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Undergraduate Studies:

A.B., Brown University, Economics (with honors), 2009

Graduate Studies:

Harvard University, 2010-2015
Ph.D. in Business Economics
Thesis Title: "On the Demand for Human Capital in India"

References:

Professor Michael Kremer
Littauer Center M-20
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Professor Edward Glaeser
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Associate Professor Nava Ashraf
32L, Department of Economics, LSE
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Current Appointment:

Postdoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, 2015-present

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics
Secondary fields: Public Economics, Health Economics, Urban Economics

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2013 EC 970, Harvard, "The Economics of Health and Education"
Fall, 2015 ECON 1315, Brown, "Health, Education, and Social Policy"

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2009-2010 Becker Center, University of Chicago, Research Professional

Professional Activities:

Referee for: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, World Bank Economic Review*

Program Committee for: NEUDC, 2015

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2015-2016	Watson Postdoctoral Fellowship in Public Policy
2013-2015	Bradley Foundation Fellowship

Publications:

“Do IT Service Centers Promote School Enrollment? Evidence from India”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 104: p. 123-135 (September, 2013). (with Emily Oster)

Job Market Papers:

“Drought of Opportunities: Contemporaneous and Long-Term Impacts of Rainfall Shocks on Human Capital”, *Journal of Political Economy*, forthcoming (with Manisha Shah)

Higher wages are generally thought to increase human capital production, particularly in the developing world. We introduce a simple model of human capital production in which investments and time allocation differ by age. Using data on test scores and schooling from rural India, we show that higher wages increase human capital investment in early life (in utero to age 2) but decrease human capital from ages 5-16. Positive rainfall shocks increase wages by 2% and decrease math test scores by 2-5% of a standard deviation, school attendance by 2 percentage points, and the probability that a child is enrolled in school by 1 percentage point. These results are long-lasting; adults complete 0.2 fewer total years of schooling for each year of exposure to a positive rainfall shock from ages 11-13. We show that children are switching out of school enrollment into productive work when rainfall is higher. These results suggest that the opportunity cost of schooling, even for fairly young children, is an important factor in determining overall human capital investment.

“Workfare and Human Capital Investment: Evidence from India” (with Manisha Shah)

We examine the effect of India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), one of the largest workfare programs in the world, on human capital investment. Since NREGS increases labor demand, it could increase the opportunity cost of schooling, lowering human capital investment even as incomes increase. We exploit the staged rollout of the program across districts for causal identification. Using a household survey of test scores and schooling outcomes for approximately 2.5 million rural children in India, we show that each year of exposure to NREGS decreases school enrollment by 2 percentage points and math scores by 2% of a standard deviation amongst children ages 13-16. In addition, we show that while the impacts of NREGS on human capital are similar for boys and girls, adolescent boys are primarily substituting into market work when they leave school while adolescent girls are substituting into unpaid domestic work. We find mixed results for younger children. We conclude that anti-poverty programs which raise wages could have the unintended effect of lowering human capital investment.

Other Working Papers:

“Water, Health, and Wealth” (with Nava Ashraf, Edward Glaeser, and Abraham Holland)

This paper estimates the impact of water supply disruptions on disease and economic activity in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. We link supply-related complaints to the Lusaka water company, which are common, with data on disease in related clinics. We find that in months when there are more, and more severe, breaks, the number of diarrhea-related cases increases. More surprisingly, we also find a modest increase in respiratory diseases and pneumonia, perhaps because of decreased hygiene, and a small, but statistically significant, increase in infant mortality. We also link water supply complaints to economic transactions that occur through Zoono, the dominant provider of phone-based banking in Lusaka, which is a primary financial tool for the poor. We find that there are fewer Zoono transfers in weeks with more complaints, suggesting that water breaks reduce economic activity. It is unclear whether this reduction in economic activity is driven by illness, or increased time spent finding alternative sources of water.

Works in Progress:

“Brains, Brawn, and Investment in Schooling” (with Martin Rotemberg)