

Judhajit Chakraborty

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Doctoral Studies Michigan State University
Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, Expected completion May 2024
DISSERTATION: “Essays in International Development and Political Economy”

PRIMARY FIELDS: Applied Microeconomics, International Development, Political Economy

Professor Eduardo Nakasone
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Professor Songqing Jin
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Professor Scott Swinton
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Professor Christian Ahlin
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Prior Education	M.Phil. Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai	2017-2018
	M.Sc. Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai	2013-2015
	B.Sc. Economics, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Howrah	2010-2013

Prior Employment	PwC U.S. Analytics Advisory	Experienced Associate	2016-2017
	PwC U.S. Analytics Advisory	Associate	2015-2016
	Nomura	Intern- Algorithmic Trading Strategies, Global Markets	Summer-2014

Research Papers **“Clouds of Comparison: Exploring the Impact of Covariate Shocks on Perceived Relative Deprivation and the Role of Social Policies in Peru” (JOB MARKET PAPER)**

Abstract

Perceptions of relative deprivation affect a range of outcomes, such as preferences for redistribution, political attitudes, hostility, and risky behavior. I test whether covariate shocks in the form of positive rainfall shocks can change perceptions of relative deprivation. Using household-level longitudinal data for Peru, I exploit within-household variation in exposure to extreme rainfall shocks and provide novel empirical evidence on the effect of covariate shocks on perceived relative deprivation in the context of a developing country. I find that exposure to extreme rainfall shocks increases the likelihood that individuals perceive their own standard of living to be worse off relative to the other households in the locality or community. Two key mechanisms could explain this- firstly, the differential effect of excess rainfall shocks across objective outcomes, suggesting a widening economic gap, which is also reflected in standard measures of relative deprivation; and secondly, through misperceptions about the losses of other households within a locality. Further, I show that social protection programs such as conditional cash transfers and in-kind food assistance programs play an important role in attenuating the effect of rainfall shocks on perceived relative deprivation.

Working Papers

“When the Temperature Drops, Perceptions Worsen: Effects of Extreme Cold on Perceptions of Government and Civic Participation in the Peruvian Highlands” Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

Perceptions of government and political institutions can have important effects on a wide range of outcomes, such as compliance with laws and demand for public goods. We examine how extreme weather affects individuals’ belief of how well democracy functions in Peru. We construct a unique dataset containing spatially and temporally specific cold temperature shocks and find that extreme cold reduces positive perceptions of democracy. This translates into reductions in civic engagement in formal democratic institutions (as measured by participation in national elections) but increased involvement in local associations. We provide evidence that these effects work through several mechanisms: decreased income, assets, and expenditure as well as increased incidence of illness and some types of crime. Finally, we find that the negative effects of extreme cold are mitigated by government provision of goods and services, namely, social programs, public hospitals, and police resources.

“Frosty Climate, Icy Relationships: Frosts and Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Peru” Katie Bollman, Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

Violence against women — in particular, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) — is a major health concern for women across the world. In this paper, we study the impact of frosts (temperatures below 0°C / 32°F) on IPV among Peruvian women. Using a dataset that matches women to weather exposure, we find that overall, frost shocks increase IPV: 10 degree hours below -9°C increases the probability of experiencing domestic violence by 0.5 percentage points. These effects are larger for more extreme temperature thresholds. We provide evidence that frosts impact IPV through two main channels. First, extreme cold yields adverse consequences for income, which in turn impacts IPV. Second, extreme cold limits the mobility of individuals, potentially increasing exposure of women to violent partners. To our knowledge, we are the first to measure relative significance of these two channels by utilizing variation in frost timing to distinguish shocks that affect IPV through changes in income from those that act through time spent indoors. We find that the effect of frosts on IPV is mostly driven by frosts that occur during the growing season, when 10 degree hours below -9°C increase the probability of experiencing IPV by 1.5 percentage points. In contrast, we find that non-growing season frosts have no statistically significant effects on IPV.

“Impact of COVID mortality on voting behavior: Evidence from Peru”, Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

How did the COVID-19 pandemic lead to changes in voting behavior? Are these changes been guided by drop in confidence or trust in political institutions? Using within district variation in COVID-19 incidence, this paper provides empirical evidence to these questions for a developing country context, Peru. Studying the 2021 Presidential elections in Peru, we find that- conditional on district and election-year fixed effects and a set of potentially confounding variables — districts with a higher incidence of COVID-19 before the elections, shifted their votes towards left leaning parties. This effect is largest for incidence of COVID-19 three months and 4-6 months before the election. This result can most likely be explained by examining changes in voter turnout, and confidence or trust in political institutions.

Teaching (Instructor of Record)

Michigan State	<i>Data Analysis for Agri-Food System</i> , Instructor	Spring-2022
Michigan State	<i>Data Analysis for Agri-Food System</i> , Instructor	Summer-2022
Michigan State	<i>Managerial Economics</i> , Instructor	Spring-2023
Michigan State	<i>Managerial Economics</i> , Instructor	Summer-2023

Refereed Publications (Pre-Ph.D.)

Has India Deindustrialised, Prematurely? (with R. Nagaraj), <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2020
Continued misery or a change in fortune? The Case of Howrah Foundry Industry	
<i>Book Chapter in Industrialisation for Employment and Growth in India</i> , Cambridge University Press	2021
Land as Collateral in India (with Sudha Narayanan), <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2019
An Unequal Process of Urbanisation , <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2017

Conference / Seminars	2023, 2022	AAEA Annual Meetings
	2022	Development Lunch, Department of AFRE & Economics, Michigan State University
	2023	Development Lunch, Department of AFRE & Economics, Michigan State University
	2023	Southern Economic Association Conference (<i>Upcoming</i>), Selected Papers: "When the Temperature Drops, Perceptions Worsen: Effects of Extreme Cold on Perceptions of Government and Civic Participation in the Peruvian Highlands" [<i>Presidential Session</i>] "Clouds of Comparison: Exploring the Impact of Covariate Shocks on Perceived Relative Deprivation and the Role of Social Policies in Peru"
	2024	Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) (<i>Upcoming</i>), Selected Paper: "Frosty Climate, Icy Relationships: Frosts and Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Peru"
Computational Skills	R, STATA, QGIS, ArcGIS, LaTeX, SAS, Tableau, Qualtrics, Python	
Services	2021	Vice-President, Graduate Student Organization (AFRE)
	2020	COGS Representative, AFRE