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EDUCATION

Binghamton University, State University of New York

Expected *May 2024*

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Dissertation committee: Neha Khanna (chair), Sulagna Mookerjee, Ozlem Tonguc

Research interest: Applied Microeconomics, Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Behavioral Economics

University of the Philippines, Diliman

M.A. Economics

2017

B.S. Business Economics, *Cum Laude*

2013

International Honor Societies of Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Gamma Mu

RESEARCH

Working papers

Clearing the Air, Unequally: Disparities in the Long-term Air Quality Impacts of COVID-19 Lockdowns in the U.S., with Neha Khanna

In 2020, the U.S. experienced unintended, temporary air quality improvements due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Two years since, do we see lasting effects, especially for non-white neighborhoods? We answer this question using a two-stage difference-in-differences design, which accounts for the staggered implementation of lockdowns. We find that by 2022, although some improvements in air quality have reverted, as expected. What's unexpected is that there were places where air quality improvements persisted even without the lockdowns. However, this long-term effect was not the same everywhere – we find evidence of higher PM2.5 and AOD exposure for the non-white relative to white communities. While pollution increased in high traffic density and urban areas, there were no discernible differences in outcomes for minority tracts. The only exception was minority tracts near industrial pollution sources, where PM2.5 exposure levels rose. To advance environmental justice initiatives effectively, we must understand the evolving dynamics of air quality disparities and prioritize targeted interventions that address the unique challenges faced by these communities.

Does making education more accessible also benefit girls in dowry systems? Evidence from Pakistan

In some regions of South Asia, girls may face educational disadvantages due to traditional norms surrounding dowries. These dowries can be large payments made by the bride's family to the groom's family, and may make investing in girls' education less attractive. However, I find that providing free primary education to girls from different ethnic groups with varying traditional marriage practices had different effects. Girls from dowry systems were less likely to finish primary schooling, while girls from bride price systems gained more years of schooling and were more likely to complete primary schooling. This highlights the importance of considering cultural differences in policy interventions to promote educational attainment for all girls.

Works in progress

Adding Fuel to the Fires: Extreme Heat, Landfill Fires, and Lives in India

As global temperatures continue to rise, the frequency of fires is expected to increase, including landfill fires which are a common waste management solution in many developing nations. While the negative impacts of wildfires are well-known, the effects of landfill fires are less understood. These fires release toxic substances that can cause respiratory, cardiovascular, and neurological health problems. This study focuses on subsurface landfill fires in India, which are more dangerous as they smolder for extended periods and cause landfills to sink. Using a difference-in-differences design that incorporates satellite data, I define treatment and control groups based on wind direction and distance from the fire. Early findings indicate that landfill fires result in reduced work hours and negative long-term health outcomes. By highlighting the human capital costs of landfill fires, this study aims to increase awareness and encourage government action to address this important issue.

Lost Opportunities: How Large-Scale Land Acquisitions Affect Childrens Potentials in Cambodia, with Louisa Poco

Large-scale land acquisitions (LSLAs) in developing countries, notably Cambodia, aimed to boost agro-industrial growth and employment. However, they often result in adverse effects like displacement and reduced incomes. This study investigates the impact of LSLAs, particularly in rubber plantations, on the education of workers' children in Cambodia. Using a difference-in-differences approach with data from various sources, our research informs policymakers about LSLAs' educational consequences, aiding future agricultural investment decisions and highlighting the tradeoff in enhancing human capital.

POLICY BRIEFS

with Park, Cyn-Young. (2020). COVID-19 Is No Excuse to Regress on Gender Equality. *ADB Briefs*, No. 157. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

with Park, Cyn-Young (2020). COVID-19, Technology, and polarizing jobs. In Susantono, B., Sawada, Y., Park, C. Y. (Eds.). *Navigating COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific* (pp.21 - 31). Manila: Asian Development Bank.

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Binghamton 2 Degrees, Binghamton University, Data Analyst and Coordinator *July 2023 - Present*

Binghamton University, Department of Economics, Research Assistant for Professors Ozlem Tonguc, Andreas Pape, and Plamen Nikolov *Apr. - Aug. 2020*

Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Economics Research Associate to Cyn-Young Park, Director *May - Oct. 2020*
- Economics Research Associate to Aiko Kikkawa Takenaka, Economist

Feb - July 2018, May - Sept. 2019

- Research Assistant to Yi Jiang, Senior Economist *Mar - Aug. 2016*
- Statistician to Lakshman Nagraj Rao, Statistician *July - Nov. 2015*

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines

Technical/Executive Assistant IV to Secretary (Minister) Ernesto Pernia *2016 - 2018*

University of the Philippines, School of Economics and Philippine Center for Economic Development (PCED)

- Research Assistant for Prof. Aleli Kraft *June - July 2015*
- Research Assistant for Prof. Stella Quimbo *2014 - 2015*

TEACHING AND SERVICE WORK

Binghamton University

Instructor for Economics of Developing Countries (E314)	<i>Summer 2021, 2022, and 2023</i>
Co-instructor for Environmental Economics (E331) and Natural Resource Economics (E433)	<i>SP 2023</i>
Binghamton Social Sciences Experimental Lab coordinator	<i>FA 2021 - Present</i>
Graduate Teaching Assistant	<i>2018 - 2023</i>
Economics Graduate Student Organization, President	<i>FA 2019 - SP 2020</i>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 93rd Annual Meeting, November 18-21, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Conference, November 8-11, 2023, Atlanta, GA (Poster)
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) 2023 Summer Conference June 11-15, Annapolis, MD
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) 2023 Summer Conference, May 31 - June 2, Portland, ME (Poster)
Southern Economic Association 92nd Annual Meeting, November 19-21, 2022, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Agricultural Applied Economics Association (AAEA) 2022 Annual Meeting, July 31 - August 2, Anaheim, CA
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) 2022 Summer Conference, June 1-3, Miami, FL (Poster)
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA) 2021 Virtual Conference June 14-15, (Virtual)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Tuition scholarship and graduate assistantship, Binghamton University	<i>2018 - Present</i>
Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award	<i>2021, 2023</i>
Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) Professional Development Award	<i>2022, 2023</i>
Binghamton University Graduate School Travel Grant	<i>2022, 2023</i>
Agricultural Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Travel Grant	<i>2022</i>
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics Diversity Fellow	<i>2021</i>
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, Best Student Presentation	<i>2021</i>
Ellyn Uram Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls Fellow	<i>2021 - 2022</i>
Decision Sciences Collaborative Grant, The Ohio State University, with Jason Tayawa	<i>2021</i>
Best Paper, UP School of Economics Graduate Research Workshop	<i>2017</i>
Best Poster, 52nd Annual Philippine Economics Society Meeting	<i>2014</i>
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Grant Recipient	<i>2014</i>
Health Policy Development Program (HPDP) Fellow	<i>2013-2014</i>

CERTIFICATIONS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

World Bank DIME Course: Manage Successful Field Research	<i>2023</i>
Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) mentee	<i>2022-2023</i>
Empirical Study of Gender (EGEN) Pakistan Workshop, (Hybrid)	<i>2022</i>

Boston University Women in Economics Mentoring Workshop (Virtual)	2021
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics (Virtual)	2021
Visiting Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics, Chapman University (Virtual)	2021
Making Impact Evaluation Matter, ADB and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation	2014

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Poverty Awareness Coalition; Binghamton Food Rescue, Volunteer	2019; 2023-Present
Big Bear Women’s Ultimate Frisbee team, Binghamton University	2018 - Present
Ashoka Philippines; Venture Associate	2018
One for One, Inc.: House Rebuilding Project, Typhoon Haiyan; Incorporator	2013 - 2015
180 Degrees Consulting Philippines; Co-project Manager	2014 - 2015
Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, University of the Philippines; Student Vice President	2013 - 2015

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Data Analysis: Causal inference, big data, and remote sensing data
 Programming: Stata, R, ArcGIS, High-Performance Computing cluster (Linux), Qualtrics, L^AT_EX
 Languages: Filipino (Native), English (Fluent), French (A2)

REFERENCES

Neha Khanna

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 Department of Economics
 Binghamton University
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Cyn-Young Park

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 Regional Cooperation and Integration and Trade Division
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 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines
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