

PROPOSAL: EFFECTS OF NUTRITIONAL SHOCKS ON CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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There are large literatures in economics, epidemiology, public health and associated disciplines that show associational evidence of positive impacts of nutrition during childhood on long term economic and health outcomes. Few causal estimates are available, though, due to issues of self-selection and omitted factors that jointly determine nutrition and health outcomes. One important exception to this is a set of studies that use quasi-experimental methods to examine the unanticipated Dutch Winter Famine during the Nazi occupation in World War II to show long term impacts on individual in utero during this period on measures of adult mental health status. This project will build on this and other work by using data from a field experiment in rural Bangladesh that offered incentives for men to migrate during the pre-harvest season famine in order to find additional employment opportunities. The induced migration of the male heads of household led to a large increase in the caloric intake of children, 700 calories per day, during what is typically a famine environment. This project collected follow up data on health status of the children and other household members, including a variety of illness measures. The primary question is whether these large nutritional increases are related to health at follow up. See additional information about the project here:

<http://www.som.yale.edu/faculty/am833/monga.htm>

The student will help organize the data and conduct a general background literature review in the area of nutrition and health, and perform statistical analyses. Knowledge of STATA is required.

The student will learn how to use large, secondary datasets, learn how to collect and summarize relevant background literature, learn how to work with statistical software packages and how to apply statistical techniques, including regression analysis and quasi-experimental methods, to an economic research question.