



Event and literature monitoring

2018/06-01

Realized by Priscila Malanski at 15/06/2018

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Congress

2nd International Conference on Sustainable Employability

Organized by: Securex, Ghent University, University of Liège, ICOH SC Aging and work

Co-sponsored by ICOH SC: Aging and work

Organized by SC: Aging and work

2 - 13 September 2018 - Leuven, Belgium

Links : <http://www.icohweb.org/site/events.asp#event2>

2018 Western Agricultural Economics Association

Workshop: Agricultural Labor Issues

Moderator: Diane Charlton

- Can Wages Rise Quickly Enough to Keep Workers in the Fields?
- Explaining the Growth in Agricultural Guest Worker Demand
- Labor Allocation of Beginning Farm Operator Households: The Role of Health Insurance

- The Impacts of NAFTA Revision and Heightened Immigration Enforcement on the U.S. Farm Sector, Non-Farm Sector, and Labor Market

JUNE 25, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Links : <http://www.waeaonline.org/UserFiles/file/WAEA2018UpdatedSchedule.pdf>

Modern access of transferring knowledge in agriculture

This expert meeting is being realized within the project "Open Doors" in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Serbia. The aim of the meeting is to present innovations in agro-food sector, and to transfer the knowledge from successful agro-food supply chain members towards relevant stakeholders. Several small agricultural producers (and food processors) will have a chance to present their products to more than 300 participants.

12 June 2018

Links : <https://www.iamo.de/en/events/details/expert-meeting-modern-access-of-transferring-knowledge-in-agriculture/>

Call for Papers

NARSC 2018 - Special Sessions: Agricultural Innovation, Productivity and Regional Economic Growth

With the adoption of new innovations the agriculture sector continues to change in terms of production practices and their effects of productivity. This has direct effects on the agriculture sector, but also on the broader regional economies support the agriculture sector. North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International has long been a forum where work on the evolving agriculture sector and its role in the economy has been explored.

The deadline for abstract submission is July 1, 2018.

Links : <http://s3.amazonaws.com/narsc-uploads/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/10013258/Agriculture-Innovation-Productivity.pdf>

Tags : Innovation

International workshop on System Innovation towards Sustainable Agriculture

The aim of the third SISA workshop is to bring together research insights and practical experiences in making agriculture more sustainable. The workshop will discuss these in-depth, seeking to contribute to more robust knowledge on how to stimulate transitions towards sustainable agro-food systems. The workshop will address a range of analytical methods, experiences and scientific insights of the main issues at stake in sustainability research and projects. Doing so, the meeting seeks to realize three main objectives, notably:

- Compare and contrast the issues and analysis of multi-actor innovation process, R&D practices, governance and transformative policies in various European countries;
- Provide input to rethinking government policies, socioprofessional strategies and civic concerns to contribute to sustainability transitions in the agro-food systems on the basis of existing research and experiences;
- Define the content and the agenda of the on-going SISA open consortium for further research and mission-oriented policy support.

Submission of abstract: 1 July 2018

Links : http://ifsa.boku.ac.at/cms/fileadmin/Div/SISA2018_call.pdf

Publications

Health in the rural environment: a postural evaluation of milking workers in Brazil

This study aims to evaluate the postures of workers during the activities of milking and handling dairy cattle in the Community of Campo Mourão Municipalities, in Brazil. To identify the presence of musculoskeletal symptoms, the study was divided into two stages: first, we identified the demographic profile of the sample through a questionnaire and then obtained information about problems with pain and discomfort by applying the Standardised Nordic Questionnaire. The second stage consisted of an analysis of the activity of six farms to identify the natural ergonomic risk factors. To evaluate and record the postures, we used the REBA method (Rapid Entire Body Assessment) to correlate the prevalence of pain/discomfort with the positions adopted by workers in a production system. The study demonstrated that 87% of workers had pains and showed that the main postures throughout the workday are trunk tilting and bending, characterizing a job that requires awkward postures, with a high level of effort, in most activities, which may contribute to the development of musculoskeletal injuries for these workers. The REBA method also pointed out a high level of risk. During their routine, dairy farm workers adopt harmful positions that cause a high prevalence of pain/discomfort. Ergonomic recommendations are thus proposed to reduce these awkward postures of workers and consequently improve their quality of life at work

Links : <https://doi.org/10.1051/cagri/2018021>

Tags : Health and decent work

Supporting farmers' management of change towards agroecological practices by focusing on their work: a contribution of ergonomics

The public authorities and some agricultural actors wish to develop agroecology to meet the rise of new challenges (impacts of agricultural practices on natural resources in particular). New agricultural work systems are therefore being designed, and are raising questions about the inclusion of farmers' work in the agroecological transition. Our research-action endeavours to support the development of farmers' change management. To do so, we implement a reflective tool: the "chronicle of change", which appears

to be an interesting way to initiate an “enabling intervention in change management” with farmers, and to better understand their work system.

Links : <https://www.cahiersagricultures.fr/articles/cagri/abs/2018/03/cagri170136/cagri170136.html>

Tags : Extension

Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical picture

As 2 billion of the world’s employed population make their living in the informal economy, there is an urgent need to tackle informality. Although not everyone in the informal economy is poor and there is also poverty in the formal economy, ample empirical research has shown that workers in the informal economy face a higher risk of poverty than those in the formal economy, while informal economic units face lower productivity and income. Indeed, most people enter the informal economy not by choice but as a consequence of a lack of opportunities in the formal economy and in the absence of any other means of earning a living. For all those reasons, transition from the informal to the formal economy is of strategic significance for hundreds of millions of workers and economic units around the world that are working and producing in precarious and vulnerable conditions.

Links : http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf

Tags : Gender, Rural Employment, Health and decent work

Women’s Studies in Praxis: Dr Neera Desai’s Contribution towards Developmental Work for Rural Women in Udwada, South Gujarat

Dr Neera Desai personified combination of both theory and praxis in women’s studies that sees itself as an academic discipline to improve women’s status through knowledge construction, teaching and training, documentation, research, and action. She founded Centre for Rural Development (CRD) in SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai to take the learning of women’s studies to transform women’s reality through feminist activism. CRD began its work among rural women in Udwada village of Paradi Taluka in Valsad District of Gujarat by baseline survey to identify the needs of the community. Economic programmes were initiated along with consciousness raising on reasons of subordinate status of women. Involvement of women’s rights activists and women’s studies scholars ensured dialogues on vision, mission, goals, objectives methods of mobilisation and issues to be taken up by the CRD. The interface between macroeconomic changes in the post reform period after 1991. The new industrial belt established in South Gujarat took away young women as industrial workers. In 2013, the SNDTWU authorities decided to give away the CRD to a corporate house to administer as a Corporate Social Responsibility. Nevertheless, women workers and office bearers of the CRD, mentored by Neeraben continue to be active in the development sector as trainers, CBOs, consultants, researchers, writers, elected women representatives in local self-government bodies, social workers in CSR activities and continue to uphold the ethos of CRD. Now they talk in terms of gender sensitisation, practical and strategic gender needs, gender planning and gender budgeting.

Links : <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0971521518761451?journalCode=ijgb>

Tags : Gender

Wages, Human Capital, and Barriers to Structural Transformation

We document for 13 countries ranging from rich (Canada, United States) to poor (India, Indonesia) that average wages are considerably lower in agriculture than in the other sectors. Moreover, agriculture has less educated workers and lower Mincer returns. We view these findings through the lens of a multi-sector model in which workers differ in observed and unobserved characteristics and sectors differ in their human-capital intensities. We derive expressions for the implied barriers to the reallocation of labor out of agriculture. We find that in our sample these barriers are considerably smaller than what the macro-development literature has argued.

Links : <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/mac.20160236>

Tags : Skills and training

Agricultural Productivity, Hired Labor, Wages, and Poverty: Evidence from Bangladesh

The rice yield and real agricultural wage in Bangladesh increased by 3.8% and 2.1% per annum respectively from 2000 to 2010. Over the same period, the share of hired labor in agriculture decreased from 19.4% to 15.5%. A focus of this paper is to understand if the observed changes in wages and hired labor are in part due to agricultural productivity growth as reflected in increasing rice yield. To estimate the effects of agricultural productivity, we take advantage of an Upazila (subdistrict)-level panel data set from Bangladesh and exploit variations in rainfall across Upazilas and over time. We find that a positive rainfall shock has a significant positive effect on crop yields, wages, per capita household expenditure and labor supplied to market activities (including own farming). The effect on hired labor is, in contrast, negative and statistically significant. In a standard neoclassical model, higher agricultural productivity affects wages and hired labor through labor demand; a rightward (leftward) shift increases (reduces) both wages and the amount of hired labor. The finding of a negative hired labor response to agricultural productivity growth with a higher wage thus appears puzzling. We develop a model where heterogeneity in labor supply response due to differences in productivity in home goods production can lead to a decline in hired labor when agricultural productivity increases, even though the equilibrium wage increases. Since the poor in rural areas depend disproportionately on wage labor, a decline in hired labor may be interpreted by some as evidence of adverse effects on poverty and inequality. The theoretical analysis, however, shows that the poor benefit from agricultural productivity growth even when the labor supply responses result in a decline in hired labor.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X16305733>

Tags : Hired work

Earnings, savings, and job satisfaction in a labor-intensive export sector: Evidence from the cut flower industry in Ethiopia

While labor-intensive export-oriented industries typically bring positive economic benefits to countries through employment generation, the effects of employment in these industries on various aspects of

workers' welfare are less well-studied. This paper considers the case of the cut flower industry in Ethiopia to provide such quantitative evidences. We collected workers' primary data and conducted incentivized experiments to measure their cognitive abilities, risk preference, and other behavioral characteristics. Based on propensity-score matching and doubly robust estimations to facilitate rigorous comparisons, we find that production workers in the cut flower sector earn significantly more than similar workers in other sectors, most probably due to the flower farms' interest to reduce costly worker turnovers. In addition, workers in the sector save more regularly than workers in other sectors who have similar characteristics, and the amount saved relative to the income level is also higher, after controlling for the frequency of wage payment and employment status. The subjective valuation of their jobs is also higher in the cut flower sector, particularly in terms of the income level, stability, and future prospect, but workers in the sector are not necessarily more satisfied with the type of work they do. Unlike other sectors where wage payment decreases with worker's age, wage in the flower sector does not vary with age. Risk-averse individuals are more satisfied in the cut flower sector, while work experience reduces the satisfaction level on future prospect more in this sector relative to other sectors.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X18301773>

Tags : Hired work, HRM

Recalculating the agricultural labor force in China: China

In this study, we use a hypothetical method to recalculate the agricultural labor force based on statistical data on the labor force in China. We confirm the revised agricultural labor force data by estimating the agricultural production function. Through comparing the marginal labor productivity with the subsistence level of wages in the agricultural sector, we find that the overstated figures of agricultural labor force not only result in the underestimation of agricultural labor productivity but also are misleading by indicating that China reaches the Lewis turning point later than in actuality.

Links :

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538963.2018.1458431?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Tags : Work productivity

Not your average job: Measuring farm labor in Tanzania

Understanding the constraints to agricultural growth in Africa relies on the accurate measurement of smallholder labor. Yet, serious weaknesses in these statistics persist. The extent of bias in smallholder labor data is examined by conducting a randomized survey experiment among farming households in rural Tanzania. Agricultural labor estimates obtained through weekly surveys are compared with the results of reporting in a single end-of-season recall survey. The findings show strong evidence of recall bias: people in traditional recall-style modules reported working up to four times as many hours per person-plot as those reporting labor on a weekly basis. Recall bias manifests both in the intensive and extensive margins of labor reporting: while hours are over-reported in recall, the number of people and plots active in agricultural work are under-reported. The evidence suggests that this recall bias is driven not only by failures in memory, but also by the mental burdens of reporting on highly variable agricultural work patterns to provide a typical estimate. All things equal, studies suffering from this bias would understate agricultural labor productivity.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304387817300846>

Export agriculture, transnational farmworkers, and labor resistance in the Mexico-US borderlands

This article discusses the system of export agriculture in northern Mexico and its impact on transnational farmworkers employed in both sides of the US-Mexico border. Since the late 1990s, a transnational industry producing fresh produce for consumer markets in the USA has taken hold in the San Quintin Valley in Baja California, transforming the economic and social fabric of this border region. This industry has generated a new labor regime predicated upon the employment of a flexible and cheap source of indigenous workers from the poorest states in southern Mexico. I examine the contours of this regime, the forms of labor resistance it has elicited, and the new types of labor migration it has generated by Mexican workers to the USA. As I show, indigenous farm laborers engage in novel forms of labor and political protests to claim for their rights. These developments, I argue, speak of the class formation of transnational farmworkers who, mobilizing local and transnationally, combine traditional labor demands with wider claims for their civil and political rights.

Links : <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10624-018-9491-z>

Tags : Hired work

The labor between farm and table: Cultivating an urban political ecology of agrifood for the 21st century

The variegated landscape of food production and consumption reveals a great deal about socio-natural relations and processes of urbanization and globalization under capitalism. Food production has changed dramatically over time, shifting away (but never fully divorced) from the rural agrarian landscape to spaces that are characterized as industrial and/or urban. Workers transform nature at each stage in the food production process, not only on farms but also in processing plants, grocery stores, restaurants, and other spaces. This paper draws on urban political ecology (UPE) to position labor as central to understanding the socioecological relations embodied in food systems. It puts UPE in conversation with agrarian political economy, a decidedly un-urban body of literature that nevertheless offers critical insight into the obstacles (and opportunities) that nature and labor pose to food systems development in an urbanizing world. Employing UPE's dialectic conception of humans and nature, this paper highlights the role that non-agricultural and urban-based food labor plays in an increasingly complex global political economy of agrifood. Seeing both the "labor" and "nature" of food from the farm all the way to the table can reveal the myriad transformations, exchanges, and socioecological relations operating within the food system.

Links : <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/gec3.12370>

Agriculture in Africa: telling myths from facts

This report presents the insights obtained, organized around the confirmation (fact) or rebuttal (myth) of 16 frequently held perceptions. It is found that women do not contribute 60 to 80 percent of the work in Africa's crop production, but rather less than half (40 percent in the six countries studied). And that farmers lose only 2 to 6 percent of their maize production after harvest, which stands in stark contrast to the much-touted 30 percent postharvest loss widely quoted. Sound policy design requires establishing solid facts, as well as a clear understanding of the causal links.

Links : <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/681121528784639307/Agriculture-in-Africa-telling-myths-from-facts>

Tags : Gender

Does rural development aid reduce international migration?

In recent years, interest has emerged in policy circles and among academics about the use of foreign aid to reduce international migration. Scholars have investigated this aid-migration nexus, but results have been mixed and questions remain. This paper contributes to the literature by comparing the effects of rural and urban development aid on international migration. Specifically, we hypothesize that while increases in rural development aid to developing countries reduce emigration from those countries, greater urban aid produces the opposite effect - higher rates of emigration. These hypotheses are informed by two theoretical mechanisms. The first mechanism focuses on the divergent preferences of rural and urban populations regarding emigration. Aid targeting these respective populations provides each with resources to follow through on their migratory ambitions, or lack thereof. The second mechanism focuses on contrasting impacts of rural and urban aid on agricultural sector development and the effects of this sort of development on emigration. We analyze cross-national time series data to test our hypotheses regarding rural and urban development aid, finding that countries that receive larger amounts of rural development aid have lower emigration rates. Then we turn to survey data from the Arab Barometer to assess whether the attitudes of survey respondents match our theorized mechanisms. Results from survey data suggest that investments in agricultural sector capacity building will lead to reductions in emigration from developing countries; however, these findings do not indicate that rural and urban populations differ in terms of their desire to emigrate.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X1830189X>

Tags : Migration

The Effect of Agricultural Technology on the Speed of Development

We examine heterogeneity in the elasticity of agricultural output with respect to labor. Employing panel data from 128 countries over a forty-year period we find distinct heterogeneity in the elasticity of agricultural output with respect to labor. This elasticity is lowest in countries with temperate and/or cold climate regions, and higher in countries including tropical or highland regions. This agricultural parameter determines the speed of structural change following changes in agricultural productivity or population. Calibration shows shifts in labor allocations and welfare will be 2-3 times larger in temperate regions than in tropical or highland regions.

Links : <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X16000620>

Satisfaction with interpersonal relations among employees of State Forests in Poland

The aim of this study is to assess the interpersonal relations of employees of State Forests in Poland, as well as to indicate the factors related to the level of satisfaction with the relations among people

employed in similar positions, and relations with superiors. The issues investigated were developed based on research conducted between 2014-2015 among employees of State Forests in Poland. In each of the 9 forest districts selected, 25 people were selected for testing from 3 groups of employees: foresters, deputy foresters and supervisors, together with administrative staff. Altogether, 399 people took part in the study conducted by means of a questionnaire. The study showed that the overall level of satisfaction with interpersonal relations among employees of State Forests in Poland is high. Analysis indicated that the demographic characteristics of respondents, such as age, gender or place of residence, had no significant influence on satisfaction with interpersonal relations in the workplace. However, the level of satisfaction with interpersonal relations was positively affected by a high level of overall job satisfaction and satisfaction with remuneration. Decrease in the level of satisfaction was influenced by the accumulation of stressful life events and employment in administration. Satisfaction with interpersonal relationships in the workplace is an important indicator of employee mental health. Studies have shown the need to broaden the scope of research into the variables that determine the character and personality of an employee.

Links : <http://www.aem.pl/Satisfaction-with-interpersonal-relations-among-employees-of-State-Forests-in-Poland,82539,0,2.html>

Tags : Hired work, HRM

¿De asalariados rurales a...? Acceso a la tierra en el norte uruguayo

Desde 2006 el proyecto sucroalcoholero en Bella Unión, Uruguay, dinamizó diversas experiencias de acceso a tierra por parte de asalariados rurales organizados. Este artículo analiza el caso de los trabajadores de la Unión de Trabajadores Azucareros de Artigas en la Colonia Sendic con foco en los cambios en la subsunción del trabajo en el capital. Los resultados muestran que los colonos conforman una clase híbrida que oficia de intermediaria entre la fuerza de trabajo y el capital, resultado de la imposibilidad de recrear al productor mercantil dada la forma en que se valoriza el capital en el complejo sucroalcoholero

Links : <https://www.mundoagrario.unlp.edu.ar/article/view/MAe076/9331>

Tags : Hired work

Ricos buenos, pobres dignos. Moral y poder en una empresa agroexportadora del sur santafecino

A partir de un trabajo de campo etnográfico realizado entre 2010 y 2012, este artículo aborda los mecanismos de gestión y disciplinamiento, tanto de la fuerza de trabajo como de la población rural de influencia, con los cuales una empresa agroexportadora nacional y sus dueños logran garantizarse una base social que sostiene y reproduce su posición de poder en el territorio a lo largo de más de 150 años de trayectoria. El estudio de la empresa y de la pequeña comuna rural santafecina, fundada por sus propietarios, reveló tres mecanismos principales de ejercicio del poder: la incorporación de los empleados en un sistema de relaciones de patronazgo, la creación y el control de instituciones comunitarias, y la implementación de “talleres de formación en valores” para empleados, sus esposas, docentes y otros empleados públicos. La caracterización de estos mecanismos permitirá restituir el modo de dominación de una élite rural contemporánea que, a partir de la institucionalización del par categorial rico-bueno / pobre-digno, ha sedimentado desigualdades persistentes a lo largo del tiempo.

Links : <https://www.mundoagrario.unlp.edu.ar/article/view/MAe075/9347>

Tags : Hired work