

High-End Technology in the Developing World

PDEL
Policy Design and Evaluation Lab

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Gordon Hanson Craig McIntosh

CURRENT RESEARCH

Innovative technology and rigorous empirical research bring policy solutions to developing countries

For too long, debates in development policy have been based on ideology or heuristic measures of what works. By making development research more scientific, we can debunk ineffective strategies and deliver real, practical solutions to those in need. The Policy Design and Evaluation Lab (PDEL) of the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), at UC San Diego, combines rigorous empirical research with novel technology to design policies and programs that alleviate poverty; promote health, welfare, and security; and enhance accountability. Led by Drs. Eli Berman, Gordon Hanson, and Craig McIntosh, PDEL is currently working to improve African food markets by establishing digital trading platforms accessible by phone SMS from rural Africa. In a large-scale randomized controlled trial, this digital trading platform will allow farmers to post grains and buyers to post prices by texting. A backend matching algorithm will bring supply and demand together where regional food markets are largely disconnected due to lack of shared information.

The kind of research and innovation being developed at PDEL is made possible through extensive and robust collaborations across the campus, the nation, and the globe. PDEL has catalyzed an interdisciplinary team consisting of prominent researchers from multiple universities, the UC San Diego division of Calitz, and computer scientists in Africa. This intersection of rigorous research and innovative technology is at the core of what PDEL does, bringing together social scientists, computer scientists, and public health practitioners at the intersection of technology and socio-economic reformation. A second research focus at PDEL is providing tools for mobile election...

AFFILIATION

 University of California, San Diego

RESEARCH AREAS

Humanities, Economics, Informational Sciences / Internet, Poverty & Equality

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the Policy Design and Evaluation Lab at UC San Diego to build high technology tools for rigorous studies which improve the livelihood of people in developing countries. Donations will help create fellowships for Ph.D. and graduate students to pursue ongoing projects, and fund development of UCSD-based software platforms requiring 60K. Bigger donations will help support household surveys for the Uganda market linkages study. Partner with PDEL to bring technology where it is most needed!

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