Vedarshi Shastry

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Education

M.A. in Economics | Ashoka University, Sonipat – 2021

Electives: Graph Theory & Networks, Agriculture, Health

Thesis: A model of intergenerational inequality from inherited access to institutions

B.Sc. in Economics | Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai – 2019

Electives: Game Theory, Industrial Organization, Operations Research

Thesis: Experiments on bounded rationality in Keynesian p-beauty contests

Research Experience

Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) - World Bank, Washington, D.C.

1. Research Assistant to Dahyeon Jeong and Hannah Uckat, Feb 2023 - Present

   Lead research assistant on impact evaluations of homegrown school feeding with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Burundi.

   Managing implementation of field experiments decentralizing procurement from local farmer cooperatives of school meal stock.

   Designed constrained randomization, conducted cost efficiency analysis, and oversaw administrative components including RCT registry, IRB approval and feasibility assessments.

   Conducting high frequency checks on primary data collection in Malawi and Madagascar.

Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad

1. Research Assistant to Aaditya Dar, Aug 2021 - Jul 2022

   Primary research assistant on "Irrigation and the spatial pattern of local economic development in India".

   Leveraged staggered construction and spatial discontinuity in canal command areas to analyze the impacts of irrigation on local economic activity.

2. Research Assistant to Ashwini Chhatre, Jul 2022 - Nov 2022

   Managed digitization of the Census of India tables (1951-1981) on demographics and occupation in 600,000+ villages and 8,000+ towns.

   Led policy assessment of 6 Central government schemes with Indian policymakers and civil servants at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LSBNAA).

3. Research Assistant to Shilpa Aggarwal, Sep 2022 - Mar 2023

   Investigated general equilibrium effects of roads on agricultural markets using geospatial data from 2500+ markets and 200,000+ highways and roads in India.

   Developed novel measure of market accessibility and implemented binned RDD to identify differential market impacts across seasons and region.

Publications

Reports

Pilot Impact Evaluation of the Commodity Voucher Procurement Model in Burundi (with Atekou, A., Heirman, J., Jeong, D., Khincha, R., La, P.M, Lombardini, S., Uckat, H.). *Rome: World Food Programme*

Work in Progress

Climate Change and Structural Transformation: Evidence from Indian Towns and Districts

Household climate adaptations in the Andes (with Vaibhav Chaudhary)

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, *The Business of Food (MBA Level)*, Indian School of Business – April '22

Technical Skills and Languages

Advanced: R, Stata, SurveyCTO/ODK, TeX, Linux systems

Intermediate: Python, GIS, HTML/CSS, SQL, C

Languages: English, Hindi (Native). Spanish, French (A1 proficiency)

Repositories

Stata:
india-bridge. Stata ado programs tracking administrative boundaries in India between 1951-2011.
misc. (stata-ado-personal). Miscellaneous functions/programs for automating tasks in Stata.

References

Dahyeon Jeong
Economist, Development Impact Group (DIME) - World Bank
dahyeonjeong@worldbank.org

Aaditya Dar
Economist, Amazon
Assistant Professor of Economics, Indian School of Business (on leave)
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Anisha Sharma
Associate Professor of Economics, Ashoka University
anisha.sharma@ashoka.edu.in

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