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Contact Information

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Personal Information

Date of Birth: 19th August, 1990
Sex: Male

Graduate Studies:

PhD in Economics, Department of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2016-
Thesis Title: Essays on Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability
Expected Completion Date: June, 2021

Masters Studies:

MA in Economics, Department of Economics, New York University, 2014-2016
MSc in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, 2012-2014

Undergraduate Studies:

BSc in Economics, Department of Economics, St Xavier's College, Kolkata, 2009-2012

Thesis Committee and References:

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Professor Abu S. Shonchoy
School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics
Secondary fields: Economics of Education, Health Economics, Environmental Sustainability

Teaching Experience:

Graduate Instructor: Economics of Development in Asia, School of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2020-2021 Term 1

Graduate Instructor: Economics of Development in Asia, School of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2019-2020 Term 2

Teaching Assistant: Microeconomic Analysis (graduate level), School of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2019-2020 Term 1

Teaching Assistant: Microeconomic Analysis (graduate level), School of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2018-2019 Term 1

Teaching Assistant: Economics of Development in Asia, School of Economics, Singapore Management University, 2017-2018 Term 1

Teaching Assistant: Economics of Development, School of Economics, New York University, 2015-2016 Term 1

Research Experience:

Consultant in Economic Affairs, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), 2016

Intern in Economic Affairs, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations ESCAP), 2015

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Doctoral Scholarship, Singapore Management University, 2016-2020

Graduate Instructor Fellowship, Singapore Management University, 2019-2020

Academic Award for Excellence in Macroeconomics, New York University, 2015

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

2020 Seminar Series, School of Economics, Singapore Management University

2019 Conference on Randomized Controlled Trials at Monash Business School, Melbourne

2018 Annual London Business Research Conference at Imperial College, London

Publications:

Emerging Issues in India–Pakistan Trade: An Introduction in India-Pakistan Trade Normalization (pp. 1-14), 2017. Springer, Singapore. (with Nisha Taneja, Isha Dayal, and Samridhi Bimal)

Research Papers:

Conditional Cash Transfer, Loss Framing, and SMS Nudges: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Bangladesh (with Tomoki Fujii, Christine Ho, and Abu Shonchoy) – Job Market Paper

Abstract: Cash transfers conditional on school attendance have gained increasing popularity over the past couple of decades. This study seeks to shed light on two issues that may complement such conditional cash transfers (CCTs): (i) loss framing of awards and (ii) SMS information nudges. SMS information on children's school attendance as well as an endowment effect stemming from loss aversion may help increase the effectiveness of CCT in incentivizing parents to send children to school. We conduct a randomized controlled trial among secondary school students in Bangladesh by assigning them to four treatment arms: a pure control group, an SMS only treatment group, an SMS plus gain framing CCT, and an SMS plus loss framing CCT. While CCT significantly increases school attendance, the loss framing only marginally helps increase attendance over and above the gain framing. Our findings suggest that though SMS information nudges have a more modest impact on school attendance, they are more cost effective than the CCT treatment arms. Variation in treatment amount during the course of our intervention indicates that the intensive margin matters, and CCTs are able to address issues such as absenteeism during harvesting season. We also find evidence of

positive peer group effect in attendance, and the treatment effects are quite similar once such social network interactions are controlled for. Finally, we find weak evidence that the Loss and SMS treatment arms delay child marriage for girls in higher grades.

Alcohol Consumption and Intimate Partner Violence: Causal Evidence from India

Abstract: A study by the World Health Organization shows that about 35 percent of women in the world have been victims of physical or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime. In this paper, I study the causal impact of alcohol consumption on incidence of intimate partner violence in the Indian context. Using an overidentified model where I exploit the spatial variation in alcohol ban and minimum legal drinking age across states to instrument for the husband's alcohol consumption, I find that alcohol consumption increases incidence of less severe physical violence by 55 percentage points and severe physical violence by 23.6 percentage points, and also has negative consequences on the freedom of movement and decision making powers of the female within the household. I show that the results are not driven by worse gender attitudes in states where alcohol is allowed. A heterogeneity analysis reveals that there is a vicious cycle of intimate partner violence whereby individuals who are the most vulnerable in terms of having previous exposure to domestic abuse are often the victims. Finally, there is weak evidence of underreporting of domestic abuse and the observed results might be a lower bound estimate of the true impact of alcohol consumption on intimate partner violence.

Singapore as a Sustainable City: Past, present and the future (with Tomoki Fujii)

Abstract: This paper outlines Singapore's major sustainability challenges and its policy response in the areas of land use, transportation, waste management, water, and energy. We review the current and past Concept Plans from the perspective of sustainable land use and provide an overview of transportation policy in Singapore. We also examine Singapore's policies to manage increasing wastes and review the four tap water management plan. Finally, we look at various initiatives by the government for sustainable use of energy. While Singapore has been successful in many ways in transforming itself into one of the most prosperous and sustainable cities in the world, there remain challenges to make the city even cleaner and greener for a better future. We discuss the opportunities that new technologies will bring about and the role that Singapore can play in building a sustainable city.

Working Papers:

National Development Banks and Sustainable Infrastructure in South Asia. GEGI Working Paper 003, (2016)
(with Nagesh Kumar and Pradeep Keshari)

Ongoing Work:

Do Government Benefits Stick to the Intended Beneficiary: Evidence from the Mid Day Meal Scheme in India
(with Arpita Khanna)
Conditional Cash Transfer, SMS, and Social Network Dynamics (with Tomoki Fujii, Christine Ho, and Abu Shonchoy)

Other Positions of Responsibility

Supervised a student from National University of Singapore High School of Mathematics and Science on his research paper "Singapore Towards a Zero Waste Nation: Practices and Challenges"
Postgraduate Representative of the Library Advisory Committee: Singapore Management University

Computer Skills

STATA, MATLAB, LaTeX

Languages

English (fluent), Bengali (native), Hindi (proficient)