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**3rd Urbanization and Poverty
Reduction Research Conference
Session I**

Comments by:
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- Impossible to properly discuss four excellent papers in 8 minutes
- For each paper:
 - Highlight the key finding
 - Provide one comment for discussion
- Identify gaps in the literature and directions for future research

- Ambitious paper – Map and measure urban expansion for 200 cities in the world
 - Unique: Global Nature; Fantastic Data
 - Interesting Facts:
 - Historical cities increased their urban extent **16-fold** during 20th century; urban densities declined at a rate of **2%** per annum
 - Urban land cover in developing countries may increase on average **4-6 fold**
- Next Steps: Determinants and consequences of expansion (squattering; affordability; road network); Push to link with discussions of climate adaptation in cities

- Fantastic Question: link exposure to high temperature anomalies in-utero with long-term impacts on adult human capital accumulation and productivity
- Strategy: match earnings of formal sector workers in Ecuador on temperature and rainfall anomalies in and around the time (location) of each individual's birth
- Finding: higher temperatures while in-utero lead to significantly lower earnings for whom a 1°C increase in temperature leads to a 1.1%-1.7% decrease in earnings
- Concern: Ability to make *long-term* statements (without knowing mechanism); Selection into formal sector; Informal sector works do not have strategies for adaption (population of interest); Climate may become a poverty trap

- Question: links between India's manufacturing spatial adjustments and electricity usage
- Highly relevant for public policy: reducing power blackouts; pollution levels (and its spatial distribution)
- Phenomenal data: surveys for organized and informal sectors
- Finding: electricity usage per unit of output in urban plants declined steadily; **mechanisms**: reductions in existing sites of activity; lower usage in fast-growing sectors
- Next Steps: Link spatial adjustments to pollution; evaluate infrastructure projects

- Theoretical structural model to evaluate the impact of migration restrictions on spatial shocks (e.g. sea level rise; flooding)
- Key model features:
 - Location specific attributes (amenities, productivity and geography)
 - Blend of a static and dynamic component
 - **Only channel of adaptation is migration**, therefore, relaxing migration restrictions lead to large welfare gains; agents own land but because there is no housing in the model (no mechanism for defensive expenditures against the shock)

- Modeling of Climate change: Disentangle the unexpected shocks versus long term steady climate change
- Towards a more comprehensive model of the channels for climate adaptation and impacts:
 - Channels of adaptation: technology; physiological factors; defensive expenditures (improved housing and other goods); migration;
 - Distributional Impacts: Adaptation is cheaper when accounting for these channels, but not everybody can adapt