

Propositions

Attached to the thesis

Essays on the Effects of Informal and Formal Protection Arrangements: Evidence from Burkina Faso and Rwanda

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1. Informal risk sharing which violates actuarial fairness poses an obstacle to enterprise development. (Chapter 2)
2. In contexts where sharing is motivated by insurance and not by pure egalitarian norms, the introduction of a formal insurance mechanism, such as health insurance is likely to have positive investment effects beyond the direct effects of the insurance. (Chapter 2)
3. In low-income countries, a gradual, bottom-up approach to the implementation of a national health insurance scheme is likely to be more sustainable than schemes that follow a big push approach. (Chapter 3)
4. Lower survival rates of insured children from poorer backgrounds, do not stem from adverse health care behaviours and decisions but are a representation of poor living conditions and a lack of resources. (Chapter 3)
5. As long as social protection programmes provide only short-term relief in rural areas, it is unlikely that they will contribute to a sustainable, structural transformation away from subsistence agriculture to off-farm employment. (Chapter 4)
6. Economic research too often fails to analyse and understand the interdependencies between actors, institutions and markets.
7. Economic research too often fails to challenge the conventional wisdom and instead looks to confirm one's prior beliefs.
8. Economic research is too often satisfied with learning that an intervention works or fails but neglects to investigate how and why an intervention works or fails.
9. A strong focus on the identification of causal effects in economic research often leads to a neglect of the underlying policy questions.
10. Economic research tends to suffer from pretence of knowledge embedded in models which are based on assumptions that are often unlikely to hold but are sold as if they should always be valid.
11. There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.