

Abstracts

The Impact of News Coverage on Women's Labour Market Decisions: Evidence from the MeToo Movement (Job Market Paper - [Click here for latest draft](#))

This paper studies the impact of news coverage on women's job-to-job transition rates, exploiting the exogenous variation provided by the MeToo movement at the country level in the United States. Using novel data on sexual assault news coverage with natural language processing for categorizing the lexical choice of articles, the average tone of news coverage at the county level is measured. In the United States, news agencies cover sexual assault events using tones between -30 (extreme negative tones) and 0 (neutral tones). It is found that the rate of job transition depends on the average tone of news articles pre- and post-movement. On average, women in counties with relatively negative tones post-MeToo movement have a job-to-job transition rate that is approximately 20.16% lower compared to women who live in counties with relatively neutral average tone post-MeToo. Conversely, that the average tone of sexual assault news coverage does not have a significant impact on the labour market mobility of men in the sample. Additionally, there is no evidence that other news events, such as news on property crimes, have an impact on the job-to-job transition rates of women. The results suggest that the impact of sexual assault news coverage on women's labour market decisions is amplified by the MeToo movement, especially when information about sexual assaults is conveyed with a negative tone.

Honesty and Strategic Behavior in Games (with Tanjim Hossain and Haomiao Yu)

Using laboratory experiments, we investigate how preferences for honesty affect people's actions in games utilizing two variations of the well-known game *Traveler's Dilemma*. In these games, two players simultaneously make a reimbursement claim for a damaged product. A player's reimbursement amount depends only on the two claims and not the actual price of the product. In the treatment *Regular*, the unique equilibrium is for both players to make the lowest possible claim, independent of the price. In the treatment *Upward*, the unique equilibrium, which is dominance solvable, is for both players to make the highest possible claim. We find that subject choice of claims is much higher than the equilibrium in *Regular* and somewhat lower than the equilibrium in *Upward*. In both treatments, subjects' choices are affected by the price, when the price of the product is known to them. Even when it is a dominant strategy to report the maximum possible claim, 60% of the subjects' claims are affected by the price. Hence, the claims depending on price cannot be completely explained by price affecting the beliefs regarding the other player's actions, suggesting a sizable preference for honesty. Nonetheless, the impact of the price on claims is greater in the treatment *Regular*, where the best response claim depends on a player's beliefs about the other player's claim—strategic considerations do increase the apparent preference for honesty. Based on subjects' claims under different prices, we characterize them in categories such as *honest*, *strategic*, *low claimer*, or *high claimer*. Subjects characterized as honest make a higher payoff when a price is mentioned relative to when no price is mentioned even though they make the same average claim in either case, in the treatment *Regular*. Preference for honesty leads to better coordination among players in games where optimal strategy depends on players' beliefs about other players' actions.

Early Childhood Exposure to Cyclones and Educational Delays in India (with Boubacar Diop, Martino Pelli and Jeanne Tschopp)

In this paper, we consider cyclones as an exogenous shock and study their short and medium term effects on the educational attainment and labour market participation of individuals; and how they differentially affect men and women. We use cyclones that occur during the ten first years of compulsory schooling of individuals in India to isolate exogenous variation of education interruption and labour market outcomes. We find that most affected men have an educational delay of around 65 days, while it is around 247 days for women. We observe that individuals who grew up in districts heavily affected by cyclones have a higher probability to engage in low skills activities. Our results suggest that natural disasters (such as cyclones) delay education of individuals and can lead to an early impact on career development as well as increasing the gender gap.