

# Sakshi Gupta

Columbia University  
Department of Economics  
420W 118th Street  
New York, NY - 10027

Email: [sakshi.gupta@columbia.edu](mailto:sakshi.gupta@columbia.edu)  
Website: [gupta-sakshi.github.io](https://github.com/gupta-sakshi)  
Phone: +1-610-746-4504

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. candidate, <b>Columbia University</b> <i>Dissertation Title - "Essays in Development Economics"</i>	May 2023 (Expected)
M.Phil., <b>Columbia University</b>	2020
M.A., Economics, <b>Columbia University</b>	2019
M.A., Economics, <b>Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi</b> <i>Gold Medallist</i>	2015
B.A., Economics, <b>St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi</b>	2013

## RESEARCH FIELDS

---

**Primary:** Development Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics  
**Secondary:** Economics of Gender

## HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

Ralph Erdman Holben Fellowship, Columbia University	2022
Reubens Fellowship, Columbia University	2021
Wueller Fellowship, Columbia University	2017-22
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2017-22
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (Runner up), Columbia University	2020
Data Purchase Grant Award, PER, Columbia University	2020
Hira Lal Bhargava Gold Medal, Delhi School of Economics	2016
K.C. Nag Memorial Prize, Delhi School of Economics	2016
Shri Ram Behari Rohatagi Memorial Gold Medal, Delhi School of Economics	2016
Dr. Manmohan Singh Fellowship, Delhi School of Economics	2014-15
Prof. Late Suresh D. Tendulkar Memorial Scholarship, Delhi School of Economics	2013-14
The Sumitomo–St. Stephen's College Scholarship	2010-13
George K George Kollamkulam Memorial Award, St. Stephen's College	2013

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

---

World Bank, Development Research Group, Short Term Consultant	2021
Columbia University, Research Assistant for Sandra Black	2021-22
Columbia University, Research Assistant for Miguel Urquiola	2020
Columbia University, Research Assistant for Michael Best	2019
Columbia University, Research Assistant for Jonas Hjort	2019
Columbia University, Research Assistant for W. Bentley Macleod	2018
Delhi School of Economics, Research Assistant for Ram Singh	2016-17

American Express India Ltd., Risk and Information Management Group, Business Consultant	2015-16
Reserve Bank of India, Rural Planning and Development Group, Summer Intern	2014

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

(Undergraduate Teaching unless specified)

Principles of Economics, Columbia University, TA for Sunil Gulati <i>Received Wueller Award for best Teaching Assistants (Runner-up)</i>	2019-20
Globalization and its Risks, Columbia University, TA for Graciela Chichilnisky	Spring, 2019
Financial Economics, Columbia University, TA for Vivette Ancona	Summer, 2018
Microeconomics and Game Theory (Masters), Delhi School of Economics, Remedial Teacher	2016-17

## WORKING PAPERS

---

### **Labor Market Response to Gendered Breadwinner Norms: Evidence from India (*Job Market Paper*)**

*Featured on the Ideas for India Blog*

Despite recent gains in women's educational attainment and reproductive agency, substantial gender gaps in the labor market still remain, particularly in developing countries. In this paper, I study the impact of culture and social norms in explaining this puzzle in the Indian setting. In particular, I examine the role of the male-breadwinner norm, which dictates that husbands should earn more than their wives. I first establish a sharp discontinuity in the distribution of the share of the wife's income at the point where the wife's income exceeds income of the husband. I theoretical show that this pattern can be best explained by gender identity norms which make couples averse to a situation where the wife earns more than her husband. I also provide empirical evidence that this aversion has real implications on the labor market outcomes of the wife. First, the wife is less likely to participate in market activities if her potential income is likely to exceed her husband's. Second, she earns less than her potential if she does work and can potentially out-earn her husband. Evidence from observing couples over time and bunching methods supplement these results. Moreover, these results are more pronounced in couples where the husband is making the labor market decisions of the wife and where other regressive gender norms are prevalent.

### **Liquidity Shock and Schooling: Evidence from India's Demonetization**

*with Dhruv Jain*

Evidence across developing countries suggests that parents are often credit constrained when making schooling decisions for their children. But little is known about the severity of this constraint. That is, would temporary shocks to liquidity affect parents' decisions? To identify this effect, we use a shock to available cash in the economy induced by India's 2016 demonetization. The policy made 86% of currency-in-circulation illegal overnight and individuals could deposit old notes at the bank in exchange for new ones. We identify the impacts of demonetization's severity by leveraging discontinuities in banking access across Indian districts. Difference-in-discontinuity estimates show that districts which experienced a more severe liquidity shock saw an increase in dropout from private schools but no effect in free public schools, consistent with the presence of real credit constraints.

### **Measuring the Effectiveness of Financial Incentives in Altering Parents' Fertility Decisions**

Do financial incentives provided by governments, for the protection and betterment of a girl child, have intended effects on the fertility decision of parents? As part of a broader research agenda, I look at this question in context of an intervention, Bhagyalakshmi. Launched in March 2006, in an Indian state, Karnataka, the intervention provided financial incentives to couples for having girl children with an intention to improve the sex ratio and the condition of girls born in the state. My results suggest that Bhagyalakshmi led to an increase in total fertility in Karnataka by approximately 1.3% but had no effect on the proportion of sons living in the state, indicating that the scheme was not able to achieve its intended goals.

## POLICY PAPERS

---

**Is there an Urban Wage Premium in Rwanda?** *with Jonathan Bower and Carlo Menon (IGC WP C-20061-RWA-1) - Blog*

**Sharing Responsibility through Joint Decision-making and Implications for Intimate-Partner Violence: Evidence from 12 Sub-Saharan African Countries** *with Aletheia Donald, Cheryl Doss and Markus Goldstein (WB Working Paper WPS9760) - Blog*

## SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

---

**Banks and Roads: Do Complementarities Matter?** *with Dhruv Jain*

**Do Informal Firms Benefit from Expansion in Formal Credit? Regression Discontinuity Evidence from India** *with Dhruv Jain*

**The Measurement and Evolution of Son Preference in India** *with S Anukriti and Nistha Sinha*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

### Conference Presentations

The 9th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference, World Bank	2022
15th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI Delhi	2021
Young Economist Symposium (YES)	2021
North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Dartmouth College	2020

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

**Languages/Software:** Stata, R, LaTeX, GitHub, Matlab, SAS, SQL

**Tools:** Panel Data Econometrics, Causal Inference, Applied Statistics

## ADVISORS

---

**Sandra Black (Chair)**  
Department of Economics  
Columbia University  
sblack@columbia.edu

**Miguel Urquiola**  
Department of Economics  
Columbia University  
miguel.urquiola@columbia.edu

**Michael Best**  
Department of Economics  
Columbia University  
mcb2270@columbia.edu