

TANYA V. RAJAN

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Office Contact Information

University of Chicago, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics
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Education

University of Chicago , Ph.D. Economics	<i>2019–present</i>
Rice University , B.A. with Honors in Mathematical Economic Analysis <i>Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa</i>	<i>2012–2016</i>

References

Professor Thibaut Lamadon (Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics thibaut.lamadon@gmail.com (773) 702-2544	Professor Michael Dinerstein Duke University Department of Economics michael.dinerstein@duke.edu (650) 492-1004
Professor Christina Brown University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics christinalbrown@gmail.com (773) 702-8003	Professor Stephane Bonhomme University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics sbonhomme@uchicago.edu (773) 834-6831

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary:	Development Economics, Labor Economics
Secondary:	Health Economics

Job Market Paper

Untangling Informality: Wages, Preferences, and Sectoral Sorting in Bangladesh's Garment Industry

Abstract: Worker mobility between the formal and informal sectors of labor markets in low-income countries depends on both search frictions and worker preferences. Focusing on the garment industry in urban Bangladesh, this paper combines survey data on retrospective job histories and a choice experiment over job amenities to estimate a dual-sector labor supply model with on-the-job search and heterogeneous preferences for amenities. I find that search frictions differ by sector, with yearly job arrival rates of 71% from the formal sector and 93% from the informal sector when searching from unemployment. I also find that workers have strong and heterogeneous preferences for job amenities, with some workers willing to pay up to 37.4% of their wages for specific amenities. When comparing search frictions and preferences, I find that preferences are a larger determinant of worker sorting between sectors, with preferences for formal amenities pushing more workers into the formal sector.

Work in Progress

Health Financing and Healthcare Utilization in Malawi

Fertility Decline and Urbanization in India (w/ Anup Malani)

Long-term Follow-Up of the Malawi Family Planning Study (w/ Mahesh Karra and Daniel Maggio)

Rural Employment and Seasonal Migration: A Study of MNREGA in Odisha, India (w/ Menna Bishop and Jack Glaser)

Publications

Cantor SB, Rajan T, Linder SK, Volk RJ. (2015). "A framework for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of patient decision aids: A case study using colorectal cancer screening." *Prev Med*, 77:168-73.

Cantor SB, Deshmukh AA, Luca NS, Nogueras-Gonzalez GM, Rajan T, Prokhorov AV. (2015) "Cost-effectiveness analysis of smoking-cessation counseling training for physicians and pharmacists." *Addict Behav*, 45:79-86.

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

NIA T32 Predoctoral Fellowship Program	<i>2022-Present</i>
STEG PhD Student Small Research Grant (\$18,000)	<i>2023</i>
Development Economics Research Fund - Pilot Grant (\$7,000)	<i>2023</i>
Development Economics Research Fund - Exploratory Travel Grant (\$5,000)	<i>2022</i>
Gaston V. Rimlinger Thesis Prize in Economics	<i>2016</i>

Teaching Experience

Health Economics (MBA)	TA for Prof. Notowidigdo	<i>Win. 2023, Spr. 2024</i>
Empirical Analysis 1 (Masters)	TA for Joe Hardwick	<i>Fall 2021, 2022</i>
Human Capital (PhD)	TA for Prof. Heckman	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Intro to Devt. Econ. (Undergraduate)	TA, Course Developer for Prof. Glennerster	<i>Winter 2022</i>
Econometrics (Undergraduate)	TA for Joe Hardwick	<i>Winter 2022</i>

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Consultant for Goodweave (<i>Pro Bono</i>)	<i>2023-24</i>
<i>Project on Child Labor in Bangladeshi Garments Industry</i>	
Predoctoral Fellow for James Heckman: Center for the Economics of Human Development	<i>2016-2019</i>
Research Officer, International Rescue Committee	<i>2016</i>
Research Assistant, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	<i>2014-2016</i>

Professional Experience

Organizer, UChicago Development Reading Group/Seminar	<i>2020-21</i>
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Presentations *University of Chicago Demography Workshop (2024)*

Refereeing Activity *JPE Micro*

Additional Information

Citizenship	United States
Programming Skills	Julia, R, Stata, Python, Matlab
Languages	English (<i>native</i>), Spanish (<i>intermediate</i>), Hindi (<i>conversational</i>)