

Tushar Kundu

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Education

Columbia University, New York, NY August 2019 – Present

Ph.D. candidate, Economics

Fields: Education, Development, Labor

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA August 2013 – June 2017

Bachelor of Arts, Honors in Economics and Mathematics (Emphasis on Statistics)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, **Columbia Economics Department**, New York, NY January 2021 – August 2021

- Worked with Professor Peter Bergman and co-authors on a project measuring the individual return to the interview-screening process in the tech sector.

Research Assistant, **National Bureau of Economic Research**, Cambridge, MA July 2018 – July 2019

Research Assistant, **Center for Economic and Social Research**, Los Angeles, CA July 2017 – July 2018

- Worked under Professors Daniel Benjamin, David Cesarini, and co-authors conducting research on subjective well-being, behavioral/experimental economics, and social science genetics
- Designed, coded, and administered several surveys on MTurk and Qualtrics to collect data on participants' well-being
- Aggregated data, estimated structural models, and produced visualizations of data analysis for manuscripts and presentations using R, Python, and STATA

Research Assistant, **Swarthmore Mathematics Department**, Swarthmore, PA June 2014 – June 2017

- Built statistical model using biological characteristics for a priori prediction of prehistoric species as going extinct, surviving, or going extinct within a defined period following a mass extinction event
- Employed principal component analysis to identify combinations of key variables from descriptive dataset including over 60,000 genera
- Presented findings at the Geological Society of America (GSA) 2016 Conference in Denver, CO

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, **Columbia University**, New York, NY Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate)

Publications

- Lee, James J., Robbee Wedow, Aysu Okbay, Edward Kong, Omeed Maghzian, Meghan Zacher, ..., David I. Laibson, Jian Yang, Magnus Johannesson, Philipp D. Koellinger, Patrick Turley, Peter M. Visscher, Daniel J. Benjamin, and David Cesarini (2018). "Gene discovery and polygenic prediction from a genome-wide association study of educational attainment in 1.1 million individuals." *Nature Genetics*, 50, 1112–1121.

Works in Progress

- *Signaling in Female Education* (with Akanksha Vardani)
 - We study the role of labor market and marriage market considerations in motivating investment in female education. We replicate previous work contrasting the signaling and human capital accumulation models of educational attainment conducted on a US sample in the developing country contexts of India and Zambia. In India, we find that increased access to secondary school shifts the entire distribution of educational attainment upwards, with more ambiguous effects in Zambia. We extend the analysis to include marriage market considerations, and test to see if shifts in educational attainment depend on marriage payment norms. We find that shifts are attenuated among populations that practice marriage payments.

Academic Awards

- Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University August 2019 - Present

Work Experience

- Global Attitudes Summer Intern, Pew Research Center*, Washington, D.C. June 2016 – Aug 2016
- Associate Business Analyst, American International Group (AIG)*, Wilton, CT June 2015 – Aug 2015

Skills & Interests

- Computer: Proficient in R, STATA, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint); Working knowledge of Python, JavaScript, HTML, and ArcGIS
- Languages: Fluent in English, Proficient in Spanish and Bengali
- Interest and Activities: Tennis, Basketball, Sabermetrics, US Politics