

Dean Spears

Department of Economics
Population Research Center
University of Texas at Austin

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Professional Positions

2023 - : Associate Professor. Dept of Economics and Population Research Center. UT-Austin.

2017 - 2023 : Assistant Professor. Dept of Economics and Population Research Center. UT.

Other Affiliations:

visiting researcher. Economics and Planning Unit. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.

Research Fellow. IZA.

founding Executive Director. r.i.c.e. (riceinstitute.org)

Research

Books

3. *After the Spike: Population, Progress, and the Case for People*. forthcoming. with Michael Geruso. Simon & Schuster.
2. *Air: Pollution, Climate Change, and India's Choice Between Policy and Pretence*. 2019. Harper Collins, India.

selected coverage: *Foreign Policy*, *Hindustan Times*, *Business Standard*, Marginal Revolution, other newspapers & blogs

reviewed in *Economic & Political Weekly*

1. *Where India Goes: Abandoned Toilets, Stunted Development, and the Costs of Caste*. 2017. with Diane Coffey. Harper Collins, India. (additionally published in Hindi and Tamil translations)

winner of AIIS book prize: 2017 Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences

included in *The Hindu's* top ten non-fiction books of the 2010-2019 decade

included in Marginal Revolution's list of best non-fiction books of 2017 and Amazon Best Reads for September 2017

selected coverage: *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, *Foreign Policy*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Caravan*, *The Hindu*, *Hindustan Times*, *Indian Express*, *Business Standard*, Huffington Post, Ideas for India, Marginal Revolution, other magazines, newspapers, & blogs

Journal publications (Google Scholar $h = 41$)

63. A Dominance Argument Against Incompleteness. 2025. *Philosophical Review*. with Christian Tarsney and Harvey Lederman.
62. Excess Neonatal Mortality Among Private Facility Births in Rural Parts of High-Mortality States in India: Demographic Analysis of a National Survey. 2025. *Social Science and Medicine* with (as last author) Diane Coffey, Nikhil Srivastav, Aditi Priya, Asmita Verma, Nathan Franz, and Alok Kumar.
61. The Risk of Narrow, Disputable Results in the U.S. Electoral College. 2025 (forthcoming). *Review of Economics and Statistics*. with Michael Geruso.
60. Ex-Post Average Utilitarianism Can Be Worse for All Affected, even if No Contingently Existing Person Is Affected. 2025. *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*. with Johan Gustafsson.
59. Do Fertility Preferences in Early Adulthood Predict Later Average Fertility Outcomes of the Same Cohort?: Pritchett (1994) Revisited with Cohort Data. 2024. *Economics Letters*. with Stuart Gietel-Basten, Melissa LoPalo, and Sangita Vyas.
58. Long-term population projections: Scenarios of low or rebounding fertility. 2024. *PLoS ONE*. with Sangita Vyas, Michael Geruso, and Gage Weston.
57. Fiscal externalities and underinvestment in early-life human capital: Optimal policy instruments for a developing country. 2024. *Economics & Human Biology*. with Nicholas Lawson.
56. Radical agreement in population ethics, and implications for social policy analysis. forthcoming in *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*. with Mark Budolfson.
55. What calibrating variable-value population ethics suggests. 2024. *Economics & Philosophy*. with H. Orri Stefánsson.
54. Egyptians, Aliens, and Okies: Against the Sum of Averages. 2023. *Utilitas*. with Christian Tarsney and Michael Geruso.
53. Near-universal marriage, early childbearing, and low fertility: India's alternative fertility transition. 2023. *Demographic Research*. with Narae Park, Sangita Vyas, and Kathleen Broussard.
52. Research Note: Heritable Fertility is Not Sufficient for Long-Term Population Growth. 2022. *Demography* with Arenberg, S., Kuruc, K., Franz, N., Vyas, S., Lawson, N., LoPalo, M., Budolfson, M., & Geruso, M..
51. Mothers' Social Status and Children's Health: Evidence From Joint Households in Rural India. 2022. *Demography*. with Diane Coffey and Reetika Khera.
50. Endogenous inclusion in the Demographic and Health Survey anthropometric sample: Implications for studying height within households. 2022. *Journal of Development Economics*. with (as non-alphabetical first author) Diane Coffey and Jere Behrman.
49. Neonatal death in India: The effect of birth order in a context of maternal undernutrition. 2021. *The Economic Journal*. with Diane Coffey.

48. Minimal utilitarian benchmarks for NDCs provide equity, climate, and development advantages. 2021. *Nature Climate Change*. with Mark Budolfson, Navroz Dubash, and coauthors.

Co-corresponding author with Mark Budolfson.

47. Inversions in Close US Presidential Elections: 1836-2016. with Mike Geruso and Ishaana Talesara. 2021. *AEJ: Applied*.

University of Texas Electoral College Study: utecs.org

media attention: *The New York Times*, front page of Reddit, Atlantic, Bloomberg, Huffpost, Salon, Slate, Vox

46. Additively-separable and rank-discounted variable-population social welfare functions: A characterization. 2021. *Economics Letters*. with H. Orri Stefánsson.

45. Repugnant Conclusions. with Mark Budolfson. 2021. *Social Choice and Welfare*.

Previously titled: Why variable-population social orderings cannot escape the repugnant conclusion: Proofs and implications. IZA Discussion Paper 12668.

44. Climate action with revenue recycling has benefits for poverty, inequality, and wellbeing. 2021. *Nature Climate Change*. with Mark Budolfson, Noah Scovronick, and coauthors.

43. Population momentum, population ethics, and the prospects for fertility policy as climate mitigation policy. with Mark Budolfson. 2021. *Journal of Development Studies*.

42. Mere Addition is equivalent to avoiding the Sadistic Conclusion in all plausible variable-population social orderings. 2021 *Economics Letters*. with Nathan Franz.

41. Those Who Can't Sort, Steal: Caste, Occupational Mobility, and Rent-Seeking in Rural India. 2021 *Journal of Demographic Economics*. with Nicholas Lawson.

40. Revisiting open defecation: Evidence from a panel survey in rural north India (2014-2018). *Economic & Political Weekly* (special articles section). 2020. with Aashish Gupta, et al. (Previously IZA Discussion Paper 12065.)

39. Persistence of solid fuel use despite increases in LPG ownership: New survey evidence from rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly* (special articles section). 2020. with Aashish Gupta and coauthors.

38. Exposure to open defecation can account for the Indian enigma of child height. *Journal of Development Economics*. 2020.

working paper version: How much international variation in child height can sanitation explain? World Bank Policy Research Working Paper number 6351.

media attention: *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, all major English-language Indian newspapers

37. The association of early-life exposure to ambient PM 2.5 and later-childhood height-for-age in India: an observational study. *Environmental Health*. 2019. with Sagnik Dey and coauthors (Spears as lead author).

36. The impact of human health co-benefits on evaluations of global climate policy. *Nature Communications*. 2019. *with* Noah Scovronick and coauthors.
35. Local social inequality, economic inequality, and disparities in child height in India. *Demography*. 2019. *with* Diane Coffey, Ashwini Deshpande, and Jeffrey Hammer.
34. The Asymmetry of Population Ethics: Experimental Social Choice and Dual-Process Moral Reasoning. *Economics and Philosophy*. 2019.
33. Measuring open defecation in India using survey questions: evidence from a randomised survey experiment. *BMJ Open*. 2019. *with* Sangita Vyas and coauthors.
32. The puzzle of open defecation in rural India: Evidence from a novel measure of caste attitudes in a nationally-representative survey. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2019 *with* Amit Thorat.
31. Neighborhood sanitation and infant mortality. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 2018. *with* Michael Geruso.
30. Impact of population growth and population ethics on climate change mitigation policy. *PNAS*. 2017. *with* Noah Scovronick, Mark Budolfson, Francis Dennig, Marc Fleurbaey, Asher Siebert, Robert H. Socolow, and Fabian Wagner.

authorship footnote: “NS, MBB, and DS contributed equally to this work.”

Economic Sciences and Sustainability Science classifications (PNAS Direct Submission).

29. Child height in India: Facts and interpretations from the 2015-16 NFHS-4. *Economic & Political Weekly* (special article section). 2018. *with* Diane Coffey.
28. Implications of WASH Benefits trials for open defecation Sustainable Development Goal. *Lancet Global Health*. 2018. *with* Diane Coffey.
27. Optimal climate policy and the future of world economic development. *World Bank Economic Review*. 2019. *corresponding author, with* Mark Budolfson, Francis Dennig, Marc Fleurbaey, Noah Scovronick, Asher Siebert, and Fabian Wagner.
26. Health externalities of India’s expansion of coal plants: Evidence from a national panel of 40,000 households. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. 2018. *with* Aashish Gupta.
25. Sanitation, disease externalities, and anemia: Evidence from Nepal. *The Economic Journal*. 2018. *with* Diane Coffey and Michael Geruso.

winner of Population Health Initiative Prize for Faculty Research, 2017.

24. Health and hunger: disease, energy needs, and the Indian calorie consumption puzzle. *The Economic Journal*. 2017. *with* Josephine Duh.

winner of the Royal Economic Society Austin Robinson Memorial Prize, 2018.

23. Sanitation and religion in South Asia: What accounts for differences across countries?. 2018. *Journal of Development Studies*. with Sangita Vyas.
22. Making people happy or making happy people?: Questionnaire-experimental studies of population ethics and policy. *Social Choice and Welfare*. 2017.
21. Optimal population with exhaustible resource constraints. *Journal of Population Economics*. 2017. with Nicholas Lawson.
20. Switching to sanitation: Understanding latrine adoption in a representative panel of rural Indian households. *Social Science & Medicine*. 2017. with Diane Coffey and Sangita Vyas.
19. Place and child health: The interaction of population density and sanitation behavior in developing countries. *Demography*. 2017. with Payal Hathi, Sabrina Haque, Lovey Pant, and Diane Coffey. (non-alphabetical: listed last as co-senior author with Coffey).
18. Understanding open defecation in rural India: Untouchability, pollution, and latrine pits. *Economic & Political Weekly (special article section)*. 2017. with Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas.
17. An experiment with air purifiers in Delhi during winter 2015-2016. *PLoS ONE*. 2016. with Sangita Vyas and Nikhil Srivastav.
16. Disease externalities and net nutrition: Evidence from changes in sanitation and child height in Cambodia, 2005-2010. *Economics and Human Biology*. 2016. with Sangita Vyas, Phyrum Kov, and Susanna Smets. (non-alphabetical: listed last).
15. Village sanitation and child health: Effects and external validity in a randomized field experiment in rural India. *Journal of Health Economics*. 2016. with Jeffrey Hammer.
14. Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Rural Sanitation on Childhood Cognitive Skills: Evidence from India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *Journal of Human Resources*. 2016. with Sneha Lamba (non-alphabetical: leading author).
13. Who is the Identifiable Victim?: Caste and Charitable Giving among Indian Elites. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2016. with Ashwini Deshpande.
12. What doesn't kill you makes you poorer: Effects of the early-life disease environment on adult wages in India. *Economics and Human Biology* (lead article, volume 21). 2016. with Nicholas Lawson.
11. A smaller human population in 2100 could importantly reduce the risk of climate catastrophe. letter in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 2015.
10. Short-Term Labor Migration from Rural North India: Evidence from New Survey Data. *Population Research and Policy Review*. 2015. with Diane Coffey and John Papp.
9. Revealed preference for open defecation: Evidence from a new survey in rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly (special article section)*. 2014. with Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Nidhi Khurana, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas.

8. Having a son promotes clean cooking fuel use in urban India. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2014. *with* Avinash Kishore.
7. Decision Costs and Price Sensitivity: Field Experimental Evidence from India. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. 2014.
6. Caste, ‘cleanliness’, and cash: Effects of caste-based political reservations in Rajasthan on a sanitation prize. *Journal of Development Studies*. 2013. *with* Sneha Lamba.
5. Open defecation and childhood stunting in India: An ecological analysis of new data from 112 districts. *PLoS ONE*. 2013. *with* Oliver Cumming and Arabinda Ghosh.

award for top 10% of papers in *PLoS ONE* by citation count.

4. Poverty and probability: aspiration and aversion to compound lotteries in El Salvador and India. *Experimental Economics*. 2012.
3. Height and cognitive achievement among Indian children. *Economics & Human Biology*. 2012.
2. Economic Decision-Making in Poverty Depletes Behavioral Control. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*. 2011.
media attention: *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, Wikipedia front page
1. Bounded Rationality as Subjective Menus: Contraction Consistency and Intertemporal Choice. *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*. 2011.

Requests to revise and resubmit

3. Equilibrium Effects of Abortion Restrictions on Cohort Fertility: Why Restricting Abortion Access Can Reduce Human Capital, Social Welfare, and Lifetime Fertility Rates. *with* Nicholas Lawson. revised and resubmitted to *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
2. Redistribution, Rent-Seeking, and the Welfare Impact of a Universal Basic Income in India. *with* Nicholas Lawson. revised and resubmitted to *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.
1. Uncertainty about maternal mortality in India: New, higher estimates from the National Family Health Survey. *with* Franz, Nathan, Aashish Gupta, and Diane Coffey. revision requested from *Population Studies*.

Working papers

3. A Larger World Population Raises Average Living Standards, Net of Climate Damages *with* Kevin Kuruc, Sangita Vyas and coauthors.
2. Heat, humidity, and infant mortality in the developing world. *with* Mike Geruso. NBER working paper 24870.
1. Open defecation and the Muslim infant survival advantage in India: New evidence from the 2015-16 DHS. *with* Mike Geruso.

Policy research, reviews, and book chapters

26. Depopulation and Longtermism. 2025. *with* Michael Geruso. *Essays on Longtermism*. Oxford University Press.
25. The World's Population May Peak in Your Lifetime. What Happens Next? *New York Times*. 2023.
24. Does the Repugnant Conclusion have important implications for axiology or for public policy?. *with* Mark Budolfson. 2022. *Oxford Handbook of Population Ethics*. OUP.
23. The Repugnant Conclusion is a puzzle that has occupied philosophers and economists for decades. 29 scholars just published a new agreement. *Medium*. 2021.
22. What Should We Agree on about the Repugnant Conclusion?. 2021. *Utilitas*. *with* Zuber, et al.
 leading organizer and corresponding author for 29-author collaboration.
21. Persisting Prejudice: Measuring Attitudes and Outcomes by Caste, Religion, and Gender. *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*. 2020. *with* Amit Thorat and coauthors.
20. Assessing high-profile public messaging for sanitation behavior change: Evidence from a mobile phone survey in India. *Waterlines*. 2020. *with* Payal Hathi and Diane Coffey.
19. Quantifying Animal Well-Being and Overcoming the Challenge of Interspecies Comparisons. 2019. *with* Mark Budolfson. *The Routledge Handbook of Animal Ethics*. Routledge.
18. India's deadly war on experts. *Foreign Policy*. 2019.
17. The consequences of social inequality for the health and development of India's children: The case of caste, sanitation, and child height. *Social Justice Research* 2019. *with* Melissa LoPalo and Diane Coffey.
16. Quantifying India's Climate Vulnerability. *India Policy Forum*. 2018. *with* Melissa LoPalo, Kevin Kuruc, and Mark Budolfson.
15. Effective Altruism and Barriers to Marginal Impact. in *Effective Altruism: Philosophical Issues*. 2019. *with* Mark Budolfson.
14. Open Defecation in Rural India, 2015-16: Levels and Trends in NFHS-4. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 2018. *with* Diane Coffey.
13. Maximizing the Public Health Benefits from Climate Action. *Environmental Science & Technology*. 2018. *with* George D Thurston, Sara De Matteis, Kris Murray, Pauline Scheelbeek, Noah Scovronick, Mark Budolfson, and Paolo Vineis.
12. Caste is stunting all of India's children. *Foreign Policy*. 2017. *with* Diane Coffey.

11. Purity, pollution, and untouchability: Challenges affecting the adoption, use, and sustainability of sanitation programmes in rural India *with* Aashish Gupta and Diane Coffey. chapter in *Sustainable Sanitation for All: Experiences, Challenges, and Innovations* edited by Petra Bongartz, Naomi Vernon and John Fox. 2016
10. Can collective action strategies motivate behavior change to reduce open defecation in rural India?. *Waterlines*. 2016. *with* Payal Hathi and Diane Coffey.
winner of Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize for 2016
9. Caste and life satisfaction in rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 2016.
8. Improving sanitation is a policy priority for children's human capital in rural India: Lessons from recent literature and the IHDS. chapter in *Undernutrition and public policy in India* edited by Sonalde Desai, Lawrence Haddad, and Amit Thorat. 2016.
7. Seeing Past Ethical Illusions: Greene's *Moral Tribes* and Cooperation and Conflict in India. *Economic & Political Weekly* (book review). 2015.
6. Why sanitation matters for nutrition. chapter 3 in *IFPRI Global Food Policy Report*. 2015. *with* Lawrence Haddad.
5. Height of the problem. *Seminar* 2014. *with* Diane Coffey.
4. Are children in West Bengal shorter than children in Bangladesh? *Economic & Political Weekly*. 22 February 2014. *with* Arabinda Ghosh & Aashish Gupta.
3. Stunting among Children: Facts and Implications. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 24 August 2013. *with* Diane Coffey, Angus Deaton, Jean Drèze, & Alessandro Tarozzi
2. Policy lessons from the implementation of India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *India Policy Forum*. 2012.
1. Low Expectations: Reference-Dependent Preferences and Labor Supply in Cape Town, South Africa. *Poverty & Public Policy*. 2012.

Academic honors & research grants

PI or co-PI for over \$13 million in funded research.

GiveWell, "r.i.c.e. — Newborn Care Program Focused on Kangaroo Mother Care," \$2,423,199, 2022-2027. *with* Diane Coffey.

Founders Pledge, "Kangaroo Mother Care Programme," \$125,000, 2022. *with* Diane Coffey.

anonymous private foundation gift to UT-Austin Population Research Center, \$10 million, 2021.

Longview Philanthropy, "Population decline on the horizon" (co-PI with Mark Budolfson), \$318,000, 2021-2023.

NIH K01HD098313, “Projecting the future of early life mortality in the developing world.” \$660,930, 2019-2024.

“Population, Climate Change, and Sustainability: A Grand Challenge facing Economics, Demography, and Public Policy,” Dr. Cécile DeWitt-Morette France-UT Endowed Excellence Grants. (co-PI with Stéphane Zuber), \$10,000, 2019-2020.

Austin Robinson Memorial Prize, given annually by the Royal Economic Society for the best paper in *The Economic Journal* by authors within five years of their PhD, 2018.

BMGF OPP1125318, "Evidence-based sanitation policy for rural India" (co-PI with Diane Coffey), \$279,817, 2018-2021.

Labelle Lecturer in health economics, McMaster University, 2017.

Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences, 2017.

Population Health Initiative Prize for Faculty Research, 2017.

Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize, 2016.

BMGF center grant to r.i.c.e., \$1,399,996, 2015-2019.

Experimental partnership between J-PAL and the Government of Tamil Nadu on rural sanitation behavior (co-PI with Diane Coffey, Sandip Sukhtankar, and Sangita Vyas), \$70,000 (INR 45 lakh), 2015-2016.

NIH 1R03HD081209-01, “Impacts of Sanitation on Child and Maternal Health” (co-PI with Michael Geruso), \$116,005, 2014-2016.

USAID TRAction grant on interaction of population density and sanitation, \$62,267, 2013-2014.

IGC grant on switching to sanitation in rural north India (co-PI with Diane Coffey), £10,000 , 2013-2014.

Gates Foundation grant on sanitation and child health research and evidence based advocacy, \$260,000, 2013-2015.

Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics, 2010.

Truman Scholarship, 2004.

Teaching experience

Courses taught

Development and Population (advanced undergrad). Economics Department, UT Austin. spring 2018, 2019; fall 2019 (2×).

Development Economics (PhD). Economics Department, UT Austin. spring 2017 - 2020.

Workshop on Experimental Methods within Surveys (“Questionnaire-Experiments”). *with* Diane Coffey. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. fall 2016.

Development Ethics; Economics of Inequality and Social Policy. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. spring 2016.

Workshop on Methods in Economic Demography. *with* Diane Coffey. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. fall 2015.

Microeconomics for MPP students. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. summer 2014, 2015.

Graduate advising

Prankur Gupta (PhD 2024): Amazon

Sangita Vyas (PhD 2022): Hunter College and CUNY Institute for Demographic Research

Sam Arenberg (PhD 2022): University of Houston

Meghan Shea (PhD 2020): Abt Associates

Melissa LoPalo (PhD 2019, co-advisor): Montana State University

Kevin Kuruc (PhD 2019, co-advisor): University of Oklahoma, now Middlebury College
awarded Graduate School Mentoring Fellowship, UT Austin, 2017. (student did not attend UT)

Undergraduate thesis advising

Sidh Pandit (2025)

Arunima Mehrotra (2021)

Drew Burd (2020)

Ashton Martin (2018)

Professional Activities

Conference organization

PAA session “Early Life Health in Low and Middle Income Countries.” 2022. co-organized with Diane Coffey.

Social choice, climate change, and population. 2020. co-organized with Stéphane Zuber at UT-Austin.

Consultation on Rural Sanitation Progress under the SBM: Learning from the Field. 2018. co-organized between r.i.c.e. and Accountability Initiative.

Promoting Latrine Use in Rural India. 2016. co-organized between r.i.c.e. and 3ie.

Purity, Untouchability, and Open Defecation: Starting a Conversation for a Swachh Bharat, conference hosted at Jawaharlal Nehru University by r.i.c.e. and the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies. 2015. co-organized with Sangita Vyas and Diane Coffey.

Panel at UNC Water and Health Conference. 2014. co-organized with Diane Coffey and Jan Willem Rosenboom.

Panel at American Economic Association. “Toilet Papers: The Economics of Sanitation in Developing Countries.” 2014. co-organized with Manisha Shah.

Conference on child height in India and early-life disease, at the Delhi School of Economics, with the support of the World Bank and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. 2-3 August 2013. co-organized with Ashwini Deshpande and Abhijit Banerji.

Invited seminars and conference presentations

2021: Australian National University, PAA, IFFS, Gujarat Institute of Development Research

2020: IFFS, UQAM, UMD MPRC

2019: CUNY CIDR, PPE (conference at Tulane), USC, PAA, IFFS, Duke, Oxford (GPI)

2018: Yale, Princeton (Climate Futures Initiative), Penn (CASI & PSC), University of Sussex (IDS), NCSU (WASH cluster), TREE (NCSU, RTI, & Duke environmental economics), PAA (two presentations), Institute for Futures Studies, Social Choice and Welfare (conference in Seoul), Centre for Policy Research (Delhi), India Policy Forum, Washington University in St. Louis, Stanford Rosenkranz Symposium

2017: Princeton (Climate Futures Initiative), The College of New Jersey (Philosopher’s Holiday invited lecture), UQAM, Azim Premji University, McMaster University (Labelle lecture), Penn (conference on child development in India), IIT-Delhi, NIPFP, ISI-Delhi

2016: UT Austin (economics), Penn (PSC & CASI), Brown Watson Institute, Tufts Friedman School, Princeton Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton Social Choice & Welfare working papers group, PAA, UNU-WIDER, Tamil Nadu Department of Rural Development, NEUDC (coauthor presented), Indian Statistical Institute, 3ie (Delhi), Ranchi University

2015: Aix-Marseille School of Economics, PAA (two presentations), LBSNAA, Delhi School of Economics, Chicago Booth (Center for Decision Research), 3ie Delhi Evidence Week, UNC Water and Health Conference (coauthor presented posters), Indian Statistical Institute

2014: AEA, PAA (two presentations), UT Austin (economics & population center), Princeton, Delhi School of Economics, Allahabad University, Indian Statistical Institute, World Bank (Nairobi, DC, & Delhi), Gates Foundation (Nairobi), WASH 2014 (Brisbane), IDS-NCAER nutrition conference (Delhi), 3ie, PHFI, LBSNAA, IFPRI (DC), UNC Water and Health Conference (several presentations), IHDS users conference (NCAER), Tufts Friedman School, NEUDC, Ministry of Statistics & NSSO (Government of India), National Centre for Good Governance (Government of India)

2013: AEA, PAA (coauthor presented at economic demography workshop), Tufts Friedman School, University of Virginia, UNC Water and Health Conference, Delhi School of Economics, World Bank (DC, Delhi, & Phnom Penh), Gates Foundation (Phnom Penh, Seattle), Public Health Foundation of India, national NBA conference at Uttarakhand administrative training institute, IFPRI (DC), World Water Week (Stockholm)

2012: PAA (poster & paper), Yale conference on experimental moral psychology and poverty, World Bank (DC & Delhi), Gates Foundation, India Policy Forum (Brookings & NCAER), LBSNAA, NCAER, World Bank Delhi, World Water Week (Stockholm), Indian Statistical Institute, NEUDC

2011: Delhi School of Economics, NCAER, IIT Delhi

2010: University of Cape Town, Princeton Center for Health and Wellbeing

2009: University of El Salvador, NEUDC

2008: NEUDC

Journal refereeing

AEJ: Applied; AEJ: Policy; American Economic Review; AER: Insights; American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; BMJ Global Health; Demography; Econometrica; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economics & Human Biology; The Economic Journal; Economics & Philosophy; Economic & Political Weekly; Economic Theory; Energy Policy; Food Policy; Health Economics; 3ie (funding agency); International Journal of Epidemiology; International Journal of General Medicine; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Journal of Asian Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Development Effectiveness; Journal of Economic Theory; Journal of the European Economics Association; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Philosophy; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Development; Lancet Global Health; Nature Climate Change; PLOS One; PNAS; Population and Environment; Poverty and Public Policy; Public Finance Review; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Review of Economics of the Household; Review of Economics and Statistics; Science; Social Choice & Welfare; Social Science & Medicine; The South Asianist; Utilitas; Water Resources Research; World Bank Economic Review; World Development

Education

Ph.D.: Economics Department, Princeton University, 2013.

M.P.A.: Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, 2007.

M.A.I.S. & B.A.: School of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2005.

Other Professional Experience

affiliated researcher. Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm, 2018-.

affiliate. Climate Futures Initiative, Princeton University, 2016-.

Visiting Associate Research Scholar. WWS, Princeton University, spring 2016.

National Rapid Action Learning Unit, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of India, 2015-2016.

visiting economist. Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, 2011-2015.

short term consultant (part time), World Bank. 2012-2014

May 26, 2025