

WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Director January 2020 – Present

Digital Identity and Finance Initiative (DigiFI) Africa, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

- Set up and lead a new research initiative on digital ID and payment systems in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Work with governments across Africa to scope their ID and payments systems, help them implement reforms, set up and conduct high-frequency monitoring of new systems, and run randomised evaluations on critical design questions.

Economics and Managing Editor May 2017 – December 2019

International Growth Centre (IGC), London School of Economics and Political Science

- Managed and helped set up [VoxDev](#) - an online platform for expert analysis on key economic development issues. Since its inception, VoxDev has reached over 150,000 users across 187 countries, garnering ~28,000 page views a month.
- Worked closely with the Editor-in Chief, Tavneet Suri (MIT), and other board members; Robin Burgess (LSE), Rema Hanna (Harvard), Professor Chang-Tai Hsieh (Chicago), and Chris Woodruff (Oxford) to curate high-quality, policy-relevant content.
- Drew out key insights, messages, and policy implications from research projects, and translated complex information into easily accessible and high impact communications.
- Managed a team of three people and relationships between multiple stakeholders including three partner organisations (IGC, CEPR, and PEDL), DFID, and VoxDev's Editorial Board.
- Conducted research on social assistance in the developing world in collaboration with Prof. Oriana Bandiera.
- Co-authored a book on the top 23 ideas to have emerged from the IGC in the past 10 years.
- Responsible for the production of the IGC blog and IGC publications.

Country Economist July 2016 - May 2017

International Growth Centre (IGC) Kenya Country Programme, London School of Economics (LSE)

- Liaised with government officials to set up the IGC country office in Kenya. IGC Kenya was officially launched on 29th March 2017 with the signing of a MoU between LSE and the Kenyan National Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives.
- Built relationships with Kenyan policymakers and mapped their evidence needs.
- Authored a report on Kenya's competitive sectoral advantages to inform DFID's Invest Africa Kenyan agenda.
- Responsible for IGC Kenya's research portfolio and match-making the Kenyan government's policy needs to relevant researchers to provide rigorous evidence to inform policy-decisions.

Consultant April - May 2016

UNICEF India, Cornerstone Research

- Provided technical assistance to UNICEF India on financing child protection programmes.
- Co-authored a technical note on types of public finance analyses for child protection.

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellow/ Senior Budget Analyst March 2014 - February 2016

Health and Social Development Unit, South African National Treasury

- Modelled uptake of social grants: Designed a model that automated and enhanced the accuracy of the projected uptake of social grants as well as regularly evaluated their socio-economic impact.
- Costed amendments to the Children's and Social Assistance Acts. This work informed presentations in the Cabinet and the National Treasury's long-term social security model.
- Provided annual recommendations to the Minister of Finance on the social grants' monetary value and budget allocations for the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period.
- Monitored and evaluated South Africa's cash transfer programme of \$10bn p.a.
- Contributed to cabinet memorandums on social assistance issues including amendments to the foster care system and old age grant which were presented to the Cabinet.
- Conducted research and authored reports, policy memorandums, cabinet memorandums and briefing notes on various social welfare issues.

- Teaching Fellow** January - May 2013
Global Health by Professor Richard Skolnik, Yale University
 Independently taught two sessions a week on critical issues in public health to a class of 40 students
- Research Assistant** July - August 2012
Professor Tavneet Suri, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
 Data entry for team working on geospatial analysis and impact evaluation of the EU commissioned infrastructural development project in Sierra Leone
- Intern** May - June 2011
Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu, Ahmedabad, India
 Corporate Valuation and Industrial Analysis
- Intern** April - May 2010
Self-Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad, India
 Conducted field research and framed final publication on the effects of globalisation on women construction workers, studying the factors responsible for disequilibrium in the labour market

EDUCATION

- Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA** July 2012 – May 2013
 Master of Arts in International and Development Economics
- St. Xavier's College, Mumbai University, India** July 2009 – May 2012
 Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Statistics (minor in Mathematics)
 Double Honours in Economics and Statistics

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Volunteer at SHAKTI-LAHRC, Songadh, Gujarat, India** October 2010
 Taught English and Mathematics to students in tribal areas while living at the SHAKTI-LAHRC centre
- Volunteer at All Saints' Church, Mumbai** 2009 - 2012
 Supported children from low-income households in learning Mathematics, English, Science and Social Studies

ACADEMIC PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- [Poverty in the Time of COVID: The Effect of Social Assistance](#) (with Oriana Bandiera), LSE Public Policy Review
- [Do social assistance programmes reach the poor? Micro-evidence from 123 countries](#), IGC Growth brief (with Oriana Bandiera)
- [Little book of growth ideas](#), an IGC publication (with Emily Yam and Tim Dobermann)
- [Analysis of Child Protection Finances](#) (with Jonathan Carter and Conrad Barbeton), UNICEF
- The Relationship between Money Market Instruments and the Monetary Policy of India. Published in Arthniti 2011-2012 (ISSN 2277- 1344)
- The Efficacy of Government Cash Transfer Programmes as a Mechanism for Income-Inequality Reduction in Brazil
- Public Versus Private Schooling: Focus on The United States of America
- Policy Memorandum on Maternal Mortality in Bihar, India
- [Law of the land: Ethnic patronage in Kenya's slums](#), VoxDev (with Benjamin Marx, Tavneet Suri and Thomas Stoker)
- [What does the 2019 Nobel mean for development economics?](#), VoxDev (with Tavneet Suri)
- [IGC Quick Clicks: How will technology impact the future of work?](#), The IGC Blog
- [IGC Quick Clicks: The unintended consequences of policies](#), The IGC Blog
- [IGC Quick Click: On trade wars and the aftermath of the financial crisis](#), The IGC Blog
- [IGC Quick Clicks: A new world order in the making? Highlights from Davos](#), The IGC Blog
- [IGC Quick Clicks: Where are all the female economists?](#) The IGC Blog
- [Who are William Nordhaus and Paul Romer? And why did they win the Nobel prize in economics?](#), The IGC Blog