

Ahmed Chaudhry
Assistant Professor
Harland C. Stonecipher School of Business
East Central University
Email: achaudhry@ecok.edu
Website: <https://ahmedchaudhryy.github.io/>

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor (2024 – Present)
East Central University, Ada, OK

Education

Ph.D. Economics (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, International Economics, Public Economics, Applied Macroeconomics

Teaching Experience

East Central University

- Principles of Macroeconomics (Fall 2024)
- Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2024)
- Business and Economics Statistics (Fall 2024)
- Commercial Banking Management (Fall 2024)

University of Oklahoma

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Political competition and economic policy: empirical evidence from Pakistan. *Economics*, 13(1), 20190001 (with U. Mazhar). [Link](#)
2. Effects of CDC Recommendation on Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Uptake, 2010 – 2015. *Frontiers in Public Health* (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, J. Zhao, and K. Smith). [Link](#)

Papers Under Review

1. Do Limits to Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy? Evidence from the US States.
2. The Nexus Between Political Ideology and IMF Interventions: A Reciprocal Relationship (with F. Demir).
3. The Effects of Political Ideology on Export Sophistication and Productive Capabilities (with F. Demir).
4. Does Flu Vaccination Affect Wages? State-Level Evidence from the US (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, and J. Zhao).

Working Papers

1. Who Rules the World? The Myth of Multipolarity and Leadership in International Organizations (with F. Demir O. Dahi, R. Diaz, V. Jackson, K. Young).

Work in Progress

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

Conference Presentations

- Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Meeting (2023, 2024)
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) Annual Meeting (2022, 2023 [x2], 2024 [forthcoming])
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting (2022)
- OU Ph.D. Economics Conference (OPEC), Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2022, 2023)
- Pakistan Society of Development Economics Annual Meeting, Islamabad, Pakistan (2017, 2018)

Academic Awards & Grants

- Best Graduate Student Paper Award at MVEA Annual Meeting (2023)
- Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Finishing Fellowship (Fall 2023)
- Graduate Student Senate Conference Travel Grant, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
- Robberson Conference Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of Oklahoma (2022, 2024)
- Travel Assistance Program, Dodge College of Arts & Sciences, University of Oklahoma (2022, 2024)
- Chong Liew Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2020, 2021)
- Vice Rector’s List, Forman Christian College University, Lahore (2015-17)

Professional Services

- Member of departmental committee for AACSB accreditation, East Central University (Fall 2024).
- Graduate student member of Economics Job Search Committee, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024).
- Referee for the Pakistan Journal of Criminology.
- Referee for Asian Research Journal of Arts & Social Sciences.

References

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| Prof. Firat Demir | Prof. Cynthia Rogers | Prof. Pallab Ghosh | Prof. Mu-Jeung Yang |
| Professor | Professor | Associate Professor | Assistant Professor |
| Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics | Department of Economics |
| University of Oklahoma | University of Oklahoma | University of Oklahoma | University of Oklahoma |
| Norman, OK 73072 | Norman, OK 73072 | Norman, OK 73072 | Norman, OK 73072 |
| fdemir@ou.edu | mjyang@ou.edu | pallab.ghosh@ou.edu | mjyang@ou.edu |

Ph.D. Dissertation Abstract

Title: Three Essays in Political Economy and Policy

Abstract (Essay 1): “Do Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy? Evidence from the US States.” This chapter analyzes the relationship between stricter campaign contribution laws and pro-welfare policy across the state-wide legislative races from 1980 to 2018. I exploit the heterogeneity of laws across the US states. The political system in the US is highly unequal as policy preferences of high-income citizens are often prioritized compared to those of low-income groups. Interest groups – corporations, PACs, and labor unions – employ campaign contributions as a bargaining tool to obtain the legislative policy effort of 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 voice of low-income groups in policy matters. Therefore, stricter contribution laws should shift policy in a relatively pro-welfare direction. The state-level minimum wage and earned income tax credit policies are used as proxies of a state’s welfare policy; alternative welfare policy proxies, including the number of Medicare recipients and percentage of uninsured children, are also employed for robustness check purposes. 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. 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. My results are important for understanding the variation in state policies addressing people with low incomes.

Abstract (Essay 2): “The Nexus Between Political Ideology and IMF Interventions: A Reciprocal Relationship.” In this paper, I examine three questions. First, we explore how governments’ economic ideology, specifically left-wing, centrist, and right-wing partisanship, influences their decisions to participate in International Monetary Fund (IMF) programs. Second, we study how this partisanship affects the depth and breadth of IMF program conditions. Third, we examine how IMF programs and conditionality requirements influence the likelihood of political parties from the left-, right-, or centrist ideologies remaining in or coming into power. The dataset consists of approximately 150 countries from 1980 to 2018. The political ideology is defined as an interventionist left-wing or a market-oriented right-wing. There is some evidence that left-wing governments are less likely to opt for an IMF loan and that governments with a higher negotiating power receive fewer conditions. The novelty of this paper is that the cyclical relationship between political ideology and IMF programs and conditions has never been comprehensively analyzed before, particularly the effect of the IMFⁱ on political ideology changes. Employing an instrumental variable approach to address the endogeneity of IMF programs and conditions, we find that left-wing governments are less likely to enter IMF programs, while the opposite is true for right-wing governments, with no significant effect observed for centrist governments. Furthermore, left-wing governments likely face fewer conditionality requirements, whereas right-wing governments face more conditions. Lastly, we demonstrate that a higher burden of conditionality requirements reduces the chances of left-wing or centrist parties staying in or gaining office while boosting the likelihood for right-wing parties.

Abstract (Essay 3): “The Effect of Political Ideology on Export Sophistication and Productive Capabilities.” 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. Productive capabilities and export sophistication reflect the ability of an economy to produce and export a wide variety of sophisticated products. It is a strong determinant of long-run economic growth and development. The ideology of incumbent political parties can determine a country’s policy trajectory, thereby affecting the growth process. The literature provides mixed findings on the effect of the left-right ideology on economic performance. Based on the two-stage least-squares instrumental variables method, our empirical analysis suggests a significantly negative effect of right-wing governments and a significantly positive effect for centrist governments on the productive capabilities of a country. We do not find any effect of left-wing governments.