

Mansi Sharma, Ph.D.

Contact Information

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Education

Stony Brook University , USA, Ph.D. in Economics (STEM)	<i>Dec 2024</i>
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research , India, Master of Philosophy in Development Studies	<i>Jul 2019</i>
Madras School of Economics , India, Master's in Economics	<i>May 2017</i>
University of Delhi , India, Bachelor's in Mathematics (Honors)	<i>May 2015</i>

Fields of Interest

Development Economics, Gender Economics, Labor Economics, Demography

References

Prof. Steven Stern (Chair)

Department of Economics
Stony Brook University
steven.stern@stonybrook.edu

Prof. Mark Montgomery

Department of Economics
Stony Brook University
mark.montgomery@stonybrook.edu

Assoc. Prof. Hugo Benitez-Silva

Department of Economics
Stony Brook University
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Working Papers

- Intergenerational Transmission of Attitudes: Views of Spousal Abuse Among Adolescent Children in India (*JMP*)
- Attitudes of Indian Women toward Spousal Abuse
- Generalized Weibull Distributions (*with Prof. Steven Stern, under review at Journal of Applied Econometrics*)
- Simultaneous Hazard Rate Estimation of First Incident of Spousal Abuse and First Birth (*with Steven Stern, under review at International Economic Review*)

Work in Progress

- Matching on Violence (*with Zhuotong Xie*)
- Extreme-Event Threats to Rural Assets: Data from India's PGMSY Road-Assessment Program (*with Prof. Mark Montgomery*)
- Empowerment Reduces Fertility: The Impact of Women's Empowerment on Childbearing in India
- Unintended Consequences of Property Rights in India

Work Experience

Instructor, Stony Brook University, USA

Economic Development (Spring 2024), Mathematical Statistics (Spring 2023), Labor Theory (Summer 2022)

- Designed and developed syllabus according to the university guidelines
- Monitored students' progress throughout the course to ensure their growth
- Held weekly office hours to mentor and guide students regarding coursework and potential career paths
- Taught statistical models to 200+ students, improving their analytical skills with real-world datasets while strengthening my communication and leadership abilities

Teaching Assistant, Stony Brook University, USA

Health Economics (Fall 2024, 2022), Economics of Environment and Natural Resources (Fall 2024), Mathematical Statistics (Fall 2023), Introduction to Economics (Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019), Economic Development (Fall 2021)

- Conducted weekly recitations and graded assignments
- Led a team of 5+ teaching assistants, overseeing the handling of 500+ students' queries by developing efficient support processes

Statistical Intern, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), India

Summer 2016

- Conducted financial viability analysis of Indian crop cultivation to inform policy recommendations

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

- **Recognized by the *Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching*** for significantly impacting students' learning
Stony Brook University, USA
- **Full Scholarship for Graduate Studies**
Stony Brook University, USA
- **Master of Philosophy Fellowship**
Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, India
- **Qualified National Eligibility Test (NET), UGC India**
Certification for eligibility as Assistant Professor and Research Fellow in Indian universities

Professional Membership

Royal Economic Society

Skills

Programming: Python, R, SQL, Stata, MATLAB, Database Systems

Languages: English, Hindi (native), Punjabi (native), Spanish (beginner-level)

Certifications

- Python Data Analytics by Meta
- Financial Markets by Yale University
- Machine Learning with Python: Foundations by LinkedIn
- Intermediate SQL for Data Scientists by LinkedIn
- Practical A/B Testing by LinkedIn

Volunteering

- Participated in organizing International Conference on Game Theory, Stony Brook University *Jul 2022*
- Participated in organizing and managing a marathon aimed at raising awareness about childhood cancer *Oct 2016*
- Rotaract Club, Active Member *Dec 2012 – Dec 2015*
 - Organized Blood Donation Camps, Slum Visits, Tree Plantation Drives, and Polio Vaccination Camps

Intergenerational Transmission of Attitudes: Views of Spousal Abuse Among Adolescent Children in India

In this paper, I examine how parental attitudes toward spousal abuse in India are transmitted to their children. I simultaneously estimate the factors affecting the attitudes of mothers, fathers, and children while examining the intergenerational transmission of these attitudes. The approach is based on a discrete choice model with correlated unobservable factors, estimated using the Maximum Simulated Likelihood method. Using nationally representative survey data, I find that mothers have a stronger influence than fathers in shaping their daughters' attitudes toward spousal abuse, while fathers have a stronger influence on shaping their sons' attitudes. To provide evidence on whether this correlation is causal, I use parents' education, family background, and contextual variables from data collected in 2005 as instruments. Finally, based on the transition probabilities and the current distribution of acceptance toward spousal abuse, I calculate generational transfers to predict how future generations may behave. The findings suggest that future generations are less likely to justify spousal abuse, indicating a potential slow shift in societal attitudes over time.

Attitudes of Indian Women toward Spousal Abuse

In this paper, I examine the factors that influence Indian women's attitudes toward spousal abuse using a multivariate probit model. I find that a woman who is physically hurt by her parents is more likely to justify spousal abuse, suggesting a normalization of violence rooted in natal family experiences. The results also indicate significant regional variations; women from South India tend to justify spousal abuse more than their counterparts in North and Central India, potentially due to a greater likelihood of experiencing or witnessing abuse in their natal family. These findings underscore the interaction between familial, educational, and regional factors in shaping attitudes of women toward spousal abuse.

– Accepted for presentation at *96th International Atlantic Economic Conference*, *Midwest Economics Association*, and *Lisbon Economics and Statistics of Education*

Generalized Weibull Distributions (with Prof. Steven Stern, under review at *Journal of Applied Econometrics*)

We develop a new polynomial series generalization of the Weibull estimator using polynomials in $\log t$ in a Cox proportional hazards baseline hazard. We also show that we can allow the baseline hazard to depend on an observed explanatory variable. We provide two examples of how it can work: US life tables, first marriage and first birth in India. In the case of India, we observed the relationship between observed heterogeneity and duration dependence bias.

Simultaneous Hazard Rate Estimation of First Incident of Spousal Abuse and First Birth (with Prof. Steven Stern, under review at *International Economic Review*)

In this paper, we examine the relationship between the first incident of spousal abuse and the first birth using data from the National Family Health Survey. We jointly estimate Cox proportional hazard rates for both events while accounting for unobserved individual characteristics that may influence the likelihood of both events. Our findings reveal a significant but very small effect of abuse on the timing of birth. Conversely, having a child delays the onset of abuse, suggesting the husband's satisfaction within the marriage. Our findings confirm the absence of unobserved heterogeneity (selection effect) while supporting the presence of state dependence. We also find that, at any point during marriage, the risk of experiencing birth is higher than the risk of experiencing abuse; however, both processes exhibit negative duration dependence.

Matching on Violence (with Zhuotong Xie)

We examine whether a woman from a violent family is more likely to match with a man from a violent family in India. In the context of this research, a 'violent family' is defined as one where a woman's or a man's father has perpetrated violence against the mother. In India, families arrange marriages, and a woman's family may choose a spouse from a family with traits similar to her natal family. If people are assortative mating on violence, there will be intergenerational transmission of violence. We use a two-sided multi-dimensional matching model of the Indian marriage market to estimate the marriage preferences on violence structurally. Our analysis also considers other important factors of marital sorting, such as education, height, and age. This is important to study as we find that if two individuals from violent families are matched, a woman is more likely to experience abuse in her marriage compared to if none of them is from a violent family or one of them is from a violent family.

Extreme-Event Threats to Rural Assets: Data from India's PGMSY Road Assessment Program (with Prof. Mark Montgomery)

In this paper, we identify types of rural economic assets, including warehouses, banks, hospitals, health centers, petrol pumps, and farmhouses, that are potentially vulnerable to floods, landslides, heat waves, and droughts. We use a national 2018–20 road-surveying exercise, which collected information and GIS coordinates on approximately 800,000 rural sites and assets. Note that the surveyors who collected information on these rural facilities did not follow a standardized method for defining facilities. Some terms were recorded in regional languages or Hindi instead of English, and there were frequent spelling errors. For example, "bank" appeared as "benk," "banck," or "bannk." To address this, we categorized the terms into various groups using regular-expression (regex) methods.