

# CEAR Academic Pre-Conference in Microinsurance 2017

November 6, 2017 Swissôtel Lima – San Isidro, Lima, Peru

**Overview:** The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) is organizing an academic pre-conference in conjunction with the 13th International Microinsurance Conference. The pre-conference will attract researchers to present major findings and participate in panels on recent developments in research methods to understand risk management choices of the poor. This pre-conference is being held on the Monday, November 6, immediately prior to the main conference, which is on November 7, 8 and 9.

Presentations in the academic pre-conference will be plenary, and allow enough time for detailed discussion of each presentation and for shared discussion.

The keynote speakers for the pre-conference are Professors **Stefan Dercon** and **Dean Karlan**.

- **Stefan Dercon** is Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and the Economics Department, and a Fellow of Jesus College. He is also Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economics. Since 2011 he has been Chief Economist of the Department of International Development (DFID), the government department in charge with the UK's aid policy and spending. Dercon continues to hold the post of Chief Economist at the DFID while remaining active in teaching and research at Oxford. Dercon has diverse interests, including research on risk and poverty, the foundations of growth in poor societies, agriculture and rural institutions, migration, political economy, childhood poverty, social and geographic mobility, micro-insurance, and measurement issues related to poverty and vulnerability. He is also involved in a number of intervention-based research projects on extending health insurance (Kenya), raising aspirations (rural Ethiopia), offering drought insurance to funeral societies (Ethiopia) and the returns to firm jobs (Ethiopia). His most recent book, with Daniel Clarke, is *Dull Disasters? How Planning Ahead Will Make a Difference* (Oxford, 2016).
- **Dean Karlan** is Professor of Economics at Yale University and a Research Fellow and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Karlan is also the President and Founder of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), a New Haven, Connecticut based research outfit dedicated to creating and evaluating solutions to social and international development problems. Along with economists Jonathan Morduch and Sendhil Mullainathan, Karlan served as Director of the Financial Access Initiative (FAI), a consortium of researchers focused on substantially expanding access to quality financial services for low-income individuals. He is also a co-founder of stickK.com, and co-founder of ImpactMatters. His most recent books, both with Jacob Appel, are *More Than Good Intentions: Improving the Way the World's Poor Borrow, Save, Farm, Learn and Stay Healthy* (Penguin, 2011) and *Failing in the Field: What We Can Learn When Field Research Goes Wrong* (Princeton University Press, 2016).

**Registration:** Is open to any researcher, academic or otherwise. The registration of interest to attend is done separately to the main conference. To register and find further information, go to the event site here – [cear.gsu.edu/event/cear-academic-pre-conference-microinsurance-2017/](http://cear.gsu.edu/event/cear-academic-pre-conference-microinsurance-2017/). The event is capped at 40 participants and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Program – Monday, 6 November

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter – Affiliation</b>	<b>Topic</b>
09:00-09:25	Coffee & Registration	
09:25-09:30	Glenn Harrison (CEAR, GSU)	Welcome
09:30-10:50	Stefan Dercon (Oxford)	Dull Disasters?
11:00-12:00	Berber Kramer (IFPRI)	Picture-Based Crop Insurance): Using Farmers' Smartphones to Reduce Costs of Loss Verification
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:00	Francisco Ceballos (IFPRI)	Demand Heterogeneity for Index-Based Insurance: The Case for Flexible Products
14:00-15:00	Glenn Harrison (CEAR, GSU)	Evaluating the Welfare of Index Insurance and Non-Performance Risk
15:00-15:15	Break	
15:15-16:50	Dean Karlan (Northwestern)	Agricultural Technology in Africa: Barriers to Adoption?
17:00-18:00	PANEL: Lisa Rutström (CEAR and Örebro; moderator), Stefan Dercon, Dean Karlan, Glenn Harrison	Evidence-Based Insurance Policy for the Poor
18:00-19:30	Free time	
19:30-21:00	Conference Dinner	For presenters and invited guests only. Hosted by CEAR