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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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Placement Director: David Cesarini	david.cesarini@nyu.edu	212-998-3773
Graduate Administrator: Ian Johnson	ian.johnson@nyu.edu	212-998-8901

Education

PhD. In Economics, New York University, 2014-2021 (expected)
Thesis Title: *Essays in Environmental Economics*
M.A. in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, 2011-2013
B.A. Honors in Economics, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 2008-2011

References

Professor Paul Scott
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Professor Christopher Flinn
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Professor Elena Manresa
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Research Fields

Primary fields: Environmental Economics and Applied Microeconomics
Secondary fields: Development Economics and Industrial Organization

Teaching Experience

Summer 2020	Intermediate Microeconomics, NYU, Main Instructor
Spring 2020	Microeconomics, NYU Stern, TA for Prof. Walker Hanlon
Fall 2019 & Spring 2018	Introductory Statistics, NYU, TA for Prof. Timothy Roeper
Spring 2019	Introductory Econometrics, NYU, TA for Prof. Timothy Roeper
Fall 2018	Econometrics I (Ph.D.), NYU Stern, TA for Prof. Paul Scott
Fall 2017	Introductory Econometrics, NYU, TA for Prof. Kathleen Ngangoue
Spring 2017 & Spring 2016	Introductory Statistics, NYU, TA for Prof. Quang Vuong

Research Experience and Other Employment

Summer 2018	Research Assistant for Prof. Paul Scott, NYU Stern
Summer 2016 – Spring 2017	Research Assistant for Prof. Hunt Allcott, NYU
Summer 2013 – Spring 2014	Research Assistant for Prof. Tridip Ray, Indian Statistical Institute,

New Delhi

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2014 – 2019	Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, NYU
2013	Krishna Raj Fellowship Grant, Delhi School of Economics
2012 – 2013	Delhi School of Economics Merit Scholarship

Research Papers

Demand for tropical deforestation in Brazil: The role of cattle ranching (Job Market Paper)

Tropical deforestation is a pressing environmental issue. I study how global demand changes drive deforestation in Brazil. I assemble data on municipal level deforestation rates and a transportation cost-based measure of local returns to beef. I document a negative correlation between returns to beef and deforestation rates. I show that this can be rationalized by a dynamic model of a rancher, who chooses herd size as well as additional land clearing for pasture. Land clearing is driven by the need for additional pasture to sustain a bigger cattle herd. Temporary increases in returns to beef lead to increased slaughter, reducing herd size. This reduces the immediate demand for deforestation, explaining the observed negative correlation between deforestation rates and returns to beef. On the other hand, following a permanent increase in returns, the rancher optimally accumulates a bigger herd, which might necessitate more deforestation. Therefore, the model shows that omitting herd size can bias estimates of land use elasticity. I estimate the parameters of this model and simulate future deforestation under alternative return scenarios. Based on these counterfactuals, I find deforestation to be very inelastic, with a central estimate of a 10% permanent increase in returns to beef leading to a 0.01% increase in average long-run deforestation rate.

Supply-side policies for groundwater depletion: Artificial groundwater recharge in Indian agriculture

Groundwater irrigation is the mainstay of 60% of India's agriculture. The deteriorating groundwater table can potentially be halted by increasing the rate of groundwater recharge by physical investments, such as percolation tanks. I provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of such policies. Technologies, or wells, that can access aquifers with a deeper water table have higher setup costs. I assemble data on the number and types of wells for a panel of Indian villages and measurements of the water table. I document two facts - first, there is persistence in technology choice; second, a fall in the water table is positively correlated with the setting up of costlier technologies, but not others. I build an estimable dynamic model of well drilling decision that is consistent with these facts. In equilibrium, some of the water table gain from improved recharge rates might be endogenously eroded as extraction rates increase with the reduced cost of accessing groundwater. The model can be used to counterfactually evaluate the effects of exogenous changes in recharge rates.

Research In Progress

The impact of US-China trade war on deforestation in the Amazon