

Centre for Public Policy Studies
Department of Economics
Seminar



*Investment Climate and the Rural Labor Market:
The Rural Investment Climate Survey Project*

Prof. Wim Vijverberg

City University of New York Graduate Center

Date: 18 December 2008 (Thursday)

Time: 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Venue: SO322, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

Abstract

ALL ARE WELCOME

The health and wellbeing of agriculture and non-agricultural pursuits in rural areas depends to a significant degree on the rural investment climate, and this investment climate depends crucially on the many factors under the control of policy makers. At least, this is the premise to which many economists adhere, and it is the premise on which many policy makers operate. But which factors matter most? The Rural Investment Climate Survey Project measures both objective conditions in rural areas and subjective evaluations by nonfarm entrepreneurs and, as well, gathers information on enterprise performance and labor market choices of households. This seminar discusses findings about household labor market choices and about the link between objective conditions and subjective evaluations of the investment climate, using data from Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

Biographical sketch

Wim Vijverberg has been appointed Professor of Economics. His areas of specialty lie at the intersection of labor economics, econometrics, and development economics. He has published fifty-one articles, which have appeared in the top rank of general journals (*Journal of Political Economy*, *Economic Journal*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *International Economic Review*) and in the top specialized journals (*Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, and *Journal of Public Economics*). Though a great deal of Vijverberg's work is "applied" in that it uses econometric techniques to analyze and test theories, he has also made significant methodological contributions. He has recently completed a report to the World Bank concerning a large, multi-year survey project on investment climates in a number of developing countries, which employs cutting-edge econometric techniques. Vijverberg holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh.

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