

NAYANTARA BISWAS

Department of Economics, Clark University
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EDUCATION **Ph.D. in Economics**, Clark University, Worcester, MA (*Expected*) May 2024

M.A. in Economics, Clark University, Worcester, MA May 2020
Specialization: Applied Econometrics

M.S. in Economics, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India August 2017
*Thesis Title: Impact of Vocational Education and Training on
Employment and Wages in Indian Labor Market:
Variation across Social Groups*

B.S. in Economics, Loreto College, Kolkata, India June 2015
*Thesis Title: The Missing Women of India: A Cross-sectional
Analysis of the Factors Affecting Sex Ratio
with a Trend Analysis in India*

DISSERTATION “The Impact of Social Policies on Reproductive Health, Maternal
Employment, and Child Health in India”

**RESEARCH
FIELDS** Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Health Economics,
Labor Economics, Gender Economics, Public Policy

JOB MARKET PAPER: *Can Community Health Workers Affect Reproductive Health Decisions? Evidence from India*

This paper examines the effect of India's Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) on long-term reproductive health. I use large-scale survey and administrative data and exploit the variation in the number of ASHAs along with variations in the birth year, employing a difference-in-differences design. I find that the policy made women better off in terms of utilizing various reproductive healthcare services, such as antenatal care and institutional deliveries, along with an increase in contraceptive use in the long term. I find that an additional ASHA per 1,000 population is associated with a 2.14 to 5.2 percent increase in the utilization of reproductive health. This result is robust to an alternative specification with district-level ASHA utilization as the treatment. Results are heterogeneous across groups, with contraceptive use being driven by women belonging to a higher socioeconomic status with less than three children. I find that ASHAs are associated with higher contraceptive use only in districts where utilizing the ASHA service is below the sample median, suggesting that performance incentives for the provision of family planning methods should be revised to meet the aim of lower fertility.

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE** **Instructor**, Clark University, Department of Economics
Introduction to Statistical Analysis Spring 2022 & Spring 2024
Economics and the World Economy Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant, Clark University, Department of Economics
Introduction to Statistical Analysis Fall 2021
Economics and the World Economy Spring 2019-Spring 2021
Urban Economics Fall 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Fellow Applied Economics Clinic Conducting disparity analyses in labor and energy markets in the United States.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">June 2023-January 2024</p> <p>Research Assistant, Clark University Dr. Magda Tsaneva, Department of Economics Estimating impact of public policies on child health and labor outcomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">June 2020-August 2023</p> <p>Summer Research Assistant, Clark University Dr. Suprabha Baniya, Department of Economics Modelled household consumption function of environmental goods for <i>Asian Development Bank</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">June-August 2022</p> <p>Summer Research Assistant, Clark University Dr. Wayne Gray, Department of Economics Data entry and synopsis on manufacturing sector.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">June-August 2019</p> <p>Predoctoral Research Assistant, IIT Kharagpur, India Dr. Zakir Husain, Department of Economics Analyzed data for a study on ‘<i>Active Ageing and Labour Market Engagement: Evidence from Eastern India</i>’.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">August 2017-July 2018</p>
PUBLICATION	<p>O’Donoghue A, Biswas N, Dechen T, Anderson T, Talmor N, Punnamaraju A, Stevens J (2021). ‘Trends in filled naloxone prescriptions before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States’ <i>JAMA Health Forum</i></p> <p>Biswas N (2017). ‘Inclusive Growth: A Myth or Reality?’. ‘<i>Veritas 2016-17</i>’ (<i>Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics</i>), pp. 41-45. <i>Report</i></p> <p>Biswas N, Mukherjee B, Dhamangamwala J, Basu T (2013). ‘Health Insurance: An Asset or A Liability’. ‘<i>Impact of Reforms on Indian Insurance Sector</i>’ (ISBN- 978-93-80332-45-1), pp. 221-229. <i>Book Chapter</i></p>
WORKING PAPERS	<p>Biswas N, ‘Can Community Health Workers Affect Reproductive Health Decisions? Evidence from India’</p> <p>Adkins A, Biswas N, ‘Do Public Daycares Affect Maternal Employment in India? Evidence from India’</p>
WORKS IN PROGRESS	<p>Biswas N, ‘Community Health Workers and Child Health in India’</p> <p>Biswas N, Tsaneva M, ‘Temperature Shocks and Child Marriage in India’</p> <p>Quiros S, Biswas N, ‘Disparities in U.S. Paid Family and Medical Leave & Workplace Flexibility’</p> <p>Quiros S, Biswas N, Clarke R, Yen B, ‘The Effect of Paid Family Leave on the Health of Immigrant Parents and their Children in USA’</p> <p>Wadhwa M, Biswas N, ‘Maternity Leave and Maternal Health in India’</p>

ACADEMIC AWARDS & FELLOWSHIP	Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship	2023-2024
	ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship	2023
	SICSS-Howard/Mathematica Research Fund Award	2022
	Best Field Paper Award in Economics, Clark University	2021
	Graduate Full Tuition Scholarship, Clark University	2018-present
INVITED TALKS	Lecture on Development Economics, University of Georgia	October 2023
	Lecture on Gender Economics, Bentley University	March 2023
	Lecture on Development Economics, Clark University	March 2023
	Lecture on Causal Inference, University of Missouri (virtual)	October 2022
	Speaker at Teaching Assistant Orientation, Clark University	August 2019
CONFERENCE PRESENTATION (includes scheduled)	Eastern Economic Association (session organizer) ‘Can Community Health Workers Affect Reproductive Health Decisions? Evidence from India’	March 2024
	Southern Economic Association ‘Can Community Health Workers Affect Reproductive Health Decisions? Evidence from India’	November 2023
	Association for Public Policy and Management (poster) ‘Can Community Health Workers Affect Reproductive Health Decisions? Evidence from India’	November 2023
	Eastern Economic Association (session organizer) ‘The Effect of an Early Education Policy on Maternal Employment in India’	February 2023
	Southern Economic Association (session organizer) ‘The Effect of Public Daycares on Maternal Employment in India’	November 2022
	Association for Public Policy and Management ‘The Effect of Public Daycares on Maternal Employment in India’	November 2022
	Canadian Economic Association ‘The Effect of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Reproductive Health in India’	June 2022
	Association for Public Policy and Management, Student Research Seminar (virtual) ‘The Effect of Conditional Cash Transfers on Maternal and Child Health in India’	May 2021
	Southern Economic Association (virtual) ‘The Effect of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program on Maternal Health’	November 2020
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Faculty Training Workshops New England Future Faculty Workshop organized by <i>Northeastern University</i> (virtual)	July-August 2021
	Faculty Professional Development Webinar Series organized by <i>Clark University</i> (virtual)	July-August 2021
	Course on ‘ <i>How to Teach College Students</i> ’ organized by <i>Clark University</i> (virtual)	July 2020
	Research Training Workshop Summer Institute in Computational Social Science by <i>Howard University & Mathematica</i> (virtual)	June-July 2022

Research Mentoring Workshops

Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics Sept 2023-May 2024
Mentors: Dr. Sebastian Tello-Trillo and Dr. Maria Rosales-Rueda
Mentor Matching Program organized by **APPAM** October 2021-May 2024
Mentors: Dr. Dan Ferris, Dr. Matthew Stagner, and Dr. Analisa Packham
Health Mentoring Workshop organized by **CSWEP** (virtual) September 2021
Mentors: Dr. Marianne Bitler
Mentoring Workshop organized by **CSWEP** (virtual) September 2022
Mentors: Dr. Willa Friedman and Dr. Alicia Atwood
PhD Students Mentoring Workshop organized by **CSWEP**,
University of Houston November 2021
Mentors: Dr. Giulia La Mattina and Dr. Ashna Arora
Health Mentoring Workshop organized by **CSWEP** (virtual) September 2021
Mentors: Dr. Shooshan Danagoulian and Dr. Sherry Wang
Mentoring Workshop organized by **Boston University** (virtual) September 2021
Mentor: Dr. Pamela Jakiela
Mentoring Workshop organized by **Boston University** (virtual) August 2020
Mentor: Dr. Marcella Alsan

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee

Development Policy Review, PLOS ONE, Scientific Reports (Springer Nature)

Conference Discussant

Southern Economic Association 2020- 2023
Eastern Economic Association 2023-2024
American Society of Health Economists 2021
Summer Conference in Economics organized
by Presidency University, Kolkata, India 2019

Reviewer

Scientific Review Committee for
American Society of Health Economists January 2021
Undergraduate economics essay competition
organized by Loreto College, Kolkata, India June 2020

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, GeoDa, SPSS, MS Office, LaTeX, CSPro
Language: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Bengali (native), Spanish
(intermediate)

REFERNCES

Dr. Magda Tsaneva Associate Professor Department of Economics Clark University (508) 793-7185 MTsaneva@clarku.edu	Dr. Junfu Zhang Professor and Chair Department of Economics Clark University (508) 793-7247 JuZhang@clarku.edu
Dr. Wayne Gray Professor Department of Economics (508) 793-7693 Clark University WGray@clarku.edu	Dr. Jon Denton-Schneider Assistant Professor Department of Economics 508-793-7237 Clark University JDentonSchneider@clarku.edu