

Ajinkya Kesar

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Binghamton University (SUNY), Department of Economics (2023 –)

Invited Researcher, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL South Asia) (2024 -)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL South Asia) (2022 - 2023)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Family Economics, Gender, Marriage Markets, Early Childhood Education

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Rice University (2016-2022)

M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2014-2016)

B.E. in Electronics and Communication (Distinction), PES University, India (2009-2013)

PUBLICATIONS

“Dowries, resource allocation, and poverty”, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (with Rossella Calvi)

“‘Til Dowry Do Us Part: Bargaining and Violence in Indian Families”, *Review of Economics and Statistics* (with Rossella Calvi)

WORKING PAPERS

Beyond a Free Lunch: Evaluating the Trade-Offs of an Out-of-School Nutrition Program on Adolescent Girls’ Human Capital (with Tanmay Devi, Dibya Mishra, and Ritika Sethi) (*R&R Economic Development and Cultural Change*)

Economic Empowerment and Mental Health: Evidence from India (with Sulagna Mookerjee) (*R&R Economic Development and Cultural Change*)

Role of Siblings in Marriage and Dowry Practices: Evidence from India (with Arigna Guha and Sulagna Mookerjee) (*Status: New Draft!*)

Matching on Height in India

WORK IN PROGRESS

Using technology to deliver preschool services at scale: Experimental evidence from India (with Karthik Muralidharan, Mauricio Romero and Abhijeet Singh) (*Status: Draft coming soon*)

Detecting Misreporting in Marital Transfers Data (with Rossella Calvi) (*Status: Draft in-progress*)

Gender Gap in Child Poverty: Evidence from India (with Jijeebisha Bhattarai) (*Status: Draft in-progress*)

From Prohibition to Choice: The Impact of Abortion Legalization on Fertility and Child Investments in Nepal (with Jijeebisha Bhattarai) (*Status: Work in-progress*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Teaching:

Economic Development Microeconomic Issues - Binghamton University

Undergraduate Teaching:

Race and Gender in Economics - Binghamton University

Microeconomics of Development - Binghamton University

Economic Development - Rice University

POLICY WRITING

“Til Dowry Do Us Part: Bargaining and Violence in the Indian Marriage Market” with Rossella Calvi

VoxDev (March 2021)

“Downside of Dowry Crackdown — Women’s Decision-making Power Falls, Domestic Violence Goes Up” with Rossella Calvi

The Print (March 2021)

“Dowries and women’s well-being post marriage” with Rossella Calvi

Ideas for India (April 2021)

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

2025: PacDev, MWIEDC, Lakes Development Economics Workshop, ASHECON (Scheduled), CEA (Scheduled), SOLE (Scheduled)

2024: Global Action for Policy Workshop (Northeastern University), ASHECON, SEA, Dickinson College

2023: IIM Ahmedabad-RISE Research Conference on Education Economics, UCSD PIE Seminar Series, J-PAL Evaluating Social Programmes 2023

2022: Analysis Group, Binghamton University, Brattle Group, IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Kanpur, Stony Brook University, J-PAL Research Staff Training, J-PAL Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog

2021: European Society for Population Economics, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Australian Meeting of the Econometric Society, European Economic Association-Econometric Society Meeting, Globalization and Development Conference, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics, Society of Economics of the Household, Annual Meeting - Population Association of America (Poster Presentation), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, ACEGD ISI Delhi, Winter School 2021 Delhi School of Economics

2020: North East Development Consortium Conference at Dartmouth College, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting

REFeree SERVICE

Journals: *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Economics Letters*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *PLOS One*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Journal of International Development*

Grants: *National Science Foundation*

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

John R. Kelly Graduate Student Teaching Prize in Economics

Dagobert L. Brito Award for Best Performance by a Recitation Instructor in Economics, Rice University

Social Sciences Research Institute Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant

Rice University's Department of Economics Graduate Fellowship

Master's Program's Best Research Paper Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

2021: Association for Mentorship and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) (*mentee*)

2024: Association for Mentorship and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) (*mentor*)

ADVISING

Jijeebisha Bhattarai (*chair*)

Anushka Mullick (*co-chair*)

Arigna Guha (*co-chair*)

Tingjie E, Li

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Placement Director, Economics Department (2023 -)

Recruitment Committee, Economics Department (2024 - 2025)