

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:

“Risk Sharing and Transaction Costs: Evidence from Kenya's Mobile Money Revolution”, with William Jack, July 2011. (*Submitted*)

“Relational Contract Farming: Theory and Its Emergence in Ghana”, with Rahul Deb, August 2011. (*Submitted*)

“Documenting the Birth of a Financial Economy”, with William Jack and Thomas Stoker, August 2011. (*Submitted*)

“Estimating the Extent of Local Risk Sharing Between Households” (previously titled “Spillovers in Village Consumption: Testing the Extent of Partial Insurance”), August 2011. (*Submitted*)

“Are Exporting Firms Better? Evidence on Comparative Advantage and Learning from Chilean Firms,” with Prashant Bharadwaj and Anant Nyshadham.

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

“Household Information: Implications for Poverty Measurement and Dynamics”, with Michael Boozer and Markus Goldstein, July 2010.

Research Grants:

“The Role of Mobile Banking in Expanding Trade Credit and Business Development in Kenya” (with William Jack and Chris Woodruff)

Funded by USAID-DIV and Financial Sector Deepening, Kenya

“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 TechnoServe Coffee Initiative and the International Growth Center

“Promoting the Adoption of New Rice Varieties: Addressing the Costs of Early Adoption” (with Rachel Glennerster, Frances Kimmins, Jeannie Annan)

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

“Technology Adoption and Collateralized Loans” (with Joost de Laat, William Jack and Michael Kremer) [Earlier grants were funded under “Contracting and Multiple Use Water Systems”]
Funded by the Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative, 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.

Teaching:

MBA: Applied Macro & International Economics, Spring 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012 (scheduled)
Access to Capital (East Africa) Trip Class, Spring 2010
Ghana Trip Class, Spring 2008
E-MBA: Leading in a Global Context, Fall 2011
PhD: Advanced Topics in Economic Development, Spring 2008
Executives: Summer 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2011, Fall 2011