



INSTITUTE FOR MONEY, TECHNOLOGY & FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Villagers in Russia's remote Altai Province make a living trading livestock. Photo by Svetlana Tyuteneva, IMTFI researcher.

INVESTIGATE

The Institute for Money, Technology & Financial Inclusion was established in 2008 within the School of Social Sciences at the University of California, Irvine through a \$1.7 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The institute annually funds researchers who investigate how the world's poorest people spend, save and store money, and how their habits are or could be affected by emerging technologies that provide access to financial services, such as:

- Mobile phone enabled banking
- Funds transfer & payment via new technologies
- Branchless banking using point of sale terminals

INNOVATE

Through research on existing monetary ecologies, the institute aims to learn how current and new mobile technology services could be made available to millions of poor people around the world. Research findings are also important for informing efforts to regulate the emerging mobile money industry in a way that provides safety and security while enabling innovation.

IMPACT

In its first year, the institute funded 17 projects totaling more than \$230,000 for research in 14 different countries on topics that ranged from an analysis of rudimentary financial practices in a remote corner of Russia to learning how cell phone-based money transfer systems may impact the poor in Sri Lanka.

The inaugural researchers participated in the institute's first major conference in November 2009 where they shared preliminary findings with scholars, industry professionals and interested members of the community.

In 2011, 21 additional projects received funding, bringing the institute's total number of funded researchers to over 100 and countries studied to 32. IMTFI researchers will present preliminary findings at the third annual conference December 6-7, 2011.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A gift to IMTFI has the power to transform individuals and communities and truly make a difference. Contact us today or visit us online at www.socsci.uci.edu to learn how past donations have helped fund our future leaders.