

Sanjukta Basu

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Summary

More than seven years of research experience in applied microeconomic topics such as household, labor, employment, education, behavioral, and experiments by analyzing large global datasets using extensive econometric tools and statistical software. I am a passionate and hardworking investigator who has an aptitude for novel, creative and collaborative approaches for solving economic and public policy questions.

Education

Ph.D. Economics; Tulane University, New Orleans December 2020
“Analyzing the Behavioral Changes Caused by Exogeneous Shocks in Economic, Political and Legal Atmosphere.”
Committee: Prof. Steven Sheffrin (chair), Prof. Jonathon Pritchett and Prof. Wei Long

M.S. Economics; Tulane University, New Orleans May 2017

M.A. Economics; Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune April 2013
“Whom Do We Trust? An Experimental Approach”
Committee: Prof. Neeraj Hatekar (chair) and Prof. Debasish Nandy

B.A. (Hons) Economics; Hans Raj College, Delhi University, Delhi July 2011

Research Areas

Household Economics, Law and Economics, Labor Economics, Parental Behavior, Behavioral and Experimental Economics, and Applied Microeconomics.

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Tulane University Spring 2019
Introduction to Microeconomics
Sole instructor and responsible for creating syllabus, reading materials, assignments, class worksheets, examinations and class tests, matters involving grading.

Teaching Assistance

Tulane University August 2015- Present
Introduction to Microeconomics, Econometrics, Health Economics Political Economy, Health Economics and Policy, Microeconomics (PhD level), Econometrics (PhD level)
Responsible for holding weekly office hours, grading, proctoring examination, responding to students’ queries outside office hours

Tutoring

Tulane University August 2015- Present
Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics
Tutoring undergraduate students to assist them in their coursework and examinations.

PhD. Dissertation

- Investigated the effect of business cycle change on parental behavior. Parents were seen to increase time investment on children at the cost of leisure and job search.

Sanjukta Basu – Curriculum Vitae

- Studied the effect of Daylight Savings Time on daily schedules of various demographics. Elderly population are affected differently than the working young.
- Detailed understanding of medical marijuana legalization in the USA while testing its impact on substance consumption and criminal activity behavior. No impact found which supports the policy implementation.

Publications

Sanjib Pohit and **Sanjukta Basu** “Trends in High Technology Trade”, India: Science and Technology Vol 2 (CSIR-NISTADS), Cambridge University Press India, May 2013 pp164-168.

Sanjukta Basu, Santanu Mitra and Gautam Gupta “Wealth Difference in a Centipede Game: Backward Induction in an Experimental Economics Framework”, International Journal of Humanities and Social Science vol 3 no.10[Special issue-May 2013] pp 127-131.

Sanjib Pohit and **Sanjukta Basu** “High Technology Merchandize Export: Where does India stand?”, South Asia Economic Journal vol 13 II 2012-2013 pp-183-206.

Presentations

American Economic Association 2020 San Diego: “Does the Daylight Savings Time Causes People to Change More than their Clock?”; “The Highs and Lows of Medical Marijuana Legalization” (*Posters*)

Southern Economic Association 2019, Fort Lauderdale: “Does the Daylight Savings Time Causes People to Change More than their Clock?”; “The Highs and Lows of Medical Marijuana Legalization” (*Oral*)

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management 2019, Denver: “The Highs and Lows of Medical Marijuana Legalization” (*Poster*)

American Economic Association 2019 Atlanta: “Effect of Parental Employment Status on Child Care”; “The Highs and Lows of Medical Marijuana Legalization” (*Posters*)

Southern Economic Association 2018 Washington DC; “Effect of Parental Employment Status on Child Care” (*Oral*)

Tulane University Fourth Annual 3-Minute Thesis Competition. *November 2018*

Workshop on Experimental Economics at the Indian School of Business 2012, Hyderabad: “Wealth Difference in a Centipede Game: Backward Induction in an Experimental Economics Framework” (*Oral*).

National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies 2011 (CSIR) annual workshop SUTRA, Delhi “High Technology Merchandize Export: Where does India stand?” (*Oral*)

Research Experience

Consultant, *Global Development Network*

May 2018- August 2018

- Harmonized household survey data for various Latin American countries.
- Supported Commitment to Equity Institute: research and policy tools projects.
- Created econometric models to implement methods such as re-weighting and replacing for correcting survey bias among top income observations in household surveys.

Research Assistant, *Murphy Institute*

June 2017 – August 2017

- Researched the response of businesses to very temporary sales tax changes in Louisiana.
- Extracted and analyzed raw data received from tax returns forms of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), LA to study the impact of frequent sales tax changes in the state.
- Provided evidence showing that businesses respond actively to short-term tax rate changes by using various econometric tools and time series analyses.

Consultant, *National Institute of Public Finance and Policy*

April 2014 – January 2015

- Analyzed projects for the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Government of India and the Principal Economic Advisor.
- Constructed macroeconomic models enabling the forecast of macroeconomic variables assisting debt sustainability analyses with the Department of Budget and World Bank.
- Projects: need assessment review of the FRBM Act, cross country study of fiscal rules and impact on business cycle; Seventh Pay Commission and assisting the PDMA Task Force set by MOF.

Research Associate, *Centre for Civil Society*

May 2013 – March 2014

- Streamlined the Higher Education sector of India highlighting the main challenges, current legal structures, role of private and public universities, and other aspects in a research paper by interviewing government agencies and private sector players for qualitative data collection.
- Co-authored a successful research grant proposal for INR 1 million from International Growth Centre.
- Editor of the weekly newsletter; increased readership by 50 percent in less than 3 months.

Other Work Experience

Campaign Manager, *Yuktiyan – A No Tobacco Movement*

April 2015- June 2015

- Supervised an awareness campaign by organizing workshops in schools, among underprivileged children and blue collared workers.
- Created de-addiction facilities and promoted nicotine anonymous programs using a collaborated network of doctors, dentists and rehabilitation centers
- Organized a month-long focused campaign to promote a marathon to celebrate No Tobacco Day on May 31.
- Responsible for social media campaign and communications.

Grants

J.E. Land Fund for SLA Graduate Student Travel for presenting at American Economic Association 2020, Tulane University, January 2020 (\$1000).

Graduate Studies and Student Association (GSSA) travelling fund for presenting at Southern Economic Conference 2019, Tulane University, November 2019 (\$375)

Department of Economics travel funds for presenting at Southern Economic Association 2019, November 2019 (\$600).

Graduate Student Summer Merit Fellowship Award from the School of Liberal Arts, May 2019 (\$2800).

Hayek Fund for Scholars for attending the I.S.E.O Summer School 2019, February 2019 (\$750).

J.E. Land Fund for SLA Graduate Student Travel for presenting at American Economic Association 2019, Tulane University, January 2019 (\$500).

Graduate Studies and Student Association (GSSA) travelling fund for presenting at Southern Economic Conference 2018, Tulane University, November 2018 (\$400).

Department of Economics travel funds for presenting at Southern Economic Association 2018, November 2018 (\$300).

Stone Center and Tinker Foundation Summer Field Research Grant for Graduate Students in Latin America and the Caribbean, Tulane University, June 2017 (\$1478).

Sanjukta Basu – Curriculum Vitae

Department of Economics research funds to support an academic trip to Ecuador, Tulane University, - May 2017 (\$1500).

Centre for Computational Social Sciences (UPE Program) for supporting masters' research, University of Mumbai, December 2012 (INR 30000).

Software

Stata, R, z-Tree, LaTeX, Python, Excel

Leadership and Institutional Services

Volunteer, *NOLA Tree Project* April 2020- Present

- Assisting the elderly and homebound during COVID-19 lockdown.

Co-President (Economics Department), *Graduate Studies Student Association* 2019 – Present

- Represented the department, its needs and funding matters at the student government.
- Supported the treasurer to make budgetary decision for all graduate students' activity funds.

Volunteer, *Audubon Nature Institute* 2018 – Present

Volunteer, *English as a Second Language Instructor* 2018 – Present

Founding President, *Indian Subcontinent Graduate Student Association, Tulane University* 2018-2019

- Collaborated with various university departments like Transportation, Dining, International Students' Office, Graduate Student Bodies, etc. to discuss students' needs.
- Organized diversity events such as Indian Subcontinent New Year and screening regional language films.
- Media coverage of the organization by Tulane News on International Women's Day.

Member, *Vegan/Vegetarian Advisory Board, Tulane University* 2018-Present

- Educating the concept of Asian vegetarianism, Kosher, Halal and other food restrictions due to religious beliefs inclusive meals.
- Advising on bringing vegan/vegetarian desserts on campus.

Member, *Campus Advisory Board, Tulane University* 2017-Present

- Representing the needs of graduate students, focusing on International graduates.
- Highlighting the lack in accessibility of various campus services to graduate students and discussing solutions to incorporate more graduate students.

Residence Secretary, *Gokhale Institute of Public Policy and Economics, India* 2011-2013

- Served on the Student Council Body.
- Discussed student needs and requirements with Institute Director, Registrar, and other authorities.

Languages

English, Hindi, Bengali

Memberships

American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Econometric Society.

References

Dr. Steven Sheffrin

Professor of Economics
Director of the Murphy Institute of Political Economy
Tulane University

Dr. Jonathon Pritchett

Professor
Department of Economics
Tulane University

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Dr. Wei Long

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Teaching Reference

Dr. LaPorchia Collins
Professor of Practice
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Abstracts (Working papers)

Effect of Parental Employment Status on Child Care, (Job Market Paper)

Parents spend a significant amount of time and income on raising children. Existing literature shows that parental unemployment has detrimental long-term effects on child development. My study focuses on the short-term impact of unemployed parents in their time investment. Using an instrumental variable approach and the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), I study if individuals who were laid-off or have been unemployed reallocate the time that was spent at work by spending more time with their children. I find that when unemployed, parents spend more time with their children than looking for new employment opportunities in the short run. The short-run effects of unemployment are opposite of long-run effects and favorable for children. This behavior is consistent among all races and sexes.

Does the Daylight Savings Time Causes People to Change More than their Clock?

Daylight-Saving Time (DST) has a long and controversial history, regarding both its implementation and main intent. This paper attempts to take advantage of the natural experiment created by DST twice a year to study how individuals are affected by an arbitrary change in clock. I compare two states - Arizona which never had DST, and New Mexico which always had DST using a difference-in-differences estimation method. Both states are geographically and climatically similar making them suitable for comparison. Main findings - first, New Mexicans reduce sedentary activities, such as sleeping and relaxing, during spring and increase in fall. Second, New Mexicans claim to experience high stress after the spring DST implementation. Third, the effect of DST fades out in subsequent weeks. I conclude that clock change twice a year seriously impacts those who are impacted by it when compared to similar counterparts living in the same geographical latitude.

The Highs and Lows of Medical Marijuana Legalization

This paper estimates the impact of legalizing medical marijuana on the consumption of marijuana, alcohol and criminal behavior using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). We apply a difference-in-differences approach to study the effect of medical marijuana legalization on individual-level consumption of substances and other criminal behaviors. We incorporate the state-level institutional variation in medical marijuana laws in our analyses. We test the impact of this variation on individual-level behaviors using self-reported data. Results show that there is a slight increase in marijuana and alcohol consumption but no change in criminal behavior. The magnitude of increase is very small indicating that this policy has negligible negative impact on society.