

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
web: seemajayachandran.com

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

Academic Employment

2022–present Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, 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–)
Board of Directors (2012–) & Chair of Gender Sector (2018–), Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Board of Directors, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (2012–)
Co-Editor, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2018–)
Board of Directors, CARE USA (2021–)

Visiting Positions

2019–2020 Visiting Scholar, King Center on Global Development, Stanford University
2014–2015 Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
2010–2011 Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Harvard University

Affiliations

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Research Associate
Co-Director of NBER Gender in the Economy Study Group, 2020
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliate
Co-Chair of J-PAL Health Sector, 2012-2018
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow
Executive Committee Member (2018–2022)
Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Research Fellow
Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Research Fellow
CESifo, Research Network Fellow

Published and Forthcoming Papers

- “How Economic Development Influences the Environment,” forthcoming in Annual Review of Economics, volume 14, 2022, pp. 229-252
- “Greater than the Sum of the Parts? Evidence on Mechanisms Operating in Women’s Groups,” (with L. Diaz-Martin, A. Gopalan, and E. Guarnieri), forthcoming in World Bank Research Observer, 38(1), February 2023
- “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

- “Using Machine Learning and Qualitative Interviews to Design a Five-Question Survey Module for Women’s Agency,” (with M. Biradavolu and J. Cooper), June 2022, resubmitted to World Development
- “Money (Not) to Burn: Payments for Ecosystem Services to Reduce Crop Residue Burning,” (with K. Jack, N. Kala, and R. Pande), August 2022
- “Detecting Mother-Father Differences in Spending on Children: A New Approach Using Willingness-to-Pay Elicitation,” (with R. Dizon-Ross), August 2022, conditionally accepted at American Economic Review: Insights
- “The Inherent Trade-Off Between the Environmental and Anti-Poverty Goals of Payments for Ecosystem Services,” March 2022, revise and resubmit at Environmental Research Letters
- “Inexpensive Heating Reduces Winter Mortality,” (with J. Chirakijja and P. Ong), August 2022, revise and resubmit at Economic Journal
- “Environmental Externalities and Free-Riding in the Household,” (with K. Jack and S. Rao), March 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 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
- “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
- “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?” 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

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
2012, 2011	Excellence in Refereeing Award, Quarterly Journal of Economics
2014, 2013, 2010, 2009	Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review
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

Editorial Positions

Co-Editor, [American Economic Journal: Applied Economics](#), 2018-present

Board of Reviewing Editors, [Science](#), 2016-2018

Co-Editor, [Journal of Human Resources](#), 2012-2016

Associate Editor, [Quarterly Journal of Economics](#) (2014-2020), [American Economic Review](#) (2014-2018), [Journal of Economic Perspectives](#) (2016-2018), [American Economic Journal: Applied Economics](#) (2011-2013), [Journal of Development Economics](#) (2010-2016)

Professional Service

Committee on Honors and Awards, American Economic Association (AEA), 2021–present

Program Committee for AEA Annual Meetings, January 2022; NBER Summer Institute, Development Economics, July 2017, 2019–; 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)

Co-chair, Working Group on Loan Sanctions, Center for Global Development, 2009-2010

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: 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)

Other Work Experience

2017–2021 Contributing writer, New York Times, Economic View column

2011–2015 Consultant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

1995–1997 McKinsey & Company, San Francisco, management consultant