

Shreya Bhattacharya

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WORK EXPERIENCE *Economist*, Amazon, Seattle, WA, August 2020-Present
Assistant Professor, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, India, July 2014-June 2015
Intern, Department of Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, June-July 2011

EDUCATION • University of Houston, Ph.D., Economics, 2020
 Dissertation Title: *Essays on Identity and Social Interactions*
 Committee: Willa Friedman (*Chair*), Aimee Chin, Gergely Ujhelyi

 • 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

RESEARCH INTERESTS Development, Urban and Labor Economics, Political Economy, Public Policy

WORKING PAPERS *Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India*
(WIDER Working Paper 42/2021)

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.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- Assistance in RCT 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
 - Assisted with survey design for follow up cohort
 - Identified treatment and control groups
 - Worked on issues in data collection, in collaboration with Evidence Action
 - Wrote IRB applications for modifications
- Survey design and data collection for *Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India (Pune, India, July-September 2018)*
 - Designed survey questionnaires
 - Wrote IRB protocol and incorporated modifications
 - Obtained grant from Institute of Humane Studies (\$1200)
 - Training of enumerators and pilot surveys undertaken on the field
 - Engagement with Pune Municipal Corporation officials on program details
 - Data collection from 692 adults and qualitative surveys administered
 - Analyzed data collected from the field

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- *Research Assistant, Building State Capacity and National Unity with Market Design* for PI's Willa Friedman, Gray Guthrie-Lobe and Michael Kremer
- *Research Assistant, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India, July 2012-June 2014*

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, SQL, L^AT_EX, ArcGIS, SurveyCTO

LANGUAGES

Proficient: English
Native: Hindi, Bengali
Elementary: Mandarin, Marathi

FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS

- Best Presentation by Graduate Student, Graduate Workshop, University of Houston, May 2019
- Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant (\$750), November 2018
- United Nations University World Institute of Development Research (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, 2012-2014

PRESENTATIONS

- **Intergroup Contact and its Effects on Discriminatory Attitudes: Evidence from India**
 - Midwest International Economic Development Conference, 2020 (*virtual due to COVID-19*)
 - Southern Economic Association Meeting, Ft Lauderdale, Florida, 2019
 - APPAM Fall Research Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2019
 - Urban Economics Association Meetings, Philadelphia, 2019
 - The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Nairobi, Kenya, 2019
 - WIDER Seminar Series, UNU WIDER, Helsinki, Finland, 2018
- **Technology in Agriculture and Religious Conflict**
 - Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 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

CITIZENSHIP /
VISA

India/F1 Visa

REFERENCES

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