

Discussion Jedwab, Haslop, Zarate, Masaki and Rodríguez-Castelán

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Summary and Contribution

- Spatial economic effects of the disappearance of Lake Chad
 - ▶ 11th largest, size of Massachusetts
 - ▶ Borders four countries
- Focus is on (persistent) climate change
 - ▶ Different from weather shocks
 - ▶ Different from episodic flooding
- Focus is on a historical episode, rather than future projection
 - ▶ Provides way to test model

Data and Empirical Questions

- More background on economic use of lake
 - ▶ Drinking water, fishing, transportation, ...
- Distance to lake
 - ▶ Changes over time as lake dries out
- Heterogeneity of effects depending on
 - ▶ Land quality and other features
- Effect on urbanization
 - ▶ Does it depend on type of city (Henderson, Storeygard & Deichmann)?
- Any possibility to get spatial sectoral data?

Model Questions

- Different effects of drying of lake
 - ▶ Water transportation
 - ▶ Water supply
 - ▶ Productivity change in agriculture and livestock
- More work needed to compare predicted changes to actual changes
 - ▶ Population changes
 - ▶ Sectoral composition changes
- Quantify relative importance of different channels
- Migration costs neither free nor prohibitive