

SONAN A. MEMON

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EMPLOYMENT

Macroeconomic Consultant

Asian Development Bank: <https://adb.org/>
March-June 2024

Research Fellow

PIDE, Islamabad: <https://pide.org.pk/>
July 2021–June 2024

Lecturer

Department of Economics, IBA Karachi
August 2020–June 2021

EDUCATION

PhD Economics

University of Oregon, USA
Fall 2024–Current

MPhil Economics

Somerville College, University of Oxford, UK
2018–2020

Thesis Title: *Rational Herds and Endogenous Fluctuations in Consumer Sentiment*

Bachelor of Science (Honors)

Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan
2014–2018

Major: Economics and Mathematics, CGPA = 3.92/4.0, Economics CGPA = 4.0/4.0

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded The Prestigious *Lockey Graduate Science Award* and Graduate Employee (GE) Offer for PhD in Economics (Fall 2024) at University of Oregon, USA.
- Awarded the fully funded Oxford-Sir Anwar Pervez Graduate Scholarship (awarded to two Pakistani graduates) from Oxford University for MPhil Economics Program (2018-2020).
- Represented Pakistan in 14th South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM 2018) for budding economist competition.
- Awarded merit scholarship in 2017-2018 due to 2nd position in Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences at LUMS.
- Awarded Pakistan level distinction in A level Economics and Urdu along with joint second position in Karachi across three A level subjects for 2014 exams.

KEY GRADUATE COURSES AT OXFORD

- Heterogeneous Agent Models in Economics (Professor Jesús Fernández-Villaverde).
- Advanced Macroeconomics (2 courses): Applied Monetary Policy. Solution and Estimation of DSGE Models, Learning, Robust Control, Bayesian Macro-econometrics, and Applied Monetary Policy.
- Advanced Econometrics: Machine Learning, High Dimensional Data and Outlier Detection.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Political Economy & Monetary Policy:** Price Stability and political/ally appointments of central bank governors before and after elections; monetary policy and economic inequality fluctuations in business cycles.
- **Social Learning and Expectations:** Modeling information contagion and herding of expectations in business cycle models.

Research Assistance

FOR DR. IRFAN QURESHI

LUMS and Asian Development Bank

Fall 2018 and Spring 2023

- Worked on estimation of elasticity of inter-temporal substitution (EIS) through survey data collection on consumer expectations (Fall 2018).
- Worked on building a rich, quarterly data base on turnovers of governors for 60 countries, decomposing turnovers by regular, irregular and ally or political appointments (Spring 2023).

Research Work

CONSULTANT FOR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Disaster Shocks and Global Business Cycles

March-June 2024

- I worked as a consultant with the Asian Development Bank, doing research on measurement of exogenous monetary policy uncertainty changes around disaster periods in the US and its global transmission for inflation across advanced and emerging economies.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK

MPhil Thesis, Supervisor: Professor Michael McMahon

2019-2020

- I wrote a theoretical thesis, building a social learning model in general equilibrium, in which *endogenous* and *asymmetric* business cycles can emerge due to *endogenous* fluctuations in consumer sentiment.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Memon, S, Qureshi, IA. Income inequality and macroeconomic instability. *Rev Dev Econ.* 2020; 00: 1– 32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12730>

Memon, S. Machine Learning for Economists: An Introduction. *Commentary, The Pakistan Development Review.* 2021; Vol.60, No. 2. 201-211. <https://doi.org/10.30541/v60i2pp.201-211>

Recent Working Papers/Projects

A Quarterly Projection Model for Pakistan's Economy (August 2024)

The Desirability of Economic Inequality: A Discourse (December 2023)

Expectation Shocks and Business Cycles (April 2023)

High Frequency Inflation Forecasting With Machine Learning (November 2022)

Research Tools

- **Programming (Advanced):** *MATLAB* (with Dynare and IRIS Toolboxes), *R Studio* (Advanced Data Visualization, Basic Spatial Data Analysis and Advanced Applied Econometrics), *Julia* for Quantitative Economics, \LaTeX & *STATA*.
- **Programming (Intermediate):** *Python* (Basic Data Analysis and Advanced Machine Learning) & *Gephi* for Empirical Network Analysis.
- **Empirical Econometrics:** Dealing with Time Series and Cross-Country Panel Datasets. Empirical Macro Models e.g VAR (vector auto-regressions), Local Projections, Bayesian VARS and Machine Learning Techniques (LASSO, Synthetic Data and Controls, Gaussian Processes, and Deep Learning: e.g. Long Short-Term Memory Models).

References

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