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RESEARCH SEMINAR

organized by the

Centre for European Research in Microfinance

“Assessing the Impact of Microfinance: Empowerment through Microfinance”



By **Prof. Olaf Weber**

(University of Waterloo, CA)

Abstract:

How to assess the impact of microfinance is discussed controversially. On the one hand the focus is on lifting people out of poverty and on the other hand other impacts such as empowerment play an important role. The paper will discuss different methods of impact assessment in microfinance and will present a study that analyses whether microfinance support the empowerment of female borrowers. Results of studies analyzing microfinance and empowerment delivered mixed results. In order to explore whether microfinance influences empowerment, the paper compares women in higher loan cycles of a Pakistani microfinance institution with those in the first loan cycle regarding their empowerment. Using a survey and multivariate statistical methods, such as propensity score matching, the study found that women in higher loan cycles were on a higher level of empowerment. We conclude that microfinance has an impact on the empowerment of female borrowers.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

At 4.15 PM

**Location: Seminar Room R42.2.110 of the
Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Solvay
Brussels School of Economics and Management**

Av. F.D. Roosevelt, 42- 1050 Brussels

Please confirm your attendance to cermi@ulb.ac.be at the earliest.