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EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Economics, University of California, Riverside, July 2011
M.A. – Economics, Mumbai University, Mumbai, India, 2004
B.A. – Economics, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, India, 2002

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary: Labor Economics, Economics of the Family

DISSERTATION

Thesis Title: Essays on Human Development and Public Policy
Committee: Anil Deolalikar (chair), Jorge Agüero, Mindy Marks, Aman Ullah

COMPLETED RESEARCH PAPERS

“Measuring the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals” (with Jorge Agüero)

“Measuring the Impact of the Education Guarantee Scheme on Schooling Outcomes for Women in India” (**Job Market Paper**) – under review

“Do Children Reduce Women's Wages? Evidence from Developing Countries” (with Jorge Agüero and Mindy Marks)

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Impact of Schooling on Measures of Women’s Welfare: Spillover Effects of the Education Guarantee Scheme”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Jorge Agüero and Mindy Marks, 2009 – Organizing and cleaning large Demographic Health Survey (DHS) datasets for 26 countries

Research Assistant to Jorge Agüero, 2009 – Organizing and cleaning datasets, and conducting preliminary data analysis for DHS datasets of Peru

TEACHING INTERESTS

Introductory and Intermediate Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
Development Economics and Labor Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Colgate University, August 2011 - present

- Intermediate Macroeconomics (Fall 2011, Spring 2012), Seminar in Development Economics (Spring 2012)

Associate-In/Instructor, Department of Economics, University of California, Riverside, 2007-2011

- Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of California, Riverside, 2007-2011

- Introductory and Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
- Introductory and Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Colgate University, at present
Executive, Operations Department, Axis Bank Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, India, 2004-2005

AWARDS

Travel Grant, Department of Economics, March 2011
Outstanding Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of California, Riverside, 2009-2010
Dean's Fellowship, University of California, Riverside, 2006-2011

REFEREE

South African Journal of Economics

PRESENTATIONS

Colgate University, New York, April 2011
Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Berkeley, March 2011
Applied Economics Colloquia Seminar, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2010

SOFTWARE SKILLS

STATA, EViews, LaTeX, MS Office

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), German (Advanced), French (Introductory), Hindi, Marathi (native)

REFERENCES

Dr. Anil Deolalikar	Dr. Jorge Agüero	Dr. Mindy Marks
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Research Summary

Poverty alleviation and welfare improvement of the poor have been the primary goals of policy makers in the developing world. Governments and international development agencies have regularly allocated a wide range of resources in attempts to improve socio-economic indicators of well-being amongst the poor. Careful analysis backed by rigorous evaluation of these efforts is of utmost importance in order to ascertain whether these goals are being met. My work focuses on some of the development goals and the role of policy efforts in addressing these.

1. Measuring the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (with Jorge Agüero)

With less than five years to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015, there is a need to evaluate the progress towards the goals. In this paper, we first use a welfare-based approach to evaluate such progress by building a social welfare function that satisfies the main assumptions in the social choice literature. Our general approach includes, as a special case, the current evaluation methods of the MDG by international organizations. Secondly, we consider alternative designs for some of the goals to examine whether our evaluation is robust to alternative targets. Our findings show that there are significant gains in worldwide welfare. The gains are even higher when considering the improvements of the poorest countries. While the gains are higher for Asia, a welfare evaluation for Sub-Saharan Africa shows significant improvements in well-being contradicting the common view of the region as a “failure”. Our results are robust to changes in the design of the MDG.

2. Measuring the Impact of the Education Guarantee Scheme on Schooling Outcomes for Women in India – Job Market Paper

In 1997, the state government of Madhya Pradesh, India, launched an initiative known as the Education Guarantee Scheme with a view to universalize primary education by dramatically expanding the supply of primary schools to the rural areas of the state through community participation. Implemented as an alternative to government schools, this scheme led to the rapid set up of over 25 thousand schools in a span of 5 years - an average of over 2 schools per 1000 rural children in Madhya Pradesh between the ages of 6 to 15 in 1997. Exposure of an individual to the scheme was jointly determined by her state of residence as well as her age at the time of the intervention. Using the 2005-2006 round of the National Family Health Survey, this paper combines these two sources of exogeneity to estimate the impact of this policy experiment on educational outcomes of women using a difference-in-differences estimation strategy. My findings reveal substantial and robust effects of the program on rural women's completed years of schooling and their probability of attending secondary school. Further, this increase in educational attainment is largely driven by younger women who were non-enrolled prior to the scheme, implying that the scheme was most effective in reducing the private costs of schooling for women who were just young enough to start primary school.

3. Do Children Reduce their Mother's Earnings? Evidence from Developing Countries (with Jorge M. Agüero and Mindy Marks)

Despite the size and importance of female labor force worldwide, there have been limited efforts to explore the magnitude and causes of the motherhood wage penalties in the developing world. Data from nearly 130,000 women in 21 developing countries reveal a robust negative relationship between family size and female earnings. To address the endogeneity of family size, we instrument for the number of children using infertility shocks and show that the negative relationship is causal. Furthermore, we find that while the presence of younger children negatively affects earnings, older daughters *increase* their mother's earnings relative to sons. Finally, over two-thirds of the family penalty can be explained by the mother's type of job and intensity of work.