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Education

PhD in Economics, University of York, 2015-

MSc Economic History Research (*with distinction*), London School of Economics, 2012-2013

Integrated M.A Economics, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, 2007-2012

Research Interests

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

Relevant Experience

Organiser, CHERRY workshop series, University of York, 2017-2018

Research Assistant, University of Cambridge, 2015-2016

Research Assistant, Institute for Government, London, 2014-2015

Teaching Experience

Teaching Scholar, Development Economics, University of York, 2017-

Teaching Scholar, Applied Economics, University of York, 2017-

Teaching Scholar, Macroeconomics II, University of York, 2015-

Lecturer, Macroeconomics, Economics Summer School, University of York, 2015-

Scholarships and Awards

Departmental Scholarship, Department of Economics, University of York, 2015-2018

Teaching Excellence Award, Department of Economics, University of York, 2016 & 2017

Publications

Journal Articles

Coelho, Miguel, Sebastian Dellepiane-Avellaneda, and Vigyan Ratnoo. 2016. "The political economy of housing in England". *New Political Economy*. 22 (1): 31-60.

Other publications

With Miguel Coelho and Sebastian Dellepiane, Political Economy of Failure and Institutional Reform, Institute for Government, London, February 2015. Available at <http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/political-economy-policy-failure-and-institutional-reform>

With Miguel Coelho, The Political Economy of Infrastructure in the UK, Institute for Government, December 2014. Available at <http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/political-economy-infrastructure-uk>

Job Market Paper

Institutions, railways and rural development in India

This paper uses a geographical Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) on a unique village level data set from colonial India to estimate the causal impact of institutions, specifically different land tenure types, on long run rural development. Exploiting an early 19th century historical quirk in the placement of these land tenures in a small, otherwise homogeneous area, this paper is able to show sizable effects on literacy and irrigation persist into the new millennium. Historical evidence that describes the differing situations in these sets of villages is brought together and the long run provision of local public goods is one of the channels explored for the observed persistence. The historical placement of railway lines that sparked a period of commercialisation is also analysed, with results indicating that the full benefit of the railways for development is likely to be conditional on land tenure type.

Work in progress

The Certainty of Uncertainty? The progress of literacy in colonial India in the presence of agricultural shocks

Agricultural shocks have always been defining feature of Indian agriculture - the varying nature of rainfall patterns across the country significantly influences rural incomes and development. This study analyses the historical roots of current literacy patterns in India. Using historical data on agricultural shocks and literacy, this paper employs an Instrumental Variables (IV) strategy to analyse the impact of agricultural shocks on colonial era literacy. More consistent rainfall enables farmers to maintain a certain level of income and enables investments over a long time horizon, while frequent weather shocks force farmers to employ costly ex-ante and ex-post strategies that lead to adverse effects on income and developmental indicators. Results show that downside risk in particular is an important determinant of literacy across colonial India.

Rice market integration in Madras province, 1888-1940

The debate on the effects of globalisation rests partly on the levels of market integration in developing countries with new transportation infrastructure. Agriculture in India became increasingly commercialised with the arrival of the railways and the booming prices of the early 20th century. In this paper, I analyse trajectories of market development in India. Using an Error Correction Model (ECM) on a primary dataset of rice prices across the colonial province of Madras, I find mixed evidence of price convergence across the period under consideration.

Presentations

Economic History Society conference, Belfast, forthcoming

Coase Institute Workshop, Bratislava, forthcoming

World Economic History Congress, Boston, 2018

Lancaster PhD Summer School on Applied Microeconomics, Lancaster, 2018

Workshop on Family and Labour Economics (WOLFE), York, 2018

Economic History Society residential training course, 2017

References

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Prof. Emma Tominey
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