PAUL NIEHAUS
Department of Economics, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive, Dept 0508
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508
http://dss.ucsd.edu/~pniehaus
pniehaus@ucsd.edu
@PaulFNiehaus

Appointments

Chancellor's Associate Endowed Chair in Economics, University of California, San Diego, 2022-

Associate Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego, 2015-2022

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego, 2009-2015

Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research New England, June 2012-January 2013

Visiting Researcher, Marshall Institute, London School of Economics, June 2018

Visiting Researcher, Stanford King Center on Global Development, November 2019

Visiting Researcher, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance, July 2022

Affiliations

Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2013-present

Affiliated Faculty, Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, UC San Diego, 2013-present

Fellow, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)

Affiliate, Center of Evaluation for Global Action (CEGA)

Affiliate, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Co-chair, Science for Progress initiative (2022-present)

Co-founder, president (2009-2014) and director (2009-present), GiveDirectly

Co-founder and director (2014-2019), Segovia Technology Co.

Co-founder and director (2019-2020), Taptap Send Inc.

Senior Fellow, Institute for Progress (2022-present)

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University, June 2009.
Advisors: Edward Glaeser, Sendhil Mullainathan (primary), Markus Mobius

Dissertation: Essays in Economic Development

S.B., Harvard University, June 2004
Concentration: Applied Math and Economics

Honors and Awards

Frisch Medalist, 2024
"Future Perfect 50," *Vox*, 2023
Graduate Teaching Award. UCSD, 2020.
Sloan Fellowship, 2015
Top 100 "Global Thinker," *Foreign Policy*, 2013
Mars Fellow at the Lindau Meetings of Nobel Laureates in Economic Science, 2008
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2006-2009

Recent Working Papers

"Universal Basic Income: Short-Term Results from a Long-Term Experiment in Kenya," with Abhijit Banerjee, Michael Faye, Alan Krueger, and Tavneet Suri.

"Rate-optimal linear estimation of average global effects," with Stefan Faridani.

"Customized cash transfers: financial lives and cash-flow preferences in rural Kenya," with Carolina Kansikas and Anandi Mani.

"Targeting impact versus deprivation," with Johannes Haushofer, Carlos Paramo, Ted Miguel and Michael Walker.

"(When) should you adjust inferences for multiple hypothesis testing?" with Davide Viviano and Kaspar Wuthrich.

"Effects of a Universal Basic Income during the pandemic," with Abhijit Banerjee, Michael Faye, Alan Krueger, and Tavneet Suri

Publications

"Filtered Social Learning." *Journal of Political Economy 119 (4), 2011, pp. 686-720.*

"Political Aid Cycles", with Michael Faye. *American Economic Review 102 (7), 2012, pp. 3516-30.*

"Targeting with Agents", with Antonia Attanassova and Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy 5 (1), 2013, pp. 206-38.*

"Corruption Dynamics: the Golden Goose Effect", with Sandip Sukhtankar. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy 5(4), 2013, pp.230-69. Winner of the AEJ: Economic Policy Best Paper Prize, 2014.*

"The Marginal Rate of Corruption in Public Programs", with Sandip Sukhtankar. *Journal of Public Economics 104, 2013, pp. 52-64.*

"Building State Capacity: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India," with Karthik Muralidharan and Sandip Sukhtankar. *American Economic Review 106 (10), 2016, pp. 2895-2929.*

"Experimentation at Scale," with Karthik Muralidharan. *Journal of Economic Perspectives 31 (4), Fall 2017, pp. 103-124.*

"Universal basic income in the developing world," with Abhijit Banerjee and Tavneet Suri. *Annual Review of Economics 11, August 2019, pp. 959-983.*

"Pathways of Persuasion," with Lucas Coffman. *Games and Economic Behavior 124, November 2020, pp. 239-53.*

"Improving Last-Mile Service Delivery using Phone-based Monitoring," with Karthik Muralidharan, Sandip Sukhtankar, and Jeff Weaver. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 13(2), April 2021, pp. 52-82.*

"General equilibrium effects of cash transfers: experimental evidence from Kenya," with Dennis Egger, Johannes Haushofer, Ted Miguel, and Michael Walker. *Econometrica 90 (6), November 2022, pp. 2603-43. Winner of the Frisch Medal, 2024.*

"Managing Self-Confidence: Theory and Experimental Evidence," with Markus Mobius, Muriel Niederle, and Tanya Rosenblat. *Management Science 68 (11), November 2022, pp. 7793-817.*

"Identity verification standards in welfare programs: experimental evidence from India," with Karthik Muralidharan and Sandip Sukhtankar. *Review of Economics and Statistics, February 2023, pp. 1-46.*

"General Equilibrium Effects of (Improving) Public Employment Programs," with Karthik Muralidharan and Sandip Sukhtankar. *Econometrica 91 (4), July 2023, pp. 1261-1295.*

Book Chapters

"Cash transfers," with Tavneet Suri. In Rema Hanna and Ben Olken (Eds.) *Social Protection Handbook*. Forthcoming.

Policy Writing

"Show Them the Money: Why Giving Cash Helps Alleviate Poverty," with Chris Blattman. *Foreign Affairs, May-June 2014, pp. 117-126.*

"Worth Every Cent," with Chris Blattman and Michael Faye. *Foreign Affairs, October 2015.*

"Cash as Capital," with Chris Blattman, Michael Faye, Dean Karlan, and Chris Udry. *Stanford Social Innovation Review, Summer 2017.*

"To speed scientific progress, understand how science policy works," with Matt Clancy, Dan Correa, Jordan Dworkin, Caleb Watney, and Heidi Williams. *Nature 620, 24 August 2023, pp. 724-6.*

Teaching

Becoming an Economist (Graduate). UCSD, 2022.

Special Topics: Corruption (Graduate – GPEC 449). UCSD, 2016-2021.

Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook project. UCSD, 2014.

Seminar in International Studies (Undergraduate – Intl 190). UCSD, 2012-2014, 2016-2021.

Macroeconomics of Development (Graduate). UCSD, 2009-2012, 2014, 2016-2017.

The Economics of Organizations in Developing Countries (Graduate). UCSD, 2018-2021.

Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate – 100C). UCSD, 2009-2012.

Microeconomic Theory (Graduate), Harvard University, 2006-2008. Teaching Fellow.

Professional Service

Referee for: American Economic Journal – Applied Economics; American Economic Journal – Economic Policy; American Economic Journal—Microeconomics (2020 Excellence in Refereeing Award); American Economic Review; American Political Science Review; Campbell Reviews; Development Engineering; Economica; Econometrica; Economics Bulletin; Economic Journal; Economics Letters; Games and Economic Behavior; International Economic Review; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Economic Literature; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Law and Economics; Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Public Economics; Management Science; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Oxford Economic Papers; Quarterly Journal of Economics (2011 Excellence in Refereeing Award); Reviews of Economics and Statistics; Review of Economic Studies; Science; World Bank Economic Review; World Development.

Grant review for: Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative; BRAC-CEGA Learning Collaborative; CEGA Development Innovations Lab; Development Innovation Ventures; DigiFI Africa initiative; JPAL Governance Initiative; JPAL Innovations in Governance Initiative; National Science Foundation; Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries initiative; Sloan Foundation.

Conference co-organizer for: UCSD Development Economics workshop, NBER Summer Institute.

Invited Seminars

2008-2009	Yale University, Cornell University, the London School of Economics, Warwick University, University of California – San Diego, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Dartmouth College, Gordon College
2009-2010	Stanford University, University of California – San Diego, World Bank, Center for Global Development

2010-2011	University of California – Berkeley, Iowa State University, University of California – Los Angeles (Anderson)
2011-2012	University of California – Santa Cruz, University of California – Berkeley (Haas), Stanford University, Naval Postgraduate School, New York University, University of California – Berkeley, University of Chicago (Booth), Microsoft Research New England
2012-2013	Microsoft Research, Duke University, University of Chicago, University of San Francisco, Columbia University, London School of Economics / University College London, Oxford University, Warwick University, University of California – Berkeley (Haas), University of Southern California, Stanford University (GSB), University of California – Los Angeles, UCSD – Rady School of Business
2013-2014	University of California – Berkeley, World Bank, Center for Global Development (US), Center for Global Development (UK)
2014-2015	Yale University, University of California – Los Angeles, University of Pittsburg, Stanford University
2015-2016	Berkeley (Haas), RAND Corporation, Apple University, World Bank
2016-2107	Claremont Graduate University, Princeton University, Oxford University, UK Department for International Development
2017-2018	Stanford University, World Bank, Duke University, University of California – Berkeley, University of Michigan, Northwestern University
2018-2019	Penn State University, University of Chicago, Harvard Business School, Georgetown University, University of San Diego, University of British Columbia, Harvard / MIT,
2019-2020	University of Geneva, University of Zurich, Maastricht University, University of Washington, Stanford University, University of California – Berkeley, University of California – Santa Cruz, University of Pennsylvania – Wharton School
2020-2021	Yale University, University of California – Berkeley, Brown University
2021-2022	Notre Dame, University of Minnesota, Columbia University

Conference Presentations

2005-2006	Economic Science Association
2008-2009	Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
2009-2010	NEUDC, MOVE Barcelona "Development: Experiment and Field" Workshop
2010-2011	Southwestern Economic Theory Conference (SWET), National Bureau for Economic Research – Public Economics
2011-2012	CEGA Day
2012-2013	Brown University Mini-conference on Networks, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE)
2013-2014	NEUDC, Duke Mini-conference on Charitable Giving
2015-2016	Effective Altruism Global, Delhi Economics Conclave, Skoll World Forum, San Diego Global Poverty Forum
2016-2017	ideas42 Behavioral Summit, Hewlett Foundation
2017-2018	Economics of Social Sector Organizations (London School of Economics), University of Connecticut, The Graduate Institute (Geneva), Williams College Center for Development Economics
2018-2019	Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE), Y-RISE conference (Yale University), World Bank, Bridgewater (corporate retreat)

2019-2020	Y-RISE conference (Yale University), Korean Economic Review International Conference, Science of Philanthropy Conference (University of Chicago)
2020-2021	American Economic Association Annual Meetings
2021-2022	CEGA Day, International Labor Organization, BREAD