Y-Rise Inaugural Network Meetings – Call for Papers

Dates: December 13-20, 2018
Location: Grand Cayman

The Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-Rise) is pleased to invite paper submissions for its inaugural network meetings in December 2018.

The newly founded Y-Rise seeks to develop the science of scaling up policy interventions. In recent decades, social scientists have developed a rigorous toolkit for evaluating the effects of interventions, but changes in context or scale can limit the ability of such evaluations to serve as a forward-looking guide to policy. Y-Rise is assembling thematic research networks, building partnerships with implementers who operate at scale, and supporting new research, to develop the research agenda around different challenges or implications of scale. For more information, please visit http://yrise.yale.edu.

Each of the four Y-Rise research networks is convening a 2-day meeting in December in Grand Cayman. We welcome paper submissions for any of these four meetings.

Political Economy Effects of Policy Interventions – December 13-14
Convened by Frederico Finan (UC-Berkeley) and Gerard Padró i Miquel (Yale)
From crowd-in or crowd-out of public spending to voting behavior and political accountability, scaling a program can affect political behavior in a number of ways, with implications for the effectiveness of the program itself alongside other economic and political outcomes.

Spillovers, Network and Equilibrium Effects of Policy Interventions - December 15-16
Convened by Mushfiq Mobarak (Yale) and Mark Rosenzweig (Yale)
Programs often affect non-beneficiaries in addition to the individuals directly targeted by the program. Spillovers across individuals, groups or areas induced by scale can substantially amplify or undermine the intended effects of a program. The spillovers considered in this conference may include, but are not limited to, general-equilibrium effects via markets, health externalities such as contagion, formal bank intermediation, or the transmission of information and/or the transfer of financial resources across members of a network.

Macro, growth, and welfare effects of policy interventions – December 17-18
Convened by Joseph Kaboski (Notre Dame) and David Lagakos (UC San Diego)
The changes in individual behavior induced by a program can, at scale, have impacts on the macroeconomy — creating feedback loops whose effects may manifest over time. Measuring those changes alone gives an incomplete view of the program, as they can alter the behavior of firms, lenders, and governments, leading to structural shifts and welfare impacts that may emerge only in the medium – or long term.
Evidence aggregation and external validity – December 19-20

Convened by Aprajit Mahajan (UC Berkeley) and Edward Vytlacil (Yale)

Social norms, institutions, and even the weather can mediate the effects of a program, causing those effects to vary by location, times, and the characteristics of beneficiaries; this question of external validity, how a program works outside the context of existing evaluations, complicates decisions to scale up or even continue programs that appear promising. To make inferences about large-scale policy change also requires us to develop methods to aggregate evidence across different studies.

Submission process

Please email submissions to yrise@yale.edu with the subject header “December Conference – [Theme name]” no later than September 5, midnight US ET. Interested researchers may make multiple submissions, but each submitted paper will be considered for one theme only; the email should clearly indicate the one theme the authors believe is the best fit for their submission. We welcome submissions of either completed papers or detailed paper abstracts in PDF format. The cover page of each submission must include the paper title, abstract, authors, affiliations, and contact information for the applicant. Applicants will be notified by September 15.

We intend for these meetings to have a slightly different balance than a typical conference; in addition to research presentations, ample time will be devoted to discussing and developing the research agenda around scale up. We can therefore accommodate only a limited number of presentation slots in each meeting.

Accommodations and expenses

Y-RISE is pleased to offer accommodation and reimbursement for reasonable economy-class travel expenses for one author per paper. We have reserved rooms at a hotel on Grand Cayman at a discounted group rate. To make it easier for presenters to travel with family if they wish to during this period approaching the December holidays, we have arranged with the hotel such that some of the rooms can be upgraded to a suite that can accommodate 2 adults + 2 children, for a small upcharge.