

# SEEMA JAYACHANDRAN

Department of Economics & School of Public and Intl. Affairs  
Princeton University  
126 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building  
Princeton, NJ 08544

email: [jayachandran@princeton.edu](mailto:jayachandran@princeton.edu)  
web: [seemajayachandran.com](http://seemajayachandran.com)  
phone: (609) 258-8060

## Academic Employment

- 2022–present Professor of Economics & Public Affairs, Princeton University  
Director, Research Program in Development Economics, Princeton University
- 2018–2022 Professor, Department of Economics, Northwestern University
- 2011–2018 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Northwestern University
- 2006–2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University
- 2004–2006 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Postdoctoral) Scholar in Health Policy Research,  
University of California, Berkeley

## Other Current Positions

- Co-Director, Development Economics Program, National Bureau of Economic Research (2019–)  
Chair of Gender Sector (2018–) & Board of Directors (2012–), Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab  
Board of Directors, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (2012–)  
Co-Editor, American Economic Review: Insights (2024–)  
Committee on Population, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine (2022–)  
Research Council, GiveWell (2024–)  
Board of Directors, CARE (2021–)

## Education

- 2004 Ph.D., Harvard University, Economics  
1999 A.M., Harvard University, Physics  
1995 M.A., University of Oxford, Physics and Philosophy  
1993 S.B., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Electrical Engineering

## Past Positions

- Committee on Honors and Awards, American Economic Association (2021–2024)  
Co-Editor, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2018–2024)  
Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), (2018–2023)  
Contributing writer, New York Times, Economic View column (2017–2021)  
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution (2019–2021)  
Co-Director, NBER Gender in the Economy Study Group (2020)  
Visiting Scholar, King Center on Global Development, Stanford University (2019–2020)  
Associate Editor, Quarterly Journal of Economics (2014–2020)  
Co-Chair, J-PAL Health Sector (2012–2018)  
Board of Reviewing Editors, Science (2016–2018)  
Associate Editor, American Economic Review (2014–2018)  
Associate Editor, Journal of Economic Perspectives (2016–2018)

Co-Editor, Journal of Human Resources (2012-2016)  
Associate Editor, Journal of Development Economics (2010-2016)  
Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Economics, MIT (2014–2015)  
Consultant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (2011–2015)  
Associate Editor, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2011-2013)  
Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Harvard University (2010–2011)  
Co-Chair, Working Group on Loan Sanctions, Center for Global Development (2009–2010)  
Management consultant, McKinsey & Company (1995–1997)

### **Affiliations**

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Research Associate  
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliate  
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow  
Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Research Fellow  
Center for Global Development, Non-Resident Fellow  
CESifo, Research Network Fellow

### **Published and Forthcoming Papers**

- “Money (Not) to Burn: Payments for Ecosystem Services to Reduce Crop Residue Burning,” (with K. Jack, N. Kala, and R. Pande), forthcoming at American Economic Review: Insights
- “Informing Mothers about the Benefits of Conversing with Infants: Experimental Evidence from Ghana,” (with P. Dupas, C. Falezan, and M. Walsh), forthcoming at American Economic Journal: Economic Policy
- “Ten Facts about Son Preference in India,” India Policy Forum 2023, volume 20, 2024
- “Environmental Externalities and Free-Riding in the Household,” (with K. Jack, F. Malagutti, and S. Rao), Journal of Development Economics, 170, 2024
- “A Mother’s Voice: Impacts of Spousal Communication Training on Child Health Investments,” (with M. Björkman Nyqvist and C. Zipfel), Journal of Development Economics, 168, 2024
- “Detecting Mother-Father Differences in Spending on Children: A New Approach Using Willingness-to-Pay Elicitation,” (with R. Dizon-Ross), American Economic Review: Insights 5(4), December 2023, pp. 445-459
- “The Mortality Effects of Winter Heating Prices,” (with J. Chirakijja and P. Ong), Economic Journal 134(657), January 2024, pp. 402-417
- “Think Globally, Act Globally: Opportunities to Mitigate Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Low- and Middle-Income Countries,” (with R. Glennerster), Journal of Economic Perspectives 37(3), Summer 2023, pp. 112-136
- “The Inherent Trade-Off Between the Environmental and Anti-Poverty Goals of Payments for Ecosystem Services,” Environmental Research Letters 18(2), February 2023, 025003
- “Greater than the Sum of the Parts? Evidence on Mechanisms Operating in Women’s Groups,” (with L. Diaz-Martin, A. Gopalan, and E. Guarnieri), World Bank Research Observer, 38(1), February 2023, pp. 1-35
- “Using Machine Learning and Qualitative Interviews to Design a Five-Question Survey Module for Women’s Agency,” (with M. Biradavolu and J. Cooper), World Development, vol. 161, January 2023

- “How Economic Development Influences the Environment,” *Annual Review of Economics*, volume 14, 2022, pp. 229-252
- “Improving Willingness-to-Pay Elicitation by Including a Benchmark Good,” (with R. Dizon-Ross), *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, 112(5), May 2022, pp. 551–555
- “Reshaping Adolescents’ Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India,” (with D. Dhar and T. Jain), *American Economic Review*, 112(3), March 2022, pp. 899–927
- “Microentrepreneurship in Developing Countries,” *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, November 2021
- “Social Norms as a Barrier to Women’s Employment in Developing Countries,” *IMF Economic Review*, 69(3), September 2021, pp. 576–595
- “Intergenerational Transmission of Gender Attitudes: Evidence from India,” (with D. Dhar and T. Jain), *Journal of Development Studies*, 55(12), September 2019, pp. 2572–2592
- “Changing Family Attitudes to Promote Female Employment,” (with J. Dean), *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, 109, May 2019, pp. 138–142
- “Self-Selection into Payments for Ecosystem Services Programs,” (with K. Jack), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(12), March 19, 2019, pp. 5326–5333
- “Firm Growth and Corruption: Empirical Evidence from Vietnam,” (with J. Bie, E. Malesky, and B. Olken), *Economic Journal*, 129, February 2019, pp. 651–677
- “The Price Effects of Cash Versus In-Kind Transfers,” (with J. Cunha and G. De Giorgi), *Review of Economic Studies*, 86(1), January 2019, pp. 240–281
- “The Causes and Consequences of Increased Female Education and Labor Force Participation in Developing Countries,” (with R. Heath), *Oxford Handbook of Women and the Economy*, eds. S. Averett, L. Argys and S. Hoffman. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018)
- “Why Are Indian Children So Short? The Role of Birth Order and Son Preference,” (with R. Pande), *American Economic Review*, 107(9), September 2017, pp. 2600–2629
- “Cash for Carbon: A Randomized Trial of Payments for Ecosystem Services to Reduce Deforestation,” (with J. De Laat, E. Lambin, C. Stanton, R. Audy, and N. Thomas), *Science*, 357(6348), July 2017, pp. 267–273
- “Mothers Care More, But Fathers Decide: Educating Parents about Child Health in Uganda,” (with M. Björkman Nyqvist), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 107(5), May 2017, pp. 496–500
- “Fertility Decline and Missing Women,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(1), January 2017, pp. 118–139
- “Friendship at Work: Can Peer Support Catalyze Female Entrepreneurship?” (with E. Field, N. Rigol, and R. Pande), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 8(2), May 2016, pp. 125–153
- “The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing Countries,” *Annual Review of Economics*, vol. 7, 2015, pp. 63–88
- “Governance Challenges in Education and Health Care in Developing Countries,” in S. Asefa and W.-C. Huang (eds.), *The Political Economy of Good Governance*, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2015, pp. 93–110.
- “Does Contraceptive Use Always Reduce Breastfeeding?” *Demography*, 51(3), June 2014, pp. 917–937
- “Incentives to Teach Badly: After-School Tutoring in Developing Countries,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 108, May 2014, pp. 190–205

- “Liquidity Constraints and Deforestation: The Limitations of Payments for Ecosystem Services,” American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings, 103(3), May 2013, pp. 309-313
- “Why Do Mothers Breastfeed Girls Less Than Boys? Evidence and Implications for Child Health in India,” (with I. Kuziemko), Quarterly Journal of Economics, 126(3), August 2011, pp. 1485-1538
- “Do Traditional Institutions Constrain Female Entrepreneurship? A Field Experiment on Business Training in India,” (with E. Field and R. Pande), American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings, 100(2), May 2010, pp. 125-129
- “Modern Medicine and the 20th-Century Decline in Mortality: Evidence on the Impact of Sulfa Drugs,” (with A. Lleras-Muney and K. Smith), American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 2(2), April 2010, pp. 118-146
- “Air Quality and Early-Life Mortality: Evidence from Indonesia’s Wildfires,” Journal of Human Resources, 44(4), Fall 2009, pp. 916-954
- “Life Expectancy and Human Capital Investments: Evidence from Maternal Mortality Declines,” (with A. Lleras-Muney), Quarterly Journal of Economics, 124(1), February 2009, pp. 349-397
- “The Jeffords Effect,” Journal of Law and Economics, 49(2), October 2006, pp. 397-425
- “Selling Labor Low: Wage Responses to Productivity Shocks in Developing Countries,” Journal of Political Economy, 114(3), June 2006, pp. 538-575
- “Odious Debt,” (with M. Kremer), American Economic Review, 96(1), March 2006, pp. 82-92

### **Working Papers**

- “Moving to Opportunity, Together” (with L. Nassal, M. Notowidigdo, M. Paul, H. Sarsons, and E. Sundberg), August 2024
- “The Negligible Effect of Free Contraception on Fertility: Experimental Evidence from Burkina Faso” (with P. Dupas, A. Lleras-Muney, and P. Rossi), July 2024
- “Redesigning Payments for Ecosystem Services to Increase Cost-Effectiveness,” (with S. Izquierdo-Tort and S. Saavedra), July 2024, conditionally accepted at Nature Communications
- “What Works to Enhance Women’s Agency: Cross-Cutting Lessons from Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Studies,” (with W. Chang, L. Diaz-Martin, A. Gopalan, E. Guarneri, and C. Walsh), July 2020
- “Attending Kindergarten Improves Cognitive but Not Socio-Emotional Development in India,” (with J. Dean), February 2020

### **Op-Eds and Other Writing for a General Audience**

- “How to Get More Bang for Your Climate-Change Buck,” (with R. Glennerster), Foreign Affairs, February 14, 2024
- “Ten Facts about Son Preference in India,” , VoxDev, December 2023
- “Does Empowering Women to Communicate at Home Improve Child Health Outcomes?,” (with M. Björkman Nyqvist and C. Zipfel), VoxDev, September 2023
- “Reducing Air Pollution: Evidence From Payments to Reduce Crop Burning in India,” (with K. Jack, N. Kala, and R. Pande), VoxDev, March 28, 2023
- “How to Get Farmers to Not Burn Crop Residue,” (with K. Jack, N. Kala, and R. Pande), Indian Express, October 13, 2021
- “Universal Paternity Leave Needs More Than New Laws for a Push,” New York Times, June 25, 2021

- “Financial Rewards for College Students Could Help Curb the Pandemic,” [New York Times](#), December 29, 2020
- “Rent, Don’t Buy,” [Anthropocene Magazine](#), Issue 5, August 2020
- “Helping Microenterprises Grow: What Works and What Doesn’t,” [VoxDev](#), June 2, 2020
- “Social Programs Can Sometimes Turn a Profit for Taxpayers,” [New York Times](#), July 10, 2020
- “How a Raise for Workers Can Be a Win for Everybody,” [New York Times](#), June 18, 2020
- “When a Disappointment Helped Lead to a Nobel Prize,” [New York Times](#), November 29, 2019
- “Founders of Successful Tech Companies Are Mostly Middle-Aged,” [New York Times](#), August 29, 2019
- “Why a Tax the U.S. Hasn’t Embraced Has Found Favor in Much of the World,” [New York Times](#), May 17, 2019
- “Unable to Post Bail? You Will Pay for That for Many Years,” [New York Times](#), March 1, 2019
- “Lottery-Like Prizes Coax Savings. What’s the Risk in Expanding Them?” [New York Times](#), December 21, 2018
- “Growing out of Corruption,” (with J. Bie, E. Malesky and B. Olken) [VoxDev](#), April 20, 2018
- “Think Positive, Climb Out of Poverty? It Just Might Work,” [New York Times](#), July 13, 2018
- “Family Dynamics and Water Conservation: Evidence from Zambia,” (with K. Jack) [VoxDev](#), April 20, 2018
- “Gender Differences in What Development Economists Study,” (with J. Daubenspeck), [World Bank Development Impact Blog](#), March 20, 2018
- “Unwanted: 21 Million Girls,” [Indian Express](#), February 24, 2018
- “Using the Airbnb Model to Protect the Environment,” [New York Times](#), December 29, 2017
- “Why Public Health Insurance Could Help, Even If You Don’t Want It,” [New York Times](#), September 29, 2017
- “Forest Conservation in Uganda: Using Financial Incentives to Avert Climate Change,” [VoxDev](#), September 28, 2017
- “Odds Are You’re Measuring Son Preference Incorrectly,” [World Bank Development Impact Blog](#), June 19, 2017
- “A Friend’s Support Can Make Women Better Entrepreneurs,” (with E. Field, R. Pande, and N. Rigol), [HBR.org](#), June 2015
- “Son Preference Drives India’s High Child Malnutrition Rates,” (with R. Pande), [VoxEU](#), May 5, 2015
- “The Impact of In-kind and Cash Transfers on Local Prices,” (with J. Cunha and G. De Giorgi), [Policy in Focus](#), 2015, 11(1)
- “Does Economic Development Mean Less Discrimination Against Women? If Only It Were That Simple” [Milken Institute Review](#), January 2015
- “The Youngest Is Hungriest,” (with R. Pande), [New York Times](#), Aug. 10, 2014
- “Tell Us What You Really Think: Measuring Gender Attitudes in Haryana,” (with D. Dhar and T. Jain), [Ideas for India](#), July 18, 2014
- “Choice Not Genes: Probable Cause for the India-Africa Child Height Gap,” (with R. Pande), [Economic and Political Weekly](#), 48(34), August 2013, pp. 77-79
- “Cutting Down Trees for Emergency Cash: Why Access to Credit Can Make PES Programs More Effective,” [Climate-Eval.org](#) , May 13, 2013

- “Evaluating a Payments for Ecosystem Services Program in Uganda,” [Climate-Eval.org](#), April 22, 2013  
 “Loan Sanctions: A New Tool for Diplomacy?” (with M. Kremer), [washingtonpost.com](#), Feb. 7, 2007  
 “A Dictator’s Crippling Debt,” (with M. Kremer), [Harvard Magazine](#), July 2003  
 “Make Odious Debt Too Risky to Issue,” (with M. Kremer), [Financial Times](#), May 9, 2003  
 “Odious Debt,” (with M. Kremer), [Brookings Review](#), Spring 2003  
 “A World of Junk-Status States,” (with M. Kremer), [Guardian](#), Aug. 19, 2002  
 “Odious Debt,” (with M. Kremer), [Finance and Development](#), June 2002

### **Awards and Honors**

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|-----------|---|
| 2022      | Named to Vox Media’s inaugural “Future Perfect 50 List” (“visionaries that have made an impact in their fields to improve lives now and in the future”)         |
| 2018      | Sustainability Science Award, Ecological Society of America (for greatest scholarly contribution on ecosystem sustainability published in the previous 5 years) |
| 2011      | Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow   |
| 2011–2016 | National Science Foundation CAREER Award  |
| 2003      | Eliot Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University  |
| 2002      | Program on Justice, Welfare, & Economics Fellowship, Harvard University   |
| 2002      | Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University  |
| 2001      | Social Science Research Council Fellowship  |
| 1997–2000 | National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (Physics)   |
| 1993–1995 | Marshall Scholar  |
| 1993      | Phi Beta Kappa  |

### **Professional Service**

- Program Committee for AEA Annual Meetings, January 2022; NBER Summer Institute, Development Economics, July 2017, 2019-present; Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting, January 2016; Econometric Society World Congress 2015; NBER Development Program Meeting, October 2014; Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting, January 2014; AEA Annual Meetings, 2013; Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting, June 2012; BREAD Conference, Yale University, May 2012; Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting, January 2012
- Co-organizer, CESifo Venice Summer Institute Workshops (Gender in the Developed and Developing World, June 2019; Malnutrition in South Asia, July 2011)
- Co-organizer, Stanford Institute in Theoretical Economics Conferences (Development Economics, August 2017; Growth and Development, August 2009; Health and Economic Development, June 2006)
- Mentor, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) Mentoring Workshop for Junior Faculty, January 2012
- Faculty instructor, J-PAL Executive Training Course (Indonesia 2008, Uganda 2012, India 2013)
- University service: Program Review Committee, Northwestern, 2021-2022; Committee on Honorary Degrees, Northwestern, 2018-2021; Faculty speaker at Alumni Relations and Development events, Northwestern, 2017-2020; Advisory Board, Program on Equality Development and Globalization Studies, Northwestern, 2012-2014
- Departmental service: Senior Faculty Search Committee, Princeton Economics, 2023–; Internationalization Planning Committee, Princeton SPIA (2022–); Applied Micro Hiring Committee, Northwestern (2011-2017; 2020-2022); Planning Committee, Northwestern (2015-2017); Ad Hoc Committee on the Graduate Program, Northwestern (2016-2017); Junior Faculty Recruiting Committee, Northwestern (2011-2014); Junior Faculty Recruiting Committee, Stanford (2007-2010), Graduate Program Committee, Stanford (2007-2008)

