



Poverty and Economic Policy
Research Network

PEP-Talk

News Bulletin – July 2011

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News and Events

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE NEWS

Recent Findings

Thanks to the (financial, scientific & technical) support provided by the PEP Network, hundreds of developing country researchers are conducting independent analyses of poverty/economic policy issues, both for and from their home countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. For example:

Argentina

[MPIA-10411](#)



Read full report :
[Working Paper 2011-11](#)

Researchers

Effects of Argentina's Social Security Reform on Labor Markets and Poverty

In 1994, a major reform of the Social Security System was implemented in Argentina, as part of the country's general pursuit of economic modernisation. Among several other features, the reform included the introduction of individual accounts – to be administered by private entities - in the new Pension Funding System. Through modeling and microsimulation techniques, a team of local PEP researchers have been able to assess the particular effects of this reform on labor outcomes, poverty and income distribution (from 1994 to 2008). The results show that, when funds are allocated in order to increase investment in physical capital, the Pension Reform has a significant effect on growth while, on the other hand, where funds are used to finance public debt, the effect on growth is negligible. Such evidence on the program's impacts at the micro level may affect actual government's decisions in light of recent initiatives to reverse some of the changes introduced in 1994.

[Maria Laura Alzua](#) | [Hernán Ruffo](#) | [Pablo Brassiolo](#)

Find out all about the [most recent findings and recommendations from PEP researchers'](#) analyses to assist in policymaking and/or program design that aim to address development and poverty issues in their respective countries.

PEP Network Special Initiatives

- [New: UNICEF-commissioned study to Analyse the Impacts of Fiscal Policies and Social Spending on Child Welfare in Burkina Faso](#)
Collaboration: PEP, UNICEF
Leaders: John Cockburn, Helene Maisonnave, Véronique Robichaud, Luca Tiberti
- [Impact Evaluation of an Innovative Program to Improve Sanitation Practices in Rural Mali](#)
Collaboration: PEP, [CEDLAS](#), UNICEF - funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Leaders: Maria Laura Alzua, Habiba Djebbari
- [African Growth Development Policy \(AGRODEP\) Modeling Consortium](#)
Collaboration: PEP, [IFPRI](#)
Leaders: Bernard Decaluwé, André Lemelin, Helene Maisonnave, Veronique Robichaud
- PEP-Asia (CBMS Network Office) is collaborating with ILO-Philippines to study child labor conditions using local-level data produced by the PEP Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS) – see related [article](#)
Collaboration: PEP-CBMS Network, International Labor Organization (ILO, Philippines country office)
Leader: Celia Reyes

Visit this new section of the PEP Website to find out all about each of the [PEP Network's special initiatives](#), past and current.

TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

COMING: New French edition of the PEP School on “Modelling the Impacts of Macroeconomic Policies and Shocks on Poverty” in Cameroon* .	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Aug. 22- Nov. 4, 2011 <i>*Registrations are ongoing</i>
CBMS-EEPSEA training workshop to help local governments in Southeast Asia to address environmental issues, particularly related to climate change	Manila, Philippines	August 15-17, 2011 <i>Dates to be confirmed</i>
CBMS-ILO training workshops (2) for local government units (LGUs) in the analysis of child labor issues and related development implications in the Philippines	Manila, Philippines	June 28-30, 2011 May 3-5, 2011
Technical Workshop on the Implementation and Use of Community-Based Monitoring Systems (CBMS) – Institute for Development Policy and Management (IOB), University of Antwerp	Antwerp, Belgium	June 15-16, 2011
New PEP training program: Intensive Graduate School in Development Economics (Université Laval)	Quebec, Canada	May 28 – June 12, 2011

For general information on PEP Schools and training activities, see [here](#).

CONFERENCES

COMING: The 9 th PEP General Meeting will be held in Cambodia, this coming December	Siem Reap, Cambodia	December 3-9, 2011
ASEAN Policy Dialogue “Inequality and the Obstacles to Human Development in the South East Asia Region” - Special presentation from PEP co-director, Dr. Celia Reyes, on “Measuring and monitoring poverty and inequality using Community-based Monitoring Systems”	Singapore	July 28, 2011
PEP researchers invited to give presentations at the 14 th GTAP Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis	Venice, Italy	June 16-18, 2011
Impact Evaluation Conference 2011 “ Mind the Gap: From Evidence to Policy Impact ” (3ie, AusAID, CEDLAS, IDB, IDRC, INSP and the World Bank) – PEP clinic and presentation of two studies: “ Impact Evaluation for Policy Making in Latin America ” and “ General training or technical assistance ”	Cuernavaca, Mexico	June 15-17, 2011
PEP session at the 45 th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economic Association	Ottawa, Canada	June 2-5, 2011

Follow these links to find more information on:

- [National policy conferences](#) organised by PEP-funded researchers to communicate research findings to policy
- [International conference presentations](#) given by PEP researchers, invited to contribute to development policy debates around the world

PEP NEWS

- One of the main challenges currently faced by academics working on poverty issues, is to find ways and channels to communicate their research findings to those decision-makers who can actually put them to use – such as in defining or adjusting policies and interventions in order to address the issues. Over the past year, the PEP Network has devoted extensive resources to develop its own expertise in terms of [research communications](#). Today, PEP researchers around the world can rely on its constant support, not only to produce scientifically-sound research outcomes, but also to make sure that such important knowledge is effectively communicated to national stakeholders.
 - See, for example, the two new documents that were produced by the Network on the matter; one is a “[Guide to researchers on how to influence policy](#)”, the other is the “[PEP Network Research Communication Strategy](#)”. For general information on activities related to research communications within the PEP Network, [visit this page](#).
- PEP has published a new [Internal Monitoring and Evaluation Report \(June 2011\)](#). Find out how the PEP Network initiatives contribute to the capacity building and career advancement of Southern development experts, as well as to bridging the gap between research and policy for a better account of poverty issues in developing countries.
- PEP researcher and project leader [Maria Laura Alzua](#) is interviewed on CNN en Español (in Spanish) on the topic of “Fostering youth employment in Latin America”, see [video](#) (4 min).
- Follow the PEP daily newscast on [Facebook](#). The PEP Website homepage has also been completely redesigned; [take a look!](#)

Publications

WORKING PAPERS

[Effects of Argentina's Social Security Reform on Labor Markets and Poverty](#) – by Maria Laura Alzua & al. (MPIA, WP 2011-11)

[Monitoring the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Poverty in Tanzania](#) – by Rangya Muro & al. (CBMS WP 2011-14)

[Using a Local Poverty Monitoring System \(LPMS\) to monitor poverty trends in Tana River District, Kenya](#) – by Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo & al. (CBMS WP 2011-07)

[The Implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System in Kota Pekalongan, Indonesia](#) – by Akhmadi* & al. (CBMS 2011-03)

[Is Fiscal Policy Alone Enough for Growth? A Simulation Analysis for Bolivia](#) – by Carlos Gustavo Machicado & al. (MPIA WP 2011-10)

POLICY BRIEFS

The PEP Policy Brief is a short (one or two page-long), non-technical summary of the main conclusions and policy recommendations produced by each of PEP-supported research project teams. These briefs are systematically distributed to all policy-relevant stakeholders who should be informed of research findings related the specific issues at hand.

Latest publications:

Public Spending in Education and Poverty in Burkina Faso – [Policy Brief 82](#)

Dimensional and Regional Distribution of Multi-Poverty in Cameroon – [Policy Brief 81](#)

Multidimensional Poverty in Kenya: Analysis of Maternal and Child Wellbeing – [Policy Brief 80](#)

Find all [PEP Policy Briefs here](#).

BOOKS

24 PEP books are made available for download, free of charge, via the PEP Website. Find them all [here](#).

To contact PEP Network secretariat, please email us at pep@ecn.ulaval.ca

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