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Education

Ph.D. (1995) University of California at San Diego, USA

M.A. (1987) Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University (First Class)

B.Sc. (1984) Presidency College, Calcutta University (First Class)

Fields of Interest

Primary: Micro Econometrics, Applied econometrics with special focus on Poverty, Education, Health, Employment, Public Goods

Secondary: Time-Series Econometrics

Employment

Professor of Economics, CSSSC, Kolkata, 2005 - present

Co-Director, Centre for Training and Research in Public Finance and Policy, 2015 - present

Acting Director, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, September 2011 – February 2012

Associate Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, 2002-2005

Assistant Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, 1998-2002

Economist, World Bank, Washington DC, 1992-1998

Teaching

Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi): Statistics, Econometric Methods (Introductory), Econometric Methods (Advanced), Econometric Applications, Advanced Econometrics, Sample Survey [Graduate]

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta: Statistics, Cross-section Econometrics [Graduate], STATA, Research Methods in Economics

Others: Invited Lectures on program impact evaluation methods

Current Research

- **Role of Theatre on Development Issues (with Dr. Karla Hoff, the World Bank):** The proposed research will use a large sample (about 6,000 individuals) to evaluate whether a long-term theatre-based awareness campaign has changed awareness of government programs and attitudes and behaviour toward community problems. We will evaluate the work of *Jana Sanskriti*, a participatory theatre group active in the Indian state of West Bengal since 1985. *Jana Sanskriti* has tried to promote awareness of government programs and to change attitudes towards alcoholism, domestic violence, dowry, local government corruption, and son preferences. We will use modern evaluation techniques like propensity score matching methods psychological tools like vignettes and implicit association tests. The sample will be drawn from approximately 100 treatment/control villages. The results will shed light on two broad questions: Is a sustained political theatre program in villages effective in communicating information about entitlement programs to those who live in the villages? Is it effective in changing attitudes toward social problems and empowering poor groups?
- **Intergenerational mobility in education:** There is enough evidence that there has been mobility in education levels across generations over time among the scheduled castes and tribes. However the question is whether mobility within the scheduled castes and tribes have been restricted to a few dominant groups within the communities. Dominant

communities maybe in terms of population and/or wealth. Using detailed data on caste, we will examine the question of capture of benefits by the creamy layer in India.

- How representative is a representative democracy? (with Arijit Sen, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta)

Journal Publications [Refereed]

1. "Awareness and the demand for environmental quality: Drinking water in urban India" (with E.Somanathan and S. Chaudhuri), *Environment and Development Economics*, 14, 665-692, 2009
2. "The importance of being informed: Experimental evidence on environmental quality" (with E.Somanathan), *Journal of Development Economics*, 87, 14-28, 2008
3. "Estimating the benefit incidence of an antipoverty program by propensity score matching" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Business Economics and Statistics*, 2003
4. "Does piped water improve child health for poor families in rural India?" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Econometrics*, 112:153-173, 2003
5. "Geographic poverty traps" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 17(4): 329-346, 2002
6. "Behavioral responses to risk in rural China" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Development Economics*, 14-30, 2001
7. "Determinants of transient and chronic poverty: Evidence from rural China" (with M. Ravallion), *The Journal of Development Studies*, 36(6), 82-99, 2000
8. "Gender disparity in human resource development: Cross-country patterns", *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 2000
9. "A less poor world, but a hotter one? Carbon emissions, economic growth and income inequality" (with M. Ravallion and M. Heil), *Oxford Economic Papers*, 52, 651-699, 2000
10. "China's lagging poor areas" (with M. Ravallion), *American Economic Review*, 89(2), 301-305, 1999
11. "Are the poor less well insured? Evidence on vulnerability to income risk in rural China", (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Development Economics*, 58, 61-81, 1999
12. "Transient poverty in post-reform rural China" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 26, 337-358, 1998
13. "Are there dynamic gains from a poor area development program?" (with M. Ravallion), *Journal of Public Economics*, 67(1), 65-83, 1997
14. "Growth divergence due to spatial externalities" (with M. Ravallion), *Economic Letters*, 53(2): 227-232, 1996

Book Chapters [Refereed]

1. *Indian Public Finance and Policy Report 2016: Fiscal Issues and Macro-economy* (edt. with S. Marjit and S. Santra), Oxford University Press
2. "Poverty Alleviation Programs and Their Impacts" in R. Brent (edt.) "Handbook of Research on Cost Benefit Analysis", Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, 2009
3. "On the dynamics of household living standards in rural China" (with M. Ravallion) in S. Dercon (ed.) *Insurance Against Risk and Poverty*, WIDER, Helsinki, 2004
4. "Determinants of transient and chronic poverty: Evidence from rural China" (with M. Ravallion) in B. Baluch and J. Hoddinott (ed.) *Economic Mobility and Poverty Dynamics in Developing Countries*, Frank Cass Publishers, U.K., 2001

5. "Adjustment and social sectors in India" (with K. Subbarao), in R. Cassen and V. Joshi (ed.) *India: The Future of Economic Reforms*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1995

Research Reports

1. "Low Mean High Variance: Quality of Primary Education in Rural Bengal" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2010
2. "Evaluation of Scholarship Schemes for Minorities in Murshidabad, West Bengal" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
3. "Evaluation of Scholarship Schemes for Minorities in Pakur, Jharkhand" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
4. "Evaluation of Scholarship Schemes for Minorities in Ganjam, Orissa" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
5. "Multi-sectoral Development Program in Gajapati, Orissa" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
6. "Multi-sectoral Development Program in Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
7. "Multi-sectoral Development Program in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012
8. "Multi-sectoral Development Program in Burdwan, West Bengal" (with Jharna Panda), *Research Report*, CSSSC, 2012

Working Papers

1. "Evaluation of the *Karnataka Gram Swaraj Project*", *mimeo*, (with Rinku Murgai, The World Bank), 2014
2. "Intergenerational Education Mobility in India", *mimeo*, (with Rinku Murgai, The World Bank), 2007
3. "Antenatal care: an important way to improve India's poor child and maternal health indicators" *mimeo*, (with Stephen Howes, AusAid and Rinku Murgai, The World Bank), 2006
4. "An effective "targeting shortcut"? Analysis of the BPL scheme in reaching the poor" (with Rinku Murgai, The World Bank), *mimeo*, The World Bank: New Delhi, 2006 (revised January 2012)
5. "Changing structure of non-formal Jobs in India" (with Elena Glinskaya), *mimeo*, The World Bank, Washington DC, 2005
6. "Small Bang for Big bucks? An evaluation of a primary school intervention in India " (with Elena Glinskaya), *mimeo*, The World Bank, 2002

Conference/Seminar Presentations

1. Conference organized by Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka and Monash University, Australia, Colombo (11-12 January, 2017): "Entertainment or Enlightenment? Role of Participatory Theatre in Development"
2. Loreto House, (20 December, 2016): "Entertainment or Enlightenment? Role of Participatory Theatre in Development"
3. ICCR Auditorium, Kolkata (12 December 2016): "Entertainment or Enlightenment? Role of Participatory Theatre in Development"
4. Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata (27 December 2015), CSSSC (5 February 2016) & Bardhaman University (25 February, 2016): "Empowering Women: Evaluation of a socio-cultural intervention"

5. Institute of Advanced Studies, Nantes, France on 26th April 2015: "Divertissement ou éveil de la société? Impact evaluation of the Theatre for Development"
6. Department of Economics, Calcutta University, Kolkata, July 2014: An invited talk on "Impact Evaluation: Why and How?"
7. Jadavpur University, Kolkata, January 2014: Invited Talk on "An effective "targeting shortcut"? Analysis of the BPL scheme in reaching the poor"
8. World Business Institute Conference, New York City, July 2013: "An effective "targeting shortcut"? Analysis of the BPL scheme in reaching the poor"
9. Australasian Development Economics Workshop, Monash University, Melbourne, June 2012: "An effective "targeting shortcut"? Analysis of the BPL scheme in reaching the poor"
10. Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata 2012: Invited panelist on "Quality of Education in Rural Bengal"
11. Loreto College, Middleton Row, Kolkata 2011: Invited speaker on "Low Mean, High Variance: Quality of Primary Education in West Bengal"
12. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, 2011: Invited lecture on "Quality of Education in Bengal" at a conference organized by Indian titled "***Towards Industrial Revival of West Bengal-- New Directions and Policies***"
13. Presidency University, Kolkata 2011: Invited Lecture on "Dynamic Panel Data Models"
14. Rabindra Bharti University, March 2011: Invited Lecture on "Status of Education in West Bengal and Its Relationship to Human Development Issues"
15. Vishwabharti University, March 2011: Invited Lecture on "Contemporary Development Issues in West Bengal"
16. Jadavpur University, March 2011: Invited lecture on the "Why and What of Impact Evaluation"
17. CSSSC, 2010: Public release of report "Low Mean High Variance: Quality of Primary Education in rural Bengal"
18. Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, January 2010: Invited lecture at a conference organized in honor of Sir Clive Granger
19. Jadavpur University, Kolkata 2009: Invited panelist to speak on "Impact Evaluation of Social Interventions"
20. National Sample survey Organization, Kolkata: Invited discussant of a Technical Session organized by NSSO at Mahalanobis Bhawan
21. CSSSC, Kolkata 2007 "An effective "targeting shortcut"? Analysis of the BPL scheme in reaching the poor"
22. First Indian Australian Research Workshop, Melbourne 2006 "Changing structure of non-formal jobs in India"
23. DFID Conference, New Delhi 2005 "Small Bang for Big Bucks? An Evaluation of a Primary School Intervention in India"
24. World Bank Conference on Poverty, New Delhi, 2002 "Does piped water improve child health for poor families in rural India?"
25. World Congress of the Econometric Society, Seattle, 2000 "Estimating the benefit incidence of an antipoverty program by propensity score matching"
26. Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, 1998 "Estimating the benefit incidence of an antipoverty program by propensity score matching"
27. Global Development Network Conference, Tokyo, 1999 "Geographic Poverty Traps"
28. U.S. Winter Meetings of the Econometric Society, San Francisco, 1996 "Behavioral responses to risk in rural China"

29. U.S. Winter Meetings of the Econometric Society, Boston, 1995 “Are there dynamic gains from a poor area development program?”

Editorial Board

- Journal of Quantitative Economics, IGIDR, Mumbai
- Arthaniti, University of Calcutta

Research Grant

1. Co-investigator "Role of Theatre on Development Issues (with Dr. Karla Hoff, the World Bank)", The World Bank, Washington DC, 2013-2014, *currently ongoing*
2. Principal investigator “Evaluation of student scholarship schemes given to minority students”, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, 2011-2012. Draft reports have been sent to the Ministry.
3. Principal investigator “Evaluation of Multi-Sectoral Development Program implemented in minority concentrated districts”, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, 2011-2012. Draft reports have been sent to the Ministry.
4. Principal investigator “What Explains Differences in Human Development Outcomes Across Space? *An analysis of education outcomes in India*”, Sir Ratan Tata Trust Fund, 2007-10. Report is available from <http://www.cssscal.org/pdf/Education%20Report%20CD.pdf>. Further research using data collected under this project is ongoing.
5. Co-investigator “Income and Information elasticities of demand for water quality” with E. Somanathan, SANDEE, 2003-04 (Two papers and a few policy notes have been published from this project)

Student Advising:

Ms. Tapashree Chakravarty, Post-Doctoral Fellow, CSSSC (currently teaching economics in an undergraduate college in Kolkata) Mr. Saraswata Chaudhuri, Research Assistant, ISI (currently faculty member at UNC, Chapel Hill, USA) Mr. Arindam Nandi, Research Assistant, ISI (currently faculty member at RFF, USA)

Visiting Positions

1. Consultant, The World Bank, Washington DC, Summer 2016
2. Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, Nantes, France, January - June 2015
3. Consultant, The World Bank, Washington DC and University of Arizona at Tucson, Summer 2014
4. Visiting Professor, Monash Centre for Development Economics, Monash University, Melbourne, Summer 2012
5. Visiting assistant professor, Department of Economics, University of Toulouse, 2000
6. Consultant to the World Bank (Summers of 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)
7. Visiting Scientist, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India, Fall-1997

Administrative Positions

1. Member of an international team to bid for DFID's Centre for Excellence on Impact Evaluation and Learning headed by Prof. Howard White of Campbell Collaboration (2016 - Onwards)
2. Chancellor's nominee for selection of economics faculty at University of Kalyani and Gour Banga University (2015 onwards)
3. Member, Advisory Committee for the CBPS research study titled ‘Open and Distance Learning as a Cost-effective Option for Secondary Level Schooling in India: Potential and Prerequisites’ (2014 -)

4. Coordinator, Research Methods in Quantitative Economics (2008-present)
5. Acting Project Director, Centre for Training in Public Finance and Public Policy, September 2011- February 2012
6. Member, Board of Governors, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta: various years
7. Computer committee convener, CSSSC: 2009-2010
8. Member of doctoral research committee, library committee, computer committee & research seminar committee: Various years at ISI, Delhi & CSSSC

Advisory Positions in Government of West Bengal

1. Member, School Education Expert Committee on Syllabus and Textbook Revision, Government of West Bengal (2001-12)
2. Member, Higher Education Expert Committee, Government of West Bengal, (2011-2012)
3. Member, School Education Council, Government of West Bengal (2012-2013)

Referee for *American Economic Review, Bureau of Economic Research, Econometrics Journal, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Transition, Environment and Development Economics, European Economic Review, European Journal of Development Research, India Growth & Development Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Quantitative Economics, Labour Economics, National Science Foundation, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Pan-Asian Journal of Environment, Journal of Population Economics, Review of Development Economics, Social Science and Medicine, World Bank Economic Review, World Development, 3IE Impact Evaluation Research Proposals, Eastern Regional Council (ICSSR) Research Proposals, University of Delhi Dissertation*