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**Savings in Transnational Households:  
A Field Experiment among Migrants from El Salvador**

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March 2014

**Abstract**

We implemented a randomized field experiment that tested ways to stimulate savings by international migrants in their origin country. We find that migrants value and take advantage of opportunities to exert greater control over financial activities in their home countries. In partnership with a Salvadoran bank, we offered U.S.-based migrants bank accounts in El Salvador. We randomly varied migrant control over El Salvador-based savings by offering different types of accounts across treatment groups. Migrants offered the greatest degree of control accumulated the most savings at the partner bank, compared to others offered less or no control over savings. Impacts are likely to represent increases in total savings; there is no evidence that savings increases were simply reallocated from other savings mechanisms. Enhanced control over home-country savings does not affect remittances sent home by migrants.

**Keywords:** migration, savings, remittances

**JEL codes:** F22, O16

\* Corresponding author. Email: [deanyang@umich.edu](mailto:deanyang@umich.edu). This paper was previously titled "Remittances and the Problem of Control." We thank the core members of the project team at ESSM (Angela Gonzalez, Michelle Guerrero, Ronald Luna, Amaris Rodriguez, and Eric Robles), at FUSADES (Margarita Sanabria and Mauricio Shi), and at Banco Agrícola (Hector Aguilar, Gustavo Derys, Carló de Espinoza, Mauricio Gallardo, Oscar Hernandez, Subino Lopez, Ernesto Magana, Kelly O'Byrne, and Paul Ponce). We greatly appreciate the collaboration of Emilio Solano and the El Salvador embassy in Washington DC. We received valuable feedback and suggestions from Marcel Agosin, Susana Bajaj, Celia Baratta, Charlie Brown, Michael Clemens, Angus Deaton, Esther Duflo, Suzanne Duryan, Jon Guryan, Ricardo Hausman, Gabriela Inchausti, Takatoshi Kawanawa, Michael Kenen, Steve Levitt, John Linn, Adriano Lima-Morey, Ernesto Lopez-Cordova, Osmel Martinez, Doug Mosey, Magalita Mooney, Hugo Rojas, Chris Paxson, Alejandro Portes, Jesse Rothstein, Jesse Shapiro, Ernesto Stein, Bryce Miller, Sarahburg, Mel Stephens, Don Terry, Steve Wilson, Viviana Zelazo, and participants in several seminars. Alejandra Aponte, Fernando Buzaoni, Sebastian Ceballos, Carly Farver, Andros Katselias, and Cristian Sanchez provided excellent research assistance. This research was made possible by financial support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the National Science Foundation, the Multilateral Investment Fund, the Engagement Lab at Harvard University's Center for International Development, and the University of Michigan's International Policy Center. Dean Yang acknowledges research support from National Science Foundation award SES-0851570.

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May 01, 2015