Sixth International conference on South Asian Economic Development
(Online)
February 25-27, 2021
Every day the conference shall be held online between 8:15 am IST to 2:00 pm IST (2:30 pm IST on the last day). There is a masterclass presentation, invited talk and four parallel technical sessions on each day, the details of which are given below.

Day 1 (25 February 2021) 8:15 am to 2:00 pm IST
Theme for masterclass and invited talk: Economic Theory

Conference Inaugural: 8:15 am to 8:30 am IST

Masterclass with Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar (Jawaharlal Nehru University) (including live interaction): 8:30 am to 10:30 am IST
Topic: Some Aspects of Auction Theory

Technical Sessions* (4 parallel sessions two hours each with four papers in each session; each paper is for 30 minutes): 10:45 am to 12:45 pm IST
*Paper presenter names are in italics in the technical sessions

Session 1 Economic Impact of COVID-19: Assessing Effects on the South Asian Region (Acronym: COVID SPECIAL)
Chair: Namrata Gulati, South Asian University, New Delhi

What Causes Spread of COVID-19 across-Countries, Regional Groupings and across Indian States and Districts: An Econometric and Deep Learning Investigations
Somesh K Mathur, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Discussant: Arup Mitra, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Birds of a feather flock together? Diversity and spread of COVID-19 cases in India
Udayan Rathore, Oxford Policy Management, New Delhi
Upasak Das, University of Manchester, UK
Prasenjit Sarkhel, University of Kalyani, West Bengal
Discussant: Zakir Husain, Presidency University, Kolkata

COVID-19 and the Macrodynamics of Economic Policy
C. Saratchand, Satyawati College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Discussant: Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, Ambedkar University, Delhi

Lockdowns, migrants and the spatial distribution of COVID-19 cases in India: Consequences of a "tough and timely decision"

Richa Kothari, Presidency University, West Bengal
Zakir Husain, Presidency University, West Bengal

Discussant: Prachi Singh, Ashoka University, Haryana

Session 2(1) Recent Challenges to Economic Development in the South Asian Region
(Acronym: CHALLENGES)

Chair: Binoy Goswami, South Asian University, New Delhi

Migration decision-making in Agent-based model approach: A review and conceptual model formulation for Bangladeshi migrants using Random Classifier

Somosree Roy, Standard Chartered Bank, India
Sayan Mukherjee, Evaluserve, India

Discussant: Rudrani Bhattacharya, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

Precarity and Exclusion: Informality and Pandemic’s Urban Challenge

Pallavi Choudhuri, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi
Santanu Pramanik, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi
Sonalde Desai, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, USA

Discussant: Arup Mitra, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Urbanization and Exclusion: A Study on Indian Slums

Somenath Ghosh, Lutheran World Services (India), Kolkata
Saumya Chakrabarti, Visva-Bharati (University), Santiniketan, West Bengal

Discussant: Surbhi Kesar, Azim Premji University, Karnataka

Adoption of Arsenic-safe Water Sources in an Arsenic Affected Area

Sanjana Chakraborty, Jadavpur University, West Bengal
Vivekananda Mukherjee, Jadavpur University, West Bengal

Discussant: Chandan Jain, Evaluation Specialist, 3ie

Session 3(1) Macroeconomic Issues in the South Asian Region
(Acronym: MACRO)

Chair: Soumya Datta, South Asian University, New Delhi

A Simple Macro-model of COVID-19 with Special Reference to India

Pintu Parui, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Discussant: Anuradha Saha, Ashoka University, Haryana

Aggregate and Sectoral Productivity Growth in the Indian Economy: Analysis and Determinants

Niti Khandelwal Garg, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Delhi
State heterogeneity in 'Pro-poorness' of growth in India
Amartya Paul, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
Srikanta Kundu, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
Discussant: TM Vasuprada, The Economic & Political Weekly, Mumbai

What Drives Indian Inflation? Demand or Supply
Abhishek Kumar, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
Ashima Goyal, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
Discussant: Anuradha Saha, Ashoka University, Haryana

Unraveling of value-rankings in auctions with resale
Sanyyam Khurana, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi
Discussant: Krishnendu Ghosh Dastidar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Social Relations and R&D Networks in Oligopoly
Anurag Kakkar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Debabrata Pal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Discussant: Dhritiman Gupta, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana

Critical cognition costs and welfare
Priyanka Kothari, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana
Discussant: Soumendu Sarkar, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi

Doubt: Insights from a cross-cultural experiment
Subrato Banerjee, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai
Shilpi Mukherjee, Clemson University, USA
Discussant: Sujoy Chakravarty, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Invited Talk (including live interaction): 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm IST
Manaswini Bhalla (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore) on “Some Aspects of Herd Behaviour”

Day 2 (26 February 2021) 8:15 am to 2:00 pm IST
Theme for invited talk and masterclass: Examining the Toolbox in Economics

Introductory Session: 8:15 am to 8:30 am IST
Invited Talk (including live interaction): 8:30 am to 9:30 am IST
Timothy Young, University of Tennessee, USA on “Regression Trees: Theory and Some Applications”

Masterclass with Vikram Dayal (Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi) (including live interaction): 9:45 am to 11:45 am IST
Topic: Using R for Environmental Economics

Technical Sessions (4 parallel sessions two hours each with four papers in each session; each paper is for 30 minutes): 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm IST

Session 1(2) Special Lens on the Economics of Health
(Acronym: HEALTH)
Chair: Snehashish Bhattacharya, South Asian University, New Delhi
Private Sector Presence in India’s Healthcare: Econometric Analysis of Patterns and Consequences
Priyanka Yadav, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Amit S Ray, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Discussant: Amlan Das Gupta, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana
Linguistic identity and choice of contraception methods: The curious reliance of the Bengali speaking community on behavioural methods
Pallabi Das, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal
Zakir Husain, Presidency University, West Bengal
Inder S Yadav, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West Bengal
Discussant: Snehashish Bhattacharya, South Asian University, New Delhi
Impact of Social Health Insurance on Financial Burden of Households in India
Subhasree Sarkar, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Karnataka
Arnab Mukherji, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Karnataka
Discussant: Bipasha Maity, Ashoka University, Haryana
Timeliness, Mode-Shares and Services Exports: Potential for Health and Education Services
Srinka Bose, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
Discussant: Tirtha Chatterjee, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
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Session 2(2) Special Lens on the Economics of Gender
(Acronym: GENDER)
Chair: Ridhima Gupta, South Asian University, New Delhi
Gender and workplace interactions: who is likely to lose?
Swati Sharma, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
Discussant: Subrato Banerjee, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai
Intra-Household Conflict and Female Labour Force Participation
Naveen J Thomas, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana
Parikshit Ghosh, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi
Discussant: Dyotona Dasgupta, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana

'Missing’ Women in Economics Academia: Evidence from India
Ambrish Dongre, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Karan Singhal, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Upasak Das, University of Manchester, UK

Discussant: Renuka Sane, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

Don’t Cross the Line: Bounding the Causal Effect of Hypergamy Violation on Domestic Violence in India
Gaurav Dhamija, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Telangana
Punarjit Roychowdhury, The University of Nottingham, UK

Discussant: Naveen J Thomas, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana

Session 3(2) Special Lens on Institutional Issues
(Acronym: INSTITUTIONS)

Chair: Anirban Dasgupta, South Asian University, New Delhi

Impact of Financial Access on Gender Gap in Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion: Evidence from India
Sandhya Garg, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
Samarth Gupta, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

Discussant: Priyanka Kothari, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana

The Determinants of Public Goods Provision: An Empirical Evidence from the Major States of India
Enakshi Sinha Ray Chaudhury, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, Delhi

Discussant: Gogol Mitra Thakur, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar

Predictive Determinants of Enterprise Micro-Financing by Self Help Groups in India
Samarth Gupta, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi
Madhura Dasgupta, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

Discussant: Syed Ahsan, Concordia University, Canada

Bank Board Network and Financial Stability in Emerging Markets
Shreya Biswas, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, Hyderabad
Rajnish Kumar, Independent Researcher, India

Discussant: TM Vasuprada, The Economic & Political Weekly, Mumbai

Session 4(2) Special Lens on the Trade in South Asia
(Acronym: TRADE)

Chair: Debdatta Saha, South Asian University, New Delhi

The Impact of Non-Tariff Measures on Sri Lankan Tea Trade: A Bayesian Inference of the Gravity Model
Hansini Ranjan, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Gonawila (NWP) Sri Lanka
Jagath Edirisinghe, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Gonawila (NWP) Sri Lanka

Discussant: Khanindra C Das, Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida
Globalization and Export Concentration

Chowdhury Nawsheen Farooqui, North South University, Bangladesh
AFM Ataur Rahman, North South University, Bangladesh

Discussant: Syed Ahsan, Concordia University, Canada

Service Sector Growth in India—the link between productivity and exports

Asmita Goswami, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai
K Narayanan, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai

Discussant: Gogol Mitra Thakur, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar

FDI impact on wage inequality in developing economy: A theoretical analysis

Arpit Gupta, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi
AKS Chand, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

Discussant: Rudrani Bhattacharya, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (New Delhi)

Day 3 (27 February 2021) 8:15 am to 2:00 pm IST
Theme for masterclass session and invited talk: Empirical Applications in Economics

Introductory Session: 8:15 am to 8:30 am IST
Masterclass with Arup Mitra (Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi)
(including live interaction): 8:30 am to 10:30 am IST
Topic: Issues in urban development: Reflections from South Asia

Technical Sessions (4 parallel sessions two hours each with four papers in each session; each paper is for 30 minutes): 10:45 am to 12:45 am IST
Session 1(3) Special Lens on the Economics of Education in South Asia
(Acronym: EDUCATION)
Chair: Anirban Dasgupta, South Asian University, New Delhi

Learning Levels of Children from Short-Term Migrant Families: Evidence from Rural India
Leena Bhattacharya, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
Discussant: Arka Roy Chaudhuri, Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida

Does university entrance exam preparation program work? Evidence from an MP program in Afghanistan
Ahmad Shah Mobariz, University of Arkansas, USA
Arya Gaduh, University of Arkansas, USA
Discussant: Anirban Dasgupta, South Asian University, New Delhi

“Sought after” Jobs & OBCs in India: Did Reservation in Education Bring a Change?
Do Early Childhood Education and Care Provisions in India Provide Any Dividend to Children?

Saikat Ghosh, Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories, Germany

Discussant: Tirtha Chatterjee, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

Session 2(3) Topics on Environmental Economics and Disasters

(Acronym: ENVIRONMENT)

Chair: Ridhima Gupta, South Asian University, New Delhi

A Production Function Approach to Estimate Productivity Benefits of Sacred Groves: Evidence from Sacred Groves of Gujarat, India

Amit Pandey, TERI-School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi
Kavita Sardana, TERI-School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi
Saudamini Das, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Discussant: Vikram Dayal, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Adoption of Soil Conservation Measures: Evidence from Rain-Fed Watershed Areas of Telangana

Dayakar Peddi, Center for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad

Discussant: Kavita Sardana, TERI-School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi

Natural Disaster and the Economy: Evidence from Kerala Floods of 2018

Gogol Mitra Thakur, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar
Robert CM Beyer, World Bank
Abhinav Narayanan, Reserve Bank of India, India

Discussant: Gaurav Dhamija, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Telangana

Free Power, Irrigation and Groundwater Depletion: Impact of the Farm Electricity Policy of Punjab, India

Disha Gupta, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi

Discussant: Vikram Dayal, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Session 3(3) Current Issues in Agriculture and Labor Markets in South Asia

(Acronym: LABOR & AGRICULTURE)

Chair: Binoy Goswami, South Asian University, New Delhi

COVID-19 lockdown & maize farmers in Nepal: Impact on extension, agriculture production, and incomes

Smriti Saini, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi
Prapti Barooah, CGIAR
Muzna Alvi, CGIAR
Avinash Kishore, CGIAR
Simrin Makhija, CGIAR  
**Discussant: Binoy Goswami, South Asian University, New Delhi**

COVID-19 Crisis and Some Contours of the Rural Labour Market in India  
*Shantanu De Roy, TERI - School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi*

Mampi Bose, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India  
**Discussant: Smriti Saini, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi**

Words Matter: Gender, Jobs and Applicant Behavior in India  
*Sugat Chaturvedi, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi*

Kanika Mahajan, Ashoka University, Haryana  
Zahra Siddique, University of Bristol, UK  
**Discussant: Shilpi Mukherjee, Clemson University, USA**

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Are India’s farm debt waivers a political tool that impacts government finances?  
*Sowmya Dhanaraj, Madras School of Economics, India*

Vidya Mahambare, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai  
Pragati Mittal, Madras School of Economics, India  
**Discussant: Arka Roy Chaudhuri, Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida**

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**Session 4(3) Issues in Economic Policy**  
(Acronym: POLICY)

Chair: Soumya Datta, South Asian University, New Delhi

Implications of Banking Regulations on Online Payment Failures  
*Aditi, Gargi College, University of Delhi, New Delhi*

Ganesh Manjhi, Gargi College, University of Delhi, New Delhi  
Gaurav Bhattacharya, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi  
**Discussant: Soumendu Sarkar, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi**

Improving last mile efficiency in welfare programs: Experimental evidence from an information dissemination intervention  
*Amartya Paul, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram*

Upasak Das, University of Manchester, UK  
Mohit Sharma, Collaborative Research and Dissemination, New Delhi  
**Discussant: Niti Khandelwal Garg, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Delhi**

Monetary Policy and Bank Risk-taking in India  
*Silu Muduli, Reserve Bank of India, India*

**Discussant: Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, Ambedkar University, Delhi**

Duration of exposure to inheritance law in India: Examining the heterogeneous effects on empowerment  
*Shreya Biswas, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani, Hyderabad*
Invited Talk (including live interaction): 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm IST
Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay (Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi) on “Educated Leaders through Legislation, But at what Cost?”

Concluding Remarks: 2:15 pm to 2:30 pm IST