



Nanyang Technological University  
**ECONOMICS AND ECONOMICS  
GROWTH CENTRE** Seminar Series

Economics and Economic Growth Centre invite you to a seminar by  
Dr Ognen STOJANOVSKI

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- Speaker** : **Dr Ognen STOJANOVSKI**  
*Research Scholar*  
*Program on Energy and Sustainable Development (PESD)*  
*Stanford University, USA*
- Topic** : **"Off-Grid Solar in Sub-Saharan Africa: Sustainable Energy?"**
- Chairperson** : **Prof James ANG**  
*Associate Professor*  
*Division of Economics*  
*School of Social Sciences*
- Date** : **18 January 2018 (Thursday)**
- Time** : **11.00am to 12.00pm**
- Venue** : **HSS Meeting Room 1** (HSS-03-65)  
*School of Social Sciences*  
*14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637332*  
*Nanyang Technological University*

**About the Speaker:**

Dr Ognen Stojanovski's background is in law (J.D. from Stanford in 2007 with distinction) and engineering (M.A. and B.A. from UC Berkeley in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research with highest honors), and he is keenly interested in the intersection of energy and the developing world.

Dr Stojanovski has been affiliated with Program on Energy and Sustainable Development (PESD) at Stanford University since 2005. He is charged with project management and detailed implementation of PESD's research platform on low-income energy services.

His current research focuses on measuring and quantifying the economic and social welfare impacts of solar PV products in developing countries (especially East Africa), as well as identifying innovations in the off-grid solar industry that can improve business performance and maximize customer benefits. He is leading several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in the African solar PV space.

His other primary area of research is the Mexican energy sector. During the summer of 2015, he led a group of Stanford students in conducting an RCT in Puebla, Mexico, to explore how households use electricity and test whether information about electricity pricing and conservation leads to changes in behavior. He was also part of PESD's research on national oil companies and authored the chapter about Pemex and the Mexican oil sector in the book "Oil and Governance: State-owned Enterprises and the World Energy Supply."

Dr Stojanovski is an active member of the State Bar of California and has advised clients on a wide range of corporate legal issues. He currently serves as the manager of a Bay Area start-up.

**Abstract:**

Solar photovoltaic (PV) products have emerged as a leading potential solution to Sub-Saharan Africa's long-term electrification and development problems. But despite apparent successes in the adoption of solar PV technology in the region, important questions remain about whether these products are actually realizing their potential to deliver sustainable energy or broader development benefits. On an even more basic level, there is very little data on (1) who adopts solar PV technology (products are targeted at the "bottom of the pyramid" but where they actually end up is not well understood); (2) how solar PV products interact with end-users' pre-existing energy systems (which solar PVs are often assumed to simply displace); and (3) the extent to which actual use patterns of solar products match up with the presumed ones of solar manufacturers and development agencies. In this talk, I probe these questions by presenting the results of research that tracked 500 adopters of solar home systems for one year in Kenya and Uganda, two of the hottest off-grid solar markets in Africa. We suggest that filling the existing knowledge gap with this kind of research could significantly improve the operations of solar companies and the decision-making of market development supporters (governments, aid agencies, NGOs, and multilateral organizations).

**Reservation:**

Admission is free. Please reply to [e-egc@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:e-egc@ntu.edu.sg) for any enquiries.