Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale

Faculty Member: Mushfiq Mobarak

Proposal Description:

The science of evaluating small-scale programs is well developed. However, complexities can arise when we want to know the impact of large scale programs that operate across entire districts, states, or countries:

1. **Political Economy Effects** | Scaling a program can affect the political behavior of policymakers, politicians, and voters, with implications for the effectiveness of the program.
2. **Spillover Effects** | In addition to the individuals directly targeted by the program, programs affect non-beneficiaries through channels such as social networks or changes in prices.
3. **Evidence Aggregation, External Validity, and Generalizability** | Initial research may show that an intervention is promising. However, outside its original evaluation context, an intervention may have more null, nuanced, or negative results.
4. **Macro, Growth, and Welfare Effects** | The changes in individual behavior caused by a program can, at scale, have larger impacts on the overall economy.

This project will involve reviewing the literature and writing on the above-listed topics as well as several promising programs that are candidates for large-scale implementation.

**Requisite Skills and Qualifications:**

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**Award:** Lisa Qian  
Min-Byung Chae  
Kueho Choi  

**Tobin Application Link:** [Tobin Application](https://economics.yale.edu/undergraduate/tobin/spring-2019/yale-research-initiative-innovation-and-scale-0)

**Project Type:** Tobin RA  
**Project Type Year:** Spring 2019 Tobin Research Projects  
**Project Year:** 2019  
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