

Ahmed Chaudhry

Doctoral Candidate
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University of Oklahoma
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Education

Ph.D. Economics (Expected May 2024)
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Chair: Dr. Firat Demir

M.Phil. in Applied Economics (2017)
Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics (2015)
Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Fields

Political Economy, Economic Development, Public Economics, Applied Economics

Teaching Experience

- Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Summer 2023).
- Principles of Macroeconomics, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Winter 2021, 2022 [asynchronous online], Summer 2022 [x2]).
- Principles of Microeconomics, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Summer 2021, Spring 2023).
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2019 – Spring 2021; Spring 2023).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. “Political competition and economic policy: empirical evidence from Pakistan”. *Economics*, 13(1), 20190001. <https://doi.org/10.5018/economics-ejournal.ja.2019-1> (with U. Mazhar).

Papers Under Review

1. “Does Flu Vaccination Affect Wages? State-Level Evidence from the US” (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, and J. Zhao).
2. “Effects of CDC Recommendation on HPV Vaccine Uptake 2010 – 2015” (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, J. Zhao, and K. Smith).
3. “How Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy: Evidence from the US States”.

Working Papers

1. “The Effect of Political Ideology on Productive Capabilities”.
2. “When One Cannot Live Without the Other: The Interrelationship Between Political Ideology, IMF Program, and Conditionality”.

Work in Progress

1. Effect of Campaign Contribution Laws on State-Level Economic Development Incentives.
2. Impact of Political Ideology on (De)Militarization (with A. Mayberry).
3. Covid-19 and Food Insecurity in Pakistan.

Unpublished Manuscripts

1. How Socio-Economic Conditions Affect Voting Turnouts in Pakistan? A District-Level Analysis (with U. Mazhar & M. Khan)
2. Productive Capabilities and Economic Development: A Case for Industrial Diversification in Pakistan (with N. Ishtiaq)

Ph.D. Dissertation

Title: Three Essays in Political Economy and Policy

Abstract (Essay 1): The first essay of my dissertation is titled “How Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy? Evidence from the US States”. The US political system is highly unequal as policy preferences of high-income citizens are often prioritized compared to those of low-income groups. Therefore, it is widely believed that interest groups – corporations, PACs, and labor unions – employ campaign contributions as a bargaining tool to obtain access, favor, or vote by political candidates. Evidence shows that restricting money in politics via stricter campaign contribution laws can

reduce the bargaining power of interest groups over candidates and increase the say of low-income groups in policy matters. Therefore, the effect of stricter contribution laws should also manifest as a shift towards relatively pro-welfare policies. This chapter analyzes the relationship between stricter campaign contribution laws and pro-welfare policy across the state-wide legislative races from 1980 to 2018, exploiting the heterogeneity of laws across the US states. The legislative power of state representatives on minimum wage and earned income tax credit policies makes them a good proxy of a state’s welfare policy; alternative welfare policy proxies, including the number of Medicare recipients and percentage of uninsured children, are also employed. The empirical results from the two-way fixed-effects model and the interactive fixed-effects counterfactual estimator indicate that stricter campaign contribution laws lead to higher minimum wage at the state level. Not as strong, but the estimates also suggest that more stringent contribution laws in a state result in a relatively generous EITC rate as a percentage of the federal rate. The effect of stricter laws on welfare policy generosity is also evident when alternative state welfare policy proxies are used.

Abstract (Essay 2): This essay is titled “When One Cannot Live Without the Other: The Interrelationship Between Political Ideology, IMF Program, and Conditionality”. It explores the effect of the incumbent political ideology on opting into an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan program and conditions and, in turn, the effect of an IMF program and conditions on a shift in political ideology as measured by government changes for approximately 150 countries from 198 to 2014. The political ideology is defined as an interventionist left-wing or a market-oriented right-wing. The IMF closely follows the neoclassical school of economic thinking, which strongly advocates for free and competitive markets instead of a development policy based on state interventionism to foster economic growth. Literature shows that domestic and international politics play a central role in determining the IMF loan and conditions. Ipso facto, we can anticipate that IMF program participation and conditionalities also affect the domestic political economy regarding political ideology changes in a country. However, no previous study has analyzed the cyclical relationship between political ideology and IMF program and conditions. Using an instrumental variable approach to cater to the endogeneity of the IMF program and conditions, the results show that compared to right-wing governments; left-wing governments are less likely to opt for an IMF loan; however, they also face fewer conditions. Post-IMF program presence, more IMF conditions also decrease the probability of left-wing governments, and vice versa.

Abstract (Essay 3): The third chapter is titled “The Effect of Political Ideology on Productive Capabilities?”. The ideology of political parties can determine the policy trajectory of a country, thereby affecting economic growth. This chapter analyzes the effect of partisan policy preferences or ideology of political parties on productive capabilities across a panel of 140 countries from 1962 to 2019. An essential determinant of the long-run economic development of a country is its productive capabilities: the ability of an economy to produce and export a wide variety of highly sophisticated and high-technology-intensive products as measured by the skill-intensity indices. The literature provides mixed findings on the effect of the left-right ideology on economic performance. At the same time, the literature focusing on comparative economic systems is also divided on whether free-market-oriented policies or state interventionism is better for development. Therefore, the third chapter focuses on the effect of political ideology on productive capabilities. The initial results suggest that neither a right nor a left-wing government affects a country’s productive capabilities.

Conference Presentations

- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 60th Annual Meeting [x2] (Oct 2023)
- Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Meeting (Feb 2023).
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 92nd Annual Meeting (Nov 2022).
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 59th Annual Meeting (Oct 2022).
- OU Ph.D. Economics Conference (OPEC), Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (May 2022, 2023).
- Pakistan Society of Development Economics Annual Meeting, Islamabad, Pakistan (Dec 2017, Dec 2018).

Academic Awards & Grants

- Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences (DFCAS) Dissertation Finishing Fellowship (Fall 2023).
- Graduate Student Senate Conference Travel Grant, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2022, Spring 2023).
- Robberson Conference Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of Oklahoma (2022).
- Travel Assistance Program (TAP), Dodge College of Arts & Sciences, University of Oklahoma (2022).
- Chong Liew Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2021).
- Chong Liew Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2020).
- Summa Cum Laude, Forman Christian College University, Lahore (2017).
- Vice Rector’s List, Forman Christian College University, Lahore (2015-17).

Professional Services

- Graduate student member of the faculty search committee for assistant professor (macro/international economics) position (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024).
- Referee for the Pakistan Journal of Criminology [x1].

References

Prof. Firat Demir Professor of Economics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73072. Email: fdemir@ou.edu	Prof. Cynthia Rogers Professor of Economics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73072. Email: crogers@ou.edu	Prof. Pallab Ghosh Associate Professor of Economics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73072. Email: pallab.ghosh@ou.edu
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