times of unforeseen crisis, how can these households use labor to sustain consumption?

Using data that tracks households over a 20-year period, the findings show that original households and split households (children of original households who have established their own household) respond differently to different shocks. Comparing these two groups show how labor supply responses to adverse shocks differ at earlier versus later stages of the life cycle. In particular, both men and women in the split households are more able to supply additional work when faced with unexpected crisis. However, in original households, only the men are able to do so. Environmental shocks, such as droughts, pests and other weather disturbances, are found to have the most adverse effects on both original and split households. However, split households show more vulnerability to other types of

shocks, including civil war/theft, other negative economic shocks, death/illness of a household member and other welfare shocks.

Households with little education and with few or no able-bodied male members are more vulnerable at times of unexpected income disturbances. Thus, policy implications include counter-cyclical workfare programs that target households with high female-to-male ratios, high dependency ratios and little or no education, as well as universal education and health care programs to better equip disadvantaged households in improving their labor endowments, thus, improving their ability to cope with unpredictable difficulties in the future.

The research was carried out in Bukidnon province in the southern part of the Philippines, which is considered one of the country's major food baskets. The research mirrors similar situations in other agricultural settings all over the Philippines, where every member of the household engages on farming for subsistence.

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NEWS

CBMS News

Bangladesh

On August 26, 2006, the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla organized a day-long national workshop on "Process and Findings of Local Level Poverty Monitoring System (LLPMS)" at the Center on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The main objective of the workshop was to share the process and disseminate the findings of the LLPMS to a wider audience. A total of 35 participants composed of government officials, representatives from non-government organizations and international agencies, and professionals in the field of development economics and administration participated in the workshop.

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Indonesia

In order to validate the findings of the CBMS-Indonesia study team and to determine if the results can accurately describe the actual condition of the families in the surveyed sites, the SMERU, the coordinating institution for the CBMS-Indonesia project, conducted a number of focus group discussions (FGDs) on July 17-18, 2006.

As a backgrounder, the main outputs of the CBMS-Indonesia study are the welfare indicators in each of the four pilot villages - and the welfare score of every family living in those villages - included in the CBMS survey. For the validation, a total of 3 FGDs were held: a village-level FGD and two hamlet-level FGDs.

In the village-level FGD, village elders, officials, teachers, and those thought to be knowledgeable of the condition in the village were invited as participants while for the hamlet-level FGDs, only residents in the chosen hamlets were invited.

From these activities, it was found out that the family status and family welfare rank calculated using the CBMS methodology generally conforms to the opinion of the FGD participants.

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Lao

The CBMS-Lao Team conducted local and national workshops on July 21 and August 15, 2006, respectively, to present the status of the CBMS implementation in the pilot areas, specifically the results of the data collected, for comments and validation. They also presented an action plan for 2006-2007.

At the local meeting, a total of 21 participants, which included the CBMS team member based in the province and district level, the local governors, provincial policymaker, representatives from the international office and other NGO offices, and residents of some concerned villages attended the workshop.

At the national meeting, meanwhile, a total of 25 participants, which also included the CBMS team member based in the province and district levels and representatives from international organizations, attended the meeting. National policymakers from line ministries and representatives from the surrounding Division of National Statistics Centre were also present to provide comments and suggestions.

On the whole, the workshops were both successful as they generated a lot of support from both local and national leaders. Comments and suggestions were likewise given to improve the implementation of the system and the instruments used.

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Philippines

4th CBMS Network Conference slated

At least 300 development practitioners from all over the country and representatives from CBMS country members will converge this November in Pasay City during the 4th CBMS National Conference. Held annually since 2003, the 3-day conference will again serve as a venue for policymakers, program implementers and other CBMS practitioners at the local and national levels to share recent developments in the implementation and use of CBMS for planning, program design and impact monitoring, among others.

One of the highlights of this year's conference is the awarding of grants to 10 deserving local government units under the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program. Launched only last year, the grant program intends to provide funds to local government units and non-government organizations for the implementation of programs to address development needs identified through the CBMS in particular communities.

The conference will also be held back-to-back with a Study Visit of CBMS Network members from Asia and Africa. The study visit will feature hands-on training on preparing input files and generating outputs using the Natural Resource Database (NRDB) software. Special sessions on the data encoding and processing system developed by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team are also being considered.

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DAWN Foundation conducts gender workshop for CBMS Team

The Development through Active Women Networking Foundation (DAWN Foundation), a non-government organization based in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, conducted a 2-day gender sensitivity training (GST) workshop for the members of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team on August 30-September 1, 2006. Dr. Aniceto Orbeta, the CBMS-GRB resource person for the module on planning and budgeting development, also attended this workshop.

The workshop is part of the capability-building activities of the CBMS-GRB Project that is being piloted in the Philippines. Silay City Councilor Marie June Pavillar- Castro and Atty. Anabelle Corral-Respall, both DAWN Programme Officers, served as facilitators for the entire workshop. Also present during the gender sensitivity workshop was Celia Flor, the Executive Director of DAWN.

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Training for national and regional trainers

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team conducted a training on CBMS Modules I (data collection) and II (digitizing of spot maps and data encoding) for Trainers from the Regional and Provincial Project Teams of the Department of Interior and Local Government on September 11-16, 2006. The training is in line with DILG's implementation of the project on "Localizing the MDGs: Improving the Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Population and Reproductive Health Services".

The six trainers from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) had likewise attended the training as part of their capability-building activities in poverty diagnosis, planning and monitoring through the CBMS

MPIA News

5th PEP annual meeting

The Addis Ababa General Assembly has been a special opportunity for the MPIA researchers to present their works before a wider audience. Prior to the holding of our General Assembly, the 9th GTAP Group Annual Conference took place from 15 to 17 June 2006. The «Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP » of the University of Perdue had invited PEP Network researchers to participate in its activities. Bernard Decaluwé was therefore requested to organize a special session on the theme «Globalisation. Economic Reforms and Gender». Several interesting papers were presented on occasion, by the following researchers: Margaret Chitiga on South Africa, Rizwana Siddiqui on Pakistan, Ismael Fofana also on South Africa and Marzia Fontana. The papers of ten other MPIA researchers were also approved by the Organizing Committee. These include: Erwin Corong on Agriculture in the Philippines, Mohamed Chemingui on Agriculture in Africa, Ferreira- Filho on the Doha Round and Brazil, Sara Wong on Ecuador, Véronique Robichaud on Trade and Poverty, Christian Emini on Fiscal Policy and Poverty, Inés Terra on the Mercosur and the Uruguay, Sami Bibi on Poverty Dynamics in Tunisia, Selim Raihan on Gender Issues and John Cockburn on Poverty in Nepal. Lastly, François Bourguignon, Chief Economist at the World Bank and Bernard Decaluwé were the two guest speakers for the closing plenary session which addressed the theme: «Poverty, Aid and the Millennium Development Goals». He presented a paper which had been jointly prepared with John Cockburn and entitled «Replacing Representative with Real Households in Dynamic CGE Analyses of Poverty: Challenges and Opportunities».

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Overview of MPIA projects

Several MPIA new Working Papers were published and posted on the PEP Website, registered on current directories (Eldis, SSRN, etc.) and distributed during the PEP June 2006 General Assembly in Addis Ababa (see the list of the new Working Papers below). Eleven (11) PEP research projects are currently well advanced and twenty-three (23) are already completed. Over one hundred research proposals had been submitted in preparation for the Addis Ababa General Assembly and eleven (11) new proposals were submitted. China, Vietnam, Kenya, Peru, Columbia, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay, Argentina, Ethiopia are among the countries in which the studies will be conducted. Since all these proposals have been accepted or are being reviewed towards possible approval, it could be expected that the papers to be presented during the PEP General Assembly in 2007 will be very rich in content.

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Study visits

During the 2006 winter, four (4) MPIA researchers participated in the study visits funded by the PEP Network at the Laval University, Canada, and one (1) at the University of Sussex, UK. According to participants, such visits prove to be extremely useful in furthering research studies as they allow in-depth discussions with researchers and facilitate the resolution of the technical problems which frequently arise in the course of a research work. PEP visitors at Laval benefited from the presence of a

number of French doctoral students who were visiting Laval at the same time, thus enriching the diversity of problems to be addressed as well as furthering the sharing of experiences.

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Training program

Discussions are currently held with African institutions towards developing close cooperation in order to offer training sessions particularly meant for young researchers who wish to join the PEP Network. Kenya, South Africa, Cameroon and Senegal may be the countries to host this type of training. Likewise, work is currently underway in order to have all the teaching material developed over the years by MPIA researchers made available in English and Spanish. Discussions are being held with the InterAmerican Development Bank for the implementation of a training programme which would be primarily meant for Latin American young researchers.

André Lemelin, a well-known researcher based in Quebec, has accepted to assist the MPIA Sub-Network by providing greater support to researchers from Latin America. The long-standing collaborator of CIRPEE and seasoned modeller, André Lemelin is also the author of several works on the Model of the Quebec Ministry of Finance. Having stayed several times in Mexico and travelled to many other countries in Latin America, André speaks Spanish fluently. He has just published an article entitled: "*Oferta endogena de trabajo en un MEGC birregional*" in the magazine *Investigacion Economica*, 258, October-December 2006. His book on social statistics entitled: "Quantitative Methods of Social Sciences Applied on Urban and Regional Studies" was widely praised. André, who is well acquainted with the PEP Network since he attended its first General Assembly in Quebec in 2001, will work together with Veronique Robichaud to ensure the supervision of the activities carried out in Latin America. His commitment to our Network is quite an acquisition for the MPIA Team and for PEP researchers on the whole.

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PMMA News

Overview of PMMA projects

With eight **working papers** published so far in 2006 and several others soon to be out, and with 22 ongoing **research projects** (and **15 completed projects**), the PMMA network continues to build momentum. The geographic coverage of these projects is large – 14 projects in Africa, 6 in Asia and 2 in Latin America – and a wide variety of issues have been addressed: the poverty effects of public expenditures and taxes, multidimensional poverty analysis, and innovative analyses of labor markets, poverty and income distribution. Indeed, researchers are using innovative techniques to capture and understand multidimensional poverty in Togo, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Central Republic of Africa and Tunisia, to investigate the determinants of spatial poverty in China, Cameroon and Kenya, to analyze female employment and wages in Sri Lanka and China, and to study the distributive impact of fiscal policy and public expenditures in Vietnam, Cameroon, Guinea, Peru, Nigeria, Chad and India. Three of these projects are supported by the Gender Challenge Fund. The PMMA network received nearly 200 new research proposals in response to our call for proposals for the June 2006 Addis Ababa general meeting. Thirteen of these proposals were presented, of which ten were approved (seven in Africa, two in Asia and one in Latin America) and one (in Asia) is being revised.

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PMMA Training workshop

A **PMMA training workshop** was held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on June 16 and 17, 2006, immediately before this year's PEP general meeting, on the topic Poverty and Equity: Measurement, Policy and Estimation with DAD. This workshop was conducted by Jean-Yves Duclos and Abdelkrim Araar. The training session made extensive use of the DAD software to illustrate and apply the measurement and policy analysis tools that were presented.

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Just published by Jean-Yves Duclos and Abdelkrim Araar : *Poverty and Equity Measurement, Policy and Estimation with DAD*, Springer/IDRC 2006,

This text addresses the understanding and alleviation of poverty, inequality, and inequity using a unique and broad mix of concepts, measurement methods, statistical tools, software, and practical exercises.

- Part I discusses basic fundamental issues of well-being and poverty measurement;
- Part II develops an integrated framework for measuring poverty, social welfare, inequality, vertical equity, horizontal equity, and redistribution;
- Part III presents and develops recent methods for testing the robustness of distributive rankings;
- Part IV discusses ways of using policy to alleviate poverty, improve welfare, increase equity, and assess the impact of growth;
- Part V applies the tools to real data.

Jean-Yves Duclos and Abdelkrim Araar are the leader and deputy leader, respectively, of PEP's PMMA network. Both are with the Université Laval's Department of Economics and members of the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur le risque, les politiques économiques et l'emploi (CIRPÉE). The book is available for free on the internet on the IDRC website: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-97152-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

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Study visits

During the winter of 2006, 12 PMMA researchers participated in PEP-funded three-week study visits to complete first drafts of their final reports. This year was marked by a much greater participation of outside institutions. In addition to seven visits at Laval University, PEP researchers also visited the University of Winnipeg (Canada), Warwick University (UK), Middlesex University (UK), WIDER (Finland) and Yale University (USA).

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Sami Bibi, who was *maître de conférence* at the Faculté des Sciences Économique et de Gestion of the University of Tunis, has recently moved to Quebec City with his family. He is now a full-time researcher at CIRPÉE (Université Laval). Sami will act as PMMA deputy network leader, along with Abdelkrim Araar (CIRPÉE) and Jean-Bosco Ki (Senegal) and will bring a lot of experience and ability to PEP's PMMA network.

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EVENTS

5th PEP General Meeting: June 18-22, 2006 in Addis Abeba (Ethiopia)



After Saly (Senegal) in 2004, Africa once again hosted the general meeting of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) research network in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). This 5th PEP general meeting gathered more than 200 participants (PEP-funded researchers, resource persons, invited speakers and representatives of government, NGOs and international institutions) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Conference Center in Addis Ababa from June 18th to 22nd, 2006.

The meeting was hosted by the African Center for Gender and Development of the UNECA with which PEP has established a successful partnership over the past few years. Over 50 high-quality reports and

proposals were presented during the meeting, which was preceded by a two-day training workshop of PEP's PMMA sub-network. Members of PEP's MPIA subnetwork also participated in the Ninth Annual Conference of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) network, which was held back-to-back and in close collaboration with the PEP general meeting.

The fifth PEP general meeting was a great success with almost all of the research reports and proposals presented receiving the approval of the PEP steering committee. Nanak Kakwani provided the keynote speech on pro-poor growth and labor markets and the meeting also included a special session on child poverty. The Addis Ababa meeting was also marked by the replacement of three PEP steering committee members who had arrived at the end of their second mandates. The leaving members, Chris Scott (LSE), Randy Spence (IDRC), and Louis-Marie Asselin (IMG), were warmly thanked for their excellent services to the network, which counts on their active participation in its entire activities. A welcome message was also addressed to the incoming members of the steering committee, Nanak Kakwani (International Poverty Centre), Marie-Claude Martin (IDRC) and Pramila Krishnan (Cambridge University). Finally, the meeting was crowned by the election of Swapna Mukhopadhyay as the new president of the steering committee.

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6th General Meeting to be held in Peru

It is our pleasure to announce that PEP's sixth general meeting will be held in Lima, Peru. Tentative dates are June 8-16, 2007. A new format will be adopted this year. The opening day plenary session and closing day thematic session replaced by a two-day thematic policy forum (June 11-12), tentatively focusing on the topic of "Millennium Development Goals". After a break of one day, the following three days (June 14-16) will consist, as in the past, of parallel sessions, at which PEP researchers present and discuss their proposals and reports, as well as individual working sessions and steering committee meetings. The meetings will be preceded by two-day training workshops by the MPIA (June 8-9) and PMMA (June 9-10) networks. GRADE (Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo), the research centre of two separate PEP teams (led by Martin Valdivia and José Galdo), has graciously accepted to host the meeting. More details will be provided on the PEP web site and in the next edition of PEP Talk.

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7th Scientific Days of the Economic Analysis and Development Network of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)

In Paris on September 7-8, 2006, the PEP Network co-organized the 7th Scientific Days of the « Economic Analysis and Development » Research Network of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. The theme of the conference was: « Institutions, Economic Development and Transition ».

The Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie is an institution that brings together French-language universities. The Scientific Days provide French-speaking researchers with the opportunity to meet in order to share their research results. The Paris meeting was held at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD). It was organized in collaboration with the "Développement, Institutions et Analyse de Long terme (DIAL)" and PEP with the support of IRD and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

These Scientific Days came after the 2004 Marrakech meeting in Morocco, during which many researchers from the PEP network also had the opportunity to present the findings from their PEP-funded research. Several of these contributions appeared in a book edited by F Mourji, B Decaluwe and P. Plane, which was published by Economica in 2006 under the title « Le développement face à la pauvreté ».

This year's event, which brought together over 120 participants from various countries of the French-speaking Community (Francophonie), was launched in the presence of Jean-François Girard, the President of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), and Abderrahmane Lellou, the representative of the Rector of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF). Rohinton Medhora, vice-president of the IDRC, honoured the Conference with his presence at the official opening ceremony during which he put emphasis on the innovative character of the research conducted with the PEP Network. He further pointed out that the large number of PEP-sponsored researchers from the South attending this Conference was a testimony to the quality of the research conducted within this Network.

For some ten years now, economic literature has highlighted the importance of institutions in the development process. Although this issue has always been a major concern, the institutional aspect has long been ignored or considered in a purely descriptive point of view. The possibility to measure this institutional dimension and the development of methods of calculation and quantitative analysis have reinvigorated this literature.

The 7th Scientific Days were an illustration of this in that they highlighted the creation of links between institutions and development in a great number of economic fields or sectors. Through some 30 workshops and roughly 100 communications, participants were able to exchange and confront their views on institutions with regards to their contribution to economic growth, international trade, labour markets, migration, social capital and its depletion, notably in the form of an increase in criminality in some countries.

Institutions permeate increasingly all sectors of the economy. The manner in which their impact was analysed in the communications presented reveals the possibility of introducing them in formalized representations of behaviour using the most sophisticated econometric techniques.

The keynote address, delivered by Jean-Philippe Platteau, Lecturer at the Université de Namur, on the theme « Religion and its Influences on Development », was particularly innovative. The speaker reviewed the potential impact of religion on development, starting from the transformations of Christianity to the advent of Islam and its various mutations. He underscored the difficulty to conclude unambiguously on the direction of causality between the variables. The development or non development of a given country is more closely linked to the nature of economic and social policy, than to the influence of religion, *stricto sensu*.

Quentin Wodon, Chief Economist of the World Bank, delivered a closing address on the role of infrastructure in the growth process, which he indicated often call for State intervention through regulations in the presence of non-competitive markets and an active participation of the private sector. The speaker also pointed out that the recent emphasis on poverty alleviation and public spending on health and education has distracted attention from the importance of the development of infrastructure in encouraging economic growth and long-run poverty reduction.

Besides **Bernard Decaluwe**, who is a member of the AUF Network Coordinating Committee, the following PEP Network researchers presented the communications listed below:

- MAKDISSI Paul, Wodon Quentin et Audet Mathieu (Département d'Économique et GREDI, Université de Sherbrooke, Québec) «Incidence des dépenses publiques en éducation et en santé en Afrique de l'Ouest: Une approche en dominance stochastique».
- ROBICHAUD Véronique, Cockburn John et Decaluwé Bernard (CIRPEE et PEP) «Libéralisation commerciale et pauvreté : leçons d'Afrique et d'Asie»
- FOFANA Ismael, Cockburn John et Decaluwé Bernard (CIRPEE et PEP) «Impacts Distributifs de la Libéralisation du Commerce Extérieur en Afrique de l'Ouest: Le pari de la réduction de la pauvreté se remporte en zones rurales».
- BIBI Sami (CIRPEE et PEP, Université Laval, Québec et Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion de Tunis) «Quand la croissance économique est-elle pro-pauvre ? Cas de la Tunisie».
- BENROMDHANE Saoussen et Hassad Ben Neticha (Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion, Université Laval et PEP) «Efficience du financement des services publics et croissance économique dans les pays en développement : une analyse en coupe transversale».
- EMINI Arnault Christian, Ongolo Z. Valérie, Kanmi Feunou Dorine (Université de Yaoundé II, Cameroun) «Décomposition des effets de politiques économiques sur l'évolution de la pauvreté au Cameroun : Une analyse en équilibre général calculable micro-simulé avec double-calibration».
- ASSELIN Louis-Marie (PEP, Université Laval, Québec) «Mesure multidimensionnelle de la pauvreté : utilisation de l'analyse des correspondances multiples».
- BOCCANFUSO Dorothee, Siméon Alex (Université de Sherbrooke, Québec) «Pauvreté, croissance et inégalité en Haïti : dynamique et décomposition sectorielle».

- MARTIN Marie-Claude et Haddad Slim (IDRC) «Ressources individuelles et collectives et la santé des femmes au Maroc».
- ABDELKHALEK Touhami (INSEA et PEP, Université Laval, Québec) "Libéralisation commerciale et pauvreté au Maroc: Une analyse en équilibre général micro simulé».
- CABRAL François Joseph (Université Cheikh Anta DIOP Dakar, PEP, Université Laval, Québec) «L'insécurité alimentaire : cette autre dimension de la pauvreté».
- AGBODJI Akoété (Faculté des Sciences Économiques et de Gestion Université de Lomé, Togo) «Réglementation du secteur industriel et performance productive des entreprises manufacturières : cas du Togo».
- DOUMBOUYA Sékou (Groupe de Recherche et d'Analyse de la Pauvreté et des Politiques Économiques en Guinée, Guinée-Bissau) «L'Afrique et le commerce international des services de télécommunications : Obstacles institutionnels et performances».
- AHOVEY Elise et Vodounou Cosme (Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique du Bénin, et PEP Université Laval, Québec) «Approche méthodologique de l'élimination du travail des enfants au Bénin : estimation des coûts et des bénéfices».

Conference Website : <http://www.europe-ouest-maghreb.auf.org/article110.html>

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PEP Researchers in International Conferences

PEP researchers presented their research in a number of high-profile conferences involving policy makers, academics and other stakeholders in the international poverty debate.

Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) Ninth Annual Conference.

PEP researchers played a central role in the 9th annual conference of the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) project, which brought together the leading researchers on global trade issues in the World! In addition to a closing ceremony plenary presentation by MPIA network leader Bernard Decaluwé on "Replacing Representative with Real Households in Dynamic CGE Analyses of Poverty: Challenges and Opportunities", the conference featured presentations by numerous PEP researchers and resource persons (in order of appearance):

- Margaret Chitiga: *"Does Trade Liberalisation Leave Women Behind in South Africa: A Gendered CGE Analysis"*
- Rizwana Siddiqui: *"Modelling Gender Dimensions of the Impact Of Economic Reforms in Pakistan"*
- Marzia Fontana: *"Modelling the gender effects of trade: current findings and ways forward"*
- Ismaël Fofana: *"A Gender-Aware Integrated Macro-Micro Model for Evaluating Impacts of Policies on Poverty Reduction in Africa: The Case of South Africa"*
- Erwin Corong: *"Agriculture-sector policies and poverty in the Philippines: A computable general-equilibrium Analysis"*
- Mohamed Chemingui: *"The Potential Payoffs of implementing the Hong Kong Deal on Agriculture for African Countries: a multilevel analysis"*
- Joaquim Bento Ferreira-Filho: *"The Doha Development Agenda and Brazil: Distributional Impacts"*
- Sara Wong: *"Domestic Support Policies for Agriculture in Ecuador and the U.S.-Andean Countries Free Trade Agreement: An Applied General Equilibrium Assessment"*
- Véronique Robichaud: *"Trade Liberalization and Poverty - Lessons from Asia and Africa"*
- Christian Emini: *"The Poverty Impacts of the Doha Round in Cameroon: The Role of Tax Policy"*
- Marie Ines Terra-Ortiz: *"The effects of increasing openness and integration to the MERCOSUR on the Uruguayan labour market. A CGE modeling analysis"*
- Sami Bibi: *"Trade Liberalization and the Dynamic of Poverty in Tunisia: A Layered CGE Microsimulation Analysis"*

- Maurizio Bussolo: *"Millennium Development Goals for Honduras: Current Achievements and Forthcoming Challenges"*
- Selim Raihan: *"Modelling Gender aspects of Policy Reforms in Bangladesh: A Study in a Sequential Dynamic CGE Framework"*
- Salimata Faye: *"Hard-Core Poverty in Senegal (Le noyau dur de la pauvreté au Sénégal)"*
- Tabo Symphorien: *"Politiques Économiques et Pauvreté. A qui profitent les dépenses sociales au Tchad? Une analyse d'incidence à partir des données d'enquête"*

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Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture from West and Central Africa. The Poverty and Economic Policy Research Network (PEP) attended the International Workshop of the Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture from West and Central Africa (CMAOC) on "The Major Trade-related Stakes and Agricultural Policies in West and Central Africa: Enhancing Dialogue to Build an Alliance». CMAOC is an intergovernmental organization which groups Ministers of Agriculture and Stockbreeding of 20 countries from West and Central Africa. The Head Office of its Permanent Secretariat is based in Dakar (Senegal). The CMAOC International Workshop was held from 30 August to 1st September 2006 in Saly, Senegal. It was largely attended by decision-makers (parliamentarians, representatives of ministries, NGOs and international agencies), technicians of ministries of Agriculture, researchers interested in foreign trade and agriculture-related issues, journalists from West and Central Africa, as well as from other parts of the world. Several communications were made on trade and agriculture, among which that of the Director of the PEP Network Office for Africa, Ismaël Fofana, entitled "The Distributive Impacts of Foreign Trade Liberalization in West Africa: the Challenge of Poverty Reduction in the Rural Areas ". This research study will very soon be made available on the PEP Network website (www.pep-net.org).

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Training Workshop for trainers on international trade of basic commodities organized by UNCTAD from 5 to 9 June 2006 in Dakar.

GBONGUE Mamadou, one of the members of the pr-pmma-476 research team, made a highly appreciated presentation during this workshop, which was based on the preliminary findings of the study. This presentation focused on the comparison between the reforms of agricultural policies and the development of poverty and the agricultural world in Côte-d'Ivoire, with special reference to the sector of basic agricultural products. The Workshop addressed the theme entitled: Investments and Poverty Dynamics of Producers of Perennial Cash Crops in Côte-d'Ivoire: A Contribution to Discussions on the Incidence of the Cancellation of Agricultural Subsidies in the Rural World. Participants in this workshop got the opportunity to acquire more appropriate tools of analysis and to exchange with other experts in the same field of research.

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Tenth National Convention on Women's Studies.

Dileni Gunewardena attended the Tenth National Convention on Women's Studies that was held last April at the CENWOR Conference Hall of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Every year, the convention lasts for 5 days and brings together a diverse set of people; academics, gender activists and researchers in women's studies (in such fields as geography, language and cultural studies, management, Information Technology etc.) who present their work, as well as people from NGOs, public sector, private sector, and donors (eg. CIDA). The session in which she presented was chaired by the Director Statistics at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Dileni was among three people who were interviewed at the conference by a National Television Channel to speak on the relevance to women of the forthcoming May (Labour) Day. The programme was aired on National TV on May 1. She spoke very briefly of her research but chose to focus instead on the large number of unpaid (non-market) female workers in Sri Lanka and who are not represented by organised workers on May (Labour) Day.

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ESRC Workshop—Trade, migration and labour markets, University of East Anglia, UK, April 24-25, 2006.

This workshop was organized by Professor Kunal Sen of the School of Development Studies in collaboration with the Economics Department. **Saibal Kar**, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta with **Sugata Marjit**, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and City University of Hong Kong, presented their paper : "Trade Reform and Informal Wage in Developing Countries: Partial vs General Equilibrium Implications". It drew many eminent scholars from Europe and USA and as the theme suggests, the papers were mainly concentrated in the areas of International Trade, Labor Market implications of trade as also International Labor Migration. The paper presented by Saibal was drawn on the PEP project and it did receive good comments and interest from all the participants, including Prof. Jonathon Haskel, Prof. Ira Gang, Prof. Sanjay banerjee, Prof. Pramila Krishnan and others.

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Study visits

Following the approval of an interim report, PEP-funded teams are invited to submit the candidacy of one team member to participate in a three-week study visit to the institution of their choice. The goal of the study visit is to provide the researcher intensive scientific support and a first-rate research environment in order to complete a draft of the team's final report. These study visits generally take place from January to March each year. **Angelo Taningco** of pr-mpia-470 "Growth, Trade Liberalization, and Poverty in the Philippines: An Integrated Sequential Dynamic CGE Microsimulation Analysis". have, exceptionally, participated in a study visit at Laval University from October 1st to 21st, 2006. News about our 2007 study visits will appear in the next edition of PEP-Talk.

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Related Events Outside PEP

A continuously updated list of events outside PEP that are judged to be of potential interest to PEP and other poverty researchers is available on the PEP web site.

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NEW PEP RESEARCH GRANTS

Following PEP's June 2005 5th annual meeting in Addis Ababa, **nineteen new MPIA/PMMA research grants** were awarded. Each grants provides the successful research teams with \$CAN 20,000, plus funding to attend a PEP general meeting, a study visit, an international conference and to organize a national conference. Congratulations to them all!

Djoke Kossi Agbéviade, Togo, *Profil de la pauvreté infantile dans les pays de l'UEMOA : une analyse comparative basée sur l'approche multidimensionnelle de la pauvreté*

Akoété Éga Agbodji, Senegal, *Politique industrielle de zone franche au Togo et effets sur le revenu des ménages pauvres: Une approche basée sur le modèle d'équilibre général calculable*

Dejene Aredo, Ethiopia, *The Impact of WTO Accession on Poverty and Inequality in Ethiopia: An Investigation of a CGE Micro-Simulation Analysis*

John Ataguba, South Africa, *An estimation of the willingness to pay for community healthcare risksharing prepayment scheme and the Medical Poverty Trap: Evidence from rural Nigeria*

Mongi Boughzala, Tunisia, *Dépenses publiques, croissance et pauvreté régionales en Tunisie: Une microsimulation séquentielle*

Roehlano Briones, Philippines, *National Development for and from the Regions: A Philippine Regional CGE for Impact Analysis*

Martin Cicowiez, Argentina, *Poverty Impact of Economic Policies in Argentina: A Dynamic CGE-Microsimulation Analysis*

Sékou Falil Doumbouya, Guinea, *Services sociaux de base en Guinée : Diagnostic et effets à attendre de la politique gouvernementale*

Jose Galdo, Peru, *Do the Poorest among the Poor Benefit Less from Active Labor Market Programs? Evidence from PROJOVEN*

Dia Bernadette Kamgnia, Cameroon, *Bénéfices révélés et ciblage des pauvres dans les dépenses publiques au Cameroun*

Xiaohua Li, China, *Education Expansion and Wage Inequality in China: Investigation Using Urban Household Surveys, 1988-2002*

Jane Mariara, Kenya, *Poverty, Child Mortality and Policy Options from DHS Surveys in Kenya: 1993-2003*

Serge Saint-Éloi Matchinide, Senegal, *Pauvreté multidimensionnelle des enfants et des ménages - Analyse appliquée à la République Centrafricaine*

Alaya Ouarme, Senegal, *Pauvreté et vulnérabilité au Burkina Faso : indice du noyau dur de la pauvreté*

Lan Huong Pham, Vietnam, *Impacts of public spending in education sector on growth and poverty reduction in Vietnam: A dynamic general equilibrium analysis*

Maria Inés Terra Ortiz, Uruguay, *Trade Openness and Gender in Uruguay. A CGE Analysis*

Cuong Nguyen Viet, Vietnam, *Poverty Targeting and Impact of the National Micro-Credit Program in Vietnam: A Non-Parametric Approach*

Sara Wong, Ecuador, *Poverty Impacts of Increased Openness and Fiscal Policies in a dollarized economy: A CGE-Micro Approach for Ecuador*

Gustavo Yamada, Peru, *Optimal Policy Design for MDG Achievement: The Peruvian Case.*

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NEW WORKING PAPERS

Fourteen new working papers have been published since our last PEP-Talk, including seven MPIA working papers and seven PMMA working papers.

MPIA

2006-04 - Annabi, Nabil, John Cockburn and Bernard Decaluwé, *Functional Forms and Parametrization of CGE Models*

2006-05 - Khondker, Bazlul, Mustafa Mujeri and Selim Raihan, *Welfare and Poverty Impacts of Tariff Reforms in Bangladesh: A General Equilibrium Approach*

2006-06 - Terra Ortiz, María Inés, Marisa Bucheli, Silvia Laens and Carmen Estrades, *The Effects of Increasing Openness and Integration to the MERCOSUR on the Uruguayan Labour Market: A CGE Modelling Analysis*

2006-07 - Bibi, Sami and Rim Chatti, *Trade Liberalization and the Dynamics of Poverty in Tunisia: A Layered CGE Microsimulation Analysis* **Anglais**, *Libéralisation des échanges et dynamique de la pauvreté en Tunisie : Analyse avec une micro-simulation séquentielle Français*

2006-09 - Cororaton, Caesar B. and Erwin L. Corong, *Agriculture-sector policies and poverty in the Philippines: A computable general-equilibrium (CGE) analysis.*

2006-11 - Cororaton, Caesar B., *The Impact of Trade Reform in the 1990s on Welfare and Poverty in the Philippines*

2006-12 - Touhami, Abdelkhalek, *Libéralisation commerciale et pauvreté au Maroc : une analyse en équilibre général micro-simulé*

PMMA

2006-08 - Wetta, Claude and Bernard K. Bonzi, *Dynamique de la pauvreté au Burkina Faso de 1994 à 1998*

2006-10 - Araar, Abdelkrim and Jean-Yves Duclos, *DAD: A Software for Poverty and Distributive Analysis*

2006-13 - Jadotte, Evans, *Income Distribution and Poverty in the Republic of Haiti*

2006-14 - Sanguinetti, Juan, Lucas Ronconi, Sandra Fachelli, Virginia Casazza and Ignacio Franceschelli, *Poverty and Employability Effects of Workfare Programs in Argentina*

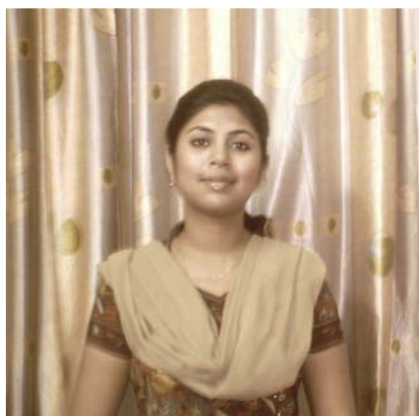
2006-15 Malapit, Hazel Jean, Jade Eric Redoblado, Deanna Margaret Cabungcal-Dolor and Jasmin Suministrado, *Labor supply responses to adverse shocks under credit constraints: Evidence from Bukidnon, Philippines*

2006-16 - Atemnkeng Johannes, Tabi, Tafah Akwi and Peter Etoh Anzah, *The Distributive Impact of Fiscal Policy in Cameroon : Tax and Benefit Incidence*

2006-17 - Ichoku Ementa Hyacinth and William Fonta, *The Redistributive Effects of Healthcare financing in Nigeria*

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PORTRAITS



Poulomi Roy was born in Kolkata, India. She is the youngest member and only female of the team executing the PMMA project "Design of a Pro-Poor Value Added Tax (VAT) System in a Federal Economy like India". Poulomi obtained her master's degree in economics in 2001 from Jadavpur University, India. After completing her masters' she worked as a Fiscal Analyst on a UNIFEM funded project "Budgetary Policies from Gendered Perspective: The Case of West Bengal", which was subsequently published. She has taught at the under graduate and post graduate levels at colleges in Kolkata, India and is currently a State Government Research Fellow at the Department of Economics of the Jadavpur University, India. Her area of doctoral work is fiscal performance, policy and growth in India. Her special areas of interest are public finance,

development economics, gender studies and poverty analysis.

Poulomi participated in a three-week study visit at Laval University in February-March, 2006. Using a large database on consumer expenditure she has focused on the empirical side of this project. Her participation helped her master different concepts of Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA), notably concentration curves and consumption dominance curves. She is now using this knowledge in one chapter of her PhD dissertation. She finds it a great experience to work with other PEP researchers.

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Maria-Laura Alzua, Argentina



Maria Laura Alzua has been working as team leader for the MPIA Project “Social Security Reform in Argentina: Impact on Poverty and Employment”, in which her team analyzes the effects on poverty and employment of changing from a government-managed PAYG (“Pay as you go”) system to a private system of pensions. She is 33 and was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she did her undergraduate studies at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Then she pursued graduated studies in the US, obtaining a PhD from Boston University.

Upon her return to Argentina in 2004, she started working at IERAL, a think tank providing public policy recommendations for policy makers in several areas. IERAL is the only research institute with six regional branches in Argentina, so its influence in terms of reaching policy makers is crucial. Maria Laura is in charge of labor, poverty and income distribution issues and has been actively working in several research projects: impact evaluation of training programs and income maintenance programs, trade and poverty, labor market segmentation, etc. This PEP project is the first project in which she is using CGE techniques, and has been of great value in terms of capacity building in Argentine policy research institutes. She teaches labor and impact evaluation courses at graduate level in the Universidad Catolica Argentina. She has participated in the Colombo and Addis meeting and completed a study visit at Laval University in March 2006.

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Abdelkrim Araar, Canada



Araar Abdelkrim was born in Souk-Ahras (Algeria) in 1966. After his classical studies, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Economics (finance) at the University of Algiers in 1990. Rated first at the national level, he obtained a government scholarship for training in economics abroad. He obtained a Master degree in Economics at the University of Sherbrooke with a mention of excellence in 1993. He obtained the PhD in Economics at Laval University in 1998.

He is a member of CIRPÉE and Deputy network leader of PEP's PMMA Network. Abdelkrim has long been the principal PMMA resource person involved in designing and conducting training activities, developing training material, conducting fundamental research, providing distance support to PMMA researchers, commenting proposals and reports, developing the DAD software and providing support for the PEP web site, among other things. His research field is welfare economics and the analysis of inequality and poverty. He is the co-author, with Jean-Yves Duclos, of the book “Poverty and Equity: Measurement, Policy and Estimation with DAD”, which was recently published by Springer. Many of his papers have been published as CIRPÉE and PEP working papers and in international journals. He is also the author of the DASP Stata package “Distributive Analysis Stata Package”.

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Ismael Fofana, Senegal



Ismaël Fofana was born in 1974 in Guinea-Conakry. He is the deputy co-director of the PEP research network and director of our African office in Dakar, Senegal. He is also a member of the MPIA resource person team and an economist at CIRPÉE (Université Laval) since 2001. Ismaël completed his M.A. in economics at Laval University and is currently pursuing his PhD at the “Université de Paris I-Sorbonne” under the supervision of Katherine Schubert. His fields of interest are: Trade liberalization, income distribution, and poverty in developing countries; Gender and macroeconomic policies; and Intra-household allocation.

Over the last five years, Ismaël has been developing training material and conducting training workshops on the impact of macroeconomic policies and shocks on income distribution and poverty in developing countries. He also provides scientific and technical support to MPIA researchers, particularly in the areas of integrated CGE microsimulation analysis (in which all households from a nationally representative household survey are individually modeled within a CGE model of a whole economy), gender modeling, and data manipulation for reconciling national accounts (SAMs) and household surveys.

He was involved in a project with the World Bank in which he assisted African research teams in four countries to construct integrated CGE microsimulation models and use them to assess the relationship between trade and poverty. He also took the lead in a United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) project to distinguish the impacts of trade liberalization in South Africa on men and women in terms of their market work, domestic work, leisure time, wage rates and overall welfare.

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TuanAnh Vu, Vietnam



Tuan-Anh Vu has been working as a researcher at the Vietnam Institute of Economics for more than 30 years, after obtaining his bachelors degree in econometrics in 1973 and graduating in economics in 1981. Since 1993 he is deputy director of the Socio-Economic Development Centre – a non-governmental research and consulting institution. His studies relate to various development issues in low-income Asian countries, particularly Vietnam. He is author, co-author and editor of dozens of monographs and research papers on Vietnam's development, published in Vietnam, Canada, Japan and elsewhere.

Tuan-Anh Vu has participated in the MIMAP and PEP networks since 1996 when he began to study poverty monitoring problems in Vietnam's rural areas. Beginning with a participatory approach to poverty surveys, Vietnam's poverty monitoring research project has continually improved monitoring methodology and has become one of the longest running CBMS teams in the PEP Network. As project leader, Tuan-Anh Vu has made efforts to extend cooperation with various partners at the national and local levels in Vietnam in order to implement CBMS in poverty reduction projects and national programs, as well as local development management systems.

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Momar Ballé Sylla



Momar B. SYLLA was born in Dakar (Senegal) in March 1957. After finishing secondary school, he went to Kigali (Rwanda) to the Institut Africain et Mauricien de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (IAMSEA) where he obtained a degree in statistics. He then joined the civil service at the Direction of Forecasting and Statistics (DPS). He was subsequently admitted into the Centre de formation des Statisticiens-économistes des Pays en voie de Développement (Training Centre for Developing Country Statistician-Economists), graduating in 1987.

From 1988 to 2000, he was the director of the Division of General Statistics (DSG). Here, he participated in the instauration of the Harmonized Consumer Price Index for the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) in 1996, and the execution of the first income-expenditure survey in Senegal (1994/1995). Based on this experience, he was named as an adviser to the DPS. He produced a poverty profile for Senegal in 1994/95 and conducted a study on the evolution of poverty in Dakar (1991-1997). He also

provided support to the National Statistical Offices in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo and Equatorial Guinea in the conception of their sample designs, the treatment and analysis of survey data, the elaboration of poverty profiles, etc.

He has taught courses in national accounting and in the analysis of household life conditions at the Department of Statistics and Demographics of the National School of Applied Economics (ENEA), as well as descriptive statistics at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM).

He is a member of the Senegalese MIMAP team and coordinates the CBMS activities.

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Hot PEPpers: News of PEP members

Jean-Yves Duclos is awarded the Prix Marcel-Dagenais (<http://132.203.59.36/CIRPEE/nouvelles.htm>) at the 46th Conference of the Société canadienne de science économique (<http://www.scse.ca/scse/congres2006>) that was held May 3 and 4, 2006 at the Montreal Hilton Bonaventure.



The Ki family has a new baby

We are very pleased to announce the birth of the little Prince Ki, son of Jean Bosco KI (PMMA Deputy network leader). The baby who was born on Saturday 8 July 2006 at 3am weighed of 2.8 KG. The mother and the baby are doing very well. The baby's name is **Ki Didia Spence Christopher Ousmane**.

It is not only "poverty analysis" that can be "multidimensional"!

We wish a lot of happiness to the Ki family!



Corentin Boccanfuso

The Savard-Boccanfuso family in Sherbrooke has a new member since July 6, 2006. Dorothée, Lecturer at the University of Sherbrooke and resource person for the PMMA Sub-Network and Luc Savard, former Team Leader for the MIMAP Programme are indeed happy to announce the birth of Corentin, Mathieu's junior brother. Since he was born, he eats, cries, and... sometimes sleeps.



Her name is Serenity. Guess who this baby is? A clue? She lives in Manila. Yes, you guessed right! Lani V. Garnace, Research Associate of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team and her husband Dominic B. Garnace, Asset Management Specialist of the World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. welcome their first child, Serenity V. Garnace on June 22, 2006

Congratulations to the lucky parents.

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ABOUT PEP

Ongoing Call for Proposals

Research proposals may be submitted to the PEP network at any time. Proposals submitted before November 30, 2006 will be considered for presentation in the June 2007 meeting. For more information, consult "[Call for Proposals](#)" on the PEP web site.

A pre-selection committee analyzes proposals in order to determine whether they are complete and eligible for financing, to inform the researchers of the proposal's status and, in some cases, to provide some feedback on the proposal itself. Roughly three to four months before each PEP meeting (March 2007 in the case of next year's meetings), a selection committee selects the best research proposals in terms of scientific contribution, policy relevance, concordance with PEP thematic areas and feasibility. These teams are then invited to present and discuss their proposals at the meeting. Taking into consideration that it is almost always necessary to revise and resubmit proposals once or more before acceptance for presentation at a PEP meeting, we encourage interested researchers to submit proposals as early as possible. Furthermore, research teams are strongly encouraged to submit proposals and accompanying documents directly on the PEP Web site.

Other Funding for PEP Researchers

All PEP researchers are reminded that they are eligible to apply for **additional funding** for the following activities:

- In the context of PEP research grants, funding can be requested to allow young members (aged under 30 years) of PEP research teams to participate in a PEP meeting. We normally expect one young researcher to participate in the presentation of the team's final report.
- Training and Professional Development Grants: to finance the participation of a PEP team member in a training workshop, study visit or international conference related to their PEP research.
- National Conference Grants: to assist in financing the organization of a national conference related to PEP research.

Details are provided in the **Grants Manual**, which is available on the home page of the PEP web site.

Online Literature Search Tools

The web site offers a guide to **online literature search tools**. In particular, this page outlines the Research Database Service offered by our funder, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to all PEP-funded researchers. Visit : http://132.203.59.36/NEW-PEP/Group/pmma-read/search_tools.htm.

A Brief Overview of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network

The Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network brings together and provide technical and financial support to developing country researchers working to reduce poverty

The PEP team

The PEP team is composed of three administrative offices (Manila, Dakar and Quebec), a steering committee and a number of resource persons from around the world.

The PEP Network welcomes new staff

MPIA and PMMA

As many of you know, **Sonia Moreau**, PEP Administrative Officer, has decided to fulfil her dreams this summer by pursuing her studies in the field of “animation 3D”! We wish to seize this opportunity to highlight the decisive contributions she has made with regard to the setting up of the administrative system and the development of the intranet of the PEP Website. We wish her the best of luck in her new career and thank her for the support she continues to give us from time to time.

Given the critical role she was playing within the PEP Network, her departure obviously called for the reorganization of the MPIA-PMMA administrative team. Fortunately, we could rely on an outstanding team! **Aissatou Diop**, who has been based in our Dakar Africa Office in Senegal for nearly one year now, has taken up the responsibility for the general administration of the MPIA and PMMA Sub-Networks, while also providing administrative support to the CBMS Sub-Network within the framework of its activities in Africa.

After having spent one year working for the PEP Network on a part-time basis, **Évelyne Joyal** has since this summer, become a full-time employee in our CIRPÉE Office at Quebec (Canada) and will be assisting Aissatou while fulfilling special duties (PEP-Talk, study visits, etc.).

Lastly, **Gaétane Marcoux** who has been working as our Financial Secretary since the setting up of the PEP Network in 2002 can now benefit from the support of **Martine Frenette** as a part-time assistant who joined us early May this year.

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CBMS

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team has a new member in the person of Marvin John M. Inocencio. Twenty-year old Marvin has been hired to assist in enhancing the software programs developed by the Team. These enhancements are in line with the continuous capacity-building efforts for local government units to do poverty analysis. Along with the methodologies and training modules that have been likewise developed by the Team, these enhanced software programs will be shared with other CBMS researchers.

PEP Web site

As a member of the PEP Network, you join the ranks of more than 5,000 policy makers, researchers, civil society representatives and other individuals interested in reducing poverty worldwide who interact and network on the PEP website! Our website has registered over 150,000 hits to date. In order to ensure that we can keep in contact with you and share our newsletters and calls for proposals, we kindly ask that you keep your account information on the website. To do so, please follow these simple steps:

1. Open a PEP session (www.pep-net.org)
2. Login with your username and password (If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, click on the “Forgot your password or username?” link and follow the instructions.)
3. Click on “My profile” and then, on “Update personal information”.
4. Update your information and then click on the button “*Update my information*”

Thank you for taking the time to update your account and do not hesitate to contact us at pep@ecn.ulaval.ca if you have any questions.

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For more news or to subscribe on line, visit: <http://www.pep-net.org>

If you have news you would like to share, please transmit this information through this email (pep@ecn.ulaval.ca), and it will be our pleasure to publish it in the next edition info of PEP-TALK.

Please forward this newsletter to other interested colleagues!

Reminder: In order for us to be able to contact you, we invite you to update your personal data ("Personal setting") on PEP's web site [www.pep-net.org]. You may also select the e-mail addresses at which you would like to receive PEP announcements and PEP-TALK. If you do not wish to be part of this mailing list any more, please deselect the box "want to receive the PEP-TALK".