

Yale *Economic Growth Center*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

*Celebrating 60 years of research and  
teaching on the economic advancement  
of lower-income countries.*





## About EGC

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

EGC was founded in 1961 with support from the Ford Foundation as the first research center in a major US university focused on the quantitative study of lower-income economies. It soon became the host for Yale's master's program in International and Development Economics (IDE), which continues to train development researchers and policy practitioners.

Today, EGC researchers examine the links between economic growth, structural transformation, and

**EGC researchers examine the links between economic growth, structural transformation, and individual outcomes, with a focus on how inequality and a changing climate affect individuals, especially those in marginalized groups.**

individual outcomes, with a focus on how inequality and a changing climate affect individuals, especially those in marginalized groups. Others directly examine the political economy of development and ask how public policy can affect economic justice in lower-income settings. Many research projects are in collaboration with governments and other policy counterparts in developing countries, creating a direct channel through which research insights 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 hosts the Program in Economic History, which supports historical analysis of economic growth in developed as well as developing countries.

# Table of Contents

- 05 From the Director
- 06 Mission & Goals
- 08 Reach & Impact
- 09 Research
- 24 Outreach & Engagement
- 28 Teaching & Mentorship
- 34 EGC's History
- 36 EGC's Team
- 37 Opportunities to Engage

## From the Director

The Yale Economic Growth Center was established through a Ford Foundation grant in 1961 with the mission to promote the “quantitative study of low-income economies.”

Since then, economic growth has pulled billions out of poverty and changed the geography of need: the majority of the world's extreme poor no longer live in the world's poorest countries as they did in 1961, but in middle-income countries marred by high inequality. Meanwhile, trends in technology and the risk of climate breakdown have narrowed the traditional pathway of poverty reduction through growth. Within-country markers of historic disadvantage such as gender, ethnicity, and race continue to predict economic disadvantage, and domestic politics still limits the sharing of resources across the globe — despite the clear need highlighted by climate-related disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic.

How should development researchers respond? This Annual Report features the many ways EGC affiliates are grappling with questions about how the gains of economic growth are to be distributed in coming years, and why institutions intended for equal distribution still permit the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of the few.

Our affiliates are analyzing changing patterns of structural transformation and, in the process, highlighting the value of a well-designed regulatory system. They are exposing the economic costs of inadequately regulated environmental hazards, and analyzing migration as a conduit for improving economic well-being — and the role of institutions in enabling this — both in today's world and over history. They are researching how poverty is transferred from one generation to the next, and testing interventions that can break that cycle. And they are responding directly to the crises of today by designing ways to reduce risk — from coronavirus transmission to harmful emissions — through small-scale interventions and national-level policies.

By creating novel datasets — an area with a long legacy at EGC — affiliates are providing quantitative answers to important questions on the determinants and distributional consequences of economic growth. They are sharing this data widely, often on our website. An ongoing EGC priority is to build out a robust data access and infrastructure resource aimed at establishing a research-oriented, open access holistic platform for data sharing and measurement on economics, politics and development.

EGC is home to several thematic research programs: the Program on Economic History continues to thrive, and a new initiative on Markets and Development is getting off the ground. Several of our initiatives are in collaboration with other centers or schools at Yale and research institutions internationally. The Latin American and Caribbean Inequality Review aims at understanding the nature, causes and consequences of that region's high inequality. Inclusion Economics explores how policy can promote inclusive and accountable institutions, and how marginalized citizens can influence political and economic systems to ensure they are responsive to their needs. We have launched research collaborations around women's economic empowerment with Kenyatta University in Kenya and on gender-sensitive Covid recovery policies with the Asian Development Bank Institute.

Pedagogy and student mentorship remain central to EGC's mission. We invest deeply in Economics PhD students focused on trade and development and we host the thriving Master's program in International Development and Economics with the anticipation that today's graduates will be tomorrow's top scholars and practitioners.

Finally, the 60th anniversary of EGC has inspired us to dig deep into the archives to better understand the trajectory of EGC's evolution. Through the EGC History Project, we acknowledge those we failed to support — such as EGC's three founding women — and learn how they and others at EGC helped shape the field of development economics and worked towards a more inclusive academic environment. We hope you enjoy the highlights on the timeline on pages 34-35 of this report and the rich history presented through the articles on key figures in the [history section](#) of our website.

It has been deeply rewarding to work with colleagues at EGC and across the University to identify ways in which we can harness the unique talents and strengths of Yale faculty and students in international development for greater impact. I thank our talented staff who have so ably supported the expansion of EGC in the last few years. The Center exists to support the research and teaching in economics of those at Yale engaged with challenges facing lower-income countries. Please feel free to [email me directly](#) with any thoughts or suggestions on our priorities and direction as we set a course for the coming years.

*Rohini Pande*

**Rohini Pande**  
Henry J. Heinz II Professor of  
Economics and Director of EGC, Yale



**EGC MISSION**

*Enable the Yale development economics community to maximize its contributions and impact*

**EGC FIVE-YEAR GOALS**

**1.**

Continued leadership as a **world-class research center** in international development with global impact via research, teaching, and policy engagement

**2.**

Make contributions to the **economic advancement** of citizens in lower-income countries

**3.**

**Further EGC faculty** contributions in research, teaching, and strategic engagement

**4.**

**Fortify EGC as an institution** both structurally and financially to build a robust and sustainable growth path ahead

*Dmitry Rukhlenko, Shutterstock*



*Julia Lockett*

**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

**CENTRAL PILLARS THAT SUPPORT OUR APPROACH**



**Strategic investments** of financial resources that can be leveraged, where possible, to bring in external funding support



**Building linkages** and synergies within the Economics Department and across the University



**Strong organizational infrastructure** that facilitates efficient operations and world-class research support

# Reach and Impact of the Economic Growth Center

## EGC by the Numbers\*

**28**

FACULTY AFFILIATES

**500+**

IDE MASTERS STUDENTS SINCE 2000

**6,000+**

ATTENDEES AND VIEWERS ACROSS 11 EVENTS



**32,000+**

REACHED THROUGH ONLINE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

**33**

YALE COLLEGE INTERNS

Over **\$3.4 million** in external research grants

PUBLICATIONS IN TOP-TIER ACADEMIC JOURNALS

**32**

PAPERS

**23+**

FOCUS COUNTRIES



**\$500k** awarded by EGC in student fellowships and research grants

\*As of July 1, 2021 and/or the year leading up to it.



## EGC Research

*How do we enable inclusive growth? EGC is unique in bringing 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. Here are highlights from current areas of EGC faculty research.*

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

## Measuring and Understanding Growth



EPoDHarvard Flickr

**OUTSIDE MANAGER PRODUCTIVITY AND FIRM GROWTH IN INDIA**

Why are the majority of firms in developing countries small and managed by families? A [study](#) by EGC faculty affiliate Michael Peters and coauthors explores how the lower productivity of outside managers might determine limits to firm growth and delegation, keeping firms small and stifling aggregate innovation and economic growth. In comparing India and the United States, the researchers create a novel model that shows how differences in the efficiency of delegating managerial tasks to outsider managers can have substantive implications for the economy. One reason productive firms in India do not grow is that outside professional managers are substantially less efficient than their counterparts in the U.S. The study finds that this low productivity of outside management reduces India's income per capita by 11%. However, there exists a strong complementarity between the quality of outside managers and other factors affecting firm growth, such as access to capital. In other words, simply increasing the productivity of outside managers is not guaranteed to help spur firm growth. *American Economic Review* 111.1 (2021): 231-75.

**WHY IS GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SO HARD TO MEASURE?**

Penny Goldberg and coauthors compare the accuracy of growth estimates in high- and low-income countries, identify measurement challenges, and propose that traditional methods can be bolstered with new technologies. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 35.3 (2021): 215-42.

**PRODUCTIVITY AND ORGANIZATION IN PORTUGUESE FIRMS**

Reorganization doesn't always create a more efficient and effective firm. Studying and understanding the internal organizational responses of firms to firm-specific and economy-wide shocks is essential to understanding the level and distribution of productivity in an economy. Lorenzo Caliendo and coauthors use detailed employer-employee matched data, as well as detailed firm production data from Portuguese firms to measure the effect of a firm reorganization on firm productivity. In doing so, they distinguish between different measures of productivity. An essential distinction is the one between revenue-based productivity and quantity-based productivity, namely, the ability of the firm to transform a set of inputs into revenue, compared to the ability of firms to transform a set of inputs into a number of units of a particular good. They find that reorganization (adding layers of management which is measured as changes in the occupational structure of firms) leads to increased quantity-based productivity and reduced revenue-based productivity. The paper's results imply that studying and understanding the internal organizational responses of firms to firm-specific and economy-wide shocks is essential to understanding the level and distribution of productivity in an economy. An implication is that in countries where reorganization is hard, either because labor markets are very rigid or because monitoring or delegating is costly, firms will not be able to reorganize and therefore will not be able to enhance their productivity and growth. *Journal of Political Economy* 128.11 (2020): 4211-4257.



INDONESIAPIX, Shutterstock

**HETEROGENEOUS MARKUPS, GROWTH, AND ENDOGENOUS MISALLOCATION**

Michael Peters proposes a tractable model of firm dynamics and endogenous market power where markups are an equilibrium outcome, providing a framework that links firm growth, markups, misallocation, and growth. Applying the model to data from Indonesia predicts that misallocation is greater and firms are smaller compared to the United States, with frictions playing an important role in preventing existing firms from entering new markets. *Econometrica* 88.5 (2020): 2037-2073.

**DATA ACCESS: MULTINATIONAL SURVEY DATA PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION CHANGES**

EGC affiliate Kevin Donovan and coauthors Will Lu and Todd Schoellmann have created an [open-access data set](#) containing quarterly results of government labor force surveys. Representing 75 million people from 45 countries, the dataset will facilitate research on the flow of workers between states of employment, including the variation of flows dependent on gender, educational level, and other factors. While a working paper ("Labor Market Dynamics and Development") has already been produced from this data, use of this data is ongoing and will be updated annually. Current collections cover the Covid-19 crisis and will be added in the near future.

## GENDER

## Enabling Women and Girls to Fulfill Their Economic Potential

### GENDERED LAWS AND WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

Penny Goldberg and coauthors offer a global picture of law-based gender discrimination vis-à-vis women's economic opportunity, reveal a large and persistent gap in pay and treatment of parenthood, and find a positive correlation between more equal workforce laws and more equal labor market outcomes for women. *American Economic Review: Insights* 2.4 (2020): 475-90

### THE EFFECT OF GENDER-TARGETED CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS ON HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES

Orazio Attanasio and coauthors study a policy intervention in the Republic of North Macedonia that offers cash transfers to poor households conditional on keeping their children in school. Municipalities were randomized as to whether program payments went to mothers or fathers. The study finds that targeting transfers to women increases household expenditure share on food by 4 to 5 percentage points and, at low levels of food expenditure, leads to a shift towards a more nutritious diet. *The Economic Journal* 130.631 (2020): 1875-1897

### A new collaboration on women's economic empowerment with Kenyatta University

In 2021, researchers at the Economic Growth Center embarked on a new collaboration with Kenyatta University in Kenya that focuses on priority questions and programs to support women's economic empowerment, including the development of a new government childcare program to enable women to work. Professor Emeritus T. Paul Schultz is a collaborator on new research on female labor force participation in Kenya. Capacity-building of local researchers is a key component of the program, deployed through Inclusion Economics (a collaboration of EGC and the Macmillan Center). This collaboration is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### Engagement with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

The Asian Development Bank Institute has approached EGC to explore a set of activities that would culminate in a conference on Enabling Gender-Sensitive Covid Recovery in Asia. Led by the Inclusion Economics initiative, the workshop would foster research-policy links and strategic policymaker engagement. The two main questions posed by the conference would be what do we know about Covid's impact on women's economic engagement throughout the region, and how can policy promote a gender-equitable recovery?

### RESEARCH IMPACT: UNDERSTANDING HOW LOCKDOWN IMPACTED INDIA'S POOREST WOMEN

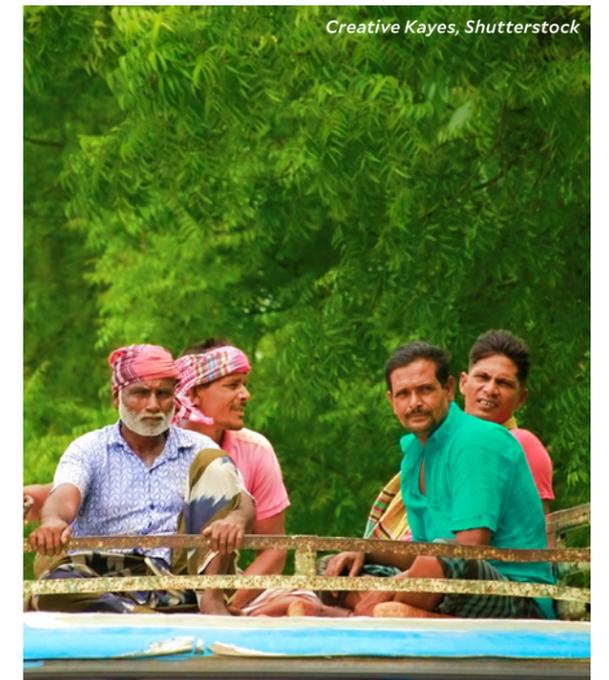
To ease economic hardships caused by the Covid-19 national lockdown in 2020, the Indian government initiated an emergency relief system that distributed cash into women's government-issued digital bank accounts. How well did this program work in a country marked by high gender gaps in financial inclusion? Rohini Pande and coauthors used administrative and survey data to show that digitally distributed relief would exclude more than half of poor women. This reflected a combination of women lacking accounts and lacking knowledge of how to operate them. Additionally, in an environment where women face significant mobility constraints, retrieval of funds from distant male-operated banking points was close to impossible for many of these women in normal times, let alone during a lockdown. In contrast, subsidized food made available through India's central food ration system would exclude much fewer. This reflected both that household ration cards were available to many more households and that visits to ration shops were more frequent. The team published an op-ed in Indian Express emphasizing the need for gender-intentional policies that go beyond just naming women as beneficiaries of a program but rather focus on designing programs that reach women who are disempowered by conservative norms.

## MIGRATION

## Understanding how Migration Empowers Individuals and Economies

### SPILOVER EFFECTS OF MIGRATION SUBSIDIES IN BANGLADESH

Every year, rural residents of Bangladesh face seasonal poverty and hunger during the agricultural lean season between planting and harvesting when jobs are scarce. If residents don't find a way to supplement their incomes, they can suffer from malnutrition. Two common coping strategies to address this uncertainty are informal insurance networks — lowering risk by sharing resources with community members — and temporary migration to urban areas for work. In a recent [paper](#), EGC affiliates Mushfiq Mobarak and Costas Meghir and Yale graduates Corina Mommaerts and Melanie Morten build on previous literature on the direct effects of encouraging migration by examining the broader interaction of such policies with community risk-sharing. The authors found that encouraging migration had a broader positive impact on society by improving risk-sharing. A program that subsidizes travel costs for some village residents improves the extent of informal risk sharing enjoyed by others in the community by 40%. This research suggests that it is vital to track both the direct and indirect effects on communities when designing social protection policy. *Review of Economic Studies* (2021)



### ADDRESSING SOCIAL NETWORKS IN MIGRATION FLOWS



Frictions that inhibit workers' mobility and restrict migration create some of the largest inefficiencies in today's global economy. A deeper understanding of the underlying forces that drive migration is necessary to design policy that is effective in mitigating these inefficiencies. Although the canonical Roy model in which migration decisions are based on payoffs at the origin and destination, as well as the cost of moving, serves as a useful point of departure for analyses of migration, it cannot explain important empirical regularities: (i) why migrants often fail to move to locations where they would be most productive, and (ii) why migrants tend to move to places where significant populations of people from their ethnic group or hometown have already settled. These discrepancies can be reconciled by adding networks, at the origin or the destination, to the Roy model. In a recent paper, EGC affiliate Kaivan Munshi synthesizes the literature on social networks and migration, constructing an analytical framework that links his own early work to the large literature on this topic that has subsequently emerged over the past two decades. Two important findings emerge from this literature: (a) Although migrant networks are initially established to reduce frictions in labor, credit, or insurance markets, the same networks can generate inefficiencies of their own; for example, by misallocating resources or by (paradoxically) restricting mobility in subsequent generations. (b) Policies that fail to account for underlying networks will be sub-optimal and can even reduce net welfare. *Annual Review of Economics* 12 (2020):503-24



## HUMAN CAPITAL

## Investing in the Education and Health of All People



Sk Hasan Ali, Shutterstock

### THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ARSENIC GROUNDWATER POISONING IN BANGLADESH

The contamination of groundwater by arsenic in Bangladesh is the largest poisoning of a population in history. While its health effects have been widely studied, the economic impacts had not been rigorously analyzed until recently. In a new [study](#), EGC Faculty affiliate Mark Rosenzweig and coauthors combine economics, genetics, and family lineages to show the direct economic effects on rural Bangladeshis. They find that arsenic levels in the body — nearly 20 times those measured in Americans — are largely detrimental to their health, further impacting their cognitive ability which in turn affects their education, levels of skilled employment and entrepreneurship. The researchers estimate that reducing the amount of arsenic in the body by half would increase the proportion of young men in skilled jobs by 24% and the number of entrepreneurs by 26%. Identifying the causal effect of this public health disaster on productivity may prove critical in creating policies to assist the people affected.

*The Review of Economic Studies* 88. 5 (2021): 2479–2526



### RESEARCH IMPACT: GHANA SCALES UP AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Early learning programs have been shown to improve development and long-term outcomes for children, yet access to quality early childhood education remains low for the poor in developing countries. Lively Minds, an NGO, piloted an education curriculum for children ages 3 to 5 to be delivered by local women in small child centers. The women running the centers are trained by local teachers, who are in turn instructed in how to conduct these training sessions by the Ministry of Education, which has collaborated with the initiative. An evaluation led by EGC faculty affiliate Orazio Attanasio and Sonya Krutikova of the Institute for Fiscal Studies found that the program had a significant impact on children's social and cognitive skills and, remarkably, on their health status. Based on these findings, Lively Minds has now partnered with the government of Ghana to expand the program to the entire northern region of Ghana over the next two years, and USAID is funding the scale-up and a larger-scale evaluation.

### RESEARCH IMPACT: TESTING WAYS TO ENCOURAGE MASK USAGE AND FIGHT THE SPREAD COVID-19

Overcoming behavioral hurdles to mask usage can be uniquely challenging in developing countries with weak information systems. EGC Faculty affiliate Mushfiq Mobarak and coauthors worked through the Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) to conduct a large-scale randomized controlled trial, comparing multiple strategies to increase mask wearing. The result was a four-part model that rapidly increased mask usage called **NORM**, which stands for No-cost mask distribution, Offering information on mask-wearing, Reinforcement, and Modeling by trusted leaders. The intervention also significantly decreased Covid-19 transmission, eliminating a third of symptomatic infections in people over 60 years old. The model is now being scaled up across Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan to reach well over 100 million people, with further scale-up coalitions emerging in Mexico, Uruguay and Sierra Leone.

### PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In a [study](#) led by EGC faculty affiliates Orazio Attanasio and Costas Meghir, an intervention encouraging low-income families in Colombia to stimulate their toddlers with play and involve them in household activities improved cognitive and socio-emotional skills development. While the benefits of early-childhood programs are well established, this study is the first to build a model to explain why such programs are effective. The researchers find that the increases in child cognitive and socio-emotional skills resulting from the program can be almost entirely explained by parents' increased amount of quality time with children and investment in learning materials such as toys and books, as opposed to the weekly home visit intervention itself. Furthermore, micronutrient supplements given during the intervention have no effect on children's cognitive development, showing that nutrition in the early age window of 1.5-3.5 years was not the main hindrance to cognitive development in this context. With one of the largest samples ever to examine the effects of programs stimulating childhood development, this study's results underscore the importance of parental engagement and promoting early and continuous investment in children's development.

*American Economic Review* 110.1 (2020): 48–85



Lively Minds

### MEASURING HUMAN CAPITAL USING GLOBAL LEARNING DATA

Penny Goldberg and coauthors build a globally comparable database to address the lack of an international metric for learning. They find that despite increased school enrollment, global progress in learning has been limited, and they estimate the role of human capital in explaining income differences across countries.

*Nature* 592.7854 (2021): 403–408.

## ENVIRONMENT

## Understanding and Addressing Climate Breakdowns

### THE CONSEQUENCES OF TREATING ELECTRICITY AS A RIGHT

Nicholas Ryan and coauthors argue that shortages in electricity provision in developing countries arise from treating electricity as a right, describing a four-part process that results in a low-quality, low-payment equilibrium where market forces no longer govern the power supply and even those willing to pay for electricity cannot obtain it. He explains the research in an [EGC interview](#). *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 34.1 (2020): 145-69.



The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)

### RESEARCH IMPACT: COLLABORATION LEADS TO THE LAUNCH OF NEW EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM IN INDIA

Indian policymakers are collaborating with EGC researchers to test new ways to reduce the country's high air pollution, which has harmed the health of many Indians. Rohini Pande and Nicholas Ryan collaborated with the environmental regulator in the state of Gujarat and colleagues from the Energy Policy Institute at University of Chicago and the Jameel Poverty Action Lab to [design and test the impact of an emissions trading system \(ETS\)](#) to reduce factory emissions in the state. This is the world's first ETS for particulate air pollution and among the first emissions markets of any kind in a developing country. Preliminary results show a 24% reduction in pollution in participating factories. These findings led another Indian state, Punjab, to launch its own program on June 5, 2021, with the potential to provide cleaner air for over 20 million people. Additionally, the research program may provide insights on how developing countries can implement limits on carbon emissions as part of the global response to climate change.

### Samuel Kortum

Sam Kortum's research has focused largely on international trade and recently expanded to the design of green policies that may be efficient in lowering global carbon emissions in the absence of a uniform international carbon price. Read the [full interview](#).



## TRADE &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## How Does Trade Between and Within Nations Affect Growth and Poverty Reduction?

International trade is a key focus area of EGC, with about one-third of EGC's faculty affiliates conducting research on trade. EGC provides a variety of grants, fellowships, and other research support to faculty and students engaged in topics relating to international trade. The EGC also provides support for the [Program in International Trade](#) at the Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics, a sister research center also at the Yale Department of Economics, as part of its efforts to foster collaboration across Yale to further scholarship on questions facing low-income countries. The program is led by Lorenzo Caliendo, Professor of Economics at Yale's School of Management (SOM). The International Trade group at Yale extends across the department and the School of Management and includes faculty who work on theoretical, empirical, and quantitative trade models, trade policy, political economy, and international finance. There are weekly International Trade Workshops at which faculty from Yale and other universities and advanced graduate students present new work, along with weekly International Trade Lunches where Yale faculty and graduate students present work in early stages.

### A NEW FRAMEWORK TO UNDERSTAND TRADE SHOCKS

Costas Arkolakis and coauthors propose a new approach to quantitatively analyzing the patterns and impact of international trade shocks. Their framework unifies existing models for trade, economic geography, "gravity" (or the forces that influence trade), and general equilibrium theory, then uses the unified model to estimate the impacts of a US-China trade war — while also providing a toolkit for other economists to operationalize their novel approach. *Journal of Political Economy* 128.2 (2020)



### MARKETS AND DEVELOPMENT: BREAKING BARRIERS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS



Krisda, Shutterstock

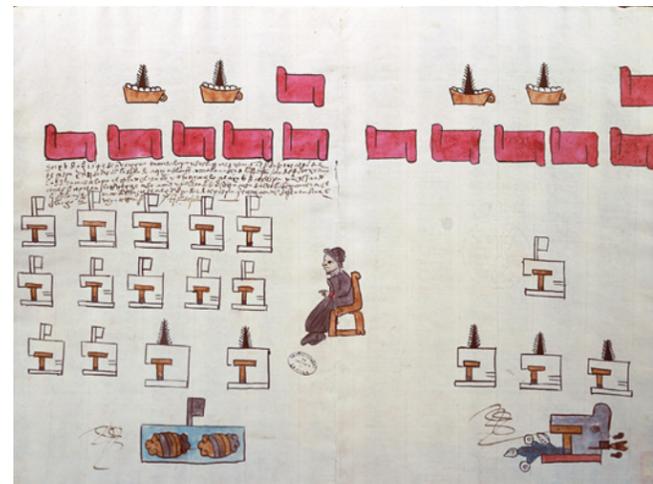
Some of the most important policy issues facing developing countries relate to how the structure and function of markets shape firm growth. Yet empirical research on firm decisions and market outcomes in this context remains nascent. This knowledge gap partly reflects field specialization within economics: Industrial Organization (IO) examines how market structure affects market outcomes, but largely focuses on rich countries as IO economists often lack a contextual understanding of developing-country markets and regulatory structures, as well as an entry point for data collection. Meanwhile, development economists only rarely employ the empirical IO toolkit to understand market structure or equilibrium. A new Markets and Development research initiative, led by Amit Khandelwal, Penny Goldberg and Nicholas Ryan, will bring together methods and questions of both fields to produce a deep understanding of developing-country markets that can both be tied to micro-empirical evidence and local institutions, and also extended to a broad set of market design and policy issues.

ECONOMIC HISTORY

# What Can We Learn from the Paths of Economic Development over History?

## THE PROGRAM IN ECONOMIC HISTORY

The Program in Economic History at the Economic Growth Center fosters research into economic history. It is currently led by Timothy Guinnane, the Philip Golden Bartlett Professor of Economic History at Yale, who has held the position since 2013 (Guinnane also directed the program from 2008-10). The program is devoted to the study of the development of economies throughout history, and uses the tools of economics and econometrics to understand various past economies and to reflect upon the influence of earlier developments upon modern economies. Economic history is an enduring interest of a number of the Economic Growth Center's faculty affiliates, who convene in weekly seminars and other events. The program also supports PhD students at Yale who are developing their research topics in these areas.



## RESILIENCE THROUGH HISTORY

In April 2021, the Program in Economic History hosted an event on "[Resilience Through History](#)". Organized by faculty visitors Shari Eli of the University of Toronto and Maggie Jones of the University of Victoria, the conference highlighted current research concerning how groups of people deal with change, broadly construed. The research presented pertained to such diverse subjects as the lasting effects of mass incarceration, the impacts of the slaughter of the buffalo upon indigenous peoples, and the implications of slum clearance projects within 20th century American cities. Trevon Logan of Ohio State University offered the opening remarks, which concerned the subject of "Race and Stratification in the Economy". The conference was representative of the enduring interests of the Program in Economic History, particularly in engaging with the responses of populations to crises.

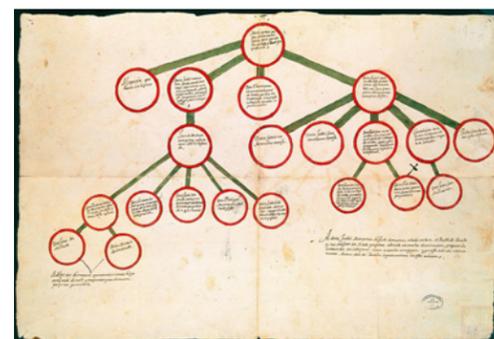


Photo Credit: Portal de Archivos Españoles (PARES)

## CREATING A NEW LEGAL FORM: THE GMBH

The GmbH, introduced in Germany in 1892, was a model for the small, limited-liability enterprise forms that are now part of the legal code in most countries. A paper by Timothy Guinnane studies the legal, economic, and political forces that led the German government to introduce this institutional innovation.

*Business History Review* 2001 95(1):3-32.



Paul Hoeniger, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## INSIGHTS FROM HISTORY

### TRACING THE HUMAN CAPITAL OF MIGRANTS TO MODERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Modern nations in the Americas have vast economic differences: in 2013, Bolivia's per capita income was \$1,300, while the US state of Texas' was \$34,000 per person. Existing research has traced these differences to the colonial era and established that human capital (an intangible but significant asset) was influential to later economic development. What the connection between human capital and economic development is, however, is not clear.

EGC faculty affiliate José Antonio Espín Sánchez, an economic historian, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to look at records of forced and voluntary migration to the Americas to estimate the human capital brought to the region by Spain and its migration networks. The project is the first of its kind, and will culminate in a database that will allow researchers to view the origin and destination of every migrant, estimations of human capital, and historical and contemporary indicators. In line with the EGC's core initiative to provide data access to a broad range of researchers, a version of the project will be available to the public via a website hosted by the Center. The website will provide an overview of the research database, short essays summarizing various findings, excerpted primary documents, and maps illustrating main origin and destination points for migrants. This project and grant proposal were made possible by seed funding from an EGC faculty grant.

### Naomi Lamoreaux

The economic historian's recent work has focused



on the evolution of antitrust regulation in the US over the past century, how policy can address the dominance of today's tech giants, and the ways in which economic history speaks to international development. Read the [full interview](#).

“It is not an understatement that we would not have been able to do the pilot program, and get the NSF grant, without the support of the EGC.”



JOSÉ ANTONIO ESPÍN SÁNCHEZ

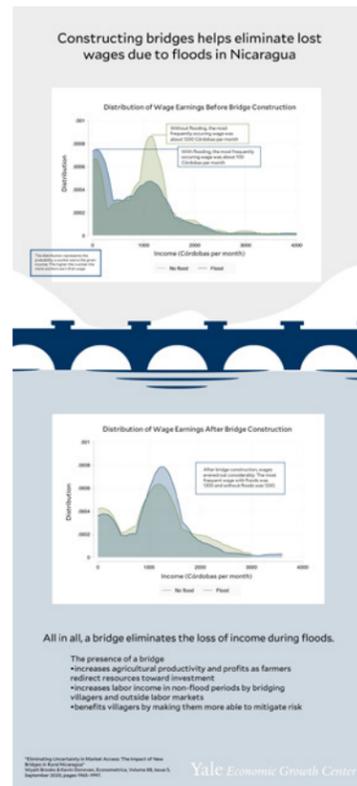
INSTITUTIONS & THE STATE

# The Interplay of Market and Non-Market Institutions, and the Voice of the People

## ELIMINATING MARKET-ACCESS UNCERTAINTY IN NICARAGUA BY BUILDING BRIDGES

Many residents of flood-prone areas of rural Nicaragua face uncertain economic futures each season due to an unpredictable loss of access to urban areas. In a new [paper](#), EGC faculty affiliate Kevin Donovan and his coauthor examine the role of footbridges in providing rural households reliable access to larger and higher-paying urban labor markets. They find that bridge construction increases integration, leading to substantial positive economic impact on rural economies, eliminating the loss of income experienced during times of floods and increasing income in non-flood periods. The paper underscores the increased benefits of rural integration in the context where income is derived both from farming and labor markets — a common feature of households in developing countries. The researchers find that building footbridges increases welfare by 11% as flood-related unpredictability is reduced and consumption increases. Moreover, the paper analyzes the spillover effects of improved access to the labor market on the agricultural economy and shows that bridges might have a compounding positive impact: not only does labor income rise, but agricultural investment increases along with increased profits.

*Econometrica* 88.5 (2020):1965-1997



## CAN DEMOCRACY WORK FOR THE POOR?

While considerable poverty-alleviation aid goes to low income countries, the majority of the world's poor now live in middle income democracies. Rohini Pande proposes that interventions designed to help poor citizens of such countries must go beyond direct assistance and also work to improve democratic institutions so vulnerable populations can pressure their representatives to undertake redistributive policies.

*Science* 369.6508 (2020): 1188-1192.

## DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA: PARENTAL BACKGROUND AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

Gerard Padró i Miquel and coauthors extend the investigation of intergenerational entrepreneurial transmission to countries with a strong state presence, hypothesizing that in such countries those whose parents are government workers have a greater likelihood of becoming business owners. Using evidence from China, the study demonstrates the importance of the local business environment in influencing the effect of parental background on business ownership.

*Journal of Development Economics* 151 (2021): 102670.



## CAN NETWORK THEORY-BASED TARGETING INCREASE TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION?

Mushfiq Mobarak and coauthors investigate the role of social relationships as vectors for spreading the adoption of new technologies in the context of agriculture in Malawi, finding that diffusion of productive investments can be accelerated by targeting information to central nodes in social networks.

*American Economic Review* 111.6 (2021): 1918-43.

# Faculty Research Support

EGC provides a variety of support to Faculty affiliates to help catalyze research on problems facing lower-income countries, including research incubation grants and specialized in-kind support for proposal development and complex grant management.



Julia Lockett

## TARGETED SUPPORT FOR JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH

In the Fall of 2021, EGC launched an expanded competitive grants program for Junior Faculty. As noted by EGC faculty grant recipient Professor José Antonio Espín Sánchez: “I think this type of grant, both for graduate students and junior faculty alike is a great way to facilitate exploratory and somewhat risky projects that seem promising. A grad student lacks the resources, and a junior faculty would hesitate to use all their available resources in this type of pilot project. With the help of a small grant, the pilots can be conducted. Even if only some of them result in a big grant or a top publication, the investment in the early stages is worth it.”

“EGC provides amazing support for new research that often involves complex field work in developing countries, such as collecting data and evaluating specific interventions that could be deployed at scale. The Center fosters an environment where this research can grow in new and original directions, not only through administrative and financial support, but also through a supportive intellectual environment.”



**ORAZIO ATTANASIO, COWLES PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS**

## Cross-Cutting Research Initiatives

EGC hosts research initiatives that pull together affiliates and other collaborators from across the University to advance groundbreaking research agendas. We actively fundraise to ensure continued support for these efforts.



greenbutterfly, Shutterstock

### DATA ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: OPENING DOORS FOR AMBITIOUS RESEARCH ON INSTITUTIONAL POVERTY

High fixed costs of data collection may discourage ambitious research agendas in international development — and researchers often lack resources to make these datasets, once collected, easily available for public use. Generating data and then making it publicly accessible is a key public good that EGC aims to provide development researchers and practitioners across the globe. EGC is investing seed funding in this endeavour, while raising additional resources to establish a research-oriented, open-access holistic data platform for data sharing and measurement on economics, politics, and development.

### INEQUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A CALL TO ACTION

EGC Affiliate Orazio Attanasio, Ana de la O Torres (Yale Political Science) and co-authors have launched a new initiative entitled the “Latin American and Caribbean Inequality Review” aimed at understanding the nature, causes and consequences of Latin America’s persistent high inequality to provide a basis for action intended to make the region more equitable. The initiative is a partnership between EGC, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the London School of Economics (LSE), and the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). To learn more visit [the initiative’s webpage](#).



David Sasaki, Flickr

## EGC-Macmillan Joint Venture: Inclusion Economics

### INCLUSION ECONOMICS: BUILDING A WORLD WHERE RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE ENSURE ECONOMIC JUSTICE, SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

There is enough wealth in the world, at least on paper, to end extreme poverty. But without access to the tools of advancement — information, social networks, education, healthcare, finance, protection from exploitation, and effective democratic influence — it is extraordinarily difficult for the poor to climb out of poverty, and, if they do, it is too easy to fall back. Inclusion Economics at Yale University is a new policy-engaged research initiative in collaboration with the Macmillan Center that will work to inform the design of institutions that will include the excluded and allow the poorest to make a permanent escape from poverty. IE’s work will focus on innovative data collection, cutting-edge research, close engagement with stakeholders, and communication of data-driven insights to strengthen the democratic voice of the poor.



Ishan Tankha

### INCLUSION ECONOMICS INDIA: A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE WITH KREA UNIVERSITY IN INDIA



In 2020, Inclusion Economics India Centre at Krea University (IE India) was formally established and linked with the Inclusion Economics (IE) initiative at Yale University. IE Yale comprises researchers based at the EGC and the MacMillan Center, in collaboration with colleagues at other universities, and the initiative is seeking opportunities to work with researchers from other schools and disciplines across the University. In an unprecedented year, the global IE team was able to conduct remote surveying to produce crucial research related to the pandemic. These spanned research into the efficacy of government social schemes to the impact of the pandemic on marginalized communities of migrant workers.



### RESEARCH ON NEPAL’S GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITIONS WITH GOVERNANCE LAB IN NEPAL

In 2021 researchers at the Governance Lab in Nepal, in collaboration with the Economic Growth Center and the London School of Economics, continued their research into the impact of federalism on democratic institutions in Nepal. In the context of the pandemic, their research provided key insights into the prioritization of health financing and the impact of Covid on gender violence. In the coming year, the team will expand their focus to assess the impact of infrastructure projects in rural areas of this geographically challenging country. This collaboration is funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office’s South Asia Research Hub.

# Outreach & Engagement

*A component of EGC's work is translating research for a broader audience and engaging with those audiences to enable research insights to spark new conversations, build support for policy innovation, and generate momentum for positive policy change.*



## 30TH ANNUAL KUZNETS MEMORIAL LECTURE

To watch the video from the Kuznets Lecture 2020 with former World Bank Chief Economist and EGC Faculty Affiliate Penny Goldberg visit [here](#). Read about the new next day Kuznets mini-conference through the voices of Professors Amit Khandelwal and David Atkin [here](#).

Julia Lockett

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### ENGAGING IN THE DEBATE

EGC faculty affiliate Penny Goldberg has published pieces that provide an economics perspective on various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her paper "[The Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Emerging Market and Developing Economies: An Optimistic Preliminary Account](#)" in the Summer 2020 *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* showed that contrary to expectations, the direct health and economic effects of the pandemic were more muted in low-income than in advanced countries in the short run; however, in the long run, developing countries are expected to pay a much higher price. Her related opinion piece "[The Problem with the Covid Convergence](#)" in January 2021 discussed the global reduction of inequality between countries resulting from the virus's disproportionately negative effects on richer countries. Her November 2020 article "[What Covid Is Costing Women](#)" argued that the economic impact of Covid-19 is gendered and will limit the economic prospects of women. And in May of 2021 she published "[Forget the Vaccine Patent Waiver](#)", which argued that patent protections were not the primary cause of the vaccine-supply bottleneck, but, rather, that it was a problem of mobilizing available production-capacity — which requires an entirely different policy response.



## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

### TAPPING INTO THE VAST RESOURCE THAT IS THE YALE ECONOMICS COMMUNITY



Dr. Patrick Njoroge, Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (Yale Economics PhD '93).

In April 2021, EGC hosted a series of events that brought together an array of alumni from the IDE program and Yale Economics. The series was opened by a [keynote conversation](#) with Dr. Patrick Njoroge, Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (Yale Economics PhD '93) and Professor Tavneet Suri (IDE MA '01 and Yale Economics PhD '06) on technology and financial inclusion. Throughout the week, IDE students, alumni, and admitted students participated in research talks by IDE graduates who are now professors at leading universities across the US, including: Susanna Berkouwer of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania (IDE '13), Jonas Hjort of Columbia Business School (IDE '06), Namrata Kala of MIT's Sloan School (IDE '07), Nick Tsivanidis of Berkeley Haas Business School (IDE '10). The week concluded with a [virtual panel](#) discussion on Brazil's economy, featuring EGC Affiliate Ana Cecilia Fielner and Edmar Bacha (IDE '65, Yale Economics PhD '68) a prominent Brazilian economist who was a part of a group of economists that came up with a plan based on a virtual currency, Units of Real Value (URV), that successfully slowed Brazil's rampant inflation and helped turn the economy around in the 1990s.

## REACHING NEW AUDIENCES WITH RESEARCH

EGC affiliates regularly adapt their work to mainstream media in order to inform public discourse on vital policy issues.



**The New York Times:** Mushfiq Mobarak and coauthor Niccolò F. Meriggi discussed how Sierra Leone was using measures developed during Ebola outbreaks to reduce the spread of Covid-19 — and argued that other developing countries could follow suit.



**The BOLD Podcast:** Orazio Attanasio discussed his research on childhood development and asserted that for children to reach their full potential, adults need to understand their mental, biological, and emotional needs.



**VoxDev:** Michael Peters and Fabrizio Zilibotti and coauthor Timothy Fan explained how their research in India shows that growth fueled by the services sector can be a viable development strategy for developing countries, but that the fruits might disproportionately benefit the rich.

## THE YALE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUES

## Economic Policy Lessons from History

In 2020, the EGC launched a series of virtual panel discussions, [The Yale Development Dialogues: Economic Policy Lessons from History](#), in partnership with the South Asian Studies Council at the MacMillan Center, and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. The series convenes economists, historians, journalists, and policymakers to apply insights from history and economics to the most pressing policy issues confronting developing countries. So far, the Yale Development Dialogues series has reached over 2,500 viewers.

THE URGENCY FOR ACTION AT COP-26:  
What will a fair deal look like?

VIRTUAL PANEL  
**10.05.2021**  
12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM EST

PANELISTS  
John Haldon   Rohini Pande  
Sunita Narain   Nicholas Ryan

MODERATOR  
Catherine Cheney

The Yale Development Dialogues: Economic Policy Lessons from History are hosted by the Yale Economic Growth Center, the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and the Department of History. Registration: <https://cutt.ly/YDD9p>

Yale

**“Aid, power & plague: Lessons from history & practice on foreign aid responses”** explored the political economy of aid in South Asia from the 20th century to the present, featuring David Engerman, a Yale history professor whose book *The Price of Aid: The Economic Cold War in India* discusses how superpowers turned to foreign aid as a tool of the Cold War.

**“Migration in crisis: Insights on Covid-19 from past pandemics”** explored the effects of pandemics — past and present — on migrants and other vulnerable groups in South Asia.

It featured Charity Troyer Moore, director for South Asia Economics Research at Yale MacMillan Center, and Kavita Sivaramakrishnan, a Columbia University professor focused on global public health history and South Asian history.

**“Equitable Vaccine Distribution: Insights on Covid-19 from past public health emergencies”** explored vaccination efforts from history to shed light on the current challenge of equitable vaccine distribution both across and within countries. It featured Caitjan Gainty, a historian

of 20th century medicine and technology at King’s College London, and Saad Omer, the inaugural director of the Yale Institute of Global Health.

Since the 1970s, if not earlier, it has been taken for granted that there is a trade-off involved between environmental protection and development. **“Green pathways out of poverty? The conflicts and synergies between poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation”** asked whether it’s time to redefine development. Given the gravity of the climate crisis and

the particular risk it poses to the world’s poorest people, are there also synergies to be harnessed between those two goals? Julie Livingstone of Columbia University, whose latest book explores the concept of “self-devouring growth,” joined the discussion.

**“Aid, geopolitics, and power: Are human rights back on the international aid agenda?”** asked what a renewed emphasis on human rights might mean for poverty reduction in a world of extreme inequality. The panel included Melissa Dell, a Harvard University economics professor whose work focuses on long-run economic development, and Samuel Moyn, a Yale Law School and Yale University professor and author of *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*.

**“Sustainable Development on an Urbanizing Planet”** focused on the features of cities that are most conducive to sustainable development, and on those that are not. The panel included Kate Brown, a professor at MIT who is currently exploring the history of “plant people,” and Edward Glaeser, a Harvard University professor whose research focuses on cities, economic growth, law, and economics.

**“Climate Change and Global Development: Net-Zero after Covid-19?”** explored how to manage natural capital in order to reverse environmental destruction. The panel featured Dieter Helm, an Oxford University professor who advises the United Kingdom and other governments on climate policy and whose latest book *Net Zero: How We Stop Causing Climate Change* addresses what steps are needed to tackle the climate emergency.

## INSPIRATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUES FROM THE CO-CREATORS

“Development, in a sense, is always in crisis — has been since the Second World War. Fashions change, ideas change, and at any moment there are proponents of radical new ways of doing development, and then there are profound critics. And there are many ways of looking at development. Economists look at it in almost a numerical fashion, historians in terms of its links to power, and practitioners, the actual problems of getting anything done on the ground. What I love about these dialogues is the way that they bring all those different voices together and expose the gaps between theory and practice.”

**RORY STEWART, FORMER UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (2019), SENIOR FELLOW AT THE YALE JACKSON INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS**



“So it was the coming together of quite a few overlapping interests, and a realization that there wasn’t a forum for historians and economists and policymakers to talk to each other about the issues of pressing concern to the Global South and the whole developing world. On top of that, we all shared a wish to knit together these pockets of expertise at Yale, then reach out to the wider world from there. In that sense, it has been a real joy to see how many Yale colleagues across institutions all came together and found synergies and many points of productive intersection.”

**SUNIL AMRITH, RENU AND ANAND DHAWAN PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, YALE**



“Our hope in starting the Development Dialogues was to spark debate, and I hope that that continues to be the case in the coming year. We would love to see many people engage with us, give us ideas on what we should talk about, who we should invite — and, importantly, help challenge mainstream thinking on what works and what doesn’t work in development. The aim of having voices from multiple disciplines from history and economics and to bring them together with policy practitioners, is really to create an environment where we learn from each other but also we challenge each other.”

**ROHINI PANDE, HENRY J. HEINZ II PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AND DIRECTOR OF EGC, YALE**



# Teaching & Mentorship



Julia Lockett

*Yale undergraduates are leaders of the future; IDE Masters students gain skills and analytical frameworks at Yale that they take to policy and academic positions in governments, think tanks, and top universities around the world; and Yale PhD students affiliated with EGC become thought leaders in economics and policy. For the short time students are all at Yale, there is an opportunity to inspire, engage, and connect them with some of the brightest minds in development economics.*



## EGC: A HOME BASE FOR PHD STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

EGC faculty serve as PhD advisers for students, providing mentorship to ensure each is able to fully reap the benefits and resources that Yale has to offer in the program. Students attend development seminars, lunches, and other events hosted by EGC to actively engage with faculty, visiting researchers, and others on the newest research and methods in their fields. EGC provides fellowships in a coordinated effort with the Economics Department and Graduate School to ensure full funding for all Econ PhD students, with a notable portion supported by the Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund (SYLFF) and the Carlos Alejandro Diaz Memorial Fund.

## SASAKAWA YOUNG LEADERS FELLOWSHIP FUND (SYLFF) FELLOWS

Selected each year as outstanding PhD students in development economics and trade.

### 2020-21 Fellows

- Julian Aramburu
- Nathan Barker
- Lucas Conwell
- Rodrigo Guerrero Castañada
- Ryungha Oh
- Antonia Paredes Haz

### 2021-22 Fellows

- Lucas Conwell
- Robert Finlay
- Anisha Grover
- Rodrigo Guerrero Castañada
- Antonia Paredes Has
- Matthew Schwartzman
- Wei Xiang

### The following PhD students also received Syfff Research Grants in AY20-21:

- Anisha Grover, "Policy and Resource Allocation: Fertilizer Use in India"
- Jonathan Hawkins-Pierot, "Financial Institutions and Financial Inclusion in India"
- Antonia Paredes-Haz, "Legal Mandates, Information and Political Representation of Women: Evidence from Gender Quotas in Chile"
- Lucas Zavala, "More than a Technicality: Technical Barriers to Trade and International Market Structure"

## PHD CLASS OF 2021: DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND ECONOMIC HISTORY



Daisuke Adachi



Eduardo P. Fraga



Marcos Ribeiro Frazao



Martin Mattsson



Kritika Narula



Lucas Zavala

# The Masters Program in International and Development Economics (IDE)



## THE IDE EXPERIENCE: IMMERSION IN ECONOMICS, COMMUNITY, AND PRACTICE

The [International and Development Economics \(IDE\) program](#) is a top-performing masters program in economics with a focus on development and policy that offers pipelines to top economics PhD programs and quantitative policy positions. Led by Director Michael Boozer, the program celebrates its 65th year in 2021, bringing together a strong focus on high quality technical training and mentorship to support the unique professional path of each student.



## HANDS-ON LEARNING

Opportunities for analytical RA positions both during and after the program further build students' skills in research. The aim of the [IDE-EGC Research Assistantship Program](#) is to provide students with hands-on, skill-building experience as a research assistant while also supporting the broader work of EGC and relevant faculty research.

## IDE RA SPOTLIGHT

### RHEA GUPTA

Rhea Gupta worked in a team with Yale Professor and former Chief Economist of the World Bank Penny Goldberg. As a Research Assistant, Gupta helped evaluate how reliable national growth statistics were in developing countries.

“The research assistantship program at Yale was a great way to work with qualitative data on macroeconomics. It enhanced my interest in the economics of growth.”



**RHEA GUPTA, POVERTY AND EQUITY TEAM, WORLD BANK (IDE '20)**

## IDE JOB PLACEMENTS

Graduates from the International and Development Economics one-year masters program generally enjoy an impressive job placement record, with many international graduates taking advantage of the OPT work visa program to apply their new technical skills in US-based positions.

Organizations that hired IDE students upon graduation in 2020 and 2021 include:

- Boston Consulting Group
- Busara Center for Behavioral Economics - Nairobi, Kenya
- China International Capital Corporation
- Development Innovation Lab, University of Chicago
- Harvard Business School
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- McKinsey & Company
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Singapore Civil Service
- World Bank Group

## IDE: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In the 2020-21 academic year, the IDE program launched a [Research to Policy Seminar series](#) with EGC faculty. Alumni appreciated engaging in discussions on the interface of academic research and policy relevant analysis, which is rare in academic seminars, and how uniquely IDE these discussions were. This close-knit interaction is a hallmark of the IDE program.

## 2021 SPEAKERS FROM IDE'S ALUMNI

A special thanks to the following IDE alumni for participating as speakers in virtual events throughout the last year:

- Edmar Bacha (Yale Economics '68, IDE '65), Founding Partner and Director at Casa das Garcas Institute for Economic Policy Studies
- Susanna Berkouwer (IDE '13), Assistant Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania
- Diva Dhar (IDE '08), Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Aletheia Donald (IDE '12) Economist at the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab
- Joans Hjort (IDE '06), Gary Winnick and Martin Granoff Associate Professor of Business at Columbia Business School
- Namrata Kala (IDE '07), W. Maurice Young Career Development Professor of



- Management and Assistant Professor in Applied Economics at MIT Sloan School of Management
- Dr. Patrick Njoroge (Yale Economics '93), Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya
- Sreelakshmi Papenini (IDE '11), Economist at the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab
- Tavneet Suri (Yale Economics '06, IDE '01), Louis E. Seley Professor of Applied Economics and Associate Professor of Applied Economics at MIT Sloan School of Management
- Nick Tsivanidis (IDE '10), Assistant Professor at Berkeley Haas Business School

## EGC Undergraduate Internships

In 2020-21 EGC engaged 33 Yale college interns who conducted data analysis for faculty research, helped produce events, and wrote a wide variety of communications pieces. They worked closely with faculty members in ways that informed their academic and career decisions.



Andrew Hurley, Yale University

“...I got exposure to all steps in the development economics research process, from sitting in on interviews with potential surveyors, to data cleaning, to research for a literature review, to communications and reports. There was an emphasis on getting the research results out to the people who can use them effectively.



BILAL MOIN '24

“Beyond the great practice in interviewing, research and writing, my favorite part of the internship was seeing my work really honor the women who paved the way for the rest of us in economics, at Yale and beyond.



LISA QIAN '20

## Supporting Students in the Times of Covid

The 2020-21 academic year was challenging for students as they grappled with the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic. EGC continued student research breakfasts and lunches and created new ways to help students deal with the challenges brought out by the campus closure, job search constraints, and additional financial burdens.

### COVID-SUPPORT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS PROGRAM

As the end of the 2019-20 academic year approached, it became clear that IDE students' usual career trajectory would be disrupted by Covid-related travel and hiring freezes. To support IDE students, EGC offered a summer Research Assistantship program that gave them the opportunity to extend their job-search timelines while contributing to priority research projects for EGC and faculty affiliates. This resulted in a 100% placement record for IDE 2020 graduates, at institutions including the World Bank, the Energy Policy Institute, the Development Innovation Lab, MIT Sloan, and international governments.



Andrew Hurley, Yale University

“The collaboration was a great experience... They were very approachable and interested in making sure that I learned. The internship gave me experience that helped me to get this job.



VALENTINA GOETZ, IDE '20, RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR NAMRATA KALA, MIT SLOAN

### EGC UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS ADAPTING QUICKLY TO A NEW COVID REALITY



With the onset of the pandemic, the Yale administration worked to connect students who had lost summer internship opportunities with researchers who were seeking to staff Covid-related projects. An EGC-based research group hired nine undergraduate students to spend the summer of 2020 processing survey data and assisting in building a dashboard that provided Indian policymakers with important information to understand the crisis and mitigate its effects on the poor. This project was covered by [YaleNews](#) as a valuable opportunity for students and a timely and policy-relevant project in itself.

“It was exciting to be there as it happened. The dashboard helped ministers and officials get a much better idea about where they needed to send resources to help migrant workers. Our work helped inform policymakers about what sorts of actions they needed to take.

MICHAEL CHANG '21

# EGC's History

In celebration of EGC's 60th anniversary in 2021, the Center is documenting its rich history, and building an EGC historical archive available to Yale students and other development researchers. The aim is to identify and recognize the people

who made up EGC — the founders, faculty, students, and visitors — to understand how their ideas helped shape development economics at Yale and beyond, and to contribute to the picture of the history of the discipline more broadly.

This project has already uncovered a wealth of stories and underrecognized research. It has also convened past members of the EGC community and given them a chance to reconnect with the Center, Yale, and each other.

## HONORING THE WOMEN WHO SHAPED EGC

Mariam Chamberlain, Mary Reynolds, and Nancy Ruggles were part of the founding team of EGC — and scholars, pushing boundaries in the early 1960s. However, due to discriminatory rules of the time, they were excluded from the academic career track. [A series of EGC profiles](#) in 2020-21 uncovered their contributions and also told the stories of other Yale women who argued for greater equity in the economics profession. In Sept 2020, EGC hosted a [virtual panel discussion](#) to bring some of them together to discuss what has changed in academia, and what still needs to be done.

## 2008 – 2010

Program in Economic History formally established at EGC.

EGC launches large-scale surveys in Tamil Nadu, India and Ghana.

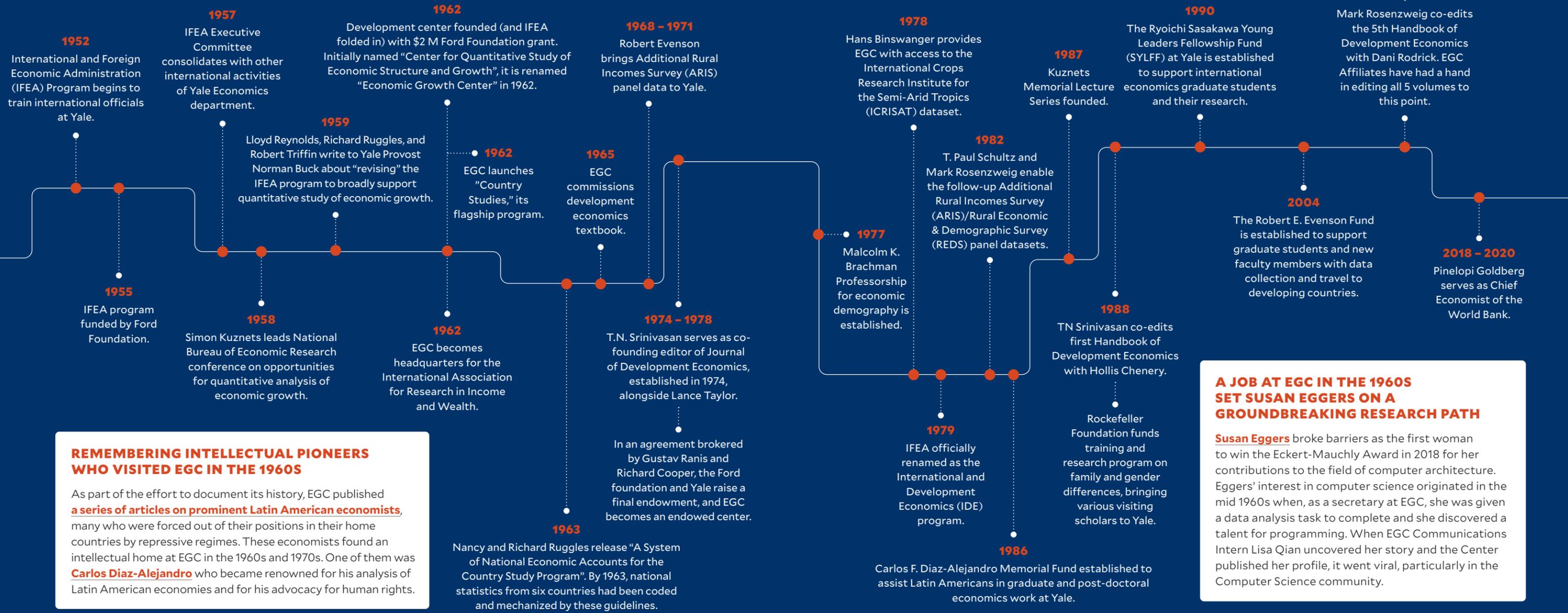
Mark Rosenzweig co-edits the 5th Handbook of Development Economics with Dani Rodrick. EGC Affiliates have had a hand in editing all 5 volumes to this point.

## 2018 – 2020

Pinelopi Goldberg serves as Chief Economist of the World Bank.

## A JOB AT EGC IN THE 1960S SET SUSAN EGGERS ON A GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PATH

[Susan Eggers](#) broke barriers as the first woman to win the Eckert-Mauchly Award in 2018 for her contributions to the field of computer architecture. Eggers' interest in computer science originated in the mid 1960s when, as a secretary at EGC, she was given a data analysis task to complete and she discovered a talent for programming. When EGC Communications Intern Lisa Qian uncovered her story and the Center published her profile, it went viral, particularly in the Computer Science community.



## REMEMBERING INTELLECTUAL PIONEERS WHO VISITED EGC IN THE 1960S

As part of the effort to document its history, EGC published [a series of articles on prominent Latin American economists](#), many who were forced out of their positions in their home countries by repressive regimes. These economists found an intellectual home at EGC in the 1960s and 1970s. One of them was [Carlos Diaz-Alejandro](#) who became renowned for his analysis of Latin American economies and for his advocacy for human rights.

## EGC DIRECTORS

**1961 – 1967**  
Lloyd G. Reynolds



**1967 – 1975**  
Gustav Ranis



**1976 – 1983**  
Hugh Patrick



**1983 – 1992**  
T. Paul Shultz



**1992 – 1993**  
Gustav Ranis



**1993 – 1996**  
T. Paul Shultz



**1997 – 2000**  
Robert E. Evenson



**2000 – 2005**  
Christopher Udry



**2006 – 2019**  
Mark R. Rosenzweig



**2019 – NOW**  
Rohini Pande



## The EGC Team

### FACULTY

- Costas Arkolakis, Professor of Economics
- Orazio Attanasio, Cowles Professor of Economics
- Michael Boozer, Director, International and Development Economics Program & Director of Graduate Studies, IDE Program
- Lorenzo Caliendo, Professor of Economics
- Kevin Donovan, Assistant Professor of Economics
- José Antonio Espín Sánchez, Assistant Professor of Economics
- Ana Cecilia Fielor, Lecturer
- Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, Elihu Professor of Economics and Professor of Management
- Timothy Guinnane, Philip Golden Bartlett Professor of Economic History and Director, Program in Economic History
- Gerald Jaynes, A. Whitney Griswold Professor of Economics, African American Studies, and Urban Studies
- Robert T. Jensen, Professor of Economics; Director of the Program on Social Enterprise
- Samuel Kortum, James Burrows Moffatt Professor of Economics
- Naomi Lamoreaux, Stanley B. Resor Professor of Economics & History; Chair, History Department
- Giovanni Maggi, Howard H. Leach Professor of Economics & International Affairs
- Costas Meghir, Douglas A Warner III Professor of Economics
- Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Management and of Economics
- Kaivan Munshi, Professor of Economics
- Guillermo Noguera, Senior Lecturer in Economics
- Gerard Padró i Miquel, Professor of Economics and Political Science
- Rohini Pande, Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director, Economic Growth Center
- Michael Peters, Assistant Professor of Economics
- Mark Rosenzweig, Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics
- Nicholas Ryan, Assistant Professor of Economics
- Peter K. Schott, Juan Trippe Professor of International Economics
- T. Paul Schultz, Malcolm K. Brachman Professor Emeritus
- Tony Smith, William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Economics and Departmental Chair
- Aleh Tsyvinski, Arthur M. Okun Professor of Economics
- Diana Van Patten, Assistant Professor of Management
- Fabrizio Zilibotti, Tuntex Professor of International and Development Economics

### VISITING FACULTY

- Ceren Baysan, University of Essex, Visiting Assistant Professor
- Maggie E.C. Jones, University of Victoria, Visiting Assistant Professor
- Yusuf Neggers, University of Michigan, Visiting Assistant Professor

### CORE TEAM

- Catherine Cheney, Communications Adviser
- David Cowell, Senior Program Manager
- Deanna Ford, Senior Adviser
- Benjamin King, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Emma Lambert-Porter, Senior Research Manager
- Greg Larson, Writer
- Vestal McIntyre, Senior Staff Writer & Communications Specialist
- Dorothy Ovelar, Administrative Director
- Scott Runner, Senior Administrative Assistant EGC & IDE Program
- Noel Sardalla, Senior Administrative Assistant

### EGC FELLOWS & OTHER RESEARCHERS

- Sarah Danner, Postgraduate Associate
- Nils Enevoldsen, Consultant for Data Administration
- Fikremariam Gedefaw, Postgraduate Associate
- Vineet Gupta, Postgraduate Associate
- Ganesh Karapakula, Consultant for Data Administration
- Sun Kyoung Lee, Postdoctoral Fellow
- Daniela Morar, Research Team, Postdoctoral Fellow
- Diana Katherine Perez Lopez, Postgraduate Associate
- Marie-Rose Tonguino, Postgraduate Associate
- Balasai Vanukuri, Postgraduate Associate

“The most motivating component of my work at the EGC is — far and away — the chance to work with such incredible researchers conducting meaningful, impactful work to improve the lives of the historically marginalized across the globe. In my interactions with EGC staff, fellows, and faculty, there’s a tangible drive to not only conduct the research, but to also build on that evidence to effect real change. This became even more evident throughout the era of the pandemic, as our researchers strove to find the answers to questions most useful to policymakers and local stakeholders.



**DAVE COWELL, SENIOR PROGRAM AND GRANTS MANAGER**

## Advisory Committee

EGC’s Advisory Committee serves as a sounding board and advisory council for the Director in her role as the Center’s director, providing valuable perspectives on a range of topics related to the Center’s strategic direction.

### EGC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Orazio Attanasio, Cowles Professor of Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Dirk Bergemann, Douglass and Marion Campbell Professor of Economics and Professor of Computer Science
- Steven Berry, David Swensen Professor of Economics and Jeffrey Talpins Faculty Director of the Tobin Center for Economic Policy at Yale
- Judith Chevalier, William S. Beinecke Professor of Finance and Economics, Yale School of Management
- Alan Gerber, Dean of Social Science; Charles C. & Dorathea S. Dilley Professor of Political Science; Professor in the ISPS, of Economics, and of Public Health
- Pinelopi Goldberg, Elihu Professor of Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Marina Halac, Professor of Economics; Director, Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics
- Naomi Lamoreaux, Stanley B. Resor Professor of Economics and History, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics, Yale School of Management and Department of Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Kaivan Munshi, Professor of Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Gerard Padró i Miquel, Professor of Economics & Political Science, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Mark Rosenzweig, Frank Altschul Professor of International Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Kenneth Scheve, Dean Acheson Professor of Political Science and Global Affairs
- Tony Smith, Departmental Chair of Economics and William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate
- Steve Wilkinson, Nilekani Professor of India and South Asian Studies; Professor of Political Science and International Affairs; Professor in the Institution for Social and Policy Studies; and Henry R. Luce Director, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
- Fabrizio Zilibotti, Tuntex Professor of International and Development Economics, EGC Faculty Affiliate

## Opportunities to Engage

### Newsletter

To stay updated on new research insights, policy events and other EGC news, visit the EGC website and subscribe to the quarterly newsletter. <https://egc.yale.edu>

### Join the EGC team

Contribute to the advancement of international development research and teaching within a vibrant organizational environment by joining the EGC team. <https://egc.yale.edu/opportunities/jobs-research-fellowships>

### Research Fellowships

Work in collaboration and under the mentorship of leading economics faculty through pre- and post-doctoral research fellowships and other research positions at EGC. <https://egc.yale.edu/opportunities/jobs-research-fellowships>

### Internships for Yale Undergraduates

EGC offers a variety of opportunities for undergraduates at Yale to work with the faculty and contribute to development economics research on pressing policy issues and translation of that work for the public and policy communities. <https://egc.yale.edu/opportunities/internships-yale-undergrads>.

### Apply for the International Development Economics Masters Program

The [International and Development Economics \(IDE\) program](https://ide.yale.edu) is a top-performing Masters program in economics with a focus on development and policy that offers strong pipelines in top Economics PhD programs and quantitative policy positions. <https://ide.yale.edu/prospective-students-requirements>

### Support EGC’s work

To learn more about how to contribute and shape EGC’s work, please visit: <https://egc.yale.edu/contribute>.

# #EGC at 60

Yale Economic Growth Center 1961-2021

## *Physical*

Yale Economic Growth Center  
27 Hillhouse Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511

## *Website*

[egc.yale.edu](http://egc.yale.edu)

## *Mailing*

Yale Economic Growth Center  
PO Box 208269  
New Haven, CT 06520-8269

## *Email*

[egc@yale.edu](mailto:egc@yale.edu)

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) @YaleEGC

On the cover: Residential housing in Mahul, a suburb of Mumbai, with chemical factories and refineries in the background. Photos by Ishan Tankha.