

NISHA RAI

PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

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EDUCATION

- Georgetown University**, Washington, DC *2010 – Present*
Ph.D. in Economics (expected May 2015)
M.A. in Economics (February 2012)
- University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, VA *2007*
B.A. in Economics with High Distinction
Minor in Mathematics
- University of Pittsburgh**, Semester at Sea Study Abroad *Spring 2005*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- The World Bank**, Washington, DC, Research Assistant *Summers 2012 – 2014*
 - Education Department focusing on East and Southern Africa (*Summers 2013 and 2014*)
 - Development Research Group (*Summers 2012 and 2013*)
- Analysis Group, Inc.**, Washington, DC, Senior Analyst *2007 – 2010*
 - Led cases and worked in teams to apply economic theory to research, model, and analyze highly complex, sensitive, and critical economic issues for litigation and strategy matters

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development & Evaluation**
 - Nairobi and Vihiga, Kenya; Research Project Manager *Jul. – Dec. 2012*
 - Vihiga, Kenya; Principal Investigator *May – Jun. 2013*
- Georgetown University**, Washington, DC, Instructor: International Trade *Summer 2013*
- Georgetown University**, Washington, DC, Teaching Assistant *2011 – Present*
 - Principles of Microeconomics (*Fall 2011; Spring 2012 – Head TA; Spring 2013*)
 - Development Economics: Micro and Policy Issues (*Fall 2014*)
 - Georgetown Economics TA Training Instructor (*Fall 2014*)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Field: Economic Development
Other Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Health, and Education

Research in Progress:

- Breaking with Tradition: Integrating Traditional Birth Attendants with Formal Clinics in Western Kenya
- Labor Leeway: Traditional Birth Attendants' Responses to a Clinic Voucher Program
- Connecting Jobs with Job-Seekers: The Role of Matching and Information Externalities in Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa, joint with Tazeen Fasih and Shwetlena Sabarwal

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Georgetown Graduate School Merit-Based Stipend and Tuition Scholarship (2010 – Present)
- Georgetown Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (Spring 2014; Fall 2014)
- Georgetown Global Health Initiative Grant (co-researcher) (2013)
- Georgetown Graduate School Dissertation Research Travel Grant recipient (2013)
- Honorable Mention NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (2010)
- University of Virginia Distinguished Majors Program (2006 – 2007)
- University of Virginia Echols Scholar (2004 – 2007)

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Southern Economics Association Graduate Student Session; selected to represent Georgetown University's Economics Department (*upcoming Nov. 2014*)
- Georgetown MSPP-Mortara Development Seminar (Sept. 2014)
- Georgetown Economics Department Seminar (Sept. 2014)
- Washington Area Development Economics Symposium (Apr. 2014)
- Midwest Economics Association Annual Meetings (Mar. 2014)
- Economics Graduate Student Organization Seminar, Georgetown University (Mar. 2014 and Apr. 2013)

SKILLS

- Stata • LaTeX • Microsoft Office (Excel, Powerpoint, Word) • Mobenzi Researcher (Survey Software)
- Factiva • Bloomberg • LexisNexis Thomson ONE

RESEARCH PAPER ABSTRACTS

JOB MARKET PAPER:**Breaking with Tradition: Integrating Traditional Birth Attendants with Formal Clinics in Western Kenya**

For a summary of highlights, please see my blogpost on the World Bank's Development Impact Blog

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/mediating-maternal-health-traditional-birth-attendants-intermediaries-western-kenya-guest-post-nisha>

The majority of women in rural Kenya fail to meet recommendations for antenatal care (ANC) timing and use. This paper examines the extent to which locally informed intermediaries, with potentially opposed motivations, can be exploited and provided with incentives to change the health-seeking behavior of pregnant women in rural Kenya. I use a randomized controlled trial to evaluate an incentive program and its effect on ANC visit attendance. Village-level randomization was performed, so that a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) in a treatment village would receive monetary incentives for encouraging pregnant women to seek prenatal care at a health facility. Intent-to-treat effects, using administrative visit data, suggest that living in a TBA treatment village increases the likelihood of a woman attending the recommended number of ANC visits by 21 percent.

Labor Leeway: Traditional Birth Attendants' Responses to a Clinic Voucher Program

In the market for pregnancy services in Western Kenya, competition exists between formal and informal providers of care. Doctors and nurses at formal health facilities compete with Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), who provide both pre-delivery and delivery services locally, within the village. This paper examines TBAs' responses to a maternal health randomized controlled trial which gave pregnant women vouchers for maternity care at the health facilities, exogenously increasing demand for formal delivery services. Exploiting village level variation in the distribution of vouchers, I find that in larger villages, higher proportions of women in a village with a voucher result in lower prices and higher quantities of TBA-provided pre-delivery services. These results suggest that in larger villages, TBAs shift their allocation of labor away from leisure or other activities to increase their supply of pre-delivery services.

REFERENCES

Professor William Jack (Chair)

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Professor James Habyarimana (Committee Member)

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