



## Call for Applications

**THE RESEARCH UNIT IN BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS AND  
NEUROECONOMICS (RUBEN) AND  
THE CENTER FOR THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF RISK (CEAR)  
PRESENT:**

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**A 5-DAY WORKSHOP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN ON  
FIELD EXPERIMENTS, RISK, AND UNCERTAINTY IN DEVELOPMENT  
(3 February 2014 – 7 February 2014)**

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**Deadline for applications: 15 September 2013**

The Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) at Georgia State University and the Research Unit in Behavioural Economics and Neuroeconomics (RUBEN) at the University of Cape Town will be jointly hosting a five day training workshop on the use of field experiments in development, with an emphasis on the role of risk and uncertainty. The primary theme of the workshop is the need for tight connections between theory, experimental design, and econometric method. Topics to be covered during the workshop include:

- Experimental methods: randomized control and measurement
- Laboratory and field experiments
- Estimating risk preferences
- Estimating intertemporal risk preferences
- Inferring risk perceptions
- Risk, uncertainty and ambiguity
- Calibrating hypothetical surveys with real experimental choices

This workshop is intended to support the training of African researchers in world-class experimental economics research, and at the same time to facilitate research collaboration with leading behavioural and experimental economics researchers on African issues. The workshop will take the form of structured lectures combined with practical sessions illustrating the development of research instruments and the analysis of results from these instruments.

These workshops will alternate in their focus from year to year. Last year the emphasis was on the econometric analysis of results from pre-designed field experiments. This year the emphasis is on the design and implementation of field experiments, with a smaller component on the econometric evaluation of results. The two emphases are intended to be complementary, so participants from the 2013 workshop are free to apply for the 2014 workshop.

The workshop lectures will be given by **Professor Glenn Harrison, Professor Morten Lau and Professor Elisabet Rutström.**

Professor Glenn Harrison is the C.V. Starr Chair of Risk Management & Insurance and

Director of the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR), Georgia State University. He has conducted experimental research in the laboratory and field, and has been at the forefront of development of many of the methodological tools that are now in widespread use around the world. He has undertaken many field experiments in which these tools have been applied to Ethiopia, Uganda, and Ghana. He has directed field research on risk and time preferences of rural and urban populations in many other developing countries.

Professor Morten I. Lau is Professor of Economics at Copenhagen Business School. He has been the leader and principal investigator on several large research projects that investigate decisions under uncertainty and over time. He has designed and evaluated field experiments in Denmark using representative samples of the adult population that have led to several landmark publications on the elicitation and estimation of risk and time preferences. His most recent work is focused on the interaction between risk and time preferences and the elicitation of intertemporal risk aversion.

Professor Elisabet Rutström, from Georgia State University, is a leading international researcher in inter-disciplinary application to individual and strategic decision making under risk and uncertainty with applications to the management of forest fires and traffic congestion, among others. She has received several major research grants from the National Science Foundation, including a Major Research Instrumentation grant, and is presently funded by a multi-million dollar grant from the Federal Highway Administration. Apart from her work in Behavioural and Experimental Economics she is also a recognized expert in Computable General Equilibrium modelling with important applications to international development policies.

**DATES:**

3 February 2013 – 7 February 2013, inclusive. We start Monday morning and end Friday afternoon.

**VENUE:**

University of Cape Town, South Africa

**WHO SHOULD APPLY:**

The training is intended for an interdisciplinary participant group and applications are welcomed from all individuals who study policies in developing countries using field experiments. Senior graduate students and junior faculty are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be registered postgraduate students, post-doctoral fellows or faculty members at African academic or research institutions.

**COST:**

CEAR has funds to cover the travel, accommodation and meal costs of participants. However, places are limited to twenty participants, and selection of participants will be made on a competitive basis.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Interested applicants should submit the following before 15 September 2013:

- A letter of motivation
- A two-page CV of the applicant
- A reference from an employer or supervisor

**ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS:**

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