

SHUBHAA BHATTACHARYYA

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Contact Information

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Personal Information

Citizenship: Indian
Born in November, 1994

Education

Stockholm School of Economics
PhD in Economics

September 2025

Centre for Development Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
M.A in Applied Economics (*graduated top of the class*)

2016 - 2018

Presidency University, Kolkata
BSc in Economics

2013 - 2016

Research Interests

Primary: Labour Economics

Secondary: Behavioural Economics, Culture, Gender, Economics of Education

Job Market Paper

Cultural Assimilation and the Labour Market Outcomes of Immigrants

Abstract: This paper investigates how exposure to collectivist versus individualistic cultural values shapes immigrants' labour market outcomes, drawing on rich Swedish administrative data. Leveraging variation in age at migration among immigrant siblings, I isolate the effects of differential cultural assimilation on earnings, educational attainment, and occupational choices. The results show that migrating at an older age is associated with lower earnings, both in absolute terms and relative to observable skills, with this penalty attenuated for immigrants originating from more individualistic cultures. Older age at migration is also linked to a reduced likelihood of completing tertiary education, potentially constraining subsequent labour market opportunities. Women, despite sorting disproportionately into prestigious occupations, continue to face a persistent wage penalty relative to men. By contrast, I find no systematic evidence that exposure to collectivist cultural values influences occupational sorting into prestigious, socially oriented, creative, or routine-intensive fields

Working Papers

Correcting Behavioural Biases in Screen Time Use (*Awarded: Best Paper at the SABE/IAREP conference, 2024*)

Abstract: Smartphone use has been on the rise, and research targeting unproductive screen time use has gained traction in recent years. This paper attempts to add to the literature on experimental interventions that target excessive smartphone use. Through a conceptual framework, I first explore the consumption of screen time through reference dependent preferences, where an individual's consumption decisions are affected by the perceived reference point which is in part determined by peer behaviour. Then, I explore the model's predictions through an online experiment that studies the screen time habits of college students. Specifically, participants are asked to rank their current screen time habits against perceived peer behaviour, and I use a randomized treatment to correct the extent to which they may have misperceived their relative position. I find that individuals are (i) uninformed about the screen time habits of their peers (ii) misperceive their relative position in the distribution (iii) on an average, the findings suggest correcting misperceptions through social comparisons reduces daily average screen time use. Notably, this reduction is driven solely by behavioural motives. (iv) I also find suggestive evidence of a reduction in smartphone screen time being associated with an improvement in academic grades.

The Impact of Remedial Education on Educational Achievements *with Johan Orrenius*

Abstract: This paper investigates the impact of a remedial education program aimed at supporting students at risk of being ineligible for upper secondary school in Sweden. Utilizing rich Swedish administrative data, we leverage the staggered roll-out of the program across schools to compare treated students—those enrolled after the program’s introduction—with control students from earlier cohorts within the same schools who meet the program’s eligibility criteria. This within-school comparison mitigates confounding factors such as variation in school resources and teacher quality. Our findings reveal that the program significantly improves students’ cumulative grade point average (GPA) and while the program does not significantly influence eligibility for upper secondary school, it increases the likelihood of upper secondary school enrollment. These results underscore the effectiveness of targeted interventions in narrowing educational disparities among academically vulnerable groups.

Work in progress

Non-Cooperative Technology Transfer with two-sided Credit Rationing *with Sugata Marjit, Arijit Mukherjee, Lei Yang*

Gender differences in perceived abilities and career sorting *with Patrizia Massner, Andrew Proctor*

Teaching Experience

Introductory Microeconomics, B.Sc Economics Autumn 2020 & 2021
Teaching Assistant for Richard Friberg, Stockholm School of Economics

Using Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, B.Sc Economics Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant for Robert Östling, Stockholm School of Economics

Professional Experience

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India 2018
Research Assistant to the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor in Industrial Economics

Centre for Development Studies 2017
Research Assistant to the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor

State Planning Board, Government of Kerala 2017
Consultant intern to the Office of the Vice Chairman

Service

Representative, Committee on Gender Sensitization against Sexual Harassment 2018
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Co-organizer, Applied Microeconomics Lunch 2022
Stockholm School of Economics

Awards & Grants

Best paper award (awarded jointly) 2024
The SABE/IAREP Joint International Conference (500 €)

Stiftelsen Louis Fraenckels Stipendiefond scholarship 2023, 2024
Travel scholarship, Stockholm School of Economics (SEK 25,000)

Research Grant, The Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU) <i>with Patrizia Massner and Andrew Proctor (SEK 448,000)</i>	2022
Centre for Development Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India The Joan Robinson prize <i>Best overall academic performance in the Master's program</i> The M.G Kanbur prize <i>Quantitative excellence in the Master's program</i>	2018
University Grants Commission, National Eligibility Test <i>Eligibility for college and University level lectureship in India</i>	2018
Young Economics Students' Meet, Kolkata, India <i>Best entry under the category "Essays in Economics"</i>	2016
Confluence, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India <i>Best Paper (Economics) presented at the conference</i>	2015

Conference Presentations

Gender and Economics (Luxembourg), Spanish Association of Law and Economics (Portugal)	2025
SABE/IAREP (Scotland, UK), ENTER Jamboree (Discussant) (Brussels, Belgium)	2024
Prague Conference on Behavioral Sciences (Prague, Czech Republic)	2023
Labor Fika, Stockholm University & Brown Bag, Stockholm School of Economics	2022

Skills

Programming languages and software: R, Stata, Python, L^AT_EX, Git, Ms Office

Languages: English (Native), Bengali, Hindi, Swedish

References

Robert Östling

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Tore Ellingsen

Ragnar Söderberg Chair Professor, Stockholm School of Economics
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Sugata Marjit

First Distinguished Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
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