

Fortnightly links: RCT sceptics, cash + childcare, US-China trade, Global Fund, and more

By Terence Wood and Camilla Burkot
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Angus Deaton exchanges his RCT scepticism for a carefully considered pros and cons approach in [this](#) new NBER working paper ([ungated](#) here).

Aptly enough, [this](#) NBER working paper was released at the same time ([ungated here](#)) its findings are fascinating, at least for the Nepalese context where it was conducted: giving new families information on childcare *and* a short-term cash grant appeared more effective than information on its own in improving child health.

If the US presidential election is leaving you feeling the need for consoling irony, this new working paper by David Autor and co-authors ([gated](#), [ungated](#)) should do the trick. Rising trade with China appears to have contributed to political radicalism in the United States (primarily conservative political radicalism). For anyone with an interest in globalisation it's a fascinating finding on its own. But if you just want the irony: in other words, Donald Trump is opposed to the very phenomenon that helped make him a success.

It was a big fortnight for global development events. The UN General Assembly is ongoing in New York. And the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's Fifth Replenishment Conference in Montreal, where \$12.9 billion were pledged, was generally heralded as a success (read a Devpolicy blog post about it [here](#)). Not everyone was enthused, though — Stephen Lewis, for example, [branded](#) the \$13 billion fundraising target “ridiculous”.

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