

Topic-Defence Seminar

“Road Maintenance and Household Spatial Outcomes, Private Local Involvement, Institutional Governance in Uganda” (in English)

Presenter: Ms. KATUNZE, Miriam Nabawanga
(PhD Student)

Date: 11 April 2019 (Thursday)

Time: 11:45 am – 12:15 pm

Venue: WYL314, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

Chief Supervisor: Prof. Thomas VOON (Associate Professor)

Co-supervisor: Prof. HONG Fuhai (Associate Professor)

Abstract:

A crucial issue is that while governments in developing countries spend heavily in providing service delivery, with an increasing budget skewed toward transport infrastructure, the economic growth benefits may not be sustainable if the problems in service delivery persist. The research study seeks to answer four major questions/objectives. First, this paper explains the importance of the impact of road maintenance on spatial accessibility to social amenities such as hospitals, safe water and schools. Second, the paper assesses the relationship between private local involvement in road maintenance. This is based on the notion that private local road maintenance contractors are likely to provide better services given that they are working in the country of origin than their counterparts- the private foreign contractors. The third question is what is the effect of institutional governance on road maintenance? Hypothetically, good institutional governance such as low corruption and less political interference is likely to lead to better road maintenance. The fourth question is how can government improve capacities and competencies of private local road maintenance contractors? The research contributes to the literature on service delivery by providing evidences of the road-growth nexus through a micro viewpoint, thus filling a gap in the literature. Moreover, the research will provide short and long-term evidences of this nexus through its proposed data design. The research finds empirical evidence that suggests as to whether that subsequent road investment have a declining or increasing growth effect. The research has implications for Africa as it has been criticized for producing professionals that are not useful for development- with reference to civil engineers (Wells & Hawkins, 2010). Drawing from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the study examines the role of road maintenance in closing equity gaps in service delivery for social amenities.

ALL ARE WELCOME

For enquiry: 26167047 (Kathy)

Topic-Defence Seminar

“Selling to Reference-Dependent Consumers”

(in English)

Presenter: Mr. LEUNG Hin-shing (MPhil Student)

Date: 11 April 2019 (Thursday)

Time: 4:15 pm – 4:45 pm

Venue: WYL314, Dorothy Y. L. Wong Building

Chief Supervisor: Prof. ZHANG Tianle (Associate Professor)

Co-supervisor: Prof. HONG Fuhai (Associate Professor)

Abstract:

We develop a theoretical model to study a monopoly firm's optimal selling strategy when consumers are reference dependent. In the model, a consumer receives a gain (a loss) if her intrinsic value of a product is higher (lower) than the expected value. We first study the optimal pricing when consumers' expectation on product value is fixed and show how the firm adjusts its pricing as expectation varies. We then propose to study the situation in which the firm can also influence consumers' expectation.

ALL ARE WELCOME