

# PRANKUR GUPTA

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Department of Economics ◊ The University of Texas at Austin, TX 78751

## EDUCATION

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### The University of Texas, Austin

PhD. in Economics

Dissertation Title: Essays in Development Economics

2024 (*expected*)

### Cornell University, Ithaca

M.S. in Applied Economics & Management

Dissertation Title: Can social marketing be a tool towards improved nutrition? Lessons from a field experiment in India

2018

### Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering

2014

## TEACHING & RESEARCH FIELDS

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**Fields:** Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Economic Demography

**Sub-Fields:** Fertility, Cash Transfers

## REFERENCES

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Dean Spears (Chair)  
Department of Economics  
The University of Texas at Austin  
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Department of Sociology  
The University of Texas at Austin  
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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Journals

- Refugees, Shocks and Cash Transfers: Multidimensional Impacts of a Large One-Time Transfer to Refugees in Uganda, *World Development*, 173, 106339, 2023. *with* Daniel Stein, Heather Lanthorn, Emmanuel Nshakira-Rukundo and 8 others
- Emergency Cash Transfers for Informal Workers: Impact Evidence from Mexico, *Journal of Public Economics*, 219, 104820, 2023. *with* Ana Canedo and Raissa Fabregas.
- Minimum Support Prices in India: Distilling the Facts, *Review of Agrarian Studies*, vol. 11, no. 1, 2021. *with* Reetika Khera and Sudha Narayanan  
Available at: <http://ras.org.in/a41ffbc3f42b07f18cd99ef097261c24>
- Casting the Net: India's Public Distribution System after the Food Security Act, *Economic and Political Weekly* (special articles section) 2019. *with* Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera and Isabel Pimenta

## Commentaries and Policy Reports

- MSP — the factoids versus the facts. *The Hindu* 2021. with Reetika Khera and Sudha Narayanan
- Food Security Act: How are India's poorest states faring? *Ideas for India* 2016. with Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera and Isabel Pimenta
- Estimating kerosene leakages from the Public Distribution System *Ideas for India* 2014.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### Working Papers

- You Want What You Get: The Effect of Realized Fertility on Fertility Preference (*Job Market Paper*)  
Available here: <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/prankur432/public-docs/main/DesiredFertilityGuptaJMP.pdf>

*Abstract: Fertility preferences are critical in understanding fertility trends and in making reproductive policies. However, if fertility itself influences preferences, this would complicate its usage. This paper investigates if there exists a causal effect of realized fertility on desired fertility. I exploit the quasi-random occurrence of twins or the birth of a female child at first birth as an instrument for exogenous variation in realized fertility. Using data from 230 rounds of demographic and health surveys from 74 developing countries, I find that having an additional birth causally increases desired fertility by 0.15-0.30. Further, I find the result is unlikely to be driven by experiential learning but can be explained through either a model of reference-dependent preferences or ex-post rationalization. The result has important policy and research implications specifically when using fertility preferences to estimate excess fertility, the need for family planning programs, son preference, or as proxies for intrahousehold bargaining.*

- Large and unequal life expectancy declines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in India in 2020 with Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Sangita Vyas and 6 others. Revise & Resubmit at *Science Advances*  
Working Paper available here: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/8juds>

*Abstract: The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is uncertain. We are the first to use high-quality empirical data from India, which has a large population and where pandemic surveillance was particularly poor, to examine changes in life expectancy and estimate excess deaths during the pandemic. We analyze data from the households interviewed in 2021 in India's fifth Demographic and Health Survey, a subsample representative of about one-quarter of India's population. In this subsample, life expectancy at birth declined by 2.6 years between 2019 and 2020, a reduction that is larger than the loss in life expectancy observed in any high-income country (HIC) in the same period. Mortality was 17.0% higher in the pandemic months of 2020 compared to 2019. Applied nationally, this level of excess mortality implies 1.18 million excess deaths in 2020. Compared to HICs, mortality increases in younger ages in India contributed more to the decrease in life expectancy than older ages. Furthermore, the pandemic exacerbated gender and social inequalities. In contrast to global patterns, females in India experienced larger life expectancy losses than males. As compared to a life expectancy loss of 1.5 years for high caste Hindus, who are privileged in Indian society, Muslims lost 5.9 years, Scheduled Tribes lost 4.4 years, and Scheduled Castes lost 2.6 years. These findings uncover large and unequal mortality shocks during the pandemic in the world's most populous country*

### Other Work

- Can Social Marketing be a Tool Towards Improved Nutrition? Lessons from a Field Experiment in India (*Masters' Thesis*)
- Minimum Support Prices and Crop Diversity in India
- Son Preference and Effect of Siblings Children Sex-Mix on Fertility
- Improving Sex-ratios through Police Action on Ultrasound Centers in India

## FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Research Associate, Prof. Raissa Fabregas, The University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2020
- PI, Field Survey of 450 households in the state of Gujarat, India to assess demand for a micronutrient fortificant, 2017

- Research Associate, Prof. Prabhu Pingali, Cornell University, 2016-2018
- Co-PI, Census of 12 villages in 6 Indian states to evaluate implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), Summer 2016
- Research Associate, Prof. Reetika Khera, IIT Delhi, 2015-2016

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Assistant (The University of Texas, Austin)

- Empirical Public Economics, Fall 2023
- Development & Population, Spring 2022
- Migration Economics & Policy, Spring 2021
- Behavioral Economics, Spring 2020
- Microeconomic Theory (weekly recitation), Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2023
- Political Economy, Summer 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022 (Head TA)
- Introduction to Economics, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

### Teaching Awards

- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2022

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Intern, Research, Evaluation and Data team, ID Insight Inc.

Summer, 2022

- Worked directly with Chief Economist, Daniel Stein, on the evaluation of a Give Directly cash transfer to refugee households in Uganda
- Helped design and conduct surveys for Delhi government's performance tracking metrics

### Associate Consultant, Indus Insights

2014-2015

- Recommended data driven changes in insurance portfolio targeting for a UK based leading insurance company
- Improved customer targeting using Google Adwords optimization for a leading online furniture store
- Designed metrics to evaluate risk factor for automobile insurance seekers based on telematics data
- Improved online client acquisition channel of credit cards and personal loans for a top multinational bank

### Research Intern, Futures First Info Services Pvt. Ltd.

Summer, 2013

- Compiled a consolidated crude oil handbook for in-house research and traders' training programs
- Designed a price prediction model for Crude Futures based on the Black Scholes model with a 70% success rate
- Structured and populated critical databases –US refineries, crude grades— improving news absorption time

## MISCELLANEOUS

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### Computing Platforms Languages Citizenship

Stata, MATLAB, Python, R, SQL, GIS, JavaScript, Google Appscript, Google Appsheet  
English (fluent), Hindi (native), Spanish (beginner)  
India