

DEBASMITA DAS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Purdue University Expected May, 2022
Fields of interest: Labor Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Committee: Victoria Prowse (Co-chair), Trevor Gallen (Co-chair), Kevin Mumford, Mohitosh Kejriwal

M.Phil., Economics, Jadavpur University, India July, 2016
M.A., Economics, Jadavpur University, India July, 2014
B.S., Economics, St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta, India - *First Class Honours* July, 2012

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

[“Child-rearing, Social Security and Married Women’s Labor Supply over the Life Cycle”](#)

Abstract: This paper studies how career interruptions during child-rearing years affect the labor market trajectory, lifetime earnings, and Social Security benefits of married women in the United States. To this end, I develop a dynamic structural life-cycle model of female labor supply, savings, and Social Security benefit claiming and estimate the model using the Method of Simulated Moments for the 1943-1954 cohort. I use the estimated model to quantify the effect of three revenue-neutral policy reforms: (i) introducing a Social Security caregiver credit that covers the lost earnings during the first 5 child-rearing years through changes in retirement benefits, (ii) combining the introduction of caregiver credit with the elimination of spousal and survivors benefits, and (iii) removing spousal and survivors benefits. I find that the gender gap in average career earnings at the Social Security Early Retirement Age reduces significantly under all three counterfactual scenarios, with the largest effect of 12.77% decline under the second reform. The findings suggest that instituting caregiver credit for child-rearing in the absence of the marriage-based Social Security benefits would offset a substantial portion of the motherhood penalty in lifetime labor earnings of married women and increase their retirement benefit adequacy.

Working Papers

[“SNAP Work Requirement and Food Insecurity”](#)

Abstract: In this paper, I examine the effect of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirement reinstatement on food insecurity outcomes of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The policy restricts SNAP benefits of ABAWDs to 3 months in a 36-month period if they are not working or participating in any work program for at least 20 hours a week. In the aftermath of the 2008 recession, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 waived work requirements nationwide, and many states reimplemented the work rule at different times beginning in 2011. I employ a difference-in-differences approach utilizing this cross-state variation in the reimplementations of the policy. Using rich information on food affordability and food intake behavior from the Food Security Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS-FSS), I find that promoting work for food assistance improved the overall food security status of ABAWDs by reducing disruptions in food intake, anxiety over food affordability and dependency on emergency food receipt. Subsample analyses indicate that effects are stronger for never married and less educated ABAWDs.

Work in Progress

“Cohort-specific Pension Reform and Married Couples’ Labor Supply”

Publications (Pre-PhD)

[“Inclusive Growth: Economics as if People Mattered”](#), *Global Business Review*, 2018, 19(3), 756-770.

(joint with Aruni Mitra)

[“Estimating Elasticity of Import Demand for Gold in India”](#), *Resources Policy*, 2017, 51, 183-193.

(joint with Paramita Mukherjee, and Vivekananda Mukherjee)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship	Fall 2020 - Summer 2021
Krannert Dean’s Office Award (\$5000)	Fall 2020 - Spring 2021
Krannert Doctoral Student Travel Grant	Fall 2019, Fall 2021
Award for Best Presentation, Krannert Ph.D. Research Symposium	Fall 2019
Award for Distinguished Teaching, International Trade	Summer 2018
Award for Outstanding Recitation Teaching, Principles of Economics	Fall 2016
M.Phil. Dissertation Fellowship, University Grants Commission, Government of India	Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Trevor Gallen, Purdue University	Spring 2018, Fall 2019
- Estimated labor income residuals and income shock variances before and after motherhood using STATA; Collected, cleaned and combined data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY)	
Research Assistant to Prof. Soojin Kim, Purdue University	Spring 2019, Summer 2019
- Analyzed trends of various health indicators, created data visualizations, performed exploratory data analysis; Collected, cleaned and merged data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	
Project Assistant to Prof. Chong Xiang, Purdue University	Summer 2020
- Project Title: “Trade, Consumer Prices, and Real Income: An Engels Curve Approach”	
- Collected the Family Expenditure Survey (FES) data from the UK data archive, prepared it for researcher use, updated existing code using STATA; Performed regression analysis following Engels Curve Approach	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses, Purdue University

Instructor, ECON 370 International Trade	Summer 2018
Recitation Instructor, ECON 210 Principles of Economics	Fall 2016
Teaching Assistant, ECON 360 Econometrics	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
Teaching Assistant, ECON 352 Intermediate Macroeconomics	Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, ECON 340 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	Fall 2017

Masters Courses, Purdue University

Teaching Assistant, ECON 511 Intermediate Microeconomics	Fall 2016
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

APPAM Fall Research Conference	2019 (Super Session), 2021 (Scheduled)
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting	2021 (Scheduled)
Population Association of America Annual Meeting	2021
Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting	2021
Midwest Economic Association Annual Meeting	2019, 2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND LEADERSHIP

Referee

Resources Policy, International Economic Journal

Conference Services

Organizer, Panel Session, APPAM Fall Research Conference, Austin, TX Fall 2021
Session: "Policies Promoting Work and Health at Old Ages"
Discussant, Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting, Virtual Spring 2021
Discussant, Midwest Economic Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO Spring 2019

Departmental Services

Vice-President (Professional Development), Krannert Doctoral Student Association 2020-2021
- Co-organized 5th Krannert Ph.D. Research Symposium
- Co-hosted workshops on Online Presentation, Paper to Publication Process, Navigating the Job Market
Graduate Student Co-ordinator, Purdue University Labor Lunch Brown Bag Seminar Spring 2020

MISCELLANEOUS

Programming Skill: expertise in MATLAB, STATA, LaTeX, MS Office; familiar with Python, R, SQL

Language: English (fluent), Bengali (native), and Hindi (fluent)

Citizenship: Indian (US Visa Status: F-1; with an option for STEM OPT Extension)

REFERENCES

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Please contact Matt Pavey (mpavey@purdue.edu or (765) 494-7064) for letters of reference.