

Samiran Dutta

PhD Candidate in Economics, Paris School of Economics

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Education

Visiting PhD

Spring 2025

School of Economics, University of Edinburgh

Hosts: Prof. Mike Elsby and Dr. Axel Gottfries

PhD Economics

2023–Present

Paris School of Economics

Supervision: Prof. François Fontaine

MRes in Economics

2021–2023

Paris School of Economics

Summa Cum Laude

B.A. in Economics

2017–2020

Ramjas College, University of Delhi

First Division

Research Interests

Macroeconomics, Labour Economics, Growth and Productivity

Publications

The Role of Services in Indias Post-Reform Economic Growth with B.N. Goldar and P.C. Das

Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, 2024

Working Papers

Investigating the Missing Middle in Indian Manufacturing with B.N. Goldar and P. Majumder

SSRN Working Paper, 2023

Work in Progress (Selected)

The Reserve Army of Labour: Dual Labour Markets and Firm Dynamics

(Solo authored, potential *JMP*)

I develop a heterogeneous-firm model with decreasing returns to scale that extends Elsby & Gottfries (2021) to two labour types – formal and informal, while embedding Nash bargaining between firms and a monopoly union over the formal wage. Firms can adjust employment on two margins. The formal margin is subject to search frictions, hiring-and-firing costs, and union wage setting; the informal margin is supplied frictionlessly by labour contractors at a per-head fee. Costly adjustment on the formal side produces an inaction band where firms optimally keep formal head-counts unchanged in the face of productivity shocks – consistent with novel empirical evidence on formal labour inaction. The frictionless informal channel allows firms to adjust to shocks, mitigating misallocation if formal labour were the sole margin. Yet, because informal labour weakens the unions fallback position, large establishments over-hire informal workers, pushing down bargained formal wages and, paradoxically, increasing aggregate misallocation. Calibrated to Indian plant-level data, the model replicates key empirical patterns in Indias registered manufacturing sector, where contract workers act as a de-facto substitutable reserve workforce – providing flexibility and surplus value of formal wage reduction.

Road Networks and Intra-Sector Misallocation: Theory and Evidence from India

(with François Fontaine and S. C. Mudigonda)

Investing in infrastructure is a major policy tool for developing nations. India's Golden Quadrilateral project was one such project, aimed at improving the quality and width of existing highways connecting the four largest metropolitan cities in India. The previous literature has focused on the first-order effect of improved efficiency through lower transportation costs. In contrast, we focus on the intra-sector general equilibrium effect of improved road networks. A firm's market position can strengthen or weaken depending on whether its competitors obtain superior connectivity through the upgraded highway network. Leveraging panel data on India's manufacturing firms, combined with an instrument variable strategy, we find that relative increase in road exposure for a competitor firm reduces a given firm's value-added and increases expenditure on materials. To quantify the general equilibrium effects, we build a model of internal trade among heterogeneous firms with differential access to road networks and transport costs.

Firm Dynamics and Within-Firm Misallocation

(with Alex McQuitty)

Theories of resource misallocation often rely on dispersion of marginal revenue products across firms. However, if firms might face adjustment costs in shifting resources across different tasks/occupations, resources will be misallocated within the firm. In this paper, we build a novel theory of intra-firm misallocation with heterogeneous occupations and mobility frictions within firms. The model is resolved using an extension of the "m-solution" based on the state-space reduction technique in Elsby and Gottfries (2025).

Conferences and Seminars

2021: 36th IARIW General Conference (virtual); Sixth KLEMS Conference, Harvard University (virtual)

2022: Seventh World KLEMS Conference, University of Manchester (virtual)

2023: 18th Annual Conference on Economic Growth & Development, ISI Delhi

2024: PSE Macro Workshop (internal), PSE Development Seminar (internal)

2025: UOE School of Economics Macro Reading Group

Grants

PSE International Mobility Grant, Paris School of Economics Spring 2025

EUR PjSE Research Grant, Paris School of Economics 2025-26

Academic Experience

Teaching

Introduction to Econometrics, Graduate 2024-25

TA for Prof. Angelo Secchi & Prof. Nicolas Jacquemet

Paris School of Economics/Université Paris Cité/Université Paris 1 PanthéonSorbonne

International Trade Theory, Undergraduate Spring 2024

TA for Prof. Léa Marchal

Université Paris 1 PanthéonSorbonne

Macroeconomics, Graduate Fall 2023

TA for Prof. François Fontaine

Université Paris 1 PanthéonSorbonne

Research Assistance

India-KLEMS Project 2020-21

RA under the India-KLEMS team, for the India Productivity Report ([link](#))

CDE, Delhi School of Economics; in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India

Academic References

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Mike Elsby
Professor
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K. L. Krishna
Emeritus Professor
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Languages

Hindi (native); Bengali (native); English (proficient)

Programming Skills

R, Julia, Matlab, L^AT_EX