

PRIYOMA MUSTAFI

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, USA PhD in Economics	<i>2019 to present</i>
Shiv Nadar University, India MSc in Economics	<i>2015-2017</i>
Jadavpur University, India BA (<i>hons.</i>) in Economics	<i>2012-2015</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Behavioral Economics, Development Economics, Experimental Economics

WORKING PAPERS

- Information Pooling in the Household: The Role of Expertise** (*JMP*)
- Using Social Recognition to Address the Gender Difference in Volunteering for Low Promotability Tasks** (*2nd round, Revise and Resubmit, Management Science*)
with Ritwik Banerjee
- Catholic Missionaries and Fertility: Evidence from India** (*Revise and Resubmit, JEBO*)
with Shampa Bhattacharjee and Roopal Jain
- The Effect of Experimenter Demand on Inference**
with D. Danz, M. Lepper, G. Lezama Perez, L. Vesterlund, A. Wilson & K. P. Winichakul

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Time Preferences and Dishonesty in the Public Sector: Field Evidence from Pakistan**
with Muhammad Yasir Khan and Dhvani Yagnaraman
- Happiness as a Status Symbol**
with Anat Bracha and Lise Vesterlund

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD

Graduate Research Assistant Pittsburgh Experimental Economics Laboratory	<i>2024 - 2025, 2021-2022</i>
Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Lise Vesterlund	<i>2023 - 2024</i>
Research Associate Economics and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
Research Assistant Department of Economics, Shiv Nadar University	<i>2015 - 2017</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Pittsburgh Introduction to Macroeconomics	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Introduction to Macroeconomics	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Teaching Economics (Guest Lecture)	<i>Fall 2023</i>
Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh Introduction to Macroeconomics	<i>Summer 2022</i>
Introduction to Microeconomics	<i>Spring 2021</i>
Intermediate Macroeconomics (grader)	<i>Fall 2020</i>
Teaching Assistant, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore Managerial Economics for MBA	<i>Fall 2017, Fall 2018</i>

Teaching Assistant, Shiv Nadar University

Labor Economics

Spring 2017

Introductory Macroeconomics

Spring 2016

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

International Growth Centre (£30,000), co-PI	2024
Association for Social Economics (\$5000), PI	2024
International Federation for Research in Experimental Economics (\$2000), PI	2023
University of Pittsburgh Social Sciences Dissertation Fellowship	2022 - 2023
University of Pittsburgh Arts & Science Summer Research Fellowship	2021
University of Pittsburgh Arts & Science Fellowship	2019 - 2020
Graduate Fellowship, Shiv Nadar University	2015 - 2017

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED WORKSHOPS

2024:

SEEDEC Conference, Norway; Labor-Development Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Behavioral Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Medley Conference, Pitt, Economic Science Association-North America, Indian Statistical Institute (scheduled), ESA-BREW (scheduled), Jadavpur University (scheduled)

2023:

briq Summer School in Behavioral Economics, Germany; IFREE-Rice University Workshop; Economic Science Association-North America ; Southern Economic Association; Experimental/Behavioral Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Labor-Development Economics Brown Bag, Pitt

2022:

Caltech Summer Program in Theory-Based Experiments; NHH FAIR-UCSD Rady Spring School in Behavioral Economics; Behavioral Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Labor-Development Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Arts & Science GradExpo, Pitt

2021:

Economic Science Association-North America; Behavioral Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Labor-Development Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Arts & Science GradExpo

2020:

Economics Science Association World Meeting (Virtual); Behavioral Economics Brown Bag, Pitt; Labor-Development Economics Brown Bag, Pitt

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing:

Economics Bulletin, PlosONE

Membership:

Economic Science Association, Southern Economic Association, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)

Academic Service:

Graduate Student Affiliate, Behavioral Economics Design Initiative	2021-present
Co-Chair, Women in Economics Graduate Student Organization	2022 -2024
Student Representative to Faculty, Economics Graduate Committee	2021-2022
Peer Mentor, Economics Graduate Student Mentorship Initiative	2020-present

COMPUTER SKILLS

L^AT_EX, oTree, Qualtrics, Stata, ZTree, JavaScript, Python, SurveyCTO, GoogleApp Scripts

MISCELLANEOUS

Citizenship: Indian

Languages: Bengali (native), English & Hindi

Information Pooling in the Household: The Role of Expertise (*Job Market Paper*)

A dismal view of household decision-making arises from evidence that individuals fail to incorporate information their spouses hold. I explore whether failure to pool information in the household arises from a reluctance to learn from one's spouse or from communication being challenging in the absence of expertise. Using a lab-in-field experiment with 400 married couples in Kolkata, India, I examine information pooling across two domains: (i) a gender-neutral ball-in-urn domain where neither spouse is better informed, and (ii) a novel gendered pricing domain, where individuals have to price a basket of either male or female products, and each spouse is better informed in their gender-congruent domain. In the gender-neutral domain, I replicate the finding that households fail to pool information. However, in the gendered domain, I find that households pool information successfully. The results point to common knowledge of expertise as facilitating communication, effectively incentivizing spouses to both talk and listen.

Using Social Recognition to Address the Gender Difference in Volunteering for Low Promotability Tasks with Ritwik Banerjee (*2nd round, Revise and Resubmit, Management Science*)

Research shows that women volunteer significantly more for tasks that people prefer others to complete. Such tasks carry little monetary incentives because of their very nature. We use a modified version of the volunteer's dilemma game to examine if non-monetary interventions, particularly social recognition, can be used to reduce the gender gap associated with such tasks. We conduct a lab experiment with three treatments where a) a volunteer receives positive social recognition, b) a non-volunteer receives negative social recognition, and c) a volunteer receives positive, but a non-volunteer receives negative social recognition. Our results indicate that social recognition increases the overall probability that an individual volunteers. Positive social recognition reduces the gender gap observed in the baseline treatment, and so does the combination of positive and negative social recognition. These findings suggest that public recognition of volunteering for such tasks can change the default gender norms in organizations and increase efficiency simultaneously.

Catholic Missionaries and Fertility: Evidence from India with Shampa Bhattacharjee & Roopal Jain (*Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*)

In this paper, we examine the effect of historical institutions on fertility, particularly those institutions that contribute to human capital development. Specifically, we analyze the long-term consequences of Catholic missionary presence during the colonial era on current fertility outcomes in India. Our findings reveal a negative effect of the historical presence of Catholic missionaries on current fertility outcomes, particularly in urban areas. We find that the effect is more pronounced for male children than female children, indicating an improvement in the sex composition at birth. This is in contrast to the existing literature, which finds that a fertility decline is accompanied by a deterioration of the female-male sex ratio at birth. To understand the underlying mechanisms, we find the effect of Catholic presence on higher educational attainment. In urban areas, districts with a historical presence of Catholic missionaries demonstrate a higher likelihood of females attaining higher education. We observe weaker effects of Catholic presence on lower levels of education. This aligns with the fact that Catholic missionaries were primarily involved in developing tertiary education. Moreover, the historical presence of Catholic missionaries also resulted in an increase in the age of marriage, greater female autonomy, and higher use of contraceptives, despite the Catholic Church's stance against contraceptive practices. This paper contributes to our understanding of the effect of education, specifically higher education, on fertility outcomes.

The Effect of Experimenter Demand on Inference

with D. Danz, G. Lezama Perez, P. Mustafi, L. Vesterlund, A. Wilson & K. P. Winichakul

To assess the threat of experimenter demand, we ask whether a hypothetical ‘ill-intentioned’ researcher can manipulate inference. Four classic behavioral comparative statics are evaluated, and the potential for false inference is gauged by differentially applying strong positive and negative experimenter demand across the relevant decision pair. Evaluating three different subject pools (laboratory, Prolific, and MTurk) we find no evidence of experimenter demand eliminating or reversing directional effects. The response to experimenter demand is very limited for all three subject pools and is not large enough to generate false negatives, though we do find evidence of false positives when testing precise nulls in larger online subject pools.

REFERENCES

Prof. Lise Vesterlund (Co-Chair)
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