

Jijeebisha Bhattarai — PhD Candidate

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Education

Binghamton University

PhD, Economics

Binghamton, NY

2021-2026 (*Expected Graduation Date*)

Ramapo College of New Jersey

BS, Business Administration/Finance

Mahwah, NJ

2016–2020

Research and Teaching Interests:

Family Economics; Gender; Development; Labor Economics; Applied Microeconomics

Dissertation Committee: Ajinkya Keskar (chair), David Slichter, Sulagna Mookerjee

Research

Job Market Paper.....

- From Prohibition to Choice: The Impact of Abortion Legalization on Fertility and Child Investments in Nepal (PDF)

Abstract: We examine how Nepal's 2002 abortion legalization, one of the most restrictive laws before reform, influenced fertility and child investments. Using the quasi-random sex of the firstborn child as a source of variation, we find that legalization significantly reduced son-biased fertility stopping, narrowing the sibship-size gap between firstborn-girl and firstborn-boy families by nearly three-quarters. The gender gap in breastfeeding duration also declined, reflecting reduced reliance on breastfeeding as a fertility-spacing tool. Effects on vaccinations and child survival were limited, indicating that these inputs were less closely tied to fertility behavior. Overall, abortion access relaxed fertility constraints and improved gender equity in early-life investments, demonstrating how reproductive autonomy interacts with cultural preferences to shape family outcomes.

Working Paper.....

- Is the mortality gap between red and blue states caused by policy? *Under Review*

Abstract: Age-adjusted mortality rates are higher in “red” states, i.e., states with high support for the Republican Party. We ask whether this is due to state-level policies or simply due to confounding variables such as culture. Using a variety of empirical approaches, we find that the correlation between partisanship and mortality is nearly entirely due to confounding.

Works in progress.....

- Gender Gap in Child Poverty: Evidence from India (with Ajinkya Keskar)

Abstract: Identifying the share of household resources allocated to children is challenging because consumption data are typically measured at the household level, making it difficult to distinguish individual consumption, especially for shared goods. To address this, we leverage data on private

assignable goods available for each child, enabling us to analyze boys and girls as distinct entities and estimate individual-level poverty rates. Using data from India, we examine how resource allocation differs between boys and girls across families with varying poverty levels. Our findings reveal that standard poverty indices underestimate the true extent of poverty among girls.

Conference Acceptances and Presentations.....

- Southern Economic Association, 2025 (Scheduled)
- WeRise Conference, 2025
- Lake Economics Development Workshop, 2025
- Southern Economic Association, 2024

Conference Attendances.....

- Teaching at a Teaching Intensive Institution, 2024

Experience

Teaching Experience.....

Instructor

- The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, Summer 2025
- Statistical Methods, Summer 2024

Teaching Assistant

- Math Analysis for Economists, Fall 2025
- Information Economics, Fall 2025
- Microeconomics of Development, Spring 2025
- Data Analysis in Economics, Spring 2024, Fall 2024
- International Monetary Policy, Fall 2023
- Macroeconomic Theory, Spring 2023
- Microeconomic Theory, Fall 2022
- Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teacher Training

- Wicked Graduate Teaching Workshop, Fall 2024
- Scholarly Teaching, Fall 2023

Services

2022 – 2024: President of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

2022 – 2023: Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Binghamton University

Skills

Languages: Nepali (Native), English (Native/Bilingual), Hindi (Proficient)

Computer Skills: STATA(Advanced); R(Proficient); Python (Intermediate); SQL(Intermediate)

Last updated: *October 6, 2025.*