

MASYHUR A. HILMY

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2023 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays in Development Economics*

Dissertation Committee: Samuel Bazzi, Daniele Paserman, Joshua Goodman

M.Sc., Astronomy, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, 2012

B.Sc., Astronomy, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Bandung, Indonesia, 2009

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Political Economy

WORKING PAPERS

“[Remittances, Economic Development, and Education Investment](#)”, September 2022. Job Market Paper.

“[Religion, Education, and Development](#)”, (with S. Bazzi and B. Marx), August 2022, Revise and Resubmit, *Econometrica*.

“[What Determines Online Charitable Giving to Pandemic Victims? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Choice Overload & the Deservingness of Beneficiaries](#)”, (with G. Lim & Y. E. Riyanto), Oct 2021.

“[The Impact of Sending Top College Graduates to Rural Primary Schools](#)”, June 2022, Asian Development Bank Institute Working Paper 1328.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Improving the Link between Vocational Schools and Industry: Evaluation of Teacher Training in Indonesia” (with C. Garro-Marín)

“Demand Effects in the Field” (with S. Bazzi, B. Marx, M. Shaukat, and A. Stegmann)

“Building State Capacity at Scale: Impacts of Training Local Officials in Indonesia” (with S. Bazzi, B. Marx, M. Shaukat, and A. Stegmann)

“Education Investments in Colonial Dutch East Indies”

“Working Longer: The Effects of Raising the Retirement Age for Indonesian Civil Servants”

“Can Anti-Corruption Norms Be Taught?” (with S. Bazzi, B. Marx, M. Shaukat, and A. Stegmann)

PRESENTATIONS

2022: NEUDC (scheduled)

2021: NBER Economics of Culture and Institutions Spring Meeting*, NEUDC*, AIFIS Michigan State University, WIDER Conference United Nations University, ADB Institute

2020: CILIS Univ. Melbourne, NBER Development Economics Summer Institute*, NEUDC*

2017: Raskin Reform Inter-Ministerial Meeting (Indonesian Ministry of Development Planning)

2016: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Workshop (Bandung), Sustainable Coffee Platform of Indonesia/SCOPI Workshop (Jakarta), Expert Meeting on Expansion of Informal Sector Enrollment to National Health Insurance (Universitas Gadjah Mada), Generasi Impact Evaluation Inter-Ministerial Workgroup Meeting (Bappenas)

2014: Australian Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Jakarta), Social Security Agency Health/BPJS Kesehatan (*: coauthor presenting)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Rosenstein-Rodan Prize runner up for the Best Graduate Student Paper on Development Economics, Boston University Department of Economics, 2022

J-PAL Governance Initiative and J-PAL Southeast Asia IRF Grant, Building State Capacity at Scale: Impacts of Training Local Officials in Indonesia (US\$100,000 and US\$261,948), with S. Bazzi, B. Marx, M. Shaukat, and A. Stegmann, 2021

Weiss Fund and J-PAL Southeast Asia IRF Grant, Improving the Link between Vocational Schools and Industry (US\$44,447 and US\$25,500), with C. Garro-Marín, 2020-2021
BU Institute for Economic Development, The Determinants of Altruism (US\$1,720), with G. Lim and Y. E. Riyanto, 2021
Duolingo Language Impact Award (US\$10,000), 2021
World Bank Knowledge for Change Program, Institutional Strengthening for Improved Village Service Delivery (US\$102,265), with S. Bazzi, B. Marx, M. Shaukat, and A. Stegmann, 2020
Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences/BITSS, Research Transparency & Reproducibility Training, 2020
Weiss Fund, Exploratory Fieldwork for Education Research in Indonesia (US\$6,607), 2019
BU Institute for Economic Development, Manuel Abdala grant (US\$4,400), 2019
Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2019
Japanese Government Scholarship, 2009-2012

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA)
Research Manager (2016-2017), Senior Research Associate (2015), Research Associate (2014)
Teacher, Indonesia Mengajar, 2012-2013

REFEREE EXPERIENCE: *Labour Economics, Economic Modelling, Singapore Economic Review, International Journal of Public Opinion Research*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Economics of Less-Developed Regions, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2022
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2021, Summer 2022.
Teaching Facilitator, Introduction to Evaluations and Randomized Evaluations, J-PAL SEA Course, University of Indonesia, 2017
Teaching Facilitator, Evaluating Social Program, J-PAL SEA Course, University of Indonesia (2016) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (2015)
Teaching Facilitator, Mixed Methods Research Training Workshop, Indonesian Ministry of Development Planning, 2015
Training Facilitator, Indonesia Regional Studies Association, Universitas Udayana, 2015

SERVICE

Mentor, GAIN/Graduate Application International Network (2021), Indonesia Mengglobal (2021), Boston Partners in Education (2019-2020)

LANGUAGES: Indonesian (native), English (fluent), Javanese, Japanese (basic)

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, R, SAS, Matlab, LaTeX, Git, Fortran, IDL

CITIZENSHIP: Indonesia

REFERENCES

Professor Samuel Bazzi

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of Global Policy and Strategy
University of California, San Diego
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Professor Daniele Paserman

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Boston University
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Wheelock College of Education
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Remittances, Economic Development, and Education Investment (Job Market Paper)

Remittances, money sent by overseas migrants, hold great potential to spur development in their area of origin. However, remittances may have adverse effects if the state responds to the remittance flow by reducing public investments in the area of origin. Using arrival records of returning migrants and administrative data of school establishments, I identify the effects of remittances on development indicators and education investments in Indonesian districts. Remittances improve development indicators such as GDP per capita and household expenditures and reduce poverty rate. Households send more children to school, and district governments increase public schools at the primary and junior secondary levels. I observe a consistent pattern for other public goods that complement household investments. These responses are not driven by electoral concern or the capture of economic gain through taxation. Instead, my results suggest the state's responses to remittances are influenced by their pre-existing policy commitments and changes in government accountability.

Religion, Education, Development

(with Samuel Bazzi and Benjamin Marx)

Over the course of development, state and non-state actors compete in the provision of public goods. We focus on the case of mass schooling and develop a new theoretical framework to understand how states take over education markets at the expense of alternative providers. We apply this model to a primary school expansion policy in 1970s Indonesia that aimed to homogenize and secularize education, at odds with a longstanding and largely informal Islamic school system. Using novel administrative data, we identify dynamic effects of the policy on education markets. Funded through growth in charitable giving and informal taxation, Islamic schools entered new markets, formalized, and introduced more religious curriculum to compete with the state. While primary enrollment shifted towards state schools, religious education increased overall as Islamic secondary schools absorbed increased demand for continued education. Exposed cohorts are not more attached to secular values and instead report greater religiosity. Our findings offer a new perspective on the consequences of education reforms and the persistence of dual institutional systems across numerous settings.

What Determines Online Charitable Giving to Pandemic Victims? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Choice Overload & the Deservingness of Beneficiaries

(with Gedeon Lim and Yohanes E. Riyanto)

In response to disasters, online giving can be an important source of aid, especially in developing countries with weak social safety nets. Yet, in these contexts, there is little evidence on the optimal way to elicit donations. We investigate the impact of randomizing choice set size and beneficiary characteristics on the propensity and size of donations in the context of a Covid-19 mutual aid platform in Indonesia. We find that users assigned to a smaller choice set of potential beneficiaries are more likely to donate. Remarkably, we find no significant decrease in the amount transferred per donation. We also find that donors are more likely to donate to self-reported breadwinners and females. Our results suggest that donors are susceptible to choice overload.