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### **Pre-Doctoral Studies:**

BSc (Honors), Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, *summa cum laude*, 2011.

Master in Economics and Finance, Center for Monetary and Financial Studies (CEMFI) 2013.

### **Doctoral Studies:**

University of Illinois at Chicago, 2015 to present.

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “*Essays on Human Capital Investments of traditionally disadvantaged young cohorts: Evidence from developing and developed countries*”

Expected Completion Date: June 2021

### **References:**

Dr. Darren Lubotsky  
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**Teaching and Research Fields:**

Primary fields: Development Economics, Labor and Applied Microeconomics

Secondary fields: Economics of Education, Health Economics

**Teaching Experience:**

Fall, 2020	Econometrics, University of Illinois at Chicago, <b>Graduate Instructor</b> for undergraduate Econometrics class.
Spring, 2020	Econometrics, University of Illinois at Chicago, <b>Graduate Instructor</b> for undergraduate Econometrics class.
Spring, 2019	Econometrics, University of Illinois at Chicago, <b>Graduate Instructor</b> for undergraduate Econometrics class.
Fall, 2019	Econometrics, University of Illinois at Chicago, teaching assistant for Professor So Yoon Ahn.
Spring, 2016	Microeconomics: Theory and Applications, University of Illinois at Chicago, teaching assistant for Professor John A. Tauras.
Summer 2016	Principles of Microeconomics, University of Illinois at Chicago, teaching assistant for Professor Minh Nguyen.
Fall 2015	Principles of Microeconomics, University of Illinois at Chicago, teaching assistant for Professor William F. Rauscher.
Spring 2011	Empirical Macroeconomics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching assistant for Professor Irfan Qureshi.
Fall 2011	Principles of Macroeconomics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching assistant for Professor Irfan Qureshi.
Spring 2010	Calculus-II, Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching assistant for Professor Sultan Sial.
Fall 2010	Calculus-I, Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching assistant for Professor Sultan Sial.
Spring 2009	Multivariate Calculus, Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching assistant for Professor Aslam Butt.

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

2020-	United Nation for Women Child Marriage Study for Pakistan, Statistical Expert for a study on economic costs of child marriage in Pakistan.
Summer 2018	University of Chicago, Data Analyst at Crime and Education Lab
2016-2018	University of Illinois, Chicago, Research Assistant for Prof. Feigenberg & Prof. Lubotsky.
2014-2015	Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAs), Co-investigator on a World Bank regional study on auto sector trade between Pakistan & India.
2015	United Nation Pakistan, Focus Group Discussions Moderator for Human Development Report 2017.
2014	United States Agency for International Development, Organizer of conference on “Harnessing the potential of low-fee private schools” held at LUMS.
2014	Acasus Services Dubai, Data Consultant on health service delivery in Punjab, Pakistan.
2013	Evaluation Analyst on “Women economic opportunities in Khyber & Bajaur agencies”.
Summer 2012	Santander Bank (Madrid), Research Analyst for Corporate Finance & Public Policy department.

## **Professional Activities:**

### **Seminar and Conferences Attended:**

2020	2020 APPAM Regional Student Conference Washington DC (Presenter x2) Evidence Based Economics Summer Meeting 2020 (Invited) UIC Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter)
2019	UIC Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter) UIC Summer Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter) Illinois Economics Association (Presenter & Discussant) Development Day at UChicago (Participant) Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Annual Conference (Participant) Conference on International Development at IDS, University of Sussex (Invited)
2018	Illinois Economic Association (Chair & Presenter & Discussant) UChicago Urban Labs (Presenter) UIC Department Lunch Seminar (Presenter) UIC Graduate Student Research Seminar (Presenter)
2017	Southern Economic Association Conference (Invited)

## **Professional Affiliations:**

American Economic Association (AEA)  
 Illinois Economic Association (IEA)  
 Midwest Economic Association (MEA)

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

2016	Houston H. Stokes UIC Department Award for Academic Excellence
Summer 2014	Fulbright Mentor at University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2011-13	CEMFI Fellowship
Summer 2010	Fulbright Scholar at University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2007-2011	Dean's Honor List

## **Research Papers:**

### ***“Unmet Expectations: The Impacts of School Construction on Female Outcomes in Rural Punjab, Pakistan” (Job Market Paper)***

In this paper, I study the long-term and intergenerational effects of expanding educational opportunities through school construction in a low education setting with significant gender inequality (rural Punjab, Pakistan). Using administrative data on historical school construction starting in the 1960s, I exploit variation across birth cohorts and regions in the timing of school construction to build on a Difference-in-Differences approach that allows for staggered school construction in this context. I find that an additional girls' school per 1000 children at the district level led to a 4-5 pp (20-25%) higher likelihood of girls completing primary education and increased their years of education by around 0.5 years. I do not find any statistically significant impact of the school construction program on male education. I investigate threats to identification using a series of falsification tests. I find that the effects are indeed driven by females of primary schooling age- the group most likely to benefit from the program given their schooling age and the social mobility restrictions in play for females in this (rural) setting.

In terms of longer-term outcomes, I do not find any significant effects of exposure to school construction program on marriage market outcomes (likelihood of being married, age at first marriage, age at first birth, total children) but find reduced labor force participation for female cohorts more exposed to school construction driven by their lesser likelihood of working in agriculture sector. In intergenerational outcomes, I find that the benefits of increased education are transmitted to the next generations educational attainment if the mother was more exposed to the program but do not find evidence of positive effects on intergenerational health. Overall, my findings indicate educational benefits of the program for both females and their children. Moreover, my results suggest that downstream benefits of improved access to education (beyond educational attainment) may be constrained in settings where baseline educational (and labor force participation levels) are low for females and in the absence of corresponding changes to male educational attainment and social norms.

***“A blessing in disguise? Great Recession and Human Capital Investments of young Hispanics”***

Hispanics have traditionally formed a disproportionate fraction of the low-educated workforce in United States and differences in educational attainment between Hispanics and other groups have remained more or less constant in the years leading up to the Great Recession. Even though schooling levels went up generally in the United States in the aftermath of the Great Recession, the overall trends mask the partial convergence in High School dropout rates between Hispanics and other groups. This paper attempts to explore whether differences in incidence and/or responsiveness to labor demand shocks, induced by the Great Recession, can help explain part of the observed convergence in schooling outcomes between Hispanics and other groups in the aftermath of the Great Recession. I use a Bartik type approach where I construct labor demand shocks separately by race group and ethnicity at the metropolitan area level to analyze their impact on schooling decision of young cohorts. I find that young Hispanic natives, in harder hit areas, respond more in terms of their schooling response both at High School dropout margin as well as college attendance relative to other groups. This higher responsiveness particularly of young Hispanics, even conditional on the differential size of the shock experienced by Hispanics relative to other groups, can explain more than half of observed convergence in High School dropout rates and college attendance rates between Hispanics and other groups. My results are robust to endogenous migration and are driven by the young male Hispanic sub-sample.

**Research Work in Progress:**

*“Impact of Lady Health Workers on fertility outcomes of rural females: Evidence from Pakistan.”*

*“Does (Foreign) Aid help mitigate AIDS: Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa”*

*“Last hope or lost hope: The case of low fee private schools in a low education setting”*

*“Does lack of immigration hurt local labor markets? Evidence using Mexico-US immigration”*  
*with Darren Lubotsky and Benjamin Feigenberg.*