

Abstract

We analyse new experimental and survey data from rural Cameroon, where the level of trust is much higher than is typical of Africa. We find the level of trust exhibited by individuals to be highly correlated with membership of Rotating Saving and Credit Associations. There is also a significant correlation between the degree of trust exhibited in the game and the degree of trust declared in response to survey questions. However, survey responses do not capture all of the systematic variation in experimental behaviour, and understate the importance of ROSCA membership in predicting trust.

Keywords – Africa, Cameroon, social capital, trust, economic experiments, ROSCAs