

Sher Afghan Asad

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Education:

Ph.D. Economics (Fulbright Scholar), Iowa State University, Expected 2020

MSc. Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), 2011

BSc. Honors (Major: Economics) Gold Medalist, Forman Christian College University, 2010

Professional Experience:

Graduate Research Assistant, Iowa State University, 2017 – 2018

Project: Measuring Subjective Beliefs of Farmers

Principal Investigators: Quinn Weninger, Keri Jacobs

Research Associate, Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), 2012 – 2018

Project: Motivating Bureaucrats: Autonomy vs. Performance-Pay for Public Procurement in Pakistan

Principal Investigators: Oriana Bandiera (LSE), Michael Best (Columbia), Adnan Khan (LSE), Andrea Prat (Columbia)

Technical Officer, Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF), 2011 – 2012

Teaching Experience:

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Microeconomics, Iowa State University, Fall 2017, Spring 2019

Law & Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Fall 2010

Money & Banking, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics, Forman Christian College University, Fall 2009

Basic Econometrics, Forman Christian College University, Spring 2010

Research in Progress:

Do workers discriminate against their employers? Evidence from an online labor market

(with J. Bhattacharya and R. Banerjee)

In this study, we explore whether racial biases can exhibit themselves in an online labor market. This issue is explored at great length in economic literature; however, almost all the literature in economics has tended to investigate the issue on the premise that the employers almost always drive these biases. In the present study, we investigate the issue from a different angle and investigate whether biases can run in an opposite direction, i.e., whether workers from one group may exhibit biases towards the employers from the other group when working for opposite group employers. To our knowledge, the possibility of racial bias from the worker side has not been fully explored in the economic literature. We design a large-scale real effort experiment on Amazon Mechanical Turk to answer our research questions.

Distributive effects of nudges

In this project, I am studying the impact of fatality count messages (x traffic deaths this year), displayed on message boards on major highways and interstates in some of the states in the United States, on driving behavior and driver's welfare. The study explores the welfare implications of displaying the fatality count messages by accounting for the emotional cost of seeing such a message vis-a-vis the benefit of potentially avoided crashes because of this nudge. I study the distributive effects of these

messages by stratifying drivers by their driving habits and eliciting their willingness to pay for this public good.

Economic Consequences of Affective Polarization (with T. Ditonto, D. Andersen, J. Bhattacharya)

In this study, we explore the economic consequences of increased polarization in American society. We investigate questions such as; Is there evidence that economic agents discriminate against others based on the political identity of those they interact with? If so, does the discrimination reflect group bias in that each player favors players of his group (in-group bias), or is there systematic discrimination against a rival political group (out-group bias)? Is this discrimination based on animus (a taste for discrimination)? Or, is it the outcome of stereotyping (statistical discrimination)? Finally, whether the economic agents deem political identity as important as other social identities such as gender, age, race in economic interactions. We run a series of incentivized lab games with a representative sample of individuals from all over the United States to investigate the above questions.

Religious Bias in Job Search – Evidence from India (with J. Bhattacharya and R. Banerjee)

This research asks if religious bias, of the majority (minority) group towards the minority (majority) group, manifests itself in job search-related decision-making of the groups. It uses the correspondence-study framework to verify, say if majority-group job-seekers discriminate in the job search dimension vis-à-vis prospective employers from the minority group. Specifically, consider a setting in which job-seekers apply to vacancies posted by statistically-similar prospective employers, all small businesses with group-salient names. In that case, do majority-group job seekers systematically under apply for vacancies posted by minority-group employers?

Measuring Subjective Beliefs of Decision Makers (with Quinn Weninger and Keri Jacobs)

In this project, we are studying the subjective beliefs of farmers about the use of fertilizer (nitrogen) under weather uncertainty. To understand the decision-making process of farmers about the use of nitrogen I am using techniques from behavioral economics to elicit the subjective beliefs of farmers. Since beliefs play an important role in determining the choices of agents, it is essential to measure those beliefs, then study how these beliefs are formed and finally examine how can those beliefs be manipulated to achieve the social optimum.

Selected Presentations

Advance with Field Experiments 2018, Boston University, “Discrimination in Reciprocity: Evidence from an Online Labor Market”

Conferences and Workshops

ASSA Annual Conference 2019 – Atlanta, Georgia

4R Summit 2018 – Des Moines, Iowa

ASSA Annual Conference 2018 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

IFREE Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics 2018 - Orange, California

Advances with Field Experiments 2017 – Chicago, Illinois

ASSA Annual Conference 2017 – Chicago, Illinois

Referee Services:

Economics Bulletin

Fellowships and Academic Honors

Prescott Scholarship, Iowa State University, 2019
Fulbright Foreign Student Program 2015-20
Dr. E D Lucas Medal, Forman Christian College, 2010
Core Values Award, Forman Christian College, 2010
Magna Cum Laude, Forman Christian College, 2010
Outstanding Student Award, Forman Christian College, 2010
Services Award, Forman Christian College, 2010
USAID Talent Scholarship, Forman Christian College, 2006-2010

Grants and Gifts

LAS Seed Grants for Social Science, Iowa State University with T. Ditonto, D. Andersen and J. Bhattacharya, 2019-2020, [\$8,000]

Other Professional Positions and Activities

President, Fulbright Students and Scholars Club, Iowa State University, 2018-2020
Senator, Graduate and Professional Students Senate, Iowa State University, 2018-2019
Member, Emerging Leaders Academy, Iowa State University 2017-2018
President, Economics Graduate Student Association, Iowa State University, 2017-2018
President, Pakistan Student Association – Iowa State University, 2016-2017

Other Information:

Software: oTree, STATA, R, Matlab, LaTeX, LyX
Languages: English, Urdu, Punjabi
Date of Birth: November 09th, 1988
Citizenship: Pakistan