

YUSUF NEGGERS

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Watson Institute for International and
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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:

2016 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 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard University \$9,230
2017 Watson Institute, Brown University \$5,000
2016 J-PAL Governance Initiative (w/Eric Dodge, Charity Moore, and Rohini Pande) \$291,675
2015 J-PAL Governance Initiative (w/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: Indian Statistical Institute Delhi (ISI) 2016
Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2015, 2013
Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) 2014

Referee: *Journal of Political Economy, 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 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 Bureaucrat Diversity and Election Bias in India”

Abstract: This paper investigates the effects of bureaucrat bias on election administration in India, combining: (i) a natural experiment, the random assignment of officials to teams managing polling stations on election day; and (ii) surveys and experiments conducted with voters and election officers. I provide evidence of own-group favoritism in the decisions of election personnel. I also show that minority officer absence from teams makes it more difficult for minority individuals to vote and reduces the minority-oriented coalition's vote share, at a magnitude large enough to influence election outcomes. Effects are strongest when officers have greater discretion over the voting process.

“Out of Sight, Out of Mind: The Impacts of Open Meetings in 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 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. 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” (w/Eric Dodge, Charity Moore, and Rohini Pande)

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

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

Updated March 2017