

# PPE Research Seminar Series

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Research Seminar Series provides a forum for eminent scholars across these disciplines to present their work in a flexible format with faculty and students.

## The Birthweight Gains from Trade: Chinese Imports and Infant Health in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Abstract:** A growing number of papers has focused on the impact of Chinese manufacturing imports in developed economies such as the United States and western Europe. However, less is known about the impact on developing economies, especially in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa, even though the magnitude of China-Africa bilateral trade has increased by almost 10 times since the early 2000s. Unlike advanced economies, Chinese imports to Africa are taking place at the time when the region is yet to experience a structural transformation away from agriculture and has an incipient manufacturing sector. Thus, the increased trade with China could have differential impacts on health outcomes compared to negative effects observed in advanced economies. We find evidence supporting this claim using a sample of over 350,000 births from 25 countries in Sub-Sahara Africa. Our identification strategy relies on the comparison of siblings from the same mother who were born at different levels of Chinese imports to their country. We find that increased exposure to Chinese imports led to large gains in birthweight. This finding is robust to several specifications and is mainly driven from improvements among children born to less-educated mothers.



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**Fri. April 15th | 3:00–4:30 p.m. PST**  
**Virtually via Zoom, Advanced Registration**

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