

IRES WORKSHOP

JULY 02-03, 2026 | LLN

“Building for the Future: The Economics of Infrastructure and Sustainable Development”



JULY 02, 2026

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 09:15 Welcome Address

Session 1: Road Infrastructure, Deforestation, and Development Policies

09:15 - 09:55 **Sebastian Krantz** (Kiel Institute for the World Economy) - Optimal Road Investments in the CEMAC Region

09:55 - 10:35 **Conrad Nunnenmacher** (UNU-MERIT) - Road Infrastructure, Economic Development and Forest Loss in the Republic of the Congo

Coffee Break

Session 2: Infrastructure, Electrification, and Spatial Dynamics

10:55 - 11:35 **Hamza Syed** (London School of Economics) - Power to Progress: Electricity Supply, Inequality and Development in Rural India

11:35 - 12:15 **Elias Ndatabaya Maombi** (University of Antwerp, IOB) - Does First-Time Street Lighting Reduce Crime? Evidence from Goma, Eastern DRC

Lunch

Session 3: Trade, Gender, and Structural Transformation

13:30 - 14:10 **Megan Haasbroek** (BI Norwegian Business School) - Domestic Infrastructure and the Regional Effects of Trade

14:10 - 14:50 **Pavel Chakraborty** (University of Bath) - Trade Liberalization, Road, and Female Employment: Evidence from Ethiopia

14:50 - 15:50 **Keynote 1: Rémi Jedwab** (George Washington University) - Skyscrapers as Sustainable Infrastructure Investments?

Coffee Break

Session 4: Migration, and Conflict

16:10 - 16:50 **Evie Graus** (Luxembourg University) - Violence Next Door: How Conflict Reconfigures Regional Trade and Development

16:50 - 17:30 **Chun Chee Kok** (UCLouvain) - When the Middleman Leaves: Commercial Networks, Expulsion, and Long-Run Development

JULY 03, 2026

Session 5: Energy, Firm Dynamics, and Spatial Reallocation

09:20 - 10:00 **Akhila Kovvuri** (Stanford University) - Moving Opportunity Closer: How Public Transit Transforms Firm Composition and Employment

10:00 - 10:40 **Weijian (Eddy) Zou** (London School of Economics) - Distributive Power: The Spatial Diffusion of Distributed Solar in South Africa

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00 **Keynote 2: Dzhamilya Nigmatulina** (HEC Lausanne) - Road Infrastructure Within and Across Cities. Taking Stock

Lunch

Session 6: Urbanization, Trade, and Spatial Spillovers

13:00 - 13:40 **Tim Ferber** (Paris School of Economics) - Urbanization Dynamics and Flood Risk

13:40 - 14:20 **Shunsuke Tsuda** (University of Essex) - Human and Nature: Economies of Density and Conservation in the Amazon Rainforest

14:20 - 14:30 Final Words

