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Contact Information

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Education

Oct, 2017 - PhD Economics, University of Glasgow
Thesis title: *Do Role Models Increase Student Hope and Effort? Evidence from India*
Research interest: Behavioural Economics, Development Economics and Experimental Economics
Oct, 2014 MSc. Economics, University of Bristol
July, 2013 B.A. (Hons.) Economics, SRCC, University of Delhi

References

Prof. Sayantan Ghosal (Thesis advisor)
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
University of Glasgow
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Dr. Theodore Koutmeridis (Thesis advisor)
Senior Lecturer in Economics
Department of Economics
University of Glasgow
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Prof. Bruce Wydick
Professor of Economics and International Studies
Department of Economics
University of San Francisco
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Dr. Patricio Dalton
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Tilburg University
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Prof. Michele Schweisfurth (Thesis advisor)
Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy
School of Education
University of Glasgow
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Research and Employment History

2020 - RCT: Aspiration adaptation over time: Evidence from Glasgow, UK
(with Damiano Turchet, Jinglin Wen and Max Schroder) (funding: £6000)

- 2019 - RCT: Effect of role models on student hope and effort, India (Rajasthan) (funding: £13,000)
- 2018 - Field Experiment: Disadvantage and Participation Accountability Processes - Theory and Evidence from School Development and Management Committees in Karnataka, India (funding: £700,000)
Research Assistance to Prof. S. Ghosal, Dr. T. Koutmeridis, Prof. M. Schweisfurth (University of Glasgow) and Dr. P. Dalton (Tilburg University)
- 2017 Young Professional, Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
- 2016-17 Field experiment: Whether group farms can outperform individual farms, India (Andhra Pradesh and Kerala)
Senior Research Analyst at the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), India for Prof. Bina Agarwal
- 2015 Research internships at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), India and Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), South Africa

Grants and Scholarships

- 2020 Behaviour, Structure and Interventions Network (BSI) and College of Social Sciences RTSG funds, "Aspiration adaptation over time: Experimental evidence from Glasgow", £6000
- 2019 College of Social Sciences (CoSS), Adam Smith Business School (ASBS) and Behaviour, Structure and Interventions Network (BSI), "Do role models increase student hope and effort? Evidence from India", £13,000
- 2017-2020 CoSS PhD Studentship, University of Glasgow
- 2013 Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Scholarship for a short course in Economics, \$ 3000

Work in Progress

Job market paper:

Do Role Models Increase Student Hope and Effort? Evidence from India
Registry citation: <https://doi.org/10.1257/rct.4454-1.0>

Abstract

This paper offers experimental evidence on the significance of role-models on fostering hope, increasing effort and academic performance of primary school students in India. Students from private schools were individually randomised to a treatment or a placebo group. Treated students watch a short film produced as a part of the experiment in Jaipur, Rajasthan - the study

location. The placebo group students watch a television show for kids, 'Malgudi Days'. I find a 0.17 standard deviation (s.d.) increase in student hope and 0.25 s.d increase in their effort, immediately after the intervention. The one-off treatment leads to a 0.16 s.d. increase on standardised test scores in English, six-weeks after the intervention. Along with hope, I find significant improvements in students' self-efficacy or optimism and happiness. A cost-effectiveness analysis highlights role-models as a promising treatment intervention tool that can have an effect on psychological traits of students, as well as, their learning outcomes.

Aspiration Adaptation and Hope: Evidence from Glasgow

(With Damiano Turchet, Max Schroeder and Jinglin Wen)

Registry citation: <https://doi.org/10.1257/rct.6520-1.0>

Abstract

Aiming at relaxing internal constraints, much research focuses on the effectiveness of changing aspirations. Yet little is known about how these aspirations change over time. This project studies aspiration adaptation and whether hope can function as a capability - fuelling and sustaining aspirations. We develop a theoretical framework to predict the process of aspiration formation and development, and offer insight into the role of hope in such process. By combining experimental evidence, this project attempts to shed light on the relationship between aspiration adaptation and hope. Focusing on a cohort of students in the University of Glasgow, a randomised controlled trial (RCT) is designed to provide support for the predictions arising from the theory.

Teaching

- 2018 - GTA, Department of Economics, University of Glasgow
 UG courses: Introduction to Econometrics, Topics in Contemporary Economics,
 Econometrics: Multiple Regression and Applications, and
 Behavioural Economics: Theory and Applications
 PGT course: Understanding Development
- 2016 Resource Person, UNFPA, India
 Course: Introduction to Stata

Seminars, Conferences and Training (including scheduled)

- 2020 Economics Departmental Seminar Series, University of San Francisco
 2020 Economics Lunchtime Seminar, University of Glasgow
 2020 ESA's Job Market Candidates Seminar Series
 2020 Royal Economic Society Easter Training School, University of Essex
 2018 Microeconometrics Summer School, Barcelona Graduate School of
 Economics (BGSE), Spain
 2018 Summer School in Laboratory Experiments in the Field, ISEG Lisbon
 School of Economics, Portugal
 2013 International Summer School in Economics Education, Hebrew University
 of Jerusalem, Israel