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THE HANDBOOK OF MICROFINANCE

edited by
Beatriz Armendáriz • Marc Labie




About the Editors

Beatriz Armendáriz is a lecturer in economics at Harvard University, and a senior lecturer at University College, London. She is also a research affiliate at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, a research associate at Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMi–Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)) in Belgium, and sits on the board of reputed organizations like Grameen Crédit Agricole Microfinance Foundation and YouthSafe and WaterLex. Her current research includes field work on microfinance and gender empowerment with researchers from the Innovations for Poverty Action (Yale and Harvard).

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edited by **Beatriz Armendáriz** (Harvard University, USA)
& **Marc Labie** (Université de Mons, Belgium)

Key Features:

- Consists of diverse views and opinions from American and European-based scholars on broad issues that are pertaining to microfinance
- Addresses a common concern pertaining to context-specific challenges for reaching out to a potential clientele of unbanked individuals who are finding limitations to meet their financial needs via microfinance
- Provides clarification on common misperceptions regarding governance, empirical analysis using cross-country data, mission drift, double bottom line, finance of agriculture, gender issues, savings and technology, social entrepreneurship, and ethics

The *Handbook of Microfinance* gathers selected work from academics and field practitioners. In an attempt to understand the enormous gap between the limited number of clients that are currently benefiting from microfinance services, and the huge number of potential clients that are not, the selected contributions in this handbook have one common thread: the prevailing mismatch between demand by clients of microfinance institutions and potential clients selecting themselves out for their demand for a wider array of financial products is not being met.

The scope of the book is wide. It includes successes and failures, main challenges and debates, methodologies for impact evaluation via random trials, leading trends in Asia versus Latin America, main efforts in Africa, the importance of value chains in Central America, ethical and gender issues, savings, microinsurance, governance, commercialization trends and the potential advantages and disadvantages of it. Lastly it features main lessons from informal finance and 19th-century credit cooperatives addressing the above-mentioned mismatch.

Readership: Researchers interested in Microfinance, graduate students and advanced undergraduates in economics, social sciences or development, interested in microfinance.

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Contents

Introduction

- **Introduction and Overview: An Inquiry into the Mismatch in Microfinance**
Beatriz Armendáriz (Harvard University, USA & University College, London, UK) & Marc Labie (Université de Mons, Belgium)

Part I: Understanding Microfinance Practices

- **Microfinance Evaluation Strategies: Notes on Methodology and Findings**
Dean Karlan (Yale University; Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA); Financial Access Initiative & MIT, USA) & Nathanael Goldberg (Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), USA)
- **Spanning the Chasm: Uniting Theory and Empirics in Microfinance Research**
Greg Fischer & Maitreesh Ghatak (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)
- **The Early German Credit Cooperatives and Microfinance Organizations Today: Similarities and Differences**
Timothy W. Guinnane (Yale University, USA)
- **Understanding the Diversity and Complexity of Demand for Microfinance Services: Lessons from Informal Finance**
Isabelle Guérin (Institute of Research Development, France; French Institute of Pondicherry & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium), Solène Morvant-Roux (Fribourg University, Switzerland; Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) & Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMI), Belgium) & Jean-Michel Servet (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland)
- **Ethics in Microfinance**
Marek Hudon (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; SBS-EM, Centre Emile Bernheim, Belgium; Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMI), Belgium & Burgundy School of Business, France)

Part II: Understanding Microfinance's Macro-Environment and Organization Context

- **Microfinance Trade-Offs: Regulation, Competition and Financing**
Robert Cull, Asli Demirgüç-Kunt (The World Bank, USA) & Jonathan Morduch (New York University & Financial Access Initiative, USA)
- **Oversight is a Many-Splendored Thing: Choice and Proportionality in Regulating and Supervising Microfinance Institutions**
Jay K. Rosengard (Harvard University, USA)
- **The Performance of Microfinance Institutions: Do Macro Conditions Matter?**
Niels Hermes (University of Groningen, The Netherlands & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium) & Aljar Meesters (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)
- **Microfinance in Bolivia: Foundation of the Growth, Outreach and Stability of the Financial System**
Claudio Gonzalez-Vega & Marcelo Villafani-Ibarnegaray (The Ohio State University, USA)
- **Microfinance — A Strategic Management Framework**
Guy Stuart (Harvard University, USA)
- **What External Control Mechanisms Help Microfinance Institutions Meet the Needs of Marginal Clientele?**
Valentina Hartarska (Auburn University, USA & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium) & Denis Nadolnyak (Auburn University, USA)
- **Corporate Governance Challenges in Microfinance**
Marc Labie (Université de Mons, Belgium; Harvard University, USA & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium) & Roy Mersland (University of Agder, Norway)

Part III: Current Trends Toward Commercialization

- **Corporate Responsibility Versus Social Performance and Financial Inclusion**
Jean-Michel Servet (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (Paris); the French Institute of Pondicherry, India & the Center for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium)

- **The Importance of the Link Between Socially Responsible Investors and Microfinance Institutions**
Erna Karrer-Rüedi (Credit Suisse, Zurich, Switzerland.)
- **On Mission Drift in Microfinance Institutions**
Beatriz Armendáriz (Harvard University, USA & University College, London, UK) & Ariane Szafarz (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)
- **Social Investment in Microfinance: The Trade-Off Between Risk, Return and Outreach to the Poor**
Rients Galema (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) & Robert Lensink (University of Groningen; Wageningen University, The Netherlands & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium)
- **Efficiency**
Marek Hudon (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; SBS-EM, Centre Emile Bernheim, Belgium; Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMI), Belgium & Burgundy School of Business, France) & Bernd Balkenhol (International Labor Organization (ILO), Switzerland)
- **Social and Financial Efficiency of Microfinance Institutions**
Carlos Serrano-Cinca (University of Zaragoza, Spain), Begoña Gutiérrez-Nieto (University of Zaragoza, Spain & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium) & Cecilio Mar Molinero (University of Kent, UK)

Part IV: Meeting Unmet Demand: The Challenge of Financing Agriculture

- **Is Microfinance the Adequate Tool to Finance Agriculture?**
Solène Morvant-Roux (Fribourg University, Switzerland; Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) & Centre for European Research in Microfinance (CERMI), Belgium)
- **What is the Demand for Microcredit? The Case of Rural Areas in Serbia**
William Parienté (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium & The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), France)
- **Rural Microfinance and Agricultural Value Chains: Strategies and Perspectives of the Fondo de Desarrollo Local in Nicaragua**
Johan Bastiaensen (University of Antwerp & European Programme Microfinance, Belgium) & Peter Marchetti (Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences & FDL, Guatemala)

Part V: Meeting Unmet Demand: Savings, Insurance, and Aiming at the Ultra Poor

- **Women and Microsavings**
Beatriz Armendáriz (Harvard University, USA & University College, London, UK)
- **Boosting the Poor's Capacity to Save: A Note on Instalment Plans and their Variants**
Stuart Rutherford (University of Manchester, UK & SafeSave, Bangladesh)
- **Insurance for the Poor: Definitions and Innovations**
Craig Churchill (International Labor Organization (ILO), Switzerland)
- **Reaching the People Whom Microfinance Cannot Reach: Learning from BRAC's "Targeting the Ultra Poor" Programme**
David Hulme (University of Manchester, UK), Karen Moore (UNESCO, France) & Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj (BRAC, Uganda)

Part VI: Meeting Unmet Demand: Gender and Education

- **The Gender of Finance and Lessons for Microfinance**
Isabelle Guérin (Institute of Research Development, France; French Institute of Pondicherry, France & Centre for European Research in Microfinance, Belgium)
- **Taking Gender Seriously: Towards a Gender Justice Protocol for Financial Services**
Linda Mayoux (Women's Economic Empowerment Mainstreaming and Networking (WEMAN))
- **Higher Education Through Microfinance: The Case of Grameen Bank**
Asif U. Dowla (St. Mary's College of Maryland, USA)

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