

MOUMITA DAS

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INTERESTS Development economics (labor, climate & environment, trade)

EDUCATION **University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)** Santa Cruz, CA
PhD in Economics 2026 (expected)
Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, India
MS in Quantitative Economics 2017
St. Xavier's College Kolkata, India
BS in Economics, minor in Mathematics 2015

REFERENCES **Professor Ajay Shenoy**
Dept. of Economics, UC Santa Cruz
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Professor Alan Spearot
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Professor Gueyon Kim
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WORKING PAPERS **Adaptation in Motion: Temporary Migration under Heat Stress**
with Anirban Sanyal (**Job Market Paper**) [[Link to paper](#)]
Abstract: The impact of climate-induced temporary migration remains largely unexplored. Yet, this flow is widespread in developing countries and also responds to warming. The distinction from permanent migration is critical: because temporary migrants are often under-counted and unaccounted for in local administrative planning, they generate a distinct externality through the systematic under-provisioning of public services. Using a large-scale panel survey in India, we find that a one-degree rise in mean daily temperature increases temporary out-migration rates by 2%-6%. To investigate spatial spillovers under widespread climate change, we develop a model with both migration channels where temperature affects productivity and the under-provisioning of public services degrades local amenities for everyone. We use this framework to quantify the welfare costs of restricting each migration channel and compare different policy responses under climate change. Under the IPCC SSP 5-8.5 climate change scenario, restricting temporary migration generates welfare costs larger than restricting permanent migration, demonstrating that temporary flows are a critical but overlooked adaptation mechanism. Remedying the under-provisioning of services for temporary migrants delivers more than thrice the welfare gains than from cost-equivalent, place-based adaptation measures. These results have implications for the allocation of scarce climate adaptation funds in developing countries.

The Girl on the Train: Effects of metro transit system on women’s employment with Rolly Kapoor and Anirban Sanyal [[Link to paper](#)]

Abstract: Recent estimates on female workforce participation suggest that only 27 women for every 100 men work in India. Research suggests that restrictions on women’s physical mobility, associated with stigma and safety, can affect women’s decision to participate in the labor force and reduce access to a large proportion of jobs. This paper investigates the role public, urban rail transit-Delhi Metro Transit System, can play in improving employment outcomes for women in the developing world by alleviating some mobility concerns. Using the economic census of India from 1990-2013, we exploit spatial and temporal variation in access to Delhi Metro stations arising from the staggered opening of stations between 2002-2011. Our empirical approach uses difference-in-differences event study design and presents results using standard fully dynamic specification and a robust estimator developed by Sun and Abraham, 2020. We find that the establishments in treated towns and villages employ 10 to 12.2 percentage points higher number of paid female workers per paid male worker. The effect appears immediately after treatment but continues to be present after treatment. These preliminary results suggest that the Metro changed the composition of establishments within treated units towards more female-friendly establishments that hire a larger fraction of women.

WORKS IN
PROGRESS

Beyond Borders: Impacts of the Plastic Waste Trade in Indonesia with Monica Shandal
Weathering the Storm: Migration, Weather and Food Security Policy in India with Gargi Dangwal, Jimena Romero-Pinto
School Segregation and School Outcomes: Evidence from India with Shreya Dutt, Gagandeep Sachdeva and Kartik Srivastava

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

World Bank	Remote
Short-term Consultant (<i>part-time</i>)	Mar - Jun 2025
UC Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz, CA
Graduate Student Researcher (<i>part-time</i>)	Jun 2022 - Sep 2024
National Institute of Public Finance and Policy	New Delhi
Research Fellow	Mar 2019 – Jan 2020

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

UC Santa Cruz	2021 - 2025
Graduate Teaching Assistant (<i>part-time</i>)	
ECON 1: Introductory Microeconomics	5 Quarters
ECON 100A: Intermediate Microeconomics	1 Quarter
ECON 166A: Game Theory and Applications	2 Quarters
ECON 2: Introductory Macroeconomics	Summer 2021
ECON 104: The Role of Statistics in Economics	1 quarter

OTHER
WRITING

Equitable Access to AI for Climate Adaptation in vulnerable regions 2025
Phailanx Collective blog [[Link to post](#)]

WORK	Asian Development Bank	Manila
EXPERIENCE	Intern (Climate adaptation dept.; Southeast Asia dept.)	Jul - Sep 2025
	BlackRock	India
	Financial Modeling Analyst	Jul 2017 - Mar 2019
SKILLS	Tools/Software: R, Python, Stata, Matlab, SAS, SurveyCTO, SQL	
	Languages: English, Bengali, Hindi	
AWARDS	Southeast Asia Research Fund (New Zealand Asia Institute)	2024
	Dean's Travel for Research Grant (UC Santa Cruz)	2024
	Regent's Fellowship (UC Santa Cruz)	2020
	Indian Statistical Institute scholarship	2015-2017
SEMINARS	UK Network of Environmental Economists (UKNEE) webinar	(upcoming)
	AERE-OSWEET Webinar	May 2026
	Junior Migration Economists Webinar	Mar 2026
	PhD Workshop on Sustainable Development, Columbia University	Apr 2025
	Summer School on Economics of Migration, UC Davis	Sep 2024
SERVICE	Referee, Journal of International Money & Finance	2026
	Referee, Review of World Economics	2023
	Peer Mentor, Women in Economics and Policy, India	2023-2025
	Grad Mentor, UCSC Women in STEM and Engineering	2023
	Student Rep, Coordinated Community Review, (Title IX), UCSC	2021