

— RESEARCH SEMINAR —

organized by the

Centre for European Research in Microfinance



**Timothée DEMONT**

Centre of Research in the Economics of Development – CRED,  
Namur University – FUNDP, Belgium

**Microfinance Mechanisms:  
Evidence from Observational Panel Data  
about Self-Help Groups in India.**

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

From 12.30pm to 2.00pm

**At Seminar Room R42.2.103 (ground floor)  
of the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management  
Université Libre de Bruxelles - ULB**

**Abstract:**

This research project aims at complementing the burgeoning RCT literature on the impact of microfinance, by exploring long-term effects (up to 7 years) and transmission mechanisms. It analyzes a unique panel database on members of informal credit and saving associations in villages of Jharkhand, India, in which households were interviewed every two years between 2002 and 2009. We also surveyed households from the same villages who did not participate in microfinance groups, as well as households from control villages where no microfinance was present. This feature, coupled with the fact that we started surveying households before the microfinance groups started operating, allows us to quantify crucial issues such as selection into treatment and spillover effects.

We combine different matching and panel-data techniques to allow for the non-randomized nature of the treatment and document changes happening in member, non-member and control households over time.

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Please confirm your presence by October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

