PRERNA DOKANIA

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Economics PhD candidate with research focus on economic development and human behaviour using applied micro-econometric techniques. More than seven years of experience in research and data analysis. Five years of experience in higher-ed teaching as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Detail oriented, effective team-player and self-motivated.

EDUCATION

2019-2025	**PhD Candidate, Economics** George Washington University (GWU), Washington, DC
2022	**Summer School**: **Multidimensional Poverty Measurement and Analysis** Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
2019-2022	**M.Phil. Economics** George Washington University, Washington, DC CGPA 3.77/4
2014-2016	**M.A. Economics** Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India CGPA 7/ 9
2011-2014	**B.Sc. Economics (Honors)** St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, India CGPA 7.45/ 10

WORKING PAPERS

Job Market Paper - Incentivizing Professional Development in Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Providers: I run a lab-in-the field experiment with government ECCE workers (based in Bihar, India) to nudge their intrinsic motivation for professional development. The study is designed in the context of the world's largest public early childhood care and education program – the Anganwadi system in India. I collect primary data on service-providers' perception regarding in-service training and causally test if a light-touch information intervention about their knowledge gap motivates them to choose professional development opportunities over cash.

Math Remediation Course and its Short-Term Impact on Undergraduate outcomes (with Kathryn Blanchard and Irene Foster): In this paper, we study the impact of taking a remedial math course prior to Principles of Microeconomics on students' academic outcomes like their economics course grade, choice of electives, and graduation rates. Utilizing a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, we find that students just below the cut-off score on a placement test – who are more likely to take the remedial course – graduate sooner and do not perform worse than the students just above the cut-off, suggesting no discouragement effect from remediation.

Incomplete Migration and Education in India (with Kathryn Blanchard): We study the effect of parent's temporary migration on education levels of 'children left behind' using data from India. We use an instrument variable specification formulated as a combination of labor demand Bartik shocks and distance from booming districts to handle the self-selection issue with measurement of migration at the district level. Reduced-form specifications indicate a zero net effect, implying a negative parent-away effect on educational attainment.

Student-Teacher Gender and Caste Matching; Effects on Student Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Outcomes: In this paper, I explore the association of teacher-student demographic match with student SEL measures like self-efficacy, sense of teacher fairness, and academic affirmations using a longitudinal sample of grade-3 students from two states in India. I find that student self-efficacy is on average lower if they have a lower social category teacher, and it decreases further if the student belongs to a higher social category. I do not find differential effect based on gender matching.

OTHER WRITING

"Tracing Back the Memory Lane", Sigur Center for Asian Studies Blog, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU, Summer 2023

"India's Path out of Learning Poverty: Crooked or Smooth?", Rising Powers Initiative Blog, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU, Summer 2023

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Postsecondary Equity and Economics Research (PEER) Project Summer Research Grant (7,000$)	Summer, 2024
SIGUR Center Summer Research Grant, GWU (5,200$)	Summer, 2023
Roe L. Johns Student Travel Grant, AEFP	2023, 2024
Summer School Sponsorship, Institute for International Economic Policy, GWU	Summer, 2022
Robert M. Dunn, Jr. Memorial Award, GWU	Summer, 2020-2023
Graduate Student Conference Presentation Fund, GWU	2021, 2022
Graduate Assistantship and University Fellowship, GWU	2019-2024
Best TA Award for Managerial Economic, Indian School of Business	2021
Junior Research Fellowship Award in Economics, University Grants Commission, India	2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Principles of Micro, Econometrics, Intermediate Micro, Development Econ. Jan 2019 – 2024
George Washington University & Indian School of Business (Avg. evaluation 4.3/5)
- Led weekly discussion sessions and coordinated course logistics in teams of up to 8 GTAs. Independently developed supplementary videos on mathematical concepts. (Nominated for TA Award, 2023)
- Mentored undergraduates in idea generation & causal inference, providing support during office hours.

Summer Research Assistant – Professors Stephen Smith & Alessandra Fenizia   June-Aug 2020, 2021, 2022
George Washington University
- Assisted in literature review, data preparation and analysis of international labor market conditions using linear probability and prediction models [STATA]
- Prepared night lights data for Italy at the commune level [R and QGIS]

Research Assistant – Professor Tarun Jain   Mar 2018 – Jun 2019
Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, India
- Assisted in designing questionnaires, managing fieldwork, and analyzing data for a lab-in-the-field experiment on social norms in India. [SurveyCTO, STATA]
- Analyzed trends in women's labor force participation using instrument-variable regression. [IPUMS-USA]

Lead Assistant Manager – Team Management & Data Analysis   Sep 2016 - Jul 2017
Inductis Pvt. Ltd., Delhi NCR, India
- Developed a forecasting model for hourly call volumes; optimized staffing reduced turnaround time (TAT) by 30%.
- Trained analysts on forecasting methods and helped implement the new tool across operation teams [R, VBA]

Summer Analyst – Investment Banking Division   Jun 2015 – Aug 2015
Nomura Financial Services., Mumbai
- Analyzed financial statements to assess profitability, growth, and cashflow projections to support M&A transactions.
- Researched market trends, industry dynamics, and competitor performance to assist in strategic recommendations.
- Assisted in preparing pitch books and client presentations for potential deals.

CONFERENCE & POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Nov 2024 (Anticipated)	*Southern Economic Association (Paper)*
Mar 2024	*Association for Education & Policy (Paper)*
Jan 2024	*AEA-CEE Poster Session, ASSA (Poster)*
Mar 2023	*Association for Education Finance & Policy (Poster)*
Oct 2022	*International Atlantic Economics Society (Paper)*

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Journal Referee:	*Public Library of Science One, The International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Papers on Economic Modelling*
External Volunteering:	Pratham Foundation ('21), Instructor at Saturday institute for AnBryce Foundation ('19), Weekly tutoring and parent engagement activities through Donate an Hour ('17), On-campus sustainability drive for Bhoomi Foundation ('16)
Extra-Curricular:	Core Member Student Association for Graduate Economics, GWU ('23), Placement Committee, Jawaharlal Nehru University ('15)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: STATA, R, LaTeX, Survey CTO, QGIS, MS Office, Python (beginner level)

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

Completed World Bank Certification Course on Manage Successful Field Research 2023

REFERENCES

Prof. Stephanie Cellini (PhD co-advisor)
Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration, and Economics
George Washington University

Prof. Alessandra Fenizia (PhD committee member)
Assistant Professor of Economics
George Washington University

Prof. Elira Kuka (PhD committee member)
Associate Professor of Economics
George Washington University

Prof. Stephen Smith (PhD co-advisor)
Professor of Economics and International Affairs; Chair of the Economics Department
George Washington University