

**Mohammad Ahmad**  
[www.mohammadahmad.net](http://www.mohammadahmad.net)  
[mohammad.ahmad@tufts.edu](mailto:mohammad.ahmad@tufts.edu)

## **TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

Placement Director: Jenny Aker  
Placement Assistant: Debra Knox

JENNY.AKER@TUFTS.EDU 617-627-5267  
DEBRA.KNOX@TUFTS.EDU 617-627-2810

### **Office Contact Information**

177 College Avenue  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
617-627-3560

### **Home Contact Information**

91 Wallace Street  
Somerville, MA, 02144 USA  
856-562-8342

### **Personal Information**

Citizenship: United States

### **Undergraduate Studies**

B.A., Mathematics and Economics, Emory University, 2013

### **Graduate Studies**

Tufts University, 2018 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics and Public Policy

Thesis Title: “Essays on Economic Dynamics and Decision-Making”

Expected Completion Date: May 2023

### **References**

Professor Eoin McGuirk  
Department of Economics, Tufts University  
617-627-3348, [eoim.mcguirk@tufts.edu](mailto:eoim.mcguirk@tufts.edu)

Professor Enrico Spolaore  
Department of Economics, Tufts University  
617-627-4068, [enrico.spolaore@tufts.edu](mailto:enrico.spolaore@tufts.edu)

Professor Jenny Aker  
The Fletcher School, Tufts University  
617-627-5267, [jenny.aker@tufts.edu](mailto:jenny.aker@tufts.edu)

Professor Steven Block  
The Fletcher School, Tufts University  
617-627-2717, [steven.block@tufts.edu](mailto:steven.block@tufts.edu)

### **Teaching and Research Fields:**

Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Political Economy

### **Teaching Experience:**

Spring, 2021      Economic Development (Undergraduate), Tufts University  
Teaching fellow for Professor Margaret McMillan

Spring 2020,      Development Economics: Macro Perspectives (Graduate), The Fletcher School, Tufts  
Fall 2020      University, Teaching Assistant for Professor Steven Block

Summer 2020      “Why are Some Countries Rich and Others Poor,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute,  
Tufts University, Instructor

Spring 2013      Industrial Organization (Undergraduate), Emory University  
Teaching Assistant for Professor Maria Arbatskaya

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2020–2022	United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Senior Researcher, Merged Areas Governance Project (Pakistan)
2016–2020	Harvard University, Department of Economics Research Assistant for Professor Nathan Nunn
2019–2020	Tufts University, Department of Economics Research Assistant for Professor Eoin McGuirk
Summer 2019	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Research Assistant, Development Strategy & Governance Division
Fall 2017	University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Economics Research Assistant for Professor Paola Giuliano
2013–2016	Thomson Reuters Research Analyst

### **Professional Activities**

Presentations	Western Economic Association International (WEAI), 97 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (2022) Tufts University, Economics and Public Policy Seminar (2021, 2022) Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, RASTA Conference (2022)
Referee	Journal of African Economies
Member	American Economic Association (AEA) Western Economic Association International (WEAI)

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

2018–2023	Neubauer Fellowship
2021–2022	Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Fellowship

### **Research Awards**

2021–2022	Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) Award, USD 23,000
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### **Research Papers**

“Historical Conflict and Contemporary Economic Preferences” (*Job Market Paper*)

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the violent origins of contemporary time and risk preferences, commonly referred to as patience and risk-taking. I test the hypothesis that patience and risk-taking – both vital traits for economic development – are formed endogenously as a function of historical exposure to large-scale conflict. I combine a new geocoded dataset of pre-industrial historical conflict (1200-1700 C.E.) with data from the Global Preferences Survey. Using subnational variation, I find that historical conflict lowers contemporary patience significantly. The effect on risk-taking is ambiguous. Results are robust to an instrumental variables approach. These findings are consistent with an evolutionary framework of endogenous preference formation in which conflict lowers incentives for long-term investment behavior due to increased expropriation risk in the decision environment.

### **Research in Progress**

“Adaptive Capacity of Rural Main Streets in Developing Countries”

**Abstract:** How adaptive are rural main street firms to connectivity infrastructure? I study this question in a developing country context. I estimate the effects of highway linkages on the growth of small rural manufacturing firms in Pakistan’s Punjab province. To accomplish this, I use a unique panel dataset of 92,947

manufacturing firms that operate out of non-residential establishments in Punjab's rural areas. In my spatial analysis, I compare firm growth in highway-connected areas with three policy-relevant counterfactuals at the level of a 0.1-degree grid-cell. The richness of the dataset allows me to estimate rural manufacturing growth along the extensive and intensive margins from 1995 to 2010. I also estimate growth through night light density and rural settlement area. I find that once connected to a highway, rural main streets that are closer to a city adapt more than rural main streets that are equidistant from two cities. Overall, rural manufacturing growth in cells along the new highway is significantly lower when compared to cells along a 1,500 year-old trade route that passes through rural Punjab. The findings of this paper shed light on the dynamics of rural manufacturing firms in developing countries, an under-researched area in the structural change literature.

“District Development Product: Estimating Regional Economic Activity in Pakistan Using Satellite Data”

“Introducing the Historical Conflict Dataset: A New Source of Event-Level Conflict Data, 0–1900 C.E.”