

Amrutha Manjunath

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Pennsylvania State University, 2019-2025 (expected)

Dissertation Committee: Fernando Parro (Chair), Kala Krishna, James Tybout, Jingting Fan

B.A. (Honours) in Economics and Mathematics, Ashoka University, 2015-2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Spatial Economics, Development Economics; *Secondary:* International Trade, Labor Economics

WORKING PAPERS

[1] **Language Barriers, Internal Migration, and Labor Markets in General Equilibrium (JMP)**

Abstract: This paper studies how language barriers impact internal migration, the skill premium, and aggregate welfare using rich microdata from India applied to a quantitative spatial general equilibrium framework. I first document four empirical facts: (1) workers migrate less often to locations where they face high language barriers; (2) migrants with high language barriers are employed less often in speaking-intensive occupations; (3) migrants with high language barriers get a wage premium; and (4) these patterns are strongest for unskilled workers. To explain these facts, I then develop and estimate a static migration model in which heterogeneous workers sort across occupations and locations by skill and language, with wages accounting for worker selection and adjusting in general equilibrium. I show through the lens of the model how language barriers, by increasing worker sorting and selection, significantly obstruct internal migration, augment skill premium, and reduce aggregate welfare. As economies shift towards services, language barriers increasingly impede aggregate gains due to the rising prevalence of speaking-intensive occupations. In the absence of language barriers—relative to observed changes—structural change would have increased aggregate welfare by 1.9 percent. Finally, I calibrate costs of both program provision and learning languages to evaluate potential benefits of language programs for unskilled migrants. Using the calibrated model, I argue that welfare benefits of implementing language programs would outweigh costs.

Presentations: [2024] Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Brownbag, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Brownbag, 13th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Copenhagen, Denmark), Trade and Development Brownbag (PSU);

[2023] Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia PFMAP Brownbag, European Trade Study Group (Surrey, UK), Canadian Economics Association (Winnipeg, Canada), Midwest Economics Association (Cleveland), Trade and Development Brownbag (PSU), Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (PSU)

[2] **Criminal Politicians, Political Parties, and Selection**

Presentations: [2023] International Economic Association World Congress (Medellin, Colombia);

[2022] Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI Delhi, India), Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Chicago), Trade and Development Brownbag (PSU), Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (PSU)

WORK IN PROGRESS

[3] **Climate Uncertainty and Temporary Migration**, with Tim Dobermann and Yinong Tan

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Co-authored work with Kala Krishna and research team (2023-present) to create the first Indian firm-level international trade transaction data by matching Bill of Lading to Prowess. Future projects in progress.
- CSWEP-AEA Summer Economics Fellowship, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, 2024
- Philadelphia Fed Mentoring & Advancing PhDs Program, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2023
Mentor: Enghin Atalay
- Research Assistant, Pennsylvania State University
 - Fernando Parro, 2023; Shoumitro Chatterjee, 2021; Joris Pinkse, 2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Graduate Economics Scholarship, Pennsylvania State University 2019-2025
- RGSO Dissertation Award (\$5000), Pennsylvania State University, 2023
- Dean's List, Ashoka University, 2015–2019
- Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, India, 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Lecturer, Pennsylvania State University
 - Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy, 2022
- Teaching Assistant, Pennsylvania State University
 - Migration and Development, 2022-2024
 - Political Economy, 2022
 - Introductory & Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, 2019-2021
 - Statistical Foundations for Econometrics, 2020

SOFTWARE AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, MATLAB

Languages: English (native), Kannada (native), Hindi (advanced)

REFERENCES

Fernando Parro (Chair)

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