

# Aditi Bhowmick

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## EDUCATION

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### Harvard University

Ph.D., Public Policy (Economics Track)

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics

James M. and Cathleen D. Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration

Cambridge, MA

August 2023 – Present

### Princeton University

Masters in Public Administration (Economics)

Princeton, NJ

2018 – 2020

### Cornell University

B.A. in Economics and Political Science

Ithaca, NY

2012 – 2016

## PUBLICATIONS

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- “Excess mortality in India from June 2020 to June 2021 during the COVID pandemic: Death registration, health facility deaths, and survey data”  
*With Yashwant Deshmukh, Wilson Suraweera, Chinmay Tumbe, Sankalp Sharma, Paul Novosad, Sze Hang Fu, Leslie Newcombe, Hellen Gelband, Patrick Brown and Prabhat Jha. **Science**, 2022: [Link](#)*
- “English proficiency, Gender and the Occupations of childhood immigrants in the US”  
*With Alicia Adsera. **Journal of Labor Research**, 2022: [Link](#)*

## WORKING PAPERS

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- “Rural Electrification, Social Norms, and Female Labor Allocation: Evidence from Rural U.S. and India”  
**Working paper, 2024. *Forthcoming.***  
**Abstract:** I study the impact of rural electrification on the female labor force share and the role of local social norms in mediating this effect. I test theoretical predictions from a model of female labor allocation across home and market production in the presence of social norms. I compare two different historical and institutional settings. First, using data on over 1,900 rural U.S. counties post the Tennessee Valley Authority program (1940), I show that electrification induces a U-shaped change in female labor force share. Second, I leverage detailed information on employment and social norms across over 540,000 Indian villages after a national electrification program (2001) to show that electrification boosts female share of non-agricultural labor by 4-5%, although impacts vary significantly across the caste hierarchy. I also find heterogeneous effects with respect to pre-treatment Purdah (veiling) compliance, gender attitudes and women’s historical contribution to production outside the home.
- “In-group bias in the Indian judiciary: Evidence from 5 million criminal cases”  
*With Elliott Ash, Sam Asher, Sandeep Bhupatiraju, Daniel Chen, Tanaya Devi, Christoph Goessmann, Paul Novosad and Bilal Siddiqi. R&R at **The Review of Economics and Statistics**, 2023. [Link](#).*
- “Cultural Capital and Access to Opportunity in India”  
*With Sam Asher and Paul Novosad. **Working paper**, 2023. [Abstract](#).*

## POLICY PUBLICATIONS

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- “Big, Open Data for Development: A Vision for India”  
*With Sam Asher Alison Campion, Tobias Lunt and Paul Novosad. India Policy Forum, 2021: [Link](#)*
- “Expanding Opportunities: A Map for Equitable Growth in South Asia”  
*Joint work with the World Bank South Asia Chief Economist’s Office, 2023. [Link](#).*
- “Effects of COVID-19 on Rural Households in India”  
*Joint work with ID Insight and the World Bank, 2020. [Link](#).*

## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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<i>Cornell Conference on Development Economics and Law. Cornell University.</i>	2024
<i>5th Society for Gender and Family Economics Meeting. Insper, Brazil.</i>	2024
<i>Pacific Conference for Development Economics. CEGA &amp; University of San Francisco.</i>	2022
<i>Applied Development Economics Conference. Lahore School of Economics.</i>	2021
<i>Discrimination and Diversity Workshop. University of East Anglia.</i>	2021
<i>Winter School. Delhi School of Economics.</i>	2020

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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<b>STEG Large Research Grant:</b>	2021–2023
<i>With Sam Asher, Rebecca Cai and Paul Novosad.</i>	
<b>World Bank South Asia:</b>	2022–2023
Determinants of Intergenerational Mobility in India	
<i>With Sam Asher and Paul Novosad.</i>	
<b>Indo–Swiss Joint Research Program:</b>	2022–2023
Big Data for Justice Research in India	
<i>With Elliott Ash, Sam Asher, Aparna Chandra, Mrinal Satish and Paul Novosad.</i>	

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>Development Data Lab</b> , Washington DC & New Delhi (India)	2020–2023
<i>India Director (2021–2023); Predoctoral Research Associate (2020–2021)</i>	
<b>Evidence Action</b> , Washington DC	2019
<i>Beta Incubator: Graduate Summer Intern</i>	
<b>J-PAL South Asia</b> , Bhopal, New Delhi & Chennai (India)	2016–2018
<i>Research Associate on education-focused Randomized Control Trials.</i>	

## OTHER

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*Citizenship:* India. *Birthplace:* Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. *Languages:* English, Hindi, Bengali.  
*Interests:* Hindustani Classical Music, Kathak.