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Session 1

Balancing Work and Childcare: Evidence from COVID-19 School Closures and Reopenings in Africa
– Pierre Biscaye, Berkeley

Childcare responsibilities are an important factor affecting household labor supply decisions, particularly for women who bear the majority of households' childcare burden. This paper estimates the impact of changes in childcare needs on women's labor outcomes in African countries using COVID-19 school closures and reopenings as a shock to childcare.

From Prevention to Treatment: Prescription Medication Use and Health Behavior
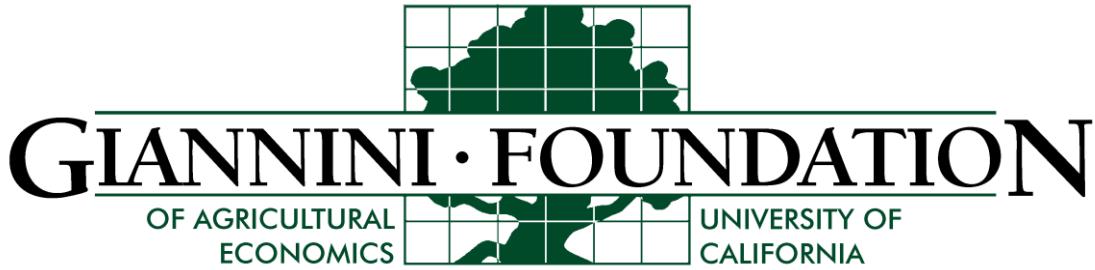*– Danea Horn, Davis*

The FDA approval of new medications to treat high blood pressure and high cholesterol in 1973 is leveraged to identify the effect of medication use after a heart-health shock on body mass index, adherence to a diet and cigarette consumption. The findings show that medication is used as a substitute for positive-health behaviors when it is preventative, but after medication becomes treatment due to a diagnosis, the substitution effect is muted for all health behaviors, and there is a significant increase in the probability of following a low-salt diet.

Session 2

Economic and Climatic Determinants of Farmer Suicide in the United States
– Qi Wu, Davis

Farming has an elevated rate of suicide in the U.S. and elsewhere. This study explores a number of hypotheses as to causal factors explaining the high farmer suicide rate, including climate change (e.g., extreme temperatures, variable precipitation) and economic factors, such as price and income volatility. Our findings show that extreme heat is positively associated with farmer suicides. There is no clear evidence of the effect of precipitation on farmer suicide in counties without irrigation. Chronic, not idiosyncratic, poor economic conditions induce farmer suicide. A better understanding of the factors contributing to farmer suicides could greatly improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention.

The Value of Relational Contracting: Evidence from China's Wholesale Vegetable Market
   – Megan Song, Davis

Trading relationships based on informal agreements (relational contracts) remain an important form of vertical coordination in agricultural supply chains. Using detailed transactional data of a large wholesale vegetable market in China, this paper makes one of the first empirical analyses of these trading relationships and quantifies the value of them.

Session 3

Testing for Factor Market Failures in African Agriculture
   – Jed Silver, Berkeley

While it has long been accepted that agricultural households in developing countries do not act as if they face a complete set of markets, identifying precisely which market(s) fail remains challenging. I develop a test specifically for the completeness of factor markets, allowing for nonseparation due to risk, credit constraints and other distortions. Using panel data from Uganda and Malawi, I find that agricultural labor intensity depends on household characteristics and rule out that this is solely driven by risk, credit constraints and other distortions apart from factor wedges.

The Impact of the 2018 Trade War on Foreign Trade of Canada, Mexico, and the United States
   – Jiayi (Carol) Dong, Davis

The study looks at the trade destruction during the trade war between the three countries in 2018 and the trade recovery after the trade war ended in 2019. The trade-war impact on import value and price is investigated and product heterogeneity is explored.

Session 4

The Effect of Weather on Field-Level Quality, Yield, and Revenue
   – Sarah Smith, Davis

We ask: has historical weather impacted the incomes of specialty crop producers through its effect on both yield and quality? The effect on quality is frequently omitted in prior work, despite quality playing an important role in contractual arrangements and price determination. Using detailed field-level data on California's processing tomato industry, our analysis overcomes selection problems that may bias estimation in other settings.