

[Institution Name]

October 9, 2024

Dear Hiring Committee Members,

I am writing to express my interest in the [Position] at the [Institution]. With a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and extensive experience in development economics, I focus on gender disparities and the impacts of conflict in developing economies. I am passionate about leveraging rigorous research to inform policies that foster inclusive development, aligning closely with [Institution]’s mission.

My job market paper, “Effects of Military Bases on Women in Colombia,” co-authored with Felipe Parra, employs a robust causal identification strategy to analyze the unintended consequences of military interventions. Using an event-study approach, we identify the causal effects of military base presence on sexual violence, finding a 72% increase in cases over 15 years. This work provides critical insights into the broader social impacts of state security policies. In another project, “Understanding the Constraints in Hiring Women,” I investigate how entrenched gender norms influence employers’ decisions in Pakistan’s garment sector. My research aims to develop scalable solutions that can effectively increase female labor force participation.

I am deeply committed to translating complex research into actionable insights for policymakers and broader audiences. Through my contributions to the International Growth Centre (IGC) blog and policy briefs, I have made my research in Pakistan more accessible, fostering relationships with policymakers. Additionally, I have in-depth experience training policymakers and development practitioners in policy evaluation during my pre-doctoral career at the World Bank. This experience has taught me how to effectively communicate with policymakers from diverse backgrounds, with varying levels of interest, statistical knowledge, and economic literacy.

I am drawn to [Institution]’s dedication to evidence-based research and policy engagement. I am confident that my expertise in development economics, combined with my leadership in research and mentorship, will allow me to contribute effectively to [Institution]’s work in global health, sustainable development finance, and beyond.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to [Institution]’s impactful research and policy efforts.

Sincerely,



Sakina Shibuya