The Economics of Mental Health in the Developing World

In partnership with the South Asia Center and the Dept. of Economics

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Gautam Rao is an Associate Professor at the Department of Economics and Haas School of Business at the University of California Berkeley. His research brings insights from psychology to bear on topics in economics, particularly topics relevant to developing countries. His current research agenda is centered on the economics of mental health in developing countries. Past projects include studying how improving sleep affects the economic outcomes of workers in India, how the endowment effect influences consumer demand for collateralized loans in Kenya, and how mixing rich and poor students in schools in India affects social preferences and behaviors. Together with Frank Schilbach and Heather Schofield, he helps run the Behavioral Development Lab in India. He is a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and a faculty affiliate at The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL). A former Associate Editor at the Journal of Political Economy, he taught at Harvard University before joining UC Berkeley.