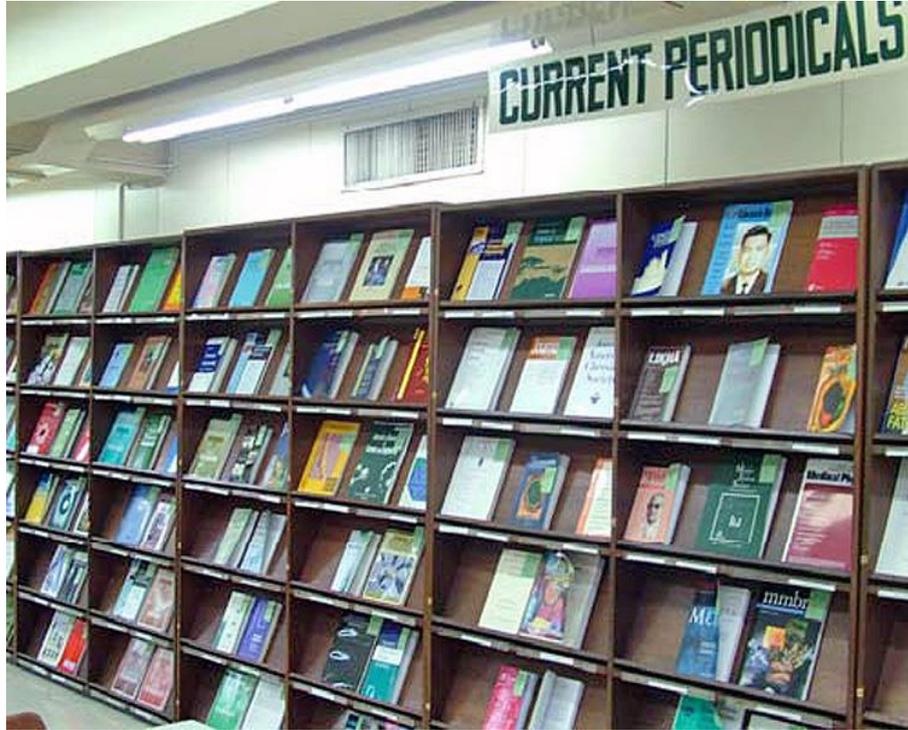




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CONTENTS

AGRICULTURE	3
DEMOGRAPHY	4
ECONOMICS	4
ECONOMICS	5
EDUCATION	6
HEALTH	6
MONETARY POLICY	7
POLITICAL SCIENCE	7
POLITICAL SCIENCE	7
SOCIOLOGY	8
WATER RESOURCES	8

AGRICULTURE

1 Lusk, Jayson L.

Distributional effects of crop insurance subsidies.

APPLIED ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY, 39(1), 2017 (March): 1-15

This article investigates the distributional effects of the subsidized crop insurance program in the United States. An equilibrium displacement model is constructed, linking the supply of disaggregate farm commodities with final consumer food demands. Using state-specific data on farm commodity production, crop insurance payments, food expenditures, and federal tax payments, the welfare effects of the removal of the premium subsidies for crop insurance are calculated for each state in the United States. Results indicate that the removal of the premium subsidy for crop insurance would have resulted in aggregate net economic benefits of \$622, \$932, and \$522 million in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively. The deadweight loss amounts to about 9.6%, 14.4%, and 8.0% of the total crop insurance subsidies paid to agricultural producers in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively. In aggregate, removal of the premium subsidy for crop insurance reduces farm producer surplus and consumer surplus, with taxpayers being the only aggregate beneficiary. The findings reveal that the costs of such farm policies are often hidden from food consumers in the form of a higher tax burden. On a disaggregate level, there is significant variation in effects of removal of the premium subsidy for crop insurance across states. Agricultural producers in several Western states, such as California, Oregon, and Washington, are projected to benefit from the removal of the premium subsidies for crop insurance, whereas producers in the Plains States, such as North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas, are projected to be the biggest losers.

** AGRICULTURE.

2 Sarkar, Radha , Sarkar, Amar Sarkar

Experiences of agribusiness - Farmworkers of Immokalee in Florida and Similarities with India.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(14), 2017(8th April): 25-28

Agribusiness refers to a model of food production that draws on strategies deployed in any other large-scale industry and is therefore markedly different from farming and agriculture on smaller scales. In this article, an interview-based description of the day-to-day experiences of farmworkers of Immokalee, Florida, is presented. These have close resemblance to the experience of Indian workers.

** AGRICULTURE.

DEMOGRAPHY

- 3 Rajan, S Irudaya, Srinivasan, Sharada and Bedi, Ar
Update on trends in sex ratio at birth in India.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(11), 2017(18th March):14-15

With additional data available at more regular intervals on sex ratio at birth, it is easier to track changes without depending on the decennial censuses. However, the diversity of sources also means differences in trends across sources and regions. A brief analysis of the latest available data is presented to identify the most recent trends and concerns in states that need attention, like north-western and eastern states of India.

** DEMOGRAPHY.

ECONOMICS

- 4 Ghosh, Saibal
Did MGNREGS improve financial inclusion?
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(12), 2017(25th March): 106-114

Utilising household-level data, this paper investigates the impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on financial inclusion. Exploiting the staggered timing of the roll-out of the programme across districts, while controlling for its non-random implementation, it is found that MGNREGS improves financial access. This is confirmed in simple univariate tests as well as in multivariate regressions that take into account several district- and household-level controls. The evidence, however, is less compelling when the use of finance is examined, although there is a differential impact for districts with higher proportion of women. The magnitudes in most cases are quite large and suggest that public works programme can positively influence financial inclusion. .

** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

- 5 Rubinstein, Ariel
Comments on economic models, economics, and economists: Remarks on economics rules by Dani Rodrik.
JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE, 55(1), 2017(March): 162-172

This essay reviews Dani Rodrik's superb book Economics Rules and argues that it can serve as an ideal platform for discussing what economists can and should accomplish. The essay comments on some of the major issues in contemporary economics examined in the book: whether economics is a science, the meaning of economic models, the nature of "facts" in economics, and others. It also touches on issues that the book overlooks, such as the sociology of the profession, the teaching curriculum in economics, and the dismal situation of publishing in economics.

** ECONOMICS.

6 Tintelnot, Felix

Global production with export platforms.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS, 132(1), 2017(February): 157-210

Most international commerce is carried out by multinational firms, which use their foreign affiliates both to serve the market of the host country and to export to other markets outside the host country. In this article, I examine the determinants of multinational firms location and production decisions and the welfare implications of multinational production. The few existing quantitative general equilibrium models that incorporate multinational firms achieve tractability by assuming away export platforms—that is, they do not allow foreign affiliates of multinationals to export—or by ignoring fixed costs associated with foreign investment. I develop a quantifiable multicountry general equilibrium model, which tractably handles multinational firms that engage in export platform sales and that face fixed costs of foreign investment. I first estimate the model using German firm-level data to uncover the size and nature of costs of multinational enterprise and show that the fixed costs of foreign investment are large. Second, I calibrate the model to data on trade and multinational production for twelve European and North American countries. Counterfactual analysis reveals that multinationals play an important role in transmitting technological improvements to foreign countries and that the pending Canada-EU trade and investment agreement could divert a sizable fraction of the production of EU multinationals from the U.S. to Canada. JEL Codes: F12, F23, L23.

** ECONOMICS.

7 Xu, Chenggang

Capitalism and Socialism: A review of Kornai's Dynamism, rivalry, and the surplus Economy.

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE, 55(1), 2017(March): 191-208

Understanding the nature of capitalism has been a central theme of economics. The collapse of the Eastern Bloc and the global financial crisis spurred the reemergence of the political economy as a new frontier and the revival of interest in the nature of capitalism. Janos Kornai's book *Dynamism, Rivalry, and the Surplus Economy: Two Essays on the Nature of Capitalism* fills an important intellectual gap in understanding the dynamic nature of capitalism by comparing it with its mirror image, socialism. To further develop the themes contained in the book, serious challenges are posed theoretically and empirically, as well as in subjects, such as hybrid capitalism.

** ECONOMICS.

EDUCATION

- 8 Pandiyan, S Ramamurthy, K
[National Policy on Education 2016 - A Comparative Critique with NPE 1986.](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(16), 2017(22nd April): 46-53

Any contemporary education policy will need to address the democratic and economic aspirations of the younger citizenry and must declare those concrete steps that would endure the realisation of those aims. But that has not been the case with the National Policy on Education 2016. The new education policy, as proposed, chooses not to address the fundamental issues plaguing the education system but instead, it propagates a corporate, neo-liberal, neo-cultural, a Sanskritised, global and market-oriented education system which is governed by a wholly separate and centralised bureaucracy, where state government power and oversight is minimal.

** EDUCATION.

HEALTH

- 9 Hooda, Shailender Kumar
[Health payments and household well-being - How effective are health policy interventions?](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(16), 2017(22nd April): 54-65

Health policy pronouncements in India currently advocate insurance-based financing mechanisms towards universal health coverage, sidelining the role of comprehensive healthcare provisioning through the public sector. This study, however, suggests that health insurance has been unsuccessful in protecting households from poverty and impoverishment resulting from out-of-pocket payments, and that insurance in fact subverts the effectiveness of the traditional health financing system. Free or low-cost healthcare provisioning by the state remains the best way to enhance the health and well-being of households, provided the inadequacies and inequalities across districts are addressed, and low-cost medicines and diagnostics made available to all. .

** HEALTH.

- 10 Roy, Bijoya
[Aspiring for universal health coverage through private care.](#)
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(16), 2017(22nd April): 15-17

The National Health Policy 2017 makes a case for expanding private sector participation through collaboration. The policy offers little assurance of providing integrated and universal healthcare.

** HEALTH.

MONETARY POLICY

- 11 Vasudevan, A
Reflections on analytical issues in Monetary Policy.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(12), 2017(25th March)

Analytical issues have arisen in the conduct of flexible inflation targeting as the framework of monetary policy, adopted formally by India in 2016, despite the noticeable downward drift in the inflation rate and concerns of many economists about its relevance in the light of the global financial crisis. Issues such as the framework's rationale, the medium-term inflation target, the meaning of real interest rate in the Indian context, the realism in respect of inflation expectations and of the inferred logic of the yield curve, and the implications for economic inequalities have been pointed out.

** MONETARY POLICY.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

- 12 Dellavigna, Stefano List, John A. Malmendier,
Voting to tell others.
REVIEW OF ECONOMIC STUDIES, 84(1), 2017(January): 143-181

Why do people vote? We design a field experiment to estimate a model of voting "because others will ask". The expectation of being asked motivates turnout if individuals derive pride from telling others that they voted, or feel shame from admitting that they did not vote, provided that lying is costly. In a door-to-door survey about election turnout, we experimentally vary (1) the informational content and use of a flyer pre-announcing the survey, (2) the duration and payment for the survey, and (3) the incentives to lie about past voting. The experimental results indicate significant social image concerns. For the 2010 Congressional election, we estimate a value of voting "to tell others" of about \$15, contributing 2 percentage points to turnout. Finally, we evaluate a get-out-the-vote intervention in which we tell potential voters that we will ask if they voted.

** POLITICS

- 13 Mello, Bernard DÔ
Reimagining "New Democracy", rethinking radical Politics
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(11), 2017(18th March): 34-42

Capitalism, especially Indian capitalism with its monstrous inequalities, has proved to be totally incompatible with democracy when the latter is understood in terms of its basic principles and aspirations-liberty, equality, and comradeship (fraternity is not the appropriate word now). But in transforming Indian society to ensure a better future for the Indian people, radical politics must preserve the kernel of the liberal- political tradition in the process of transcending that heritage. While keeping in place its historic legacy, "New Democracy" needs to be reimagined as part of a longer, truly democratic, human needs-based "political transition period" on the road to socialism. .

** POLITICS.

- 14 Palshikar, Suhas
India's second dominant party system.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(12), 2017(25th March):12-15

The conflation between nationalism and Hindutva has been the backbone of the new hegemony. That is why the Bharatiya Janata Party has been so happy with intellectuals trying to problematise the nation. That particular intellectual initiative simultaneously places the BJP in a position of immense advantage and ensures that "anti-BJP" would necessarily be equated with the anti-national! Independently, both ideas -Hindutva and development-are potent political discourses. By weaving them together with nationalism, Narendra Modi has bound them into an arsenal of his political offensive.

** POLITICS.

SOCIOLOGY

- 15 Rodrigues, Valerian
Ambedkar as a political philosopher.
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(15), 2017(15th April): 101-107

Existing studies on B R Ambedkar largely focus on his substantive religious, sociological, political and constitutional concerns, and not on the concepts he deployed for the purpose or modes of his argumentation. His body of work demonstrates that he formulated a number of concepts to take stock of the social reality that he confronted, and/or reformulated existing concepts by critically engaging with the body of scholarship available to him. With regard to the conception of the political, he advanced a comprehensive and consistent design of what it means to live as a public and how best to do so in a setting very different from the West.

** POLITICS

WATER RESOURCES

- 16 Joshi, Dhaval
Promoting farm ponds: Making of a crisis?
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 52(16), 2017(22nd April): 71-72

Although the article "Problematic Uses and Practices of Farm Ponds in Maharashtra" (EPW, 21 January 2017) by Eshwer Kale rightfully highlights pertinent issues regarding the policy of promoting farm ponds and the manner in which farmers are using these structures; the solutions espoused by the author and the Maharashtra government are devoid of expertise regarding technicalities related to terrain, geography and water-pumping technologies. .

** WATER RESOURCES.