Anjali P. Verma

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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin May 2022 (Expected) Ph.D. in Economics The University of Texas at Austin May 2018 M.Sc. in Economics Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi May 2014 M.A. in Economics Miranda House College, University of Delhi May 2012 B.A. in Economics

REFERENCES

Stephen J. Trejo (Co-chair)	Richard Murphy (Co-chair)
Department of Economics	Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin +1 (512)-475-8512	University of Texas at Austin $+1$ (512)-400-8068
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RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Labor Economics, Development Economics Secondary: Economics of Education, Economics of Gender

JOB MARKET PAPER

Disruptive Interactions: Long-run Peer Effects of Disciplinary Schools (Job Market Paper) Joint with A. Yonah Meiselman

This paper studies the long-run effects of disruptive peers in disciplinary schools on educational and labor market outcomes of students placed at these institutions. The existing literature suggests that students placed at disciplinary schools tend to have significantly worse future outcomes. We provide evidence that the composition of peers at these institutions plays an important role in explaining this link. We use rich administrative data of high school students in Texas which provides a detailed record of each student's disciplinary placements. including their exact date of placement and assignment duration. This allows us to identify the relevant peers for each student based on their overlap at the institution. We leverage within school-year variation in peer composition at each institution to ask whether a student who overlaps with particularly disruptive peers has worse subsequent outcomes. We show that exposure to peers in highest quintile of disruptiveness relative to lowest quintile when placed at a disciplinary school increases students' subsequent removals (5-8% per year);

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reduces their educational attainment —lower high-school graduation (6%), college enrollment (7%), and college graduation (17%); and worsens labor market outcomes—lower employment (2.5%) and earnings (6.5%). Moreover, these effects are stronger when students have a similar peer group in terms of the reason for removal, or when the distribution of disruptiveness among peers is more concentrated than dispersed around the mean. Our findings draw attention to an unintended consequence of student removal to disciplinary schools, and highlights how brief exposures to disruptive peers can affect an individual's long-run trajectories.

ACCEPTED/WORKING PAPERS

Clean Energy Access: Gender Disparity, Health and Labor Supply Joint with Imelda, Conditionally Accepted, **Economic Journal**

Women bear a disproportionate share of health and time burden associated with lack of access to modern energy. In this paper, we study the impact of clean energy access on adult health and labor supply outcomes by exploiting a nationwide rollout of clean cooking fuel program in Indonesia. This program led to a large-scale fuel switching, from kerosene, a dirty fuel, to liquid petroleum gas, a cleaner one. Using longitudinal survey data from the Indonesia Family Life Survey and exploiting the staggered structure of the program rollout, we find that access to clean cooking fuel led to a significant improvement in women's health, particularly among those who spend most of their time indoors doing housework. We also find an increase in women's work hours, suggesting that access to cleaner fuel can improve women's health and plausibly their productivity, allowing them to supply more market labor. For men, we find an increase in the work hours and propensity to have an additional job, mainly in households where women accrued the largest health and labor benefits from the program. These results highlight the role of clean energy in reducing gender disparity in health and point to the existence of positive externalities from the improved health of women on other members of the household.

Female Labor Supply Response to Alimony: Evidence from Massachusetts (Under Review)

This paper studies the labor supply response of women to changes in expected alimony. Using an alimony law change in the US that significantly reduced the post-divorce alimony support among women, I first show that this led to an increase in divorce probability. Second, consistent with the theoretical prediction from a simple model of labor supply, the reform led to an increase in the female labor force participation, with a larger increase among ever-married and more educated samples of women. As a result, the average female wage income increased after the reform. While labor supply increased, I show that most of this increase was concentrated in part-time employment, which may not be sufficient to compensate for the expected loss in alimony income. I estimate a net loss of \$40,621 in PDV of lifetime income due to the reform. In light of the recent movement in the US to reform alimony laws, these findings are pertinent to understand its implications on women's labor supply and economic well-being.

Can Technology Mitigate the Impact of Heat on Labor Productivity? Evidence from India Joint with Anna Custers, Bhavani P. Kasina and Deepak Saraswat

This paper analyses the role of technology in reducing heat-induced labor productivity losses. For this, we use a field experiment in India which randomized the use of productivity-augmenting digital mode versus classic paper-and-pen mode for conducting 2000 household surveys. Combining this experimentally induced variation in survey mode with day-to-day variation in temperature, we estimate the impact of survey mode on surveyor productivity as temperature rises. We find that as temperature rises and working conditions start to deteriorate, using digital-mode results in 5 percent higher surveyor-productivity compared to paper surveys. These relative productivity gains are mainly concentrated on extremely hot days - where the adverse impact of heat is likely at its peak. We show that these impacts are not driven by differences in characteristics of surveyor or respondents, thereby pointing to the role of technology in reducing the adverse effects of heat.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Exclusionary Discipline: Impact of Student Removal to Disciplinary Alternative Programs Joint with A. Yonah Meiselman

To Apply or Not to Apply: Impact of Class Rank on College Application Choices

In The Dark: Impact of Streetlight Outages on Crimes

Joint with Alberto Chong, Michele Baggio, Vinayak Iyer, and Nishith Prakash

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Delhi	
Intermediate Microeconomics, Development Economics, Business Economics	2015-2016
Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin	
Introduction to Econometrics $(\times 4)$	2019-2021
Microeconomic Theory($\times 3$)	2017-2019
Introduction to Macroeconomics	2017
Introduction to Microeconomics	2016
Research Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin	
Research Assistant, Prof. Sandra E. Black	2017-2018
Reserach Assistant, Prof. Kishore Gawande	2019

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee

Indian Growth and Development Review, Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Journal of Institutional Economics

Conference Presentations

Southern Economic Association	2021, 2020
APPAM Seminar Series	2021
Population Association of America, Washington DC (event canceled)	2020
15th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI Delhi	2019
NEUDC, Northwestern University	2019

SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Professional Development Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2021, 2020
Summer Research Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2019
Professional Development Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2019
Departmental Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin	2016
Pradeep Gupta Memorial Scholarship, University of Delhi	2012-13

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages/Software: Stata, Python, R, LaTeX, GitHub Tools: Panel Data Econometrics, Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Applied Statistics