

# *Ishita Ahmed*

PhD Candidate. Economics  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## *Research Interests*

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Economics of Education, Public Policy, Labor Economics, Gender and Economic Development, Demography

## *Education*

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<b>PhD in Economics</b> <i>University of Nebraska-Lincoln</i> <i>Advisor: Professors John. E. Anderson</i>	<i>Aug 2018-May 2024 (Expected)</i>
<b>MA in Economics</b> <i>University of Calgary</i>	<i>2015-2016</i>
<b>MSS in Economics</b> <i>University of Dhaka</i>	<i>2008-2009</i>
<b>BSS in Economics</b> <i>University of Dhaka</i>	<i>2004-2008</i>

## *Job Market Paper*

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### **The Impact of School Entry Age on Student Achievement: Evidence from Nebraska**

Using administrative data with exact date of birth from the Nebraska Department of Education, I assess the impact of waiting an additional year to start kindergarten on socio-economic achievement gap. Exploiting a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, I find a positive effect of waiting on test scores. However, the positive impact diminishes over time, and the diminishing effect is more pronounced for children from disadvantaged households. This suggests that the decision to delay kindergarten entry may worsen the socioeconomic achievement gap. However, using an exogenous change in the kindergarten entry policy in Nebraska, I find no impact of moving the kindergarten cutoff earlier on the achievement gap. A reduction in the practice of redshirting might drive that result.

## *Working Papers*

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### **Maternal Labor Supply and Change in Kindergarten Cutoff**

This study investigates the impact of kindergarten enrollment eligibility on maternal labor market outcomes, focusing specifically on mothers with five year old children. Using a staggered triple difference model, I exploit variation in enrollment eligibility across children based on their birth quarter, state of residence, and the year of kindergarten enrollment. Using data from the American Community Survey (ACS), I find a decrease in labor supply among single mothers with a youngest child aged five, when the kindergarten eligibility of these children is impacted by the policy reform. For other groups of mothers, I could not find any significant impact.

### **English Proficiency and Occupational Sorting of U.S. Childhood Immigrants**

Does English proficiency affect the labor market outcomes of US childhood immigrants? Do the outcomes vary across the gender and life-cycle? To explore these questions, I use Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) USA, the individual level public database. I explore how the English proficiency level of US childhood immigrants influences their preferences for jobs. Due to the concern for potential endogeneity of English proficiency, I have undertaken instrumental variable approach based on the critical period hypothesis of language acquisition. Following the IV approach adopted by previous literature, I find that an increase in English proficiency makes the immigrants less likely to choose

routine intensive jobs and more likely to choose non-routine analytic or social skill-intensive jobs. The results exhibit some degree of heterogeneity by gender and age-groups, especially up to 40.

## *Conferences*

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Midwest Economics Association Conference (Scheduled), AEEP 49th Annual Conference (Scheduled) 2024

Midwest Economics Association Conference, Western Economics Association Conference, Second UNL Kansas K-State Economic Research Day, APPAM Fall Research Conference 2023

Southern Economics Association Conference 2022

## *Training and Workshops*

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Health Mentoring Workshop hosted by CSWEP and AEA 2021

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM): Basics and Applications organized by Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka 2012

‘Proposal Writing Workshop’ organized by SANDEE and ERG in Bangladesh 2011

ARTNeT/ ESCAP/ UNDP Workshop on ‘Trade and Gender Linkages’ in Bangkok, Thailand 2010

## *Honors and scholarships*

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McConnell Fellowship 2023–2024

Ogle Fellowship 2018-2019 & 2021-2024

Othmer Fellowship 2019–2021

Government of Bangladesh Merit-based Scholarship 2004–2009

## *Research experience*

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Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Brenden Timpe 2020–2023  
*Reviewed research literature, Cleaned & manipulated large data set, Conducted descriptive analysis of data & created data visualizations*

Human Capital Premium 2019-2020  
*Worked as a team member in the Bureau of Business Research of UNL study*

Liberalising Health Services under the Proposed SAARC Framework Agreement on Trade in Services (SAFAS) 2010-2011

*Worked as a team member in the CPD-SACEPS study*  
 Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience in Bangladesh 2010-2011

*Worked as a team member in the CPD-ICRISAT Study*  
 Agricultural Trade between Bangladesh and India: An analysis of Trends and Trading Patterns 2010-2011

*Worked as a team member in the CPD-CMI Study*

**Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development**  
*Worked as a team member in the CPD (Centre for Policy Dialogue)*

2010

### *Teaching experience*

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Instructor, ECON:215: Statistics (UNL)	2022–2023
Teaching assistant, ECON: 917: Econometrics I (UNL)	Spring 2022
Teaching assistant, ECON: 417: Introductory Econometrics (UNL)	Fall 2021
Instructor, ECON:211: Principles of Macroeconomics (UNL)	Summer 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021
Teaching assistant, ECON: 409: Applied Public Policy (UNL)	Fall 2020
Teaching assistant, ECON: 211 (Hons): Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics (UNL)	Fall 2018
Faculty at Jagannath University, Bangladesh	2013–2018
Faculty at University of Barisal, Bangladesh	2011–2013

### *Technical Skills*

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Softwares      STATA, R, Microsoft Office, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

### *Service*

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Graduate Student Representative (UNL)	2023-2024
Undergrad Committee Representative (UNL)	2023-2024
Chair at Midwest Economics Association Conference	2023
Judge at McNair 2023 Summer Research Colloquium	2023
Community Curriculum Council (Lincoln Public School)	2022-2023
Micro Theory Search Committee (UNL)	2019
Departmental Student Advisor (University of Barisal, Bangladesh)	2012-2013

### *Professional memberships*

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American Economic Association (AEA), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Midwest Economics Association (MEA), Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUECAA), Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA)

### *Language proficiency*

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English (Fluent), Bengali (Native speaker), Hindi (Basic)

## *Miscellaneous*

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### **Special Sworn Status**

## *References*

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John E. Anderson (Chair)  
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
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