

Ahmed Chaudhry

Doctoral Candidate
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Education

- Ph.D. Economics (Expected Spring 2024)
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK; Chair: Dr. Firat Demir
- M.Phil. in Applied Economics (2017)
Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan
- B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics (2015)
Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan

Fields

Political Economy, Economic Development, Public Economics, Applied Economics

Teaching Experience

- Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Summer 2023)
- Principles of Macroeconomics, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Winter 2021, 2022 [asynchronous online], Summer 2022 [x2])
- Principles of Microeconomics, Principal Instructor, University of Oklahoma (Summer 2021, Spring 2023)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2019 – Spring 2021; Spring 2023)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. “Political competition and economic policy: empirical evidence from Pakistan.” *Economics*, 13(1), 20190001.
<https://doi.org/10.5018/economics-ejournal.ja.2019-1> (with U. Mazhar).

Papers Under Review

1. “Does Flu Vaccination Affect Wages? State-Level Evidence from the US” (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, and J. Zhao). *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.
2. “Effects of CDC Recommendation on HPV Vaccine Uptake 2010 – 2015” (with P. Ghosh, F. Demir, M. Kim, J. Zhao, and K. Smith). *Vaccines*, *Revise and Resubmit*.
3. “Do Limits to Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy? Evidence from the US States.” *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Working Papers

1. “Is Export Diversification a Partisan Matter? The Effect of Political Ideology on Productive Capabilities.”
2. “The Political Economy of IMF Engagement: How Political Ideology Shapes and Is Shaped by IMF Programs and Conditions.”

Work in Progress

1. Who Rules the World? The Myth of Multipolarity and Leadership in International Organizations (with F. Demir).
2. Effect of Campaign Contribution Laws on State-Level Economic Development Incentives.
3. Impact of Political Ideology on (De) Militarization (with A. Mayberry).
4. Covid-19 and Food Insecurity in Pakistan (with W. Wasti).

Unpublished Manuscripts/Conference Papers (Pre-Doctoral)

1. How Socio-Economic Conditions Affect Voting Turnout in Pakistan? A District-Level Analysis (with U. Mazhar & M. Khan)
2. Productive Capabilities and Economic Development: A Case for Industrial Diversification in Pakistan (with N. Ishtiaq)

Ph.D. Dissertation

Title: Three Essays in Political Economy and Policy

Abstract (Essay 1): “Do Campaign Contribution Laws Affect Welfare Policy? Evidence from the US States”. This chapter analyzes the relationship between stricter campaign contribution laws and pro-welfare policy across the state-wide legislative races from 1980 to 2018. I exploit the heterogeneity of laws across the US states. The political system in the US

is highly unequal as policy preferences of high-income citizens are often prioritized compared to those of low-income groups. Interest groups – corporations, PACs, and labor unions – employ campaign contributions as a bargaining tool to obtain the legislative policy effort of political candidates. Evidence shows that restricting money in politics via stricter campaign contribution laws can reduce the bargaining power of interest groups over candidates and increase the voice of low-income groups in policy matters. Therefore, stricter contribution laws should shift policy in a relatively pro-welfare direction. The state-level minimum wage and earned income tax credit policies are used as proxies of a state’s welfare policy; alternative welfare policy proxies, including the number of Medicare recipients and percentage of uninsured children, are also employed for robustness check purposes. The empirical results from the two-way fixed-effects model and the interactive fixed-effects counterfactual estimator indicate that stricter campaign contribution laws lead to higher minimum wage at the state level. The estimates also suggest that more stringent contribution laws in a state result in a relatively generous EITC rate as a percentage of the federal rate. The effect of stricter laws on welfare policy generosity is also evident when alternative state welfare policy proxies are used. My results are important for understanding the variation in state policies addressing people with low incomes.

Abstract (Essay 2): “The Political Economy of IMF Engagement: How Political Ideology Shapes and Is Shaped by IMF Programs and Conditions”. I explore the effect of the incumbent political ideology on opting into an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan program and conditions and, in turn, the effect of an IMF program and conditions on a shift in political ideology measured as government changes. The dataset consists of approximately 150 countries from 1980 to 2014. The political ideology is defined as an interventionist left-wing or a market-oriented right-wing. There is some evidence that left-wing governments are less likely to opt for an IMF loan and that governments with a higher negotiating power receive fewer conditions. The novelty of this paper is that the cyclical relationship between political ideology and IMF programs and conditions has never been comprehensively analyzed before, particularly the effect of the IMF on political ideology changes. Using an instrumental variable approach to cater to the endogeneity of the IMF program and conditions, the empirical estimates reveal that left-wing governments are less likely to sign an IMF program than right-wing governments. In contrast, centrist heads of government are not affected by IMF program participation. However, left-leaning governments also face fewer overall conditionality requirements than right-wing ones. Post-IMF presence, a higher burden of conditionality reduces the probability of left-wing and centrist parties winning or maintaining public office, while the opposite is true for right-wing.

Abstract (Essay 3): “Is Export Diversification a Partisan Matter? The Effect of Political Ideology on Productive Capabilities”. The ideology of political parties can determine the policy trajectory of a country, thereby affecting economic growth. This chapter analyzes the effect of partisan policy preferences or ideology of political parties on productive capabilities across a panel of 140 countries from 1962 to 2019. An essential determinant of the long-run economic development of a country is its productive capabilities: the ability of an economy to produce and export a wide variety of highly sophisticated and high-technology-intensive products as measured by the skill-intensity indices. The literature provides mixed findings on the effect of the left-right ideology on economic performance. At the same time, the literature focusing on comparative economic systems is also divided on whether free-market-oriented policies or state interventionism is better for development. The 2SLS estimates suggest right-wing governments hurt export sophistication in the long run, whereas centrist governments have a positive effect. I do not find any significant impact of left-wing governments on productive capabilities.

Conference Presentations

- Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Meeting (Feb 2024)
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 60th Annual Meeting [x2] (Oct 2023)
- Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Meeting (Feb 2023)
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 92nd Annual Meeting (Nov 2022)
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA) 59th Annual Meeting (Oct 2022)
- OU Ph.D. Economics Conference (OPEC), Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (May 2022, 2023)
- Pakistan Society of Development Economics Annual Meeting, Islamabad, Pakistan (Dec 2017, Dec 2018)

Academic Awards & Grants

- Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Finishing Fellowship (Fall 2023)
- Graduate Student Senate Conference Travel Grant, University of Oklahoma (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
- Robberson Conference Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of Oklahoma (2022, 2024)
- Travel Assistance Program, Dodge College of Arts & Sciences, University of Oklahoma (2022, 2024)
- Chong Liew Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2021)
- Chong Liew Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (2020)
- Vice Rector’s List, Forman Christian College University, Lahore (2015-17)

Professional Services

- Graduate student member of Economics search committee for an assistant professor (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024).
- Referee for the Pakistan Journal of Criminology.

References

Prof. Firat Demir	Prof. Cynthia Rogers	Prof. Pallab Ghosh
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