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**DOCTORAL STUDIES** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2022  
DISSERTATION: "Essays on the Economics of Mental Illness and Belief Formation"

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Professor Esther Dufo  
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<b>PRIOR EDUCATION</b>	University of Oxford	2016
	MPhil, Economics <i>Distinction</i>	
	Cambridge University	2014
	BA, Economics <i>First-Class Honors</i>	

<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>	United Kingdom	<b>GENDER:</b>	Male
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**LANGUAGES** English (native); German (conversational)

**FIELDS** Primary Fields: Development, Behavioral  
Secondary Fields: Labor

<b>TEACHING</b>	Psychology and Economics (undergraduate, MIT course 14.13)	2020
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<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Teaching Assistant to Professor Frank Schilbach	
	Microeconomic Theory I (graduate, MIT course 14.122)	2019
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Parag Pathak	
	Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate, MIT course 14.04)	2019
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Robert Townsend	
	Labor Economics II (graduate, MIT course 14.662)	2019
	Teaching Assistant to Profs. David Autor, Simon Jaeger	
	Microeconomic Theory I (graduate, MIT course 14.122)	2018
<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	Teaching Assistant to Professor Parag Pathak	
	Applied Econometrics (graduate, MIT course 14.381)	2018
	Teaching Assistant to Professor Kirill Evdokimov	
	Research Assistant to Profs. Parag Pathak and Glenn Ellison	2017
	Research Assistant to Profs. Parag Pathak and Joshua Angrist	2017
<b>FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS</b>	George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant	2021
	George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant	2020
	Weiss Fund Grant	2020
	George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant	2019
	Departmental Fellowship (Full Funding), MIT	2016-21
	Best Academic Performance in first-year exams, Economics	2015
	MPhil (Oxford)	
	Best Academic Performance in final exams, Economics (Cambridge)	2014
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Referee:</b> <i>American Economic Review</i> , <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> .	
	<b>Presentations:</b>	
	TIBER Symposium, Tilburg University	2021
	M-BEPS, Maastricht University	2021
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>“Poverty, Depression and Anxiety: Causal Evidence and Mechanisms”</b> (with Gautam Rao, Frank Schilbach and Vikram Patel). <i>Science</i> , 370 (6522), 2020.	
<b>RESEARCH PAPERS</b>	<b>“Mental Illness Discrimination” (Job Market Paper)</b> I study discrimination against people with symptoms of depression or anxiety, conditions which are very common, socially stigmatized, and linked to lower earnings and employment. In an online experiment, I find that people pay to avoid depressed or anxious coworkers in a simple communication-based problem-solving task—paying as much to avoid them as they do to work with the college-educated. A model of statistical discrimination based on earnings cannot explain these preferences: depressed or anxious coworkers are equally productive when exogenously assigned. Instead, I find evidence that discrimination is driven by incorrect beliefs about such coworkers as well as a	

likely incorrect perception that more costly effort is required to help them succeed. My results suggest that correcting beliefs could reduce discrimination. A major motivation for tackling discrimination is often to encourage revelation of mental illness (thereby perhaps improving access to treatment or support); however, I find that people pay to hide mental illness in my setting even when insulated from rejection or any financial consequence of discrimination.

**“Learning in the Household”** (with John Conlon, Malavika Mani, Frank Schilbach, and Gautam Rao). Revision requested, *Econometrica*.

We study social learning between spouses using an experiment in Chennai, India. We vary whether individuals discover information themselves or must instead learn what their spouse discovered via a discussion. Women treat their ‘own’ and their husband’s information the same. In sharp contrast, men’s beliefs respond less than half as much to information that was discovered by their wife. This is not due to a lack of communication: husbands put less weight on their wife’s signals even when perfectly informed of them. In a second experiment, when paired with mixed- and same-gender strangers, *both* men and women heavily discount their teammate’s information relative to their own. We conclude that people have a tendency to underweight others’ information relative to their own. The marital context creates a countervailing force for women, resulting in a gender difference in learning (only) in the household.

**“Fiscal and Education Spillovers from Charter School Expansion”** (with Camille Terrier). Revision requested, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Do charter schools drain resources and high-achieving peers from non-charter schools? We provide new evidence on the fiscal and educational consequences of charter expansion for non-charter students, using a 2011 reform that lifted caps on charter schools for under-performing districts in Massachusetts. We use complementary synthetic control (SC) and differences-in-differences instrumental variables (IV-DiD) estimators. Our results suggest greater charter attendance leaves per-pupil revenue unchanged but increases per-pupil expenditures, hence generating a fiscal stress on traditional public schools. Charter expansion also induces schools to shift expenditure from support services to instruction and salaries, and ultimately increases non-charter students’ achievement in math.

#### RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

##### **“Discrimination and Employment of the Mentally Ill”.**

How best can we reintegrate mental illness sufferers into the labor force, especially by reducing discrimination at work, and what are the economic benefits of doing so? I plan to hire depressed and anxious people and others from low-income communities in Chennai, India, to work together on simple manufacturing tasks in a randomized controlled trial. I will measure the effect of employment on mental health and the effects of an anti-stigma intervention on mental health, a theoretically-motivated measure of discrimination, and productivity. This work is on hold due to COVID-19.