

Business & Economic Article Links (March 2014)

1.

Title: [Influence of Six Sigma Practices on Internal Quality Management of Thai Private Hospitals entering the ASEAN Economic Community \(AEC\)](#)

Authors: Ponanake, Pareeyawadee, et al.

Source: Journal of American Academy of Business, Cambridge; Mar 2014, Vol. 19 Issue 2, Pp. 294-299.

Abstract: This research aimed to study the internal quality management of a Thai private hospital entering the ASEAN Economic Community and the influence of Six Sigma practices on this internal quality management. The sample group for the research comprised 337 ETA officers. The research was conducted from December 2012 to June 2013, and the research method used was purposive sampling through questionnaires. Statistical data analysis was performed using percentages, means, standard deviations, multiple linear regressions, and the forward selection technique. The research found that the internal quality management of Thai private hospitals entering the ASEAN Economic Community was at a high level and that the Six Sigma practices regarding supplier relations influenced this internal quality management at the 0.05 level of significance, while the Six Sigma practices customer relations, quality data, service design and process management influenced it at the 0.01 significance level.

Note: <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1464956805?accountid=15637>

Database: *ABI/INFORM Complete*

2.

Title: [Law and Economic Development: The Cautionary Tale of Colonial Burma](#)

Authors: STANTON, Thomas H.

Source: Asian Journal of Law and Society; 2014, *FirstView* Article, Pp. 1-17

Abstract: Burmese colonial history suggests that a legal system cannot operate independently from the felt needs of the people who are supposed to obey the law. Despite a monopoly of force for many decades, the British failed to create a sustainable legal system in Burma. Colonial status shifted Burma's economic role from subsistence agriculture to the generation of large-scale exports. By undermining the traditional Burmese legal system and substituting Western international standards of property rights, enforceability of contracts, and an independent judiciary—all attributes of what some consider to be the "Rule of Law"—the legal system amplified and channelled destructive economic and social forces rather than containing them. This paper examines traditional Burmese law, the administration of law in British Burma, and the consequences of the new legal system for the country and its own stability. The paper concludes by suggesting lessons for Myanmar today, and for the study of the "Rule of Law."

Note: DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/als.2013.4>

Database: *Cambridge Journals Online*

3.

Title: [Economic integration and specialization in production in the EU27: does FDI influence countries' specialization?](#)

Authors: Vechiu, Natalia and Makhlouf, Farid

Source: Empirical Economics; Mar 2014, Vol. 46, Issue 2, Pp. 543-572

Abstract: The objective of this article is twofold. Firstly, we proceed to an analysis of the evolution of specialization in production in the enlarged EU, taking into account all its 27 member countries. Given their decomposability properties, we use the entropy-based indices to measure countries' relative specialization and then, given our rather short period of analysis, we use the bootstrap method to analyze the evolution of the specialization index. We first analyze all economic sectors and then, our analysis is more detailed focusing on manufacturing industries. Globally, we find that specialization is decreasing across all economic sectors, while it is increasing across manufacturing industries. Secondly, we study specialization determinants, with a special interest in the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI). For homogeneity reasons, we analyze two separate samples, one including old EU members plus Cyprus and Malta and the other, the CEECs. In order to take into account the endogeneity of most of our independent variables, we use the vector autoregression (VAR) technique and analyse the impulse response functions. Globally, FDIs seem to positively influence countries' relative specialization, for our both samples and for both economic sectors and manufacturing industries. However, their impact appears weaker than most of the other independent variables, such as the market potential or the relative endowments.

Note: DOI: 10.1007/s00181-013-0682-9

Database: *SpringerLink*

4.

Title: [A macroeconomic investigation of funding liquidity and monetary policy shocks in the United States](#)

Authors: Chiu, Ching-Wai (Jeremy)

Source: Applied Economics Letters; 2014, Vol. 21, Issue 8, pages 517-521

Abstract: This article provides empirical evidence that aggregate funding liquidity shocks and monetary policy shocks contribute to the business cycles in the United States. I estimate a structural VAR model with monthly macro-financial data, and identify the structural shocks based on the recursiveness assumption. Both adverse funding liquidity and monetary policy shocks, which are orthogonal to each other by construction, cause significant recessions, with monetary policy shocks generating relatively deeper and longer recessionary effects. Only funding liquidity shocks significantly reduce market liquidity. These two shocks account for over 30% of the cyclical fluctuations of the unemployment rate and industrial production two years after the shocks hit.

Note: DOI: 10.1080/13504851.2013.870646

Database: *Taylor & Francis Journals Online*

5.

Title: [Sustaining multilateral trade cooperation in a multipolar world economy](#)

Authors: Hoekman, Bernard

Source: The Review of International Organizations. Published online: 1 February 2014

Abstract: The deadlock in the WTO Doha Round has been accompanied by an increased focus on the negotiation of preferential trade agreements, including so-called 'mega-regionals'. This paper discusses possible implications for—and possible responses by—excluded countries that have little prospects of participating in most of the mega-regionals. A number of complementary avenues are identified through which such countries might attenuate the potential downsides of preferential trade liberalization among large countries, as well as some proposals that would expand the scope to pursue cooperation on regulatory policies in the WTO as opposed to PTAs.

Note: DOI: 10.1007/s11558-014-9187-3

Database: *SpringerLink*

6.

Title: [The Paradox of Liberalization - Understanding Dualism and the Recovery of the German Political Economy](#)

Authors: [Hassel, Anke](#)

Source: British Journal of Industrial Relations; Mar 2014, Vol. 52 Issue 1 , p. 57

Abstract: What do the recent trends in German economic development convey about the trajectory of change? Has liberalization prepared the German economy to deal with new challenges? What effects will liberalization have on the co-ordinating capacities of economic institutions? This article argues that co-ordination and liberalization are two sides of the same coin in the process of corporate restructuring in the face of economic shocks. Firms seek labour co-operation in the face of tighter competitive pressures and exploit institutional advantages of co-ordination. However, tighter co-operation with core workers sharpened insider-outsider divisions and were built upon service sector cost cutting through liberalization. The combination of plant-level restructuring and social policy change forms a trajectory of institutional adjustment of forming complementary economic segments which work under different rules. The process is driven by producer coalitions of export-oriented firms and core workers' representatives, rather than by firms per se.

Note: <http://search.proquest.com/docview/1498528379?accountid=15637>

Database: *ABI/INFORM Complete*

7.

Title: [SOCIAL CAPITAL, TRUST, AND MULTIPLE EQUILIBRIA IN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE](#)

Authors: Growiec, Katarzyna and Growiec, Jakub

Source: Macroeconomic Dynamics; Mar 2014, Vol. 18 Issue 2, Pp. 282-315

Abstract: We propose a novel mechanism giving rise to poverty traps and multiple equilibria in economic performance. It is a potentially important source of persistent underdevelopment across countries and regions. At the core of this mechanism, bridging social capital and social trust feedback on each other, interdependently affecting individuals' earnings and subjective well-being. High trust and abundant bridging social capital reinforce each other, leading to a "high" equilibrium where both these variables take persistently high values, and earnings and well-being are high as well, whereas low trust and lack of bridging social capital create a vicious circle, leading to a "low trust trap" where all these variables are persistently low. The workings of our theoretical model are in agreement with a wide range of findings from the contemporary literature in sociology and social psychology.

Note: DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S136510051200034X>

Database: *Cambridge Journals Online*

8.

Title: [Multinational corporations' economic and human rights impacts on developing countries: a review and research agenda](#)

Authors: Giuliani, Elisa and Macchi, Chiara

Source: Cambridge Journal of Economics; Mar 2014, Vol. 38 Issue 2, Pp.479-517.

Abstract: Developing countries are attracting a significant portion of global foreign direct investments. Governments of such countries often compete fiercely for attracting multinational corporations (MNCs) in the expectation of the advantages they will bring to their economies, often prioritising economic goals over fundamental human rights. For a long time, economists have analysed the economic impacts of MNCs, while a parallel strand of work in political science, business ethics and international law investigates the repercussions of MNC operations on human rights. Despite the significant relatedness and complementarities, these two bodies of literature have so far poorly interacted. This paper addresses this limitation and systematically analyses and integrates existing micro-level empirical evidence on the economic and human rights impacts of MNCs on developing countries. It provides a critical analysis of what is known and highlights what we do not know about the factors that mediate the positive and/or negative impacts of MNC operations on host developing countries. Based on a critical analysis of the literature, it discusses avenues for future research in this field and sets the grounds for a new interdisciplinary research agenda on this subject.

Note: DOI: 10.1093/cje/bet060

Database: *Oxford Journals Online*

9.

Title: [The role of the media in fiscal consolidation programmes: the case of Ireland](#)

Authors: Mercille, Julien

Source: Cambridge Journal of Economics; Mar 2014, Vol. 38 Issue 2, Pp.281-300.

Abstract: A number of European countries have implemented austerity programmes since the onset of the current economic crisis. This paper focuses on fiscal consolidation, a central aspect of such programmes, using the case of Ireland. It investigates the significant role of the mass media in presenting such policies to the public, a role which has so far remained unexamined. Conceiving of the Irish experience over the past few decades as a case of neoliberalisation, it uses a critical political economic conceptualisation of news organisations to consider 431 editorials and opinion articles discussing fiscal consolidation in three leading Irish newspapers between 2008 and 2012. It finds that the majority of articles present viewpoints in favour of fiscal consolidation and display a preference for spending cuts over tax hikes, which substantiates the claim that Ireland has adopted neoliberal policies to address the crisis. Only a minority of articles oppose fiscal consolidation. These mostly contest specific spending cuts but usually fail to criticise fiscal consolidation itself by calling for economic alternatives, such as Keynesian stimulus. Differences between newspapers are also discussed, highlighting their ideological cleavages.

Note: DOI: 10.1093/cje/bet068

Database: Oxford Journals Online

10.

Title: [Are consumer sentiments useful in Japan? An application of a new market-timing test](#)

Authors: Tsuchiya, Y.

Source: Applied Economics Letters; 2014, Vol. 21, Issue 5, Pp. 356-359

Abstract: We investigate whether consumer sentiment in Japan is a useful predictor of household consumption, durable goods consumption and the CPI using a recently developed market-timing test. We find that consumer sentiment is not useful for predicting an increase/decrease in household consumption, durable goods consumption, and CPI. The findings suggest that policy-makers may have difficulties obtaining useful qualitative information from consumers. However, using estimated threshold values for the increase/decrease, consumer sentiment became a useful predictor of durable goods consumption and CPI. This suggests that estimating relevant thresholds could enhance the use of directional analysis.

Note: DOI: 10.1080/13504851.2013.861578

Database: Taylor & Francis Journals Online

11.

Title: [Competition or privatization: which is more effective in China's banking sector reform?](#)

Authors: Cai, Weixing, et al.

Source: Applied Economics Letters; Apr 2014, Vol. 21 Issue 6, Pp.402-406.

Abstract: Using provincial panel data for Chinese commercial banks in the period 2002–2007, this article investigates the impact of competition and privatization on bank lending efficiency. We find evidence of non-commercialization in lending activities. In comparison with privatization, competition plays a more important role in improving lending efficiency. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Note: DOI: 10.1080/13504851.2013.861583

Database: Business Source Complete

12.

Title: [Food Security and Agri-Foreign Direct Investment in Weak States: Finding the Governance Gap to Avoid 'Land Grab'](#)

Authors: Häberli, C. and Smith, F.

Source: The Modern Law Review; March 2014, Vol. 77, Issue 2, Pp. 189–222,

Abstract: Food security is important. A rising world population coupled with climate change creates growing pressure on global world food supplies. States alleviate this pressure domestically by attracting agri-foreign direct investment (agri-FDI). This is a high-risk strategy for weak states: the state may gain valuable foreign currency, technology and debt-free growth; but equally, investors may fail to deliver on their commitments and exploit weak domestic legal infrastructure to 'grab' large areas of prime agricultural land, leaving only marginal land for domestic production. A net loss to local food security and to the national economy results. This is problematic because the state must continue to guarantee its citizens' right to food and property. Agri-FDI needs close regulation to maximise its

benefit. This article maps the multilevel system of governance covering agri-FDI. We show how this system creates asymmetric rights in favour of the investor to the detriment of the host state's food security and how these problems might be alleviated.

Note: DOI: 10.1111/1468-2230.12062

Database: *Wiley Online Library*

13.

Title: [Photovoltaic power stations in Germany and the United States: A comparative study by data envelopment analysis](#)

Authors: Sueyoshi, Toshiyuki and Goto, Mika

Source: Energy Economics; Mar2014, Vol. 42, Pp. 271-288.

Abstract: This study compares Photovoltaic (PV) power stations between Germany and the United States to examine which country more efficiently provides renewable energy in their usages. For the comparative analysis, this study utilizes Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) as a methodology to evaluate the performance of PV power stations from the perspective of both solar and land usages. A total of one hundred sixty PV power stations (eighty in Germany and eighty in the United States) are used for this comparison. The demand for sustainable energy and energy security has been rapidly increasing over the past decade because of concerns about environment and limited resources. PV solutions are one of many renewable technologies that are being developed to satisfy a recent demand of electricity. Germany is the world's top installer and consumer of PV power and the United States is one of the top five nations. Germany leads the way in installed PV capacity even though the nation has less solar resources and land area. Due to limited solar resources, low insolation and sunshine, and land area, the United States should have a clear advantage over Germany. However, the empirical result of this study exhibits that PV power stations in Germany operate more efficiently than those of the United States even if the latter has many solar and land advantages.

Note: DOI: 10.1016/j.eneco.2014.01.004

Database: *Business Source Complete*

14.

Title: [EFFECT OF FDI AND TIME ON CATCHING UP: NEW INSIGHTS FROM A CONDITIONAL NONPARAMETRIC FRONTIER ANALYSIS](#)

Authors: Mastromarco, C. and Simar, L.

Source: Journal of Applied Econometrics; Early View, Article first published online: 24 Feb 2014

Abstract: We use an appropriate nonparametric two-step approach on conditional efficiencies to investigate how foreign direct investment (FDI) and time affect the process of catching up. By using a dataset of 44 countries over 1970–2007, we explore the channels under which FDI fosters productivity by disentangling the impact of this factor on the production process and its components: impact on the attainable production set (input–output space) and the impact on the distribution of efficiencies. We extend existing methodological tools—conditional nonparametric efficiency measures—to examine these interrelationships. We emphasize the usefulness of smoothing over time to better analyze the potential dynamic influence of FDI on efficiency. We find that both FDI and time play an

important role as influencing efficiency distribution and affecting, to a smaller extent, the production set. This effect of FDI does not seem to vary much over time. By the second-stage nonparametric regression of the conditional efficiencies over FDI and time we identify clearly the effect of time and FDI on conditional efficiency and we determine idiosyncratic efficiency, which represents the 'Solow residual', measured by looking to the unexplained part of the conditional efficiencies.

Note: DOI: 10.1002/jae.2382

Database: *Wiley Online Library*

15.

Title: [Performance of bank mergers and acquisitions: a review of the recent empirical evidence](#)

Authors: Kolaric, Sascha and Schiereck, Dirk

Source: Management Review Quarterly; February 2014, Vol. 64, Issue 1, Pp. 39-71

Abstract: This review provides a comprehensive analysis of the literature on bank mergers and acquisitions with an emphasis on the last decade. The study identifies and analyzes more than 135 publications focusing on this subject. The publications are grouped along their regional focus and the three main empirical methodologies utilized in the literature. The results are documented in detail and their evolution over time is discussed. The key factors influencing the performance of bank mergers and acquisitions, as identified in the relevant literature, are grouped into three categories and evaluated according to their contribution to the success of a merger. This paper concludes with a brief discussion of the influence of managers on the performance of mergers and acquisitions and evidence on regulatory arbitrage through bank mergers and acquisitions.

Note: DOI: 10.1007/s11301-014-0099-3

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