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RESEARCH SEMINAR

organized by the

Centre for European Research in Microfinance



Dr. Jonas Helth LØNBORG

University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

“Impact of Village Savings and Loans Associations: Evidence from a Cluster Randomized Trial”

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2014

From 12.30 to 2.00pm

At room 110-111 (first floor)

of the **Warocqué School of Business and Economics**

Université de Mons – UMONS

Abstract:

The vast majority of the world's poor live in rural areas of developing countries with little access to finance. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have become an increasingly widespread intervention aimed at improving local financial intermediation. Using a cluster randomized trial, we investigate the impact of VSLAs in Malawi. We find positive and significant intention-to-treat effects on the number of meals consumed per day, total household consumption, and number of rooms in the dwelling over a two-year period. This effect is linked to an increase in savings and credit obtained through the VSLAs, which has increased agricultural investments and income from small businesses.

Address:

Warocqué School of Business
and Economics
Université de Mons
Place Warocqué 17
7000 Mons (Belgium)

Contact:

Didier Toussaint
+ 32 (0) 65.37.32.79
didier.toussaint@umons.ac.be

Please confirm your attendance to didier.toussaint@umons.ac.be at the earliest

