

Tara Sylvia Bedi

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>
RESEARCH FOCUS	Applied Microeconomics, Household Behaviour, Climate Change, Labour Markets, Accountability, Donations, Sustainable Development, Gender, Social Protection, Well-Being, Social Norms, Financial Inclusion	
EMPLOYMENT	<b>University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD)</b> Department of Geography Dublin, Ireland  Assistant Professor in Development Practice Research Fellow, Department of Economics MSCActions Research Fellow, Department of Economics	
		Since 2024 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: 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> Analysing politics for development, 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. Tròcaire.</li><li>• My Word is my Bond: Delivery of aid commitments by Ireland. (2010), with B Riordan. Tròcaire 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>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <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> </ul>
PAPERS IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Disasters, Mental Health and the Ultra-poor: Intra-household Impacts of Cyclone Idai in Malawi, with A. Jose, M. King, S. McArdle</li> <li>• Developing an Evaluation Framework for Gender-responsive Climate Change Adaptation Programme: from Design to Impact, with X. Zhao</li> <li>• Ultra-Poor Graduation and Environmental Shocks: Evidence from the 2019 Malawian Floods, with M. King and I. Noy</li> <li>• Gender Targeting and Household Cooperation: Experimental Evidence from a Multifaceted Anti-poverty Program in Malawi, with M. King and J. Vaillant</li> <li>• Income Uncertainty and Preferences for Formal Financial Products: Evidence from Rural Kenya, with M. King.</li> <li>• Moving the Female Empowerment Needle: A Mixed-Method Evaluation of A Gender Focused Multifaceted Anti-Poverty Programme in Malawi, with R. Avard, J. Copestake, M. King and F. Remnant.</li> <li>• A mixed method approach to understanding Gender Social Norms, IPV and the Mauritania Social Transfer Program, with C. Boxho, M. King, R. Pierotti and J. Vaillant.</li> <li>• Bargaining, Poverty Stress, or Backlash? Reducing Violence Among the Ultra-Poor, with M. King, A. Ramos, and J. Vaillant.</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>Masters in Development Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Theories of Development 2024-2025</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Dissertation &amp; Work Placement 2024-2025</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Impact Measurement 2018 - 2025</li> <li>• <i>Module Coordinator &amp; Lecturer</i>, Gender and Development 2023-2025</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>

#### Department of Economics

- *Teaching Assistant*, Microeconomics (2nd year) 2016 - 2017
- *Lecturer*, Economics of Less Developed Countries (3rd year) 2015 - 2016
- *Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Economic Policy (1st year) 2013 - 2014

#### HONOURS, AWARDS, NOMINATIONS, GRANTS

- Teaching Award Nomination by Masters in Development Practice (MDP) Students (2023-2024)
- Gender Focused Multi-Faceted Anti-Poverty Programs: Low-Cost Options for Scale-up (2025-2028), with Michael King. IPA (\$500,000).
- Empowering Malawian Women Farmers through Precision Agriculture and Market E-Linkages (EMPOWER-ME) (2025 - 2027) ,with Supriya Garikipati, John O Omondi, Kevin McDonnell, Richard Petautcher, Marta Talevi. Funder: SFI Future Innovator Prize Programme, ( €299,988)
- 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)
- Gender Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme (2021 - 2025), with 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 - 2025), with Michael King. Funder: Concern Worldwide (€2,350,000)
- Impact of a gender targeted graduation model and norm-transforming intervention on IPV (2020 - 2022; 2024-2026), with Michael King and A. Ramos. Funder: Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) (\$30,183); (\$175,000)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND Collaborative International Research Fellowship for a Responsive and Innovative Europe (CAROLINE). (2017 - 2025) "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)

#### CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

##### **Advancing Research and Innovation in Economics:**

I primarily employ field and lab experiments to create longitudinal data for estimating causal relationships between programmes/policy and household welfare. I further explore these relationships with qualitative research and non-experimental settings to get a holistic view. My research interests and projects focus on poverty reduction, gender equality and climate change. Within these areas, I am interested in innovation and building resilience to climate change. Through my research, I bring together a strong mix of research institutions and partners to design innovative projects for increasing our understanding of successful public policy initiatives to address poverty, climate resilience and empowerment. Understanding the mechanisms of change in an applied setting is critical because any emerging findings can have transformational effects for economic policy.

##### **Randomised Controlled Trials**

- *Gender impacts from the Graduation Programme in Malawi:* Designed, secured funding and implemented a mixed methods evaluation that incorporates a randomised control trial (RCT). The objective of this research is to study 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, while also enabling a deeper understanding of participants' own interpretation of the programme's impact on their lives. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Michael King and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin, Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank. Funder: Concern Worldwide €2,350,000; IPA, \$200,000. (2017-2025)

Website: <https://www.tcd.ie/time/research/malawigraduation/>

- *Gender Focused Multi-Faceted Anti-Poverty Programs: Low-Cost Options for Scale-up in Uganda* Designed and secured funding to implement an RCT that tests a) whether we can replicate our Malawi results in a different setting, with a less intensive group-based graduation program, and at a lower implementation cost, and b) whether impacts are strengthened through adding a low-cost community level intervention. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi and Michael King. Trinity College Dublin. Funder: IPA (\$500,000). (2025-2027)
- *Gender Dynamics and Climate Resilience for Sri Lanka's poor*: Designing an RCT that investigates how anti-poverty programmes can build climate resilience through 1) climate-smart agriculture; 2) family cooperation and gender empowerment; and 3) the interaction between the two. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Thomas Bossuroy, Michael King, and Dalal Moosa. Trinity College Dublin, World Bank. Funder: World Bank (\$400,000). (2025-2028)
- *Gender, Social Norms and the Mauritania Social Transfer Programme*: Designed, secured funding and implementing a RCT that 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. The study examines the mechanisms of impact and how they vary across different versions of the gender norms programme. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Tara Bedi, Claire Boxho, Michael King, and Julia Vaillant. Trinity College Dublin and Africa Gender Innovation Lab World Bank. Funder: World Bank (\$320,750). (2019-2026)

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

## Mixed Methods Projects

*Empowering Women Farmers through Precision Agriculture and Market E-Linkages*: Our mixed methods research investigates the effect of leveraging agronomically and climate-informed Digital Agricultural Technology (DAT) to provide site-specific advisories on crop management, soil quality, and climate-smart practices, specifically targeting women farmers, on household agriculture productivity, climate adaptation, income and women's empowerment. We are currently designing a lab in the field experiment to disentangle key preferences and take up for digital agriculture technology. *Affiliated authors and institutions:* Supriya Garikipati, Tara Bedi, John O Omondi, Kevin McDonnell, Richard Petautchere, Marta Talevi. University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, IITA-Malawi, NASFAM. Funder: SFI Future Innovator Prize Programme (€299,988). (2025-2027)

*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 uses a combination of QuIP interviews at the household level, and Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) 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. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (\$125,000). (2021-2025)

## Other Projects

*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 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), R
- Survey Software: SurveyCTO
- Typesetting: LaTeX, Microsoft Office
- Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

CONFERENCES,  
INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS

- CSAE Economic Development in Africa, 2025 (Oxford)
- Irish Mission Side Event at the 69th UN Commission on the Status of Women, 2025 (New York)
- Social Protection Leadership Collaborative, 2024 (virtual)
- Western Economic Association International (WEAI), 2024 (Seattle)
- World Bank Africa LEADS Workshop, 2024 (Cape Town)
- North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), 2023 (Boston)
- Re-imagining Social Protection in a time of Global Uncertainty, 2023 (Brighton)
- Keynote: Disruptive Technologies in Computing and Communication Systems, 2023 (Hyderabad)
- Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion and Social Protection, 2022 (Chicago)
- Irish Aid, 2021 (Malawi)
- Graduation Programme Learning Event: Concern Worldwide in collaboration with Ministry of EP&D, 2021 (Malawi)
- 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)

COMMITTEES,  
BOARD  
MEMBERSHIPS, &  
CERTIFICATES

- Masters in Development Practice, Course Committee Member, Trinity College Dublin
- Board Director of Plan International Ireland
- Certificates: Social Norms, Social Change I. Social Norms, Social Change II

REVIEWING AND  
EDITORIAL  
ACTIVITIES

- Journal Reviewer: World Development Perspectives; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; Economic Modelling
- Funding: Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine)
- Editor: Trócaire Development Review, 2008 - 2010

REFERENCES

- Carol Newman: Professor in Economics, Trinity College Dublin.  
Email: cnewman@tcd.ie; Phone:+353 1 896 1522

- Michael King: Assistant Professor in Economics, Trinity College Dublin.  
Email: michael.king@tcd.ie; Phone: +353 1 896 2735
- James Copestake: Professor of International Development, Dept of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath.  
Email: hssjgc@bath.ac.uk; Phone: +44 1225 383859
- Michael Woolcock: Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School. Lead Social Scientist, World Bank.  
Email: mwoolcock@worldbank.org; Phone:+1 202 473 8068