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Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2016-Present

Expected Completion Date: May 2022

Thesis Title: Essays in Behavioral and Experimental Economics

Thesis Committee: Prof. Lise Vesterlund (co-chair), Prof. Richard Van Weelden (co-chair), Prof. David Huffman, Prof. Alistair Wilson, and Prof. Alex Imas (University of Chicago)

M.A. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2016-18

M.A. in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, 2012-14

B.A. (hons.) in Economics, Shri Ram College of Commerce, 2009-12

Research Interests

Behavioral Economics; Experimental Economics; Labor Economics; Gender Economics; Applied Microeconomics

Working Papers

“To Learn or Not to Learn: Can Temporary Affirmative Improve Representation?” (*Job Market Paper*)

“[The Experimenters’ Dilemma: Inferential Preferences Over Populations](#)” (Joint with Luca Rigotti and Alistair Wilson)

Works in Progress

“On Gender Differences in Responsiveness to the Experimental Context” (Joint with Felipe A. Araujo and Lise Vesterlund)

“Take a Chance on Me: Gender Difference in Skill Portability on Multiple Dimensions” (Joint with J. Aislinn Bohren, Rania Gihleb and Alex Imas)

“Well, Excuse Me! Replicating and Connecting Excuse-Seeking Behavior” (Joint with Beatriz Ahumada, Yufei Chen, Kelly Hyde, Marissa Lepper, William Mathews, Neil Silveus, Lise Vesterlund, Taylor Weidman, Alistair Wilson, and K. Pun Winichakul)

Technical Report

“[Going Virtual: A Step-by-Step Guide to Taking the In-Person Experimental Lab Online](#)” (Joint with David Danz, Marissa Lepper, Lise Vesterlund and K. Pun Winichakul)

Relevant Positions Held

Research Assistant at Pittsburgh Experimental Economics Laboratory, 2020-21

Research Assistant to Prof. Lise Vesterlund, 2018-19

Lecturer, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Spring 2016

Research Assistant to Prof. Ashwini Deshpande, 2015-16

Research Assistant at World Bank Group, Social Observatory Unit, 2014-16

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Pittsburgh

Teaching Economics (co-instructor with Prof. Daniele Coen-Pirani), Fall 2020

Introduction to Microeconomic Theory, Summer 2020

Game Theory Principles, Summer 2019

Instructor, Shri Ram College of Commerce

Indian Economic Development, Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh

Introduction to Microeconomic Theory, Summer 2021

Mathematical Methods for Economic Analysis (Graduate), Fall 2017

Introduction to Econometrics (Grader), Spring 2018

Awards, Fellowships and Grants

Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2021

Tamara Horowitz Memorial Fund Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Elizabeth Baranger Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2019-20

Arts and Sciences GSO Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2020 & 2019

Department of Economics Travel Grant, University of Pittsburgh, 2019

Outstanding Presenter Award, Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh, 2019

Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2018

Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2016-17

Dr. Olive Reddick Book Grant, Delhi School of Economics, 2012-14

Suniti Goyal Gold Medal, Shri Ram College of Commerce, 2012

Skand Gupta Memorial Award, Shri Ram College of Commerce, 2010

Presentations and Workshops

2021 Economic Science Association's Job-Market Candidates Seminar Series (scheduled)

Economic Science Association North American regional Meeting (scheduled)

brq Summer School in Behavioral Economics

NBER Decentralization Conference: Mechanism Design for Vulnerable Populations (discussant)

Online Summer School in Modern Difference in Differences Design, University of Milan

2020 IFREE's Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics

2019 FAIR-Rady Spring School in Behavioral Economics at UC San Diego

Poster Session at Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh

Professional Activities

Reviewer: Journal of Law, Economics and Organization; Journal of Demographic Economics

Membership: American Economic Association; Economic Science Association

Academic Service:

Member, Pitt Economics Diversity Committee, 2020-21
TA/TF Mentor, University of Pittsburgh, 2020-21
Member, Pitt Economics Diversity Committee, 2019-20
Student Representative, Pitt Economics Graduate Committee, 2019-20
Peer Mentor, Pitt Economics Graduate Students Mentorship Initiative, 2017-19
Faculty, Remedial Classes at Shri Ram College of Commerce, 2014-16

Computer Skills

Proficient: Stata, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, ZTree, OTree, Microsoft Office Suite
Working Knowledge: Python, JavaScript, HTML, Matlab

Other Information

Certification: National Eligibility Test (NET) for Lectureship in Economics, University Grants Commission of India, 2014
Languages: Hindi (native), English (fluent)
Citizenship: India

Research Abstracts

“To Learn or Not to Learn: Can Temporary Affirmative Improve Representation?” (*Job Market Paper*)

This paper explores whether temporary affirmative action can improve representation in settings where employers hold incorrect statistical beliefs on performance. I elicit employer hiring decisions and beliefs on employee performance in two experimental treatments: a control treatment without affirmative action and a temporary affirmative action treatment. While beliefs and hiring are biased against women in the control treatment, I find in the temporary affirmative action treatment that representation is improved even after affirmative action is lifted. Exposure substantially increases the likelihood that women are hired after affirmative action is lifted, further this increase is partially driven by employers gradually learning that their beliefs on women’s performance are downward biased. The remaining response instead possibly results from gendered preferences for hiring changing in favor of women under a temporary affirmative action policy.

“The Experimenters’ Dilemma: Inferential Preferences Over Populations” (Joint with Luca Rigotti and Alistair Wilson)

We compare three populations commonly used in experiments by economists and other social scientists: undergraduate students at a physical location (lab), Amazon’s Mechanical Turk (MTurk), and Prolific. The comparison is made along three dimensions: the noise in the data due to inattention, the cost per observation, and the elasticity of response. We draw samples from each population, examining decisions in four one-shot games with varying tensions between the individual and socially efficient choices. When there is no tension, where individual and pro-social incentives coincide, noisy behavior accounts for 60% of the observations on MTurk, 19% on Prolific, and 14% for the lab. Taking costs into account, if noisy data is the only concern Prolific dominates from an inferential power point of view, combining relatively low noise with a cost per observation one fifth of the lab’s. However, because the lab population is more sensitive to treatment, across our main PD game comparison the lab still outperforms both Prolific and MTurk.

“Going Virtual: A Step-by-Step Guide to Taking the In-Person Experimental Lab Online” (Joint with David Danz, Marissa Lepper, Lise Vesterlund and K. Pun Winichakul)

This guide provides a detailed account of procedures for conducting traditional in-person laboratory experiments in a “virtual setting.” The main objective of these procedures is to maintain the control of traditional in-person lab studies when conducting studies over the internet. Using the participant pool of the in-person lab the key procedural steps include participants having their webcams on throughout the experiment, technical screenings and attention pledges, playing prerecorded instructions out loud, upholding clear experimenter roles and communication protocols when interacting with participants, and finally detailed and scripted procedures for managing participants throughout the session. The described procedures have been used for more than 100 sessions and have secured results that are indistinguishable from those from the in-person lab.

References

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Prof. Alistair Wilson
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Prof. Alex Imas
Booth School of Business
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Prof. Katherine Wolfe (Teaching Reference)
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