

EconLab Opportunity for 2024-25: RA for Ludovica Mosillo

Title: Research Assistant

Openings: One

Project: The unequal effects of load shedding in South Africa

Project Description:

The project aims to examine the impact of resource rationing on inequality in developing countries. The project focuses on South Africa, where a system of rotating power outages ("Load Shedding") was introduced in recent years to address the severe electricity crisis facing the country. In 2023, households in South Africa experienced an average of 5 hours of power outage per day. The project shows that the effect of power outages is stronger for poor neighborhoods, and will explore the consequences of this differential impact in terms of economic inequality.

Position Description:

The main task of the Research Assistant will be to help with the collection of load shedding schedules from the websites of municipalities not observing the regular power outage schedule, and the addition of these schedules to the main dataset. Other tasks may include assisting with the geo-localization of suburbs in the municipality schedules and performing random checks to verify the code is working correctly.

Application Requirements:

Interested applicants should email ludovicamosillo@u.northwestern.edu with a copy of their resume, and a paragraph discussing their interest in this project and position.