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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Placement Director: Prof. Benjamin Feigenberg

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Doctoral Studies:

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), 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

Pre-Doctoral Studies:

BSc in Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), 2011.

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

References:

Dr. Darren Lubotsky
University of Illinois at Chicago,
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601 South Morgan Street, 728 UH
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Dr. Benjamin Feigenberg
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Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Labor and Applied Microeconomics

Secondary fields: Economics of Education, Health Economics

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 also find evidence of intergenerational impacts on educational attainment of children of mothers that are more exposed to the program. However, I do not find corresponding improvements in female labor market or marriage market outcomes as a result of improved educational attainment. My findings indicate that females in developing countries continue to face barriers in terms of later life outcomes despite improvements to their educational attainment especially in settings where social norms and the economic position of males may mediate these effects.

“Human Capital Investments of Young Hispanics: The Bright Side of the Great Recession?”

In this paper, I analyze the impact of the labor demand shocks induced by the Great Recession on the human capital investments of young Hispanics, a disadvantaged sub-group in United States on the basis of their education. I use a Bartik 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 the higher responsiveness 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 the observed convergence in High School dropout rates and college attendance rates between Hispanics and other groups following the Great Recession. My results are robust to specification checks for endogenous migration and highlight the impact shocks to opportunity cost can have on educational decisions of a historically disadvantaged group.

Research Work in Progress:

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

“Local labor market outcomes and the slowdown in Mexican emigration to the United States” with Darren Lubotsky and Benjamin Feigenberg.

“Determinants of non-compliance with Covid-19 regulations: the role of right wing groups?” with Hasin Yusuf.

“Chance for All or Opportunity for Some: The case of Low Fee Private Schools in a low education setting.”

Teaching Experience:

2019- Current	Econometrics, UIC, Graduate Instructor , for undergraduate Econometrics class (x3).
Fall 2019	Econometrics, UIC, Teaching assistant (TA) for Professor So Yoon Ahn.
Summer 2016	Principles of Microeconomics, UIC, TA for Professor Minh Nguyen.
Spring 2016	Microeconomics: Theory and Applications, UIC, TA for Professor John A. Tauras.
Fall 2015	Principles of Microeconomics, UIC, TA for Professor William F. Rauscher.
Spring 2011	Empirical Macroeconomics, LUMS, TA for Professor Irfan Qureshi.
Fall 2010	Principles of Macroeconomics, LUMS, TA for Professor Irfan Qureshi.
Spring 2010	Calculus-II, LUMS, TA for Professor Sultan Sial.
Fall 2009	Calculus-I, LUMS, TA for Professor Sultan Sial.
Spring 2009	Multivariate Calculus, LUMS, TA for Professor Aslam Butt.

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2020- Current	United Nation Women Pakistan, <i>Statistical Expert for Child Marriage Study</i> .
Summer 2018	University of Chicago, <i>Data Analyst at Crime and Education Lab</i> .
2016-2018	University of Illinois, Chicago, <i>Research Assistant for Prof. Feigenberg & Prof. Lubotsky</i> .
2014-2015	Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAs), <i>Co-investigator on a World Bank regional study on auto sector trade between Pakistan & India</i> .
2015	United Nation Pakistan, <i>Focus Group Discussions Moderator for Human Development Report 2017</i> .
Summer 2014	University of Massachusetts, Amherst, <i>Mentor for secondary schools teachers from Pakistan for a training program organized by Donahue Institute</i> .
2014	USAID, <i>Organizer of conference on "Harnessing the potential of low-fee private schools" held at LUMS</i> .
2014	Acasus Services Dubai, <i>Data Consultant on health service delivery in Punjab, Pakistan</i> .
2013	Raabta Consultants, <i>Evaluation Analyst on "Women economic opportunities in Khyber & Bajaur agencies"</i> .
Summer 2012	Santander Bank (Madrid), <i>Research Analyst for Corporate Finance & Public Policy department</i> .

Professional Activities:

Seminar and Conferences Attended:

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| 2020 | 2020 APPAM Regional Student Conference Washington DC (Presenter x2)
Evidence Based Economics Summer Meeting 2020 (Poster)
UIC Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter)
E-con of Education Student Conference (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 of Panel & 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:

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| 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 |