August 2, 2023

Faculty Search Committee

Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics,  
University of Arizona

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I write to apply for the position of Assistant (tenure-track) Professor position in the Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics at the University of Arizona. I am a doctoral student in applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I expect to complete my degree in May 2024. My research interests are in health, aging, welfare, human capital, social security, and social inequity in the US and India. I have enclosed my curriculum vitae, job market paper, research statement, diversity statement, teaching statement, and names of the recommendation letter writers.

A major part of my research involves evaluating technological shock, behavioral economics, and modern econometrics methods, which makes me a strong candidate for this job. For instance, my job market paper uses advanced DID methods with individual-level panel data and provides causal evidence of the impact of the staggered rollout of high-speed internet (broadband) technology on one of the key behavioral health among older adults, i.e., *mental health (depression symptoms)*. I find that high-speed internet positively affects the mental health of older adults, primarily due to improvements in other behavioral channels like an increase in *social connectedness* anda decline in *social isolation*. These findings are in contrast with the recent evidence in economics highlighting the detrimental impact of social media on the mental health of college students, primarily attributed to unfavorable *social comparisons*. These contrasting findings for younger and older cohorts emphasize that the impact of similar technologies can differ significantly based on the behavior of individuals. Similarly, I have other research work which deals with other behavioral aspects like motivation and cognitive function.