

Shreya Bhattacharya

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EDUCATION University of Houston, Ph.D., Economics 2020 (expected)
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India, M.Phil., Development Economics, 2014
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, India, M.A., Economics, 2012
Delhi University, B.A.(Hons), Economics, 2010

FIELDS OF INTEREST Development Economics, Urban Economics, Political Economy

WORKS IN PROGRESS **Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India [Job Market Paper]**

Abstract: I examine the effect of intercaste interaction on attitudes towards other groups. I assemble a unique individual level dataset from public housing in the city of Pune, India, from a survey that I designed and administered, and combine this with administrative level data from the public housing. I exploit variation in caste identity of neighbors among intended beneficiary households, resulting from random assignment *within* units in the public housing. I find evidence supporting the contact hypothesis. Exposure to increased caste diversity leads to a significant increase in trust in members of another caste, greater tolerance for intercaste marriage, and belief that caste injustice has increased. There is an additional increase in support for intercaste marriage if the individual is exposed to caste diversity for a longer period of time.

Technology in Agriculture and Religious Conflict

Abstract: I examine the effect of the Green Revolution on religious riots in India between 1957 and 1985. Applying an instrumental variable strategy in a district level panel dataset, I find that riots are longer after the Green Revolution is introduced, with a 1% increase in the duration of a riot. Employing alternative measures of riot intensity and incidence, I find suggestive evidence of an overall increase in religious conflict after the introduction of mechanization via the Green Revolution. I find that the Green Revolution reduced demand for labor in agriculture. This is consistent with mechanization reducing the opportunity cost of engaging in conflict. There is suggestive evidence to show that religious violence reduces in years when a non polarizing party is in power at the state level. Additional results indicate the mitigation of the effects of the Green Revolution on conflict in a good rainfall year and an increase in the intensity of conflict in districts in north India. My findings shed light on the unintended consequences of technology in agriculture as well as the mechanisms through which this technology influences ethnic conflict.

TEACHING AND
RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

- *Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate), University of Houston, Fall 2019
- *Teaching Assistant*, Behavioral Economics (Undergraduate), University of Houston, Fall 2018
- *Instructor*, Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate), University of Houston, Summer 2019, Spring 2019, Summer 2018, Fall 2017
- *Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Economic Data Analysis (Undergraduate), University of Houston, Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015
- *Assistant Professor*, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, India, July 2014-June 2015
- *Research Assistant*, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India, July 2012-June 2014
- *Intern*, Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, June-July 2011

FIELDWORK
EXPERIENCE

- Assistance in experiment design for ‘The Problem Of Applicant Assignment For Kenya’s G-United Program’, with Evidence Action, Willa Friedman, Guthrie Gray-Lobe and Michael Kremer (*August-September 2019*)
- Designed survey questionnaires and administered a survey to 692 adults in two public housing sites in Pune, India (*July-September 2018*)
- Designed survey questionnaire and administered a survey to 320 adults in two public housing sites in Pune, India (*December 2013-January 2014*)

FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS

- Best Presentation by Graduate Student, Graduate Workshop, University of Houston, May 2019
- Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant, November 2018
- UNU WIDER Visiting PhD Fellowship, September-November 2018
- Hayek Fund for Scholars, Institute of Humane Studies (*\$ 1200*), June 2018
- Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston, 2015-Present
- Research Scholarship, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India
- UGC NET Lectureship Eligibility Examination, India, June 2012

PRESENTATIONS

Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes

- APPAM Fall Research Conference, Denver, Colorado (*scheduled*)
- Southern Economic Association Meeting, Ft Lauderdale, Florida (*scheduled*)
- Urban Economics Association Meetings, Philadelphia (*scheduled*)
- Empirical Microeconomics Seminar, University of Houston
- Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Houston, Texas
- The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya
- Young Economists Symposium, Columbia University, New York
- Graduate Workshop, University of Houston
- APPAM Regional Student Conference, Washington DC

- WIDER Seminar Series, UNU WIDER, Helsinki, Finland

Technology in Agriculture and Religious Conflict

- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago
- Graduate Research Showcase, University of Houston
- Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India
- Annual Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network, Universidad EAFIT, Medellin, Colombia
- Graduate Workshop, University of Houston

DISCUSSANT ACTIVITIES	Young Economists Symposium, Urban Economics Association	
COMPUTER SKILLS	Stata, R, MATLAB, Microsoft Office, L ^A T _E X, SurveyCTO	
AFFILIATIONS	American Economic Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Economic Association	
LANGUAGES	English (Proficient), Hindi (Native), Bengali (Native), Marathi (Elementary)	
CITIZENSHIP / VISA	India/F1 Visa	
REFERENCES	Willa Friedman Assistant Professor Department of Economics University of Houston E-mail: whfriedman@uh.edu	Aimee Chin Professor Department of Economics University of Houston E-mail: achin@uh.edu
	Gergely Ujhelyi Associate Professor Department of Economics University of Houston E-mail: gujhelyi@uh.edu	Pia Rattenhuber Research Fellow UNU WIDER Helsinki, Finland Email: rattenhuber@wider.unu.edu