

# Tara Sylvia Bedi

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Museum Building Trinity College, Dublin Ireland	<i>E-mail:</i> tbedi@tcd.ie <a href="https://tarabedi.github.io/">https://tarabedi.github.io/</a>
CITIZENSHIP	Ireland & USA	
RESEARCH FOCUS	Sustainable Development, Gender, Social Protection, Well-Being, Social Norms, Financial Inclusion, Climate Change, Labour Markets, Accountability, Donations, Applied Microeconomics, Household Behaviour	
EMPLOYMENT	<b>University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD)</b> Department of Geography Dublin, Ireland	
	Assistant Professor in Development Practice	Since 2024
	Research Fellow, Department of Economics	Since 2021
	MSCActions Research Fellow, Department of Economics	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: Professor Michael King</li><li>• Committee: Professor Andrew McKay, Professor 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> Advanced micro and macro economics, econometrics, 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	
	<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></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Impact Evaluation and the Project Cycle. (2006), with S. Bhatti, X. Gine, E Galasso, M. Goldstein, and A. Legovini.</li> </ul>
R&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability of public works entitlements in rural India, with L. Kuld.</li> </ul>
IN REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forty Years of Charitable Giving in Ireland: What have we learnt, with O. B. Breen and J. Carroll.</li> </ul>
WORKING PAPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Mental Accounting, Spousal Control and Intra-Household Communication: Evidence from an Experiment in India, with A. Jose and M. King.</li> <li>• Accountability of public works entitlements in rural India, with L. Kuld.</li> <li>• Income Uncertainty and Preferences for Formal Financial Products: Evidence from Rural Kenya, with M. King.</li> </ul>
POLICY BRIEFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving social impact through Graduation programmes</li> <li>• Overview of the Results from the QuIP Report on Concern Worldwide Graduation Programme</li> <li>• The Graduation Model and Gender Empowerment Research Project in Malawi</li> <li>• Highlights from the Baseline Survey on the Graduation Households</li> <li>• The Umodzi Pilot: Successes and Learning</li> </ul>
BLOGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited podcast guest on ‘The Brand Called You’</li> <li>• Spotlight on Research: Tara Bedi</li> </ul>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p><b>Trinity College Dublin</b> Dublin, Ireland</p> <p>Master in Development Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Theories of Development 2024</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Dissertation &amp; Work Placement 2024</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Impact Measurement 2018 - 2024</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Gender and Development 2023</li> </ul> <p>Trinity Impact Evaluation (TIME) Online Course on Impact Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lecturer</i>, Survey Design and Qualitative Evaluation Methods 2021-2023</li> </ul> <p>Department of Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Teaching Assistant</i>, Microeconomics (2nd year) 2016 - 2017</li> <li>• <i>Lecturer</i>, Economics of Less Developed Countries (3rd year) 2015 - 2016</li> <li>• <i>Teaching Assistant</i>, Introduction to Economic Policy (1st year) 2013 - 2014</li> </ul>
HONOURS, AWARDS, GRANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Well-Being and School-Related Gender Based Violence: Evidence from Zambia (2023 - 2025), with Wei Chang, Menaal Ebrahim, Anu Jose, Michael King, and Sophia Friedson-Ridenour. Funder: World Bank (\$250,000)</li> <li>• Gender Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme (2021 - 2024), with Michael King, Rachael Pierotti and Julia Vaillant. Funder 1: World Bank (\$320,750); Funder 2: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (\$125,000)</li> </ul>

- Impact Evaluation of Concern’s Graduation Model in Malawi (2017 - 2024), with Michael King. Funder: Concern Worldwide (€2,150,000)
- 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 (€78,000)
- Department Scholarship, Department of Economics (2013 - 2017). Funder: Trinity College Dublin (€20,000)
- John F. Kennedy Scholarship. (2002 - 2004). Funder: Harvard University (\$20,000)
- Mary Stuart Rogers Scholar (1999). Funder: Lewis & Clark College (\$5,000)

### Randomised Controlled Trials

*Mental Well-Being and School-Related Gender Based Violence, Evidence from Zambia:* Using a randomised control trial (RCT), with randomisation at the school level, this study will evaluate the impact of the empowerment programme on adolescent girls’ knowledge of school related gender based violence (SRGBV); attitudes and norms around gender roles, corporal punishment, bullying, sexual violence, and response to SRGBV; socio-emotional skills; mental health and social support. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Wei Chang, Menaal Ebrahim, Anu Jose, Michael King, and Sophia Friedson-Ridenour. Trinity College Dublin, Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank.

*Gender, Social Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme:* Designed, secured funding and implementing 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. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Claire Boxho, Michael King, 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/)

*Gender impacts from the Graduation Programme in Malawi:* Designed, secured funding and implemented a 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. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Michael King, and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin, Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank.

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

### 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/>

### Mixed Methods Projects

*Female Empowerment and Well Being:* Designed a mixed methods evaluation that incorporates a qualitative study along side the RCT on the gender focused multifaceted anti-poverty, ‘gradu-

ation’, programme in Malawi. The qualitative component involved two rounds of the Qualitative Impact Protocol (QuIP), a method for mapping causal drivers of change from the perspective of female participants, where the qualitative researchers are partially ‘blindfolded’ to reduce pro-project and confirmation bias. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Rebekah Avard, Tara Bedi, James Copestake, and Michael King. Trinity College Dublin, University of Bath.

*Gender Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Program:* Designed and secured funding for a qualitative research project on a cash transfer combined with gender norms programming to study 1) the role of complementary programming and the 2) mechanisms underlying the impact of cash transfers on intimate partner violence. The study will use a combination of Qualitative Impact Protocol (QuIP) interviews at the household level, Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) and observational ethnographic research within communities. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Claire Boxho, James Copestake, Michael King, Rachael Pierotti, Fiona Remnant and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin and Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank, University of Bath.

## Other Projects

*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.

*Impact of Natural Disasters on Mental Well-being and Bandwidth, Evidence from Malawi:* Using a household-level panel survey from Malawi containing a detailed mental well-being module for couples and information related to cyclone Idai and its associated flooding, we investigate the effect of the disaster on the self-efficacy of individuals. Our intrahousehold comparison allows us to examine the gender-specific tools required for mitigating disaster impacts among couples. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Michael King and Samuel McArdle. Trinity College Dublin, IGEES.

*Exploring Intra-Household Gender Differences in Reporting Exposure to Shocks:* Poor households are more susceptible to face negative shocks, which may undermine development and anti-poverty interventions. Yet, in attempting to understand households’ exposure to shocks, it might be imperative to consider the gender of the respondent when utilising survey-based measures. A growing body of literature is exposing intra-household gender differences in survey reporting of various socio-economic measures, even those seemingly objective. This paper contributes by adding a “shock” dimension to this literature. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Nouf Abushehab, Tara Bedi, and Michael King. Trinity College Dublin.

## 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 Trócaire 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 Trócaire Development Review, the annual policy journal produced by Trócaire, 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 Trócaire’s food security work, wrote Trócaire’s contribution to the Irish Government’s Hunger Task Force and regularly briefed Trócaire’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), R
- Survey Software: SurveyCTO
- Typesetting: LaTeX, Microsoft Office
- Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

CONFERENCES, INVITED PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-imagining Social Protection in a time of Global Uncertainty, 2023 (Brighton, upcoming)</li> <li>• Keynote: Disruptive Technologies in Computing and Communication Systems, 2023 (Hyderabad)</li> <li>• Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion and Social Protection, 2022 (Chicago)</li> <li>• Irish Aid, 2021 (Malawi)</li> <li>• Graduation Programme Learning Event: Concern Worldwide in collaboration with Ministry of EP&amp;D, 2021 (Malawi)</li> <li>• European Research Network On Philanthropy (ERNOP) Conference, 2021 (Dublin)</li> <li>• Africa Gender Equality Conference, 2021 (virtual)</li> <li>• UN Commission for the Status of Women, 2021 (virtual)</li> <li>• The Gender Study Group, 2021 (virtual)</li> <li>• MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium, 2021 (virtual)</li> <li>• RESULTS.org, 2019 (virtual)</li> <li>• Irish Aid, 2019 (Malawi)</li> <li>• World Bank, 2019 (Washington DC and Malawi)</li> <li>• Gates Foundation, 2019 (Seattle)</li> <li>• Skoll Ecosystem Session: Poverty Graduation &amp; Women's Economic Empowerment, 2019 (Oxford)</li> <li>• DIAL Development conference, 2017 (Paris)</li> <li>• NORDIC conference in Development Economic, 2016 (Oslo)</li> </ul>
COMMITTEES, BOARD MEMBERSHIPS, & CERTIFICATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master in Development Practice, Course Committee Member, Trinity College Dublin</li> <li>• Board Director of Plan International Ireland</li> <li>• Certificates: Social Norms, Social Change I. Social Norms, Social Change II</li> </ul>
REVIEWING AND EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal Reviewer: World Development Perspectives; Economic Modelling</li> <li>• Funding: Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine)</li> <li>• Editor: Trócaire Development Review, 2008 - 2010</li> </ul>
REFERENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael King: Assistant Professor in Economics, Trinity College Dublin. Email: michael.king@tcd.ie; Phone: +353 1 896 2735</li> <li>• James Copestake: Professor of International Development, Dept of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath. Email: hssjgc@bath.ac.uk; Phone: +44 1225 383859</li> <li>• Michael Woolcock: Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School. Lead Social Scientist, World Bank. Email: mwoolcock@worldbank.org; Phone: +1 202 473 8068</li> </ul>