PRANKUR GUPTA

315 · 289 · 2177 ⋄ prankur@utexas.edu ⋄ LinkedIn ⋄ Website

Department of Economics ⋄ The University of Texas at Austin, TX 78751

EDUCATION

The University of Texas, Austin   *2024 (expected)*
PhD. in Economics
Dissertation Title: Essays in Development Economics

Cornell University, Ithaca   *2018*
M.S. in Applied Economics & Management
Dissertation Title: Can social marketing be a tool towards improved nutrition? Lessons from a field experiment in India

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi   *2014*
B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering

TEACHING & RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Economic Demography
Sub-Fields: Fertility, Cash Transfers

REFERENCES

Dean Spears (Committee Chair)   Manuela Angelucci
Department of Economics   Department of Economics
The University of Texas at Austin   The University of Texas at Austin
512-475-8543   512-475-8511
dspears@utexas.edu   mangeluc@utexas.edu

Mike Geruso   Diane Coffey
Department of Economics   Department of Sociology
The University of Texas at Austin   The University of Texas at Austin
512-475-8704   512-232-6915
mike.geruso@utexas.edu   coffey@utexas.edu

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

Refugees, Shocks and Cash Transfers: Multidimensional Impacts of a Large One-Time Transfer to Refugees in Uganda, *World Development,* 173, 106339, 2023. *with* Daniel Stein, Heather Lanthorn, Emmanuel Nshakira-Rukundo and 8 others

Emergency Cash Transfers for Informal Workers: Impact Evidence from Mexico, *Journal of Public Economics,* 219, 104820, 2023. *with* Ana Canedo and Raissa Fabregas.

Minimum Support Prices in India: Distilling the Facts, *Review of Agrarian Studies,* vol. 11, no. 1, 2021. *with* Reetika Khera and Sudha Narayanan
Available at: http://ras.org.in/a41ffbc3f42b07f18cd99ef097261c24

Casting the Net: India's Public Distribution System after the Food Security Act, *Economic and Political Weekly* (special articles section) 2019. *with* Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera and Isabel Pimenta

Commentaries and Policy Reports

MSP — the factoids versus the facts. *The Hindu* 2021. *with* Reetika Khera and Sudha Narayanan

Food Security Act: How are India's poorest states faring? *Ideas for India* 2016. *with* Jean Drèze, Reetika Khera and Isabel Pimenta

Estimating kerosene leakages from the Public Distribution System *Ideas for India* 2014.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Working Papers

You Want What You Get: The Effect of Realized Fertility on Fertility Preference (*Job Market Paper*)
Available here: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/prankur432/public-docs/main/DesiredFertilityGuptaJMP.pdf

Abstract: *Fertility preferences are critical in understanding fertility trends and in making reproductive policies. However, if fertility itself influences survey reports of preferences, then its usage in policy making gets complicated. This paper investigates whether there exists a causal effect of realized fertility on desired fertility. I exploit two separate sources of exogenous variation in realized fertility, robustly implementing two distinct identification strategies. The first uses the occurrence of twins while the second uses the birth of a female child at first birth to estimate the impact of realized fertility on desired fertility. Using data from 230 rounds of Demographic and Health Surveys from 74 developing countries, I find that having an additional birth causally increases desired fertility by 0.15-0.30. My main result is to identify this causal effect, but my data also allow me to investigate probable mechanism. I show that facts of timing rule out learning that could be consistent with a classical model of causally-prior preferences. Instead, supplementary evidence suggests a behavioral mechanism whereby outcomes influence stated preferences, which could be through reference-dependent preferences, ex-post rationalization, or another behavioral mechanism. The result has important policy and research implications specifically when using fertility preferences to estimate excess fertility, the need for family planning programs, son preference, or as proxies for intrahousehold bargaining.*

Large and unequal life expectancy declines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in India in 2020 *with* Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Sangita Vyas and 6 others. Revise & Resubmit at *Science Advances*
Working Paper available here: https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/8juds

Abstract: *The toll of the COVID-19 pandemic in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is uncertain. We are the first to use high-quality empirical data from India, which has a large population and where pandemic surveillance was particularly poor, to examine changes in life expectancy and estimate excess deaths during the pandemic. We analyze data from the households interviewed in 2021 in India's fifth Demographic and Health Survey, a subsample representative of about one-quarter of India's population. In this subsample, life expectancy at birth declined by 2.6 years between 2019 and 2020, a reduction that is larger than the loss in life expectancy observed in any high-income country (HIC) in the same period. Mortality was 17.0% higher in the pandemic months of 2020 compared to 2019. Applied nationally, this level of excess mortality implies 1.18 million excess deaths in 2020. Compared to HICs, mortality increases in younger ages in India contributed more to the decrease in life expectancy than older ages. Furthermore, the pandemic exacerbated gender and social inequalities. In contrast to global patterns, females in India experienced larger life expectancy losses than males. As compared to a life expectancy loss of 1.5 years for high caste Hindus, who are privileged in Indian society, Muslims lost 5.9 years, Scheduled Tribes lost 4.4 years, and Scheduled Castes lost 2.6 years. These findings uncover large and unequal mortality shocks during the pandemic in the world's most populous country*

Other Work

Can Social Marketing be a Tool Towards Improved Nutrition? Lessons from a Field Experiment in India (*Masters' Thesis*)
Minimum Support Prices and Crop Diversity in India
Son Preference and Effect of Siblings Children Sex-Mix on Fertility
Improving Sex-ratios through Police Action on Ultrasound Centers in India

FIELD & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Associate, Prof. Raissa Fabregas, The University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2020
- PI, Field Survey of 450 households in the state of Gujarat, India to assess demand for a micronutrient fortificant, 2017
- Research Associate, Prof. Prabhu Pingali, Cornell University, 2016-2018
- Co-PI, Census of 12 villages in 6 Indian states to evaluate implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA), Summer 2016
- Research Associate, Prof. Reetika Khera, IIT Delhi, 2015-2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant (The University of Texas, Austin)

- Empirical Public Economics, Fall 2023
- Development & Population, Spring 2022
- Migration Economics & Policy, Spring 2021
- Behavioral Economics, Spring 2020
- Microeconomic Theory (weekly recitation), Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2023
- Political Economy, Summer 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022 (Head TA)
- Introduction to Economics, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Teaching Awards

- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2022

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Database Management Consultant, Research Institute for Compassionate Economics   2022-2023

- Designed tools and utilities to manage patient record databases of high mortality risk babies
- Developed Google Appsheet driven mobile app to conveniently access patient information and conduct phone followups
- Trained and supervised junior developers to support database management and error resolution

Graduate Intern, Research, Evaluation and Data team, ID Insight Inc.   Summer, 2022

- Worked directly with Chief Economist, Daniel Stein, on the evaluation of a Give Directly cash transfer to refugee households in Uganda
- Helped design and conduct surveys for Delhi government's performance tracking metrics

Associate Consultant, Indus Insights   2014-2015

- Recommended data driven changes in insurance portfolio targeting for a UK based leading insurance company
- Improved customer targeting using Google Adwords optimization for a leading online furniture store
- Designed metrics to evaluate risk factor for automobile insurance seekers based on telematics data
- Improved online client acquisition channel of credit cards and personal loans for a top multinational bank

MISCELLANEOUS

Computing Platforms	Stata, MATLAB, Python, R, SQL, GIS, JavaScript, Google Appscript, Google Appsheet
Languages	English (fluent), Hindi (native), Spanish (beginner)
Citizenship	India