Pubali Chakraborty

Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
410 Arps Hall, 1945 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210-1172

https://sites.google.com/view/pubali-chakraborty/home
Email: chakraborty.68@osu.edu
Phone: +1 (614) 390-1184
Latest Update: November 2019

Citizenship Status

India (F-1 Visa)

Education

Ph.D., Economics, The Ohio State University, Expected: May 2020.
Dissertation title: Essays on Macroeconomics and Labor Markets
Committee: Professor Julia K. Thomas (Chair), Professor Aubhik Khan, Professor Kyle Dempsey
M.A., Economics, The Ohio State University, 2015
M.S., Quantitative Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, 2014.
B.Sc., Economics (Hons), Presidency College, University of Calcutta, 2012.

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary: Macroeconomics
Secondary: Labor and Demographic Economics

Research

Working Papers

- **Female Labor Supply and Jobless Recovery (Job Market Paper)**

Abstract: Female labor force participation rose steadily over the U.S. post-war era until the late 1980s. Since then, the upward trend has largely subsided. Concurrent with this leveling off, starting in 1990, recessions in the U.S. have featured jobless recoveries. This paper considers the connection between these two recent patterns, examining both empirically and through the lens of a general equilibrium macroeconomic model, the extent to which the weakened trend contributes to slower recoveries. My empirical analysis examines the labor supply response for different demographic sections of the population over the last five recessions and shows that young, married women with children were the primary drivers of aggregate employment recoveries prior to 1990. These findings inform the development of a theoretical model which I use to study the interaction between female and male labor supply at the household and aggregate level. My model predicts that post-1990 aggregate employment recoveries were significantly slower than pre-1990 recoveries, due to the leveling off in the trend for young married women with children, thus corroborating the empirical evidence. Decomposing the relative contributions of several underlying factors responsible for the pre-1990s rise in the labor force participation of young, married women with children,

the model predicts that narrowing of the gender wage gap is the most important factor in the overall increase. However, over early dates, when the upward trend in female labor supply was the strongest, resulting in strong employment recoveries, a reduction in the number of young children for married women is the most important factor. This insight further guides me towards using my framework to examine the effectiveness of targeted family-friendly government policies with the intent of mitigating jobless recoveries.

- **Inefficiencies due to skill choice**

  Abstract: In this paper, I examine how the skill investment choices that individuals make can lead to inefficient outcomes due to the existence of search frictions. My work is motivated by the finding that in India, enrollment in an engineering degree contributes to around 25% of the total college enrollment; however, 60% of the engineering graduates remain unemployed. I hypothesize that some college degrees, such as engineering, provide multiple job options, which may incentivize individuals to invest in them. However, this may lead to over-investment in this skill type, which eventually contributes to higher unemployment among engineers, owing to the search frictions that are present in the economy. I analyze this question by using a two-sector two-skill search theoretic framework and find that under certain conditions, this may lead to inefficient outcomes. A government intervention which taxes individuals who invest in these skills and subsidizes workers who invest in skills that are more focused and hence have fewer job options can help to reduce this inefficiency.

Work-in-progress

- **Female Labor Force Participation and Wealth Inequality**

  Abstract: In this paper, I quantify the effect of a rise in female labor force participation on the increase in wealth inequality in the United States. The rise in female participation that has been observed in the data since the 1960s was primarily driven by married women. I argue that spousal labor supply acts as a form of insurance, thus influencing household savings behavior. With more married women participating in the workforce, the role of this insurance has changed over time. I build a theoretical framework to identify mechanisms through which insurance within the family affects individual labor supply and savings portfolio decisions that households make. The insurance provided by a working spouse decreases the incentives of couple households to save for precautionary reasons. However, it also allows them to invest in risky assets with higher returns as opposed to single households. Further, unemployed individuals with working spouses wait for better wage offers, which can have a permanent effect on their lifetime earnings and in turn, affect the wealth accumulation of households.

Conference Presentations

Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, 2019 (Upcoming)
13th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI New Delhi, 2017

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Burton Abrams Dissertation Award, The Ohio State University, 2019
Journal of Money, Credit and Banking Travel Grant, The Ohio State University, 2019, 2017
International Leadership Scholarship Award, The Ohio State University, 2019
Department Citation for Excellence in Teaching Award, The Ohio State University, 2017-2018
University Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2014-2015
Academic Fellowship, Indian Statistical Institute, 2012-2014

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Full responsibility, Current Economic Issues in the U.S., Fall 2019, Spring 2019
Instructor, Full responsibility, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Summer 2018
Recitation instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, Spring 2018
Recitation instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics, Fall 2017

Computational Skills

Fortran, MATLAB, Stata

References

Professor Julia K. Thomas
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
Phone: +1 (614) 247 0094
Email: thomas.2108@osu.edu

Professor Aubhik Khan
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
Phone: +1 (614) 247 0097
Email: khan.247@osu.edu

Professor Kyle P. Dempsey
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
Phone: +1 (614) 292 4198
Email: dempsey.164@osu.edu