

LISA A. TARQUINIO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2021 (expected)

Dissertation Committee: Dilip Mookherjee, Tarek Hassan, and Ray Fisman

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2018

B.A., Double Major Economics and International Relations and Minor in Arabic, *Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2011

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Political Economy, and Environmental Economics

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Tropical and Extratropical Cyclone Damages Under Climate Change (with Matthew Ranson, Carolyn Kousky, Matthias Ruth, Lesley Jantarasami, and Allison Crimmins) *Climatic Change* (2014) 127(2): 227-241.

WORKING PAPERS

"The Politics of Drought Relief: Evidence from Southern India," October 2020, Job Market Paper.

"Immigration, Innovation, and Growth," (with Konrad Burchardi, Thomas Chaney, Tarek Hassan, and Stephen Terry), May 2020, NBER Working Paper 27075.

"Modeling the Impact of Climate Change on Extreme Weather Losses," (with Matthew Ranson and Audrey Lew), May 2016, NCEE Working Paper 2016-02.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Impact of Drought on Household Behavior: Evidence from Agricultural Investment in India"

"Understanding Segregation in England and Wales" (with Sergio Villar Vallenias)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Economic History Association Annual Meeting, September, 2020

World Congress of the Econometric Society, August, 2020

Pre-Conference to NBER DEV Conference, July, 2020

ASSA Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, January 3, 2020

Indian School of Business Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India, August 16, 2019

Indian Statistical Institute Delhi, New Delhi, India, August 2, 2019

Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, India, August 1, 2019

Wharton Conference on Migration, Organizations, and Management, Wharton Business School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 31, 2019

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Rosenstein-Rodan Prize for the Best Graduate Student Paper on Development Economics, 2020

"Drought Relief in India," Manual Abdala Grant, 2019

"Drought Relief in India," Boston University Institute for Economic Development Data Grant, 2019

Dean's Fellowship, Boston University, 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC

Research Assistant for Tarek Hassan, Boston University, 2017-Present

NON-ACADEMIC

Analyst; Associate Analyst; Research Assistant, Environment and Resources Division, Abt Associates, 2011-2015

Research Assistant (Internship), New England Public Policy Center, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Spring 2011

Research Assistant to Member of Parliament (Internship), House of Commons of the United Kingdom, Spring 2010

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Journal of Labor Economics, The RAND Journal of Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Energy and Environmental Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2019 and Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Health Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant, Environmental Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2017 and Fall 2016

Course Assistant, Linear Algebra and Real Analysis II (23b/E23b), Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, Spring 2015

Course Assistant, Linear Algebra and Real Analysis I (23a/E23a), Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, Fall 2014

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Organizer, Development Reading Group, 2018-2019

Editor for the Institute of Economic Development's Research Review, 2017

LANGUAGES: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), and Arabic (beginner/intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, Stata, \LaTeX , ArcGIS

CITIZENSHIP: USA

REFERENCES

Professor Dilip Mookherjee
Department of Economics
Boston University
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Professor Tarek Hassan
Department of Economics
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Professor Ray Fisman
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LISA A. TARQUINIO

The Politics of Drought Relief: Evidence from Southern India (Job Market Paper)

A critical role of government is to provide assistance to households affected by negative shocks, such as natural disasters. This paper studies such government intervention in the form of official drought declarations in three Indian states. First, I demonstrate that while states' targeting of drought relief partly aligns with environmental criteria, it does not strictly adhere to national guidelines. Instead, I find that allocations are disrupted by political motivations: the likelihood of receiving a declaration increases in an area's electoral competitiveness while areas aligned with the state ruling party are less likely to receive a declaration. I develop a dynamic probabilistic voting model, driven by the state ruling party's reelection motives, that explains these results. The model also highlights potential endogeneity concerns in empirical specifications connecting political conditions to drought declarations. To causally identify the relationship between electoral incentives and declarations, I thus construct instruments for electoral competition and incumbency utilizing the interaction of a party's vote share in a prior period with a state-level, leave-one out change in support. I confirm that the associations I report reflect a causal relationship. Finally, I offer suggestive evidence that the mistargeting of declarations, relative to national guidelines, results in a misallocation of public resources.

Immigration, Innovation, and Growth (with Konrad B. Burchardi, Thomas Chaney, Tarek A. Hassan, and Stephen J. Terry)

We show a causal impact of immigration on innovation and dynamism in US counties. To identify the causal impact of immigration, we use 130 years of detailed data on migrations from foreign countries to US counties to isolate quasi-random variation in the ancestry composition of US counties that results purely from the interaction of two historical forces: (i) changes over time in the relative attractiveness of different destinations within the US to the average migrant arriving at the time and (ii) the staggered timing of the arrival of migrants from different origin countries. We then use this plausibly exogenous variation in ancestry composition to predict the total number of migrants flowing into each US county in recent decades. We show four main results. First, immigration has a positive impact on innovation, measured by the patenting of local firms. Second, immigration has a positive impact on measures of local economic dynamism. Third, the positive impact of immigration on innovation percolates over space, but spatial spillovers quickly die out with distance. Fourth, the impact of immigration on innovation is stronger for more educated migrants.