

TARA MITCHELL

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

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DATE OF BIRTH: 11 Nov, 1980

SEX: F

CITIZENSHIP: Irish, USA

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

2006-2008	MRes. in Economics (with Distinction)	London School of Economics
2004-2005	MSc. in Economics (with Distinction)	Trinity College Dublin
1999-2003	B.A. Mod. In Economics (First Class Honours)	Trinity College Dublin

DOCTORAL STUDIES:

London School of Economics

DATES: 2008 - present

THESIS TITLE: "Essays on the Importance of Information in Agricultural Markets in Developing Countries."

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: June 2012

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Tim Besley (Advisor)
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Microeconomics

Secondary Fields: Agricultural Economics, Economics of Information

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2010 – Present Development Economics for undergraduates

2008 – 2010 Macroeconomics for MRes students

2008 – 2009 International Economics for MSc students

2008 – 2009 Introductory course in Maths for graduate students

2007 – 2008 Macroeconomics for undergraduates

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

2008 – 2010	Tutorial Fellow, Department of Economics, LSE
Summer 2007	Internship, Indecon Economic Consulting, Dublin
2005 – 2006	Research Assistant to Dr. Patricia O'Brien, National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Dublin
2004 – 2005	Research Assistant to Dr. Patrick Paul Walsh and Dr. Carol Newman, TCD
Feb – Jun 2004	Internship, Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad, India
Nov – Dec 2003	Research Assistant to Prof. Dermot McAleese, TCD

LANGUAGES

Proficient Spoken French	Fluent Spoken English
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Proficient Written French	Fluent Written English
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HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2011	Economics Network Learning and Teaching Award, commendation
2011	Economics Departmental Teaching Prize
2006-2010	Economic and Social Research Council Studentship
2005	Terence Gorman Award, Trinity College Dublin (awarded for first place in the MSc program)
2001	Depfa Bank Scholarship for Erasmus Exchange
1999	Entrance Exhibition, Trinity College Dublin

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

“Middlemen, Bargaining and Price Information: Is Knowledge Power? ”, 2011

This paper investigates an important channel through which improved access to market information could increase the prices that producers receive from middlemen. I develop a theoretical model of trade between a farmer and a middleman which allows for the existence of different types of middlemen. The source of heterogeneity is attitudes towards fairness. I provide an empirical test of the theory from an original framed field experiment carried out with farmers and middlemen in India. The model predicts that there will be a non-monotonic relationship between the benefit of information and the cost of switching to a new middleman. The results of the experiment support the predictions of the model and demonstrate that actual middlemen differ in their attitudes towards fairness, middlemen make higher offers when the farmer is informed, and the benefit of information to the farmer varies with the cost of switching.

Other Papers:

“A Cross-Country Analysis of Internet and Mobile Phone Use”, 2008

Using data from 127 countries, this paper explores the relationship between Internet and mobile phone use, and a number of other factors including income per capita, literacy, television use and openness to trade. The results suggest that once infrastructure is controlled for, Internet use is not correlated with GDP per capita, whereas there is a positive relationship between GDP per capita and mobile phone use. The data are based on the number of mobile phone owners, however, which, in developing countries, is significantly less than the number of mobile phone users.