

PALAK SURI

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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

Prof. Guido Kuersteiner	gkuerste@umd.edu	(301) 405-3493
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2022
M.A.	Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, 2015
B.A.	Economics, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, 2013

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Urban Economics, Development Economics
Secondary: Labor Economics, Applied Microeconometrics

DISSERTATION

The Benefits of Metro Rail in Mumbai, India: Reduced Form and Structural Approaches
Committee: Prof. Maureen Cropper (Chair), Prof. Guido Kuersteiner, Prof. Sergio Urzúa

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Public Transit Infrastructure and Employment Accessibility: The Benefits of the Mumbai Metro”

I analyze the benefits of the introduction of metro rail in Mumbai by computing the value of travel time savings to households. I estimate preferences for commute time from residence to work using two models: a commute mode choice model assuming fixed residence and work location for short-term analysis, and a combined housing and commute mode choice model assuming fixed work location for medium-term analysis. Using the expected compensating variation measure, I value travel time savings due to: (i) Line 1 (11.4 km), operational since 2014, and (ii) three upcoming lines (92 km), scheduled to open during 2021-22. The value of short-term benefits for an average beneficiary under either project is Rs. 71-100 per month (12-16% of the average out-of-pocket cost). The medium-term benefits are over twice the short-term benefits for Line 1, and 6-7 times the short-term benefits for the upcoming lines. Women, college educated workers, and high-income households receive greater benefits.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Closing the Gap: Gender, Transport and Employment in Mumbai,” 2021, Policy Research Working Paper No. 9569, World Bank, Washington, DC, with Muneeza Alam, Maureen Cropper and Matias Herrera Dappe

“What are the Benefits of a Subway in Mumbai, India?,” work in progress, with Maureen Cropper

“Telework, Childcare, and Mothers' Labor Supply,” working paper, with Misty Heggeness

“Location Preferences of Women Police Officers in India,” work in progress

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Applied Economics Statistics (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Winter and Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant, American Economic History Before the Civil War (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Spring 2018 and 2017

Teaching Assistant, Applied Economics Statistics (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2016

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. Misty Heggeness, University of Maryland, Fall 2021

Research Assistant, Prof. Maureen Cropper, University of Maryland, Spring 2019–Spring 2021

Short-term Consultant, World Bank, Washington D.C., December 2018–February 2019

Research Assistant, Prof. Lakshmi Iyer (University of Notre Dame) and Prof. Anandi Mani (University of Oxford), June 2015–May 2016

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Dean's Research Initiative, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, 2019
Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2019

K.P. and Jayalakshmi Muddappa Graduate Award for Economics, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, 2019 and 2016

Krishna Raj Summer Fellowship for Field Research, Delhi School of Economics, 2014

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

“Public Transit Infrastructure and Employment Accessibility: The Benefits of the Mumbai Metro”

2021: UEA North American Meeting (scheduled), SEA Graduate Student Sessions (scheduled)

“What are the Benefits of a Subway in Mumbai, India?,” with Maureen Cropper

2021: UEA European Meeting, AEA Meeting Poster Session (scheduled), AERE Summer Conference (co-author presented), APPAM (scheduled, co-author will present)

LANGUAGES

Hindi (native), English (fluent)

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Stata, Python, R, ArcGIS, QGIS

REFERENCES

Prof. Maureen Cropper	University of Maryland	mcropper@umd.edu	(301) 405-3483
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