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Personal Information: U.S. Citizen

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Mathematical Economic Analysis, Rice University, *cum laude*, 2006

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2010 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy

Thesis Title: "Essays in Economic Development and Political Economy"

Expected Completion Date: May 2016

M.Sc., International Political Economy, London School of Economics, 2007

References:

Professor Rohini Pande (Chair)
Harvard Kennedy School
617-384-5267, Rohini_Pande@harvard.edu

Professor Alberto Alesina
Harvard Department of Economics
617-495-8388, aalesina@harvard.edu

Professor Rema Hanna
Harvard Kennedy School
617-496-1140, Rema_Hanna@hks.harvard.edu

Professor Andrei Shleifer
Harvard Department of Economics
617-495-5046, ashleifer@harvard.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Development Economics, Political Economy

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2013, PED-102: Economic Development, Harvard Kennedy School, Teaching Fellow
2014, 2015 for Professors Rohini Pande, Asim Khwaja, Dani Rodrik (2013), and Lant Pritchett (2014 and 2015)

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2012	World Bank – Indonesia Social Development Team, Short Term Consultant
2007-2010	Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT Department of Economics, Research Associate for Professor Benjamin Olken
2007-2010	World Bank – Indonesia Sustainable Development Team, Short Term Consultant
2004	Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, Summer Research Assistant

Research Funding:

2015	J-PAL Governance Initiative \$48,505 (with Siddharth George and Sarika Gupta) Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard University \$10,683 Pershing Square Venture Fund, Foundations of Human Behavior Initiative, Harvard University \$5,000 Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University \$3,000
2014	J-PAL Governance Initiative \$49,934
2013	South Asia Institute, Harvard University \$1,500
2012	Weiss Family Fund for Research in Development Economics \$10,225

Professional Activities:

Presentations:	Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) 2013, 2015 Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) 2014
Referee:	<i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2015-2016	Perini and Cunningham Dissertation Fellowship for International Development, Harvard University
2013-2014	Doctoral Research Fellowship in Sustainability Science, Harvard Kennedy School
2011	Cultural Bridge Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School
2010-2013	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2006	Rimlinger Prize – Best Senior Independent Research in Economics, Rice University

Publications:

“Can Electronic Procurement Improve Infrastructure Provision? Evidence from Public Works in India and Indonesia” (with Sean Lewis-Faupel, Benjamin Olken, and Rohini Pande), July 2015.
Accepted at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Abstract: This paper examines whether electronic procurement (e-procurement), which increases access to information and reduces personal interactions with potentially corrupt officials, improves procurement outcomes. We develop unique datasets from India and Indonesia and use variation in adoption of e-procurement within both countries. We find no evidence of reduced prices but do find that e-procurement leads to quality improvements. In India, where we observe quality directly, e-procurement improves road quality, and in Indonesia, e-procurement reduces delays. Regions with e-procurement are more likely to have winners come from outside the region. On net, the results suggest that e-procurement facilitates entry from higher quality contractors.

Research Papers:

“Enfranchising Your Own? Experimental Evidence on Polling Officer Identity and Electoral Outcomes in India”
[Job Market Paper]

Abstract: The spread of democracy in the developing world has been accompanied by concerns regarding the integrity of election management. This paper estimates the effects of ethnic diversity, or lack thereof, among polling station officials on voting outcomes. I exploit a natural experiment in the 2014 parliamentary elections in India, where the government mandated the random assignment of state employees to the teams that managed polling stations on election day. I find that the presence of officers of minority religious or caste identity within teams led to an average shift in vote share margin of 2.3 percentage points toward the political parties traditionally associated with these groups. Significant spillover effects also occurred across polling stations, and the magnitude of the combined direct and indirect effects is large enough to be relevant to election outcomes. Using survey experiments conducted with more than 5,000 registered voters and election officials, I provide evidence of own-group favoritism in polling personnel and identify the process of voter identity verification as an important channel through which voting outcomes are impacted.

Working Papers:

“Transparency and Accountability: Open Meetings Statutes in U.S. State Legislatures”

Abstract: This paper studies the effects of increased transparency of representative actions in the legislative setting. I exploit variation in the timing of enactment across U.S. states of open meetings laws which guarantee public access to state legislative sessions to consider impacts on: bill introduction and enactment, state government expenditure, and candidate and voter behavior in state elections. As recent work by Campante and Do (2014) shows that isolated capital cities in U.S. states are strongly associated with reduced accountability and higher corruption, I also examine heterogeneity in impacts by the spatial distribution of population relative to the state capital. In states with more isolated legislatures, the adoption of open meetings significantly reduces the percentage of bills passed per session, while the level and share of direct state government expenditure on public goods increase. In less isolated legislatures, open meetings reduce the likelihood that challengers stand in elections and increase incumbent vote shares.

Research in Progress:

“Texting Bad Politicians Out of Office” (with Siddharth George and Sarika Gupta)

“Land Reform, Deforestation, and Political Engagement: Evidence from the Forest Rights Act in India”