

SAM ASHER

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Current Employment

Associate Professor (with tenure)
Department of Economics and Public Policy
Imperial College Business School
London, UK

Previous Employment

Assistant Professor of International Economics, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies
(August 2019 – June 2022)
Economist, Development Research Group (DECRG), The World Bank (September 2016 – August 2019)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Economics Department and Nuffield College, University of Oxford
(September 2013 – August 2016)

Other Affiliations

Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR, 2024 – present)
Co-founder, Development Data Lab (2019 – present)
Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD, 2019 – present)
Visiting Professor, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi (2023 – present)

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2013
Yale University, B.A. in Ethics, Politics and Economics *magna cum laude*, 2004

Publications

Intergenerational Mobility in India: Estimates from New Methods and Administrative Data (with Paul Novosad and Charlie Rafkin), Conditionally accepted, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.

Rent-Seeking and Criminal Politicians: Evidence from Mining Booms (with Paul Novosad). *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 105:1 (2023).

Mortality Change among Less Educated Americans (with Paul Novosad and Charlie Rafkin). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 14:4 (2022).

Development Research at High Geographic Resolution: An Analysis of Night Lights, Firms, and Poverty in India using the SHRUG Open Data Platform (with Tobias Lunt, Ryu Matsuura, and Paul Novosad). *World Bank Economic Review*, 35:4 (2021).

The Ecological Impact of Transportation Infrastructure (with Teevrat Garg and Paul Novosad). *Economic Journal*, 130:629 (2020).

Rural Roads and Local Economic Development (with Paul Novosad). *American Economic Review*, 110:3 (2020).

Educational Investment Responses to Economic Opportunity: Evidence from Indian Road Construction (with Anjali Adukia and Paul Novosad). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 12:1 (2020).

One Step at a Time: Does Gradualism Foster Group Coordination? (with Maoliang Ye, Jie Zheng, and Plamen Nikolov). *Management Science*, 66:1 (2020).

Politics and Local Economic Growth: Evidence from India (with Paul Novosad). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9:1 (2017).

Other Publications

Big, Open Data for Development: A Vision for India (with Aditi Bhowmick, Alison Campion, Tobias Lunt, and Paul Novosad). *India Policy Forum*, 18 (2022)

Representative Estimates of COVID-19 Infection Fatality Rates from Four Locations in India: Cross-sectional Study (with Rebecca Cai, Paul Novosad, Vaidehi Tandel, and Anup Malani). *BMJ Open*.

COVID-19 Mortality Effects of Underlying Health Conditions in India: A Modelling Study (with Paul Novosad, Radhika Jain, and Alison Campion). *BMJ Open*, 10:12 (2020).

Working Papers

In-group Bias in the Indian Judiciary: Evidence from 5 Million Criminal Cases (with Elliott Ash, Aditi Bhowmick, Sandeep Bhupatiraju, Daniel Chen, Tanaya Devi, Christoph Goessman, Paul Novosad, and Bilal Siddiqi). Accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Residential Segregation and Unequal Access to Public Goods in India: Evidence from 1.5m Neighborhoods (with Anjali Adukia, Kritarth Jha, Paul Novosad, and Brandon Tan). Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Review*.

The Long-run Development Impacts of Agricultural Productivity Gains: Evidence from Irrigation Canals in India (with Alison Campion, Doug Gollin and Paul Novosad). Submitted.

Research in Progress

Intergenerational Mobility Across South Asia (with Maurizio Bussolo, Paul Novosad, Jonah Rexer).

Access to Opportunity in the Sciences: Evidence from the Nobel Laureates (with Eni Iljazi, Catriona Farquharson, and Paul Novosad).

On Hold or Retired

The Cost of Distance: Geography and Governance in Rural India (with Karan Nagpal and Paul Novosad).

Digging for Development: Economic Impacts of Mining Booms (with Paul Novosad).

Adaptive Control of Covid-19 Outbreaks in Indiaa: Local, Gradual, and Trigger-based Exit Paths from Lockdown (with Anup Malani et al).

Getting Signal from Interval Data: Theory and Applications to Mortality and Intergenerational Mobility (with Paul Novosad and Charlie Rafkin).

The Impacts of Local Control over Political Institutions: Evidence from State Splitting in India (with Paul Novosad).

The Impact of Agricultural Output on Local Economic Activity in India (with Paul Novosad).

Updated August 2024

Predicting Poverty Using Daytime Imagery (with Tony Duan, Elliott Chartock, Haque Ishfaq, Paul Novosad, Marshall Burke, David Lobell and Stefano Ermon).

The Cost of Road Construction in Tanzania (with Martina Kirchberger and Paul Novosad).

Regulation Intensity, Rents and the Sectoral Concentration of Wealth (with Paul Novosad and Michael Walton).

Teaching Experience

2023-	PhD Environmental and Resource Economics (Imperial Business School)
2022-	Intro to Data Analysis (Imperial Business School)
2021-2022	Topics in Development Economics (Johns Hopkins SAIS MA and MIEF)
2020-2022	Economic Development (Johns Hopkins SAIS MA and MIEF)
2019	Microeconomics (Johns Hopkins SAIS MA core course)
2015	Quantitative Methods (Oxford MSc in Economics for Development)
2013-2015	Development Economics I (Oxford MPhil in Economics)

Professional Activities

Referee	American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, American Economic Review, American Political Science Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Politics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Financial Studies, Science, World Development, World Politics, World Bank Economic Review
Panelist	NSF, USAID Development Innovation Ventures Proposal Review, CSAE Conference
Co-organizer	SAIS International Economics External Seminar (2019-present), Cities and Development Workshop in DC (Spring 2020); CSAE (Development Economics) External Seminar, University of Oxford (2014-2015); IGC Workshop on Industrial Research and Data Needs in India (2015)
Member	Technical Advisory Group, National Data and Analytics Platform, Government of India

Presentations (including scheduled)

2023-2024	CEPR-PSE, Exeter. LSE (x3), IGC-Warwick Sustainable Growth Conference, IFC, Utrecht, SOAS, Bristol, Reading, IIHS Bangalore
2022-2023	CEPR-BREAD-TCD, University of Warwick, University of Kent, ISI-Delhi, Delhi School of Economics Winter School, Columbia University, George Mason University Public Choice Seminar, George Mason School of Public Policy, Birkbeck, University of York, Stockholm IIES
2021-2022	GI-ACE, CEPR STEG, Delhi School of Economics-IEG, UCSD, UC Berkeley x4 (Haas, Economics, Agriculture and Resource Economics, Center on Contemporary India), NITI Aayog (Government of India), BREAD/NBER Pre-Conference Workshop, NEUDC, University of Chicago, Stanford University, UC Merced, World Bank, George Mason University, Ashoka University, BREAD Conference
2020-2021	NBER SI DEV pre-conference workshop, Interamerican Development Bank, NC State, UEA2020, NEUDC, World Bank, Regional Disparities Seminar (Germany), Johns Hopkins Carey, American University, Wilfrid Laurier University, Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad, IFPRI, India Policy Forum
2019-2020	Amherst College, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Indian Statistical Institute (Conference on Economic Growth and Development), Indian School of Business (Indian Democracy at Work conference), Delhi School of Economics, Evidence for Policy Design (India), JPAL South Asia, University of Pennsylvania (Center for the Advanced Study of India), Inter-American Development Bank, Duke University, NC State, Cornell, Syracuse, University of Toronto
2018-2019	IZA-GLM (University of Michigan), World Bank, Raj Center (Columbia University), JHU SAIS, UC3M (Madrid), UPF (Barcelona), NOVA (Lisbon), ETH Zurich, Graduate Institute of Geneva, University of Essex, DFID, IDB, IIM-Bangalore, IIM-Ahmedabad, Center for Global Development, Australian National University
2017-2018	GWU, World Bank, Tufts, University of Namur, Toulouse School of Economics

2016-2017	IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference on New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (Oxford), Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), PacDev, Notre Dame, Yale SOM Conference on Agriculture and Development, Paris School of Economics
2015-2016	Pennsylvania State University, Harvard University, Oxford Development Workshop, Paris School of Economics, University of Oxford, Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), Dartmouth College, India Political Economy Dialogue, CSAE Conference (University of Oxford)
2014-2015	University of Oxford, Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), University of Essex, Indian Statistical Institute, Centre for Policy Research (Delhi), Department for International Development (UK), World Bank, CSAE Conference (University of Oxford)
2013-2014	Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), University of Oxford, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (India)
2012-2013	Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), University of Oxford, Harvard University, Planning Commission (India), Ministry of Statistics (India)

Research Grants

2024	World Bank, “Gender Norms in India.”
	World Bank, “Cultural Distance and Economic Opportunity”
2023	Dartmouth Innovation and Advancement Award: Gender Inequality and Social Norms
	World Bank, “Cultural Norms and Economic Outcomes”
2022	Swiss National Science Foundation, “Big Data for Justice in India”
	World Bank, “Intergenerational Mobility Across South Asia”
	Structural Transformation and Economic Growth, “Structural Transformation and Gender Norms in the Long Run”
2021	World Bank, “Intergenerational Mobility Across South Asia”
	Weiss Fund “The Long Run Impacts of Investments in Agricultural Productivity”
	Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, “Indian Land Database”
2020	IGC, “Land Governance and Urban Development in India”
	Private Enterprise in Low-Income Countries, “Hyper-local Impacts of Mining in India”
	Omidyar Network, “Open Data Platforms”
	Emergent Ventures, “COVID Data for India”
	World Bank, “The Rural Economy in India”
2019	Emergent Ventures, “A Scalable Socioeconomic Data Platform for India”
	Economic Development & Institutions, “Using Administrative Data Systems to Improve Court Efficiency”
2018	World Bank Research Support Budget (multiple grants)
	World Bank Research Support Budget, “The Spatial Distribution of Firms and Households in Indian Cities”
2017	IGC Central, “Rapid Urbanization, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and Rural Development”
2016	IGC, “How do Rural Roads Affect Development? Evidence from India”
2015	IGC, “The Cost of Road Construction in Tanzania”
	IGC, Scoping Visit for Research on Roads in Tanzania
	Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme, “The Urban Geography of Entrepreneurship and Growth in India”
2014	Private Enterprise in Low-Income Countries, Centre for Economic Policy Research, “The Urban Geography of Entrepreneurship and Formality in Poor Countries”
2013	John Fell Fund (University of Oxford), “The Urban Geography of Entrepreneurship and Growth in India”
	OxCarre Research Grant (University of Oxford), “Mining and Politics in India”

2011	Institute for Quantitative Social Science (Harvard University), “Estimating the Impact of Politician Power on Local Economic Development in India”
2010	Real Estate Academic Initiative (Harvard University) “Property Rights and Land Use in Rural India”
2009-2013	Warburg Fund (Harvard University)

Personal

Citizenship: USA

Date of Birth: August 6, 1982

Languages: English (native), Spanish (proficient), Hindi (proficient)