

Utkarsh Kumar

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PERSONAL INFORMATION NATIONALITY - Indian
US Permanent Resident (In process)

PLACEMENT INFORMATION	Co-Chairs	Administrator
	TBD	Amy Devine
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		aed2152@columbia.edu

EDUCATION	Ph.D. Economics, Columbia University	2018- 2024 (Expected)
	M.A. Economics, Delhi School of Economics	2014 - 2016
	BA Economics, St. Stephen's College	2011 - 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS Primary : Development Economics, Environmental Economics
Secondary : Industrial Organization, Urban Economics

PAPERS **Equilibrium effects of conditional cash transfer in presence of public and private suppliers - Evidence from India** (*with Parijat Lal*)
[Job Market Paper]

Electric stoves as a solution for indoor air pollution: Evidence from Rural India (*with E. Somanathan, Marc Jeuland, Eshita Gupta, T.V. Ninan, Rachit Kamdar, Vidisha Chowdhury, Suvir Chandna, Michael Bergin, Karoline Barkjohn, Christina Norris, T. Robert Fetter, Subhrendu Pattanayak*)

We collected minute-by-minute data on electricity availability, electric induction stove use, and kitchen and outdoor particulate pollution in a sample of rural Indian households for one year. Using within household-month variation generated by unpredictable outages, we estimate the effects of electricity availability and electric induction stove use on kitchen PM_{2.5} concentration at each hour of the day. Electricity availability reduces kitchen PM_{2.5} by up to 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which is between 10 and 20 percent of peak concentrations during cooking hours. Induction stove use instrumented by electricity availability reduces PM_{2.5} in kitchens by 200-450 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ during cooking hours.

Infrastructure resilience against environmental shocks and economic effects of transport disruptions: Evidence from India
(*Vickrey award for best third year paper (runner-up), Columbia University*)

Can large scale conditional cash transfers resolve the fertility-sex ratio tradeoff? Evidence from India

Currently, there are at least 15 conditional cash transfer schemes in India that aim to correct persisting gender inequalities arising out of a preference for sons in Indian families. Despite huge financial resources being pumped into these schemes, there is a lack of field-level monitoring and useful redressal mechanisms which make their impact un-clear. I evaluate a conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme called Ladli Laxmi Yojana in Madhya Pradesh, India. I find financial incentives aimed at the girl child increased average fertility by about 0.157 children per couple and improved sex-ratio by about 0.034 points pointing to the well known fertility-sex ratio trade-off. These effects are quite opposite to a similar CCT scheme in Haryana (Anukriti 2018) suggesting context/path dependence of these policies.

POLICY WORK **Determinants of digital adoption and associated social dividends: Cross-country evidence from 150 countries** (with Mariano Moszoro and David Amaglobeli) (published as an IMF Working Paper)

We identify key drivers of digital adoption, estimate fiscal costs to provide internet subsidies to households, and calculate social dividends from digital adoption. Using cross-country panel regressions and machine learning we find that digital infrastructure coverage, internet price, and usability are the most statistically robust predictors of internet use in the short-run. Based on estimates from a model of demand for internet we find that demand is most price responsive in low-income developing countries and almost unresponsive in advanced economies. We estimate that moving low-income and emerging market economies to the level of digital adoption in emerging and advanced economies, respectively, will require annual targeted subsidies of 1.8 and 0.05 percent of GDP, respectively. To aid with subsidy targeting, we use micro-data from over 150 countries and document a digital divide on gender, socio-economic status, and demographics. Finally, we estimate the monetized benefits of internet use on education quality as well as time spent doing unpaid work and labor force participation by gender. Our calculations suggest substantial aggregate and distributional gains from digital adoption. Moving low-income and emerging market economies to the level of digital adoption in emerging and advanced economies, respectively, improves education quality substantially and increases labor-force participation equivalent to 1.8 percent of GDP, largely driven by women.

IN PROGRESS **Does politics affect public sector productivity? Evidence from Indian Railways** (with Shreya Chandra)

Household sorting and willingness to pay for spatially concentrated environmental dis-amenities: A case of Delhi's trash mountains (with Shreya Chandra)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS	Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2022-2023
	PER Summer Research Grant, Columbia University	2021, 2022
	CDEP Research Grant, Columbia University	2022
	Program for Economic Research (PER) Data Grant, Columbia University	2022
	PER Experimental Grant, Columbia University (with Palaash Bhargava)	2022
	Diversity Fellowship, UC Berkeley (with Shreya Chandra)	2022
	Vickrey Award for Best 3 rd Year Paper, <i>Runners up</i> , Columbia University	2021

	Weiss Fund Development Economics Grant, UChicago (<i>with Parijat Lal</i>)	2021
	Economist for Equity Research Grant, UC Berkeley (<i>with Shreya Chandra</i>)	2021
	Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2018 - 2023
	Academic Merit Scholarship, Delhi School of Economics	2016
	Suresh Lal Bhandari Prize, St. Stephen's College	2014
WORKSHOPS	Referee, Young Economist Symposium	2021
	Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano Summer School	2021
	Sloan/Berkeley Energy and Environment Summer School	2021
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	IPWSD, Columbia University	2020
WORK EXPERIENCE	Fund Internship Program, International Monetary Fund	Jun - Aug 2022
	RA for Gautam Gowrisankaran, Columbia University	Spring 2022
	RA for W. Bentley MacLeod, Columbia University	Fall 2019
	RA for Eswaran Somanathan, Indian Statistical Institute	2017-2018
	High School Teacher, Isha Home School	2016-2017
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Principles of Economics (Undergraduate), Columbia University	Fall 2021
	Industrial Organization (Instructor), Columbia University	Summer 2021
	Econometrics (Masters), Columbia University	Spring 2021
	Principles of Economics (Undergraduate), Columbia University	Fall 2020
	Industrial Organization (Instructor), Columbia University	Summer 2020
	Econometrics (Masters), Columbia University	Spring 2020
TECHNICAL SKILLS	Stata (<i>expert</i>), R (<i>expert</i>), Matlab, Python, Julia (<i>basic</i>)	
LANGUAGES KNOWN	English, Hindi	
NON-ACADEMIC INTERESTS	Professionally trained squash player, UC Berkeley squash coach (2022-2023), violinist, high-altitude mountaineering, tennis	
REFERENCES	Eric Verhoogen (<i>Chair</i>) Professor of Economics Columbia University	
	Gautam Gowrisankaran Professor of Economics Columbia University	
	Jack Willis Professor of Economics Columbia University	