

## Inequality-aware Market Design Seminar Series

# Lucie Gadenne: In-Kind Transfers as Insurance

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### Details

**When:** 21 Sep 2022 @ 17:00 GMT+2

**Where:** GRAPE

### Speaker this week

[Lucie Gadenne ↗](#)

Queen Mary University of London

**Lucie Gadenne** is an Associate Professor in the School of Economics and Finance at Queen Mary, University of London, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies and a Research Affiliate at the CEPR and the IGC. Her research focuses on public policy in developing countries and in particular on the optimal design of taxes and subsidies, the equity and efficiency effects of taxation in the presence of large informal sectors and the effects of tax capacity on government accountability.

**Abstract:** In-kind transfers can provide insurance benefits when prices of consumption goods vary, as is common in developing countries. We develop a model demonstrating that in-kind transfers are welfare improving to beneficiaries relative to cash if the covariance between the marginal utility of income and price is positive. Using calorie shortfalls as a marginal utility proxy, we find that in-kind transfers are preferred for low-income Indian households. Expansions in India's flagship in-kind food transfer program not only increase caloric intake but also reduce caloric sensitivity to prices. Our results contribute to ongoing debates about the optimal form of social protection programs. Find the paper [here ↗](#).

Should you have any queries please contact the seminar organizers at [IMD@grape.org.pl](mailto:IMD@grape.org.pl).



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