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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2022 (expected)

Dissertation Title: Three Essays in Automation, Trade, and Inequality

Dissertation Committee: Stefania Garetto, Pascual Restrepo and Yuhei Miyachi

M.A. and M.S., Economics and Mathematics, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL, 2014

B.S.S., Economics (*Summa Cum Laude*), University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2008

FIELDS OF INTEREST: International Economics, Development Economics, Macroeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

“[The Social Costs of Graduating from Least Developed Country Status: Analyzing the impact of increased protection on insulin prices in Bangladesh](#),” (with Warren Kaplan, Veronika Wirtz, and Kevin Gallagher) *Asian Development Review*, Forthcoming.

“[Impacts of Intellectual Property Provisions in Trade Treaties on Access to Medicines in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review](#),” (with Warren Kaplan, Danielle Trachtenberg, Rachel Thrasher, Veronika Wirtz, and Kevin Gallagher) *Globalization and Health*, (2019) 15(1): 1-14.

“[Are Saving and Bequest Constraints the Only Reasons for Child Labor? Evidence from Bangladesh](#),” *Asian Development Perspectives*, (2019) 10(1): 30-42.

“[Does the US economy face a long run trade-off between inflation and unemployment?](#)” (with Jamil Sayeed and Sanjida Yasmin) *International Journal of Monetary Economics and Finance*, (2019) 12(2): 118-132.

“[On Determinants of Poverty and Inequality in Bangladesh](#),” (with Jamil Sayeed and Nazmul Hossain) *Journal of Poverty*, (2017) 21(4): 352-371.

WORKING PAPERS

“[The Geography of Automation](#),” September 2021. Job Market paper.

“[Out-of-pocket expenditure on medicines in Bangladesh: An analysis of the national housing income and expenditure survey 2016-17](#),” (with Edson Servan-Mori, Warren Kaplan, Rachel Thrasher, and Veronika Wirtz), May 2021, submitted.

“[Effects of COVID-19 policies on employment and inequality in the United States](#),” (with S. Badruddoza) July 2021, submitted

“[International Fiscal and Defense Multiplier: Theory and Evidence from the US and Canadian Economy](#),” (with Jamil Sayeed) May 2021, submitted

“[Exchange Rate Volatility, Margin of Trade and Income Distribution](#),” November 2017.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Effect of Trade on Urbanization: Import Substitution Vs. Export Promotion Policies”

“Effect of COVID-19 on Employment of Routine-Type Jobs” (joint with S. Badruddoza)

“Dietary diversity, agricultural diversity, and income: A Causal analysis for rural households in Bangladesh” (Joint with Mohammed Helal Uddin and S. Badruddoza)

PRESENTATIONS

BU Macro Lunch Seminar, Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Canadian Economic Association, Montreal, Quebec, Canada 2018
Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C. 2018
Economic Research Group Conference, Dhaka, 2017.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

JICF-DU Scholarship, University of Dhaka, 2004-2008.
M.N. Huda Gold Medal, University of Dhaka, 2011.
Prime Minister Gold Medal, University of Dhaka, 2011.
Dean's Award, University of Dhaka, 2011.
Fulbright Scholarship, State Department of the US, 2012.
Outstanding Graduate Student, Western Illinois University, 2013.
Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Global Policy Development Center, Boston University, 2019.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Economist, Center for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and Pacific, Dhaka, 2021.
Consultant, RTI International, North Carolina, March 2011-August 2011
Lecturer, Economics, University of Dhaka, July 2010-August 2012.
Research Assistant, Economic Research Group, Dhaka, October 2009-June 2010.

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Journal of Information Technology, Journal of Poverty, Asian Development Perspectives

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Intermediate Algebra (MATH099), Department of Mathematics, Western Illinois University, Fall 2013-Fall 2014,
Instructor, International Trade, International Finance, Optimization Techniques, Linear Algebra and Calculus, Advanced Macroeconomics II (ECON504). Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Fall 2010-Summer 2012, Fall 2020- Fall 2021.
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis (EC101), Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2017- Fall 2018.
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis (EC102, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2018.
Teaching Fellow, The Economics of Globalization (EC598), Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2017.
Teaching Fellow, International Economics I/II (EC391/392), Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

LANGUAGES: Fluent in English, Bengali, Hindi and Urdu

COMPUTER SKILLS: STATA, MATLAB, R, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: Bangladesh/F1

REFERENCES

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The Geography of Automation

This paper investigates the effects of automation on the spatial distribution of economic activity and the consequent impact on wage and welfare inequality across regions. I propose a general equilibrium model of a spatial economy where automation is one of the determinants of firms' choice of production location. The model generates several predictions that are consistent with novel stylized facts and existing empirical evidence. Counterfactual analysis shows that the rise in automation increases wage dispersion between larger and smaller cities; a 60% rise in automation increases the wage dispersion by 11%. The paper explores the effectiveness of a traditional tax-subsidy policy to reduce the regional inequality in wages and welfare, and it finds that this policy is effective to achieve the targets of more parity in wage and welfare across regions but at the costs of aggregate productivity loss.

Exchange Rate Volatility, Margins of Trade and Income Distribution

This paper investigates the effect of exchange rate volatility on the intensive and extensive margin of trade, and on the income inequality within a country. Using the framework of Helpman, Itskhoki, and Redding (2010) and assuming firm owners are risk averse, I derive testable predictions regarding the impact of exchange rate volatility on the margins of trade at the firm level and on income distribution at the industry level. I test these predictions using firm-level data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey, and exchange rate data from International Monetary Fund and Bank of International Settlement. Empirical results provide clear support in favor of the model's predictions about the effects of volatility on trade margins.

The Social Costs of Graduating from Least Developed Country Status: Analyzing the impact of increased protection on insulin prices in Bangladesh

(with Warren Kaplan, Veronika Wirtz, and Kevin Gallagher)

In 2021, the United Nations Committee on Development Policy will consider whether Bangladesh should graduate from 'least developed country' (LDC) status. If graduation is granted, in 2024 Bangladesh would thus have to forego its exemption to intellectual property (IP) provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Bangladesh has taken advantage of the policy space it was granted under the LDC exemption to the WTO to build a generic medicines industry that not only serves Bangladesh but also other LDCs. Under the WTO, Bangladesh will have to require patent protection of certain medicines. We draw on previous work and develop a model to examine how IP provisions in the WTO will impact the prices of insulin in Bangladesh and its subsequent impacts on welfare and poverty. We find that LDC graduation will trigger a significant jump in insulin prices that could cause about 15 percent decline in the welfare of households with one or more members living with diabetes in Bangladesh, increasing the poverty rate of such households up to 58 percent and of those needing insulin up to 195 percent unless policy adjustments are carried out.