

Tavneet Suri

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Citizenship: Kenyan (US Permanent Resident)

Employment:

July 2006-: Assistant Professor of Applied Economics, MIT Sloan School of Management

Professional Affiliations:

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2007-
Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2009-
Co-Director, Agriculture Research Program, International Growth Center, 2010-
Research Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT, 2009-
Research Affiliate, Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), 2009-
Faculty Affiliate, Sustainability Science Program, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Research Affiliate, Tegemeo Institute, Egerton University, Kenya
Faculty Associate, Victoria Institute of Science and Technology, Kenya
Member, American Economic Association
Member, Econometric Society

Education:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, May 2006 (*with Distinction*)
Dissertation: Empirical Essays in the Microeconomics of Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, December 2003
M.A., Economics, Yale University, December 2003
M.A., International and Development Economics, Yale University, May 2001
B.A. (*Honors*), Economics, Trinity College, Cambridge University, June 1999

Honors and Awards:

George Trimis Prize for Distinction in Dissertation, Yale University, May 2006
Raymond Powell Teaching Prize, Yale University, 2005
Yale University Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2006
Yale Center for International and Area Studies Dissertation Grant and Pre-Dissertation Grant
Agrarian Studies Fellowship, 2004
Lindsay Fellowship for African Studies, 2004
Ryoichi Sasakawa Fellowship, Yale University, 2003-2004
Economic Growth Center Prize, Yale University, 2001-2005
Yale University Doctoral Fellowship, 2001-2005
Scholar of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya, 1996-1999
Scholar of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, 1996-1999
Trinity College Overseas Fellowship, 1996-1999

Published Papers:

“Selection and Comparative Advantage in Technology Adoption”, *Econometrica*, 79 (1), 159–209.

“Monetary Theory and Mobile Banking: Lessons from the Kenyan Experience”, with William Jack and Robert Townsend, *Economic Quarterly*, 96 (1), 83-122.

“Paths to Success: The Relationship Between Human Development and Economic Growth”, with Michael Boozer, Gustav Ranis and Frances Stewart, January 2009, *World Development*, 39 (4), 506-522.

Working Papers:

“The Risk Sharing Benefits of Mobile Money”, with William Jack, January 2011.

“Relational Contract Farming: Theory and Case Evidence”, with Rahul Deb, January 2011.

“Mobile Money: The Economics of M-PESA”, with William Jack, NBER Working Paper No. 16721, January 2011.

“Estimating the Extent of Risk Sharing Between Households” (previously titled “Spillovers in Village Consumption: Testing the Extent of Partial Insurance”), October 2010.

“Household Information: Implications for Poverty Measurement and Dynamics”, with Michael Boozer and Markus Goldstein, July 2009.

Research Grants:

“Using Cell-Phone Technologies to Expand Financial Services in Kenya” (with William Jack)
First round funded by Financial Sector Deepening, Kenya
Follow ups funded by Consortium on Financial Services and Poverty

“Diffusion of Technologies within Social Networks: Evidence from a Coffee Training Program in Rwanda” (with Esther Duflo and Daniel Keniston)
Funded by the TechnosServe Coffee Initiative and the International Growth Center

“Promoting the Adoption of New Rice Varieties: Addressing the Costs of Early Adoption” (with Rachel Glennerster)
Funded by the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative and the International Growth Center

“Agriculture, Technology Adoption and Infrastructure: What Are the Returns and Who Do They Accrue To? Evidence from Sierra Leone” (with Rachel Glennerster and Lorenzo Casaburi)
Partly funded by the International Growth Center, The World Bank

“Contracting and Multiple Use Water Systems” (with Joost de Laat, William Jack and Michael Kremer)
Funded by the Gates Foundation and Google

Policy Papers and Book Chapters:

“Poverty, Inequality and Income Dynamics in Kenya, 1997-2007”, with David Tschirley, Charity Irungu, Raphael Gitau and Daniel Kariuki, Tegemeo Conference Paper, 2008.

“Policy Options for Agricultural Growth in Kenya”, with Joseph Karugia, Lydia Ndirangu and Hezron Nyangito, 2009, in Christopher Adam, Paul Collier and Njuguna Ndungu (eds.), *Kenya: Policies for Prosperity*, Oxford University Press, January 2011.

“Growth, Poverty and Human Development”, with Gustav Ranis, in *Globalization and Social Stress*, ed. Grzegorz W. Kolodko, Nova Science Publishing House, 2005.

Presentations and Conferences:

- 2009-2010: Department of Economics, Cornell University
Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University
Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics (SITE)
- 2008-2009: UCSD Conference on New Product Research in Microfinance
Safaricom, Nairobi
Tegemeo Annual Conference, Nairobi
Innovations for Poverty Action Conference, Yale University
Walter Rodney Lectures, Boston University
Department of Economics, University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM)
- 2007-2008: LSE/UCL Joint Development Seminar
International Research Conference, Harvard Business School
Department of Economics, Southern Methodist University
Harvard Faculty Development Lunch (joint with Michael Kremer)
- 2006-2007: Department of Economics, University of Virginia
Harvard/MIT Joint Seminar in Development
NBER Productivity Group Lunch
Department of Economics, Duke University
Department of Economics, Brandeis University
Global Economics and Management Seminar, MIT Sloan
- 2005-2006: North East Universities Development Consortium
Department of Economics, London School of Economics
Department of Economics, Oxford University
Department of Economics, Princeton University
Graduate School of Business, Stanford University
Department of Economics, Stanford University
Department of Economics, University of California Berkeley
Haas School of Business, University of California Berkeley
Department of Economics, University of California San Diego
MIT Sloan School of Management
- 2003-2004: Department of Economics, Hunter College
North East Universities Development Consortium
Development Lunch, University of Chicago

Teaching:

- MBA: Applied Macro & International Economics, Spring 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
Access to Capital (East Africa) Trip Class, Spring 2010; Ghana Trip Class, Spring 2008
- PhD: Advanced Topics in Economic Development, Spring 2008
- Executives: Summer 2008, Summer 2009

Languages:

English (fluent); Punjabi (fluent); Swahili (fair); Hindi (spoken, fair); French (very basic)