

# Tara Sylvia Bedi

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CONTACT INFORMATION	69 Donore Avenue Dublin 8	<i>Phone:</i> +353 879575490 <i>E-mail:</i> tbedi@tcd.ie
CITIZENSHIP	Ireland & USA	
RESEARCH FOCUS	Economic Development, Applied Microeconomics, Household Behaviour, Gender, Social Protection, Well-Being, Social Norms, Financial Inclusion, Labour Markets, Accountability, Donations	
EMPLOYMENT	<b>University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD)</b> Department of Economics Dublin, Ireland  Research Fellow MSCActions Research Fellow	
		Since 2021 2017-2020
EDUCATION	<b>University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD)</b> Dublin, Ireland  Ph.D. Development Economics	
	2013 - 2018	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissertation Topic: “Innovative and effective financial services and information awareness for inclusive poverty reduction: The role of mobile banking and awareness programmes in changing saving, credit and employment behaviour of poor households and the resulting impact on household welfare.”</li><li>• Advisor: Michael King</li><li>• Committee: Andrew McKay, Tara Mitchell</li></ul>	
	<b>Harvard Kennedy School of Government</b> Cambridge, USA  Master of Public Administration in International Development	
	2002 - 2004	
	<i>Core subjects:</i> Analysing politics for policy, human rights and international politics, good governance and democratisation, legal, social and political institutions in development, resource contestation, development policy analysis & design, advanced micro and macro economics, econometrics	
	<b>Lewis &amp; Clark College, Economics Department</b> Portland, USA  BA in Economics with Honours	
	1996 - 2000	
PUBLICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hyperinflation in Zimbabwe: Background, Impact, and Policy. (2019), with T. McIndoe-Calder and R. Mercado. Palgrave Pivot.</li><li>• Formal Financial Inclusion in Kenya: Understanding the Demand-Side Constraints. (2015), with M. King. Chapter in <i>Kenya's Financial Transformation in the 21st Century</i>. Edited by Amrik Heyer and Michael King. Nairobi, Kenya: FSD Kenya</li><li>• Leading Edge 2020: Critical Thinking on the Future of International Development. (2011), with M. Bateman, L. Gold and O. Moore. Trócaire.</li><li>• My Word is my Bond: Delivery of aid commitments by Ireland. (2010), with B Riordan. Trócaire Development Review 2010, 101-22</li><li>• More than a pretty picture: using poverty maps to design better policies and interventions. (2007), with A. Coudouel and K. Simler. Washington, DC: World Bank.</li></ul>	

- Beyond the numbers: understanding the institutions for monitoring poverty reduction strategies. (2006), with A. Coudouel, M. Cox, M. Goldstein, and N. Thornton. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Impact Evaluation and the Project Cycle. (2006), with S. Bhatti, X. Gine, E Galasso, M. Goldstein, and A. Legovini.

#### WORKING PAPERS

- Forty Years of Charitable Giving in Ireland: What have we learnt, with O. B. Breen and J. Carroll.
- Shifting spousal decision-making patterns: Who you target in an agriculture intervention matter. The impact of Farmer's Innovation Fund in Ethiopia, with N. Buehren, M. Goldstein and T. A. Ketema.
- Mental Accounting, Spousal Control and Intra-Household Communication: Evidence from an Experiment in India, with A. Jose and M. King
- Accountability of public works entitlements in rural India, with L. Kuld.
- Income Uncertainty and Preferences for Formal Financial Products: Evidence from Rural Kenya, with M. King.

#### POLICY BRIEFS

- Overview of the Results from the QuIP Report on Concern Worldwide Graduation Programme, Malawi, with Concern Worldwide.
- The Graduation Model and Gender Empowerment Research Project in Malawi, with Concern Worldwide.
- Highlights from the Baseline Survey on the Graduation Households, with Concern Worldwide.
- The Umodzi Pilot: Successes and Learnings, with Concern Worldwide.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### **Trinity College Dublin** Dublin, Ireland

- *Module Coordinator & Lecturer*, Impact Measurement Masters in Development Practice 2018 - 2023
- *Lecturer*, Survey Design and Qualitative Evaluation Methods 2021-2023  
Trinity Impact Evaluation (TIME) Online Course on Impact Evaluation
- *Supervision* of nine master dissertations 2021-2023  
Masters in Development Practice
- *Teaching Assistant*, Microeconomics (2nd year) 2016 - 2017  
Department of Economics
- *Lecturer*, Economics of Less Developed Countries (3rd year) 2015 - 2016  
Department of Economics
- *Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Economic Policy (1st year) 2013 - 2014  
Department of Economics

#### HONOURS, AWARDS, GRANTS

- Gender Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme (2021 - 2024), with Diana Avila, Markus Goldstein, Michael King, Rachael Pierotti and Julia Vaillant. Funder 1: World Bank (\$320,750); Funder 2: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (\$125,000)
- Impact Evaluation of Concern's Graduation Model in Malawi (2017 - 2022), with Michael King. Funder: Concern Worldwide (€1,417,060)
- Impact of a gender targeted graduation model and norm-transforming intervention on IPV (2020 - 2022), with Michael King and A. Ramos. Funder: Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) (\$30,183.00)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND Collaborative International Research Fellowship for a Responsive and Innovative Europe (CAROLINE). (2017 - 2022) "Understanding the Gender and Inequality: Dimensions of a Leading Multifaceted Anti-Poverty Programme (the Graduation Model)." Funder: Irish Research Council (€205,120)
- Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (2014 - 2017). Funder: Irish Research Council

- Department Scholarship, Department of Economics (2013 - 2017). Funder: Trinity College Dublin
- John F. Kennedy Scholarship. (2002 - 2004). Funder: Harvard University (\$20,000)
- Mary Stuart Rogers Scholar (1999). Funder: Lewis & Clark College (\$5,000)

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Randomised Controlled Trials & Qualitative Research

*Gender impacts from the Graduation Programme in Malawi:* Designed, secured funding and implemented a randomised control trial (RCT), which studies the impact of varying the gender of the recipient of an anti-poverty programme and a gender empowerment training on intrahousehold bargaining power, well-being, and household poverty. We incorporate a qualitative impact protocol so that we can better understand participants' own interpretation of the programme's impact on their lives. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, James Copestake, Michael King, and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin, Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank, University of Bath.

*Research website:* <https://www.tcd.ie/time/research/malawigraduation/>

*Gender, Social Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme:* Designed, secured funding and implemented a RCT on understanding the impact of gender social norms interventions. The RCT tests the effect of adding a) couples empowerment training and b) community interventions to a cash transfer programme on female empowerment, spousal cohesion and welfare outcomes. We incorporate iterative qualitative research to understand the programme's impact across family structures and social groups. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Michael King, Rachael Pierotti and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin and Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank

*Research website:* [https://www.tcd.ie/time/research/social-protection/gender\\_mauritania/](https://www.tcd.ie/time/research/social-protection/gender_mauritania/)

### Lab Experiments

*Joint Accounts in the Fintech Era:* We revisit the topic of joint accounts and assess how their terms of labelling, transparency and spousal approval, increasingly varied due to innovations in the fintech sector, affect intrahousehold allocation decisions. We also assess the impact of personally earning money versus gifted money on subsequent expenditure decisions of couples. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Anu Jose and Michael King. Trinity College Dublin.

*Research website:* <https://www.tcd.ie/time/research/financial/joint-accounts-india/>

### Other Projects

*The Donations Project in Ireland:* Designed a research project using the Irish Household Budget Survey, 1987 through 2015, to look at the growth patterns and factors that shifted household donations, including tax policy, over the past four decades. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Oonagh B. Breen, and James Carroll. Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

*Weather Shocks, Poverty and Well-being in Malawi:* In this project, we look at the impact of Cyclone Idai in Malawi on household welfare, well-being and gender dynamics. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Michael King, Ilan Noy, and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin, Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### UNU-WIDER

Dublin, Ireland

*Short-term consultant*

2017

- Analysed and wrote a chapter on household credit access in Vietnam from the latest round of Vietnam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS)

### World Bank

Dublin, Ireland

*Short-term Consultant:*

Summer 2013

- Co-wrote a research paper looking at the issue of unemployment and social safety nets in Latvia.

**Tròcaire**

Maynooth, Ireland

*Policy Officer*

2011 - 2013

- Developed and delivered policy and advocacy projects on Financing For Development, including Tax Justice, and Policy Coherence for Development.
- Developed an M&E framework for policy and advocacy and wrote the annual M&E report on policy and advocacy for the organisation.

*Policy & Research Coordinator*

2008 - 2011

- Managed a team of policy officers and administration support. Responsibilities included setting work agendas for individuals in the team, monitoring progress, and creating opportunities to develop individual skill sets. Additional responsibilities included developing standards on policy publications and establishing monitoring and evaluation processes for advocacy work.
- Lead researcher for the Tròcaire Research publication “Leading Edge 2020: Critical thinking on the future of International Development.” Responsibilities included securing funding for the project, developing research methodology and analysis framework, collecting and analysing the data and managing a team of researchers.
- Editor of the Tròcaire Development Review, the annual policy journal produced by Tròcaire, activities included drafting call for papers, securing papers for journal, overseeing reviewing process, managing relationship with people on the editorial board, producing journal and dissemination of the journal.

*Research Officer on Food Security, Livelihoods & Environmental Justice Team*

2007 - 2008

- Lead and designed research on food security, developed case studies on successful initiatives of Tròcaire’s food security work, wrote Tròcaire’s contribution to the Irish Government’s Hunger Task Force and regularly briefed Tròcaire’s Director for the Hunger Task Force’ meetings.

**World Bank, Poverty Reduction & Economic Management (PREM)** Washington, USA

*Junior Professional Associate*

2004 - 2006

*Poverty Analysis, Monitoring & Impact Evaluations team in the Poverty Reduction Group*

- Co-managed the work programme on Using Small Area Estimation Poverty Maps to Allocate Resources and Design Policy. Tasks included drafting the concept note, overseeing 14 country studies, managing consultants, providing guidance and feedback on reports, writing papers on poverty map applications and on strengthening the impact of poverty maps, organising a conference on the emerging lessons and the case studies, and making presentations on the results of the work programme
- Coordinated work on Impact Evaluations, including organising workshops, trainings and lunchtime seminars, supervising development of an impact evaluation database. Researched and co-wrote a qualitative evaluations methods note and an evaluation standards best practice review

**Immigrant and Refugee Community Organisation (IRCO)**

Portland, USA

*Programme Coordinator of Volunteers*

2001 - 2002

*Non-profit refugee resettlement service organisation*

- Responsible for recruitment, training, support and management of over 100 volunteers at IRCO
- Co-lectured a Portland State University Senior class
- Identified, designed and implemented new volunteer opportunities, such as Youth Mentors, Case Managers for Domestic Violence programme
- Developed outreach programmes between the local community and newly arrived refugees
- Created programme handouts, newsletters, supplemental training and educational material

COMPUTER SKILLS  
& LANGUAGES

- Statistics: Stata (excellent), basic knowledge of R
- Typesetting: LaTeX, Microsoft Office
- Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

BOARD  
MEMBERSHIPS,  
PRESENTATIONS &  
CERTIFICATES

- Master in Development Practice, Course Committee Member, Trinity College Dublin
- Board Director of Plan International Ireland
- Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion and Social Protection, 2022 (Chicago); European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP) Conference, 2021 (Dublin); Africa Gender Equality Conference, 2021 (virtual); UN Commission for the Status of Women, 2021 (virtual); the Gender Study Group, 2021 (virtual); MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium, 2021 (virtual); RESULTS.org, 2019 (virtual); Irish Aid, 2019 (Malawi); World Bank, 2019 (Washington DC and Malawi); Gates Foundation, 2019 (Seattle); Skoll Ecosystem Session: Poverty Graduation & Women's Economic Empowerment, 2019 (Oxford); DIAL Development conference, 2017 (Paris); NORDIC conference in Development Economic, 2016 (Oslo).
- Invited podcast guest on 'The Brand Called You'
- Certificates: Social Norms, Social Change I. Social Norms, Social Change II