

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor

Summer 2016	Economics of the Underprivileged (Pre-College), Brown University
Summer 2016	Applied Microeconomics (Pre-College), Brown University
Summer 2015	Economics of the Underprivileged (Pre-College), Brown University
Summer 2014	Economics of the Underprivileged (Pre-College), Brown University

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017	Economics of Education I (Undergraduate), Brown University, for Prof. John Tyler
Fall 2016	Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Brown University, for Prof. Lint Barrage
Fall 2015	Economics of Education I (Undergraduate), Brown University, for Prof. John Tyler
Spring 2014	Applied Economics Analysis (Graduate), Brown University for Prof. Andrew Foster and Prof. Anna Aizer
Fall 2013	Health, Hunger and the Household (Undergraduate), Brown University for Prof. Andrew Foster

Research Experience and Other Employment

2013-2015	Research Assistant for Prof. Kaivan Munshi, University of Cambridge
Summer 2013	Research Assistant for Prof. Kaivan Munshi, Brown University
2010-2012	Economic Consultant, Frontier Economics, London, UK

Honors and Awards

2017-2018	Interdisciplinary Opportunity Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Brown University
2013-2017	Graduate Student Scholarship, Brown University
2012-2013	Graduate Student Fellowship, Brown University
2009-2010	Eiffel Scholarship, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
2009	Lilian Knowles Memorial Prize, University of Cambridge
2009	Sir Henry Tomkinson Scholarship, University of Cambridge
2008	Ellen McArthur Award, University of Cambridge
2008	Barbara Bodichon Scholarship, University of Cambridge
2007-2009	Rajiv Gandhi Cambridge Scholarship, Cambridge Commonwealth Trust
2007-2009	Girton College Overseas Bursary, University of Cambridge
2007	Rai Sahib Banarsi Das Choudhrie Academic Prize, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

Research Grants

2017	Preparation Grant for " <i>Gender Based Violence in Public Transportation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</i> ", ieConnect for Impact Program, World Bank (\$25,000) (with Bilal Siddiqi)
2017	Preparation Grant for " <i>Urban Corridors and Economic Opportunities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</i> ", ieConnect for Impact Program, World Bank (\$25,000) (with Simon Franklin, Erin Kelley, and Javier Morales Sarriera)
2017	Data2X Big Data for Gender Challenge Dissertation Grant, UN Foundation (\$27,500)
2016	Steinhaus/Zisson Pembroke Center Research Grant, Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women, Brown University (\$1,800)
2016	Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC) Fieldwork Grant, Brown University (\$4,000)
2016	Global Health Scholarship, Global Health Initiative, Brown University (\$3,500)
2016	Department of Economics Research Grant, Brown University (\$3,000)
2016	Brown India Initiative Fellowship, Brown University (\$2,000)
2015	PSTC Data Grant, Brown University (\$1,300)

2015	Graduate School Doctoral Research Travel Grant, Brown University (\$1,800)
2015	Graduate Program in Development Summer Fellowship, Brown University (\$2,400)
2014	PSTC Fieldwork Grant, Brown University (\$1,700)

Professional Activities

Presentations

2018	Economic Demography Workshop, Denver, Colorado
2018	Population Association of America, Denver, Colorado
2018	Midwest International Economic Development Conference
2017	Population Health Sciences Research Workshop, Boston University
2017	Applied Microeconomics Student Lunch, New York University
2017	World Bank ieConnect for Impact Workshop, Lisbon
2017	Applied Microeconomics Seminar, Brown University
2017	Development and Governance Seminar, Watson Institute, Brown University
2017, 2016	Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, Brown University
2017	Interdisciplinary Workshop on Gender, PSTC, Brown University
2016	North East Universities Development Consortium Conference, MIT
2016	Winnowing the Web – A Workshop on Data Scraping in the Social Sciences, Social Science Research Institute, Brown University
2015	International Conference for Development and Economy, Greece
2015	Graduate Program in Development Back from the Field seminar, Watson Institute, Brown University

Service

2017	Co-organizer Gender, Inequality, and Empowerment Seminar Series, PSTC, Brown University
2017	Referee, <i>Demography</i>
2016	Referee, <i>World Development</i>
2015	Referee, <i>Journal of Public Economics</i>

Affiliations

2013 – Present	Demography Trainee, PSTC, Brown University
2015 – Present	Trainee, Graduate Program in Development, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University
2015 – Present	Fellow, Global Health Initiative, Brown University
2015 – Present	Trainee, Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University

Skills

Stata, ArcGIS, MapInfo, LaTeX, Python, R

Research Papers

“Safety First: Perceived Risk of Street Harassment and Educational Choices of Women”

(Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the impact of perceived risk of street harassment on women's human capital attainment. I assemble a unique dataset that combines information on 4,000 students at the University of Delhi from a survey I designed and conducted, a mapping of potential travel routes to all colleges in the students' choice set using an algorithm I developed in Google Maps, and crowd-sourced mobile application safety data. Using a random utility framework, I estimate that women are willing to choose a college in the bottom half of the quality distribution over a college in the top quintile in order to travel by a route that is perceived to be one standard deviation (SD) safer.

Furthermore, women are willing to spend INR 18,800 (USD 290) per year more than men for a route that is one SD safer – an amount equal to double the average annual college tuition. These findings have implications for other economic decisions made by women. For example, it could help explain the low female labor force participation in India.

“Wealth, Marriage, and Sex Selection” with Jan Eeckhout, Nancy Luke, Shantidani Minz, Kaivan Munshi, and Soumya Swaminathan. (Submitted)

Sex selection continues to be a serious problem in India, despite many decades of economic progress. It is widely believed that dowries, or large marriage payments to the groom’s family, are the main cause of sex selection in India, especially among the wealthy. Our theoretical model clarifies this argument, showing that the root cause of sex selection is not dowries but specific frictions in the marriage market, which arise because of the structure of the marriage institution. The model predicts that *relatively* wealthy households within castes, which define independent marriage markets in India, will be more likely to practice sex selection. This prediction is tested with unique data we have collected, covering the entire population of 1.1 million individuals residing in half a rural district in South India. We find that the variation in sex ratios within castes in this single district is comparable to the variation across all districts in the country. Given that the marriage market is organized the same way in all castes, sex selection may be a more pervasive problem than is currently believed. Estimation of the model’s structural parameters allows us to quantify the impact of alternative policies, which operate through the marriage market, to reduce sex selection. We find that cash transfers to adult women, which forward-looking parents will take into account when making sex selection decisions, are substantially more effective than transfers to their parents when they are children.

“Tribal Identity in Education: Does Teacher Ethnicity Affect Student Performance in Jharkhand?”

Reducing achievement gaps between minorities and non-minorities by raising the achievement of minority students is considered a critical component of promoting inclusive growth, both in terms of human capital and economic well-being. Using large scale administrative panel data for all schools in Jharkhand, India, I study the effect of having a co-ethnic teacher on the extensive margin of student enrollment. In particular, I estimate the impact of having a tribal teacher on enrollment of tribal students. I find that co-ethnic teachers are 0.44 standard deviations per year more effective at retaining students relative to a teacher belonging to a different ethnic group. I also develop a theoretical model that identifies whether the observed effects of switching to a co-ethnic teacher are caused by a decrease in discriminatory activities or from an increase in the marginal return to teacher effort. In this context, I find that the main mechanism underlying the positive effect of having a co-ethnic teacher is the decrease in discriminatory activities by a co-ethnic teacher relative to teachers belonging to a different ethnic group.

Work in Progress

“Gender Based Violence in Public Transportation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania” with Bilal Siddiqi

“Community Effects and Child Sex Ratios” with Ashley Larsen Gibby, Nancy Luke, and Hongwei Xu

“Urban Corridors and Economic Opportunities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” with Simon Franklin, Erin Kelley, and Javier Morales Sarriera