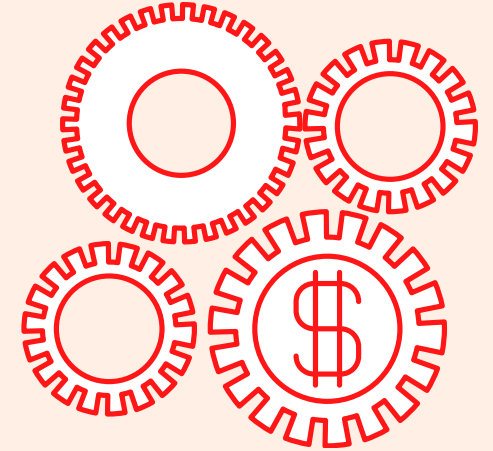


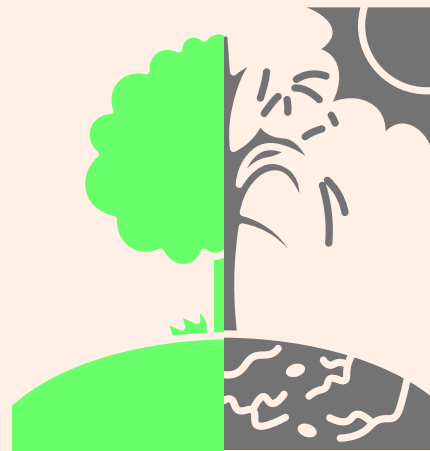
# ADVANCED GRADUATE WORKSHOP 2022



Poverty. Development. Globalisation

JULY 10 – 23  
S01, WIPRO LEARNING CENTRE

ORGANISERS:  
AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY (BANGALORE)  
INSTITUTE FOR NEW ECONOMIC THINKING



This booklet is for the purpose of distribution among the participants of AGW 2022. Please do not use (or quote) any of the abstracts shared in this booklet without the respective author's permission.

Design and Editing: Tamoghna Halder

# AGW 2022: SCHEDULE (WEEK 1)

## MONDAY, 11TH JULY

9:00 – 10:00: Introduction to AGW

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:15: Jayati Ghosh

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00: Student Interactions

3:00 – 3:30: Schedule & Logistics

Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00: Introduction to student groups & discussion

## TUESDAY, 12TH

9:00 – 10:30: Gabriella Carolini (zoom)

10:45– 1:30: Group Discussions

(includes lunch break)

1:30 – 3:00: Gabriella Carolini (zoom)

3:30 – 5:00: Akbar Noman (Lec 1)

## WEDNESDAY, 13TH

9:00 – 10:30: Juan Camilo Cárdenas (zoom)

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30: Juan Camilo Cárdenas (zoom)

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00: Group Discussions

3:30 – 5:00: Surbhi Kesar and Mrinalini Jha

## THURSDAY, 14TH

9:00 – 10:30: Arvind Subramanian (Lec 1)

10:30 – 12:30: Group Discussions

12:30 – 1:15: Lunch break

1:30 – 3:00: Arvind Subramanian (Lec 2)

3:00 – 3:30: Coffee break

3:30 – 5:00: Amit Basole

## FRIDAY, 15TH

9:00 – 10:30: Maitreesh Ghatak (Lec 1)

Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15: Tony Kurian & Leila Gautham

12:15 – 1:00: Lunch break

1:00 – 2:30: Maitreesh Ghatak (Lec 2)

2:30 – 3:30: Joe Stiglitz (online)

3:30 – 5:00: Group Discussions

## NOTES:

Venue: S01,Wipro Learning Centre(WLC),SJP-1

Welcome Dinner, 7.30pm, July10  
Week 1, July 11-15 Week 2, July18-22

# AGW 2022: SCHEDULE (WEEK 2)

## MONDAY, 18TH JULY

9:00-10:30: Hema Swaminathan (Lec 1)  
Coffee Break  
10:45-12:15: Hema Swaminathan (Lec 2)  
Lunch break  
1:00 - 2:30: Lakshmi Iyer (Lec 1)  
Coffee Break  
3:15 - 4:15: Discussion: Women in Econ  
4:30 - 6:00: Student Presentations (2)

## TUESDAY, 19TH

9:00 - 10:30: Lakshmi Iyer (Lec 2)  
Coffee Break  
10:45 - 12:15: Rajiv Sethi (Lec 1)  
Lunch break  
1:30 - 3:00: Rajiv Sethi (Lec 2)  
Coffee Break  
3:15 - 5:30: Student Presentations (3)

## WEDNESDAY, 20TH

9:00 - 10:30: Rohini Somanathan (Lec 1)  
Coffee Break  
10:45 - 1:30: Rohini Somanathan (Lec 2)  
Lunch break  
1:30 - 3:00: Student Presentations (2)  
Coffee Break  
3:30 - 5:00: Student Presentations (2)

## THURSDAY, 21ST

9:00 - 9:45: María del Pilar López-Urbe  
9:45 - 10:30: Student Presentations (1)  
Coffee Break  
10:45 - 1:30: Student Presentations (3)  
(includes lunch break)  
1:30 - 3:00: Student Presentations (2)  
Coffee Break  
3:30 - 5:00: Student Presentations (2)

## FRIDAY, 22ND

9:00 - 10:30: Student Presentations (2)  
Coffee Break  
10:45 - 1:30: Student Presentations (3)  
(includes lunch break)  
1:30 - 3:00: Student Presentations (2)  
Coffee Break  
3:30 - 5:00: Student Presentations (2)

## SATURDAY

Saturday, 23rd July is treated as a reserve day, which we may or may not utilise, depending on the progress of student presentations.

# NOTE FROM ORGANISERS

## AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY & INSTITUTE FOR NEW ECONOMIC THINKING (INET)

In April 2020, the preparations for AGW were well underway - applications had been received and some speakers had confirmed - when it became clear that the Covid-19 pandemic would make it impossible to have it in person. The workshop was cancelled and is now being held after a gap of two years. The online option was not even considered in the intervening period. This points to something very important about the workshop; something that makes it special and perhaps even unique. The lectures, which in every edition of the workshop have been delivered by leading academics and practitioners and cover a wide range of interesting and engaging topics, are important but not central to the workshop. At the centre are the small groups in which students meet and work on their presentations. It is in these groups where students, guided by their group leaders and occasionally by the organisers, not only get feedback on their work but also learn how to give constructive feedback. It is here that friendships that span continents are born, which then last for a lifetime. It is these groups that provide graduate students the space to consider their path into academia in discussion with their peers in a relaxed (as much as graduate students can relax) atmosphere.

As we restart the AGW series, we, the organisers, are keen to make this edition as good and useful for you as the previous ones. We have done our part in putting it together and from here on you, the participants, are going to drive a large part of the experience of the workshop. Your questions and comments during lectures, your interactions with speakers outside of the lectures, your discussions in the small groups, your presentations at the end, and perhaps most importantly, your interactions with each other over breaks and meals and drinks, are what make the workshop, and we invite you to make it a memorable one.

# GRADUATE STUDENTS

# ANGARIKA RAKSHIT

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI

Angarika is a PhD candidate at the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences of IIT Delhi. She was a Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellow at University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2021.

Angarika's research focuses on the dynamics of employment growth in the Indian manufacturing sector, particularly with respect to changing firm size, labour market flexibility and informality. Her research interests include labour economics, political economy of development and structural transformation of the Indian economy.

Prior to joining the PhD program at IIT Delhi, Angarika completed a MA in Economics from Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.



**Abstract:** Most mainstream research in the past have cited rigidities of the Indian labor market as a major factor for the stunted growth of the Indian Manufacturing sector. However, the organized manufacturing sector in India which had performed quite poorly for decades, saw a near doubling of its workforce in the first fifteen years of the 21st century. This recent phase of employment growth, has therefore, raised two important questions - exactly how inflexible is the Indian labour market and are there other factors, besides labor market flexibility, that determine employment growth in the Indian manufacturing sector? Using a fixed effects panel regression model with two independent variables - “inflexibility” in the labor market and rate of investment, this paper attempts to understand their relative importance in explaining employment growth in the organized manufacturing sector in India. The data used for this analysis is a State-Industry panel dataset from the Annual Survey of Industries for fifteen years from 2000-01 to 2014-15 at the 3 digit level of industry classification.

The main results from the model show that the coefficient on the inflexibility variable is marginally negative but not significant even at 10 percent level of confidence whereas the coefficient on rate of investment is positive, much higher in magnitude and highly significant both for the entire sector and for various sub categories of States and Industries. The results indicate that there is no conclusive evidence to suggest that labor market rigidities (such as those induced by Employment Protection Legislations) have any significant adverse impact on employment growth. On the other hand, rate of investment, turns out to be a much more important and consistent determinant of employment growth. These results also help explain why employment growth in India's manufacturing sector increased during the high investment phase from the early 2000s despite no significant change in labor laws to increase flexibility in the labor market.

# ANUJ GOYAL

## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Anuj is a PhD scholar at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University. In his thesis, he explores the intersection of disability and economics. Broadly, his research interests include social welfare schemes (especially, MGNREGS and PMAY), education and nutrition.

**Abstract:** The Constituent Assembly of India has been credited for drafting one of the most celebrated Constitutions in the world. Notwithstanding the fact that the Assembly attempted to address the concerns of the country's diverse population, there was hardly a deliberation on physical or cognitive disabilities with such rigour and intent in their Debates.

In this Chapter, I review the Debates of the Constituent Assembly to understand the conceptualization of disability and rights by the Assembly. I argue that the Constituent Assembly, by and large, overlooked physical and cognitive disabilities and the developments taking place on such aspects in different parts of the world. As a result, the Assembly failed to codify the rights such as those of equality, equal opportunities, to a quality life, etc., for this section of the population. I also review the arguments of the Assembly members and express discontent with the language used and the ableist and top-down approach reflected in their statements.





# AVINASH KUMAR

## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Avinash is a PhD (Economics) fourth year student at Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU. His PhD research focuses on how and to what extent social and cultural capital impact social mobility of individuals. Also, how different social groups possess or have access to different forms of social or cultural capital.

His M.Phil. dissertation focused on the pattern of inter-generational mobility for different social groups and how caste hierarchy plays an important role in mobility of individuals.

**Abstract:** As part of its Primary Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nation aims to reduce inequality within and among nations by 2030. This inequality becomes especially daunting in the developing world where it assumes newer forms and shapes. In India, for instance, the caste system has resulted in long-term inequalities with its overt and covert ways of widespread discrimination.

These inequalities have resulted in limited economic opportunities for the discriminated and excluded caste groups, and further curtailed their chances for any kind of social mobility. Intergenerational Upward mobility among excluded caste groups have been lower as compared to forward castes. (Rajarshri Majumder, 2010) In fact, various studies find more downward mobility among SC/STs and higher persistence at the low-skilled/low paying occupations as compared to higher castes. (Motiram and Singh, 2012; Mehtabul Azam, 2015). Since the caste apparatus in the country is built on hereditary occupational transfers, inter-generational mobility has not allowed individual development.

Various studies have shown how the caste system has incessantly and unabatedly impeded occupational achievements of individuals (see Sukhdeo Thorat and Newman Katherine 2009, Fontaine and Yamada 2014). Even on the same occupational stratum, people belonging to different caste groups receive different incomes (see Barooah 2005, Amarendra Reddy 2011, and Iversen, Vegard, Adriaan Kalwij, Arjan Verschoor, and Amaresh Dubey 2010 etc.). In order to reduce this unevenness, an understanding of the factors causing this hindrance becomes imperative. Lack of education, caste-based oppression, unfair treatment based on identity differences are the active factors that have been studied extensively over the years. However, the crucial element of 'social and cultural capital' that substantially and definitively impacts an individual's upbringing has not been given requisite attention. My research aims to interrogate the role of social and cultural capital in the intergenerational mobility of individuals belonging to different social groups.



The analysis of social and cultural capital would further highlight the different levels of capital accumulation by varied caste groups in India. As Pierre Bourdieu has shown, capital is essential to perpetuating class hegemony over time. Similarly, privileged (upper class/upper caste) groups in India have historically and persistently capitalized on caste system's discriminatory machinery, having monopolized social and cultural capital to maintain their hegemony over socio-economic realities. However, similar privileges of social mobility have been historically denied to the underprivileged communities in India. Hence, an understanding of the contours of social and cultural capital, and its multifaceted operations, is a significant step towards devising methods and policies for tackling caste-based inequalities.

Therefore, the proposed research will examine the irregularities in access and accumulation of social and cultural capital vis-à-vis caste, class, and religion in India, and its resultant impact on social mobility—both inter- and intra-generational. For the purpose of the study, I would be utilizing data from various national surveys such as National Sample Survey 'Employment and Unemployment' (various rounds) and Indian Human Development Survey (2004-05 and 2011-12) using statistical models and procedures such as mobility matrices, logit regression analysis, rank-rank associations, etc. in order to tease out the underlying causal factors and the outcome effects.

# BENSTON JOHN

## DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Benston John is currently a third year doctoral student at the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics. He is also an Assistant Professor of Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. His research interests include applied microeconomics and development economics. In his dissertation, he will be studying the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic in India and particularly the state of Kerala, focussing on institutional determinants of community resilience during health shocks of this kind.

**Abstract:** In this ongoing work (done jointly with my supervisor, Prof. Rohini Somanathan), we study the determinants of intra-household allocation of housework and time use in general among Indian households using the exogenous nature of the pandemic induced national lockdown. Housework can be done by both men and women. At the same time, people report most daily chores as non-enjoyable. In this context the asymmetric intra-household allocation of housework assumes great relevance. As per the latest data on unpaid work made available by OECD, India has the largest gender gap in unpaid work among the group of countries consisting of the OECD member nations, China and South Africa. In the age group of 15 - 64 years, women in India spend on average 351.9 minutes per day on unpaid work while men spend on average 51.8 minutes.

Data from the Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS) conducted by the Centre for Monitoring of the Indian Economy (CMIE) will be used for the analysis. The data is longitudinal in nature and covers both households and individuals. By exploiting the design of the survey execution, we create comparable groups of households from the available waves to aid our analysis and address the issue of causality.

Our contribution to the literature comes primarily from the use of panel data in addressing questions on time use and intra-household housework allocation in the Indian context. Existing literature has largely relied on primary surveys, descriptive interviews by researchers and sample surveys by NSSO. The use of panel data allows us to address the issue of endogeneity effectively. Also, while employment and time use changes are endogenous in most cases, the lockdown acts as an exogenous shock affecting time constraints of individuals and households. The use of this exogenous shock further strengthens our causal inference.



# CARLOS SANTIAGO GUZMAN GUTIERREZ

## UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (COLOMBIA)

Carlos is currently UNHCR's Colombia country economist. Before joining UNHCR, he worked as a Research Associate in IPA Colombia, having the chance to lead the implementation of a large-scale RCT (name of the project: Militarized Policing to Reduce Homicides and Other Violent Crimes). He also worked as a Research Assistant and a Teaching Assistant at the Economics Faculty and the School of Government at Universidad de Los Andes. In particular, he studied the dynamics of the labor market for the youth and supported the development and implementation of a new method to predict poverty using lasso. His broad research and professional interests lie in the intersection of development economics, labor economics, and political economy, with a new and recent focus on forced displacement. Carlos holds an MA in Economics and a BA in Economics and Political Science from Universidad de Los Andes.



**Abstract:** This article evaluates the effects of receiving financial education on retirement planning in the Colombian context. To this end, I use a law adopted in 2016 by the Colombian government known as the “Doble Asesoría”, in which personalized information is provided to those who wish to switch from their pension regime. Using the exogenous assignment of the population groups that were going to be covered by the law, I follow a difference in differences approach, together with a difference in discontinuities approach, to identify the effect of receiving the advice on the decision to switch. I find a maximum reduction in the probability of transfer and the number of transfers of about 50%. Furthermore, the evidence suggests that, as a result of the information, the optimality of the decisions improved. The main policy implication is that while information influences the retirement decisions of individuals, designing more understandable pension systems can favour savings processes for old age.

# DARPAJIT SENGUPTA

## JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

Darpajit is a senior research fellow currently pursuing his Ph.D in Department of Economics Jadavpur University Kolkata under the supervision of Professor Saikat Sinha Roy. His Research interest lies in Open Economy Macro Modelling, International Trade and Applied Econometrics. He is a recipient of prestigious University Grants Commission (NET) Junior Research Fellowship.

Darpajit has interned with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Government of India and presented papers at various national and international conferences and have acted as the Principal Guest Editor with The Times of India group. He is a visiting faculty at Department of Economics and Department of Business Administration, Scottish Church College Kolkata.

**Abstract:** In the event of sticky prices, any exchange rate fluctuation can have significant consequences in the real sector of the economy. The response to such external shocks can be heterogeneous across industries depending upon the market characteristics, demand conditions and other factors including trade invoicing and exchange rate regimes. This paper aims to capture the effect of nominal exchange rate fluctuations on the price of India's export products. For that purpose we consider four categories of industry which differ based on technological intensities. The unit level data of export prices are based on 8 digit HS classification provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Government of India. The data on bilateral exchange rate are obtained from Reserve Bank of India database. Using profit maximising approach of firms, in lines of Bailliu and Fujii (2004) theoretical specification, this paper estimates the ERPT elasticities under the ambit of static panel data technique. Using a host of controls like marginal costs, world demand, the estimation results show that the pass through to export prices is incomplete in the short run across all the selected industries especially for high technology intensive industries. This is indicative of high degree of absorption in foreign currency term and low pass-through in domestic currency terms, following exchange rate changes. Overall, our results corroborate the conventional wisdom of incomplete pass through elasticity in the short run. The study also accounts for the asymmetrical impact of exchange rates fluctuations on the unit price of exports. Further the pass-through elasticities as revealed by the estimated coefficients depend on depreciation or appreciation of domestic currencies of respective countries. The results bring about an empirical verification of the traditional theoretical wisdom that depreciation of currency leads to a decrease in export prices thereby making these products more competitive in the world market. The findings on exchange rate pass through have implications for exchange rate being used as a price based policy instrument for export promotion, thereby reducing current account deficit.



# DIVYA SINGH

## DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Divya is a PhD Scholar at the Delhi School of Economics and also working as a faculty member at the Department of Economics, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. She has previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, and as an intern at the Standard Chartered Modelling and Analytics Centre. Her research interests lie at the intersection of education policy and growth and development. In particular, her current research tries to analyse the trade-offs that economies face with respect to the size and the composition of the education sector.

**Abstract:** Resource-constrained economies looking to expand publicly provided education face difficult trade-offs related to the size and composition of the education sector. This sector facilitates the transition to an educated citizenry and productive work force in the future, but rapid expansions could lower school quality because they can only be achieved by lowering standards for entry into the sector. In addition, the allocation of existing talent to the teaching sector contributes towards higher human capital for the future, but it may reduce the efficiency of other necessary and productive sectors in the present.

The first chapter of my thesis studies these dilemmas of human capital investment using a dynamic growth model with heterogeneous agents. I am currently working on a simple two-sector model with homogeneous agents and deriving the planner's solution for the optimal share of the working population that will be allotted to the education and consumption sectors. This is along the lines of the current literature on human capital. Once I characterize the optimal and equilibrium solutions to this model, I will extend it by introducing agents of varying ability and derive the optimal time path of expansion of the education sector and entry standards which determine its composition.

More broadly, my dissertation is concerned with education policy and apart from this theoretical work, I would like to evaluate the recent proposals which influence learning environments. I have been especially interested in the effects of mother-tongue instruction on learning outcomes and would like to study this policy in the state of Orissa, which has multiple language groups and where the state has introduced policies for own-language instruction in some areas of the state.



# FETSEU KAMGUIA WILFRIED

## AFRICAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (IVORY COAST)

Wilfried Fetseu Kamguia, is currently pursuing his final year of Master's degree in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics at the African School of Economics in Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). As part of his Master's degree program, he is doing an internship in Niamey, Niger at the non-profit organization SDI, Québec (Société de Développement International) where he is participating in development projects in agriculture and education. His ambition is to become a highly skilled PhD economist that helps institutions make better decisions to address development issues.

### **Abstract:**

Yields are very low in most African and developing countries compared to the rest of the world. This is due to possible credit constraints faced by farmers, incomplete insurance market, unfavorable climate and soil conditions, scarcity of available technology, type of fertilizers and seeds used among other factors.

Technology adoption plays a vital role in agricultural economics. More precisely, improved seeds technology is found in the literature to be positively associated with agricultural productivity. The objective of this paper is to investigate the effect of improved seeds adoption on agricultural productivity in Côte D'Ivoire. To this extent, we use a two-fold approach. First, we propose a theoretical model in which the expected utility function of the farmer is maximized based on their willingness to adopt improved technology conditionally to standard factors of production including land, labor, capital and off-farm income. Second, we test the prediction of the model using data from the Enquête Harmonisée des ménages de Côte D'ivoire (2019). Consistent with the prediction of the model, we find evidence that the adoption of improved seed technology enhances agricultural production and that farmers with off-farm income and a higher education are impacted more positively. This should alert decision makers to provide the farmers with instruments such as training and subsidies to support the farmers.



# JENNIFER OPARE KUMI

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Jennifer is an applied social scientist driven by a passion for evidence-informed policy making. Her research focuses on ways to improve education and mental health outcomes for young people in the Global South through government and non-governmental interventions and policies.

Her ongoing research projects are in Ethiopia, Botswana and Pakistan supervised by Professor Stefan Dercon and Dr Kate Orkin at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

Prior to the DPhil, Jennifer worked with Young Love, a youth-driven, evidence-led NGO as the Research and Program Manager spearheading scaling efforts for a foundational numeracy and literacy programme Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL). She has also previously worked for UN organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Migration Agency (IOM).

**Abstract:** About 10-20% of children and adolescents have mental health challenges and with 90% of the global population of children and adolescents living in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs), this presents a considerable public health challenge particularly in low resource settings. Additionally, significant proportion of mental health problems surface in early childhood and adolescent years and early onset mental health problems have the potential to affect the long-term development of emotional and behavioural health (Gleason et al., 2016). Furthermore, there is a growing literature showing a significant link between children's emotional and behavioural health and their educational outcomes such as test scores, and school attendance suggesting a bi-directional relationship between academic achievement and mental health. Using a Difference in Difference (DiD) experimental design, this paper will explore the relationship between Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL), a proven foundational numeracy and literacy intervention and the mental health outcomes of primary school learners in Botswana.

RQ1: What is the impact of TaRL on mental health outcomes such as anxiety and/or depression?

RQ2: What is the impact of TaRL on mental health outcomes such as disruptive behaviours, inattention, hyperactivity?

RQ3: Does TaRL differentially affect learners pre-disposed to mental health challenges?

RQ4: What are the mechanisms through which TaRL impacts the mental health outcomes of learners?





# JESSICA THACKER

## SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

Jessica Thacker is a PhD research scholar at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University. Her thesis focuses on firm and industrial exit in the Indian context which has helped her gain theoretical as well as empirical understanding of firm survival, fragility and exit. Her work primarily focuses on understanding financial fragility as well as its drivers at the level of firm and industry, which can drive firm to exit from the market.

Her research interests include but are not limited to applied microeconomics, applied industrial organization, economic policy, development economics and business strategy. She also has general admiration for interdisciplinary works, the synthesis of which, she believes teaches the true taste of research and life.

**Abstract:** Financial performance is one of the most important dimensions of overall firm performance. Food processing industry holds a lot of promise for a developing country like India but, this industry has been under-researched in terms of drivers of financial performance. In this study, we investigate the non-optimizing behaviour with respect to profits for firms, using empirical evidence from dairy and grain-milling sub-sectors of food processing in India. We visualize the entire profit generation process in two stages: saleable output generation (stage I) and its conversion to net profits (stage II). Stage-wise analysis of financial performance in this manner, to the best of our knowledge, has not been conducted for firms in registered manufacturing of processed food. Even if we do find a stage-wise analysis in food manufacture, the break-up is not in terms of these stages. Our aim in this study is find which stage is the driver of inefficiency in generating profits of the firm in this sector. In addition to this, we link this overall and stage-wise efficiency in financial performance to the role of individual firm size, distortions in size distribution, such as the "missing middle" and constraints that a firm faces to obtain formal credit. To do so, our study uses two different sub-sectors (with difference in firm size distribution) to assess overall and stage-wise inefficiency in financial performance. For each sub-sector, the technique of two-stage network Data Envelopment Analysis (NDEA) is employed to find the source of inefficiency of the firm which, helps in determining efficiency of the stages as well of the whole firm itself. We, then, utilize the first algorithm of Simar and Wilson (2007), quantile regression and ordinary least squares to identify the drivers of inefficiency from the earlier analysis. Additionally, our study provides a clear evaluation of different non-parametric efficiency estimation methods for addressing research questions similar to ours, pointing out the strength and weaknesses of different techniques.



The two-stage network Data Envelopment Analysis (NDEA) reveals that stage II inefficiency drives overall inefficiency in profits for all firms in both sub-sectors. Interestingly, while some small firms achieve full efficiency in the second stage, no firms of a larger size do so. We also find that grain-milling, marked by a larger "missing middle" reports lower stage II and overall profit efficiency than dairy. The ratio of stage I to stage II efficiency, on an average for the period 2008-09 to 2017-18, is 3.07 for dairy whereas it is twice that at 6.4 for grain-milling. One possible explanation for our result is that credit-constrained small firms (which dominates its presence in the data) try to find processing contracts with larger firms (which has miniscule presence in the data) to avoid large costs of converting stage I output to net profits in stage II. These contracts, most likely, are given by firms of a larger size to smaller ones, so that only small firms can avoid all last mile expenses of retailing processed food. Hence, larger sized firms, which cannot avoid these costs, underperform in the second stage. However, the density of small firms potentially reduces the probability of getting contracts with larger firms and intensifies competition within this size class. Not only the individual firm size, the distribution of firm sizes in the industry as well is related with stage-wise financial performance of firms in grain-milling and dairy.

# JITENDRA SINGH

## ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Jitendra is a Ph.D. candidate in economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat. His research agenda broadly spans the field of development economics and political economy. Specifically, Jitendra's research empirically examines how social identities, namely gender, caste, and religion determine labor market outcomes and economic welfare in India. Jitendra received his MA in development economics from South Asian University, New Delhi and B. Tech. in mining engineering from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

**Abstract:** We study how religious violence breaks down informal markets, with economic costs for large sections in India. Coinciding with the rise in Hindu nationalism, India recorded an exponential increase in violent attacks on persons suspected of trading cattle (mostly Muslims) for slaughter by cow-vigilante groups in the last decade. We show that this violence led to a drop in cattle trade and that rural households' inability to sell unproductive cattle led to increased cattle abandonment. We construct a novel dataset using a quadrimestral representative panel of Indian households, a state-level panel of road accidents, media reports of vigilante violence, and historical data on Hindu-Muslim conflicts in India. Exploiting the temporal and spatial variation of violence, we causally estimate its impact on the cattle trade market with an event study design. We show that violence led to a more than 10 percent decline in cattle holdings among households in the affected regions. Next, we causally identify the effect of violence on the number of stray cattle using a proxy measure: the number of road accidents due to stray cattle. We construct a Bartik instrument for vigilante violence using historical Hindu-Muslim conflicts (1950 - 2000) to find an alarming 200% increase in road accidents due to stray cattle in affected regions. At least 1500 deaths and 2500 injuries in road accidents can be attributed to vigilante violence. The results are consistent with predictions from our theoretical model. Finally, we examine externalities on farmers by conducting a primary household survey in Rajasthan, the largest state, with spatial variation in the violence. We find that farmers self-report extensive crop damages from stray cattle and precautionary costs in regions experiencing violence.



# JULIÁN ACEVEDO-PARDO

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Julián Acevedo-Pardo is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Mississippi, and his research interests, broadly, focus on public opinion and political economy. His dissertation project explores the causes of persistent labor informality, a vexing issue with severe social and economic implications across Latin America and other developing regions. Specifically, it examines how the long-term relationship between citizens and the state influences workers' demand for labor formality.

**Abstract:** Labor informality is a vexing issue across Latin America, with negative implications for policy areas from economic growth to social safety nets. Despite decades of efforts by national governments and international organizations, informality levels remain stubbornly high across the region. Insights from the extant literature suggest informality arises because creating formal sector jobs is too costly or the costs of formality for workers are too high. In contrast to most previous works on informality, this project steps back from standard materialistic assumptions and aims to uncover how the overall relationship between states and citizens impacts workers' incentives to work formally. This work posits workers' resistance to formality, despite the stability and protections it promises, derives from a long-standing view that the state has repeatedly failed to provide credible and reliable benefits/services or improvements in their living standards. Empirical results from cross-national analyses support the contention that Latin American countries with lower state capacity and higher perceptions of corruption – aspects affecting the nature and quality of the state's relationship with citizens – present higher levels of labor informality. These factors, particularly corruption, condition the effectiveness of mainstream labor reform policies – labor market flexibilization and businesses regulations– to reduce informality levels. An important implication of this project is that mainstream efforts targeting specific costs and benefits of formality could fail to reduce high levels of labor informality in much of the region as workers will continue to see formality as being of limited value. Thus, more comprehensive structural approaches focusing on strengthening the relationship between the state and citizens could be vital for effective labor market reform.



# LINA LUCUMI MOSQUERA

## MONTFORT UNIVERSITY (UK)

Lina Lucumi-Mosquera is a PhD activist-researcher in the Business and Law Faculty at De Montfort University (Leicester, UK). She holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Universidad del Valle (Cali, Colombia) and a MA in Development from the University of Sheffield (Sheffield, UK). Her research explores the participation of Afro-Colombian fine cocoa farming communities in craft chocolate global production networks. Particularly, she analyses how the latter resolves or reinforces multiple forms of overlapping racism, classism and gender discrimination.



**Abstract:** How have cocoa farmers' identities been constructed to examine patterns of injustices within the Fine and Craft Cocoa/Chocolate (FCCC) globalised market? To address this question, a semi-systematic literature review (Snyder, 2019; Hart, 2009) was undertaken in the context of a plethora of studies that, although often non-connected, assess the impact of social identities on bulk chocolate (Berlan, 2013; Barrientos, 2014; Barrientos et al., 2019), other tropical crops such as coffee (Cole, 2008; Lyon, 2019) and sugar (Sansone, 2012), or even tomato (Medland, 2021), but seldom FCCC (Purcell et al., 2018, Martin and Sampeck, 2015)

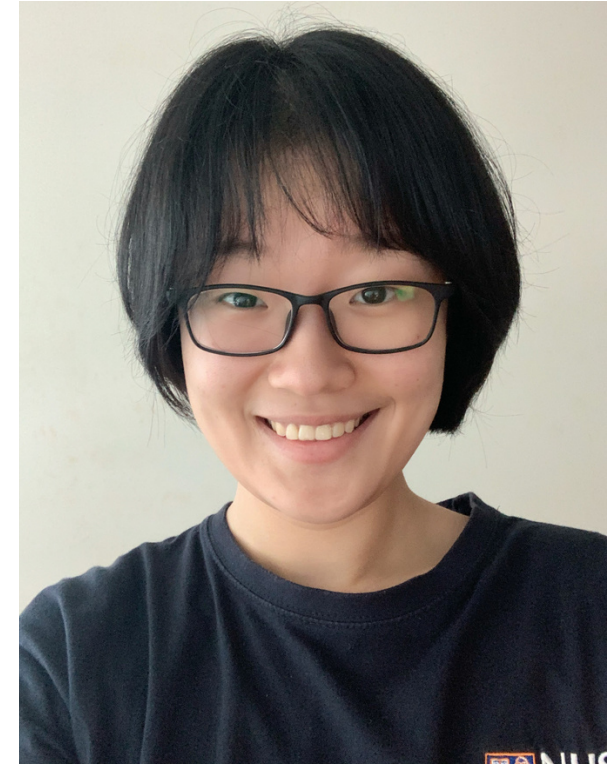
The construction of the often unseen but mostly non-connected overlapping of FCCC farmers' race/ethnicity, gender and social class occurs in an ambiguous narrative that portrays a disruption between craft chocolate bars and fine cocoa beans, and both from who harvest the letter. Three main trends to approach FCCC farmers' identities have been mapped - namely, i) separated from systems of oppression, discrimination and domination (García-Cáceres et al., 2014; Rueda et al., 2018; Middendorp et al., 2020), ii) colour-blindness (Blare and Useche, 2019) and, unfortunately, less often iii) as articulators of resistance or what sociologists Patricia Hill-Collins and Sirma Bilge (2020) call identities as critical practices (Coq-Huelva et al., 2018; Calvo Dopico et al., 2021). This chapter aims to propose a suitable theoretical and methodological arrangement that enables not only filling this research gap but also lifting the voices of FCCC farmers whose livelihood, although widely investigated, seems to have not found a solution yet to tackle a long-lasting legacy of poverty and inequalities.

# LIUYANG HE

## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Liuyang is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Policy from Duke University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Xiamen University. Her research interests are located at the intersection of local governance, political economy, and environmental and social policy. Her current research looks at how governments use cadre management as a tool to achieve policy goals.

**Abstract:** Developing countries need deft strategies to implement policies such as poverty alleviation especially when central and local governments face a misalignment of objectives. We explore this issue with China's anti-poverty drive under President Xi Jinping using county-level data from 2012 to 2018 and a fixed effects model to investigate the impacts of a switch in cadres' performance appraisal to focus on eradicating poverty instead of economic growth. Our study shows that the appraisal change slows GDP growth but lifts rural income among the poorest as resources are reallocated to projects that improve their livelihoods. Heterogeneity analyses further indicate that the GDP impact from the appraisal shift is mainly ascribed to counties that entirely remove GDP-related indicators, and not so much to those that merely reduce the weightage. Furthermore, using data such as fiscal gap and value-added sectors, we explore mechanisms through which the performance appraisal shift affects GDP growth. Our study shows that political incentives can facilitate the implementation of equity-targeted public policies and reveals how officials maintain a balance between equity and economic efficiency in local governance in China, serving as an exemplar for other developing countries.



# MATEYO HOYOS LOPEZ

## UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Mateyo a Colombian economist and PhD student in Economics at UMass Amherst. Before this, he completed his bachelor in Economics, and two master degrees, one in Economics and the second in Public Policy, all at Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. His research interests are in international trade and economic development.

**Abstract:** We revisit the relationship between tariffs and GDP per capita, showing that it is mediated by the economic structure. We study the impact on GDP per capita of changes in average tariff rates, making use of country-year observations from 1960 to 2014. We make use for the first time in this literature of the local projections difference-in-differences (LP-DiD) estimator. Our LP-DiD approach allows us to control for pretrends that might bias the estimates and to estimate medium-term, dynamic effects, in contrast to most literature, which focuses on instantaneous effects or inferences based on 5- or 10-year averages of small samples. Our results, consistent with a specific strand of the trade theory literature, show that the tariff--growth nexus is contingent on the economic structure: tariff decreases are accompanied by lower economic growth for nonmanufacturer countries but by higher growth for manufacturer countries. Our baseline results are confirmed by several robustness checks, including a clean controls analysis aimed to address the problems of two-way fixed effects regressions highlighted recently by difference-in-differences literature. The mechanisms through which this heterogeneity seems to work are changes in productivity and capital accumulation.



# MEETA KUMAR

## DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Meeta Kumar is a Ph.D scholar at the Delhi School of Economics. She also teaches Economics at Miranda House. She specializes in teaching Development Economics, and has a keen interest in Economic History. In college, she has been extensively involved with the organization of national and international debates, seminars and conferences for students, with a view to introducing inter-disciplinary perspectives in teaching and promoting intercultural interactions.

**Abstract:** A big political economy question is whether leader preferences shape public policy or whether leaders simply respond to their constituents. My first dissertation paper (jointly with Prof. Rohini Somanathan) looks at succession changes in colonial Indian Princely States, and asks if progressive policies had any persistent effects. Of the states that were labeled 'progressive' by the British (Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, Jaipur, Baroda), Baroda is particularly interesting as it comprised territories closely 'inter-laced' with British districts and other Princely States. Three large blocks of territory lay in Gujarat (Kadi, Baroda and Navsari), and one in Kathiawar (Amreli). These four 'blocks' (prants) were contiguous with six British Indian districts, and fifteen Princely States. This allows for comparisons to study the impact of policy in the short run, as well longer term persistence effects.

The major source of data we use is the Census of India (1901 - 2011). We are also exploring the data contained in the Imperial Gazetteer of India as well as various volumes of District Gazetteers. The existing literature on Indian Princely States largely compares outcomes from Princely States to those in British India, with a view to unravel the possible impact of policy, institutions (the nature of land rights, for example), or even geography. We take this literature forward by focusing attention on policy variations within Princely States, and the implication of these for the long term development of the areas that constituted them.





# NIKITA SANGWAN

## INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (DELHI)

Nikita is a Ph.D. candidate at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. Her primary research interests include Development Economics in the fields of Agriculture, Environment, Gender, and Labor. She is an EfD Early Career Research Fellow and a member of the Centre for research on the Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment (CECFEE).

**Abstract:** Climate change has resulted in a rise in average temperatures adversely affecting the agriculture sector. While there is considerable interest in understanding the impact of climatic changes on labor productivity the literature continues to be sparse due to data constraints. Using a novel panel of agricultural households, we use a farm fixed-effects model to examine the causal impacts of exogenous temperature shocks on labor usage and productivity on the farm. First, we examine the adjustments made to labor input usage by farming households in response to temperature changes. Then, we look at the impact on the productivity of labor employed on the farm. We find evidence of a gender-differentiated impact of climate change as these adjustments affect male and female labor differently. Finally, we investigate the role of technology adoption as a mitigation strategy to minimize the costs of climate change.



# PAUL SHALOKA

## UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Paul Shaloka grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is currently a 5th year PhD student at the University of Notre Dame. His research interests include labor and development economics.

**Abstract:** We provide new evidence on the effects of limiting circular labor migration on origin communities. We estimate the effects of a ban on female migrants with children below a certain age cutoff instituted in Sri Lanka using a difference-in-differences strategy which exploits ban status and duration based on fertility decisions made prior to the ban. Using detailed administrative and household survey data, we find that households were largely unable to substitute towards male labor migration or towards domestic employment. We also show that children's education declines in terms of both years completed and attendance among households affected by the ban. This is despite the fact that we find no evidence of a quantity-quality trade-off; treated households reduce fertility after the ban.



# PRAVEEN KUMAR

## INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (DELHI)

Praveen is a PhD candidate at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. His primary research interests include applied Environmental Economics, Agriculture, and Rural Economy. Currently, he is investigating the impact of unrestricted power on groundwater depth, power consumption and other outcomes in Telangana to understand the energy-water-food nexus. Additionally, I am looking at electricity reliability and its impact on electric cooking adoption in India and other developing and under-developed countries, using MTF survey data from the World Bank.

**Abstract:** Power supply for irrigation is un-metered but rationed in most Indian states. This study estimates the impact of the removal of rationing from 9 hours of supply per day to 24 hours per day on groundwater depletion in Telangana state. This is an extreme kind of policy in semi arid and hard-rock aquifer dominated region like Telangana, where aquifers have limited storage, and are therefore much more rapidly exhaustible. We first estimate the traditional differences in difference model by comparing Telangana with four neighboring states. This model imposes a much stronger identifying parallel trend assumption that is, changes over time in variables other than power policy are the same in Telangana and neighboring states, so we combine Difference-in-differences approach with Geographic Regression Discontinuity design to identify the effect of the policy change at the state boundary. This allows us to estimate a model with a weaker parallel trend assumption, since we compare wells near the border (within 34.55 km bandwidth). Using a detailed monthly well-level spatial panel dataset from January 2014 to December 2019, contrary to our hypothesis we find that the groundwater depth remains unchanged on average in Telangana relative to neighboring states in the two years following the policy change. However, using district level power consumption data for the same period, we find that there is increase in power consumption by 12-percent on average in Telangana relative to neighboring states in the two years following the policy change.



# PRAVEENA BANDARA

## AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (WASHINGTON DC)

Praveena Bandara is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at American University, Washington DC. She is a graduate research assistant at the Department of Economics at American University.

Her research interests are in development macroeconomics and international trade. She is currently working on two research projects. One project focuses on export re-specialization patterns of developing countries. The other focuses on the impacts of a sudden stop in capital flows on export market exit rates of firms in developing countries.

Prior to her research assistant role, Praveena worked as a teaching assistant at American University and the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, where she obtained her undergraduate degree specializing in Economics.

**Abstract:** Export re-specialization is the focus of recent literature on world export patterns. Studies show a U-shaped relationship between export specialization and economic growth. That is, economies start off specializing in a limited number of exports, and as they grow, countries tend to diversify their export structure by adding new products to their export baskets. After reaching a maximum level of diversification, they re-specialize.

Most of this literature consists of empirical studies that confirm the U-shaped relationship through cross-country studies, test the correlation between export specialization and growth, and present rough breakdowns of what industries are most susceptible to closure when countries re-specialize. Though some studies focus on changes in comparative advantage, the current literature does not establish a relationship between export re-specialization and a country's technological sophistication level. Therefore, this project assesses whether countries re-specialize into a similar product basket - in terms of average technology intensity of production - to the product basket before re-specialization.

Initial investigation of the data shows that re-specialization is not limited to developed, high-income countries. Re-specialization episodes occur across the board, regardless of income level, albeit less so in low-income countries. Some studies confirm re-specialization at all income levels and cast doubt on the consensus that re-specialization is exclusively related to economic growth. Furthermore, most studies do not closely examine the evolution of technological change in relation to export re-specialization. Understanding the dynamics of technological change and possible changes in the comparative advantage of re-specialization has implications for policy decisions; this is especially true for developing countries that pursue industrial policy to kick-start specific industries to promote economic growth.



# RAVINDER

## INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (DELHI)

Ravinder is a doctoral student at the Economics and Planning Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre. His research interests include Development Economics (empirical) in the fields of Education, Labour, and Rural Economy.



**Abstract:** This paper estimates the impact of tertiary education (graduate education and above) on the rural economy. Existing macro literature on human capital highlights the role of urban agglomeration as the mechanism underlying the impact of human capital, especially higher education, on growth and development. In this paper, we show that higher education can also affect the rural economy positively. Using data on the census of villages in India for 2011, we show that a standard deviation increase in the share of tertiary education increases village per capita consumption by 22.81 percent. We address the endogeneity of higher education by using the location of Catholic missions circa 1911 as an instrument variable.

Castello-Climent et al 2018 show that after accounting for a host of historical and geographical determinants, the residual variation in catholic mission location is plausibly exogenous. However, districts with such catholic missions exhibit a larger current share of tertiary educated population due to their influence on the provision of quality higher education. We show that this result is equally true for village-level tertiary education completion and that such education causally impacts average village prosperity. Our results on the impact on economic development are robust to alternative measures of VIIRS nightlight intensity and an alternate proxy for income. We show that, in line with previous literature, our results are not confounded by better institutions, as proxied by the higher public goods provision, better irrigation facilities and more access to banks. Delving further, the paper provides support for two mechanisms: First, tertiary-educated villagers have a greater probability to commute daily to urban areas to earn higher income in service sector jobs. Second, households with tertiary-educated members show higher agriculture profit per household member involved in farming. This increased productivity is also suggested by satellite-based spatial net primary productivity measures. Finally, we show that the impact of tertiary education on rural prosperity is heterogeneous varying by distance to the

city, average rainfall and soil quality. Our results inform the larger literature on the structural transformation that envisages a structural shift to the service sector with greater labour migration to urban areas but envisages such movement to be permanent with resulting changes in housing prices and terms of trade. We contend that such a change can happen within rural settlements - with rising service sector involvement of those who work in urban spaces but live in rural areas as well as through productivity changes in agriculture that occur within the village.

# SANCHARI CHOUDHURY

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Sanchari completed her undergraduate studies in Economics from Jadavpur University, India and my postgraduate studies with specialization in International Trade and Development from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. She is currently Transitioning from third year to fourth year of my PhD program in Economics in Colorado State University, USA. Her background and interest have primarily been focused in the core areas of Macroeconomics, International Trade and Development. Sanchari is particularly invested in heterodox tradition of macro modelling and would be willing to incorporate such tools to study questions in the areas of International Trade, Finance and Feminist Economics, especially in the context of developing countries. She is currently researching on Impacts of greater economic integration of South Asia on women's labor market outcomes, marriage market outcomes and intrahousehold women empowerment and monetary policy autonomy of the domestic economy. In my free time, I enjoy reading books, singing, spending time with friends over tea and food.



**Abstract:** The global asymmetry in economic and financial power across countries could be perceived and interpreted through the lens of imperial hierarchy inherent in modern capitalistic society where increasing control of capital in hands of advanced nation state's capitalists and growing international capital movements across national border exacerbates the vulnerability of less developed countries belonging to the periphery. Capital flows to developing countries had suffered a major setback in the aftermath of debt crisis in the 1980s. However, since the 1990s, resurgence of capital flows to developing countries has emerged as a prominent trend with discernible changes in volume and composition of the flows. Overall, such conditions can potentially provide boost to employment through increase in investment and output, enlarge stock of foreign currency reserves and finance current account deficit in the short run. However, openness in capital flows might make the periphery country vulnerable to any adverse external shock coming from the center, increase the volatility in asset markets, enhance current account deficit through exchange rate appreciation and thereby causing inflationary pressure on the domestic economy. Therefore, increased capital flows to emerging and developing countries should be perceived with caution.

This study specifically focuses on analyzing trends and components of capital flows to India and their macroeconomic implications, especially in the Gender context, due to liberalization and relaxation of capital controls in India. Recalling the trilemma and later modified concept of dilemma and noting that the capital account changes in conjunction with substantial current account enlargement were not accompanied by monetary policy reforms in India and the exchange rate has remained somewhat pegged to

the US dollar throughout the era of liberalization, question arises regarding the well-known macroeconomic trade-offs. The chain of arguments laid out throughout the paper hinges on the loss of monetary policy autonomy for India in the face of liberalization of trade and capital flows along with effectively pegged exchange rates. The research question, therefore, is reduced to analyzing the consequences of loss of monetary autonomy and subsequent Central Bank policy coupled with liberalized capital flows on gendered outcomes in the labor market, including wage gap, labor force participation, employment and skill-based job segregation. It is also pursued as an intriguing enquiry to look at the impacts of exchange rate moving towards floating regime on monetary policy autonomy by incorporating dilemma and trilemma constraints. Macroeconomic policy recommendations would differ based on the constraints Indian economy faces.



# SAYOREE GOOPTU

## JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

Sayoree is a PhD research scholar in the Department of Economics at Jadavpur University, working under the supervision of Professor Vivekananda Mukherjee. She has completed my Bachelors, Masters and MPhil from Jadavpur university. She is currently working on various issues related to the education sector in developing countries with a primary focus on India.

Her thesis addresses several concerns of the education sector such as school dropouts, overeducation, the proliferation of private tutoring in education etc. She has also contributed to the Indian Higher Education Report, 2020 as a co-author of the chapter “Education, Skill Mismatch and Wage Differentials”. Sayoree wishes to further engage in research concerning policy making in education. Apart from work, she loves to engage in music, singing, reading and watching movies.



**Abstract:** There is a growing concern of misallocation of skills across the world as it results in wastage of resources and loss of demographic dividend which eventually reduces the welfare of an economy. The paper tries to calculate a measure of overeducation using the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2018-19 in India for elementary occupations. Unlike the existing job requirement methods used in the literature, where overeducation is calculated on the basis of a comparison between required education level in an occupation and the actual education level, this paper adopts a newer method introduced in the literature which uses the ‘returns to skill’ approach, which caters to both the demand and supply of labour. The regression results reflect that for sales and service elementary occupations, no additional education above below primary level can generate additional returns over that received by illiterate workers. On the other hand, for elementary workers in mining, manufacturing, construction and transport, any level of formal education, leads to overeducation. The study has also been extended to analyse the determinants of overeducation at a state level which cannot be captured in the individual level regressions. We find that the state level excess supply of tertiary graduates measured by the fraction of individuals with higher education in the labour force to the employment in high skilled occupation sectors, to have a positive significant impact on the rates of overeducation. Besides, in some specifications, the per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) and the average share of education expenditure in the state budget also appears to have a positive significant impact while the state wise proportion of Scheduled Castes have a negative significant effect on overeducation rates.

# TANIEEM NOOR DARVESH

## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (BANGALORE)

Tanieem is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy at IIM Bangalore. Her doctoral work is in the broad field of development economics and economics of gender. She is currently studying gender disparities in house ownership, exploring the intra-household dynamics of the same and examining if the respondent's identity has any influence on the findings. After completing her PhD, she is keen on pursuing a career in academics and research.

**Abstract:** This paper explores issues of asset and wealth inequality and its implications for women's empowerment, including alienation rights over the property. Women's asset ownership can lead to egalitarian decision-making within the house and transcend into improved welfare in society and across generations. Therefore, it is vital to understand the factors associated with it and the mechanisms through which it works.

In this paper, we explore the concept of ownership (documented and reported) and examine its correlation to women's alienation rights. Furthermore, we examine if the respondent's identity (proxy or self) has any implications for the conclusions drawn. The study uses the Karnataka Household Asset Survey (KHAS) 2010 dataset and a comparable dataset from Ghana, both gathered as part of the Gender Asset Gap Project 2010.

Using logistic regression models, we find that in Karnataka, owning a house enhances women's alienation rights, more so for bequests than for sales. We also find that women's alienation rights differ depending on the respondent, with proxy reporting lesser rights than the respondent herself. Men also have similar results, although their magnitude is just a third of women's.

We also make preliminary efforts to comprehend the nature of women's empowerment by exploring disagreement and agreement on rights among the respondents, recast as "taking power" and "giving power," respectively, by Annan et al. (2020). This distinction is based on the idea that true empowerment is not only about increasing women's decision-making but also their self-perception as able and entitled decision-makers (Rowlands, 1995). Initial findings reveal that, compared to men, proxy agreement on women's engagement in alienation rights is lower, and disagreement is greater, with twice as many women as men disagreeing with proxy on her rights and one-third of these women taking power. A primary analysis of the Ghana dataset reiterates the gender gap in ownership and alienation rights, which is more significant than in Karnataka. However, the effects of the respondent's identity in Ghana remain ambiguous until the results of continuing investigations.

There is evidence that women's asset ownership is empowering and significantly influences children and welfare outcomes. Our paper emphasises the necessity of enhancing government efforts to increase women's asset ownership and close the gender gap. Our work also highlights the importance of collecting individual sex-disaggregated data to understand intra-household dynamics, contributing to survey methodology.



# VIKRANT KAMBLE

## GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Vikrant Kamble is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Economics of Georgia Institute of Technology. His research focuses on the intersection of development economics and environmental economics. He is also interested in estimating social welfare due to natural resource exploration in India. In his job market paper evaluating one of the ambitious afforestation projects in the Rajasthan state of India, he finds that this program helped farmers increase agricultural activities in the region. He also serves as a member of the Graduate Student Engagement Committee of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE). Vikrant likes reading novels, science fiction, and biographies.

### **Abstract:**

Afforestation programs have been very popular to reduce effects of climate change. These programs if implemented properly can produce larger social benefits through spillover effect. This paper finds the causal effects of one of the biggest afforestation programs in India on agricultural activities in the region. Using a yearly panel data from 1997 to 2010 on agriculture production, area, and yield, we establish evidence with the help of synthetic control methods. This method allows us to improve estimation strategy where Difference in Difference mechanism produce biased results. Our findings suggest that the program improved agriculture production by 51%, agriculture area increased by 23% and overall agriculture yield increased by 15%. All the results were statistically significant and persistent over long period of time.



# GROUP LEADERS

# LEILA GAUTHAM

## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Leila is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) at the Economics Department at the University of Leeds.

She received my PhD in Economics in 2022 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her applied work is at the intersection of labor and development economics, with a focus on gender.

She is interested in how demographic, economic, and social institutions in India shape gender inequality in labor markets. She also has an active research agenda looking at paid care employment (in sectors such as health and education) as a driver of gender wage inequality in the U.S.



# MRINALINI JHA

## CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT

Mrinalini completed her PhD in Economics from Delhi School of Economics at the University of Delhi. Her research focuses on the economics of discrimination and unequal opportunities in economic well-being, and its impact on growth. She also studies the evolution of wage polarization over the skill spectrum of workers, along with its intersection with other social identities. Beyond Economics, she is also interested in the related zones of sociology and politics of caste and gender.

She has taught post-graduate (Masters) students of Economics at the Delhi School of Economics and has teaching experience with undergraduate students of Economics at the University of Delhi. She was a part of the EU-funded NOPOOR project as a Senior Research Assistant at the Centre for Development Economics.



# SURBHI KESAR

SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Surbhi received her PhD in Economics from South Asian University, New Delhi and has been a Fulbright Fellow at University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Prior to joining SOAS, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

Her recent and ongoing work deals with the reproduction of the structure of economic dualism (encompassing different production and labor processes) in India with high economic growth, thereby critiquing the imaginary of development-as-capitalist-transition; political economy of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic; relations between identities and social exclusion in India; and a critical engagement with the social reproduction theory. She is also currently working on a co-authored book project focusing on possibilities and approaches towards decolonising the field of economics.

She is a Steering Group member for the Diversifying and Decolonising Economics initiative. She is a co-project lead for curating Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) education platform and a coordinator for the Economic Development Working Group of the Young Scholars Initiative of the INET. She is an editorial board member of the Review of Political Economy journal. She is a visiting faculty at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, and a faculty fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University. She is the academic officer for the Association for Heterodox Economics Conference 2022.



# TONY KURIAN

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MUMBAI

Tony Kurian is a PhD candidate in the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay. He was a former Fulbright scholar in the Department of Economics, UMass Amherst. His research is in the areas of economic sociology and political economy. His PhD project investigates the reasons for differing performance of three agricultural futures markets. At AGW, he will be delivering a lecture titled “Talking across the aisle: A case for sociology of market microstructure”. He also moonlights as an accessibility and disability rights activist.





# AGW 2022: LOGISTICS TEAM



**Raghvendra Shrikrishna Vanjari**

Raghvendra is a Zoologist by training and education, and his academic interest has inclined towards ecology in the recent past. He received his master's degree from Solapur University, following which he worked at the Indo German consortium, in a socio and agroecological project. The project "Ecosystem services, agricultural diversification and smallholders' livelihoods in the rural-urban interface of Bengaluru", sponsored by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, gave him three years of experience to involve in research work at university.

He is also part of the project "Food Systems in Transition: A Case Study of the Soliga Tribe in Biligiri Ranganna (BR) Hills, Karnataka" supported by the university.

Raghvendra enjoys birdwatching, painting, and cycling.



**Vargheese Kochattu Antony**

Vargheese is responsible for internal as well as external research assistance management, research ethical clearance process and general administration of the center in relations with other functions of the university and compliance with external institutions and collaborators.

He has work experience of total 15 years in education and development sector.

He did his Masters in Educational Planning and Administration, qualified UGC NET for Education and an alumnus of Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

# AGW 2022: ORGANISING COMMITTEE



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