

Aman Desai

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EDUCATION

Expected 2025	PhD in Economics, CUNY Graduate Center
2018	MS in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, SUNY at Buffalo
2015	Diploma for Graduates in Economics, University of London International Programmes
2014	BTech in Civil Engineering, Gujarat Technological University

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Applied Micro-econometrics, Machine Learning in Social Science

JOB MARKET PAPER

Measuring Income Inequality of Opportunity: Accounting for Dynamic Complementarity

Abstract : According to the egalitarian principle of justice, life success can be attributed to two main factors: circumstances beyond an individual's control and personal effort within an individual's control. Roemer's concept of equality of opportunity proposes that individuals should be compensated for inequalities resulting from unequal circumstances. Dynamic complementarity in skill formation suggests that early childhood skill gaps often persist in adulthood, leading to unequal outcomes. Using PSID data, I classify all measurable factors before the age of consent at 18 as circumstances. My findings show that just over 40% of inequality can be attributed to inequality of opportunity before an individual becomes an adult. Moreover, nearly one-third of total outcome inequality stems from circumstances faced by individual at or before age five. These results highlight the importance of considering childhood circumstances—factors beyond individual control—when measuring inequality of opportunity rigorously.

WORKING PAPERS

Impact of COVID-19 on Student Performance: Using Exam Level Data from a Public College in NYC, with Theodore Joyce

Abstract : We analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on undergraduates' performance in an introductory economics course at a large public university. One challenge in analyzing student academic outcomes during the pandemic was the explicit change in grading policies by college administrators as well as the implicit adjustment by faculty designed to mitigate the impact of an abrupt shift to online learning amidst the stress and uncertainty associated with the pandemic. To limit the impact of grading policies we analyze changes in the raw scores on a common final administered to all sections of the course the year before and for four semesters after the spring of 2020. To limit variation in the difficulty of the exams from before to during the pandemic, we compare student performance on nearly identical questions on the final exam overtime. Adjusted mean scores on the common final fell by 0.6 points and the probability of answering the qualitatively same question on the final fell, on average, by 5.7 percentage points. Students with lower GPAs were 4.3 percentage points less likely to answer similar questions correctly relative to students with higher GPAs during the pandemic.

Measuring the Educational Inequality of Opportunity using Early Childhood Circumstances (work in progress)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023-2024	Junior Scholar Award, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, NYC, New York
2022	Open Pedagogy Fellowship, Mina Rees Library, CUNY Graduate Center
2018-2023	Graduate Center Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center

SEMINARS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024 Stone Center Multidisciplinary Seminar Series, NYC, New York
2024 PSID Annual User Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan
2024 Dissertation Seminar in Economics, CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, New York
2023 Dissertation Seminar in Economics, CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, New York

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Lecturer

2022-present ECO 4000 Statistical Analysis for Economics and Finance, Baruch College
2021-present ECO 1002 Macroeconomics, Baruch College
2019-2022 ECO 1001 Current Economic Problems, Baruch College
2019-2020 BUSN 3400 Introduction to Economics and Business Statistics, Brooklyn College

Teaching Assistant

2019-2022 ECO 4100 Applied Micro-Econometrics, Dr. Theodore Joyce, Baruch College
2017 ECO 407 Macroeconomic Theory, Dr. James Holmes, SUNY at Buffalo

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023 Research Assistant to Dr. Theodore Joyce, Research Foundation, CUNY
2022 Research Assistant to Dr. Rafia Zafar, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
2019-2022 Research Assistant to Dr. Miles Corak, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality

WORKSHOPS

2024 Inequality by Numbers, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
2023 Machine Learning and Heterogeneous Effects, by Brigham Frandsen (online)
2023 Machine Learning and Causal Inference, by Brigham Frandsen (online)
2022 Causal Inference Mixtape II, by Scott Cunningham (online)
2022 Causal Inference Mixtape I, by Scott Cunningham (online)
2022 PSID Data User Workshop, Ann Arbor, Michigan

SOFTWARE SKILLS

R, Stata, Python, MS-Excel, Latex

LANGUAGES

English (proficient), Hindi (fluent), Gujarati (native)

REFERENCES

Dr. Miles Corak (Advisor)
Professor of Economics
PhD Program in Economics
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Dr. Theodore Joyce
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