

# Jijeebisha Bhattarai — PhD Candidate

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Citizenship: Nepal

## Education

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**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

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### Job Market Paper.....

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

**Abstract:** This paper examines the effects of Nepal’s 2002 abortion law reform: the removal of one of the world’s most restrictive abortion bans on fertility and child investments. Using variation in exposure to the reform and family-level incentives to use abortion, we show that the gender gap in sibling size between firstborn-girl and firstborn-boy families declined by 65–75% post-legalization. We also find that breastfeeding duration, previously longer for boys in firstborn-girl families, became more equal, with the gap narrowing by 85%. The reform had no significant effects on vaccinations or institutional births and only weak effects on mortality. These findings highlight how access to abortion shapes fertility behavior and narrows postnatal gender gaps in settings with strong son preference.

### 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)
- Lake Economics Development Workshop, 2025
- Southern Economic Association, 2024

### Conference Attendances.....

- Teaching at a Teaching Intensive Institution, 2024

## Experience

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### Teaching Experience.....

#### *Instructor*

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

#### *Teaching Assistant*

- 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

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

**2022 – 2023:** Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Binghamton University

## Skills

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

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

Last updated: *August 19, 2025.*