



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



TRINITY IMPACT EVALUATION UNIT (TIME)

Annual Report 2023–2024

Message from the Director

2023–2024 was another successful year for TIME. Sixteen papers were published on important topics from child development, labour markets and productivity, urban development, loan design and mortgage refinancing. In the past year we have grown the TIME team with three new faculty members – Tara Bedi, one of our first PhD students who has been with us since 2013, Nicola Fontana and Martina Zanella, plus a number of new PhD students.

TIME continues to be a leading centre in Europe for impact evaluation research, and the rigour of our work is leading to tangible impacts on policy and programme design. Our evaluations of cutting edge innovations are leading to scale-up, and inspiring further pilots, and our work is informing policy and programme design around the world.

The future is exciting for TIME. We are expanding our research portfolio. In the past year, we have raised an additional €1.42 million in research funding to start projects in India, Ireland, Italy, Malawi, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Sri Lanka. In addition, as many of our projects have long-term perspectives, much of the academic returns, and policy impact, from the €16 million in research funding we have secured to date, still has to come to fruition.

Much more can be done to help find the most cost effective solutions to the world's most intractable problems. We are constantly seeking partners to help us expand our research efforts and expand the impact of our work. Please reach out if you have an interest in partnering with us.

- Michael King (Michael.King@tcd.ie)



About TIME

The Trinity Impact Evaluation Unit (TIME) is a research centre based in the Department of Economics in



Trinity's School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. TIME brings together researchers, development practitioners, and policy makers in a collective effort to estimate the impact, and understand the underlying mechanisms, of social projects and investments. By producing evidence on what works, what does not work and how change takes place, we contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals – the universal call of our time end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives of everyone, everywhere.

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TIME Expertise

- **Experimental and non-experimental evaluation methods**
- **Management of mixed method evaluations including conducting qualitative research**
- **Long term partnerships with NGOs, financial institutions, multi-national organisations, and government ministries in 30 countries**
- **Track record of influencing policy and program design**
- **Wide sector experience in:**
 - Education
 - Environment and agriculture
 - Labour and entrepreneurship
 - Political economy, urban, migration
 - Health care
 - Financial inclusion
 - Social protection
 - Gender



Research Impact Case Studies

1. Graduating Out of Extreme Poverty and Gender Empowerment

Further details on this project can be found [here](#).

Summary: TIME partnered with Concern Worldwide and the Africa Gender Innovation Lab in the World Bank to study what is the role played by gender targeting and the importance of incorporating gender empowerment and couples cooperation training into anti-poverty interventions. Our research focused on one of the most promising anti-poverty interventions: the Graduation programme, which invests in ultra-poor households through cash and asset transfers, mentoring, savings programmes and livelihoods trainings over an 18-month period to help them move out of poverty. We designed a randomised control trial in Malawi with four arms: a control arm, where households received no programme; and three treatment arms, the Graduation targeted to 1) the female in the household, 2) the male in the household and 3) the female in the household where the couple participates in a monthly empowerment training for 12 months, which we call the Umodzi arm.

Key Findings: We found that regardless of program design, all households who participated in the Graduation programme saw higher consumption, food security, total income and livestock value than the households that did not receive the programme, 17 months post intervention. Importantly, we found that adding gender empowerment and couples cooperation training for female targeted households led to a pareto improvement (both spouses gain, without losing on any welfare dimension) with higher household income, livestock value, asset value as well as improvements to female economic agency and male mental health.

Impact to Date:

- In Malawi, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare has incorporated several of the gender empowerment and couples cooperation training modules into their existing social protection programmes.
- In Sri Lanka, the findings on gender empowerment and couples cooperation training from our study are feeding directly into the design of the Government's new flagship economic inclusion programme.
- In Uganda, our findings have inspired the rollout of gender empowerment and couples cooperation training with a lighter and more scalable version of the graduation programme by the NGO Village Enterprises.
- Our findings have been presented at the Gates Foundation and has inspired a new fund for further research on Graduation and Gender.



2. Reducing Child Mortality in the Last Mile: Experimental Evidence on Community Health Promoters in Uganda

Further information on this project can be found [here](#).

Summary: TIME partnered with Living Goods (LG), a US-based NGO active in Uganda and BRAC Uganda to study the impact of a novel community health delivery program. The program relies on networks of door-to-door mobile Community Health Promoters (CHP), whose main activities resemble the standard activities of any community health worker: conduct home visits within their community, educate households on essential health behaviors, provide basic medical advice, and refer the more severe cases to the closest health centre. The programme was randomised across 214 rural villages spread across Uganda.



Findings: The results after 3 years show that the programme resulted in a substantial health impact: in treatment villages, under-5-years child mortality was reduced by approximately 27 percent, infant (i.e., under 1-year) mortality by 33 percent, and neonatal (i.e. under 1-month) mortality by 28 percent, compared to control villages that did not receive the programme.

Impact to Date:

- Thanks to our rigorous assessment, the NGO implementing the programme was included among the top charities of GiveWell and massively expanded its operations (more than eight-fold) over the following years.
- TIME embedded a new study in this expansion.
- The programme has attracted considerable interest from health authorities across Africa and has informed the health strategy of a number of neighbouring countries.

3. Conscientiousness and Labour Market Returns

Further information on this project can be found [here](#).

Summary: TIME worked with the Executive Council of Urban Transport in Dakar, Senegal and the World Bank to test the impact of a conscientious intervention. The training consisted of an initial two-hour, in-person session on how to be more conscientious at work, followed by weekly phone reminders in the eight subsequent weeks. During the initial session, workers were explained different concepts regarding conscientiousness, with an emphasis on how improvements in such skills can translate into long-term benefits. The subsequent phone calls were less than a minute long and were composed of a randomised set of reminders on how to engage in conscientious behavior. The training was tested with a sample of 386 workers employed in the construction of a new express train in Dakar, Senegal. Half of the workers were randomly assigned to the treatment group. Workers were mainly employed as security agent helpers, laborers, and masons. The examples during the training and the phone messages were tailored to the specific job requirements of these workers.

Findings: Nine months after the intervention, workers in the treatment group were 10 percent more likely to have kept their job at the construction company and received 32 USD higher earnings (a 22.7 percent increase versus average endline earnings of the control group) compared to workers in the control group. These results are evidence that the conscientiousness intervention impacted labor market outcomes of workers.

Impact:

- The findings have informed the training plans for construction workers involved in phase 2 of the TER (Rapid express train) project, as well as for employees of the new rapid bus transport system (BRT).
- Representing the first evidence of the ability to improve conscientiousness, the findings generated interest from government agencies and training firms around the world.



Events, Courses, Visitors

TIME Keynote Lecture 2024

The 2023 TIME Annual Lecture was delivered by Prof. Kate Orkin, Associate Professor in Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government. Prof. Orkin leads the Mind and Behaviour Research Group, a joint initiative of the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) and the Oxford Department of Psychiatry. Prof. Orkin gave a thought-provoking overview of mental health and development, featuring her research over the last ten years. Prof. Orkin discussed how treating mental health in low income countries improves labour supply, attention and focus on work among people with mental health and how psychological interventions can increase future-oriented investment.

<https://www.tcd.ie/time/events/lectures/2023/>



TIME 2023 Online Course in Impact Evaluation Methods

With the support of Irish Aid, TIME has offered courses in Impact Evaluation Methods to over 200 people since 2017. In 2021, we developed an online course which has allowed us to expand our reach around the world. Participants come from every corner of the world, with a high percentage of participants coming from Sub-Saharan Africa. Irish Aid currently support fifteen scholarships for participants from Irish Aid partner countries.

In 2023, we ran a six-week online course in Impact Evaluation Methods, and for the first time an additional one week module on Impact Evaluation Methods in Agriculture and Food delivered by Prof. Carol Newman. Twenty-two participants attended the six week course and seventeen attended the module on Agriculture and Food.

Topics covered in the 2023 course included:

- Programme Theory Mapping
- Randomised Control Trials (RCTs)
- Quasi-experimental Methods
- Mix-Methods Evaluation
- Survey design
- Process Evaluation
- Hypothesis Testing
- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Application in Agriculture and Food



To apply for the Autumn 2024 Course click [here](#).

CEPR/TCD/TIME Workshop in Development Economics 2023

In collaboration with the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and Irish Aid, TIME held a conference on Development Economics at Trinity College Dublin on the 13th and 14th of October 2023. Fifteen papers were chosen from a total of 127 submissions. Academics from eight countries around the world presented on topics from climate change, cash transfers, social networks, public procurement, gender quotas and female genital mutilation.



Visitor Programme 2023–2024

Katherine Casey is a professor of political economy at Stanford Graduate School of Business. Her research explores the interactions between economic and political forces in developing countries, with particular interest in the role of information in enhancing political accountability and the influence of foreign aid on economic development. Prof. Casey visited TIME for the full academic year 2023–2024 and made significant contributions to the academic activities of TIME, its faculty and our community of PhD students.



Prof. Kate Orkin, Associate Professor in Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government visited TIME in December 2023. Prof. Orkin presented her research to the Economics Department, and provided feedback on our research by attending our PhD working group presentations and through meetings with faculty and PhD students.

Outreach Programme Highlights 2023-2024



UN World Food Programme Impact Evaluation Forum – December, 2023

The United Nations World Food Programme hosted the first Impact Evaluation Forum at its headquarters in Rome, Italy on **4-7 December 2023**. Bringing together governments, donors, WFP and UN agencies, NGOs and academia, the Forum offers a unique setting for frank discussion on how impact evaluation can tackle the question of what difference we are making to people's lives, answering calls from funders and partners for greater proof that programmes are value for money. Prof. Andrea Guariso was responsible for the design a new impact evaluation to assess alternative approaches to targeting assistance in fragile regions in northern Mozambique.

IPA Evidence Summit, Kampala – Nov 28th, 2023

To an audience of one hundred policymakers and development practitioners, Prof. Michael King gave the keynote talk titled “Gender Targeting and Household Cooperation: Evidence for a Multi-faceted Anti-Poverty Programme in Malawi” at Innovation for Poverty Action Evidence Summit in Kampala in November 2023. The keynote address was followed by a robust panel discussion and a very engaged discussion with the audience.



Learning Event on Multi-faceted Anti-Poverty Programmes, Kigali – Nov 24th, 2023

Concern Worldwide organised a learning event for senior policy makers in Rwanda on Multi-faceted Anti-Poverty Programmes or Graduation programmes. Prof Michael King delivered two keynote talks one on the main effects of the Malawi graduation programme evaluation and a second on the interactions between environmental shocks and anti-poverty programmes.

New Research Projects 2023-2024

Title	Principal Investigators	Funder/Partners
Adolescent girls' life skills programme in Nigeria	Wei Chang, Selim Gulesci , Adiam Hagos Hailemicheal and Lea Rouanet	J-PaL Learning for All Initiative, World Bank, State of Katsina in Nigeria
Climate Smart and Gender Focused Social Protection in Sri Lanka	Tara Bedi, Michael King	World Bank and Sri Lankan Government
E-monitoring and Organizational Structure: Experimental Evidence from Sierra Leone	Erika Deserranno, Andrea Guariso and Gianmarco Leon-Ciliotta	CHAF, Weiss, J-PaL, International Growth Center
Gender-Based Violence: improving awareness and reducing underreporting among youth in Italian universities	Selim Gulesci, Andrea Guariso and Marinella Leone	Fondo per il Programma Nazionale di Ricerca e Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (PRIN), BrightSky and Vodafone Foundation
Impact and Regulation of Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)	Anu Jose, Michael King , Jane Kelly, Yvonne McCarthy, Christopher Palmer	Central Bank of Ireland
Intimate Partner Violence and the Long-term Effects of a Multi-faceted Anti-poverty Programme for the Ultra Poor	Tara Bedi, Michael King , Alejandra Ramos and Julia Vaillant	Innovation for Poverty Action, IPV Initiative and Concern Worldwide
Long-term Effects of a Gender Focused Multi-faceted Anti-poverty Programme for the Ultra Poor	Tara Bedi, Michael King , Julia Vaillant	Innovation for Poverty Action, IPV Initiative and Concern Worldwide
Promoting Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion in Higher Education"	Andrea Guariso , Mariapia Mendola, Sara Giunti, and Irene Solmone	Fondazione Cariplo
Re-targeting Humanitarian Assistance: Experimental Evidence from Lebanon	Ghassan Baliki, Felipe Alexander Dunsch, Jonathan Garcia Fuentes and Andrea Guariso	World Food Programme (WFP)
Remote Care for Remote Areas: The Impact of Telehealth in Rural India	Erika Deserranno, Amanda Dahlstrand and Andrea Guariso	HFF (NGO), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Weiss
The determinants of multiproduct export diversification in South Africa	Bjorn Bo Sorenson, Dimakatso Mkwanaenzi, Carol Newman , John Rand	UNU-WIDER, National Treasury South Africa and European Commission
The Dynamics of Crime and Social Exclusion in Italy	Marinella Leone, Selim Gulesci and Alejandra Ramos	Vodafone Foundation, Italian Government
The impact of loadshedding on labor mobility, jobs and worker productivity in South Africa	John Rand, Carol Newman , Joshua Budlender, Aalia Cassim, Nonhlanhla Msimango and Carla Orffer	UNU-WIDER, National Treasury South Africa and European Commission
Trade liberalization and racial discrimination in South Africa	Talent Nesongano, Carol Newman , John Rand and Marvin Suesse	UNU-WIDER, National Treasury South Africa and European Commission
What Matters for Consumer Credit Choice? Non-standard disclosures in the Philippine Digital Credit Market	Michael King , Paolina Medina, Roland Umanan, and Benjamin Radoc	Philippine Competition Commission

Publications 2023-2024

Title	Principal Investigators	Year	Journal/WP
Repayment Flexibility and Risk-Taking: Experimental Evidence from Credit Contracts	Marianna Battaglia, Selim Gulesci and Andreas Madestam	2023	Review of Economic Studies
Conscientiousness and labour market returns: Evidence from a field experiment in West Africa	Mathias Allemand, Martina Kirchberger , Sveta Milusheva, Carol Newman , Brent Roberts and Vincent Thorne	2023	Trinity Economic Papers TEP 0123
Imports, supply chains and firm productivity	Carol Newman , John Rand, Finn Tarp	2023	World Development
Mental Accounting, Spousal Control, and Intra-Household Communication: Evidence from an Experiment in India	Tara Bedi , Anu Jose and Michael King	2023	Trinity Economic Paper #TEP1323
The deep roots of rebellion	Gaia Narciso and Battista Severgnini	2023	Journal of Development Economics
The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children's Learning and Wellbeing: Evidence from India	Andrea Guariso and Martina Björkman Nyqvist	2023	Journal of Development Economics
The Last Mile of Monetary Policy: Inattention, Reminders, and the Refinancing Channel	Shane Byrne , Kenneth Devine, Michael King , and Yvonne McCarthy and Christopher Palmer	2023	NBER Working Paper #31043
Long-term effects of preschool subsidies and cash transfers on child development: Evidence from Uganda	Kjetil Bjorvatn, Denise Ferris, Selim Gulesci , Arne Nasgowitz, Vincent Somville and Lore Vandewalle	2024	American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings
Telenovelas and attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community in Latin America	Selim Gulesci , Maria Lobardi and Alejandra Ramos	2024	Labour Economics
Borrowing Constraints and Demand for Remedial Education: Evidence from Tanzania	Konrad Burchardi, Selim Gulesci , Jon de Quidt and Munshi Sulaiman	2024	Economics Journal
Childcare, Labor Supply and Business Development: Experimental Evidence from Uganda	Kjetil Bjorvatn, Denise Ferris, Selim Gulesci , Arne Nasgowitz, Vincent Somville and Lore Vandewalle	2024	American Economics Journal: Applied Economics, conditionally accepted
"What We Can Learn When Impacts Fail to Replicate: Lessons from an Empowerment Programme for Young Women in Tanzania"	Niklas Buehren, Markus Goldstein, Selim Gulesci , Isabelle, Salcher, Munshi Sulaiman and Venus Yam	2024	Journal of Development Studies
Group incentives for the public good: a field experiment on improving the urban environment	Chloë Fernandez, Marcus Holmlund, Tara Mitchell and Carol Newman	2024	World Bank Economic Review
Revisiting the size-productivity relationship with imperfect measures of production and plot size	Hailemariam Ayalew, Jordan Chamberlin, Carol Newman , Kibrom A. Abay, Frederic Kosmowski, Tesfaye Sida	2024	American Journal of Agricultural Economics
Trade diversion and labor market adjustment: Vietnam and the U.S.-China trade war	Karin Mayr-Dorn, Gaia Narciso , Duc Anh Dang, Hien Phan	2024	TEP working paper series
Using role models to inspire marginalized groups: A cautionary tale	Narciso, Gaia , Carol Newman and Finn Tarp	2024	Trinity Economic Papers TEP0424



People

Faculty



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Michael King >

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Martina
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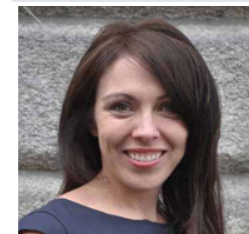
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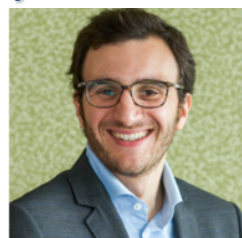
Tara Bedi >

Assistant Professor,
Department of
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Affiliated Faculty



Andrea Guariso >



Nicola
Mastroiocco >



Current PhD Students 2023–2024

Student	Title of Doctoral Thesis	Supervisor
Paul Blanchard	Essays in Urban Economics	Professor Martina Kirchberger
Naomi Crowther	Returning to A Land of Opportunity? Impacts of Land Restitution on Human and Physical Capital of Internally Displaced People in Colombia	Professor Carol Newman
Eugenia Frezza	Essays in Macroeconomics and Development	Professor Alejandra Ramos and Professor Selim Gulesci
Maximilian Günnewig-Mönert	Essays in Long-Run Housing Markets	Professor Ronan Lyons
George Jacob	Parenting: A household decision in the developing world	Professor Alejandra Ramos
Purnima Kanther	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Michael King
Elijah Kipchumba	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Selim Gulesci
Hamad Mahar	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Andrea Guariso
Talent Nesongano	Trade Liberalisation, Firm Dynamics and Labour Market Outcomes	Professor Carol Newman
Flavia Pellegrini	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Gaia Narciso
Roland Umanan	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Michael King
Aishwarya Deshpande	Essays on learning and decision-making in behavioral development economics	Professor Michael King
Bhavya Shrivastava	Financial inclusion, women empowerment, and social protection	Professor Michael King
Louisa Roos	Applied Microeconomics - Feminist and Labour Economics	Professor Gaia Narciso
Mike McRae	Development, Politics and Media	Professor Carol Newman and Tara Mitchell
Nouf Abushehab	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Michael King

Graduated Students 2023–2024

Student	Title of Doctoral Thesis	Supervisor
Laura Munoz Blanco (2023)	The Impact of Internal Forced Displacement on the Wellbeing of Honduras' Population	Professor Nicola Mastroiocco
Shane Byrne (2023)	Financial Economics	Professor Michael King
Anu Puthenmadathil Jose (2023)	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Michael King
Vincent Thorne (2023)	Essays in Urban Economics	Professor Martina Kirchberger
Danish Us Salam (2023)	Essays in Development Economics	Professor Andrea Guariso Professor Selim Gulesci

List of Seminars

Date & Time	Speaker	Title
September 12, 2023	Katherine Casey (Stanford)	The Incentives to (Not) Debate in Low Information Races
September 26, 2023	Marta Santamaria (Warwick)	Community Networks and Trade
November 7, 2023	Peter Hull (Brown University)	Racial Discrimination in Child Protection
March 12, 2024	Lucia Corno (Cattolica University Milan)	“Breast-ironing” and Breast-Feeding: Experimental evidence from Cameroon
March 19, 2024	Abi Adams-Prassl (Oxford)	The Economic Cost of Rape