

# Jijeebisha Bhattarai

Department of Economics, Binghamton University – 4400 Vestal Parkway East  
Binghamton, NY 13902

☎ (551) 262-2286 • ✉ jbhattacha1@binghamton.edu  
🌐 jijeebishabhattacharai.com • 🇳🇵 Citizenship: Nepal

## 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:

Family Economics; Gender; Development; 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 study whether expanding reproductive autonomy changes fertility and early-life investments in a son-prefering society, in the context of Nepal's 2002 abortion legalization. Using a triple-difference-in-differences 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 sibship-size gap between firstborn-girl and firstborn-boy families fell by nearly three-quarters. In terms of investments, daughters in firstborn-girl families gained about two months of breastfeeding, closing most of the pre-existing deficit, also consistent with reduced reliance on breastfeeding as a birth spacing tool. Effects on vaccination and under-five survival were limited, aligning with these inputs being less tied to fertility timing. Abortion access, therefore, relaxed fertility constraints and shifted investments on the birth spacing sensitive margin.

### 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:** Identifying the share of household resources allocated to children is challenging because

consumption data are typically measured at the household level, making it difficult to distinguish individual consumption, especially for shared goods. To address this, we leverage data on private assignable goods available for each child, enabling us to analyze boys and girls as distinct entities and estimate individual-level poverty rates. Using data from India, we examine how resource allocation differs between boys and girls across families with varying poverty levels. Our findings reveal that standard poverty indices underestimate the true extent of poverty among girls.

- When Parenthood Activates Gender Norms: Evidence from Same-Sex Adoption Reforms

#### 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

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### Teaching Experience.....

#### *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

## Services

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

**2022 – 2023:** Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Binghamton University

## Skills

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

**Computer Skills:** STATA (Advanced), R (Proficient), Python (Intermediate), SQL (Intermediate)

## References

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**Ajinkya Keskar**

Department of Economics  
Binghamton University

✉ akeskar@binghamton.edu

**Sulagna Mookerjee**

Department of Economics  
Binghamton University

✉ smookerj@binghamton.edu

**David Slichter**

Department of Economics  
Binghamton University

✉ slichter@binghamton.edu

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