

YUSUF NEGGERS

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and Public Affairs
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Current Appointment:

Postdoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, 2016-Present

Education:

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Public Policy, 2016
London School of Economics, M.Sc. in International Political Economy, 2007
Rice University, B.A. in Mathematical Economic Analysis *cum laude*, 2006

References:

Professor Rohini Pande
Harvard Kennedy School
617-384-5267, rohini_pande@harvard.edu

Professor Alberto Alesina
Harvard Department of Economics
617-495-8388, aalesina@harvard.edu

Professor Rema Hanna
Harvard Kennedy School
617-496-1140, rema_hanna@hks.harvard.edu

Professor Andrei Shleifer
Harvard Department of Economics
617-495-5046, ashleifer@harvard.edu

Professor Jesse Shapiro
Brown Department of Economics
401-863-2970, jesse_shapiro_1@brown.edu

Research Fields:

Political Economy, Development Economics, Personnel Economics

Teaching Experience:

2016-2017 PLCY 2040: Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Brown University
2013-2015 PED-102: Economic Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Teaching Fellow
for Professors Asim Khwaja, Rohini Pande, Lant Pritchett, and Dani Rodrik

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2012 World Bank – Indonesia Social Development Team, Short Term Consultant
2007-2010 Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT Department of Economics,
Research Associate for Professor Benjamin Olken
2007-2010 World Bank – Indonesia Sustainable Development Team, Short Term Consultant
2004 Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, Summer Research Assistant

Research Grants:

2017 Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University \$2,500
2017 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard University (co-PI) \$9,230
2017 Watson Institute, Brown University (co-PI) \$5,000
2016 J-PAL Governance Initiative (co-PI) \$291,675
2015 J-PAL Governance Initiative (co-PI) \$48,505
2015 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard University \$10,683
2015 Foundations of Human Behavior Initiative, Harvard University \$5,000
2015 Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University \$3,000
2014 J-PAL Governance Initiative \$49,934

2013 South Asia Institute, Harvard University \$1,500
2012 Weiss Family Fund for Research in Development Economics \$10,225

Professional Activities:

Presentations: UC San Diego Behavioral Development Seminar, 2017 (scheduled)
Brown University Applied Microeconomics Seminar, 2017 (scheduled)
IPA Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion and Social Protection, 2017 (scheduled)
Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), 2013, 15, 17 (scheduled)
National Tax Association – Technology and Public Finance Session, 2017 (scheduled)
Stanford University Comparative Politics/South Asia Workshop, 2017 (scheduled)
TCD/LSE/CEPR Workshop in Development Economics, 2017
Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Global Health and Population, 2017
RIDGE/LACEA-PEG Workshop on Political Economy, 2017
Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asian Politics Seminar, 2017
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) – Economic Growth and Development Conference, 2016
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), 2014

Referee: *American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Politics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics*

Honors and Fellowships:

2015-2016 Perini and Cunningham Dissertation Fellowship for International Development, Harvard University
2013-2014 Doctoral Research Fellowship in Sustainability Science, Harvard Kennedy School
2011 Cultural Bridge Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School
2010-2013 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
2006 Rimlinger Prize for Best Senior Independent Research in Economics, Rice University
“An Inquiry into the Macroeconomic Effects of HIV/AIDS in Zambia”

Publications:

“Enfranchising Your Own? Experimental Evidence on Bureaucrat Diversity and Election Bias in India”
Accepted: *American Economic Review*

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of polling station administrator diversity on elections in India, using a natural experiment—the random assignment of government officials to teams managing polling stations on election day—together with surveys conducted with voters and election officers. I demonstrate that changes in the religious and caste composition of officer teams impact voting at the polling station level, causing shifts in coalition vote shares large enough to influence election outcomes. Effects are strongest when officers have greater discretion over the voting process. I also provide evidence suggesting own-group favoritism by election personnel as one relevant mechanism.

Lewis-Faupel, Sean, Yusuf Negggers, Benjamin A. Olken and Rohini Pande (2016). "Can Electronic Procurement Improve Infrastructure Provision? Evidence from Public Works in India and Indonesia." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 8(3): 258-83.

Abstract: This paper examines whether electronic procurement (e-procurement), which increases access to information and reduces personal interactions with potentially corrupt officials, improves procurement outcomes. We develop unique datasets from India and Indonesia and use variation in adoption of e-procurement within both countries. We find no evidence of reduced prices but do find that e-procurement leads to quality improvements. In India, where we observe quality directly, e-procurement improves road quality, and in Indonesia, e-procurement reduces delays. Regions with e-procurement are more likely to have winners come from outside the region. On net, the results suggest that e-procurement facilitates entry from higher quality contractors.

Working Papers:

“Having it at Hand: How Small Search Frictions Impact Bureaucratic Efficiency”
(with Eric Dodge, Rohini Pande, and Charity Troyer Moore)

Abstract: Can small search costs that constrain information acquisition by bureaucrats provide a substantive explanation for poor bureaucratic performance in the developing world? In collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Rural Development and the state of Madhya Pradesh, we conducted a field experiment in which a random sample of bureaucrats were given access to an internet and mobile-based management and monitoring platform for wage payments associated with a workfare program. The platform did not make new information available, but rather lowered costs of accessing information about the status of wage bills and officers who needed to take action. Our experiment also randomly varied which level of the administrative hierarchy had access to the e-platform. We find that lower costs of information acquisition reduce payment processing time by up to 21 percent. Using detailed usage data, we document that both access to information and managerial oversight matter. Specifically, we observe reduced payment delays only when search costs are reduced at both the intermediate and senior management levels. Further, usage rates at the intermediate management level are much higher when senior management also has access to the e-platform.

“Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Impacts of Open Meetings in State Legislatures”

Abstract: This paper studies the effects of increased transparency in legislative settings. I exploit variation in the timing of enactment across U.S. states of open meetings laws which increase the public availability of information on legislator behavior to consider impacts on: bill introduction and enactment, state expenditure, confidence in government, and candidate and voter behavior. Open meetings increase spending on public goods and heighten confidence in state government on average. Given recent work showing that geographic remoteness of capital cities in U.S. states is strongly associated with reduced accountability and worse government performance, I also investigate how the impacts of open meetings vary with state capital isolation. Heterogeneous impacts on incumbent vote share suggest that at both low and high levels of initial accountability, open meetings provide citizens with additional information that influences voting.

Work in Progress:

“Texting Bad Politicians Out of Office” (with Siddharth George and Sarika Gupta)

“A Quantitative Model of Freedom of Assembly” (with Mehdi Shadmehr and Jesse Shapiro)

“Building a Tax Base: Experimental Evidence from New Delhi” (with Wendy Wong)

Updated September 2017