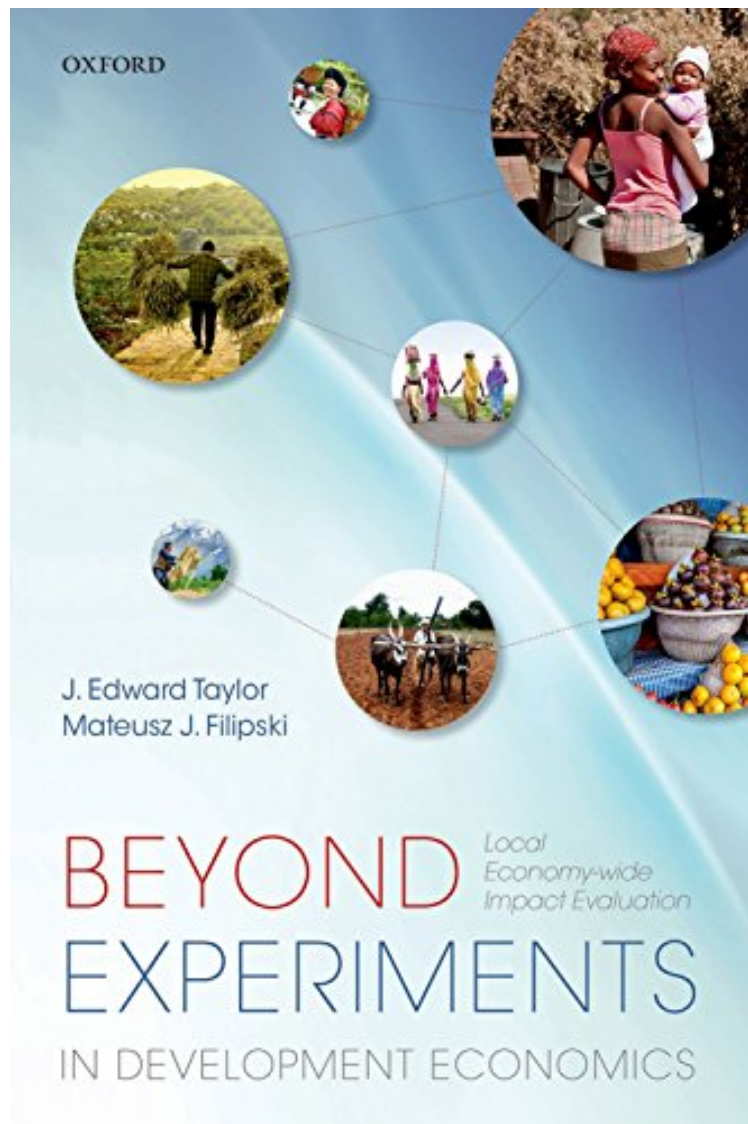


# Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation

*J. Edward Taylor, Mateusz J. Filipski*  
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**J. Edward Taylor, Mateusz J. Filipski : Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Novel approach to development! Easy to understand and fun to read! By Customer In sub-Saharan Africa, a new generation of poverty programs provide cash transfers to rural people so poor that they lack the assets and labor to produce crops, yet crop production increases in households that are

ineligible for the programs. By treating poor households, social cash transfer programs treat the whole economy of which they are part. The Central American Free Trade Agreement removes tariffs on food imports, dramatically lowering the cost of food. As lower food prices wend their way through rural economies characterized by wide inequalities and heterogeneous households, they have both positive and negative welfare effects—but for most rural households in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, CAFTA's net welfare impact is positive. The global economic crisis reduces remittances from migrants in the United States to their households in rural Mexico, but local market linkages transmit impacts through the Mexican rural economy. Households without migrants lose from the Great Recession, and crop production decreases. These three examples, taken from chapters in Taylor and Filipski's book, are classic situations in which local economy-wide impact evaluation (LEWIE) methods can be incredibly useful. Answers are needed before programs and policies are put into place. Impacts depend critically on how those who are directly affected by a policy or program transmit impacts to others in the economies of which they are part, and on how local economies adjust. For example, if local supply responses are low, policies that stimulate demand could raise food prices and harm people they intend to benefit, with collateral damage on other linked sectors and households. Policy makers and donors want to know what sorts of complementary interventions might be needed in order to make sure that their programs are successful. The stakes are high, and as always, time and resources are limited. *Beyond Experiments in Development Economics: Local Economy-wide Impact Evaluation* provides an introduction into the design and use of LEWIE models, together with a rich collection of applications that range from performing economy-wide cost-benefit analysis of eco-tourism projects to evaluating the impacts of global commodity price shocks, social cash transfers, and government corruption. Taylor and Filipski have created a book that is easy to understand and fun to read for all members of the development community. Those who wish can even go beyond the content of the book and create LEWIE models of their own, in order to understand how the impacts of projects and policies play out in local economies. Development practitioners often are less interested in the technical aspects of LEWIE, but they need to understand the full benefits and costs of their projects and decide what sort of impact evaluation approach is needed in different situations. For them, this book provides an accessible introduction to LEWIE as well as the insights it has provided in real-world project evaluations. This book will certainly become a classic in the project and policy impact evaluation arena. It provides researchers, students, development practitioners, and governments with the resources they need to carry out or support the local economy-wide impact evaluation of projects and policies. LEWIE is becoming part of economists' impact evaluation toolkit. Above all, it changes the way people think about how development projects and policies play out in the economies in which they are implemented, including the impacts they have, direct or indirect, on people who are so vulnerable that economists cannot risk being wrong.

This book provides researchers, students, and practitioners with a methodology to evaluate the impacts of a wide diversity of development projects and policies on local economies. Projects and policies often create spillovers within project areas. LEWIE uses simulation methods to quantify these spillovers. It has become a complement to randomized control trials (RCTs), as governments and donors become interested in documenting impacts beyond the treated, comparing the likely impacts of alternative interventions, and designing complementary interventions to influence program and policy impacts. It is also a tool for impact evaluation where RCTs are not feasible. Chapters 1-4 motivate and present the basics of impact simulation, including how to design a LEWIE model, how to estimate the model, and how to obtain the necessary data. The remaining chapters provide a diversity of interesting real-world applications and extensions of the basic models. The applications include evaluations of the impacts of cash transfers for the poor, ecotourism, global food-price shocks, irrigation projects, migration, and corruption. Each chapter provides readers with the tools they need to conduct their own local economy-wide impact evaluations. All models and data used in this book are available on-line.

**About the Author** J. Edward Taylor, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis, Mateusz J. Filipski, Postdoctoral Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute J. Edward Taylor is Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Director of the Center on Rural Economies of the Americas and Pacific Rim (REAP) at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches courses on international development economics and econometric methods. He is also co-editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and founder of the alternative textbook initiative, RebelText.org. Taylor has written extensively on the economy-wide impacts of agricultural and development policies and on immigration. He co-authored *Village Economies: The Design, Estimation and Use of Villagewide Economic Models* (Cambridge University Press) and *Worlds in Motion: Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millennium* (Oxford University Press). He is listed in *Who's Who in Economics* and has advised a number of foreign governments and international development agencies on matters related to economic development. Mateusz J. Filipski is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC, where he is part of the Development Strategy and Governance Division. He is a graduate of the department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of

California, Davis. Before joining IFPRI, he was a consultant for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He has authored or co-authored a number of publications on impact evaluation of rural development programs and policies, and routinely works as a reviewer for the leading journals in the field.