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**A Dark Side of Social Capital? Kinship, Consumption, and Savings**

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## A Dark Side of Social Capital?

### Kinship, Consumption, and Savings

#### ABSTRACT

*We explore if traditional sharing norms in kinship networks affect consumption and accumulation decisions of poor black households in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. Using a proxy for the number of family dependents, our results are consistent with the interpretation that households try to evade their 'sharing obligations' by (i) accumulating durables that are non-sharable at the expense of durables that may be shared and (ii) reducing savings in liquid assets. By attenuating accumulation incentives, kinship sharing may come at the expense of income growth — if so, a culturally-induced poverty trap can possibly eventuate. We demonstrate tentative evidence that more extensive kinship networks are associated with lower incomes.*

**Keywords:** Traditional sharing norms, spending, accumulation of wealth, sub-Saharan Africa.

**JEL Codes:** D12, O16, O17

## I. Introduction

In the absence of 'formal' financial markets and insurance opportunities, many people in developing countries depend on informal community structures to provide social security and reduce their exposure to risk (e.g., Rosenzweig, 1988; Fafchamps, 1991; Townsend, 1994; Udry, 1994; Fafchamps and Lund, 2003). A key role in this respect is played by the extended family (kinship), where membership of a kinship network is acquired by bloodlines, marriage, or adoption. Kinship is a collective institution, and represents a primary principle of social organization in sub-Saharan Africa (and some Asian countries, like the Philippines and Vietnam), governing social relationships and marital customs, and regulating access to resources and services.

Unlike friendship networks, which are typically voluntary and based on reciprocity (such that incentive constraints imply limited mutual insurance possibilities, as modeled by Coate and Ravallion, 1993), kinship relations may define *obligations* for its members. In this respect, Scott (1976) and Platteau (1991) refer to the 'moral economy' of societies characterised by kinship relations, and Hoff and Sen (2006) talk about a 'social contract' among members of an extended family (see also Fortes 1969). Moral obligations towards sharing and redistribution are supported by custom and norms, enabling kinship members to claim assistance from their relatives in dealing with difficulties. Fortes (1969) refers to this as 'sharing without reckoning,' and Gulliver (1971) remarks that the statement 'you must help a man because he is your kinsman' has the same constraining quality as the statement 'you must cultivate because you need food to live.' In light of this it is no surprise that Coate and Ravallion (1993) remark that, among anthropologists, a rather 'romanticised view' of kinship-based sharing systems has long been dominant. Kinship is celebrated as a successful indigenous institution. In the African context it represents a major component of social capital, and provides a safety net for the unlucky.

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3 One might wonder whether this risk-pooling service comes at a price. The prospect of forced  
4 redistribution may impact on spending and savings decisions. Lewis (1955) recognises such  
5 adverse incentive effects when writing about successful kinship members who ‘may be besieged  
6 by ... increased demand for support from a large number of distant relatives.’ Similarly, Bauer  
7 and Yamey (1957) mention sharing obligations may ‘... obstruct the spreading of the banking  
8 habit since people are unwilling to have bank accounts the content of which are likely to be  
9 divulged to kinsmen. Generally, it weights the scales against [conspicuous] investment.’  
10 Compulsory contributions to the family pool—akin to a ‘family tax’—therefore may discourage  
11 individuals to work hard and accumulate assets.  
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24 What evidence exists for the perspective that the moral economy implies ‘sharing without  
25 reckoning,’ or the alternative conjecture that it is inimical to economic growth? Anecdotal  
26 evidence that kinship obligations affect behavior is provided in, for example, Kennedy (1988),  
27 Platteau (2000). However, there are few empirical analyses linking kinship membership to  
28 consumption and investment. One study focusing on kinship and behavior is Baland et al.  
29 (2009), who analyze borrowing behavior in Cameroon, finding that some people ‘pretend to be  
30 poor’ by both depositing and borrowing money. While excess borrowing is costly, it signals  
31 poverty and suggests an inability to respond to demands for financial assistance from kin  
32 members. Di Falco and Bulte (2009) demonstrate that the propensity to invest in soil and water  
33 conservation in the Ethiopian Nile Basin is reduced as the size of the local kinship network is  
34 greater—a result that is consistent with moral hazard as well as ‘avoiding the family tax.’  
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50 The main objective of this paper is to explore the empirical relationship between traditional  
51 sharing rules in kinship networks and household consumption and savings decisions. We use  
52 detailed survey data from KwaZulu-Natal (Republic of South Africa) to link household  
53 expenditures to a proxy of the size of a household’s kinship network. Specifically, we analyze  
54 whether consumption and savings are correlated with a subset of the extended family. We  
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3 address 'endogeneity concerns' through panel estimations and IV models. Our results are  
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5 consistent with the hypothesis that traditional sharing rules invite evasive behavior. If so,  
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7 traditional sharing rules could possibly contribute to the existence of poverty traps by  
8  
9 discouraging investments and savings.  
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13 This paper serves as a reminder of the importance of cultural factors and social norms as  
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15 potential drivers or impediments to development—an idea that has become rather snowed under  
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17 in recent decades when attention was focused on the roles of markets and (formal) institutions. It  
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19 also contributes to the literature relating economic development to social capital, where social  
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21 capital may be defined as norms that enhance the incentive compatibility of non-contractual or  
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23 legally enforceable exchange (e.g., Carter and Castillo, 2002). Kinship may help to restrain  
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25 opportunistic behavior of members for the common good, lower transaction costs, facilitate the  
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27 exchange of information, and enable communities to overcome social dilemma situations. Most  
28  
29 of the evidence available for Kwazulu-Natal supports the idea that social capital proxies such as  
30  
31 group membership, trust, trustworthiness and altruism positively impact on household well-being  
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33 (Maluccio et al., 2000; Haddad and Maluccio, 2003; Carter and Castillo, 2009).<sup>6</sup> However, our  
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35 focus on traditional sharing norms is qualitatively different, and the implied distortive incentive  
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37 effects could represent a 'dark side' of social capital. This complements another 'dark side  
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39 perspective' identified in the context of endogenous formation of networks (i.e. where  
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41 individuals self-select into networks). Chantarat and Barrett (2008) demonstrate that involuntary  
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43 exclusion from such networks can condemn the poor to perpetual poverty. Hence, depending on  
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45 the nature of the network and the nature of the demands that eventuate within it, both too few as  
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47 well as too many links to others in the network can undermine income growth prospects of the  
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49 poor.  
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58 The paper is organised as follows. In section 2 we provide some context and briefly discuss  
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60 poverty dynamics and sharing norms in Kwazulu Natal. Section 3 outlines our empirical

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3 strategy, based on an analysis of budget shares, and we introduce our data. In section 4 we  
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5 present our results, and show how household expenditures vary with kinship obligations. We  
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7 demonstrate that our proxy of a household's kinship network – defined as the number of relatives  
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9 who spent at least 15 days in a year in the household but who do not belong to the core  
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11 household members (see below) – is correlated with spending patterns. Households with a large  
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13 number of dependents spend a smaller share of their income on liquid and sharable assets.  
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15 Importantly, compulsory sharing is also associated with reduced savings and lower incomes. In  
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17 section 5 we place our findings in perspective, and draw some conclusions.  
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## 25 **II. Poverty in Kwazulu Natal**

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27 Kwazulu-Natal is the most populous province of South Africa, home to approximately 20  
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29 percent of the South African population. The great majority of the population are black Africans  
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31 (82%). Kwazulu-Natal faces many challenges in the development sphere, including widespread  
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33 poverty and unemployment, marked inequality, as well as high rates of violence and HIV-AIDS  
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35 prevalence. Perhaps for these reasons, it was selected as a region for starting a longitudinal  
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37 research project on poverty dynamics. In 1993, the Project for Statistics on Living Standards and  
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39 Development (PSLSD) had collected data on a wide range of household variables throughout  
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41 South Africa. In 1998 and 2004, the Kwazulu-Natal Income Dynamics Study (KIDS)  
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43 resurveyed the Kwazulu-Natal PSLSD households, constructing a panel set of three waves for  
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45 that province.<sup>7</sup> While the PSLSD provides a representative household database, the KIDS waves  
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47 resurveyed only blacks and Indians. The same questions as in the PSLSD survey were included  
48  
49 in the KIDS surveys, but the latter also included new components, including more emphasis on  
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51 non-residents economically linked to the household, information on trust, shocks, etc. For  
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53 details about study background, attrition rates and so on, please refer to May et al. (2006).  
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3 The available data demonstrate an overall increase in poverty and inequality since 1993 (e.g.  
4 Adato et al., 2007), but also a reversal of this trend in the post-1998 period (May et al., 2006).  
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6 Focusing on the sub-sample of households for which we have three rounds of data, we observe  
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8 that the poverty headcount increased from 52% in 1993 to 57% in 1998, and then fell to 47% in  
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10 2004. Poverty dynamics are characterised by significant chronic poverty (most of the poor stay  
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12 poor), but also upward and downward mobility. In fact, May et al. (2006) mention bifurcation  
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14 among those households hovering near the poverty line—some 40% moved up and an equally  
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16 large group fell below the poverty line. Households at the top of the income distribution either  
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18 maintained or increased their income, hence the overall picture is one of increasing inequality.  
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24 Focusing on the bottom of the distribution, several studies have examined how the poor and  
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26 unemployed cope in the absence of formal support. Various coping strategies have been  
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28 identified, including village-level social capital (Carter and Maluccio, 2003), spatially-extended  
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30 migrant networks within which social grants are leveraged (Du Toit and Neves, 2009), and  
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32 endogenous household formation<sup>8</sup> (Klasen and Woolard, 2008).  
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### 39 **III. Empirical Strategy and Data**

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41 We have in mind a world in which income depends on labour time and a random shock. Once it  
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43 realises its income, the household can take some part of its income outside of the pool of  
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45 resources on which the extended family can draw. There is no asymmetric information, and kin  
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47 members are aware of each-other's asset portfolio. While this is undoubtedly a simplification, it  
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49 is unlikely that information about income and assets can be kept secret from family members  
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51 (who have an interest in finding out about these matters). The purpose of the empirical work is  
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53 to investigate the evidence that households with greater kin obligations make different spending  
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55 decisions than those with fewer kin obligations, and that the nature of those differences is  
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57 consistent with the hypothesis of evasion from kin group obligations. Specifically, since kin  
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obligations are similar to a tax, we postulate that kin obligations reduce demand for normal or luxury goods subject to the family tax.

We estimate a set of budget share equations, and distinguish between sharable and non-sharable goods (where sharable refers to appropriable by kinship members at the expense of the household—sharable implies potentially ‘taxable’).<sup>9</sup> We expect that consumption expenditures vary systematically with the kinship network. Consumption of non-sharable goods is expected to increase as the kinship network is larger, and consumption of sharable goods is expected to go down as the extended family is larger. We also consider the share of savings.

Let  $x_h$  denote a measure of amount of resources in the household (i.e. total consumer expenditure) and let  $w_{ih}$  be the corresponding budget share for categories  $i = 1, \dots, 4$  and for households  $h = 1, \dots, H$ . We can write an Engel curve as follows:

$$w_{ih} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \ln x_h + \alpha_3 k_h + \alpha_4 A_h + v_{ih}, \quad (1)$$

where  $k_h$  is the value of our kinship variable for the  $h^{\text{th}}$  household,  $A_h$  is a vector of controls, and  $v_{ih}$  is the error term.<sup>10</sup> In budget share models,  $x_h$  is usually considered potentially endogenous – hence  $E(x_h | v_{ih}) \neq 0$ . Conventionally, in empirical analyses of Engel curves, the household’s level of income as well as income squared are used as instrumental variables,  $z_h$ . This implies assuming  $E(z_h | v_{ih}) = 0$  (e.g., Blundell et al., 1993). We also consider the kinship variable to be endogenous (see below).

We have access to three waves of data, and for our identification strategy we exploit both the cross section and panel nature of the dataset. This allows us to deal with endogeneity and time-invariant household heterogeneity. Both dimensions have their own advantages and disadvantages, but as complementary perspectives they are able to tell a convincing story. The most straightforward way to deal with endogeneity is to use a fixed effects panel approach, focusing on within-subject variation over time. The fixed effect estimator however can suffer when there is limited variation in the extended family proxy over time. Lack of sufficient

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3 variation in an explanatory variable over time implies that the panel estimation procedure may  
4 exaggerate measurement bias—biasing the kinship coefficient to zero (McCallum, 1972).  
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6 Besides lack of sufficient variation, there may still be correlation between the error term and the  
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8 endogenous variables that is related to time variant factors.  
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12 To address the possibility of endogeneity bias attributable both to omitted time invariant  
13 heterogeneity and measurement error we estimate model (1) via three different estimators: (i)  
14 panel with fixed effects, (ii) instrumental variables (IV) on pooled data, and (iii) IV with fixed  
15 effects.  
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22 Some of our control variables do not (or hardly) vary over the time span of the three  
23 survey waves (e.g., proximity to infrastructure, or whether the household is rural or not). Some  
24 fixed effects procedures remove household specifics via first differencing or implementing  
25 deviations from variable means. These transformations remove unobserved time-invariant  
26 heterogeneity as well as variables that do not vary through time. To circumvent this problem we  
27 adopt the Mundlak specification of household effects (Mundlak, 1978; Wooldridge, 2002) to  
28 control for time-invariant unobservables at the household level, and estimate a pseudo-fixed  
29 effects model. The right hand-side of our regression equations includes the mean value of the  
30 time-varying explanatory variables. This approach relies on the assumption that unobserved  
31 effects ( $v_{ith}$ ) are linearly correlated with explanatory variables as specified by:  
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$$46 \quad v_{ith} = \bar{x}_h \alpha + \eta_{ith}, \quad \eta \sim \text{iid}(0, \sigma_\eta^2), \quad (2)$$

47 where  $\bar{x}_h$  is the mean of the time-varying explanatory variables for household  $h$ ,  $\alpha$  is the  
48 corresponding vector of coefficients, and  $\eta$  is a random error term that is unrelated to  $\bar{x}$ 's. The  
49 vector  $\alpha$  is equal to zero if observed explanatory variables are uncorrelated with the random  
50 effects. The use of fixed effects techniques and Mundlak's approach also helps us to address  
51 potential problems of selection and endogeneity bias if selection and endogeneity bias are related  
52 to time-invariant unobserved factors (Wooldridge, 2002). Moreover, the estimation of the  $\alpha$   
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parameters allows us to test for the relevance of the fixed effects via an F test (testing whether the estimated coefficients in vector  $\alpha$  are jointly equal to zero). We rejected this null hypothesis, implying that controlling for the pseudo fixed effect is necessary to obtain consistent estimates.

$$w_{ith} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \ln x_{ht} + \alpha_3 k_{ht} + \alpha_4 A_{ht} + v_{ith} \quad (3)$$

Since the kinship variable is determined by bloodlines and marriage, one might expect it to be exogenous and not be correlated with the error term. However, this is not obviously true in light of omitted variables affecting both the number of external links of the household, resident household size as well as consumption choices. Moreover, to the extent that geographic distance affects requests for support, one would expect that migrants experience a lower family tax. For these reasons we explore several dimensions of potential endogeneity bias in what follows.<sup>11</sup>

The panel treatment should produce consistent estimates in case kinship is correlated with the (unobserved) time-invariant household fixed effects. However, there may be time-varying unobservables. To rule out that our results are an econometric artifact stemming from failure to control for unobserved heterogeneity or endogeneity we also estimate the kinship coefficient via a two stage least squares (2SLS) model, instrumenting for the size of the kinship network.<sup>12</sup> Instrument choice is notoriously complex, and the literature offers little guidance as to what might be a proper instrument for the kinship variable. We extend the instrument matrix by including the average value of the kinship proxy in the neighborhood, assuming that this is correlated with the kinship proxy of the  $i^{th}$  household, but not necessarily with consumption and savings decisions. We have also used lagged values of household's kinship network and obtained results that are qualitatively similar (results available on request).

We also consider the case where resident household size is endogenous. Earlier work on the old age pension in South Africa suggests household size responds to economic conditions, including 'income shocks' such as the receipt of a pension (Duflo, 2003; Adato et al., 2007; Klasen and Woolard 2008). In model specifications where household size is treated as

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3 endogenous, we extend the matrix of instruments by including the average household size in the  
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5 neighborhood.  
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8 Table 1 about here  
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10 As mentioned, data are drawn from the 1993, 1998 and 2004 KwaZulu-Natal Income  
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12 Dynamics Study. Data from all three rounds are used in the analysis below, and differences in  
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14 sample size across models are due to data availability. Table 1 presents summary statistics. Our  
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16 kinship proxy is constructed as follows. First, respondents were asked to list all people who  
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18 lived at least 15 days in the year in the household. From this list we summed the number of  
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20 relatives (grandparents, parents, aunts or uncles, siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, etc.) that  
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22 don't live under the same roof as the household head. We determine non-residence by the  
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24 following question; 'Has he or she lived under this roof for more than 15 days of the last 30  
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26 days?'. Note that this is *not* a complete measure of the kin network – it only captures the subset  
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28 of family members that actually lived in the household, or the subset of kin members with  
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30 particularly close relations to the household. Notwithstanding this important qualification or  
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32 caveat, we use the term “kin proxy” to refer to this variable in what follows.<sup>13</sup>  
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39 Our kinship variable is not a measure of the actual family tax burden, but rather captures  
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41 *potential* pressure that could be exerted on the household by a subsample of the kin members.  
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43 Measuring the actual size of the family tax, or even the relevant kin network, is fraught with  
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45 difficulties. The average number of links in our sample is low, reflecting that it is only an  
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47 incomplete measure of the total kinship network. Possibly it also captures the high prevalence of  
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49 AIDS in the study region (Adato et al., 2007 refer to the 'incredibly high number of deaths in  
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51 households' and mention 'stories about weekly funerals'). Nevertheless, since the kinship  
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53 variable reflects links to other households, and given that the average household size is of about  
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55 seven members, the total number of kin members depending on the household may be quite  
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57 large.  
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3 To explore the effect of kinship on spending we distinguish between different categories  
4 of consumption goods depending on the degree to which these goods are ‘sharable.’ Overall, our  
5 expenditure categories amount to more than 30% of annual household expenditures. The largest  
6 overall expenditures category was food, which captures over 40% of total expenditures  
7 (reflecting the low socio-economic status of the respondents - see endnote 9 for additional  
8 information about food expenditures).  
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Least sharable are expenditures for home improvement. Importantly, this variable does not include payments to increase the size of the house, which could be conflated as an in-kind transfer to kin members if larger houses enable households to accommodate more kin members. Instead, it captures expenditures for upgrading or restoring roofs, floors, doors, etc. On average this category amounts to 7.7 % of expenditures of surveyed households. One approach for attenuating the family tax is, at the margin, to allocate more resources to this non-sharable good.

Next, we distinguish a category of goods that are somewhat sharable. These are goods that may possibly be carted off (and pawned or used) by kin members. For this purpose we use expenditure on furniture (8% of expenditures) and clothes (13% of expenditures). Finally, we also have a good that is easy to cart off and that can readily be converted into money—individual items that can be easily traded or borrowed. Our proxy for sharable assets is expenditures on jewelry and watches. The theory predicts that in an effort to attenuate the family tax, households will, at the margin, respond to a larger kinship network by allocating more resources to ‘home improvement’ and less to ‘jewels and watches.’ The other goods, ‘furniture’ and ‘clothes’ represent an intermediate category. They are to some extent sharable so households should cut back expenditures on these goods as the extended family expands, but since these goods are less liquid we would expect a smaller evasive response.

We use the share of savings in current accounts, savings accounts, and stokvel (i.e., contributions to a local credit cooperative) as our measure of liquid financial assets. As a

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3 robustness analysis we have also considered the total stock of accumulated financial assets (and  
4 not the flow of savings divided by income) to capture that these assets are accumulated over  
5 various years and that the kinship variable is rather invariant over time. We have also varied the  
6 sub-categories of savings to be included in our overall savings variable to reflect that some  
7 savings forms are more liquid and accessible to kin members than others —Anderson and Baland  
8 (2002) suggest that *stokvel* may be used to protect savings from others. The results for these  
9 alternative savings variables are qualitatively similar, and we focus our presentation on the  
10 savings share results as this variable is most consistent with the expenditure share variables  
11 mentioned above.  
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25 As controls in our budget share and asset regressions we include (the logarithm of) total  
26 expenditures as a measure of resources available to the household. It is common in the literature  
27 on Engel demand curves to test for non-linearities in the relationship between budget shares and  
28 total expenditures. In some estimations, where we expect a ‘threshold effect’ (such as jewels and  
29 savings), we include a quadratic term for the expenditures variable in our model, but this term  
30 never affects the results for our kinship proxy. We also include a dummy for rural households  
31 (in rural areas most activities are related to agriculture), a measure of proximity to road  
32 infrastructure, the number of resident household members, and the average age of members in  
33 the household.<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately we don’t have enough data to account for the flows of transfers  
34 in the (kinship) network. But in some of the models we will include a dummy variable to  
35 indicate whether or not the household received remittances from family members elsewhere (this  
36 could be important as migrant preferences over expenditure of money they send home may affect  
37 actual expenditure patterns).  
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#### 58 **IV. Regression results**

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3 Tables 2 to 6 report our main results (tests for validity of the instruments are reported at the  
4 bottom of each table) of the different estimators and specifications for each category of budget  
5 share. Throughout, we present the Mundlak model in column 1 and the IV results (addressing  
6 endogeneity of total expenditures and kinship) in column (2). We address the issues of  
7 endogeneity and heterogeneity together by estimating an IV model that includes household fixed  
8 effects in column (3). In column (4) we include squared expenditures as an extra control. In  
9 column (5) we treat household size as endogenous, and in column (6) we include a dummy to  
10 indicate whether the household receives remittances. Regardless of the model, the main results  
11 are consistent and support our conjecture.  
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27 Table 2 refers to expenditures on home improvement. The main coefficient of interest is  
28 the one associated with our kinship proxy. While this variable does not enter as statistically  
29 significant in the simple Mundlak model, it is consistently significant in the remaining five  
30 specifications (where the IV estimates turn out to be the preferred ones, see below). The  
31 estimated coefficients are positive, which is consistent with the hypothesis that compulsory  
32 sharing invites distortionary spending. Households with more close family members allocate a  
33 greater share of their expenditures towards the consumption of durables that cannot be shared.  
34 The calculated elasticity (estimated at sample means using model (5) hereafter) is a non trivial  
35 0.85. An increase of 1% in the kinship variable is associated with an increase of 0.85% in  
36 expenditure for home improvement.  
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50 Results of the various overidentification tests (Sargan-Hansen), endogeneity tests (Wu -  
51 Hausman) and instrument relevance tests are summarised at the bottom of the Tables. The test  
52 statistics refer to model (5), but the ones for the other 2SLS specifications are comparable and  
53 consistently support our econometric approach. We cannot reject the null hypothesis that  
54 expenditures, kinship and household size are endogenous variables, hence an IV estimation  
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3 procedure is appropriate. The standard Sargan-Hansen overidentification test suggests our  
4 instruments for the kin network and household size can be excluded from the second stage  
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6 (income variables are also appropriate instruments for expenditures, as well-established in the  
7 literature, but we suppress this test information). In all Tables, and for all specifications, we also  
8 reject the overidentification test of the instruments jointly tested. The relevance of the  
9 instruments is tested via both the underidentification test (Kleibergen-Paap LM statistic) as well  
10 as the partial F of the excluded instruments in the corresponding first-stage regression. We fail  
11 to reject the null hypothesis of underidentification in all models. Most of the F tests are above or  
12 fairly close to 10 (the smallest value is about 8), hence our estimates do not seem affected by  
13 weak identification bias (the appendix reports all first stage regressions. We also estimated all  
14 models via limited information maximum likelihood (LIML) and obtained similar results  
15 (available on request).  
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31 Tables 3 & 4 about here

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33 Tables 3 and 4 report the estimated models for the case of “intermediate categories”  
34 furniture and clothes. These are durable and to some extent sharable assets. Again we find  
35 evidence consistent with the hypothesised evasive behavior, so now the estimated coefficient is  
36 of opposite sign. The greater the number of close relatives the smaller is expenditure in both  
37 categories. Both the IV and Fixed effect IV approach suggest increasing the number of close  
38 relatives is associated with less of such expenditures; the calculated elasticities are -0.78 and -2.3  
39 for furniture and clothes respectively.  
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50 Table 5 about here

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52 Table 5 summarises results for the asset that we consider most easily sharable. The  
53 estimated coefficient for the kinship proxy in the jewel equation is negative and statistically  
54 significant in all estimated models. Moreover, the response of jewels expenditures to pressure  
55 from close relatives seems high. The estimated elasticity is -1.33 so that a 1% increase in the  
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3 number of close relatives is associated with a 1.3% reduction of jewel expenditures. Taken  
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5 together, the evidence in Tables 3-5 is consistent with the view that households are unwilling to  
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7 hold on to durable assets if they feel that such assets may be subject to forced sharing with  
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9 others, and more so if the asset in question is more easily sharable.  
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13 Alternative explanations may be proposed for some of this evidence presented.  
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15 Specifically, it can be argued that households with bigger kin networks may feel less need to  
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17 self-insure (as they can rely on their kin), and as a result spend more on home improvements  
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19 (and food), and less on jewels. We believe the evidence is more supportive of the family tax  
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21 hypothesis than the alternative 'kin insurance' argument. Consider the results for clothing and  
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23 furniture. Since these assets are potentially sharable (they can be picked up and taken from the  
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25 household by kin and they can be traded or pawned), the family tax hypothesis predicts that  
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27 larger kinship networks are associated with *reduced* expenditures. In crisp contrast, the  
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29 explanation that mutual insurance frees up resources for consumption unambiguously predicts  
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31 that consumption of furniture and appliances should *increase* in the size of the kin network. The  
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33 results in Tables 3 and 4 support the family tax perspective but not the insurance view.  
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39 While the potential distortive effect of the family tax on consumption is in itself of  
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41 interest to economists, its impact on savings and investment decisions are perhaps more relevant  
42  
43 because of the dynamic implications. If compulsory sharing attenuates accumulation incentives,  
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45 it could contribute to the creation of poverty traps (e.g. Carter and Barrett 2006). The regression  
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47 results in Columns 1-4 of Table 6 are consistent with such an idea. The estimated coefficient for  
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49 the kinship proxy is consistently negative and significant. The estimated elasticity is -1.24,  
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51 hence a 1% increase in the number of kinship links is associated with a 1.24% reduction in  
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53 savings. This complements the macroeconomic perspective of Aiyagari (1994) who studied the  
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55 implications of uninsured idiosyncratic risks for aggregate savings behavior due to a  
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57 precautionary savings motive—another mechanism linking network access to savings. He finds  
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3 that social insurance lowers savings, consistent with our micro-evidence (even if the mechanism  
4 is different). Translating such behavioral responses in standard growth-type models (e.g. Ben-  
5 David, 1998) would suggest that long-term income effects may result. If future research  
6 confirms that the behavioral response to ‘moral economy’ obligations exists, extended kinship  
7 systems may perpetuate poverty.  
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15 Table 6 about here

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17 Perhaps households with more migrant members receive remittances, which may *de facto*  
18 affect budget allocations? We attempt to control for this and include a dummy that captures if  
19 the household receives remittances. The augmented model is reported in column (6) of Tables 2-  
20 6. The estimated coefficients for the kinship variable are not affected by this extra control.  
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22 Moreover, the estimated coefficient for remittances is not significant for most models.  
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29 As a further robustness check we have re-run all regressions using *expenditures per*  
30 *household member* for the various categories, rather than the aggregate household expenditure  
31 measure. The qualitative results are identical (not reported, but available on request).  
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36 Finally, the number of kinship links and household members could be negatively  
37 correlated in a mechanical way: for a given total kinship network size (household members plus  
38 other kinship members), decreasing the number of household members increases the number of  
39 non-household kinship members. To explore this issue of collinearity we also regressed kinship  
40 on a number of variables including household size, finding that the latter variable never enters  
41 significantly (e.g., in a simple regression of kinship on household income and size, the t-value of  
42 the household size variable is only 0.39). This does not come as a surprise: the unconditional  
43 correlation between kinship and household size is only 0.006.<sup>15</sup>  
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58 *Kinship and income*  
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3 Next, we explore the impact of kinship on household income. Kinship ties may reduce savings  
4 or work effort so that in a symmetric Nash equilibrium every household's income is lower. In  
5 reality, of course, kin members are not identical, and the burden of supporting others  
6 asymmetrically rests on the shoulders of a subset of the kin network. Income levels probably  
7 determine whether households are on the giving or receiving end of the distribution. If so, an  
8 ambiguous relation between income and the size of the kinship network eventuates — depending  
9 on the balance between transfers received and given, as well as the impact on accumulation and  
10 investment decisions. We expect richer households to be unambiguously negatively affected by  
11 more extensive kinship obligations (these households are net transfer providers and also incur the  
12 incentive effect induced by the family tax). In contrast, for poorer households the net effect is  
13 ambiguous. Like their more wealthy counterparts they incur adverse incentive effects, but this  
14 may be offset by positive net transfers within the network.

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16 To explore this issue we ran an interquintile regression model, regressing our measure of  
17 household resources (proxy for income) on the number of close relatives and our controls. This  
18 flexible approach allows us to explore whether the relation between income and kinship varies  
19 across quintiles of the income distribution. The results are reported in Table 7. Consistent with  
20 expectations we find qualitatively different kinship coefficients for the various income groups.  
21 Specifically, while there is always a negative association between income and kinship, our proxy  
22 increases monotonically as we consider higher income subsamples. Adverse effects of the  
23 extended family on income appear especially large for the top of the distribution.

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51 Table 7 about here

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53 Two final remarks and caveats are in order. First, the negative association between  
54 income and kinship need not indicate that households are worse off as their kin network expands.  
55 There are benefits to kin as well as costs. Second, the approach taken in this subsection is rough.  
56 Whether households are net receivers from (or providers to) the network depends on their  
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3 income *relative to that of their own kin members* – rather than relative to the sample population.

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5 However, data to test this are not available.  
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## 10 **V. Discussion and Conclusions**

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12 An important source of inspiration for this project was conversations with (African) colleagues,  
13 locked up in kinship obligations. For example, one of them drove a car that seemed extravagant  
14 in light of his salary. While we initially believed this was due to an unusual preference for  
15 expensive vehicles, or perhaps to status seeking, we soon learned that our colleague owned an  
16 expensive car to credibly signal to his kin that his residual resources for providing assistance  
17 were limited or non-existent. In our jargon, the car was a non-sharable asset.  
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27 A re-appraisal of the role of culture in development appears appropriate. The  
28 ‘modernization approach’ to development advanced in the 1950s argued that traditional societies  
29 cannot graduate smoothly into the industrial era unless they abandon traditional patterns of  
30 motivations, attitudes and values (e.g. Moore, 1963). This approach has been discredited, and  
31 gave way to another paradigm arguing that rural people in developing countries make efficient  
32 choices from a wide spectrum of contracts, taking into account their resource endowments and  
33 the conditions surrounding them (e.g. Schultz, 1964; Hayami and Otsuka, 1993). Our results  
34 suggest both perspectives may be correct. Poor people may be rationally responding to norms  
35 (as argued by Schultz and others), but some norms may be inimical to development (consistent  
36 with the modernization approach view).  
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50 In the absence of access to formal financial institutions, traditional sharing norms imply a  
51 safety net for the unlucky and less able. However, the classical ‘efficiency-equity’ tradeoff may  
52 also be relevant in the context of the moral economy. Specifically, traditional sharing norms  
53 may distort household decision-making with respect to spending and saving, inviting substitution  
54 of non-sharable for sharable durables. Moreover, compulsory sharing is correlated with reduced  
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3 savings, and we present tentative evidence that the impact of sharing norms varies across income  
4 groups (with adverse incentive effects dominating positive transfer effects for the high-income  
5 subsample).  
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10 If compulsory sharing within the kinship network is so detrimental to the economic  
11 interests of individuals, why does it persist? While a full treatment is beyond the scope of this  
12 paper, several observations are relevant. First, it is not evident that forced solidarity is against  
13 the interests of individuals. We focus on the distortive effects of the kinship networks, but there  
14 are benefits too. People lacking access to formal insurance possibilities may support the  
15 arrangement when they are uncertain about the future distribution of income. Paying a family  
16 tax may be viewed as an acceptable risk premium. Second, persistence of forced solidarity may  
17 be explained by punishment in case of rule transgression. If such punishment is sufficiently  
18 costly, individuals would prefer to abide with the rules even if they expect to be consistently on  
19 the 'giving' end of the spectrum. It may be the case, then, that sharing within the kinship  
20 network is a dysfunctional remnant element from earlier institutional arrangements. 'The  
21 extended family [...] is an example of an institution which has many advantages in one stage of  
22 development but which may later become a drag on economic development' (Bauer and Yamey  
23 1957: 64). On explanations as to why dysfunctional institutions may persist, refer to Arnott and  
24 Stiglitz (1991), Platteau (2000), Hoff and Sen (2006), and the social conflict theory of Acemoglu  
25 et al. (2005).  
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48 In case the costs of forced solidarity within kin networks exceed the benefits – an open  
49 question at this stage – it would be important to learn how to 'loosen' kinship ties. While the  
50 scope for policy intervention in this domain may appear limited, recent evidence actually  
51 suggests that something can be done. Di Falco and Bulte (2009) focus on adverse incentive  
52 effects for self-protection against weather shocks in the context of Ethiopia, and find that adverse  
53 kinship effects only materialise when access to formal financial services is lacking. That is,  
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3 there may be substitution possibilities between formal and informal insurance mechanisms. If  
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5 also true in the context of Kwazulu-Natal, then efforts to promote expansion of the financial  
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7 system into remote and heretofore uncovered areas may have as a side effect that kinship  
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9 obligations lose their force.  
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13 Is the mechanism identified in this study a unique African phenomenon, and does it  
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15 explain underdevelopment in Africa? While the strength of kinship obligations in some Asian  
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17 countries has been recognised by anthropologists, we are not aware of any non-African studies  
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19 confirming or refuting our results. Theory does not help us much either. Acemoglu *et al.* (2005)  
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21 distinguish between four different views on the origins and persistence of institutions.<sup>16</sup>  
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23 Differences between the impact of sharing norms in Africa and elsewhere, if any, may be due to  
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25 several factors, including the size of the network, the strength of the sharing norm, and the  
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27 distribution of income within the network. Our current understanding of how kinship sharing  
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29 norms have evolved is not sufficiently advanced to endorse any specific theory to link kinship to  
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31 African underdevelopment.<sup>17</sup>  
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37 We conclude by noting that more research on the cultural underpinnings of development  
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39 is warranted. Future research on kinship, savings and income growth could usefully include  
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41 asymmetric information (the visibility of income and the signal effects implied by different  
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43 modes of spending). Moreover, extending the analysis by focusing on transfers *within* kin  
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45 networks would be a logical next step, as would be a study on a non-African country where the  
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47 kinship ties are known to be strong. Of course it would also be important to repeat the current  
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49 analysis using a more complete measure of the kinship network. The current proxy is based on  
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51 close relatives who actually spent some time in the household—it is clearly relevant to know  
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53 whether these findings spill over to the kinship network at large. The material presented in this  
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55 paper hopefully acts as an early step to trigger more work in this relevant domain.  
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## Notes

1. Extensions of the seminal paper by Coate and Ravallion include work accommodating altruism among individuals (especially kin members) by Foster and Rosenzweig (2001), non-stationary transfers (Ligon et al., 2002), and group stability in the context of risk-sharing among subgroups (Genicot and Ray, 2003).
2. Rosenzweig (1988, p.1167) writes that the ties of common experience, altruism and heritage among family members enable families to transcend some of the information problems barring the development of impersonal markets.' However, the compulsory sharing paradigm goes a step further. Platteau (2000) discusses the evolution of sharing norms, and the role of witchcraft and other social sanctions to support them. Writing about the Merina of Madagascar, Bloch (1973, p.78) is explicit about this as well: 'to fail in kinship obligation is to be a witch..., in other words to be the opposite of a moral being: a murderer, a bestialist, a lover of death, etc.'
3. Other mechanisms may exist. There are the usual moral hazard problems associated with the provision of (mutual) insurance against contingencies. For example, Bauer and Yamey (1957, p. 66) write '... the [extended family] system ... minimises the inducement for people to improve their position because they can count on being provided with the means of subsistence at a level not very different from that of the majority of their kinsmen, including the energetic, thrifty and able.' Another avenue via which sharing norms may have adverse economic consequences is nepotism. If successful kinship members achieve positions of responsibility they may be expected to provide jobs for less fortunate (and possibly less qualified) relatives. But if nepotism is costly for organizations and firms, and can be anticipated, the odds that a kinship member will actually be promoted to positions of authority will decline (or the terms associated with the position will deteriorate). For a theoretical model highlighting entry barriers for kin members in a modernizing society, refer to Hoff and Sen (2006) and for empirical work on nepotism in Ghana, refer to Collier and Garg (1999).
4. Barr *et al.* (2008) consider endogenous formation of risk sharing groups in an economic experiment and also conclude 'genetically related individuals tend to distrust one another and so do not group when enforcement depends on intrinsic motivations alone'.
5. For a critical appraisal of the concept of social capital, and how it has been interpreted and used in the social sciences, refer to Fine (2002, 2003).
6. Moreover, Carter and Maluccio (2003) present evidence suggesting that structural social capital insures households against (idiosyncratic) economic shocks, where the coping capacity of households is measured by the nutritional status of children (height-for-age z scores of young children).
7. KIDS 1998 and 2004 was a collaborative project between researchers at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the University of Natal, and the University of Wisconsin, but to accommodate new areas of interest new partners were included in the 2004 wave (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Studies).
8. This includes delaying the start-up of new households by young adults, dissolution of existing households, and consolidation as some individuals return to their parents (or other family members) in response to economic conditions.
9. In a separate set of regressions we have also examined whether the 'durability of goods' matters. Intuitively, non-durability of certain goods may be an alternative approach to avoid the family tax—goods used up in consumption cannot be shared. For this purpose we regressed the share of expenditures on food on kinship and a series of controls. Consistent with the hypothesis we find some evidence that per capita consumption of food increases as the kinship network is larger. These results are available on request.
10. We also explored including a quadratic term for the log of total expenditure, and found this did not affect the main results.
11. See Angelucci et al. (2009) for an analysis of the relation between poverty and inequality in Mexican villages, and the structure of local extended family networks.
12. We also explored the consequences of controlling for spatial effects. The households in the database belong to 63 different neighborhoods. Spatial or neighborhood effects may be relevant because households from a certain area could simultaneously have a large kinship network and, say, low consumption of jewels or low levels of savings. We adopted a random-effects 2SLS model (Baltagi, 2008) to capture the concern of systematic variation in the structure of families across (but not within) neighborhoods. The qualitative results are very consistent with the ones presented (available from the authors on request).
13. It is not clear whether respondents also included family members of the household head's spouse. This implies that we measure kinship with noise, which will bias our estimates towards zero. An important caveat is the following: it is possible that the extent of co-residency varies with income (where especially the poor live together). This could be another reason why our kin variable may be endogenously determined.
14. Unfortunately the level of education was not measured in a consistent manner across the three waves, so we cannot use education as a control (or instrument). However, education was measured consistently in the 1993

- and 1998 waves, and when we restrict the analysis to these two waves and include education as an extra control, all our results go through (details available on request).
15. We also tried a robustness analysis where we first regressed household size on kinship, and then use the residuals from this auxiliary regression to capture the role of household size in a system that explains expenditures. This does not affect the results (results available on request).
  16. These are (i) the *efficient institutions* view, spelling out that societies choose the institutions that maximise social surplus, (ii) the *social conflict* view, arguing that institutions are chosen that maximise the rents of a (powerful) sub-group in society, (iii) the *beliefs* view, recognizing that societies have different views about what is best for society, and (iv) the *incidental institutions* view, emphasizing the development of institutions as a by-product of other social interactions.
  17. But of course anthropological thinking provides several avenues for speculation. For example, sharing within family networks is an aspect of what Bledsoe (2002) terms the "wealth in people" system. Where labour is in shorter supply than land (as it is historically true across most of hoe-cultivating Sub-Saharan Africa) having large networks of needy dependents is an encashable agrarian asset (they turn out on your farm when needed). But, and as analyzed in this paper, along with it goes the kin's conviction that they can claim subsistence as needed – supporting a common cultural presumption that family assets are "common property" (Bledsoe 2002). If so, the "dark side of social capital" as analyzed on these pages is a distinctive African issue, driven by the agrarian system in which human labour has prevailed over ploughs and oxen. See also Goody and Tambiah (1973) for a comparative analysis of distinct-typical Asian and African family property regimes based on the plough/hoe contrast.

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**Table 1: Definition and summary of the variables**

	Mean	Std Dev	Min	Max
Ln (expenditures): Total expenditure in Rand (1 USD = 6.02 Rand)	7.98	1.438	2.3	13.71
Kin proxy: (see definition in text)	1.7	2.621	0	20
Rural (dummy, 1= yes; 0= urban): If main source of income is from agriculture	0.526	0.499	0	1
Proximity: Proximity to infrastructure	2.578	0.603	1	3
Household size: Number of resident member of the household	7.987	4.427	1	32
Age : Average age of the household	23.014	8.003	5.013	80
Remittances (dummy: 1= yes): If household receive remittances from migrated household members	0.353	0.478	0	1
Durable and non-sharable - Home improvements: budget share allocated to home improvement in rand	0.077	0.149	0	0.9
Durable – semi sharable – Furniture: budget share allocate to furniture in rand	0.092	0.192	0	0.99
Semi durable and sharable - Clothes: budget share allocated to clothes in rand	0.131	0.2	0	0.96
Durable and sharable assets - Jewels: budget share allocated to jewels and watches in rand	0.018	0.046	0	0.746
Assets: Share of Liquid assets, savings, investments in rand	0.032	0.072	0	0.99

Table 2 Home improvement and Kinship proxy

	Fixed Effect (1)	IV (2)	Fixed Effect IV (3)	Fixed Effects IV (4)	Fixed Effects IV (5)	Fixed Effects IV (6)
Kin proxy	-0.00174 (0.00174)	0.0290** (0.0139)	0.0296* (0.0156)	0.0164* (0.010)	0.0352** (0.0156)	0.0313** (0.0138)
Ln (Exp)	0.00550** (0.00265)	-0.0114 (0.0131)	-0.0126 (0.0193)	-0.264** (0.130)	0.112 (0.175)	0.115 (0.152)
Ln (Exp) <sup>2</sup>				0.0142** (0.00689)	-0.00621 (0.00999)	-0.00637 (0.00864)
Hh size	-0.000945 (0.00103)	0.00000275 (0.00125)	-0.00125 (0.00120)	-0.000524 (0.00156)	-0.00254 (0.00743)	-0.00170 (0.00631)
Proximity	-0.00816 (0.00888)	-0.0131 (0.00913)	-0.0118 (0.0101)	-0.0147 (0.0115)	-0.0150 (0.0107)	-0.0131 (0.00955)
Rural	0.0142 (0.00864)	-0.0197 (0.0165)	-0.00770 (0.0143)	0.0136 (0.0156)	-0.0125 (0.0148)	-0.00530 (0.0127)
Age	0.00148 (0.00174)	0.0110** (0.00512)	0.0140* (0.00769)		0.0195** (0.00911)	0.0180** (0.00799)
Age <sup>2</sup>	-0.0000251 (0.0000317)	-0.000132** (0.0000651)	-0.000192* (0.000114)		-0.000278* (0.000149)	-0.000254** (0.000128)
Remittances						-0.0370*** (0.0140)
Constant	0.00609 (0.0387)	-0.0442 (0.156)	-0.0648 (0.246)	1.238** (0.584)	-0.739 (0.778)	-0.719 (0.662)

N:1326. Test results for model (5). Endogeneity Test (Wu-Hausman F test): 3.2898; F(3,1312):  $p$ -value = 0.02; Sargan statistic (overidentification test of instruments):  $p$ -val = 0.74; Test of excluded instruments (for Kin, Ln, Expenditure, household size, respectively): F= 8.03,  $p$ -value=0; F= 12.51,  $p$ -value = 0; F = 30.54,  $p$ -value=0. Kleibergen-Paap Wald rk LM statistic: 11.62,  $p$ -value: 0.003. Standard errors in parentheses \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

Table 3 Furniture and Kinship Proxy

	Fixed Effect	IV	Fixed Effect	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects
	(1)	(2)	IV	IV	IV	IV
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Kin proxy	-0.00511** (0.00243)	-0.0356*** (0.0137)	-0.0356*** (0.0138)	-0.0423*** (0.0150)	-0.0603 (0.0516)	-0.0602 (0.0484)
Ln (Exp)	-0.0277*** (0.00623)	-0.0619*** (0.0154)	-0.0858*** (0.0182)	-0.0772*** (0.0194)	-0.109*** (0.0366)	-0.109*** (0.0346)
Ln (Exp) <sup>2</sup>				0.0272 (0.0277)	0.0291*** (0.0112)	0.0291*** (0.0107)
Household size	0.00272 (0.00173)	0.00570*** (0.00192)	0.00533*** (0.00204)	0.00336 (0.00289)	0.00936 (0.0139)	0.00931 (0.0131)
Proximity	-0.00470 (0.0133)	-0.00345 (0.0147)	0.00122 (0.0151)	-0.00967 (0.0190)	-0.00952 (0.0169)	-0.00992 (0.0165)
Rural	-0.0400*** (0.0126)	-0.0163 (0.0198)	-0.0165 (0.0196)	0.0117 (0.0360)	0.0151 (0.0377)	0.0137 (0.0352)
Age	-0.000805 (0.00136)	-0.00204 (0.00183)	-0.00129 (0.00182)	-0.00239 (0.00205)	-0.00334 (0.00445)	-0.00337 (0.00405)
Age <sup>2</sup>	0.000144 (0.0000907)	0.000139 (0.0000971)	0.000132 (0.0000978)	0.000161 (0.000102)	0.000140 (0.000176)	0.000140 (0.000173)
Remittances						0.0112 (0.0190)
Constant	0.355*** (0.0680)	0.732*** (0.152)	0.957*** (0.181)	0.908*** (0.182)	1.219*** (0.380)	1.215*** (0.357)

N: 825. Test statistics for model (5). Endogeneity Wu-Hausman F test (for Ln Expenditure, Kinship and Household size): 2.6, F(3,797)  $p$ -value = 0.047; Sargan statistic (overidentification test of all instruments):  $p$ -value = 0.9; Test of excluded instruments (for kin, Ln Expenditure, Household size, respectively): F= 9.22,  $p$ -value=0; F= 43.31,  $p$ -value=0; F=33,  $p$ -value=0. Kleibergen-Paap Wald rk LM statistic: 11.6,  $p$ -value: 0.003. Standard errors in parentheses  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

Table 4 Clothing and Kinship Proxy

	Fixed Effect	IV	Fixed Effect	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects	Fixed Effects
	(1)	(2)	IV	IV	IV	IV
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Kin proxy	-0.0135*** (0.00447)	-0.129*** (0.0429)	-0.122*** (0.0422)	-0.0183 (0.0435)	-0.177** (0.0781)	-0.179** (0.0785)
Ln (Exp)	-0.206*** (0.0344)	-0.362*** (0.0703)	-0.378*** (0.0738)	-2.807** (1.114)	-0.424*** (0.0954)	-0.423*** (0.0956)
Ln (Exp) <sup>2</sup>				0.137** (0.0620)	0.115*** (0.0310)	0.114*** (0.0311)
Hh size	0.00124 (0.00399)	0.0103 (0.00679)	0.0111 (0.00704)	0.00698 (0.00552)	0.00540 (0.0221)	0.00668 (0.0222)
Proximity	-0.0178 (0.0432)	0.0124 (0.0541)	0.0150 (0.0544)	-0.0144 (0.0433)	-0.0291 (0.0524)	-0.0311 (0.0529)
Rural	-0.114*** (0.0314)	0.0192 (0.0649)	0.0264 (0.0628)	0.106 (0.0648)	0.111 (0.0915)	0.106 (0.0918)
Age	0.00991** (0.00410)	0.00831 (0.00557)	0.00884 (0.00544)	0.00567 (0.00449)	0.00646 (0.00734)	0.00603 (0.00737)
Age <sup>2</sup>	-0.000585** (0.000260)	-0.000611 (0.000454)	-0.000586 (0.000427)	-0.000110 (0.000329)	-0.000145 (0.000516)	-0.000136 (0.000518)
Remittances						0.0255 (0.0529)
Constant	2.289*** (0.363)	3.929*** (0.681)	4.042*** (0.724)	14.17*** (4.787)	4.725*** (1.002)	4.711*** (1.003)

N: 579. Test statistics for model (5). Endogeneity test (Wu-Hausman F test): 17.56, F(3,565),  $p$ -value = 0.  
 Sargan statistic (overidentification test of all instruments):  $p$ -value = 0.32. Test of excluded instruments (for Kin, Ln Expenditure, Household size respectively): F= 7.03,  $p$ -value=0; F=25.06,  $p$ -value=0; F= 19.83,  $p$ -value=0.  
 Kleibergen-Paap Wald rk LM statistic: 11.8,  $p$ -value: 0.0026 Standard errors in parentheses  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$



Table 5 Jewels and Kinship Proxy

	Fixed Effect	IV	Fixed Effect IV	Fixed Effects IV	Fixed Effects IV	Fixed Effects IV
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Kin proxy	-0.00000458 (0.000800)	-0.0159*** (0.00489)	-0.0119** (0.00514)	-0.0549*** (0.0175)	-0.0141* (0.00801)	-0.014* (0.00808)
Ln (exp)	-0.00663*** (0.00132)	-0.0279*** (0.00701)	-0.0386*** (0.0102)	0.322** (0.143)	-0.0579*** (0.0159)	-0.0574*** (0.0155)
Ln (Exp) <sup>2</sup>				-0.0191** (0.00843)	0.000525 (0.00137)	0.000532 (0.00135)
Hh size	0.000593 (0.000583)	0.00154** (0.000749)	0.000862 (0.000770)	0.00186 (0.00127)	-0.00321 (0.00380)	-0.00326 (0.00372)
Proximity	-0.00941* (0.00563)	-0.00560 (0.00650)	-0.00150 (0.00695)	-0.0116 (0.00934)	0.00371 (0.00890)	0.00406 (0.00886)
Rural	-0.00420 (0.00468)	-0.00922 (0.00901)	-0.00599 (0.00863)	0.0323** (0.0140)	-0.00367 (0.0101)	-0.00123 (0.00962)
Age	0.000603 (0.000384)	0.00129** (0.000543)	0.00139** (0.000595)	0.00163* (0.000862)	0.00207** (0.000843)	0.00218** (0.000862)
Age <sup>2</sup>	-0.000032** (0.0000146)	-0.0001*** (0.0000229)	-0.00009*** (0.0000264)	-0.0001*** (0.0000412)	-0.00014*** (0.0000477)	-0.00015*** (0.0000482)
Remittances						-0.0138 (0.0103)
Constant	0.0822*** (0.0148)	0.279*** (0.0631)	0.356*** (0.0866)	-1.156** (0.539)	0.541*** (0.143)	0.540*** (0.141)

N; 1927. Test statistics for model (5). Endogeneity test (Wu-Hausman F test): 32.88 F(3,1913),  $p$ -value = 0.  
Sargan/Hansen test (overidentification test of all instruments)  $p$ -value = 0.  
Test of excluded instruments (for Kin, Ln Expenditure and Household size respectively): F= 8.03,  $p$ -value=0;  
F=18.17,  $p$ -value=0; F=29.97,  $p$ -value=0.  
Kleibergen-Paap Wald rk LM statistic 7.004,  $p$ -value: 0.03.  
Standard errors in parentheses  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

Table 6 Saving and Kinship Proxy

	Fixed Effect (1)	IV (2)	Fixed Effect IV (3)	Fixed Effects IV (4)	Fixed Effects IV (5)	Fixed Effects IV (6)
Kin proxy	-0.0022*** (0.000829)	-0.0356** (0.0144)	-0.0192** (0.00877)	-0.0195** (0.00856)	-0.0234** (0.0107)	-0.0226** (0.0103)
Ln (Exp)	-0.0082*** (0.00171)	-0.0477*** (0.00861)	-0.0543*** (0.0193)	-0.0540*** (0.0193)	-0.0521** (0.0208)	-0.0519*** (0.0200)
Ln (Exp)^2				0.003* (0.00140)	0.00250* (0.00140)	0.00253* (0.00138)
Household size	-0.000916 (0.000645)	0.00141 (0.00133)	-0.000287 (0.00102)	-0.000454 (0.00104)	0.00163 (0.00503)	0.00138 (0.00489)
Proximity	0.00439 (0.00611)	0.0104 (0.00947)	0.0158* (0.00952)	0.0160* (0.00953)	0.0154 (0.00994)	0.0162 (0.00995)
Rural	0.00301 (0.00560)	-0.00740 (0.0151)	0.000752 (0.0141)	0.00115 (0.0142)	0.00146 (0.0118)	0.00504 (0.0106)
Age	0.000560 (0.000503)	0.00162** (0.000783)	0.00164* (0.000840)	0.00167** (0.000839)	0.00153 (0.00100)	0.00170 (0.00104)
Age^2	-0.000033* (0.0000184)	-0.0001*** (0.0000365)	-0.000116*** (0.0000407)	-0.000119*** (0.0000409)	-0.000106* (0.0000628)	-0.000114* (0.0000639)
Remittances						-0.0213* (0.0128)
Constant	0.108*** (0.0163)	0.479*** (0.0749)	0.500*** (0.156)	0.503*** (0.156)	0.476** (0.186)	0.480*** (0.181)

N: 1927. Test statistics for model (5). Endogeneity Wu-Hausman F test (Ln Expenditure, Kinship and Household size F(3,1913)  $p$ -value = 0. Sargan/Hansen (overidentification test of all instruments):  $p$ -value: 0.25. Test of excluded in Kin, Ln Expenditure, Household size, respectively): F= 8.03,  $p$  value: 0; F = 18.17,  $p$ -value: 0; F=29.97,  $p$ -value=0. Paap Wald rk LM statistic 7.003 P-value: 0.0301. Standard errors in parentheses  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

**Table 7: The effect of kinship on income: four different income segments**

	Quintile <30	Quintile 30 -50	Quintile 50 -70	Quintile 70 -90
Kin Network	-258.9*** (43.19)	-611.4*** (51.75)	-1106.2*** (82.24)	-2220.4*** (294.7)
Household size	25.30 (19.01)	58.06 (45.24)	253.1** (126.0)	104.6 (239.6)
Proximity	67.06 (227.5)	127.0 (398.9)	70.79 (736.7)	1870.3 (1650.3)
Rural	-899.7*** (281.5)	-1566.5*** (493.1)	-4046.3*** (1122.4)	-10473.4*** (1906.2)
Age	40.34*** (13.20)	74.02* (41.30)	90.78 (85.29)	321.5 (269.2)
Constant	3186.9*** (295.6)	6337.8*** (634.8)	12033.4*** (1153.9)	31640.6*** (3648.0)

Standard errors in parentheses \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$

## Appendix

Table First stage regressions from models reported in columns (5)

Equation	Kin		Ln Exp		HH size		Ln Exp2		
	Coeffs.	Std Errs	Coeffs.	Std Errs	Coeffs.	Std Errs	Coeffs.	Std Errs	
<i>Assets</i>	Proximity	0.022	0.121	0.140	0.118	0.117	0.197	2.203	1.914
	Rural	0.292	0.126	-0.671	0.122	0.920	0.204	-10.322	1.982
	Age	0.013	0.009	0.028	0.009	0.063	0.015	0.486	0.149
	Age^2	-0.001	0.001	-0.002	0.001	-0.007	0.001	-0.030	0.008
	Avg HH size	0.246	0.043	0.057	0.042	0.893	0.070	0.370	0.680
	Total Income	-0.000005	0.000002	-0.000002	0.000002	-0.000001	0.000003	-0.000032	0.000027
	Tot Income^2	-0.000009	0.000005	-0.000046	0.000005	0.000008	0.000008	-0.000748	0.000076
	Avg Kin	0.010	0.002	-0.006	0.002	-0.003	0.003	-0.130	0.030
<i>Home</i>	Proximity	-0.063	0.179	0.161	0.084	0.070	0.268	2.985	1.574
	Rural	0.585	0.202	0.354	0.095	0.470	0.302	5.669	1.776
	Age	-0.053	0.015	0.028	0.007	0.156	0.022	0.526	0.130
	Age^2	0.0001	0.001	-0.001	0.001	-0.012	0.002	-0.025	0.010
	Avg HH size	0.196	0.050	-0.127	0.023	0.913	0.074	-2.550	0.437
	Total Income	-0.000005	0.000002	-0.000002	0.000001	-0.000001	0.000003	-0.000031	0.000017
	Tot Income^2	-0.000001	0.000007	-0.000030	0.000003	-0.000029	0.000010	-0.000475	0.000061
	Avg Kin	0.008	0.002	-0.008	0.001	0.000	0.003	-0.162	0.020
<i>Furniture</i>	Proximity	-0.063	0.179	0.161	0.084	0.070	0.268	2.985	1.574
	Rural	0.585	0.202	0.354	0.095	0.470	0.302	5.669	1.776
	Age	-0.053	0.015	0.028	0.007	0.156	0.022	0.526	0.130
	Age^2	0.0001	0.001	-0.001	0.001	-0.012	0.002	-0.025	0.010
	Avg HH size	0.196	0.050	-0.127	0.023	0.913	0.074	-2.550	0.437
	Total Income	-0.000005	0.000002	-0.000002	0.000001	-0.000001	0.000003	-0.000031	0.000017
	Tot Income^2	-0.000001	0.000007	-0.000030	0.000003	-0.000029	0.000010	-0.000475	0.000061
	Avg Kin	0.008	0.002	-0.008	0.001	0.000	0.003	-0.162	0.020
<i>Cloth</i>	Proximity	0.016	0.234	0.202	0.102	0.341	0.338	3.775	1.860
	Rural	0.662	0.263	0.321	0.115	0.412	0.380	4.826	2.091
	Age	-0.029	0.020	0.033	0.009	0.210	0.029	0.617	0.160
	Age^2	0.001	0.002	-0.001	0.001	-0.011	0.003	-0.030	0.016
	Avg HH size	0.200	0.071	-0.086	0.031	0.898	0.102	-1.689	0.563
	Total Income	-0.000004	0.000002	-0.000002	0.000001	-0.000001	0.000003	-0.000031	0.000017
	Tot Income^2	-0.000007	0.000009	-0.000041	0.000004	-0.000050	0.000013	-0.000697	0.000069
	Avg Kin	0.010	0.003	-0.005	0.001	0.002	0.004	-0.090	0.023
<i>Jewels</i>	Proximity	0.022	0.121	0.140	0.118	0.117	0.197	2.203	1.914
	Rural	0.292	0.126	-0.671	0.122	0.920	0.204	-10.322	1.982
	Age	0.013	0.009	0.028	0.009	0.063	0.015	0.486	0.149
	Age^2	-0.001	0.001	-0.002	0.001	-0.007	0.001	-0.030	0.008
	Avg HH size	0.246	0.043	0.057	0.042	0.893	0.070	0.370	0.680
	Total Income	-0.000005	0.000002	-0.000002	0.000002	-0.000001	0.000003	-0.000032	0.000027
	Tot Income^2	-0.000009	0.000005	-0.000046	0.000005	0.000008	0.000008	-0.000748	0.000076
	Avg Kin	0.010	0.002	-0.006	0.002	-0.003	0.003	-0.130	0.030