

# Economics Department Newsletter

November 12, 2012

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### Seminars and Events

1. **Tuesday, November 13**, 4:00PM, CDE — [Nancy Birdsall](#), Williams College and Center for Global Development, CDE seminar. *Institution Building through Cash on Delivery Aid*.
2. **Wednesday, November 14**, 4:00PM, Griffin 7— [Will Olney](#), Williams College, Economics Department Seminar. [The Impact of Corruption on Exporting](#).

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### Seminars and Events

#### **1. Nancy Birdsall on “Institution Building through Cash on Delivery Aid”**

On **Tuesday, November 13**, at 4:00PM in the CDE classroom, [Nancy Birdsall](#) will give a talk on “Institution Building through Cash on Delivery Aid.” Birdsall is President of the Center for Global Development, a leading non-partisan think tank on global development issues, and is a visiting professor at Williams this semester. She will discuss the idea of “Cash on Delivery Aid,” a proposal for tying foreign aid to developing countries to the achievement of particular measurable objectives that the aid is intended to promote (in areas such as education and health, for example). The proposal is intended to improve the incentives of developing country governments, while providing them with flexibility and choice over how best to achieve the desired objectives. She will discuss how this approach might work, and how it might promote the development of better institutions in developing countries that sorely need them.

#### **2. Will Olney on “The Impact of Corruption on Exporting”**

On **Wednesday, November 14**, at 4:00PM in Griffin 7, [Will Olney](#), Assistant Professor of Economics at Williams College, will present his new paper “[The Impact of Corruption on Exporting](#).” Economists are interested in understanding how and why firms export, partly because exporting may be an important path to economic growth for developing

countries, and partly because figuring out how to export involves learning and knowledge spillovers, suggesting that it might not happen spontaneously in the market even when the benefits exceed the costs. Exporting played a central role in the growth processes of many initially poor countries that managed to achieve rapid economic growth in recent decades, such as the East Asian “Tigers,” and many countries are interested in how to replicate that success. One potential obstacle to success as an exporter may be the government corruption which is so endemic in so many developing countries. Olney investigates how government corruption might impact firms’ decisions about whether and how to export, and finds empirical evidence that exporting indirectly through intermediaries appears to be an important mechanism that enables developing country firms to cope with and get around the worst effects of government corruption.

## **Post-graduation job opportunities**

### **3. Economists Incorporated**

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Economists Incorporated, an economic consulting firm, is hiring Research Associates for two-year positions starting in the summer of 2013 in its Washington, DC office. For more information, see:

<http://web.williams.edu/williams-only/Economics/JobAds/November2012/EconomistsIncorporated.pdf>

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### **4. How to get items into the newsletter and how to unsubscribe**

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Please contact [Jon Bakija](#) with any news, events, or other information that you would like to send around to Economics and Political Economy faculty and majors, as well as anyone who has manifested an interest in the field by taking a class in either department this semester. If you would prefer not to receive the newsletter, please contact [Helen McShane](#) to unsubscribe.