

TANYA RAJAN

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Office Contact Information

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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

Abstract: How do households in low-income countries (LICs) respond to changes in public health funding? This paper studies household health and expenditure decisions in Malawi before and after the country's 2013 Cashgate scandal, which led to a large and persistent withdrawal of general budget support from international donors to the Malawian government. Leveraging data on the universe of health facilities in Malawi, I construct a measure of exposure to the funding shock, which differs by subdistrict due to variation in the funding sources of health facilities available in each area. I then estimate the causal effect of the shock on household health decisions using a differences-in-differences design with shock exposure as a continuous treatment. I find that households most affected by the funding shock are less likely to visit government-funded facilities and get less preventive care. Results are heterogeneous by income, with richer households seeking more at-home and pharmacy-based care while poorer households continue to use government funded facilities. This paper's analysis highlights the need to incorporate more distributional and behavioral considerations when informing health policy decisions in LICs.

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 NREGA 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	2022-Present
STEG PhD Student Small Research Grant (\$18,000)	2023
Development Economics Research Fund - Pilot Grant (\$7,000)	2023
Development Economics Research Fund - Exploratory Travel Grant (\$5,000)	2022
Gaston V. Rimlinger Thesis Prize in Economics	2016

Teaching Experience

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

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Consultant for GoodWeave International (<i>Pro Bono</i>)	2023-24
<i>Report on Child Labor in Subcontracted Readymade Garment Supply Chains in Bangladesh</i>	
Predoctoral Fellow for James Heckman: Center for the Economics of Human Development	2016-19
Research Officer, International Rescue Committee	2016
Research Assistant, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	2014-16

Professional Experience

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

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>)