

SARAVANA RAVINDRAN

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT & AFFILIATIONS

- 2020 - **National University of Singapore**
Assistant Professor (Tenure-track), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
Invited Researcher, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab South Asia
- 2019 - 2020 **University of California, Los Angeles**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Global Lab for Research in Action
Postdoctoral Affiliate, California Center for Population Research

EDUCATION

- 2013 - 2019 **New York University**
Ph.D. in Economics
M.Phil. in Economics
London School of Economics & Political Science
- 2012 - 2013 M.Sc. in Economics
- 2008 - 2011 B.Sc. in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics
(*First Class Honors with Economics Department Prize*)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Economics of Education

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2023 - 2024 J-PAL South Asia CaTCH Initiative (USD 79,995): PI.
- 2022 - 2023 Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (USD 170,000): Co-PI.
- 2022 - 2023 Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (GBP 39,997): Co-PI.
- 2022 - 2023 J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (USD 9,800): Co-PI.
- 2020 - 2021 J-PAL South Asia CaTCH Initiative (USD 37,492): Co-PI.
- 2019 - 2023 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (USD 1,996,120): Co-PI.

PUBLICATIONS

7. “Disruptions to Early Childhood Preschool Services During a Pandemic: Evidence from India,” with Manisha Shah. 2024. *Journal of Population Economics*, 37(48).
6. “The Social Meaning of Mobile Money: Earmarking Reduces the Willingness to Spend in Migrant Households,” with Jean Lee, Jonathan Morduch, and Abu Shonchoy. 2024. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 221: 675-688.
5. “Early Childhood Human Capital Formation at Scale,” with J. Bos, A. Khan and A. Shonchoy. 2024. *Journal of Public Economics*, 231:105046. Additional Coverage: VoxDev. Honorable Mention: Asian Development Bank - International Economic Association Innovative Policy Research Award 2024.

4. **“Unintended Consequences of Lockdowns, COVID-19, and the Shadow Pandemic in India,”** with Manisha Shah. 2023. *Nature Human Behaviour*. Additional Coverage: The Wall Street Journal, World Bank Development Impact Blog, Ideas For India, The Hindu, The Indian Express (Front Page), India Today, Quartz India, Deccan Herald, Livemint, Scroll.
3. **“Narrowing the Gender Gap in Mobile Banking,”** with J. Lee, J. Morduch, and A. Shonchoy. 2022. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 193: 276-293.
2. **“Poverty and Migration in the Digital Age: Experimental Evidence on Mobile Banking in Bangladesh,”** with J. Lee, J. Morduch, A. Shonchoy, and H. Zaman. 2021. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 13(1): 38-71. Additional Coverage: All About Finance Blog (World Bank), AEA Research Highlight, Gates Foundation Research Brief, VoxDev. Honorable Mention: Asian Development Bank - International Economic Association Innovative Policy Research Award 2022.
1. **“Migration, Externalities, and the Diffusion of COVID-19 in South Asia,”** with J. Lee, M. Mahmud, J. Morduch, and A. Shonchoy. 2021. *Journal of Public Economics*, 193:104312. Additional Coverage: People Move Blog (World Bank), South Asia Economic Focus: Spring 2020 (World Bank), Financial Access Initiative Blog.

WORKING PAPERS

1. **“Violent Discipline and Parental Behavior: Short- and Medium-term Effects of Virtual Parenting Support to Caregivers,”** with Lelys Dinarte-Diaz, Manisha Shah, Shawn Powers, and Helen Baker-Henningham.
2. **“Selecting Experimental Sites for External Validity,”** with Michael Gechter, Keisuke Hirano, Jean N. Lee, Mahreen Mahmud, Orville Mondal, Jonathan Morduch, and Abu Shonchoy.
3. **“Banking on Education: How Credit Access Promotes Human Capital Development,”** with Suzanne Chang.
4. **“Parental Investments and Early Childhood Development: Short and Long Run Evidence from India.”** Finalist: Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Dissertation Prize 2019, U Chicago. Additional Coverage: Ideas For India.

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

1. **“From Access to Achievement: The Primary-School-Age Impacts of an At-Scale Preschool Construction Program in Highly Deprived Communities,”** with Marina Bassi, Bruno Besbas, Lelys Dinarte-Diaz, and Ana Reynoso.
2. **“Intergenerational Impacts from the World’s Largest Early Childhood Program,”** with Manisha Shah.
3. **“Long-run Evidence on the Impacts of Mobile Banking on Migrant Workers in Bangladesh,”** with Jean N. Lee, Mahreen Mahmud, Jonathan Morduch, and Abu Shonchoy.

RESEARCH AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024 - 2025	LKYSPP Writing Fellowship
2022	Singapore Teaching & Academic Research Talent Scheme (START) Award, Ministry of Education Singapore
2021	LKYSPP Research Honors List, National University of Singapore
2016 - 2017	Andrew Sauter Fellowship, New York University (x2)
2013 - 2018	Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, GRANTS, & AWARDS

NUS 2022-23 Awarded: Enriching Educational Experience in the Classroom Grant (x4)
NUS 2021 Awarded: LKYSPP Digital Teaching Excellence Award
NUS 2021 - Instructor: PP6704 The Economics of Public Policy - Microeconomics (PhD)
NUS 2021 - Instructor: PP5801 Economic Analysis - Microeconomics (Masters)
NUS 2020 - Instructor: PP5234 Economics of Developing Countries (Masters)
NYU 2015-16 Teaching Assistant: Topics in Econometrics, Introduction to Econometrics,
Statistics (Undergraduate) *Twice Nominated for the College of Arts &
Science Outstanding Teaching Award (2015-2016)*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee: *American Journal of Health Economics, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics and Human Biology, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Health Economics, Labour Economics, PLOS One, World Bank Economic Review*

Co-Organizer: NUS-SMU Development Economics Workshop, LKYSPP Economics Brownbag, LKYSPP Festival of Ideas 2024

Singapore Ministry of Education Dialogues: Meeting with Minister for Education Mr. Chan Chun Sing (Oct 2022), Dialogue with Second Minister for Education Dr. Maliki Osman (Nov 2022)

Program Committee: Society of Economics of the Household 2024 (Singapore), International Economic Association World Congress 2023 (Colombia)

International Mentorship: Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (2023 -)

University: LKYSPP Faculty Teaching Excellence Committee (Co-Chair; 2022 - present), LKYSPP Economics Faculty Junior Hiring Committee (2020-2021), MPP Policy Analysis Exercise Faculty Advisor (2021 - present) & Second Reader (2020-2021), LKYSPP Case Writing Competition Faculty Advisor (2021 - present), PhD Thesis Examiner (Dr. Niharika Rustagi & Dr. Panchali Guha), PhD Independent Study Module Faculty Advisor (Chitra Pratap), PhD Advisor (Chitra Pratap, Kaushambi Bagchi, & Nikhitha Mary Mathew), LKYSPP Faculty Advisor for Bridging GAP (Gender and Policy) Student Group, Guest Lecturer (PP5105 Cost-Benefit Analysis in Public Policy, PP6706 Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Research, PP5015-PP5018 Mitigating Risk and Building Resilience)

SEMINARS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Excluding coauthor presentations)

2024: Midwest Finance Association Meeting (Chicago), Royal Economic Society Conference (Queen's U, Belfast), Midwest International Economic Development Conference (U Chicago). Scheduled: Society of Economics of the Household (Singapore Management U), NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development (Nova SBE, Portugal), LKYSPP Festival of Ideas, Monash U-World Bank-ADB Conference on Sustainable Development (Jakarta)

2023: American Economic Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans), University of Western Australia, Australian Gender Economics Workshop (Perth, Australia), World Bank, NBER Spring Children's Meetings, Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-Being (Georgia Tech), Pacific Conference for Development Economics (University of Washington), Economic Demography Workshop (New Orleans), International Food Policy Research Institute, Southern Economic Association Meetings

2022: J-PAL CaTCH Initiative COVID-19 Webinar, Australasian Development Economics Workshop (U Sydney), American Society of Health Economists Conference (Austin), Western Economic Association International Conference (Portland), ADB Asian Economic Development Conference (Tokyo), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies Economics Seminar (Tokyo), Applied De-

velopment Economics Conference (Lahore School of Economics), 100 Years of Economic Development Conference (Cornell U), LKYSPP Festival of Ideas, University of Exeter UK, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Conference (Tokyo)

2021: Singapore Management University, NUS-LSE Gender & Public Policy Conference, NUS-SMU Development Economics Workshop, Korea University Applied Microeconomics Conference, Japan Empirical Economics Seminar, NBER Summer Institute Children's Meetings, Australia/NZ Labour Econometrics Workshop, ISI Delhi Economics Seminar, Southern Economic Association Meetings, ISI Delhi Conference on Economic Growth and Development

2020: National University of Singapore (Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Economics Department, Workshop on Gender & the COVID-19 Pandemic), Eastern Economic Association Conference (Boston), UCLA Applied Micro Tea, Midwest International Economic Development Conference (Purdue), EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, IUSSP Population, Poverty, and Inequality Research Conference, Applied Economics Workshop (UTokyo-NUS-HKUST-Nat Taiwan U)

2019: UCLA Applied Micro Tea, Missouri Valley Economic Association Conference (Kansas City), Southwestern Social Science Association Meetings (San Diego), Southern Economic Association Meetings (Fort Lauderdale), UPenn Population Health Science Workshop, ISI Delhi Conference on Economic Growth and Development

Last Updated: May 2024.