

Tarana Chauhan

Centre for Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Brown University

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References: Christopher B. Barrett Brian M. Dillon Andrew Foster
Cornell University Cornell University Brown University
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Employment **Brown University** Providence (RI), USA
Postdoctoral Research Associate 2024 -

Education **Cornell University** Ithaca (NY), USA
Ph.D. Applied Economics and Management 2024
M.Sc. Applied Economics and Management 2022

Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, India
M.A. Development Studies 2016
Thesis - Government Regulations in the Intermediate Public Transport sector: Study of a Metropolitan City

University of Delhi New Delhi, India
B.A. Economics 2014

Fields Applied Microeconomics (Development, Labor, Gender); Political economy

Job market Paper **Agricultural Credit and Women's Agency: Experimental Evidence from India**
(with Berber Kramer, Patrick Ward and Subhransu Pattanaik)
Women-focused programs raising income and agency are costly and difficult to implement, and evaluations show that targeted cash transfers and loans are often appropriated into assets and enterprises outside women's control. We hypothesize that improving liquidity constraints for households increases household consumption and residual income for individual members, and evaluate its consequences for women. We test this using a randomized provision of collateral-free loans across 80 villages in India. Employing IV estimations, we find that women in loan-receiving households report independent access to banking services through debit cards and mobile phones, and allocate more time towards leisure. Households increase ownership of productive capital and consumer durables in response to the program but there are no impacts on agricultural productivity or income. The findings suggest that agricultural credit programs can serve as an effective and cost-efficient tool to improve women's outcomes, even when not directly targeted at them.

Publication Raghunathan, K., Kumar, N., Gupta, S., **Chauhan, T.**, Kohli, A. and Menon, P. (2023). "Learning together: Experimental evidence on the impact of group-based nutrition interventions in rural Bihar". *World Development*, 168: 106267.

Working Papers	Chauhan, T. (2025). Accounting for Empowerment? Examining Women's Financial Inclusion in India . <i>Under review</i> .	
	Women's Agency and Intra-Household Efficiency (2025) with Carolina Castilla & David Murphy	
	Chauhan, T. (2023). Extreme Temperature and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa	
	Chauhan, T. (2022). Political incentives and flood recovery in India	
In progress	"Worker sorting and retention in Indian manufacturing" with Natasha Jha	
Teaching experience	Instructor (Brown University)	Spring 2026, 2025
	ECON 1330: Gender and Development	
	Co-instructor and Teaching Assistant (Cornell University)	
		Summer 2024, 2023 & 2020; Fall 2021 & 2020
	AEM 2350: Introduction to the Economics of Development	
	Course Assistant (Cornell University)	Spring 2024
	AEM 6480: Food and Consumer Packaged Goods Industry Dynamics	
	Visiting lecturer (Colgate University)	Fall 2023
	ECON 443: Seminar in Policy Evaluation	
	Guest Lecturer and Teaching Assistant (Cornell University)	Fall 2023
Research experience	AEM 2600: Managerial Economics	
	Teaching assistant (Cornell University)	Spring 2023, Fall 2019
	AEM 4140: Behavioural Economics and Managerial Decisions	
	Research Assistant for Carolina Castilla, Colgate University	2021-22
	Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)	2021
Past Employment	Research Assistant for Christopher B. Barrett and Katie Fiorella, Cornell University	2020
	Graduate Research Assistant for Brian M. Dillon, Cornell University	2020
	Research Assistant for Vrinda Kadiyali, Cornell University	2019
	Senior Research Analyst 1, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	2016-18
	Consultant, Population Council	Summer 2016
Awards & Fellowships	Research Assistant, Centre for Policy Research	Winter 2014
	Research Assistant, (Former) Planning Commission of India	Summer 2013
	Research Assistant, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	Winter 2011
	BIG Lab Mezzanine Grant (University of Notre Dame), USD 14, 560 (co-PI)	2025
	Amit Bhatia'01 Global PhD Research Scholar: Grant for International Field Research (Cornell University), USD 10,000 (PI)	2022-23
	Cornell University Fellowship	Fall 2022
	GRA Fellowship (Cornell University)	2018, 2023
	Adlerbert Graduate Assistantship	Summer 2021, 2022

Invited talks	‘Accounting for Empowerment? Examining Women’s Financial Inclusion in India’	
	Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore	2025
	Kania School of Management, University of Scranton	2024
	Colgate-Hamilton Economics Seminar, Colgate University	2023
	Economics Department Research Seminar, Lafayette College	2023

Conference Presentations

2025	Global Labor Organization JOPE Bonn
2024	North East Universities Development Consortium (Northeastern University); 19th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (Indian Statistical Institute Delhi); Third Biennial Conference on Development (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research); Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference
2023	European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (University of Manchester); Researcher Gathering hosted by Innovations for Poverty Action and Global Poverty Research Lab (Northwestern University); Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting Washington D.C.
2022	100 Years of Economic Development (Cornell University); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) International Conference Rome; AAEA Annual Meeting Anaheim; CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa; Pacific Conference for Development Economics (University of San Francisco)
2021	European Economic Association - Econometric Society European Meeting; Western Agricultural Economics Association Joint Annual Meeting; International Conference in Development Economics (University of Bordeaux)

Academic Service	<i>Refereeing</i>	
	Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Population Economics; Review of Economics of the Household; Eastern Economic Journal; Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Economics of Education Review; Review of Social Economy	
	<i>Peer review of grant proposal</i>	
	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) Women’s Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance	

Mentoring

Research Assistants, Brown University

Megan Ball	2025
Yaxuan Shi (First placement - Altman Solon, Boston)	2024

Structural Transformation of African and Asian Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAAARS+) Fellows Program

Peer mentor for Post Doctoral Research Fellows at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research	2022-23
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Faculty adviser: David Stifel, Lafayette College

Peer Mentor for Undergraduate students, University of Delhi	2022
Mentored research study improving women’s menstrual hygiene in India	

Faculty adviser: Christopher B. Barrett, Cornell University

Reading Group for undergraduate students in India

Spring 2023

Organized discussions on papers covering finance, industrial organization, health, gender and development topics

Seminars promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Panelist, “Application and experience of post-graduation in the US”: Attended by over 200 students from University of Delhi

February 2023

Organizer, “Seminar culture in Economics”: Panel discussion of female faculty and graduate students in Economics at Cornell University

September 2021

Selected Workshops	GLO Virtual Young Scholars Program (GLO VirtYS)	2023-24
	<i>Mentor</i> : José Alberto Molina, University of Zaragoza	
	Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)	2023-24
	<i>Mentors</i> : Upasak Das, University of Manchester and Lelys Dinarte Diaz, The World Bank	
	Everyday Adaptations to Climate Change Workshop, Sustainability and Development Initiative (University of Michigan)	2021
	<i>Mentor</i> : Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan	
	Successfully Navigating Economics PhD (CSWEP American Economic Association)	2020
	<i>Mentors</i> : Victoria Baranov, University of Melbourne and Sarojini Hirshleifer, University of California Riverside	
	Women in Economics (Boston University)	2020
	<i>Mentor</i> : Pinar Keskin, Wellesley College	
Skills	Software	
	Python, STATA, MATLAB, R, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, Julia, SurveyCTO, ODK, CSPro	
	Training Certifications	
	Survey Design and Experimental Methods in Applied and Agricultural Economics (Arizona State University)	2021, 2020
Other	<i>Languages</i> : English (fluent), Hindi (native), French (beginner)	
	<i>Citizenship</i> : Indian	