

GIRIJA BAHETY

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy *2017-Present*

Economics Department and the Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA

Concentration: Development Economics

Ph.D. Supervisors: Prof. Jenny C. Aker & Prof. Cynthia Kinnan

Student Liaison to Ph.D. Steering Committee (2019-21)

Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) in Economics *2009-11*

Queens' College, University of Cambridge, UK

Postgraduate Merit

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) (Honors) in Economics *2006-09*

Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, India

First Division

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. "Texts Don't Nudge: An Adaptive Trial to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in India", with Sebastian Bauhoff, Dev Patel & James Potter
Journal of Development Economics, November 2021, Volume 153 [\[Link\]](#)
2. "Evaluating the effectiveness of Community Health Worker home visits on infant health: a quasi-experimental evaluation of Home Based Newborn Care Plus in India", with Tom Newton-Lewis
Journal of Global Health, October 2021, Issue 1 [\[Link\]](#)

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Microfinance, Microentrepreneurship and Misallocation", with Marina M. Ngoma [\[Link\]](#)

Abstract: Microfinance has been shown to have limited average impacts on incomes and profits in developing countries. In addition to credit constraints, the poor also face labor market frictions which may lead them to make constrained occupational choices and investments in businesses. Some entrepreneurs start a business due to lack of alternatives ("involuntary entrepreneurs") while others do so by choice ("voluntary entrepreneurs"). These two groups of entrepreneurs may respond very differently to microfinance and labor market interventions but are difficult to distinguish empirically. We structurally estimate a heterogeneous agent model of occupational choices based on Karaivanov and Yindok (2022). We use this model combined with exogenous variation in credit access arising from randomized controlled trials in India and Bosnia and Herzegovina to differentiate voluntary from involuntary entrepreneurs. We find that the majority of entrepreneurs are involuntary entrepreneurs who earn much lower income than voluntary ones. This misallocation at the extensive margin translates into significant misallocation in capital and labor investments in businesses. Microfinance leads to a positive impact on incomes for both types of entrepreneurs and wage workers by increasing credit and labor investments, but reduces the overall entrepreneurship rate. Income gains are driven by voluntary entrepreneurs and those with lower wealth levels. Simulating policy counterfactuals provides evidence that relaxing credit constraints lead to lower impacts than relaxing labor market constraints and thus, labor market policies may deserve relatively more consideration.

WORKING PAPERS/RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

1. "Mobile Money and Savings in Tanzania"
2. "Monitoring in the Context of Limited Budgets: Phone Calls to Primary Schools", with Jenny C. Aker & Juan C. Taborda
3. "Community Currencies & Enterprise Development", with Castro Gichuki & Shotaro N. Nakamura

RESEARCH GRANTS

PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (2021)	\$23,000
PEDL Young Scholars Matchmaking Workshop Follow-up Funding (2021)	\$5,600
J-PAL Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH), MIT (2020)	\$24,313
J-PAL Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH), MIT (2019-20)	\$67,000
J-PAL Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative (CaTCH) Travel Grant, MIT (2019-20)	\$5,000
Summer Research Fund, Tufts University (2020)	\$2,000
Hitachi Center Graduate Student Capstone Research Grant (2020)	\$2,500

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

APPAM Entrepreneurship/Policy Fellowship	2022
Neubauer Fellow in Economics and Public Policy, Tufts University, USA	2017-Present
Second Prize, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Tufts University, USA	2020
Grant from Queens' College Lawrence Fund, Queens College, Cambridge, UK	2010-11
British Gas Group Chevening Cambridge Scholarship, UK	2009-10

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Oxford Policy Management Limited, New Delhi (India) & Oxford (UK)	2011-17
Consultant, Social Policy Programme	
<i>Led, designed and implemented quasi-experimental impact evaluation projects in India, Nepal, Malawi, Nigeria and Pakistan; Led growth initiatives for OPM's India country office & Nutrition Portfolio</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led & designed impact evaluation of Enhanced Nutrition for Mothers and Children Project in Pakistan, funded by the World Bank. [Value: £765,000]• Managed 2,720 households survey for impact evaluation of Self-Help Groups in India, funded by IFPRI & the BMGF. Principal Investigators: Purnima Menon & Neha Kumar. [Value: \$219,000]• Managed & designed 3,000 households survey to evaluate crèches in rural India, funded by the World Bank & IFPRI. Principal Investigators: Harold Alderman & Jed Friedman. [Value: \$150,000]• Designed & implemented a conditional monthly cash transfer pilot for pregnant women & children, Bihar Child Support Programme in India, funded by DFID• Managed & designed impact evaluation of Norway-India Partnership Initiative Phase-II programme, focused on new-born & maternal health, funded by Norad. [Value: £344,827]	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate at International Growth Centre (IGC), London School of Economics (UK)	2021
for Prof. Patricio Dalton, Prof. Sayantan Ghosal & Prof. Anandi Mani	
Research Collaborator at Hitotsubashi University (Tokyo, Japan)	2019-20
Research Assistant to Prof. Julie Schaffner (Tufts University, USA)	2019-20
Research Assistant to Prof. Jenny C. Aker (Tufts University, USA)	2017-20
Research Assistant to Prof. Kyle Emerick (Tufts University, USA)	2017-18

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant: Econometric Impact Evaluation for Development (graduate-level) 2020
Teaching Assistant: Econometrics (graduate-level) 2019

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

7th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences (Germany) 2022 (*Expected*)
APPAM Student Research Online Seminar Series (USA), JPAL Brown Bag Seminar Series (India) 2021
PEDL Young Scholars Matchmaking Workshop, Waseda University (Japan), 2020
Boston University Women in Economics Organization Mentoring Workshop (USA)
MERL Tech Conference (UK) 2017

REFeree SERVICE

Journal of Development Economics; Journal of African Economies

LANGUAGE AND STATISTICAL SKILLS

Languages English (native); Hindi (native)
IT STATA (advanced), MATLAB (advanced), R (basic), L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Prof. Jenny C. Aker
Professor of Development Economics
The Fletcher School, Tufts University
Email: jenny.aker@tufts.edu
Phone: +1-617-627-5267

Prof. Cynthia Kinnan
Assistant Professor, Economics
Economics Department, Tufts University
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Phone: +1-617-627-3138

Prof. Kyle Emerick
Associate Professor, Economics
Economics Department, Tufts University
Email: kyle.emerick@tufts.edu
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Prof. Sebastian Bauhoff
Assistant Professor of Global Health and Economics
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
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