Hossein Alidaee

Northwestern Kellogg

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Fields

Research: Development, Behavioral Economics
Teaching: Development, Behavioral Economics, Economics of Networks, Econometrics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2023
Dissertation: *Essays on Social Networks in Development Economics*
Committee: Chris Udry (Co-Chair), Lori Beaman (Co-Chair), Ben Golub
M.A., Economics, Northwestern University 2017
B.A., Mathematics (Honors) and Economics, Macalester College 2013

Fellowships & Awards

Global Impact Graduate Fellow, Northwestern Buffett Institute 2022-2023
Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Northwestern Buffett Institute 2022
Doctoral Scholarship, Kellogg School of Management 2016-2022
PhD Research Grant, Kellogg School of Management 2019
Pilot Studies Grant, Northwestern Global Poverty Research Lab 2019
Outstanding Presentation Award, Joint Mathematics Meetings Student Poster Session 2013

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University 2018
Analytics for Strategy - Causal Inference (MBA)
Analytics for Strategy - Causal Inference (Undergraduate)
Preceptor, Macalester College 2011-2013
Real Analysis (Undergraduate)
Introduction to Statistical Modeling (Undergraduate)
Comparative Economic Systems (Undergraduate)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Bryony Reich, Northwestern University 2017-2019
Research Assistant, Dean Karlan, Northwestern University 2018
Research Assistant, Risk Analysis Section, Federal Reserve Board 2014-2016
Research Assistant, Lori Beaman, Northwestern University 2014-2016

Conferences

NSF Conference on Network Science and Economics 2021
Econometric Society North America Winter Meetings 2021
North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2020

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics

Job Market Paper

"How Uncertainty About Heterogeneity Impacts Technology Adoption"

Individuals can learn about new technologies through peers or through more official sources. Peers' information is often based on only a handful of experiences. By contrast, official sources, such as the government, back their information with rigorous testing. In my setting of agricultural technology adoption, government recommendations are no more effective at inducing adoption than peers. This implies that data from peers is more effective per datum. I propose that this arises because returns to technology adoption are heterogeneous based on context and individuals face uncertainty about the context where government testing took place. I confirm this mechanism using a lab-in-the-field experiment with 1,600 small and marginal farmers in Odissa, India. I also demonstrate that both survey data and results from a broad set of recent field experiments on agricultural extension are consistent with my mechanism that farmers place greater value on information with less context uncertainty.

Other papers

"Recovering Network Structure From Aggregated Relational Data Using Penalized Regression" with Eric Auerbach and Michael P Leung

Social network data can be expensive to collect. Breza et al. (2020) propose aggregated relational data (ARD) as a low-cost substitute that can be used to recover the structure of a latent social network when it is generated by a specific parametric random effects model. Our main observation is that many economic network formation models produce networks that are effectively low-rank. As a consequence, network recovery from ARD is generally possible without parametric assumptions using a nuclear-norm penalized regression. We demonstrate how to implement this method and provide finite-sample bounds on the mean squared error of the resulting estimator for the distribution of network links. Computation takes seconds for samples with hundreds of observations. Easy-to-use code in R and Python can be found at this https URL.

Works In Progress

"The Impact Of A Graduation Program On COVID-19 Resilience" with Jessica Goldberg, Dean Karlan, Mushfiq Mobarak, and Chris Udry

Endline Completed June 2022

"Social (Mis)learning: Evidence From Bangladesh" with Zack Barnett-Howell

Endline Completed April 2020

"Matrix IV" with Eric Auerbach and Isaac Loh

Programming

R, Python, Stata, Matlab, C++, C#

Languages

English (fluent), Farsi (native)

References

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