

Shagata Mukherjee

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Research Interests

Development Economics, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Program Evaluations, Public Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Georgia State University Spring 2017 (expected)
Cumulative GPA: 3.91/4
Secured *High Pass* in Microeconomics and Experimental Economics Comprehensive Exams
Dissertation: "Essays on Gender and Microfinance"
Committee: James Cox (Chair), Michael Price, Alberto Chong, Vjollca Sadiraj, Mark Isaac

M.A in Economics, Georgia State University 2014

M.A. in Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India 2011
Specialization: Development Economics

B.Sc. (Honors) in Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta University, India 2009
Ranked 7th among 1000 students in 150 colleges under Calcutta University

Working Papers

Mukherjee, Shagata "Are Women Really Better Borrowers in Microfinance? Evidence from Matrilineal and Patrilineal Societies in India." (**Job Market Paper**)

Mukherjee, Shagata. "Does Group Size Induce Strategic Default in Microfinance?"

Cyan, Musharraf., **Mukherjee, Shagata.**, Price, Michael and Rider, Mark. "Evaluation of Community Organizations: Governance Support Post-Conflict Needs Assessment Programs in Pakistan."

Works in Progress

Mukherjee, Shagata. “*Do Social Ties Reduce Default among Microfinance Borrowers? Evidence from Rural India*”

Cox, James and **Mukherjee, Shagata.** “*What Drives Gender Differences in Social Preference?*”

Cyan, Musharraf., **Mukherjee, Shagata.**, Price, Michael and Rider, Mark. “*Community Decisions in Public Good Provision under Power Asymmetry: a Field Experiment in Rural Pakistan.*”

Mukherjee, Shagata. “*Conditional and Unconditional Altruism in Payoff Equivalent Extensive Form Fairness Games.*”

Mukherjee, Shagata. “*Migration of Human Capital in the US: Increasing versus Diminishing Returns to Skill.*”

Research Reports

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, India. 2010
“*The Dynamics of Food Inflation in India in the Post Liberalization Period: a Time Series Analysis.*”

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 2009
and Indian Chamber of Commerce. “*Status of Microfinance in India.*”

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Experimental Economics Center, Georgia State University 2013- present

Research Assistant, Fiscal Research Center, Georgia State University 2012

Research Assistant, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, India 2010

Research Associate, Indian Chamber of Commerce, India 2009

Teaching Experience

Sole Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, Georgia State University Spring 2014
(My Teaching Evaluation: **4.6/5**; Department Average: 4/5, Course Average: 3.7/5)

Frequent guest lecturer, Microeconomic Theory, Intermediate level Fall, 2013
Georgia State University

Teaching Assistant for Grace O, Principles of Macroeconomics,
Georgia State University

Fall, 2011,
Spring 2012

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

Graduate Student Invited Session Nomination and Award Southern Economic Association	2015
CEAR Travel Grant (\$3600), J. Mack Robinson College of Business Georgia State University	2015
Dissertation Fellowship Grant (\$10,000), Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Georgia State University	2014
CEAR Fellowship (\$5000), J. Mack Robinson College of Business Georgia State University	2013, 2014, 2015
Foreign Endowment Scholarship, Calcutta University, India	2011
Certification of Merit, Calcutta University, India	2009
National Merit Scholarship, Government of India	2006

Relevant Conferences

<i>Invited</i> by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong and Meghalaya Economic Association International Conference, India (<i>scheduled</i>)	2016
Economic Science Association North-American Meetings, Tucson (<i>scheduled</i>)	2016
Advances with Field Experiments Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago	2016
Eleventh Annual Australia New Zealand Workshop on Experimental Economics (<i>accepted for presentation</i>)	2016
Masters International Research and Development Center Conference Prague, Czech Republic (<i>accepted for presentation</i>)	2016
Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries, Annual Conference, Nairobi, Kenya (<i>accepted for presentation</i>)	2016
Economic Science Association North-American Meetings, Dallas	2015
Fifth Annual Conference on Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science, George Mason University, Arlington	2015
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta	2014

Professional Affiliations

American Economic Association
Economic Science Association
Human Development and Capability Association
Southern Economic Association

References

[James C. Cox](#)

Noah Langdale Jr. Chair in Economics
Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar
Professor and Director,
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Job Market Paper Abstract

Are Women Really Better Borrowers in Microfinance? Evidence from Matrilineal and Patrilineal Societies in India

While the universal policy of gender targeting in microfinance stems, *inter alia*, from the conventional wisdom that women are better credit risks, there has been little research on the underlying reasons for it. Are women wired fundamentally differently than men to be better at repaying loans or is it the social context in which the gender roles operate that motivate their behavior? I study this question by conducting controlled microfinance field experiments in comparable matrilineal and patrilineal societies in two neighboring states of India. My experimental design allows to decompose the channels through which default occurs in microfinance. I observe a reversal of gender effect on loan default across the two societies. I show

that patrilineal men have higher strategic default whereas women default strategically more in the matrilineal society. I also find that matrilineal women are less risk averse and are more likely to invest in the risky project than women in patrilineal societies. My results suggest that while women are better clients on average, a universal policy of gender targeting to mitigate default in microfinance might be suboptimal. Thus in microfinance, and more broadly in development policy sphere, policymakers should take into consideration the heterogeneity among men and women and the social context in which the policy is implemented.

JEL classification codes: O12, D03, G02, G21, J16

Keywords: development, microfinance, gender, social norms, field experiment

Updated: October, 2016