

From the Authors:

We have just finished data collection, so we do not have a paper, but will definitely have results to present by the time of the conference. Would you consider an abstract submitted in lieu of a paper draft?

The long-run effects of industrial work on health: Experimental evidence from Ethiopia

Chris Blattman, Stefan Dercon, and Simon Franklin.

Abstract:

Blattman and Dercon (2017) randomly assigned poor job applicants to a factory job offer, a grant of \$300 plus business training, or a control group. After one year, they found little evidence that industrial workers share in the gains from large industrial firms, and may even have been worse off. Four years after they received these job offers, we follow up with these respondents to study the long run effects of exposure to factory work on health outcomes and occupational choice. Has longer-run exposure to unpleasant factory conditions compounded negative health effects found after 1 year? Or have quits rates from factory jobs continued such that only workers who are well-suited to factory work have self-selected into the sector, and are flourishing there? Although we saw no wage premium for factory workers 1 year after the offer, we will look at whether a wage premium grows with tenure in these more formal jobs relative to less formal options. In addition, we will follow up with the group given business training, who were more likely to be self-employed after 1 year. Are they now running successful businesses and avoiding the risks associated with precarious and demanding wage employment, or has this attempt at entrepreneurship prevented them from working up their way up the formal job-ladder to higher wages and valuable employment security?