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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin 2016 - 2022 (Expected)
Ph.D. in Economics

The University of Texas at Austin 2016 - 2018
M.S. in Economics

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi 2012 - 2014
M.A. in Economics

Miranda House College, University of Delhi 2009 - 2012
B.A. in Economics

REFERENCES

Stephen J. Trejo (Co-chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
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Richard Murphy (Co-chair)
Department of Economics
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University of California at San Diego
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Nishith Prakash
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University of Conneticut
+1 (832)-474-6341
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RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Labor Economics, Development Economics
Secondary: Economics of Education, Public Economics, Environmental Economics

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer (Teaching Fellow), University of Delhi 2015-2016

Intermediate Microeconomics, Development Economics, Business Economics

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Econometrics	2019-2021
Microeconomic Theory	2017-2019
Introduction to Macroeconomics	2017
Introduction to Microeconomics	2016

Research Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin

Research Assistant, Prof. Sandra E. Black 2017-2018
Reserach Assistant, Prof. Kishore Gawande 2019

WORKING PAPERS

Disruptive Interactions: Long-run Peer Effects of Disciplinary Schools (Job Market Paper)
Joint with A. Yonah Meiselman

Evidence suggests that exclusionary discipline such as temporary removals to disciplinary alternative schools has an adverse impact on students' long-run outcomes. This paper examines the role of disruptive peer effects at disciplinary alternative schools in impacting the future removal, educational attainment, and labor market outcomes of students placed at these schools. To study this, we use the restricted administrative records of all high-school students in Texas with a disciplinary placement between 2004 to 2018. Using the fact that a large number of regular schools feed disruptive students into a single disciplinary alternative school, we exploit the over-time variation in peer composition within a disciplinary school to estimate the causal effects of peers' disruptiveness on students' outcomes. Our results show that having a peer group with higher average disruptiveness at the disciplinary school leads to 1) an increase in students' subsequent disciplinary removals 2) decline in their educational attainment (lower high-school graduation, college enrollment, and college graduation), and 3) decline in their adult employment and earnings ($\sim$ 8% or 1272 USD decline in annual earnings at age 27). These results highlight the need to examine exclusionary discipline policies and adopt approaches that can mitigate the adverse effects of peers at disciplinary schools.

Clean Energy Access: Gender Disparity, Health and Labor Supply
Joint with Imelda, Conditionally Accepted, **Economic Journal**

Women bear a disproportionate share of health and time burden associated with lack of access to modern energy. In this paper, we study the impact of clean energy access on adult health and labor supply outcomes by exploiting a nationwide rollout of clean cooking fuel program in Indonesia. This program led to a large-scale fuel switching, from kerosene, a dirty fuel, to liquid petroleum gas, a cleaner one. Using longitudinal survey data from the Indonesia Family Life Survey and exploiting the staggered structure of the program rollout, we find that access to clean cooking fuel led to a significant improvement in women's health, particularly among those who spend most of their time indoors doing housework. We also find an increase in women's work hours, suggesting that access to cleaner fuel can improve women's health and plausibly their productivity, allowing them to supply more market labor. For men, we find an increase in the work hours and propensity to have an additional job, mainly in households where women accrued the largest health and labor benefits from the program. These results highlight the role of clean energy in reducing gender disparity in health and point to the existence of positive externalities from the improved health of women on other members of the household.

Female Labor Supply Response to Alimony: Evidence from Massachusetts
Under Review

This paper studies the labor supply response of women to changes in expected alimony. Using an alimony law change in the US that significantly reduced the post-divorce alimony support among women, I first show that this led to an increase in divorce probability. Second, consistent with the theoretical prediction from a simple model of labor supply, the reform led to an increase in the female labor force participation, with a larger increase among ever-married and more educated samples of women. As a result, the average female wage income increased after the reform. While labor supply increased, I show that most of this increase was concentrated in part-time employment, which may not be sufficient to compensate for the expected loss in alimony income. I estimate a net loss of $40,621 in PDV of lifetime income due to the reform. In light of the recent movement in the US to reform alimony laws, these findings are pertinent to understand its implications on women's labor supply and economic well-being.

Can Technology Mitigate the Impact of Heat on Labor Productivity? Evidence from India
Joint with Anna Custers, Bhavani P. Kasina and Deepak Saraswat

This paper analyses the role of technology in reducing heat-induced labor productivity losses. For this, we use a field experiment in India which randomized the use of productivity-augmenting digital mode versus classic paper-and-pen mode for conducting 2000 household surveys. Combining this experimentally induced variation in survey mode with day-to-day variation in temperature, we estimate the impact of survey mode on surveyor productivity as temperature rises. We find that as temperature rises and working conditions start to deteriorate, using digital-mode results in 5 percent higher surveyor-productivity compared to paper surveys. These relative productivity gains are mainly concentrated on extremely hot days - where the adverse impact of heat is likely at its peak. We show that these impacts are not driven by differences in characteristcis of surveyor or respondents, thereby pointing to the role of technology in reducing the adverse effects of heat.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Exclusionary Discipline: Impact of Student Removal to Disciplinary Alternative Programs
Joint with A. Yonah Meiselman

To Apply or Not to Apply: Impact of Class Rank on College Application Choices

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference Presentations

Southern Economic Association (scheduled)	2021
APPAM Seminar Series	2021
Southern Economic Association	2020
Population Association of America, Washington DC (event canceled)	2020
15th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI Delhi	2019
NEUDC, Northwestern University	2019

SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Professional Development Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2021
Professional Development Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2020
Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2019
Professional Development Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2019
Departmental Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2016
Pradeep Gupta Memorial Scholarship, University of Delhi	2012-13

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Stata, Python, R
Tools: Panel Data Econometrics, Causal Inference, Machine Learning, RCT, Applied Statistics

Last updated on: October 8, 2021