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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 2020

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
University of Illinois at Chicago,
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601 South Morgan Street, 706 UH
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Dr. Javaeria Qureshi
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Labor and Demographic Economics

Secondary fields: Economics of Education, Health

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2019	Econometrics, University of Illinois at Chicago, Graduate Instructor for undergraduate Econometrics class (Class Size 44).
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:

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:

2019	UIC Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter) UIC Summer Economic Research Luncheon (Presenter) Development Day at UChicago (Participant) Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Annual Conference (Scheduled) Conference on International Development at IDS, University of Sussex (Scheduled)
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:

“Why Malala is right about girls schools: Empirical Evidence on improving schooling access from Pakistan” (Job Market Paper)

Lack of access to education for girls is part of a broader realm of gender inequality in Pakistan. The situation is particularly worse in the rural areas for young females, where the large distance many girls must travel for school leads to low or no enrollment on their behalf. This paper investigates the short and long(er) term effects of improved access to schooling for rural females in a setting with significant gender disparity (Punjab, Pakistan). I use a Difference-in-Difference approach that exploits cross-cohort variation in exposure to new school construction as well as regional variation in the intensity of school construction that started in the 1960s. My results show that an additional primary/middle school for girls per 1000 kids of school-going age led to an increase in primary school completion rate (5 pp) and years of schooling (0.44 years) for the affected cohorts. I also find evidence of long(er) term effects on marriage market (more likely to match with spouses who are more educated and wealthier), fertility decisions (able to protect themselves against adverse outcomes such as child marriage and teenage pregnancies and give birth at a slightly older age on average), and inter-generational human capital investments (more likely to invest in education and health of their offspring) implying that benefits of improving access to education for girls extend beyond schooling of current generation.

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

Hispanics have traditionally formed a disproportionate fraction of the low-skill (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 seem to be 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” with Loujaina A. Wahed.

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