

Scott Weiner

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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics Columbia University <i>Dissertation title: "Essays on Development Economics"</i>	October 2021 New York, NY
M.Phil in Economics Columbia University	May 2016 New York, NY
MA in Economics Columbia University	May 2015 New York, NY
BA in Economics, International Relations, <i>magna cum laude</i> Brown University	May 2011 Providence, RI
Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador (visiting student)	Jan 2010–May 2010

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Development Economics
Secondary: Labor Economics, Public Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"Mobilizing Forces: Military Conscription as a Driver of Mobility in Argentina" (Job Market Paper)

Latest version available at: j.mp/weinerJMP.

Abstract: A vast literature documents the presence of unexploited potential gains from migration within a country, in both developing and developed economies. One possible explanation of what prevents people from migrating is that a lack of experience living outside one's hometown earlier in life could make it more difficult to migrate later on. In this paper, I use the natural experiment of military conscription in Argentina, which randomly assigned not only military service, but also the location of service, to study the effect of this temporary displacement on long-run migration rates. I then use a rich source of administrative earnings and employment data to investigate the labor-market implications of conscription and, in particular, displacement. I find that conscription on the whole caused a small increase in the likelihood of appearing in the formal labor force, and a small increase in earnings particularly for those who were assigned to serve in the Navy. Assignment to military service outside of one's province of origin increased the likelihood of living outside the province of origin by 2.5 percent, and while the net effects of this displacement on earnings and employment are imprecisely estimated, the evidence suggests that there are modest long-term benefits of conscription in Argentina that are not fully attributable to displacement.

"(When) Does Ramadan Affect Daily Caloric Intake? Evidence from Rural Malawi"

Latest version available at: j.mp/WeinerRamadan.

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of Ramadan on calorie consumption and labor supply among Muslim households in rural Malawi. Across four rounds of household survey data, I find no evidence of a decrease in calorie consumption during Ramadan on average. I do, however, find evidence that working-age people reduce their weekly work by about three hours, or nearly 20 percent, on average. This finding on calories shows substantial variation across the different rounds of data. The evidence presented calls into question the hypothesis that consumption during Ramadan should fall more dramatically when the holiday overlaps with the

harvest (when baseline consumption levels are relatively high compared to the rest of the year), compared to when Ramadan falls near the annual hunger season (when baseline consumption levels tend to be much lower). I discuss potential implications of this variation for our understanding of seasonal consumption patterns.

“Difficulties with DOTS: Can Direct Observation by Lay Providers Improve Tuberculosis Treatment Adherence?” (with Kaivan Munshi and Nancy K. Luke)

Latest version available upon request.

Abstract: Tuberculosis (TB), despite being a highly treatable disease, kills well over 1 million people every year, with 95 percent of cases and deaths appearing in developing countries. India bears the largest TB burden of any country, with more than 25 percent of the world's total yearly cases. A key factor for successful management of TB is ensuring that patients complete the full six-month (or more) treatment regimen: missing even a few doses of the prescribed medications increases the likelihood of relapse and development of a drug-resistant strain of TB, which is much more difficult and costly to treat effectively. In this paper, we study the effectiveness of an intervention allowing patients to select a community member to serve as a Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) provider to help ensure compliance with the full treatment regimen. Although patients assigned a Community DOT provider report significantly more frequent visits and higher rates of satisfaction compared to our control group, we do not find any significant improvement in treatment outcomes among those assigned this intervention. We explore several potential explanations for this finding and suggest potential avenues for future research.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Full time:

Research Assistant/Statistician for Kaivan Munshi, Yale University Aug 2019 – May 2020

- Assisted with design and implementation of fuzzy name-matching algorithm to locate historical villages
- Created phonetic re-encoding for Tamil names to improve performance of matching algorithm
- Constructed geospatial metrics of community networks and analyzed relationships to social outcomes

Post-Bacc Field Research Coordinator for Kaivan Munshi, Brown University Jul 2011 – Jul 2013

- Helped launch, manage, and troubleshoot a large-scale smartphone-based census of 1.2 million individuals in rural Tamil Nadu, India
- Worked from field site in Tamil Nadu, India during various project phases to ensure smooth implementation
- Developed system to report and correct errors in collected data
- Planned and led training for teams of up to 50 people in India on use of smartphones for data collection
- Collaborated on designing and testing survey instruments for TB patient and provider interviews

Part time:

Research Assistant to Supreet Kaur, Columbia University Oct 2015 – May 2016

Research Assistant to Kaivan Munshi, University of Cambridge Jul 2013 – Aug 2015

Undergraduate Research Assistant to David Weil, Brown University Jun 2010 – May 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Principles of Economics

- Teaching Assistant to Sunil Gulati Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2019
- Teaching Assistant to Goran Lazarevski Summer 2016

Intro. to Econometrics (Undergraduate)

- Teaching Assistant to Gregory Cox Fall 2017

Historical Foundations of Modern Economics

- Teaching Assistant to André Burgstaller Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Economic Development (Undergraduate)

- Teaching Assistant to Anna Caterina Musatti Fall 2016

Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

- Teaching Assistant to Susan Elmes Fall 2015

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Student Research Grant, Center for Development Economics and Policy, Columbia University	2018
Summer Research Travel Grant, Institute for Latin American Studies, Columbia University	2018
Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2018
Trudy and Paul Woodruff Fellowship, Dept. of Econ., Columbia University	2014–2015, 2016–2017
Ralph Erdman Holben Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2015–2016
Dean’s Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2013–2019
Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University	2011

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Military Conscription as a Driver of Geographic and Social Mobility,” APPAM DC Regional Student Conference 2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES), Dept. of Economics, Columbia U:	
<i>President</i>	2015–2016
<i>Representative</i>	2014–2015, 2016–2017

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Programming languages and mathematical packages: Stata, Python, SQL, Matlab, R, C#, Maple
 - Other: Lyx, LaTeX, ArcGIS, Excel
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LANGUAGES

- English: Native
 - Spanish: Advanced
 - Japanese: Basic
-

REFERENCES

Eric Verhoogen (co-sponsor)
Professor of Economics and International and Public
Affairs
Columbia University
eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu

Suresh Naidu (co-sponsor)
Professor of International and Public Affairs and
Economics
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Rodrigo Soares
Lemann Professor of Brazilian Public Policy and
International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
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