

Souparna Maji

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Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, International Trade, Political Economy, Industrial Organization

Education

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva Geneva, Switzerland
PhD in Economics Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2024

- Thesis: “Essays in Development Economics”
- Advisors: Prof. Giacomo de Giorgi and Prof. Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti
- Field: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Political Economy, Economics of Crime

Study Center Gerzensee, Swiss National Bank Gerzensee, Switzerland
Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics Sept. 2019 - Aug. 2020

Jadavpur University Kolkata, India
Master of Arts in Economics [CGPA: 9.94/10] July 2015 - June 2017

Jadavpur University Kolkata, India
Bachelor of Arts in Economics [CGPA: 9.79/10] July 2011 - June 2014

Work Experience

University of Geneva (Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation) Geneva, Switzerland
Postdoctoral Researcher (Field: International Trade) Sept. 2024 - Present

- Applied General Equilibrium Modelling & Policy Simulations in Python:
 - Design baseline calibrations and policy-shock simulations adapting CES and non-CES demand models.
 - Conduct firm and consumer responses (e.g., markup, elasticity) and welfare analyses for tariffs shocks.
- Project - Global and Regional Externalities in Trade Agreements:
 - Analyse how trade agreements impact multinational production choices using econometric models in Stata & R.
 - Explore how firms adapt their production and marketing strategies in response to trade policy shifts.

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva Geneva, Switzerland
Adjunct Lecturer Sept. 2024 - Feb. 2025

- Course: International Trade (Bachelor of Science Program in Economics and Management).
- Taught trade theories and their empirical applications to a cohort of 97 students, emphasising real-world aspects.

University of Geneva (Funded by Swiss National Science Foundation) Geneva, Switzerland
Research Assistant Aug. 2023 - Aug. 2024

- Literature review of research on pass-through estimates in International Trade and Industrial Organisation.
- Assistant to Prof. M. Mrázová for the publication of the paper “Trade Agreements when profits matter”:
 - Analysed and synthesised mathematical models using Mathematica and Python to ensure research accuracy.

Geneva School of Economics and Management, University of Geneva Geneva, Switzerland
Teaching Assistant Sept. 2020 - Aug. 2024

- Courses: Applied Economics Workshop & Microeconomics (Master), Applied Econometrics (Bachelor).
- Collaborated to prepare study materials and delivered over 120 seminars to a diverse cohort of students.

Government of West Bengal (Co-funded by UN Development Programme)

Project Consultant

West Bengal, India

June 2018 - July 2019

- Project - Preparation of the District Human Development Report for Purba Medinipur, West Bengal:
- Collaborated with stakeholders to collect and analyse data; authored chapters on Education, Health, and Industry.
- Identified gender gap in education and female labor force participation stagnation, prompting targeted policies.

Freelance

Kolkata, India and Remote

Academic Instructor and Data Analyst

July 2017 - June 2019

- **Academic Instructor:**
 - Established a tutoring center serving around 60 Bachelor's and 20 Master's students.
 - Taught economics, international trade, econometrics, and statistics courses with hands-on applications in Stata.
- **Data Analyst:**
 - Performed market research and data analysis for business clients using SQL and R, providing actionable insights.

Delhi School of Economics

West Bengal and Tripura, India

Survey Analysis Intern (Part-Time)

June 2016 - Feb. 2017

- Project - Food Security in India after the Implementation of the National Food Security Act:
- Field Experience: Led 3 survey teams across 9 districts in 2 Indian states, coordinating data collection and analysis.
- Collected, processed, and analysed data in Excel & Stata; prepared reports to suggest policies to state governments.
- Identified quality deficiencies and nutritional gaps in the programme, recommending policy suggestions.

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Remote

Project Assistant

Oct. 2016 - Dec. 2016

- Project - Impact of Demonetization on the Unorganised Economic Sector of the Indian Economy:
- Created a novel dataset from newspaper articles and drafted a report on the effects on the unorganised sector.

Working Papers

1. "The 'Ripple Effect' of Criminally Accused Politicians on Crime in India" (with V. Bahure); under R & R.

- We analyzed the impact of criminally accused politicians (CAPs) in Indian legislative assemblies on local crime rates and legal integrity, using regression discontinuity designs in Stata and double/debiased machine learning methods in Python. We created local crime data using R from a dataset of approx. 81 million court cases provided by the Development Data Lab and developed politician-level data from 2007 to 2016 through Python web scraping from the ADR Myneta portals. Our study found a significant increase in aggregate crime—particularly crimes against women and property crimes—following the election of CAPs. Additionally, the election of CAPs triggered economic downturns, reduced public trust in the police, and caused judicial delays, which likely contributed to the rise in crime.

2. "Education and Domestic Violence: Evidence from a School Construction Program in India" (with M. Agarwal, V. Bahure, K. Bergonzoli); SITES Working Papers No. 17, 2024.

- We investigated the 2015-16 and 2019-21 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design and IV regression in Stata to assess the impact of India's District Primary Education Program (DPEP) on domestic violence. We constructed the dataset on school construction under DPEP from reports published by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. Our findings show increased women's education significantly reduced domestic violence: emotional violence fell by 13%, less severe physical violence by 26%, and sexual violence by 9%. These reductions stemmed primarily from improved gender attitudes, better partner quality, and greater access to legal and informational support.

3. "Development Assistance and Crime-Accused Politicians: Evidence from Indian Elections" (with U. Das); under Review.

- We investigated whether financial flows from development assistance (DA) projects influence the entry of candidates with criminal or serious crime accusations. We geocoded World Bank DA projects using ArcGIS and constructed state assembly election-level politician data via Python web scraping from the ADR Myneta por-

tals. Our multi-way fixed effects regression analysis of 2008–2015 Indian election data found weak evidence that World Bank–funded DA projects may increase the share of first-time electoral candidates with such accusations; however, our instrumental variable regression could not find any effect of local legislators’ criminal accusations on project performance and evaluation ratings.

Work in Progress

1. “Exploring the Duality: Economic and Environmental Consequences of Chinese Development Finance” (with S. Roy).
2. “Clientelistic Transfers: Aid or Barrier to the Demand for Rainfall Insurance?” (with S. Roy).

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. “A Study on Happiness and Related Factors among Indian College Students” (with B. Chakrabarty, A. Sen, I. Mallik, & S. Baidya); *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, Springer, 17(1), 215-236, 2019.
2. “Club Convergence among the Major Indian States during 1982-2014: Does Investment in Human Capital Matter?” (with S. Hembram & S.K. Haldar); *South Asia Economic Journal*, SAGE, 20(2), 184-204, 2019.

Policy Articles and Reports

1. “How investing in girls’ education can reduce domestic violence in India” (with M. Agarwal, V. Bahure, K. Bergonzoli); *Ideas for India*, 2024.
2. “District Human Development Report of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal” (with V. Mukherjee, P. Saha); Internal Report for the Government of West Bengal, 2019.

Popular Articles

1. “Unprecedented Job Losses in Unorganised Sector Post Demonetisation” (with P. Saha); *The Wire*, 2017.
2. “Food Security Makes Headway in Tripura, But Gaps Remain”; *The Wire*, 2017.
3. “PDS has improved in West Bengal, but it’s still not up to the mark” (with J. Drèze); *The Indian Express*, 2016.

Selected Conferences and Seminars

2023-2024. NEU Development Consortium (Harvard University); RVIe Conference (Geneva Graduate Institute); SITES Annual Conference and Summer School (Naples and Prato); Leibniz Institute ifo Dresden Workshop (Dresden); Workshop on Economics of Organized Crime (University of Pavia); European Conference on Domestic Violence (Reykjavik).

2021-2022. Alumni Conference (Gerzensee); Pol. & Dev. Econ. Cluster (HEC Lausanne); Brown Bag Seminars (GSEM, Geneva) & PhD Day Seminar (GSEM & IHEID, Geneva).

2016-2018. 6th & 7th IGC Growth Conference (Kolkata); Food Security after NFSA (Birbhum, Kolkata); RBI Seminar (Kolkata).

Selected Short Courses and Workshops

2023. Ex Ante and Ex Post Policy Evaluation Approaches, Study Center Gerzensee.

2021. Natural Language Processing and GIS in Applied Microeconomics, Lancaster University.

2021. Frontier Topics in Political Economy of Development and Conflict, University of Lausanne.

2021. Summer School in International and Development Economics, Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano.

Selected Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

2022. Best Teaching Assistant, Institute of Economics & Econometrics, GSEM, University of Geneva.

2022. Grant for Rare Voices in Economics Conference, Swiss National Science Foundation.

2019-20. Scholarship for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics Program, Swiss National Bank.

2017. Certificate for highest CGPA in the Master of Arts in Economics program, Jadavpur University.

2014. Gold Medal for securing first position in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Jadavpur University.

2011-14. Merit Scholarship for College and University Students, Govt. of India.

Selected Services and Outreach

2023-Present. External Advisor, Aalok Foundation (Non-Profit), West Bengal, India.

2022-23: Co-supervisor and External Jury Member for the Master’s Theses of Two Students.

2022. Co-organizer, Rare Voices in Economics Annual Conference, 2nd Edition, University of Geneva.

2021-2024. Rare Voices in Economics, Member of Research Cluster and Workshop Team.

2020-22. Mentor, Mentoring Program, University of Geneva.

2014. Co-convenor, Young Economist Students Meet, Jadavpur University.

2011-14. Student and Class Representative, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University.

Technical Skills and Languages

Computer: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, Power BI, GCP BigQuery, SQL, Mathematica, \LaTeX , MS Office

Database: WITS, UNCTAD Data Hub, UN Comtrade, DHS, IHDS, ASER India, NSSO India, Census India, Census US, ADR MyNeta India, AidData, ACLED, GDELT, DevData Lab, GFW, World Bank Open Data, ILOSTAT

Language: English (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent), Bengali (Native), French (Basic)

References

Prof. Giacomo de Giorgi (Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva)

Prof. Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti (Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva)

Prof. Monika Mrázová (Director, Institute of Economics and Econometrics, University of Geneva)