

Economic Growth Center Reach & Impact

By the Numbers (2023-24)



39
Faculty
Affiliates

4

Yale Schools Represented

- Faculty of Arts & Sciences
- Yale School of Management
- Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs
- Yale School of the Environment

\$820K

awarded by EGC in student
fellowships and research grants

RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION

41

journal
articles
published

10,800

reads across
23 research synthesis
pieces produced

16,457

attendees and
viewers across
12 events

\$10.4 million

managed in external research grants

CUMULATIVE FIGURES SINCE 2019

189

journal
articles
published

35

countries
in/on which EGC
has worked

60,000

attendees and
viewers across
63 events

621

IDE Master's
students since 2000

101

Yale College and
graduate interns

403,000

people reached through online
communications channels

MEDIA COVERAGE



Bloomberg



nature

The Indian EXPRESS

The New York Times

Newsweek



Vox

The Washington Post

Plus other outlets.

EGC History

The Center's first Annual Report in 1962 gives an account of its origins:

“Several years ago Professor Simon Kuznets proposed the establishment of a permanent research center for quantitative, comparative analysis of the long-term growth of national economies. Such a center, it was believed, could serve a variety of purposes: development of improved concepts of economic measurement; establishment of higher standards of workmanship in governmental statistical agencies and in research organizations; refinement and standardization of key measurements for many economies over extended periods of time; and the use of this material to test hypotheses about economic growth.”

EGC ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 1962



EGC would also serve as a training ground for future development researchers and policy practitioners. The Center took over management of the International Foreign Economic Administration (IFEA) program, which had been in existence since 1955, and revised it to incorporate the Center's quantitative focus. The IFEA program sent young economists and statisticians working in government in their home countries to Yale for a year of advanced training. The IFEA program was renamed the International and Development Economics (IDE) program in 1979 and EGC is still

home to the IDE one-year masters program. In celebration of EGC's 60th anniversary in 2021, the Center documented its rich history, and created an EGC historical archive that Yale students and other development researchers can access. This ongoing project has unearthed a treasure trove of stories and unrecognized research. Visit the EGC History section of our website to read the most recent articles in the series and access archival materials:



Visit the EGC website to learn more

- Meet the EGC Team
- Subscribe to the EGC Quarterly Newsletter
- Read about current opportunities: Jobs, fellowships and internships
- Apply to the International and Development Economics Masters Program
- Support EGC's work



Yale *Economic Growth Center*

*Economics and Data-Driven
Insights for Equitable Development*



Sam Vox

“The first step in attacking any problem of private or public economic policy is to ask, ‘What are the facts?’ To possess the relevant facts is not to assure that the policy decisions will be correct; but to make policy in ignorance of the relevant facts is to impose on intuition and luck a burden that these faculties are rarely able to bear...”

FORD FOUNDATION, 1960, IN ITS EGC AWARD RECOMMENDATION

About EGC

The Economic Growth Center (EGC) is Yale’s hub for economics research and teaching on issues relating to lower-income economies and advancement of their populations. EGC is housed in the Yale Economics Department and collaborates closely with entities across the University including the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies and the Jackson School of Global Affairs.

EGC was founded in 1961 with funding from the Ford Foundation as the first research center in a major US university devoted to quantitative analysis of lower-income economies. It quickly became the home of Yale’s master’s program in International and Development Economics (IDE), which continues to educate development researchers and policymakers.

Today, EGC researchers investigate the links between economic growth, structural transformation, and individual outcomes, with a focus on how inequality and a changing climate affect individuals, especially those from marginalized groups. Others look more closely at the political economy of development and how public policy can affect economic justice in lower-income settings. Many research projects are carried out in collaboration with governments and other policymakers in lower-income countries, resulting in a direct channel through which research findings benefit the lives of millions of people. The Center supports the wider research community by enabling open access to large-scale surveys conducted by its researchers. It also houses the Program in Economic History.

KEY APPROACHES



Faculty
Attract top-tier faculty to create a robust intellectual community



Students
Engage with the next generation of development researchers and professionals by providing Yale students — including undergraduates, IDE masters, and PhDs — mentoring and training



Staff
Develop a technically qualified, high-performing team at EGC



Reaching the Broader Community
Develop strategic channels to enable research insights to shape public conversations and influence public policy decisions

EGC Research

How do we enable inclusive growth? EGC brings together faculty with diverse research expertise who are producing frontier knowledge on different aspects of economic development. This knowledge is advancing our understanding of the factors constraining well-being at the individual, community, and country level. Much of this work directly contributes to policy advancement.

Data from **Costa Rica** 1973–2011 showed that land concessions to the United Fruit Company led to positive and persistent effect on living standards, in part through increasing worker mobility.

*Diana Van Patten and coauthor (2022), “Multinationals, Monopsony, and Local Development: Evidence from the United Fruit Company,” *Econometrica* 90 (6): 2685–2721.*

In school districts in **Chile**, a trial of “smart matching” platforms providing live feedback on admissions chances showed that they helped applicants search more effectively, among other benefits.

*Christopher A. Neilson and coauthors (2022), “Smart Matching Platforms and Heterogeneous Beliefs in Centralized School Choice,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 137(3): 1791–1848.*

In **Ghana**, a policy-research team will expand a program engaging parents in implementing early education programs that have been shown to improve health, cognitive development, and socioemotional skills.

*Orazio Attanasio, Costas Meghir, and coauthor (2022), “Early Childhood Development, Human Capital, and Poverty,” *Annual Review of Economics* 14: 853–892.*

In Maize markets in **Kenya**, a series of experiments revealed collusion among intermediaries and suggested that encouraging entrance of social outsiders might increase competition.

*Lauren Falcao Bergquist and coauthor (2020), “Competition and Entry in Agricultural Markets: Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” *American Economic Review* 110(12): 3705–47.*

In **India’s** Madhya Pradesh state, giving women greater digital control over their wages led them to work more and began to reduce social restriction on their ability to work outside the home.

*Rohini Pande and coauthors (2021), “On Her Own Account: How Strengthening Women’s Financial Control Impacts Labor Supply and Gender Norms,” *American Economic Review* 111(7): 1–34.*

In **China**, an analysis of a large dataset revealed the trade-offs that authoritarian regimes face between centralized control and “outsourcing” governance through local elections.

*Gerard Padró i Miquel and coauthors (2022) “The Rise and Fall of Local Elections in China,” *American Economic Review* 112(9): 2921–58.*

An analysis of **Chinese** industry showed that alleviating distortions would boost the productivity of innovation by creating the conditions for the “right firms” to invest in research and development.

*Fabrizio Zilibotti and coauthors (2022), “From Imitation to Innovation: Where Is All That Chinese R&D Going?” *Econometrica* 90: 1615–1654.*

In **Bangladesh**, the largest study on masks and Covid-19 demonstrated their effectiveness and led to adoption of the “NORM” model in countries around the world.

*Mushfiq Mobarak and coauthors (2022), “Impact of Community Masking on Covid-19: A Cluster-Randomized Trial in Bangladesh,” *Science* 375(6577): eabi9069.*

An analysis of agricultural productivity in **India** and other lower-income countries showed that consolidation of farms could lead to major gains in agricultural output and poverty reduction.

*Mark Rosenzweig and coauthor (2022) “Are There Too Many Farms in the World? Labor-Market Transaction Costs, Machine Capacities and Optimal Farm Size,” *Journal of Political Economy* 130(3): 636–680.*