

Jijeebisha Bhattacharai

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Education

Binghamton University

PhD, Economics

Binghamton, NY

2021–2026 (Expected Graduation Date)

Ramapo College of New Jersey

BS, Finance

Mahwah, NJ

2016–2020

Research and Teaching Interests:

Economics of Gender; Development Economics; Labor Economics; Applied Microeconomics

Dissertation Committee: Ajinkya Keskar (chair), David Slichter, Sulagna Mookerjee

Research

Job Market Paper

- From Prohibition to Choice: The Impact of Abortion Legalization on Fertility and Child Investments in Nepal (PDF)

Abstract: We evaluate Nepal's 2002 abortion legalization to study how expanding reproductive autonomy changes fertility and early-life investments in a son-preferring society. Using a triple-difference design comparing girls and boys across firstborn-sex families before and after the reform, we find that the abortion legalization substantially reduced son-biased fertility stopping: the sibling size gap between firstborn-girl and firstborn-boy families fell by nearly three-fifths. At the same time, sex-selective abortion increased. A back-of-the-envelope calculation implies that roughly 1 in 75 girls is missing from post-reform birth cohorts. On investments, daughters in firstborn-girl families gained about two months of breastfeeding, closing most of the pre-existing deficit. This pattern is consistent with two channels: parents do less early weaning to hasten the next pregnancy, and a higher share of daughters who are born are more wanted and receive more investment. Overall, legal access to abortion reduced extra childbearing driven by son preference and improved spacing-linked investments for girls, while worsening gender imbalance at birth.

Working Paper

- Is the Mortality Gap Between Red and Blue States Caused by Government? *In Preparation for Submission*

Abstract: In the US, age-adjusted mortality rates are higher in “red” states, i.e., states with high support for the Republican Party. We ask whether this is attributable to state-level policies as opposed to confounding variables such as culture. Using a variety of empirical approaches, we find that state government explains between 0 and 20% of the mortality gap. Scaling this by the size of the (large) gap, red state policies increase mortality risk by 0-3% relative to blue state policies.

Works In Progress

- Gender Gap in Child Poverty: Evidence from India (with Ajinkya Keskar)

Abstract: We use a collective household model to structurally estimate individual-level consumption

for girl and boy children, separately, using household-level data. These estimates allow us to account for the unequal division of resources within the household and to measure poverty rates for girls and boys at the individual level, unlike standard poverty measures, which are measured at the household level. Our results indicate that girls are more likely to live in poverty compared to boys in India, and a significant fraction of poor girls in fact live in households that standard poverty measures would classify as non-poor.

Conference Acceptances and Presentations

- Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, November 2025 (scheduled)
- WeRise Conference, October 2025
- Lake Economics Development Workshop, April 2025
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, November 2024

Conference Attendance

- Teaching at a Teaching Intensive Institution, September 2024

Experience

Teaching Experience

Independent Instructor

- The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Summer 2025
- Statistical Methods, Summer 2024

Teaching Assistant

- Math Analysis for Economists, Fall 2025
- Information Economics, Fall 2025
- Microeconomics of Development, Spring 2025
- Data Analysis in Economics, Spring 2024, Fall 2024
- International Monetary Policy, Fall 2023
- Macroeconomic Theory, Spring 2023
- Microeconomic Theory, Fall 2022
- Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teacher Training

- Wicked Graduate Teaching Workshop, Fall 2024
- Scholarly Teaching, Fall 2023
- Harpur Program on Online Teaching Pedagogy, Spring 2023

Private Sector Experience

Objecutive, Inc.

Fort Lee, NJ

May 2019–Jul 2021

Financial Specialist

- Integrated new asset classes into the company's Portfolio Management System and helped developers understand the operation of unique instrument types.
- Managed teams of up to 4 specialists to troubleshoot and analyze system problems and resolve any system discrepancies.

Services

2022 – 2024: President of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

2022 – 2023: Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Binghamton University

Skills

Languages: Nepali (Native), English (Native/Bilingual), Hindi (Proficient)

Computer Skills: STATA, R, Python, SQL, L^AT_EX, EViews

References

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