

Monica Agarwal

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Education, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024 - Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D. in Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Dissertation title: *"Essays in Development Economics"*
Outstanding Dissertation Award, University of Wisconsin–Madison
2020 M.S. in Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison
2018 M.Phil. in Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
2014 M.A in Economics, Jadavpur University, India
2012 B.A. (Hons.), in Economics, Jadavpur University, India

REFERENCES

[Prof. Laura Schechter](#) (Advisor)
Department of Economics

University of Wisconsin–Madison
✉ lschechter@wisc.edu

[Prof. Jeffrey A. Smith](#)
Department of Economics

University of Wisconsin–Madison
✉ econjeff@ssc.wisc.edu

[Prof. Priya Mukherjee](#)
Department of Agricultural and Applied
Economics
University of Wisconsin–Madison
✉ priya.mukherjee@wisc.edu

WORKING PAPERS

- The Role of Affirmative Action in Enrollment, Test Scores, and School Quality: Evidence from India (JOB MARKET PAPER) [[📄 on SSRN](#)] *Under Review*
- The Unintended Benefits of Women's Empowerment on Household Sanitation - with [Md Moshi Ul Alam](#) [[📄 on SSRN](#)] *Under Review*
- Parental Investments and Sibling Spillover Effects of Affirmative Action Policies: Evidence from India. *In preparation for submission.*

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Spatial Inequality and School Choice Mechanisms - with [Md Moshi Ul Alam](#), [Chao Fu](#), [YingHua He](#)
- The Early Childhood Care and Education Workforce - with Diane W. Schanzenbach

POLICY WRITING

- "The Shifting Demographics of Chicago's Young Children," with John Q. Easton, Arthur Raines, Terri Sabol and Diane W. Schanzenbach. Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University Research Report, May 2025.

ACADEMIC AWARDS, RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDING

2024 AAE Outstanding Dissertation Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2021 J-PAL Post Primary Education Initiative (USD 10,000)

2021 Dissertation Research Grant, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison (USD 1,000)

2018 Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Student Research Travel Grant, UW-Madison

2018 Graduate School Student Research Travel Grant Competition for Conference Travels, UW-Madison

2016-2018 University Grants Commission, India Non NET Fellowship

REFEREEING SERVICE

Journal of Development Economics, Economics of Education Review (x 2), World Bank Economic Review

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2022-24 for Prof. Jessica Pac, Department of Social Work, UW-Madison.

2021-22 for Prof. Bradford Barham, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison.

2020-21 for Prof. Laura Schechter, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison.

2019-20 for Prof. Emilia Tjernström, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison.

2018-19 for Prof. Bradford Barham, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

2020 Spring AAE 215: Introduction to Agricultural and Applied Economics, Prof. Eduardo Cenci

- Average Rating: 4.8/5

OTHER SERVICE

2022-2023 Organizer of Development Lab, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

2025 Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2025 (WASH 2025)

2024 Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC 2024)

2019-2023 AAE Development Lab, UW-Madison; Development Economics Workshop, AAE, UW Madison; Student Research Colloquium, AAE, UW-Madison

2023 Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE); University of Georgia, Agricultural and Applied Economics - Graduate Development Workshop

2018 14th Annual Conference on Growth & Development, Indian Statistical Institute, India

AFFILIATIONS

2024- Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

2024- Early Childhood Research Alliance of Chicago, Northwestern University

2022-2023 Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)

2019 Graduate Research Fellow, Institute of Research and Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

COMPUTER LANGUAGES

STATA, R, L^AT_EX, Python (Webscraping)

PRIOR EMPLOYMENT

2014-2016 Associate Consultant, *Big Data Analytics, Wipro Limited, India*

OTHER INFORMATION

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

Citizenship: India

Permanent Residency: Canada