

Jheelum Sarkar

Ph.D. Student • Economics
American University, Washington, DC, USA



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Summary

Applied microeconomist studying role of digital infrastructure, armed conflicts and climate change in shaping labor markets. Combines causal inference with large-survey and spatial data to produce policy-relevant research.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

- Fields: Labor, Gender and Digital Infrastructure
- Advisor: [Prof. Kara Reynolds](#)

Washington, DC, USA

Aug. 2022 - May 2027

M.A. in Economics

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Washington, DC, USA

Aug. 2022 - Aug. 2024

M.Phil. in International Trade and Development

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY (JNU)

- Thesis: *Welfare Effects of Extreme Climate Events on Mountain and Coastal Communities in India: A Case Study*
- Advisor: [Prof. Meeta K. Mehra](#)

New Delhi, India

Aug. 2020 - Jun. 2022

M.A. in Economics with Specialization in World Economy

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY (JNU)

- Project: *Short Run Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture in India*
- Advisor: [Prof. Sangeeta Bansal](#)

New Delhi, India

Aug. 2018 - Jul. 2020

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics

LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

- Thesis: *Structure of Employment in India*

Kolkata, India

Jul. 2015 - Jun. 2018

Working Papers

- Sarkar, J. (2025). Who gets hit first and who recovers last? Evidence from Indian Coastal Flood Shock. SSRN: [5577351](#)
- Sarkar J. (2024). Linking Climate Change with Economic Inequality: A Review Essay. SSRN: [4814257](#)

Work in Progress

- Does Telework Exposure increase Female Labor Supply in Emerging Economies? Evidence from Indian Labor Market*
- Impact of Affordable Internet on Women Empowerment in India*
- Impact of Early Life Exposure to Armed Conflicts on Occupational Sorting*
- Environmental Justice and Enforcement of Pollution Standards (with [Dr. Phuong Ho](#), [Dr. Bianca Cecato](#) and Dr. Almira Salimgariev).*
- Climate Shock and Women's Time Poverty in India.*
— Selected for Revaluing Care Economy Working Paper Series at Duke University (Fall 2024)

Publication

Sultana, N., **Sarkar, J.**, & Meurs, M. (2024). Climate Change-Induced Migration: A Gendered Conceptual Framework. *Migration and Diversity*, 3(2), 215-233. <https://doi.org/10.33182/md.v3i2.3177>

Guest Blogs & Commentaries

- Beyond the Plough: How Technology is Powering a New Green Revolution (with Rida Hameed) — Kogod Sustainability Review, January 2026
- [Rethinking climate migration through a gender lens](#) (with Prof. Meurs)— Program for Gender Analysis in Economics Blog, July 19, 2025.
- [Time poverty and climate shocks: how married women bear the brunt](#) — Revaluing Care Economy, October 21, 2024

Research Experience

Summer Research Assistant

ADVISOR: DR. ELIZABETH STATON

- Conduct Literature Reviews, Assist in Survey Preparations, Writing Policy Memos
- Collect Data, Manage Research Database, Run Data Analysis

Applied Economics Clinic, Remote

May 2025 — Aug 2025

Summer Research Assistant

Government Housing and Entrepreneurship in Indian Slums

American University, Washington DC, USA

ADVISOR: DR. GARIMA SHARMA

May 2024 — Aug 2024

- Analyzed qualitative data using ATLAS.ti from primary surveys of slum dwellers in Orissa, India.
- Demonstrated relationship between dignity of dwelling and social entrepreneurship.

Short-term Research Assistant

Pew Research Center Dataset Analysis on Religion and Cultural Trends

American University, Washington DC, USA

WITH PROF. BORIS GERSHMAN

June 2024 — July 2024

- Extracted and cleaned a multi-country, multi-wave dataset on religious pluralism in South and Southeast Asia.
- Studied inter-temporal trends in cultural beliefs, attitudes, and values, including variations by religion, educational attainment, socioeconomic background, and gender.

Summer Research Assistant

Transformations and Resilience of Pastoral Systems

Amidst Rapid Social-Environmental Changes in Mongolia

American University, Washington DC, USA

WITH PROF. MIEKE MEURS

June 2023 — Aug 2023

- Developed a theoretical framework to study the intersection of climate change, migration and household decision-making through gender lens.
- Performed systematic literature reviews on climate change, migration, bargaining power and household dynamics with special focus on Mongolia.

Research Assistant

Mapping Climate Risk Index: A Case Study of Ladakh, India (Knowledge for Climate Project)

JNU, New Delhi, India

WITH PROF. MEETA K. MEHRA

June 2020 -July 2021

(In collaboration with University of Zurich, University of Bern, and ETH Zurich, Switzerland)

- Developed a quantitative Climate Risk Index for sub-districts in Ladakh, India, using Principal Component Analysis.
- Performed inter-temporal analyses and simulations using detailed demographic, socioeconomic, and physical data at the sub-district level.

Short-term Consultant

COVID-19 and Green Recovery in South Asia: Opportunities for Recovering Better

JNU, New Delhi, India

WITH PROF. MEETA K. MEHRA

Dec 2020 -Feb 2021

(Commissioned by Council for Strategic and Defense Research)

- Developed policy menus for sustainable recovery from the pandemic.
- Focused on the enormous green potential within South Asian countries such as green transport systems, climate-friendly infrastructure, green manufacturing, decarbonizing transitions.

Professional Experience

Managing Editor, Kogod Sustainability Review

American University, Washington, DC, USA

WITH KOGOD BUSINESS SCHOOL

May 2025 — Present

- Develop strategies to elevate KSR's outreach and highlight contributions from professional experts in sustainability
- Collaborate with editors to ensure quality check of articles

Editor, Kogod Sustainability Review

American University, Washington, DC, USA

WITH KOGOD BUSINESS SCHOOL

May 2024 — May 2025

- Edited and reviewed articles, working closely with authors and the editorial board to ensure accuracy, clarity, and adherence to guidelines.
- Developed compelling content on sustainability and business practices.

Teaching Experience

ECON 100: Macroeconomics

American University, Washington, DC, USA

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. JON D WISMAN](#)

Fall 2025

- Conduct lectures during discussion sessions, graded assignments and exams (class size above 100)

ECON 623: Applied Econometrics I

American University, Washington, DC, USA

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. NATALIA RADCHENKO](#)

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, conduct in-class lectures and graded exams

ECON 322: Applied Econometrics I

American University, Washington, DC, USA

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. PAUL SULLIVAN](#)

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, graded assignments and exams

ECON 373: Labor Economics

American University, Washington, DC, USA

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. PAUL SULLIVAN](#)

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, graded assignments and exams

ECON 824: Advanced Econometrics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. AMOS GOLAN](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 150: Economics for Business

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. MARY E. HANSEN](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 803: Microeconomic Analysis

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. SUNG AH BAHK](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 300: Intermediate Microeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. SUNG AH BAHK](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 200: Microeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. DANIEL LIN](#)

- Graded exams and maintaining log files

ECON 100: Macroeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. BERNHARD GUNTER](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2024

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2024

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2023

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2023

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2022

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2022

Conferences & Workshops

Fourth Global Carework Summit

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCKS ON GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR

Durham, NC, USA

February 2025

Eastern Economic Association

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCKS ON GENDERED LABOR SUPPLY

New York City, NY, USA

February 2025

Revaluing Care in the Global Economy Workshop, Duke University

PRESENTED WORK ON CLIMATE SHOCKS AND WOMEN'S TIME POVERTY

Duke University (virtually)

September 2024

Levy Institute Gender Workshop

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCK ON GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR

Levy Institute, NY, USA

September 2024

Eastern Economic Association

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCK ON WOMEN'S UNPAID LABOR

Boston, MA, USA

March 2024

International Society for Ecological Economics,

European Ecological Economics, and Degrowth

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE EXTREMES ON HOUSEHOLD WELFARE IN MOUNTAINS

Remote

July 2021

Water Security and Climate Change Conference

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE EXTREMES ON EARLY CHILD MARRIAGES

Hanoi, Vietnam (Remote)

July 2021

Awards & Scholarships

- **Conference Participation Award**
\$600
- **Honorarium for Revaluing Care Working Paper Series**
\$250
- **4th Barbara Bergmann Graduate Fellowship for Gender Research**
\$1000
- **Conference Participation Award**
\$500
- **Graduate Merit Fellowship (Dept. of Economics)**

American University, Washington, DC, USA

March/April 2025

Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

October/November 2024

American University, Washington, DC, USA

May 2024 — Aug 2024

American University, Washington, DC, USA

March/April 2024

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Aug 2022 — Present

Skills

Coding Skills R, Stata, Python, ArcGIS, Google Earth Engine, TEX

Languages English (fluent), Bengali (native), Hindi (fluent)

References

- Prof. **Kara Reynolds**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address – reynolds@american.edu
- Prof. **Mary E. Hansen**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address – mhansen@american.edu
- Prof. **Mieke Meurs**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address – mmeurs@american.edu
- Prof. **Kelly M. Jones**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address – kmjones@american.edu