

Ajinkya Kesar

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Academic Positions

- Assistant Professor, Binghamton University (SUNY), Department of Economics (2023 –)
- Invited Researcher, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL South Asia) (2024 -)
- Post-Doctoral Fellow, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL South Asia) (2022 - 2023)

Research Interests

- Family Economics, Gender and Education

Education

- Ph.D. in Economics, Rice University (2016-2022)
- M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2014-2016)
- B.E. in Electronics and Communication (Distinction), PES University, India (2009-2013)

Publications

- “Dowries, resource allocation, and poverty”, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (with Rossella Calvi)
- “‘Til Dowry Do Us Part: Bargaining and Violence in Indian Families”, *Review of Economics and Statistics* (with Rossella Calvi)
- Economic Empowerment and Mental Health: Evidence from India, *Accepted at Economic Development and Cultural Change* (with Sulagna Mookerjee)

Working Papers

- Beyond a Free Lunch: Evaluating the Trade-Offs of an Out-of-School Nutrition Program on Adolescent Girls’ Human Capital (with Tanmay Devi, Dibya Mishra, and Ritika Sethi)
- Matching on Height in India

Work in Progress

- Using technology to deliver preschool services at scale: Experimental evidence from India (with Mauricio Romero, Abhijeet Singh, and Karthik Muralidharan) (*Status: Draft available upon request*)
- Gender Gap in Child Poverty: Evidence from India (with Jijeebisha Bhattacharai and Rossella Calvi) (*Status: Draft coming soon*)

- Role of Siblings in Marriage and Dowry Practices: Evidence from India (with Arigna Guha and Sulagna Mookerjee) (*Status: Draft coming soon*)
- Uncovering Misreporting in Marital Transfer Data (with Rossella Calvi) (*Status: Draft in-progress*)
- From Prohibition to Choice: The Impact of Abortion Legalization on Fertility and Child Investments in Nepal (with Jijeebisha Bhattarai) (*Status: Draft in-progress*)

Teaching Experience

- *Ph.D. Teaching:*
 - Economic Development Microeconomic Issues - Binghamton University
- *Undergraduate Teaching:*
 - Race and Gender in Economics (ECON 210) - Binghamton University
 - Microeconomics of Development (ECON 413) - Binghamton University
 - Economic Development - Rice University

Policy Writing

- “Til Dowry Do Us Part: Bargaining and Violence in the Indian Marriage Market” with Rossella Calvi
VoxDev (March 2021)
- “Downside of Dowry Crackdown — Women’s Decision-making Power Falls, Domestic Violence Goes Up” with Rossella Calvi
The Print (March 2021)
- “Dowries and women’s well-being post marriage” with Rossella Calvi
Ideas for India (April 2021)

Seminars, Conferences, and Workshops

- 2026: ASSA
- 2025: PacDev, MWIEDC, Lakes Development Economics Workshop, ASHEcon, CEA, SOLE, SREE
- 2024: Global Action for Policy Workshop (Northeastern University), ASHEcon, SEA, Dickinson College
- 2023: IIM Ahmedabad-RISE Research Conference on Education Economics, UCSD PIE Seminar Series, J-PAL Evaluating Social Programmes 2023
- 2022: Analysis Group, Binghamton University, Brattle Group, IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Kanpur, Stony Brook University, J-PAL Research Staff Training, J-PAL Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog
- 2021: European Society for Population Economics, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Australian Meeting of the Econometric Society, European Economic Association-Econometric Society Meeting, Globalization and Development Conference, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics, Society of Economics of the Household, Annual Meeting - Population Association of America (Poster Presentation), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, ACEGD ISI Delhi, Winter School 2021 Delhi School of Economics
- 2020: North East Development Consortium Conference at Dartmouth College, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting

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Journals: *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Economics Letters*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *PLOS One*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Journal of International Development*

Grants: *National Science Foundation*

Awards and Grants

- Binghamton University, Center for Learning and Teaching Grant (\$15,000) (with Solomon Polachek and Ozlem Tonguc)
- John R. Kelly Graduate Student Teaching Prize in Economics, Rice University
- Dagobert L. Brito Award for Best Performance by a Recitation Instructor in Economics, Rice University
- Master's Program's Best Research Paper Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Mentorship Programs

- 2021: Association for Mentorship and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) (*mentee*)
- 2024: Association for Mentorship and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) (*mentor*)

Advising

- Jijeebisha Bhattarai (*chair*)
- Anushka Mullick (*co-chair*)
- Arigna Guha (*co-chair*)
- Tingjie E, Li (*committee*)
- Zhihan Lin (*committee*)
- Min Sun Park (*committee*)

University Service

- Placement Director, Economics Department (2023 -)
- Recruitment Committee, Economics Department (2024 - 2025)