

Jessica Pickett

Jessica Pickett recently joined the Global Studies Center as the Director of Research and Global Programs. She brings over a decade of experience bridging the academic, business and policy communities, including previous roles with the Center for Global Development and the Indian School of Business. At Pitt, Dr. Pickett spearheads strategic initiatives designed to advance the Center's intellectual agenda under the University's Global Plan. Among other priorities, she is developing the Governor's School for Global and International Studies, as well as overseeing the Global Academic Partnership, Faculty Fellows, and Kabak endowment programs. She will also teach courses in the global health concentration.

Dr. Pickett holds a PhD in managerial science and applied economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where she explored the impact of consumer information on the market for primary care in rural India. In particular, her dissertation demonstrates that social fragmentation and weak regulatory institutions mitigate competition for such "reputation goods": when the number of local providers increases, households face greater uncertainty about their quality and pay higher prices as a result. These findings call into question the assumptions underpinning the international agenda on universal access to primary care and suggests that related reforms may perversely affect patient health and wellbeing.

In addition to India, Dr. Pickett has lived and worked in Switzerland, Morocco, and Tajikistan. Her broader expertise extends to insurance and financial risk protection; demand for

vaccines and related medical technologies; and the politics of service delivery in low- and middle-income countries.