

YUSUF NEGGERS

watson.brown.edu/people/postdocs/neggers
yusuf_neggers@brown.edu | 205-886-1242
Watson Institute for International and
Public Affairs, Brown University
111 Thayer Street, Providence RI 02912

Current Appointment:

Postdoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute, 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

Teaching and Research Fields:

Development Economics, Political Economy, Personnel Economics

Teaching Experience:

2013-2015 PED-102: Economic Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Teaching Fellow

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:

2016 J-PAL Governance Initiative (with Eric Dodge, Charity Troyer Moore, and Rohini Pande)
\$291,675
2015 J-PAL Governance Initiative (with Siddharth George and Sarika Gupta) \$48,505
2015 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard University \$10,683
2015 Pershing Square Venture Fund, 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: Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2015, 2013

Referee: Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) 2014
Quarterly Journal of Economics

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 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2006 Rimlinger Prize for Best Senior Independent Research in Economics, Rice University

Publications:

Lewis-Faupel, Sean, Yusuf Neggers, 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:

“Enfranchising Your Own? Experimental Evidence on Polling Officer Identity and Electoral Outcomes in India”

Abstract: The spread of democracy in the developing world has been accompanied by concerns regarding the integrity of election management. This paper estimates the effects of ethnic diversity, or lack thereof, among polling station officials on voting outcomes. I exploit a natural experiment in the 2014 parliamentary elections in India, where the government mandated the random assignment of state employees to the teams that managed polling stations on election day. I find that the presence of officers of minority religious or caste identity within teams led to an average shift in vote share margin of 2.3 percentage points toward the political parties traditionally associated with these groups. Significant spillover effects also occurred across polling stations, and the magnitude of the combined direct and indirect effects is large enough to be relevant to election outcomes. Using survey experiments conducted with more than 5,000 registered voters and election officials, I provide evidence of own-group favoritism in polling personnel and identify the process of voter identity verification as an important channel through which voting outcomes are impacted.

“Transparency and Accountability: Open Meetings Statutes in U.S. State Legislatures”

Abstract: This paper studies the effects of increased de jure transparency of representative actions in the legislative setting. I exploit variation in the timing of enactment across U.S. states of open meetings laws which ostensibly 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 in state elections. As recent work shows that increased 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. Open meetings increase spending on public goods and heighten confidence in state government on average. 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:

“Can Smart Technology Systems Improve Direct Benefit Transfer Performance and Increase Participation? Evidence from MGNREGA in India” (with Eric Dodge, Charity Troyer Moore, and Rohini Pande)

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

“Land Reform, Deforestation, and Political Engagement: Evidence from the Forest Rights Act in India”