

## **Zahin Haque**

zahinhaque.com  
zahin.haque@nyu.edu

### **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

Address 19 West Fourth St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012-1119  
Phone 212-998-8440 (office)  
812-229-2204 (cell)

Placement Director: David Cesarini	david.cesarini@nyu.edu	212-998-3773 (office) 646-413-8576 (cell)
Graduate Administrator: Ian Johnson	ian.johnson@nyu.edu	212-998-8901

### **Education**

PhD in Economics, New York University, 2015-2022 (expected)  
Thesis Title: *Essays in Land Inequality and Economic Development*  
BA in Economics and Mathematics, Northwestern University, 2015  
Magna Cum Laude, Honors in Economics

### **References**

Professor Martin Rotemberg  
19 West Fourth St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012-1119  
212-998-8926 (office)  
[mrotemberg@nyu.edu](mailto:mrotemberg@nyu.edu)

Professor Sharon Traiberman  
19 West Fourth St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012-1119  
212-998-7633 (office)  
[sharon.traiberman@nyu.edu](mailto:sharon.traiberman@nyu.edu)

Professor Michael Waugh  
90 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1804  
+01-617-429-0840 (cell)  
[michael.e.waugh@gmail.com](mailto:michael.e.waugh@gmail.com)

Professor Elena Manresa  
19 West Fourth St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10012-1110  
212-998-8958 (office)  
[elena.manresa@nyu.edu](mailto:elena.manresa@nyu.edu)

### **Teaching and Research Fields**

Development, Trade, Industrial Organization, Applied Micro

### **Teaching Experience**

Spring 2021	International Economics, NYU, teaching fellow for Professor Marc Lieberman
Fall 2019	International Economics, NYU, teaching fellow for Professor Marc Lieberman
Spring 2019	International Economics, NYU, teaching fellow for Professor Marc Lieberman
Spring 2018	

Fall 2017	International Economics, NYU, teaching fellow for Professor Marc Lieberman Public Economics, NYU, course assistant for Professor Alessandro Lizzeri
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### **Research Experience**

2017-2020	New York University, Research Assistant for Professor Boyan Jovanovic
2014	Kellogg School of Management, Research Assistant for Professor Jorg Spenkuch
2013	Indiana State University, Research Assistant for Professor Richard Lotspeich

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

2015-2021	NYU MacCracken Fellowship
2015-2020	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2020	Dartmouth College International Economics Fellowship
2015	Phi Beta Kappa
2015	Northwestern University Excellence in Economics Award
2015	Northwestern University Distinguished Economics Thesis Award

### **Research Papers**

#### *The Production Engel (Job Market Paper)*

Poorer households devote a larger percentage of their incomes towards staple food consumption, a fact known as Engel's Law. This paper uncovers a new Engel curve, showing that Engel's Law also holds for production. Global living standards data show that staple food production is non-homothetic in developing economies: poorer households devote a larger percentage of their land towards producing staple foods. I explain this pattern through non-separability between consumption preferences and production outcomes caused by wedges between the buying and selling prices for food. Microdata from Vietnam show that regions for which these wedges are larger also have more non-homothetic "production Engel" curves. I structurally estimate a model in which consumption preferences directly impact production choices to quantify the effects of the production Engel. Price wedges reduce the marketed value of agricultural production by 21% and total welfare by 3.5%. However, demand-side policies, such as consumption subsidies for the poor, can help mitigate these losses.

#### *Land Redistribution & Agricultural Productivity under Imperfect Insurance*

This paper studies how risk aversion and imperfect insurance markets impact the effects of land redistribution policies. Agriculture is inherently risky, yet farmers in developing countries often lack access to formal insurance mechanisms, especially farmers who are land poor. To study the impacts of land redistribution under risk and uncertainty, I develop a quantitative portfolio choice model which highlights how land redistribution alters production decisions for rural farmers with heterogeneous levels of access to insurance. Using detailed district-level cropping data and household-level consumption expenditure surveys from India, I structurally estimate the model and find land-poor households make less risky crop choices, with lower returns, but that increasing access to insurance mechanisms increases the likelihood of poorer households

opting into higher-return portfolios. These results suggest any negative effects of land redistribution on agricultural output can be mitigated by increasing access to insurance mechanisms.

### *Competition in Microcredit Markets*

This paper provides an empirical test of pre-existing theories that argue competition in microcredit markets crowds out poorer borrowers. I exploit exogenous variation in market entry of a large for-profit microfinance institution from pre-existing randomized experiments to analyze the differential impacts of competition for poor and rich. Empirical evidence suggests competition causes poorer households to be crowded out of formal credit markets and turn to informal sources to smooth consumption. Total consumption expenditure and business profits decrease for poorer households, and these households turn to selling business assets as a result. However, I find no adverse impact on female empowerment for poorer households hurt by microfinance competition.