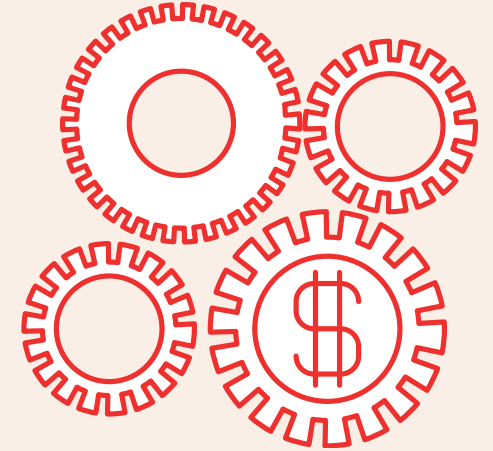


ADVANCED GRADUATE WORKSHOP 2024



Poverty. Development. Globalisation

JULY 8 – 20
AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY

ORGANISERS:
AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY (BANGALORE)
INSTITUTE FOR NEW ECONOMIC THINKING



This booklet is for the purpose of distribution among the participants of AGW 2024. Please do not use (or quote) any of the abstracts shared in this booklet without the respective author's permission.

Design and Editing: Tamoghna Halder

AGW 2024: SCHEDULE (WEEK 1)

MONDAY, 8TH JULY

9:00 – 10:15: Introduction to AGW

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15: Josh W Mason

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00: Student Interactions

2:00 – 3:30: Group Meetings

Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:00: Group Meetings (contd.)

TUESDAY, 9TH

9:00 – 10:30: Sonalde Desai

11:00 – 12:30: Josh W Mason

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:15: Group Discussions

3:45 – 5:00: Data and Identity (Panel Discussion)

WEDNESDAY, 10TH

9:00 – 10:30: Sonalde Desai

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Achal Prabhala (in conversation with Arjun Jayadev)

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:15: Group Discussions

3:45 – 4:15: Communicating Research (Tony and Tamo)

4:15 – 5:00: Anand Kumar

THURSDAY, 11TH

9:00 – 10:30: Mekhala Krishnamurthy

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Priyanka Arora, Benston John

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:15: Group Discussions

Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:15: Writing Economics (Panel Discussion)

FRIDAY, 12TH

9:00 – 10:30: Rajiv Sethi

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Rajiv Sethi

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:15: Group Discussions

Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:15: Deepak Malghan

NOTES:

all participants of the workshop are cordially invited to the Welcome Dinner on July 7th, Sunday, at 7:30 pm, to be held at the Welcome Centre (Sabarmati), Azim Premji University.

AGW 2024: SCHEDULE (WEEK 2)

MONDAY, 15TH JULY

9:00 – 10:30: Balu Pawde, Angarika Rakshit

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Vidhya Soundararajan

Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:30: Partha Dasgupta

Coffee and Snacks

TUESDAY, 16TH JULY

9:00 – 10:30: Vidhya Soundararajan

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Maitreesh Ghatak

Lunch break

2:00 – 3:00: Student Presentations (2)

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00: Student Presentations (3)

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JULY

9:00 – 10:30: Maitreesh Ghatak

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Arjun Jayadev

Lunch break

2:00 – 3:00: Student Presentations (2)

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00: Student Presentations (3)

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY

9:00 – 10:30: Student Presentations (3)

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Student Presentations (3)

Lunch break

2:00 – 3:00: Student Presentations (2)

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:00: Student Presentations (3)

FRIDAY, 19TH JULY

9:00 – 10:30: Student Presentations (3)

Coffee Break

10:45 – 1:30: Student Presentations (3)

Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:30: Concluding Remarks

Coffee and Photo Sessions

LETTER FROM AKBAR AND ARJUN

TO ALL THE GRADUATE STUDENTS OF AGW 2024

Dear Students,

We welcome you to the Advanced Graduate Workshop (AGW).

The workshop is meant to be a place of openness, support and help for students undergoing what is often the toughest challenge of their academic lives. In the many years that we have run it (in various incarnations since 2007), it has proven to be an extremely valuable space for students to make progress on their dissertations, to find a community, become part of the AGW family, learn something new, and to broaden their horizons. Here, no one is going to look for how 'smart' you are (you all have to be, to come here in the first place). Instead, we are going to insist on your being supportive and kind to each other. The PhD is a difficult journey and this is meant to help you along the way. This has been the ethos for the workshop since its inception and we hope that you will keep that spirit alive

We have been holding this workshop nearly every year in Bangalore since 2011 and it has been one of the most delightful events either of us have been involved in. This year may be the final one in which this is held annually, and it is likely to move continents over the coming years. We hope that if this is the last of the annual Bangalore cohort for some time, that you have a truly wonderful time and that you come away with the same sense of joy and accomplishments that the many groups who have come before (and who are now full professors, research directors, ministers, public servants and many other exciting things besides) have experienced.

Have a wonderful time!

Best Wishes,

Akbar and Arjun



NOTE FROM ORGANISERS

AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY & INSTITUTE FOR NEW ECONOMIC THINKING (INET)

Building on the past splendid editions of the Workshop spanning more than a decade, we are thrilled to welcome you all to the Advanced Graduate Workshop 2024. Every year we have leading academics and practitioners delivering lectures on a wide range of engaging and topical issues, and this year shall be no different. However, AGW has been consciously designed not to make it centric to these lectures. At the core of it are the small groups in which graduate students meet and work on their presentations. It is in these groups where students, guided by their group leaders and occasionally by the visiting lecturers and organisers, not only get feedback on their work but also learn how to give constructive feedback. If testimonials of past participants are anything to go by, it is here that friendships that span continents are born, which then last for a lifetime. The Workshop has been conceived and curated to provide graduate students the conducive space for discussion with their peers in a relaxed (as much as graduate students can relax) atmosphere.

Like its 2023 version, AGW 2024 will also include a couple of panel discussions. The idea being that the graduate students attending AGW should be exposed to some ideas/opinions that are regarded as critical in contemporary research in Economics. We believe, even if one does not pursue research in that specific field, being part of a discussion revolving around it helps one gauge the broad theory and arguments. This then equips them to at least indulge in meaningful conversations, if not encouraging them to pursue further study in the field.

Rest, as organisers, we are keen to make this edition as good and useful for you as the previous ones. We have done our part in putting it together and from here on you, the participants, are going to drive a large part of the experience of the Workshop. Your questions and comments during lectures, your interactions with speakers outside of the lectures, your discussions in the small groups, your presentations at the end, and perhaps most importantly, your interactions with each other over breaks and meals and drinks, are what make the workshop, and we invite you to make it a memorable one.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

ABHISHEK SHAW

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (AHMEDABAD)

Abhishek Shaw is doing his PhD from the Economics Area at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad and is also a researcher at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. His thesis work looks at two aspects of caste and development in India. The first is related to dominant castes at the village level and their effects on other co-residing castes. The second concerns affirmative action in higher education and what it means for target groups. Outside his thesis, Abhishek has worked on the consumption and productivity effects of agricultural cash transfers in India, as well as the economic effects of state-imposed lockdowns. Previously, he was an Editorial Consultant during the launch of The India Forum, and before that, he served on the editorial team of Economic & Political Weekly for five years. He is an alumnus of the Asian College of Journalism (2012-13), Chennai, and the University of Hyderabad (2006-11).



Abstract: Affirmative action remains an important policy option for countries with deep inequities based on socioeconomic identities (like gender, caste, and religion, among others). Over a decade after the 2008 Other Backward Classes (OBCs) reservations for higher education in central government institutions were implemented in India, I evaluate to what extent OBC reservations improved higher education attainment for the target group relative to the general category. Can large affirmative action quotas applied to a significant minority of high-quality institutions change aggregate outcomes? I use a difference-in-differences design with cohort and social group differences. OBCs saw large increases in higher education attainment with no labour market gains. As the probability of admission into high-quality public institutions increases, does it lead to an increase in higher education attainment for the target group in institutions where the new quotas do not apply (state-government-run and private institutions)? To better understand the meaning of the introduction of a new quota, this paper compares the announcement of a new quota to the expansion of seats for groups with pre-existing affirmative action quotas. I find that Scheduled Castes and Tribes, who were allocated about 50% more seats alongside the new quota for OBCs, saw negligible increases in higher education attainment, indicating that the announcement of a new quota is qualitatively different from a seat expansion for pre-existing reserved social group students.

ANNESHA MUKHERJEE

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (INDIA)

Annesha Mukherjee is a Ph.D. Scholar at the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, India. She is currently working in the intersecting field of labour and gender and her thesis explores the interlinkages between women's participation in the labour market and agency within the domestic domain in low-income neighbourhoods of urban areas in India. Her research interests also include development economics, feminist economics, and feminist geography. In addition to academic publications, she writes newspaper articles on social and economic issues in the Indian context.

Abstract: The present study attempts to contribute to the body of literature that examines the factors influencing female labour force participation and women's intrinsic valuation of paid work in low-income neighbourhoods of urban areas in India. For this purpose, we conduct a survey in two slum areas of Kolkata city in West Bengal - one, located in the vicinity of an upper-class neighbourhood, and another, situated in the dock area of the city and surrounded by factories. Our survey of 384 ever-married working-age women makes three noteworthy observations. First, the geographical location of slums crucially influences the type of paid work that women engage in. Second, although the entry point to the labour market maybe crisis-driven, women develop an intrinsic valuation of paid work as their right and as a means of livelihood in the process. Finally, social and community norms explain both the non- participation and the temporary withdrawal of women from the labour force. Thus, the inability and/or the unwillingness of slum-dwelling women to participate in a highly gender-segregated labour market primarily stem from the strict adherence to patriarchal social norms in general and community norms in particular, either imposed on them directly by their spouses or indirectly by the community they reside in, and their intrinsic valuation of the 'male breadwinner model.' Therefore, our analysis highlights that concurrent to availability of flexible jobs, greater institutional support by the State and broader structural changes are imperative to alter norms towards achieving gender parity in accessing and continuing paid work.



ANUAR SUCAR DIAZ CEBALLOS

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST (USA)

Anuar is a Mexican economist coursing his fourth year at the PhD in Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. On the professional front, he has extensive experience in the Mexican public sector, where he collaborated in formulating public policies that address health and public finance issues. On the academic front, his research fields of interest are economic growth and development in less-developed economies. More specifically, he is interested in understanding the constraints to the economic growth of surplus labor economies.

Abstract: The orthodox economic theory asserts that in the long run, economies tend to a supply-determined equilibrium determined by the interaction of the goods and the labor markets. Whether economies grow faster than the potential output rate, then inflationary pressures will develop, for workers will demand higher real wages as a higher level of employment enhances their bargaining position, raising the costs of oligopolistic firms that increase their prices to keep their profit margins. In this way, since it is assumed that the pool of available workers is exhausted before a productive capacity constraint is attained, the constraint to growth shall be found in the labor market. While this story may be true to an extent for the case of developed economies, in the case of surplus labor economies, we would not expect higher real wages as the economy expands; there is an excess of labor willing to work at constant real wages. Henceforth, we need new ways of understanding the relationship between economic growth, wages, and prices in surplus labor economies. In this paper, we develop a model in which the economy finds its main constraint to growth in the capacity constraints of a traditional intermediate goods sector that operates with decreasing returns.



CHINMAYI SRIKANTH

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, DELHI (INDIA)

Chinmayi Srikanth is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Delhi. Prior to this position, she served as a Post-doctoral fellow at the Centre for Development Economics (CDE) at Delhi School of Economics (DSE) and the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG). She was recently honored with the Routledge Inclusive Economics Prize for her outstanding contributions to the field. With a doctoral degree in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIMK), Chinmayi's research primarily revolves around development economics. Her specific areas of interest include stratification economics, social mobility, intersectionality, and gender. She dedicates her work to exploring the impact of the caste system and patriarchy on economic outcomes in India. Additionally, she has previously held roles as a Visiting Ph.D. Fellow and consultant at UNU-WIDER, showcasing her commitment to advancing economic research and knowledge.

Abstract: “Mothers Left Out, Daughters Left Behind”

A glaring gap in the social mobility literature comes from an absence of reliable data for developing countries on income, or wealth for two or more consecutive generations.

This issue has been reasonably dealt with through the use of outcomes other than earnings or wealth, such as education and occupation. The problem of not having more

than two generations of data has also been solved through the use of household surveys that can trace two or more generations. While a large part of the extant gap in the literature on developing countries appears to have been bridged, it seems to have systematically left one important group out of the discussion - women. This exclusion is not deliberate and is largely due to cultural reasons that invariably creep into survey data. Patrilocality dictates that women, once married, become part of the husband's household. To trace a married woman to her parents is impossible, and to observe an adult unmarried woman is rare. This study bridges the gap by using data from the women's questionnaire in the India Human Development Survey (IHDS). Furthermore, the study explores parental aspirations as an important mechanism for social mobility. The study finds that aspirations are predominantly gendered, but cultural influences such as language and jati play an important role in shaping differences in parental aspirations for their daughters vis-à-vis their sons. Kerala emerges as the only state with gender parity in educational outcomes of both daughters and sons; the influence is so strong that it holds for those who belong to Kerala but do not necessarily reside there.

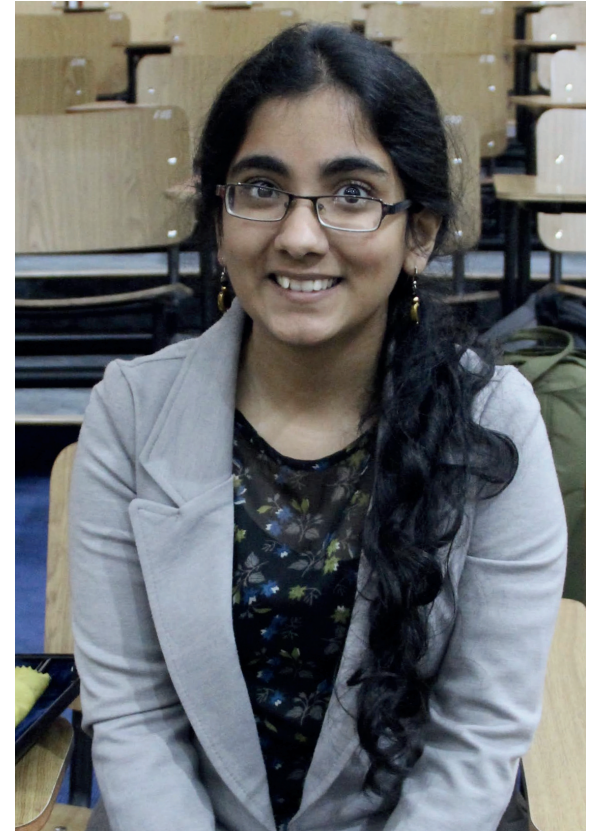


CHITRA PRATAP

LEE KUAN YEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Chitra is a PhD candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Her research interests lie in the fields of political economics and development studies. She is interested in understanding the relationship between political systems, and poverty and social mobility. Her current projects are focused on understanding parliamentary conceptualizations of poverty (India) and studying the relationship between democracy and social mobility (cross-country). She uses both quantitative and qualitative methods in her research. She has completed her B.Sc. (Research) in Economics from Shiv Nadar University, with minors in Sociology and International Relations.

Abstract: The perspectives that elected parliamentarians have about a given policy problem is key to understanding the policies that are adopted by the government to address it. This paper focuses on poverty, and studies political discourse regarding the poor in the Indian parliament from 1999 to 2019. It asks two questions. First, how have official governmental perspectives regarding poverty changed during this time period in India? Second, how have parliamentarians discussed the question of poverty, and does the social identity of a parliamentarian affect the poverty-related questions that they raise in parliamentary sessions? Methodologically, it relies on text analysis tools, and uses structural topic modeling to identify the prevalence and change in the usage of poverty-related concepts in parliamentary discourse over time. It also includes identity level covariates to examine whether social identity influences the topics that ministers introduce in parliament. Preliminary results from prime ministerial speeches suggest that from a large focus on employment and growth, the early 2000s sees a strong, additional focus on ensuring rights-based services for the poor; after 2014, a shift toward ensuring basic services to poorer individuals can be observed. To add on, members of parliament highlight concerns related to healthcare and housing provision for the poor. Further, the paper finds that female and reserved-category parliamentarians introduce more questions and focus more on topics related to marginalized communities. The results seek to shed light on the policymaking process in a democratic context, and present new evidence regarding the impact that social identity has in the conceptualization of key policy problems and policy.



CLAUDIA RODRIGUEZ-CASTELLANOS

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Claudia is a research student in the Department of International Development at LSE, where she explores the intersections of conflict, informal institutions, peace-building strategies, and their relationship with development. She holds a BA and MA in Economics from Universidad de los Andes. Claudia has served as a researcher at the Center for Studies on Security and Drugs (CESED) and worked as a civil servant in Colombia. In her roles at the General Attorney's Office and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, she contributed to the formulation and implementation of public policy and to developing data analysis projects that shed light on patterns of crime, violent conflict and access to justice. Claudia also works with communities using participatory methods and is highly interested in mixed methods approaches that bridge the gap between quantitative and qualitative data, generating insights grounded in the realities of the communities involved.

Abstract:

This article delves into the dynamics of post-conflict governance in Colombia, particularly focusing on the continuity and adaptation of dispute resolution institutions following the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016. I used a mixed-method approach grounded in nine months of fieldwork, sequencing interviews, participant observation and a participatory workshop. During this workshop, I built indicators of conviviality alongside the communities that were then included in an original survey. This methodological approach allows me to capture nuanced changes in everyday life that conventional surveys used in the study of wartime governance do not. By broadening the scope beyond conventional metrics of public order such as robberies, fights, or homicide and looking into a broader concept of conviviality, this article sheds light on subtle shifts in power dynamics and community cohesion. I find that while institutions used by communities during war persist in the post-conflict landscape, their legitimacy has been challenged in the absence of former armed actors' enforcement mechanisms. For instance, participation in communal events and adherence to communal authorities' decisions has been undermined. This article captures nuanced changes in everyday life, offering insights essential for understanding the complexities of post-conflict transitions and informing effective peacebuilding strategies.



ERIC KOFI TWUM

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Eric Kofi Twum is currently a PhD student in Development Economics at University of Ghana. Prior to enrolling in this doctoral program, he was a Research Administrator at the International Institute for Advanced Studies, an independent research institute housed at the main Campus of University of Ghana where he helped to coordinate research projects and assisted in conducting policy-oriented research on youth and women employment and industrial policy. Eric holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in Economics from University of Ghana and has research interest in labour markets, women economic empowerment, industrial policy, and public finance. He has co-authored two peer-reviewed articles and part of teams that produced working papers, policy briefs and commentaries that focused on the pathway for industrialization for Ghana and secondary education policy reform with some published on Brookings Institution's web portal www.brookings.edu.



Abstract: This extract of the thesis titled “Labour Market Dynamics in the Post-Pandemic Period in Ghana” is a contribution to the limited literature on the persistence of young people being not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) in the period when the unprecedented disruption to economies caused by the pandemic appeared to be easing. Preliminary estimations are made to determine whether there exists a true state dependence (‘short-term’ persistence) and ‘long-term’ persistence in NEET for young people aged 15 – 35 years. Using a dynamic probit model and a recent dataset collected quarterly starting 2022 in Ghana; it is observed that long-term persistence is stronger than short-term persistence indicating that the tendency for young people to be trapped in NEET is very high. As this phenomenon is being observed in a developing country setting where social assistance is lacking, urgent long-term interventions are needed to reduce the risk of young people staying in NEET much longer. Further analysis undertaken ascertained also that the probability of young people entering NEET and remaining in that state conditioned on them being employed previously is lower for those with at least secondary level of education compared to their less-educated counterparts. It is shown too that the exit probability from NEET of the latter group is lower. These latter results suggest that investment in education or training may play an important role in the young people’s employability in a post-crisis period.

EVAN WASNER

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST (USA)

Evan is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His areas of research include institutional analysis of contemporary inflation, inflation inequality, and the history of wartime economic planning in the U.S.



Abstract: A peculiarity of the history of capitalist economies is the fact that, during times of total war, governments often turn to unorthodox tools of state planning rather than rely on uninhibited market forces to manage resource allocation. This paper explores why this is the case. In particular, I focus on resource allocation in sectors that produce systemically important inputs—inputs which are widely used and have limited substitutability in the short-run, and thus whose availability constrains the supply of final military goods. I frame the task of wartime mobilization as a political project which necessitates rapid, widespread economic transformation, and discuss why, theoretically, market-based allocation is ill-equipped to manage such transformation in critical inputs sectors and how state planning can overcome its challenges. I then turn to the U.S. aluminum sector during the Second World War as a case study to demonstrate my arguments. Using archival material as well as a range of secondary and publicly available sources, I detail the series of events that unfolded in the aluminum sector, illustrating how market-driven resource allocation led to shortages and inflationary pressures, prompting mobilization planners to supplant market forces with state planning. I then discuss the heterodox policies utilized, including public financing, price controls, and rationing, and assess their impacts on mobilization. I conclude by discussing the applicability of the wartime experience for a green transition where shortages in systemically important inputs such as critical minerals are once again a bottleneck for a rapid transition to a different national production structure.

GOPINATH ANNADURAI

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (BANGALORE)

Gopinath Annadurai is currently a Doctoral Candidate in the Public Policy Area at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. His research primarily focuses on Political Economy, Ethnic Politics, and Historical Sociology, with secondary interests in Education Policy and Policy Evaluation. Having previously served as an Academic Associate at IIM Indore and a Pre-Doctoral Fellow at IIM Bangalore, Gopinath brings extensive research experience to his work. Notably, he has a publication in the Economic and Political Weekly, and his working papers include studies on improving education and labour market outcomes for first-generation college students in India and the impact of social exclusion and caste-based segregation on the health and well-being of older adults. His ongoing projects delve into multi-scalar caste segregation in rural India and its impact on public goods. Gopinath holds a Masters degree in Local Governance and Development from Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development and a B.Tech. in Rubber and Plastics Technology from Anna University.

Abstract: First-generation college students, the first in their families to attend college and representing a growing segment in higher education, encounter unique aspirations and challenges. Despite their significance, there has been limited research and policy interventions on them. This study evaluates the First-Generation Graduate Scholarship (FGGS) scheme, launched in 2010 in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which waived tuition fees for first-generation college students pursuing engineering, medicine, and agriculture-related streams (i.e., "professional courses") at the undergraduate level. Focusing on potential beneficiaries aged 17–22 years, we assess the program's impact on professional course enrollment, stream choice, and subsequent labour market outcomes. Using multiple rounds of the National Sample Survey and employing a Difference-in-Differences (DID) model, we find a 3.6 percentage point increase in professional course enrollment in response to the policy, translating to around 43% increase over the mean enrollment rate in professional courses. The treatment also significantly affects the beneficiaries' stream choice and graduate-degree completion rates in favour of professional courses. Various robustness checks, including synthetic-DID analysis, event studies, and placebo tests, affirm these findings. Beyond academic outcomes, we find that the policy led to a shift towards service-sector employment among FGGS beneficiaries, accompanied by reduced engagement in agriculture-related work, decreased casual employment, and an increased propensity for active job-seeking.



I. D. MONICA

CHRIST UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE

I. D. Monica holds a degree of M.A. in Economics and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore. Her research focuses on 'Household Cooking Energy and Women's Economic Empowerment.' She is deeply committed to advancing the rural clean energy transition and advocating for women's empowerment. Her research interests include poverty, household development, and ecological economics, with a particular emphasis on gender issues.

Abstract:

The average percentage of households using solid biomass fuels for cooking in the NorthEast Region of India is much higher than the national average. This study identifies the determinants of households' decision choice on cooking energy fuel in the mountainous Tamenglong district of Manipur by employing a binomial logistic regression model. Field surveys were conducted and semi-structured questionnaires were administered across 500 households during the dry months of October 2022 to February 2023. Multi-stages sampling strategy was employed to select the survey areas, villages, and sampling units of households.

Income, female headed households, employment status, education and traditional kitchen practices all turn out to significantly increase the likelihood of clean energy adoption for cooking. The study also finds that households living within 10 kms radius from the main town area in the district are 4.1 times more likely to switch to clean energy as compared to villagers who live further away. This also means households living closer to the forest areas are more likely to use more fuelwood for cooking. Additionally, while there is an upward trend in the energy ladder with income growth, households are significantly stacking cooking energy across modern clean and traditional non-clean energy sources. Qualitative data arising from ethnographic field observation, personal interviews, diaries and notes are also reported in this paper to corroborate the quantitative findings of the study. The study concludes with policy suggestions related to both demand and supply side challenges towards clean cooking energy transition.

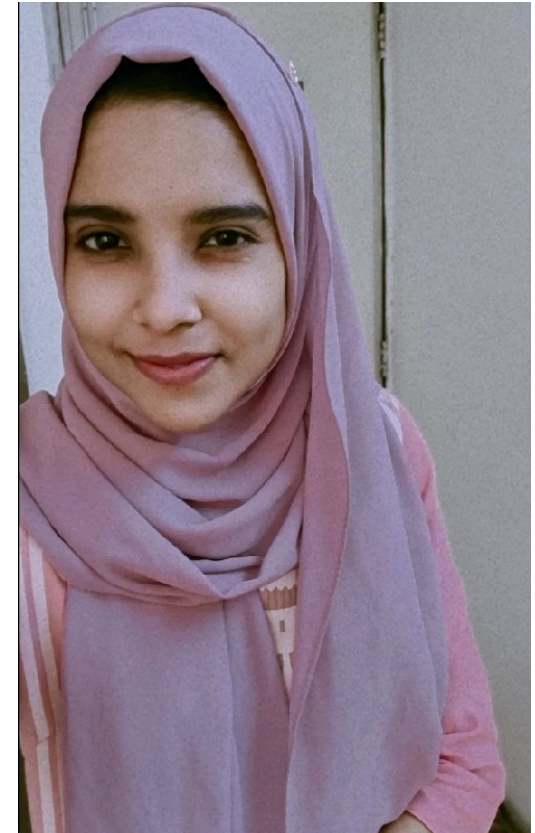


KHADIJA ASLAM

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (INDIA)

Khadija is in the fourth year of her PhD programme in economics at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. Understanding how economics can be integrated with alternative paradigms has always piqued her interest, and one field which she believes remains largely unexplored is the synthesis of religion and economics. In this realm, her focus is particularly on how religious laws can influence finance decisions and the institutions which may then emerge as an outcome of such interaction. This line of thought prompted her research on behavioral household finance amongst Muslims in India. She has completed her masters in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and bachelors from Presidency University. She had recently authored a report on the economic status of the different socio-religious groups in India in accordance with the parameters of the multi-dimensional poverty index. Besides economics, you may find her writing columns or twitter rants on a range of bizarre subjects.

Abstract: In my paper titled, “Does religion affect borrowing: Evidence from India” I am looking at the impact of Islam’s prohibition on interest-bearing transactions on the demand for bank loans amongst muslims in India. Here I am using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design along with comprehensive unit-level data to estimate the impact of a bank branch expansion policy mandated by the central bank of India on the demand for loans across households and firms. This exogenous expansion in banking facilities boosted the demand for bank loans amongst credit-constrained non-muslim households and firms however it had no impact on establishments owned by muslims. While muslims in India are economically backward and may suffer the perils of discrimination, here I ensure that this disparate impact of the policy is not an outcome of lender discrimination, difference in the demand for loans or poor accessibility to banks. Hence the subsequent credit gap can be attributed to Islam’s prohibition on interest and muslim aversion to it. Finally using the district wise number of mosques and madarasas (Islamic schools) as a measurement of religiosity, I find that the demand for bank loans amongst muslims is significantly lower in districts with higher religiosity. It is in fact this difference in religiosity which explains the negative impact of the policy on urban muslims in the treatment group. My paper offers critical insights into how religion can be a determinant factor in influencing the economic decisions of muslims.



LENA GEMPKE

SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Lena Gempke is a first-year PhD student in Development Economics at SOAS, University of London. In her research, she explores the gendered nature of household debt in the Global South, with a particular focus on South Africa. In doing so, she seeks to contribute to a heterodox reading of our economic system by delving into the implications of financial capitalism on material realities in the Global South. Her research is situated at the intersection of multiple disciplines, as she integrates theoretical and methodological aspects from anthropology, political economy, gender studies, and economics.

Lena holds an MSc in Political Economy from SOAS University of London, as well as a BA in Economics & Anthropology from the University of Göttingen, Germany, and has been an active member of the German Network for Pluralist Economics. Prior to her PhD studies, she worked as a research consultant for the World Bank.

Abstract:

In this paper, I review and systematise existing research on household indebtedness from a feminist perspective and outline a framework for investigating intersectional aspects of household indebtedness. This framework integrates subordinate financialisation theories with social reproduction approaches, applied in the context of South Africa.

Household debt, due to its multiscale nature—macroeconomic variable in the aggregate, life-shaping condition for individuals/households—and crucial role in today's economies, serves as a key variable for studying the evolving relationship between finance and social reproduction in financialised capitalism. However, gender- and class-specific investigations that are informed by contexts experiencing specific macroeconomic challenges of subordinate financialisation are limited.

This paper maps existing debates on the causes and effects of household indebtedness and introduces a theoretical framework centred on three key categories: 1) Debt for Social Reproduction—financial obligations incurred by households to support care and the ongoing social reproduction of their families and broader communities; 2) Social Reproduction of Debt—a cyclical process whereby the obligations of debt are maintained, negotiated, and perpetuated within the household sphere, intersecting and altering social reproduction capacities; 3) Debt for Labour—financial obligations undertaken to facilitate wage labour engagements. The paper concludes by investigating the meaning and operationalisation of such dynamics in the context of South Africa.



MADHURI KAMTAM

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, UK

Madhuri Kamtam is a Ph.D. researcher in International Development at the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom. Her research focuses on labor economics, the political economy of development, gender, caste, econometrics, and public policy. Her Ph.D. work examines labor laws, welfare, and collective action in home-based occupations, with a specific focus on the beedi industry in India and involves extensive fieldwork.

Madhuri completed her undergraduate degree in Economics (Hons) at Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and her MSc in Development Economics at SOAS, University of London. She conducted fieldwork for her master's, bachelor's, and Ph.D. theses in the Telangana region, analyzing labor and employment issues related to NREGA, mine, cine, and beedi workers. Madhuri also works as an Assistant Tutor at the University of East Anglia, teaching courses in Academic Skills, Global Challenges, and Tools and Skills in development. Beyond her main research interests, Madhuri also researches and writes about belonging, international students, caste, and mental health.



Abstract: “Labour Laws, Welfare, and Collective Action in Home-Based Occupations: A Focus on the Beedi Industry in India”.

This study examines the intricate political economy of India's home-based beedi industry, a prominent informal sector primarily involving women in rural areas. Beedi, a hand-rolled cigar made with unprocessed tobacco, epitomizes this industry. Despite a rich history of collective action leading to labor laws aimed at improving conditions, safeguarding rights, and promoting welfare, the industry faces critical issues such as poor policy implementation, limited benefits, low wages, and health risks.

Using an explanatory sequential mixed-methods approach, the study explores the effects of these challenges on workers' living conditions, working conditions, and overall welfare. It highlights the role of collective action in fostering worker mobilization and policy execution while discerning variations in organizational dynamics and policy adherence among villages. The study theorizes “welfare” and analyses legislation's impact using both secondary data and primary data from fieldwork in Sirikonda and Thandriyal villages in Telangana.

Fieldwork, conducted from February to May 2023, included a survey of 400 women beedi workers, 60 semi-structured interviews, and two focus group discussions with union members and leaders. The findings aim to inform policies that improve welfare for beedi workers and similar informal sector occupations across India, ultimately enhancing the welfare of these workers and their families for a more inclusive and equitable socio-economic landscape

MALAVIKA THIRUMALAI ANANTHAKRISHNAN

UNIVERSITY OF KENT (UK)

Malavika Thirumalai Ananthakrishnan is a PhD student at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Her research delves into Economic Geography, Advanced Microeconomics, and Developmental Economics. Her dissertation focuses on examining the effects of reductions in transportation costs on agglomeration economies in India at a fine spatial scale. Malavika works as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Kent and a Research Assistant on a British Academy-funded project investigating political incumbency in India.



Abstract: This study investigates the impact of reductions in transportation costs through transportation infrastructure improvements on the distribution of economic activity in villages, towns, and cities of India between 1998 and 2013. I use propensity score matching coupled with a difference-in-differences methodology on the matched sample to address the endogeneity of transportation infrastructure improvements. Here, I examine the effect of distance to the upgraded highways on the distribution of economic activity under the assumption that regions closer to upgraded highways experience additional reductions in transportation costs. The key findings of the study examine the effect of reductions in transportation costs on all non-farm economic activities including formal and informal manufacturing and services at granular spatial levels. I find that regions closer to the upgraded highways observe 14% higher employment than regions situated farther away. These results are robust to an alternative identification strategy in which regions closer to the upgraded highways are compared to regions closer to other non-upgraded national highways showing a 10% employment increase in the former. Initial market size influences the effect of reductions in transportation costs as larger areas closer to highways experience a higher concentration of economic activity. The reductions in transportation costs strengthen the agglomeration economies, making these regions more attractive. Additionally, the heterogeneity analysis reveals interesting patterns of industrial sorting along highways: manufacturing industries are more likely to be located near the upgraded highways relative to services, and land-intensive industries are less likely to be in areas closer to the upgraded highways. Further, regions closer to upgraded highways are industrially more diversified than regions farther away from them.

MUBARIK SALIFU

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST (GHANA)

Salifu, Mubarik is a PhD Candidate in Economics at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana and also, a Lecturer in the Department of Economics, University for Development Studies, Ghana. He holds master's degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree both in Economics from the University of Ghana and University of Cape coast, Ghana respectively. He has executed research projects as a team member and has published peer-reviewed research articles in reputable journals. He has also participated in many international conferences, workshops, and training across Africa as a panelist and presenter or discussant of research papers. His research interest includes; Development Economics; Health Economics; Financial and Monetary Economics; Poverty Studies with an emphasis on Developing and Transitioning Economies.

Abstract: Sub-Saharan Africa is a region that faces many challenges such as poverty, equality, conflict, corruption, and weak institutions. However, it also has a potential for economic growth and development, given its abundant natural resources, young population, and increasing integration into the global economy.

Financial development is very important for the realisation of economic growth, unemployment and stability in general price levels. The study examines the effect of financial development on economic growth, unemployment and inflation. It also tests the moderating effect of property rights and legal systems. Panel data covering the years 2000–2020 from 41 sub-Saharan African nations is used in the study. The empirical estimation is performed using the smoothed sequential quantile regression technique. At the 25th, 50th, and 75th quantiles, the study's findings show that financial development raises growth, raises unemployment, and lowers inflation. On the other hand, unemployment decreases and the benefits of inflation and economic growth are amplified when property rights and legal frameworks are combined. In order to fully realize the potential benefits of financial development for economic growth, unemployment, and inflation, it is imperative that robust institutional structures and legal frameworks be in place. According to the study, in order to support financial development, lessen corruption, safeguard property rights, and improve transparency, legislators should strengthen legislative frameworks and the enforcement of property rights. It also highlights how critical it is for sub-Saharan Africa to expand its capital markets, diversify, and provide financial inclusion.



MUNEER KALLIYIL

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, BANGALORE (INDIA)

Muneer Kalliyil is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at IIM Bangalore, specializing in Education Economics. He holds an M.Phil in Planning and Development from IIT Bombay and an M.A. in Economics from Jamia Millia Islamia. His job market paper focuses on the intersection of politics and education, notably exploring the impact of political alignment on the privatization of education in India. Muneer has presented his work at various national and international prestigious conferences. He has received several fellowships, including the DAAD PhD Exchange Program Fellowship and the UNICEF Research Fellowship. Proficient in multiple software packages and languages, Muneer has extensive teaching and research experience, currently serving as a teaching assistant at IIM Bangalore.



Abstract: Political favoritism plays a role in government resource allocation, but does it have any bearing on the private schooling market? Using a close election regression discontinuity design, we estimate the causal effect of having a ruling party aligned politician on the growth rate of private schools in India. We utilize constituency-level panel data on private and government schools matched with the electoral outcomes of all state assembly elections held between 2005 and 2016. We find that constituencies represented by politicians aligned with the state ruling party tend to have a higher growth in the number of private schools compared to those with non-aligned representatives. However, we don't observe any significant effect on the growth rate of government schools. Similar patterns are also found in higher education institutions. Our analysis suggests that the driving mechanism behind this phenomenon may lie in political influence over bureaucratic processes and discrepancies in the enforcement of government regulations. Furthermore, our result shows that these private schools may not necessarily offer better quality education.

NAVEEN KUMAR

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (INDIA)

Naveen is a Ph.D. candidate at Delhi School of Economics, specializing in Climate Change Macroeconomics. His research focuses on the macroeconomic impacts of climate change in developing economies. He uses both quantitative methods and empirical tools for his research within the broad area of Climate Macroeconomics and Environment & Development.



Abstract: This paper investigates the long-term impact of climate change on Indian economic growth, both at aggregate and disaggregated levels across regions, sectors and seasons. A simple Ramsey model illustrates that resource abundance, climatic exposure, and state capacity affect the rate of renewable resource mobilisation for productivity and efficiency improvement, which influences variations in growth rates. A cross-sectional augmented auto-regressive distributed lag model (CS-ARDL), addressing endogeneity, heterogeneity, and cross-sectional dependence with stochastic trends, employed in 29 major states from 1980 to 2019, confirms a significant and negative impact of temperature rise on total factor productivity and the resultant economic growth. On average, one Celcius degree of temperature rise has depressed economic growth by approximately 3.89%, with substantial variations across states, sectors, seasons and income groups. The variation in state capacity in terms of labour relations, agricultural dependence, forest cover, remittance, industrial share and debts across the states, in a federal setting, affecting the resource mobilisation for minimising the damages, has been found responsible for the variation in the resultant growth. Our estimated coefficients combined with the projected temperature reveal that poorer and less capable states are expected to be more vulnerable than others. The growth of GSDP (gross state domestic products) has been projected to decrease by a range of 5.25% to 24.51% with the Stringent Mitigation scenario (SSP1-2.6) to the Business-as-Usual scenario (SSP5-8.5) in next century.

RAJALAXMI SINGH

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (INDIA)

Rajalaxmi Singh is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in Thiruvananthapuram, where she joined the Integrated MPhil-PhD programme. She is also a former Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK. Her MPhil dissertation focused on understanding financial inclusion in India from the micro-level perspective. Currently, her PhD thesis centers on understanding parental involvement in children's learning in India through the lenses of accountability. Her research interests include Development Economics and Economics of Education, with a specific focus on issues relating to learning outcomes of children in developing countries. Prior to joining CDS, she obtained her master's degree in Economics from the University of Hyderabad.



Abstract: In recent decades, parental involvement has been gaining attention to overcome the learning crisis faced by children, particularly in the global south. In this context, the paper attempts to examine whether parental involvement can improve children's learning outcomes and help to reduce the learning disparities faced by disadvantaged children in India. By using the latest round of the Indian Human Development Survey and employing both Ordinary least square (OLS) and Instrumental variable (IV) regression, we find that parental involvement has a positive impact on learning outcomes. Specifically, children tend to perform better if parents

attend the PTA meeting, supervise the homework, and invest in private tuition. We observe that the effect of parental involvement is more pronounced for female and those studying in government schools. Moreover, we find that parental involvement tends to be higher for the children who already experience privileges due to their gender, urban residence, caste and socio-economic status; therefore, this may widen the achievement gaps among the children.

RIA MONGIA

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (INDIA)

Ria Mongia is currently, she is a second-year Ph.D. student in Quantitative Economics at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre. Her research focuses on applied microeconomic theory, with a specific interest in discrimination and labor economics. Previously, she earned her Master's degree in Economics from Ashoka University and a BA (Hons) in Economics from Delhi University. She has worked on various projects employing empirical, theoretical, and lab-experimental techniques. She loves exploring and discovering economic phenomena in real-life problems. In her leisure time, she enjoys listening to old songs and dancing to rhythmic beats.

Abstract: The importance of individuals being identified by their social group identity and their preference to be surrounded by their group members is commonly observed in the real world. Depending on the context, group identity can manifest in various forms, such as gender, status, caste, class, nationality, and prior affiliations. I begin by theoretically examining these discriminatory preferences in the context of a workers' recruitment setup. By analyzing the profit-maximizing firm's decision to choose its workforce composition from two groups, I investigate how productivity dynamics influence this composition. In my model, both worker groups are symmetric and are categorized by their preferences and productivity types. As the literature suggests, in my framework, the compensatory wages demanded by workers increase as the proportion of other group members rises. While determining its workforce composition, the firm encounters a productivity-wage tradeoff. It must compromise on the productivity level of workers when focusing on a single group, which allows it to hire workers at a lower wage rate. Conversely, employing both groups enables firms to hire the most productive workers from a larger pool but at a higher wage rate to compensate for their discriminatory preferences. Under the model conditions, I found that as worker productivity increases exogenously, firms tend to diversify their pool of employees. This is because, given the wage structure, productivity enhancement raises the opportunity cost of limiting hiring to a single group, thus incentivizing firms to diversify their workforce. Supporting my results, Mahajan and Chakraborty (2023) found that the elasticity of firm size, which is typically associated with higher productivity, with respect to the composition of female labor is 0.47.



RIDWAN SHEIKH

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (INDIA)

Ridwan Ah Sheikh is a job market Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, and was the recipient of Centre for Development Economics research fellowship at Delhi School of Economics. His research focuses on the intersection of International Trade and Economic Development, a significant aspect of which delves into understanding the mechanisms by which intellectual property rights (IPRs) influences the dynamics of trade. His dissertation examines various aspects of intellectual property protection to assess whether IPRs are indeed trade-related.

He has held teaching positions in Economics at University of Kashmir (Adjunct Faculty) and worked as Research Assistant under Prof. J.V. Meenakshi at Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. He will be on the job market for the 2024-25 academic year.



Abstract: This paper examines the impact of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and deep trade agreements (DTAs) containing intellectual property rights (IPRs) provisions on export flows, for a panel of 87 countries spanning 1990-2017. We estimate a structural gravity model using the Poisson Pseudo Maximum Likelihood (PPML) framework that simultaneously accounts for heteroskedasticity and a preponderance of zeros in trade flows, and include a rich set of fixed effects to account for multilateral resistance factors and endogeneity in binary trade agreement indicators. We introduce treatment leads and lags to account for anticipatory and phased-in effects of our key trade policy instruments. Our estimation results reveal, first, that there are no significant contemporaneous effects of PTAs or DTAs with IPRs-provisions on export flows. Any discernible effects become manifest over time, as businesses gradually adapt to changes in tariff and non-tariff barriers. Second, the heterogeneous impact of deep versus shallow agreements does not appear to matter in our sample. Third, the depth of PTAs though positive significant, is economically small in magnitude. However, the depth of IPRs-related provisions and alternative policy areas within IPRs reveals a significantly negative impact on export flows. This indicates that the inclusion of additional provisions actually diminishes trade volumes, one conceivable explanation for which might be that the increased complexity of IPRs-related provisions in the DTAs renders compliance with the agreements more challenging. Fourth, our results indicate a lagged response of both PTAs and IPRs on high-IP and low-IP export flows. The patent-related, copyright-related and trademark-related provisions have a lagged impact on trade flows in the patent-intensive, copyright-intensive and trademark-intensive industries, respectively. Our findings suggest that IPRs promote trade contemporaneously in specific industrial clusters, demonstrating increased sensitivity to intellectual property. Our results are robust to various checks.

RITU DUTTA

DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY (INDIA)

Ritu is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Mathematics, at Dibrugarh University, Assam, India. He recently submitted his PhD thesis "New Voting Rules Based on Aggregation Functions and Game Theory". His research interests are social choice theory, voting rules, distributive justice, and welfare economics. Ritu's work on voting rules has been published in international journals such as Public Choice, Group Decision and Negotiation, etc. His ambition is to become a decision theorist who helps institutions make better decisions to address development issues. He was a visiting PhD student at the Queen's Business School, Queen's University Belfast, UK in 2022. Ritu holds an MSc in Mathematical Sciences from Tezpur University, India.



Abstract: Electing a committee of size k from m candidates ($k < m$) is an interesting problem under multi-winner voting situations. In this paper, we propose a new committee selection rule based on cooperative game theoretic tools, where voters can approve both individuals and groups of candidates simultaneously. This flexibility of approving groups of candidates allows the voters to assess the candidates' compatibility to work in a group. In many situations, the k -elected candidates have no particular status as a group and voters in such multi-winner elections are presumably concerned about the personal qualities of the candidates. However, many committees function in unison and therefore, their productivity also depends on the compatibility of the members to accomplish a task together. We assume that the voters have prior beliefs about this compatibility. The profile of summed approval votes constitutes the characteristic function of a cooperative game. The Shapley value of this game is calculated to measure the candidates' expected marginal contributions in accomplishing the group task as perceived by the voters. The top k -ranked candidates prescribed by the Shapley value are selected to form the desired committee. The Shapley value as a committee selection rule is characterized by a set of intuitive axioms. We explore several properties of the committee selection rule.

RUBAINA ANJUM

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT (USA)

Rubaina Anjum is a PhD student in the department of Community Development and Applied Economics at the University of Vermont (UVM) and a graduate fellow at the Gund Institute for the Environment. Her research focuses on the political economy of the climate and socio-ecological crises. Her work seeks to address normative questions around distribution under a green transition and explores policy solutions under a post-growth paradigm. She is also interested in examining production and work under different types of economies and societies.

Prior to starting her PhD, Rubaina worked in the development sector on a range of topics including greenhouse gas emissions reporting, climate and migration, climate cost-benefit analysis. She holds a master's degree in environmental economics from Duke University and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Vishvesvaraya Technological University. She is a member of the bargaining committee of UVM's graduate student union affiliated with United Autoworkers Local 2322.

Abstract: Climate change is recognized as a major problem for sustainable development. In recent decades, the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events has surged, posing substantial challenges to economic development. These events, ranging from severe storms and floods to prolonged droughts and heatwaves, result in immediate human and environmental costs as well as long-run effects on macroeconomic stability and growth. Despite the severity of these recognized impacts, central banks do not often account for them in their macroeconomic models (Boneva and Ferrucci, 2022). Yet, understanding the dynamics of how extreme climate events impact key macroeconomic indicators, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and inflation, is increasingly critical to resolving sustainability problems. This is especially important in the context of low- and middle-income countries where agriculture forms a significant portion of the economy. In this paper, I analyze how extreme climate events impact macroeconomic indicators. This paper introduces a vector autoregressive model that is used to analyze data on macroeconomic indicators for Mexico in relation to extreme climate events, with a particular focus on GDP and inflation. Through this empirical macroeconomic model, I provide policy-relevant research on macroeconomic impacts of climate change.



SABEER V C

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (INDIA)

Sabeer V C is a Doctoral candidate at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum, Kerala, India. He also serves as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS), Kerala, and was a Visiting Researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), Germany. Sabeer holds an M.Phil. in Applied Economics from CDS, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His research interests include international trade, international migration, and economic development, focusing on the economics of migration using advanced econometric techniques such as gravity models and impact evaluation tools. His M.Phil. dissertation analyses the compression effect on the consumption expenditure of households of return migrants and the modifications in their consumption strategies due to deglobalization trends that led to job losses and sudden returns, particularly in Kerala. His ongoing doctoral research delves into the impact of international migration on the bilateral trade of India.



Abstract: The relationship between international migration and trade has garnered increasing attention, suggesting a potential pro-trade impact of migrant populations. Given India's position as the home country for the largest international migrant population, exploring this relationship in the Indian context is particularly intriguing. Despite contributing over 6% to the global migrant stock, India's share in global exports remains below 2%, which casts doubt on the pro-trade narrative. While existing studies on India hint at a pro-trade impact of Indian migrants, they suffer from several methodological shortcomings and limited country samples. To critically analyse the impact of migration on India's bilateral exports and imports, we employ the Gravity model using five-year interval migrant stock data from UNDESA for 1990-2020 and gravity data from CEPII. Our empirical analysis, utilizing Poisson Pseudo Maximum Likelihood (PPML) estimation of an extended structural gravity model, reveals that Indian migrants do not significantly impact India's trade, neither in exports nor imports. However, our methodological framework allows us to compare the trade impact of Indian migrants with that of migrants from the rest of the world. On average, migrants from other countries significantly enhance their home countries' exports to host countries, although they do not significantly affect imports. These findings are robust to the inclusion of immigrants in the model. In light of network theory, which highlights migrants' potential to enhance trade through various channels, our study suggests that India has untapped potential to improve its trade performance.

SATYAKI DASGUPTA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY (USA)

Satyaki is a PhD Candidate at Colorado State University. He has completed his Bachelors and Masters in Economics from Jadavpur University, and his MPhil from Centre for Development Studies (JNU), Kolkata. He is currently in his fourth year of PhD and his dissertation is titled “Three Essays on Artisanal Production in India.” His interests lie in development economics, labour economics, and political economy.



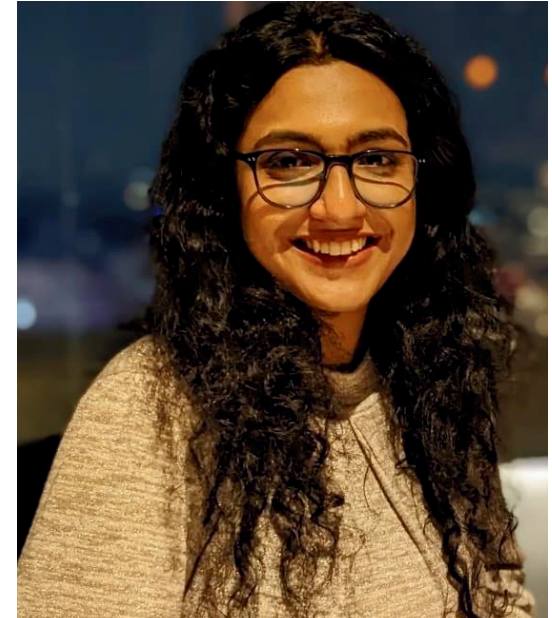
Abstract: “Home and the world: Impact of location and region on earnings of self-employed female artisans of India”

The handicraft sector is one of the largest employment generating sectors and an important source of foreign exchange. However, artisans face acute poverty and a decline in their economic status. Women artisans are generally involved in ‘feminine’ crafts with low returns, but can be a way of income generation and forms social networks for women. Home-based artisans are outside the domain of social protection and social securities. The current study analyses earnings of female self-employed artisans. We use Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18 and 2018-19 to run cross-sectional regressions to look at the impact of location of work and region on the earnings of female self-employed artisans. It is generally expected that workers in the rural areas will earn less than those in the urban areas. Results suggest that urban female non-artisans earn significantly more than rural female non-artisans. Such an ‘urban premium’ does not, however, hold for female artisans. We argue that the traditional division of labour that in artisanal sector is responsible for this as on further exploration we find that the premium holds for male artisans as well. The romanticised notion of culture and history, that is unique to artisanal production, has solidified the gendered division of labour and the associated exploitation with it. The privileged access that male artisans have in terms of skills and mobility causes them benefit from urban areas. In terms of location, we find that women from both the groups working away from their homes earn significantly more than home-based self-employed women.

SHINALI TC

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA (INDIA)

Shinali is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of Calcutta. She completed her M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Calcutta and her B.Sc. from Loreto College, Kolkata. Her research interests include political economy, development economics, and economics of institutions. She is also interested in questions of identity formation and the role played by culture and norms in shaping the economic life of women. Her doctoral thesis analyses how public good provisioning and violence shape electoral outcomes. Outside of academia, Shinali is passionate about literature and films, and she loves to write. She is also a trained Bharatanatyam dancer.



Abstract: Besides policy implementation which is considered instrumental for getting votes, in countries such as India, violence and intimidation are used as strategies for winning votes. In this paper, we examine the relative efficacy of two potential election winning strategies: provision of targeted public goods and violence. Specifically, we focus on two such strategies: cow vigilantism and construction of in-house toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). While the first one largely captures a Hindu nationalist agenda, the second one featured in the electoral promise of the National Democratic Alliance led by Bharatiya Janata Party. Using instrumental variable strategy, we causally estimate the effect of these two factors on the vote share of Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 election. We find that while both these factors have a positive impact, the effect of cow vigilantism is much stronger.

SUMEDHA SHUKLA

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
DELHI (INDIA)

Sumedha is a third-year PhD student in Economics at IIIT-Delhi, India. She is interested in questions in agricultural and natural resource economics. She uses econometric techniques to answer causal questions pertaining to crop yield management in India. She has worked extensively with primary survey data made available by ICRISAT, CIMMYT, IMD, and NSSO. In her spare time, she enjoys music, cooking, and reading.

Abstract: Agricultural credit is argued to be an important economic instrument that relaxes farmers' capital constraints. However, evidence regarding skewed credit access and unequal credit impacts reflecting pre-existing socio-economic gaps among producers, raises concerns about the limited role of credit in improving farm output. Here we combine propensity score matching (PSM) with quantile regressions to estimate the heterogeneous impact of agricultural credit across crop yield quantiles for a sample of smallholder farmers located in semi-arid and tropical villages in India. We then utilise the variation in credit impacts to trace out economic mechanisms that underlie credit access restrictions, and drive heterogeneity in the credit-yield linkage. This study is also the first to formally test the rank similarity identification condition for quantile regression analysis when PSM is employed to reconcile endogeneity through a Kolmogorov-Smirnov distribution-based test. We find that farmers who accessed formal credit experienced higher yields relative to the no-credit scenario but the impact was heavily skewed in favour of upper yield quantiles while the impact of informal credit was insignificant. We reject rank similarity in our sample implying that the estimated credit impacts on specific yield quantiles are not directly interpretable for households located in the unconditional yield quantile. An analysis of formal credit access restrictions revealed that borrowers engaging in diversified cropping faced a binding constraint on the amount of credit attained even though the average sorghum grower did not. Overall, our findings raise a critical question on the effectiveness of credit across wealth classes.



VERA ACHEAMPONG

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Vera Acheampong is a PhD Candidate at the University of Ghana with a focus on gender, inequality, and development. Her research delves into the intricate dynamics of gender and its intersection with various forms of inequality in diverse developmental contexts. Vera has participated in notable projects, including those funded by the Kiel Institute and Copenhagen Business School, examining the role of Special Economic Zones in reducing inequality, and a PEP-funded project on policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis in Ghana. Her co-authored book chapters also provide significant insights into these issues. With a background in Development Economics, Vera's interdisciplinary approach aims to inform policy interventions that address gendered inequalities. Active in academic conferences and seminars, she collaborates with experts to advance understanding and foster social change. Vera aspires to contribute to the development of more inclusive and equitable societies through her research and future academic endeavors.

Abstract: As Special Economic Zones (SEZ) continue to expand globally, it is necessary to assess its socio-economic impacts on the host country. In this regard, this study examines the effects of SEZs on the quality of employment in Ghana, using primary data collected in Ghana between August 2022 and January 2023. This study notes the uniqueness in the operationalization of SEZs in Ghana, where the entire country is a free trade zone, allowing firms to locate anywhere and still be a beneficiary of the SEZ program. The result is the presence of zone-based SEZ firms, single factory SEZ firms as well as zone-based non-SEZ firms. The paper, using the multiple treatment framework, argues that the effects of SEZ on the quality of employment will be dependent on the location of the firm.

The study finds the following. First, the quality of employment is higher among SEZ employees than among non-SEZ employees. Second, receiving any form of treatment (partially or fully) has a positive impact on the quality of employment than receiving no treatment. Third, infrastructure is key in enhancing the quality of employment. The study makes the following recommendations. First, there is the need to devote resources into developing more SEZ enclaves. This should include improving the current state of existing enclaves, while developing new ones. Second, incentivize Firms that Operate from SEZ enclaves as a means to encouraging more firms to locate to SEZ enclaves. Third, allocation of adequate Resources to the development of industrial infrastructure within the country.



GROUP LEADERS

PRIYANKA ARORA

TERI SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Priyanka Arora is an Assistant Professor of Economics at TERI School of Advanced Studies. Previously she was a visiting faculty at Ashoka University. She got her PhD in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics in 2021. Her research interests include topics in Macro Development Theory. She has worked on the role of culture in the economy, its interactions with the economic sphere and the implications of these on economic development. She is currently working on diverse projects related to rural livelihoods and development and also consumption and income inequality in India. She has taught reputed undergraduate colleges at Delhi University in the past including St Stephen's College, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Jesus and Mary College and Kirori Mal College. She received her Master's degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and a Bachelors from Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi.



BALU PAWDE

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

Balu teaches courses in economics at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. His research interests primarily lie in the Economics of Distribution and Development Economics. He has presented his work at various national and international conferences. He is pursuing PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Balu loves discussions with students and mentoring them. Apart from his academic interests, he enjoys music, trekking, swimming, and playing volleyball.



BENSTON JOHN

DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Benston John is currently an Assistant Professor of Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. His research interests include applied microeconomics and development economics. In his dissertation, he will be studying the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic in India and particularly the state of Kerala, focussing on institutional determinants of community resilience during health shocks of this kind.



ANGARIKA RAKSHIT

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY

Angarika is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University. She is also completing her PhD on employment growth in India's manufacturing sector from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi).

In 2021, Angarika was a Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellow at University of Massachusetts Amherst for nine months.

Prior to joining the PhD programme, Angarika completed her Master's degree in Economics from Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Calcutta University.

Angarika's doctoral research focuses on understanding the different trends and patterns of employment growth in the Indian manufacturing sector, particularly with respect to changing firm size, labour market flexibility, and informality. Her research interests include labour economics, political economy of development, and structural transformation of the Indian economy.



ANAND KUMAR

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCE AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY

Anand received his PhD in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore in 2024. He was a visiting PhD Fellow at the United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland. Before his PhD, he worked in the banking sector. He is a graduate from the National Defence Academy (NDA), and a veteran of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with 160+ hours of flying experience as a pilot.

Anand's research interests are in Economics of Education and Behavioural Economics. His thesis, titled Essays in Education Economics explores how social identities, behavioural traits and social environments shape educational outcomes. In his research, he uses various empirical methods on experimental, survey, and administrative data to study educational outcomes.



AGW 2024: LOGISTICS TEAM



Rema Devi

Rema Devi is a part of the Field Practice team associated with the School of Public policy and Governance.

She has more than 20 years experience in working with Civil Society organisations.

She is associated with studies on Forest Right Act taken up by the University and also Practice Connect which attempts to reflect on the programs/activities taken by NGOs.



Sivasankar TS

Sivasankar is a part of the School of Arts & Sciences.

He joins us from Gulf Pipe Supply & Services, Saudi Arabia where he was working as Manager, Training. Prior to that, he was working as an Academic Coordinator at ICAT Design & Media College, Bengaluru. He has a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu and a Master's degree in Education from Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu.

AGW 2024: ORGANISING COMMITTEE



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