

Shreya Bhattacharya

Department of Economics
University of Houston
234 McElhinney Hall
Houston, TX 77204-5019

E-mail: sbhatta7@central.uh.edu
Web: <http://sites.google.com/view/shreyabeconomics/>
Mobile: 832-398-6798

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
Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, B.A.(Hons), Economics, 2010

FIELDS OF INTEREST Development Economics, Urban Economics, Political Economy
Dissertation Committee: Willa Friedman (*Chair*), Aimee Chin, Gergely Ujhelyi

WORKING PAPERS *Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India*
[Job Market Paper]

Abstract: The contact hypothesis posits that having diverse neighbors may reduce one's intergroup prejudice. This hypothesis is difficult to test, since individuals self-select into neighborhoods. Using a slum relocation program in India that randomly assigned neighbors, I examine the effects of exposure to other caste neighbors on trust and attitudes towards members of other castes. Combining administrative data on housing assignment with original survey data on attitudes, I find evidence corroborating the contact hypothesis. Exposure to more neighbors of other castes increases inter caste trust, support for inter caste marriage, and the belief that caste injustice is growing. I explore the role of friendships in facilitating these favorable attitudes. The findings shed light on the positive effects of exposure to diverse social groups through close proximity in neighborhoods.

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. My findings shed light on the unintended consequences of technology in agriculture as well as the mechanisms through which this technology influences ethnic conflict.

WORK IN PROGRESS *School's out, Lunch's out? The Effect of Summer Break on Student's Body Size* (with Claire Kang)

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 *Building State Capacity and National Unity with Market Design* (**Nairobi, Kenya, August-September 2019**)
Principal Investigators: Willa Friedman, Guthrie Gray-Lobe and Michael Kremer
- Survey design and data collection for *Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India* (**Pune, India, July-September 2018**)

FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS

- Best Presentation by Graduate Student, Graduate Workshop, University of Houston, May 2019
- Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant (\$750), 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: Evidence from India**

- Southern Economic Association Meeting, Ft Lauderdale, Florida, 2019 (*scheduled*)
- APPAM Fall Research Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2019
- Urban Economics Association Meetings, Philadelphia, 2019
- Empirical Microeconomics Seminar, University of Houston, 2019
- STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (*Poster*), Houston, Texas, 2019
- The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya, 2019

- Young Economists Symposium, Columbia University, New York, 2019
- Graduate Workshop, University of Houston, 2019
- APPAM Regional Student Conference, Washington DC, 2019
- WIDER Seminar Series, UNU WIDER, Helsinki, Finland, 2018

Technology in Agriculture and Religious Conflict

- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2019
- Graduate Research Showcase (*Poster*), University of Houston, 2019
- Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India, 2018
- Annual Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network, Universidad EAFIT, Medellin, Colombia, 2018
- Graduate Workshop, University of Houston, 2018

DISCUSSANT ACTIVITIES	Young Economists Symposium, Urban Economics Association	
COMPUTER SKILLS	Stata, R, MATLAB, Microsoft Office, L ^A T _E X, ArcGIS, SurveyCTO	
AFFILIATIONS	American Economic Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	
LANGUAGES	English (Proficient), Hindi (Native), Bengali (Native), Marathi (Elementary)	
CITIZENSHIP / VISA	India/F1 Visa	
REFERENCES	Willa Friedman (<i>Chair</i>) 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	Ruxandra Prodan Boul (Teaching) Instructional Associate Professor Department of Economics University of Houston Email: rprodan@uh.edu