

WWZ Research Seminar

Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Basel

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 12:30, seminar room S 13, HG, WWZ

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«Antibiotics pollution in India» joint with Stefanie Baumgartner and Ximena Jativa

## **Abstract**

Antibiotics resistance has become a worldwide concern and its consequences in terms of morbidity and mortality are rising steadily. In this paper, we assess a largely overlooked cause of antibiotics resistance in India, which is the water pollution caused by pharmaceutical plants. Scrapping two online B2B marketplace websites, we identify around 600 potential sources of industrial antibiotic pollution. After geolocating them, we identify which rivers may be polluted and use the DHS 2015-16 to identify the consequences on infant mortality. We find that the effect of pollution is 18% of the average infant mortality in rural areas with proximity to a river, and that 20'000 infant deaths could be averted if antibiotics pollution by pharmaceutical plants was non-existent.

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