

# SHUBHAA BHATTACHARYYA

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## Contact Information

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Stockholm School of Economics  
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## Personal Information

Citizenship: Indian  
Born in November, 1994

## Education

<b>Stockholm School of Economics</b> PhD in Economics	2019 - present
<b>Centre for Development Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University</b> M.A in Applied Economics ( <i>graduated top of the class</i> )	2016 - 2018
<b>Presidency University, Kolkata</b> BSc in Economics (honours)	2013 - 2016

## Research Interests

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

## Job Market Paper

### Cultural Assimilation and Earnings Penalties among Immigrants

*Abstract:* his 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

### Behavioural biases in screen time use (Awarded: SABE/IAREP best student paper award, 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.

## **Remedial guidance and the academic outcomes of vulnerable youth 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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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

Summer intern to the Office of the Vice Chairman

## **Service**

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**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**

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**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)**

2022

*with Patrizia Massner and Andrew Proctor (SEK 448,000)*

<b>Centre for Development Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India</b>	2018
<b>The Joan Robinson prize</b> <i>Best overall academic performance in the Master's program</i>	
<b>The M.G Kanbur prize</b> <i>Best performance in quantitative courses in the Master's program</i>	

<b>University Grants Commission, National Eligibility Test</b>	2018
<i>Eligibility for college and University level lectureship in India</i>	

<b>Young Economics Students' Meet, Kolkata, India</b>	2016
<i>Best entry under the category "Essays in Economics"</i>	

<b>Confluence, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India</b>	2015
<i>best paper submitted to the conference by undergraduate students</i>	

## Conference Presentations

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<b>SABE/IAREP (Dundee, Scotland), ENTER Jamboree (Discussant) (Brussels, Belgium)</b>	2024
<b>Prague Conference on Behavioral Sciences (Prague, Czech Republic)</b>	2023
<b>Labor Fika, Stockholm University &amp; Brown Bag, Stockholm School of Economics</b>	2022

## Skills

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**Programming languages and software:** R, Stata, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Git, Ms Office

**Languages:** English (Native), Bengali (Native), Hindi (Fluent)

## References

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**Tore Ellingsen**  
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**Sugata Marjit**  
 First Distinguished Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade  
 sugata@iift.edu