

CONTACT INFORMATION	University of Washington Department of Economics E-mail: rdatta2@uw.edu	Cell: +1 (206) 471-5153 Personal Page LinkedIn
EDUCATION	University of Washington Ph.D. in Economics • Dissertation Topic: Heterogeneous Asset Returns & Monetary Policy M.A. in Economics, GPA: 3.84 Indian Statistical Institute M.Sc. in Quantitative Economics St. Xavier's College, Kolkata B.Sc. in Economics, Minor : Statistics & Mathematics	Seattle, WA June, 2024 (<i>Expected</i>) 2018 – 2020 Kolkata, India 2015 – 2017 Kolkata, India 2012 – 2015
INTERESTS	Wealth Inequality, Housing, Heterogenous Agent DSGEs, Applied Econometrics	
RESEARCH	Working Papers Heterogeneous Asset Returns and Monetary Policy Redistribution (<i>JMP</i>) Portfolio Choices, Asset Prices, and Wealth Inequality (with Yu-Chin Chen and Brian Greaney) Choice of refinance & Hand to mouth status	
SKILLS	Programming: Matlab, Python, SQL, Stata, Fortran, R, Julia, SAS, C, Scikit-Learn, \LaTeX Econometrics: Time Series Forecasting, State Space Models & Markov Switching, Local Projections, GARCH, Cointegration & VECM, Machine Learning, Extremum Estimation Macro: Continuous time dynamic programming, Jump diffusion processes, Viscosity solutions	
WORK EXPERIENCE	Amazon Time Series Forecasting Intern (Worldwide Stores Finance) <i>Research focus: Mixed Frequency Bayesian VARs, Nowcasting</i> • Worked to nowcast impact of macroeconomic variables on profit & loss accounts using conditional forecasts with high frequency data in Python and Matlab. The Jain Family Institute (JFI) Macroeconomic Research Assistant (with Claudia Sahm) <i>Research focus: Fed Framework Review, Inequality & Labor Market Tightness</i> • Developed a Heterogeneous Agent New Keynesian model to evaluate Central Bank policy options. • Impact of wealth inequality, labor market tightness on optimal monetary policy. Deloitte Associate Solution Advisor (Model Risk Management) • Worked in Anti Money Laundering and Model Validation for Comprehensive Capital Analysis Review (CCAR) projects. D.E. Shaw & Co. Associate Solution Advisor (FinRes/FundamentalResearch Department)	Seattle, WA 6/2023–9/2023 Remote 6/2022–6/2023 Hyderabad, India 5/2017–6/2018 Hyderabad, India 5/2016–7/2016

- Worked in evaluation and forecasting of financial data from multiple sources.

HONORS	Henry T. Buechel Memorial Fellowship, University of Washington Grover and Creta Ensley Fellowship in Economic Policy, University of Washington James K. & Viola M. Hall Fellowship, University of Washington	Spring 2022 Autumn 2021 Spring 2019
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Graduate Teaching Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECON 509 (Graduate Macroeconomics) Instructor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECON 201 (Introduction to Macroeconomics) • ECON 200 (Introduction to Microeconomics) Teach Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QMETH 201 (Introduction To Statistical Methods) • ECON 300 (Intermediate Macroeconomics) • ECON 201 (Introduction to Macroeconomics) 	Spr21,22 Sum20,Win22 Aut2020 Spr2023 Win2021 Aut2018-Spr2020
SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS	Paper Presentation - Heterogeneous Asset Returns and Monetary Policy Redistribution at MTI Brownbag, University of Washington, March 2023 Paper Presentation - Choice of Refinancing & Hand-to-mouth Status at MTI Brownbag, University of Washington, November 2022	
GRADUATE COURSEWORK	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete Market Models <input type="checkbox"/> International Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Macroeconomics of Safe Assets <input type="checkbox"/> Econometric Theory <input type="checkbox"/> Empirical Asset Pricing <input type="checkbox"/> Contract Theory	<input type="checkbox"/> International Trade Theory <input type="checkbox"/> Optimization Techniques <input type="checkbox"/> Non-cooperative & Cooperative Game Theory <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanism Design <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial organization <input type="checkbox"/> Auction Theory
REFERENCES	Professor Yu-chin Chen (committee chair) Department of Economics University of Washington Seattle, WA, USA +1 (206) 543-6197 yuchin@uw.edu	Professor Brian Greaney (committee chair) Department of Economics University of Washington Seattle, WA, USA bg385@uw.edu
	Professor Fabio Ghironi (committee) Department of Economics University of Washington Seattle, WA, USA +1 (206) 543-5795 ghiro@uw.edu	Professor Stephen Turnovsky (committee) Department of Economics University of Washington Seattle, WA, USA +1 (206) 685-8028 sturn@uw.edu
OTHER INFORMATION	Language: English (Fluent), Bengali, Hindi Citizenship: India	

My research investigates the effects of monetary policy on wealth inequality and short term consumption dynamics due to changes in the federal funds rate. In this economy, housing and equity earn different rates of return while households exhibit heterogeneous marginal propensities to consume from their income, resulting in varying monetary policy impacts across the net wealth distribution. I find that a 1% decrease in the federal funds rate leads to a 1.63% increase in aggregate consumption, with an asymmetric effect: a 1% rate hike reduces consumption by only 1.02% , indicating potential challenges in achieving a 'soft landing.' Moreover, I examine the interplay between borrowing constraints and return variations based on housing tenure and age, revealing distinct group exposures to monetary policy shifts and identifying winners and losers. For instance, I quantify an aggregate redistribution effect, yielding a 3.02% consumption increase for outright homeowners and a 1.43% increase for mortgage holders following a 1% federal funds rate decrease. Additionally, middle-aged individuals experience a 1.57% consumption increase, while young individuals see a 1.29% increase under similar conditions. Notably, these effects exhibit pronounced asymmetry.

Portfolio Choices, Asset Prices, and Wealth Inequality

(*with Yu-chin Chen and Brian Greaney*)

The escalation in wealth inequality over recent decades underscores a substantial societal challenge, manifesting across both generational and racial divides. Notably, a stark disparity exists between the average wealth of households aged 20-39 and those aged 60 and above from the 1960s to 2019. Our investigation seeks to unearth the underlying mechanisms driving this trend, with a spotlight on changing asset returns as a pivotal contributor to burgeoning inequality. We meticulously explore three potential sources of disparity across birth cohorts and race: the vicissitudes of asset markets, varying levels of inheritance and debt at the outset of working life, and barriers to investment such as the costs associated with homeownership. Employing a dynamic heterogeneous-agent model, we delve into households' lifetime financial decisions, meticulously calibrating our model with the data from the Survey of Consumer Finances to scrutinize how asset returns, initial wealth, and investment opportunities collectively fuel the observed inequality trends. Our analytical journey extends to assessing the welfare effects and evaluating potential policy reforms to mitigate these entrenched disparities, aiming for a more equitable economic landscape.

Choice of Refinancing and Hand-to-mouth Status

(*R. Datta*)

What does the choice of refinancing reveal about the Hand-to-mouth (HtM) status of households? Preliminary empirical analysis from the SCF corroborates the interlinkage between household debt & HtM status. Further evidence from refinance approvals indicate strong demand for home equity extraction in periods of high unemployment often aided by higher house prices. Following Kaplan, Violante and Weidner (2014), I motivate their measurement by setting up a 3 period partial equilibrium model with heterogeneous preferences to investigate the importance of considering mortgages distinctly from other illiquid assets in the determination of HtM status. Better estimates of the same is imperative for understanding the transmission and redistributive effects of monetary policy & fiscal transfers. Simple qualitative experiments in a calibrated model strongly match the current trends in house prices, unemployment and mortgage refinancing.