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

Tuesday, October 18th, 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 13th, 2011.