

# Parijat Lal

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Columbia University	2018 – present
MPhil in Economics, Columbia University	2018 – 2022
M.A. in Economics, Columbia University	2018 – 2020
B.A. in Economics, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , Harvard University	2013 – 2017
High Honors in Field, Minor in Statistics	

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Fields: Development, Public Economics, Inequality  
Secondary Fields: Health Economics, Political Economy

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Cooperatives and Competition: Evidence from India's Manufacturing Sector  
In India, the creation of a national Ministry of Cooperation in 2021 signaled a fresh policy focus on cooperative ownership as a promoter of labor-intensive production. Despite a renewed spotlight, evidence of how cooperative ownership affects firm behavior and protects workers remains limited, especially in less industrialized settings. In this paper, I compare the responses of cooperatives and other firms in the formal manufacturing sector to increased competition resulting from the dismantling of product reservation for small-scale industry in India. I exploit the staggered implementation of de-reservation to identify its causal effects, using firm-level results to test models predicting less elastic employment responses and more elastic wage adjustments for cooperatives. I also aim to provide an industry-level analysis of how the prevalence of cooperatives can affect local labor markets.
- Equilibrium Effects of Subsidized Public Services: Evidence from India's JSY Scheme (*with Utkarsh Kumar*)  
Subsidies for key public services are often narrowly focused on incentivizing demand with an aim of improving outcomes. However, when designing welfare schemes at scale, understanding equilibrium responses and the interaction between public and private suppliers is crucial. This paper studies a national policy (JSY) in India that subsidized births in public hospitals with the objective of reducing maternal and infant mortality. First, we present reduced-form evidence on how JSY affected the sorting of mothers with different risk profiles and levels of income, as well as costs and quality of care across public and private facilities. We then estimate a structural model of healthcare demand and supply to evaluate the aggregate and distributional impacts of this policy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Differential Incentives and Margins of Tax Evasion: Evidence from Ugandan Firms</u> (with Michael Best, Nada Eissa, Joseph Okello, Sandra Sequeira, and Jakob Rauschendorfer) Combating the evasion of taxes on imports can be an important strategy for improving domestic revenue collection in low-income countries. Previous work has relied on constructing “mirror-trade” gaps to identify tariff evasion through the underreporting of import values at customs. Our project extends this analysis to the Ugandan context and uses administrative data to identify another, potentially complementary, channel for evasion by importers: minimizing tax liability by overclaiming VAT paid on imports when filing VAT returns. We study the relationship between tax rates and these margins of evasion, providing rich detail on strategic behavior by importers and augmenting the analysis with data from corporate income tax (CIT) returns.</li> <li>- <u>Agricultural Shocks and Mental Health: Evidence from Rural India</u></li> </ul>	
POLICY PUBLICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>“Scalable Business Models for Alternative Biomass Cooking Fuels and Their Potential in Sub-Saharan Africa”</u> (with Dalberg Advisors). 2017. World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) Working Paper.</li> <li>- <u>“Bridging the Gap Between Growth and Development”</u> (with Tanoubi Ngangom). 2015. In <i>Global Goals, National Actions: Making the Post-2015 Development Agenda Relevant to India</i>, edited by Vikrom Mathur and Ritika Passi. London: Global Policy and Observer Research Foundation.</li> <li>- <u>“India’s Economic Footprint in the Developing World”</u> (with Shubh Soni). August 2015. Observer Research Foundation Issue Brief 100.</li> </ul>	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Research Fellow for Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University Research Assistant for Michael Best, Columbia University Analyst, Dalberg Advisors ( <i>New York</i> ) Research Assistant for EU Fellow, Harvard Weatherhead Center Research Associate, J-PAL South Asia ( <i>New Delhi</i> ) Research Intern, Observer Research Foundation ( <i>New Delhi</i> ) Research Intern, Udayan Care ( <i>New Delhi</i> )	2019 – present 2020 – 2021 2017 – 2018 2015 – 2016 Summer 2015 Summer 2015 Summer 2014
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<u>Columbia University</u> Principles of Economics (Head Teaching Fellow for Spring) Industrial Organization	2021 – 2022 Summer 2020
HONORS AND AWARDS	<u>Columbia University</u> Wueller Award for Best Teaching Fellow in Principles Dean’s Fellowship Program for Economic Research Data Grant Weiss Fund Grant for Research in Development Economics <u>Harvard University</u> Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for Outstanding Research (nominee)	2022 2018 – present 2022 2021 2017

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP	Columbia Economics Diversity Initiative (Mentor); Read Ahead at New York City Public School 125 (Mentor); People's Archive of Rural India (Volunteer); Constituent Services Team for NY State Assemblymember Z. Mamdani (Volunteer); Harvard World Model United Nations (Secretary-General); Harvard US-India Initiative (Co-President); Harvard International Development Forum (Director of Finance); Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment Program (Volunteer)
PERSONAL	Background: Schooling spanned Germany, India, Iran, Austria, Thailand, Kenya Languages: Hindi (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate) Nationality: Indian
TECHNICAL SKILLS	Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, C