



**South Asian University
Faculty of Economics**

**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, Evalueserve, 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

Pami Dua, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi

Discussant: Sargam Gupta, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai

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

Session 4(1) Special Issues in Microeconomics

(Acronym: MICRO)

Chair: Debdatta Saha, South Asian University, New Delhi

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

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?

Tirtha Chatterjee, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
Thiagu Ranganathan, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram
Discussant: Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi

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

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

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

Upasak Das, University of Manchester, UK

Prasenjit Sarkhel, University of Kalyani, West Bengal

Discussant: Aditi Chaubal, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai

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
