

Pubali Chakraborty

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Citizenship and Visa Status

India (F-1 Visa)

Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2020 (expected)
Dissertation: "Essays on Macroeconomics and Labor Markets"
Committee: Professors Julia K. Thomas (chair), Aubhik Khan, Kyle Dempsey
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2015
M.S Quantitative Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, 2014
B.Sc. Economics (Hons), Presidency College, University of Calcutta, 2012

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Macroeconomics
Secondary fields: Labor and Demographic Economics

Research

Working Papers:

"Female Labor Supply and Jobless Recovery" (Job Market Paper)

Female labor force participation rose steadily over the U.S. post-war era until the late 1980s. Since then, the upward trend has weakened and has largely subsided. Concurrent with this leveling off, starting in 1990, recessions in the U.S. have featured jobless recoveries. This paper considers the connection between these two recent patterns, examining both empirically and through the lens of a general equilibrium macroeconomic model the extent to which the weakened trend in female labor supply may have contributed to jobless recoveries. My empirical analysis examines the employment recoveries of different demographic sections of the population over the last 5 recessions and shows that young, married women with children were the primary drivers of aggregate employment recoveries prior to 1990. These empirical findings inform the development of a theoretical model which I use to study the interaction between female and male labor supply at the household and aggregate level. My model predicts post-1990 aggregate employment recoveries significantly slower than pre-1990 recoveries, due to the leveling off in the trend. Decomposing the relative contributions of several underlying factors responsible for the pre-1990s rise in the labor force participation of young, married women with children, the model predicts that the gender wage gap is the most important factor in the overall increase; however, over early dates, when the upward trend in female labor supply is strongest, reduction in the number of young children is the most important factor. Finally, this setting is used to examine the effectiveness of family-friendly government policies towards mitigating jobless recoveries.

"Inefficiencies due to Skill Choice"

In this paper, I examine how the skill choices that individuals make can lead to inefficient outcomes due to the existence of search frictions. Some college degrees, such as engineering, provide multiple job options, which incentivize individuals to invest in them. However, this can lead to over investment in this skill type, which eventually leads to higher unemployment among engineers, owing to the search frictions

that are present in the economy. In this paper, I use a two-sector two-skill search theoretic model to analyze this problem and I find that this may lead to inefficient outcomes. A government intervention which penalizes individuals who invest in these skills and rewards workers who invest in skills which have less job options can help to reduce this inefficiency.

Work-in-Progress:

“Female Labor Force Participation and Wealth Inequality”

In this paper, I quantify the effect of a rise in female labor force participation on the rise in wealth inequality in the United States. The rise in female participation that has been observed in the data since the 1960s was primarily driven by married women. I argue that spousal labor supply acts as a form of insurance thus influencing household savings behavior. With more married women participating in the workforce, the role of this insurance has changed over time. I build a theoretical framework to identify mechanisms through which this insurance within the family affects the individual labor supply and savings portfolio decisions that the household makes. The insurance provided by a working spouse decreases incentives of couple households to save for precautionary reasons. However, it also allows them to invest in risky assets with higher returns as opposed to single households. Further, unemployed individuals with working spouses wait for better wage offers, which can have a permanent effect on their lifetime earnings and in turn affect the wealth accumulation of households.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2019 (Upcoming)	Econometric Society European Winter Meeting
2017	13th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2019-2020	Burton Abrams Dissertation Award, Department of Economics, The Ohio State University
2018-2019	International Leadership Scholarship Award, The Ohio State University
2017-2018	Department Citation for Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Economics, The Ohio State University
2019-2020, 2017-2018	Journal of Money, Credit and Banking Travel Grant, The Ohio State University
2014-2015	University Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University
2012-2014	Academic Fellowship, Indian Statistical Institute

Teaching Experience

Fall 2019, Spring 2019	Economic Issues in the U.S., Instructor (Full responsibility)
Summer 2018	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Instructor, (Full responsibility)
Fall 2018, Spring 2018	Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Jeff Buser
Fall 2017	Principles of Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Darcy Hartman

Computational Skills

Fortran, MATLAB, Stata

References

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