An assistant professor at HBS, I am looking for a research assistant to help with the data analysis of two ambitious field experiments on health in India (joint with Clara Delavallade and Thomas Bossuroy, from the World Bank). I expect the RA will make solid contributions to one of the papers and earn status as a co-author.

Both experiments study ways to increase the effort of NGO health workers operating decentralized tuberculosis treatment centers and decrease data forgery. They make important contributions to the development literature exploring novel solutions to principal-agent problems adversely affecting the supply of health services.

The field work is now completed and the analysis of more than 6,000 comprehensive health worker and patient surveys and numerous other data sources is underway. In the first experiment, we measure the impact of biometric devices recording TB patients’ treatment compliance and health workers’ attendance. Preliminary findings indicate that the biometric devices reduced the occurrence of patients interrupting treatment and health workers misreporting outcomes. The second experiment measures the impact of performance based incentives encouraging patient detection or treatment compliance and investigates possible backlash on non-rewarded tasks, as Holmström’s multitask model would predict. It requires more data cleaning and analysis, with possible coauthorship.

Please contact me at vpons@hbs.edu if interested.

Vincent Pons

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Vincent Pons
Assistant Professor (Harvard Business School)
Boston, United States
+1.617.899.7593
+33.7.82.69.03.71