

Souparna Maji

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[LinkedIn](#)

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Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, International Trade, Political Economy, Industrial Organization

Skills and Languages

Computer: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, Power BI, GCP BigQuery, SQL, Mathematica, \LaTeX , MS Office

Database: WITS, UNCTAD Data Hub, UN Comtrade, GTAP, WIOD, Polk Data, World Bank Open Data, ILOSTAT, GFW, UNEP Data, DHS, IHDS, NSSO India, Census India, Census US, MyNeta India, AidData, DevData Lab

Language: English (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent), Bengali (Native), French (Basic)

Education

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

PhD in Economics

Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2024

- Thesis: "Essays in Development Economics"
- Advisors: Prof. Giacomo de Giorgi and Prof. J  r  my Laurent-Lucchetti
- Field: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Political Economy, Economics of Crime

Study Center Gerzensee, Swiss National Bank

Gerzensee, Switzerland

Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics

Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2020

Jadavpur University

Kolkata, India

Master of Arts in Economics [CGPA: 9.94/10]

July 2015 - June 2017

Jadavpur University

Kolkata, India

Bachelor of Arts in Economics [CGPA: 9.79/10]

July 2011 - June 2014

Work Experience

University of Geneva (Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation)

Geneva, Switzerland

Postdoctoral Researcher (Field: International Trade)

Sept. 2024 - Present

- Project - Global and Regional Externalities in Trade Agreements:
 - Evaluate how trade agreements impact multinational production choices using econometric models in Stata & R.
 - Analyze welfare effects of deep integration in the presence of externalities (e.g., car emissions) of regulatory policies.
- Applied General Equilibrium Modeling & Policy Simulations:
 - Design baseline calibrations and policy-shock simulations adapting CES and non-CES demand models in Python.

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

Adjunct Lecturer

Sept. 2024 - Feb. 2025

- Course: International Trade (Bachelor of Science Program in Economics and Management).
- Taught trade theories and their empirical applications to a cohort of 97 students, emphasizing real-world aspects.

University of Geneva (Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation)

Geneva, Switzerland

Research Assistant

Aug. 2023 - Aug. 2024

- Conducted a literature review on pass-through estimates and explored structural modeling for welfare analysis.
- Assistant to Prof. M. Mr  zov   for the publication of the paper "Trade Agreements when profits matter":
 - Analyzed and synthesized mathematical models using Mathematica and Python to ensure research accuracy.

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva

Geneva, Switzerland

Teaching Assistant

Sept. 2020 - Aug. 2024

- Courses: Applied Economics Workshop & Microeconomics (Master), Applied Econometrics (Bachelor).
- Collaborated to prepare study materials and delivered over 120 seminars to a diverse cohort of students.

Government of West Bengal (Co-funded by UN Development Program)

Project Consultant

West Bengal, India
June 2018 - July 2019

- Project - Preparation of the District Human Development Report for Purba Medinipur, West Bengal:
- Collaborated with stakeholders to collect and analyze data; authored Education, Health, and Industry chapters.
- Identified gender gap in education and female labor force participation stagnation, prompting targeted policies.

Freelance

Kolkata, India and Remote

Academic Instructor and Data Analyst

July 2017 - June 2019

- **Academic Instructor:**
 - Established a tutoring center serving around 60 Bachelor's and 20 Master's students.
 - Taught economics, international trade, econometrics, and statistics courses with hands-on applications in Stata.
- **Data Analyst:**
 - Performed market research and data analysis for business clients using SQL and R, providing actionable insights.

Delhi School of Economics

West Bengal and Tripura, India

Survey Analysis Intern (Part-Time)

June 2016 - Feb. 2017

- Project - Food Security in India after the Implementation of the National Food Security Act:
 - Field Experience: Led 3 survey teams across 9 districts in 2 Indian states, coordinating data collection and analysis.
 - Collected, processed, and analyzed data in Excel & Stata; prepared reports to suggest policies to state governments.
 - Identified nutritional gaps affecting ~ 20 million beneficiaries and proposed targeted policy reforms.

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Remote

Project Assistant

Oct. 2016 - Dec. 2016

- Project - Impact of Demonetization on the Unorganized Economic Sector of the Indian Economy:
 - Created a novel dataset from newspaper articles and drafted a report on the effects on the unorganized sector.

Working Papers

1. "The 'Ripple Effect' of Criminally Accused Politicians on Crime in India" (with V. Bahure); under R & R.

- We analyzed the impact of criminally accused politicians (CAPs) on local crime rates in Indian state assemblies using regression discontinuity in Stata and double/debiased machine learning in Python. We constructed local crime data from approx. 81 million court cases provided by DevData Lab via R text analytics and politician data (2007–2016) through Python web scraping of the ADR MyNeta portals. We found significant increases in aggregate crimes, crimes against women, and property crimes following CAP elections, along with economic downturns, reduced public trust, and judicial delays, which likely contributed to the rise in crime.

2. "Education and Domestic Violence: Evidence from a School Construction Program in India" (with M. Agarwal, V. Bahure, K. Bergonzoli); SITES Working Papers No. 17, 2024.

- We investigated the 2015-16 and 2019-21 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design and IV regression in Stata to assess the impact of India's District Primary Education Program (DPEP) on domestic violence. Our findings show increased women's education significantly reduced domestic violence: emotional violence fell by 13%, less severe physical violence by 26%, and sexual violence by 9%. These reductions stemmed primarily from improved gender attitudes, better partner quality, and greater access to legal and informational support.

3. "Development Assistance and Crime-Accused Politicians: Evidence from Indian Elections" (with U. Das); under Review.

- We investigated whether development assistance (DA) project financial flows affect the entry of candidates with criminal or serious crime accusations in politics. Using geocoded World Bank DA projects with ArcGIS and politician data obtained via Python web scraping from ADR Myneta, our multi-way fixed effects analysis of 2008–2015 Indian elections found weak evidence that such projects may increase first-time candidates with these accusations; however, instrumental variable regression found no effect of legislators' criminal accusations on the project performance and evaluation ratings.

Work in Progress

1. “Exploring the Duality: Economic and Environmental Consequences of Chinese Development Finance” (with S. Roy).
2. “Assessing the Interplay: Trade Liberalization and the Structural Reconfiguration of Global Supply Chains.”

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. “A Study on Happiness and Related Factors among Indian College Students” (with B. Chakrabarty, A. Sen, I. Mallik, & S. Baidya); Journal of Quantitative Economics, Springer, 17(1), 215-236, 2019.
2. “Club Convergence among the Major Indian States during 1982-2014: Does Investment in Human Capital Matter?” (with S. Hembram & S.K. Haldar); South Asia Economic Journal, SAGE, 20(2), 184-204, 2019.

Policy Articles and Reports

1. “How investing in girls’ education can reduce domestic violence in India” (with M. Agarwal, V. Bahure, K. Bergonzoli); Ideas for India, 2024.
2. “District Human Development Report of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal” (with V. Mukherjee, P. Saha); Internal Report for the Government of West Bengal, 2019.

Popular Articles

1. “Unprecedented Job Losses in Unorganized Sector Post Demonetisation” (with P. Saha); The Wire, 2017.
2. “Food Security Makes Headway in Tripura, But Gaps Remain”; The Wire, 2017.
3. “PDS has improved in West Bengal, but it’s still not up to the mark” (with J. Drèze); The Indian Express, 2016.

Selected Conferences and Seminars

2023-2024. NEU Development Consortium (Harvard University); RViE Conference (Geneva Graduate Institute); SITES Annual Conference and Summer School (Naples and Prato); Leibniz Institute ifo Dresden Workshop (Dresden); Workshop on Economics of Organized Crime (University of Pavia); European Conference on Domestic Violence (Reykjavik).

2021-2022. Alumni Conference (Gerzensee); Pol. & Dev. Econ. Cluster (HEC Lausanne); Brown Bag Seminars (GSEM, Geneva) & PhD Day Seminar (GSEM & IHEID, Geneva).

2016-2018. 6th & 7th IGC Growth Conference (Kolkata); Food Security after NFSA (Birbhum); RBI Seminar (Kolkata).

Selected Short Courses and Workshops

2023. Ex Ante and Ex Post Policy Evaluation Approaches, Study Center Gerzensee.
2021. Natural Language Processing and GIS in Applied Microeconomics, Lancaster University.
2021. Frontier Topics in Political Economy of Development and Conflict, University of Lausanne.
2021. Summer School in International and Development Economics, Centro Studi Luca d’Aglano.

Selected Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

2022. Best Teaching Assistant, Institute of Economics & Econometrics, GSEM, University of Geneva.
2022. Grant for Rare Voices in Economics Conference, Swiss National Science Foundation.
2019-20. Scholarship for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics Program, Swiss National Bank.
2017. Certificate for highest CGPA in the Master of Arts in Economics program, Jadavpur University.
2014. Gold Medal for securing first position in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Jadavpur University.
2011-14. Merit Scholarship for College and University Students, Govt. of India.

Selected Services and Outreach

- 2023-Present. External Advisor, Aalok Foundation (Non-Profit), West Bengal, India.
2022-23: Co-supervisor and External Jury Member for the Master’s Theses of Two Students.
2022. Co-organizer, Rare Voices in Economics Annual Conference, 2nd Edition, University of Geneva.
2021-2024. Rare Voices in Economics, Member of Research Cluster and Workshop Team.
2020-22. Mentor, Mentoring Program, University of Geneva.
2014. Co-convenor, Young Economist Students Meet, Jadavpur University.
2011-14. Student and Class Representative, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University.

References

- Prof. Giacomo de Giorgi** — PhD Advisor, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva
Prof. Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti — PhD Advisor, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva
Prof. Monika Mrázová — Postdoctoral Advisor, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva