Three Essays on Social Safety Nets in Developing Countries

JURY

Catherine ARAUJO-BONJEAN, Chargée de Recherche, CNRS, Université Clermont Auvergne
Vianney DEQUIEDT, Professeur, Université Clermont Auvergne
Elisabeth SADOULET, Professeur, University of California- Berkeley
Douglas GOLLIN, Professeur, University of Oxford
Flore GUBERT, Research Director, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)
Simone BERTOLI, Professor, Université Clermont Auvergne

SUMMARY OF THESIS

This thesis provides three empirical essays on the design and evaluation of social safety nets in developing countries. It presents novel evidence showing that: (i) non-random errors in consumption can lead to a bias in Proxy Means Testing estimates of absolute poverty; (ii) cash transfers can ease liquidity constraints and risk bearing, thereby increasing risky migrations; (iii) cash-for-work activities do not always have measurable productive effects. Hopefully, these pieces will contribute to improve our understanding of social safety nets, and, ultimately, to design more effective public policies to fight poverty and vulnerability.

KEYWORDS