

JHEELUM SARKAR

Department of Economics
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

Updated: May 2026
Nationality: Indian
js8622a@american.edu

Education

American University Ph.D. in Economics <i>Committee: Kara Reynolds (Chair), Mary E. Hansen, Austin Davis</i> M.A. in Economics	Washington, DC 2022 – Present August 2024
Jawaharlal Nehru University M.Phil. in International Trade & Development M.A. in Economics	New Delhi, India June 2022 June 2020
Lady Brabourne College, University of Calcutta B.S. in Economics (<i>Minor in Mathematics & Statistics</i>)	Kolkata, India May 2018

Experience

Kogod Sustainability Review, Managing Editor	May 2025 – Present
Applied Economics Clinic, Summer Research Assistant	May 2025 – Aug. 2025
American University, Research Assistant - <i>Prof. Garima Sharma</i>	May 2024 – Aug. 2024
American University, Graduate Assistant - Program on Gender Analysis in Economics	Jun. 2024 – Aug. 2024
Council for Strategic and Defense Research, Policy Co-Consultant - New Delhi, India (<i>with Prof. Meeta K. Mehra</i>)	Dec. 2020 – Feb. 2021
Knowledge for Climate (k4c), Graduate Researcher - Hybrid (<i>with Prof. Meeta K. Mehra</i>)	June 2020 – July 2021

Job Market Paper

[Telework Exposure and Female Labor Supply in Emerging Economies: Evidence from India](#)

Abstract: In many emerging economies, social norms encourage women to stay at home and existing jobs often involve long hours and on-site work arrangements. *Can rise of telework pull women into labor market in such countries?* I explore this research question in India where traditional norms are predominant and female labor force participation is low. Telework requires two ingredients: jobs that can be done remotely and the digital infrastructure to do them. Since India lacks task surveys like O*NET in United States, I first classify Indian occupations as teleworkable or not using supervised text methods on detailed descriptions from the national occupation manual. Then, I combine each district's share of teleworkable occupations with lagged cell tower density to measure local exposure to telework. Using nationally representative PLFS data from 2017–2024, I find that a one-standard-deviation increase in telework exposure raises women's paid labor force participation by 1.7 percentage points. Falsification tests and a shift-share instrumental design based on cheap 4G internet expansion further strengthen causal interpretation. The effects are larger among woman who are married, have young children, whose husband are in "greedy jobs" and live in districts with high gender-based violence. I also find that the effects are concentrated among women with technical college degrees and those coming from households with higher economic status. Welfare analysis shows that the public investment in digital connectivity can further unlock women's gains from telework. The benefit-cost ratio exceeds 6-to-1, and net annual earning gains of women being \$1.94 billion per district.

Other Working Papers

- How many jobs are teleworkable in emerging countries? *Manuscript available upon request.*
- Do high-premium fields buffer labor market shocks? Evidence from India. [arXiv:2508.12471](#).
- Droughts and Deluges: Effects of Climate Extremes on the Gender Gap in Labor Supply. [arXiv:2602.07808](#).
- Linking Climate Change with Economic Inequality: A Review Essay. [SSRN:4814257](#).

Work in Progress (Selected)

- Can Telework Be an Anti-Dote to Declining U.S. Fertility Rates?
- Effect of Catastrophic Floods on Labor Supply through Gender Lens. *Manuscript in Preparation.*
- Environmental Justice and Enforcement of Pollution Standards in the United States.
- *With Dr. Phuong Ho, Dr. Bianca Cecato, and Dr. Almira Salimgarieva.*

Publication

Sultana, N., **Sarkar, J.**, & Meurs, M. (2024). Climate Change-Induced Migration: A Gendered Conceptual Framework. *Migration and Diversity*, 3(2), 215–233. [doi:10.33182/md.v3i2.3177](#)

Fellowships & Awards

Conference Participation Award, \$600, <i>American University</i>	2026
Conference Participation Award, \$600, <i>American University</i>	2025
4th Barbara Bergmann Graduate Fellowship for Gender Research, \$1000, <i>American University</i>	2024
Conference Participation Award, \$600, <i>Eastern Economic Association</i>	2024
Graduate Merit Fellowship, Department of Economics, <i>American University</i>	2022– Present

Guest-Blogs & Commentaries

- [Beyond the Plough: How Technology is Powering a New Green Revolution](#) — Kogod Sustainability Review, January 20, 2025 (with Rida Hameed)
- [Rethinking Climate Migration through Gender Lens](#) — Program for Gender Analysis in Economics Blog, July 19, 2025 (with Prof. Mieke Meurs)
- [Coal plant retirements dominate the U.S. power sector shift](#) — Applied Economics Clinic, August 13, 2025
- [Time poverty and climate shocks: how married women bear the brunt](#) — Revaluing Care Economy, October 21, 2024

Conference

Fourth Global Care Summit, <i>Duke University</i>	2025
Eastern Economic Association	2025
Revaluing Care in the Global Economy Workshop, <i>Duke University</i>	2024
Levy Institute Gender Workshop, <i>Levy Institute</i>	2024
Eastern Economic Association	2024

Invited Talks

Indian Institute of Technology, <i>Kanpur, India</i>	2025
--	------

Indian Institute of Technology, <i>Chennai, India</i>	2025
Azim Premji University, <i>Bangalore, India</i>	2025
National Institute of Advanced Studies, <i>Bangalore, India</i>	2025
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, <i>Kolkata, India</i>	2025

Teaching

Teaching Fellow

ECON 585: Foundations of Econometric Analysis, <i>American University</i>	Summer 2026
ECON 586: Econometric Analysis, <i>American University</i>	Summer 2026

Teaching Assistant

ECON 807: Microeconomics II, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2026
ECON 316: Political Economy of Race in U.S., <i>American University</i>	Spring 2026
ECON 100: Macroeconomics, <i>American University</i>	Fall 2025, Fall 2022
ECON 623: Applied Econometrics I, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2025
ECON 322: Applied Econometrics I, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2025
ECON 373: Labor Economics, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2025
ECON 824: Advanced Econometrics, <i>American University</i>	Fall 2024
ECON 150: Economics for Business, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2024
ECON 803: Microeconomic Analysis, <i>American University</i>	Fall 2023
ECON 300: Intermediate Microeconomics, <i>American University</i>	Fall 2023
ECON 200: Microeconomics, <i>American University</i>	Spring 2022

Technical Skills

- **Python:** pandas, numpy, statsmodels, scikit-learn, geopandas; working knowledge of PySpark
- **R:** tidyverse, ggplot2, broom; working knowledge of text mining and topic models
- **Tools:** Stata, Excel, ArcGIS, Google Earth Engine, ATLAS.ti, L^AT_EX

References

Prof. Kara Reynolds (Main Advisor)

Dept. of Economics
 American University
 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20016, USA
 Email: reynolds@american.edu

Mary Eschelbach Hansen

Dept. of Economics
 American University
 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20016, USA
 Email: mhansen@american.edu

Dr. Austin Davis

Department of Politics, Governance & Economics
 American University
 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20016, USA
 Email: cadavis@american.edu

Prof. Mieke Meurs

Dept. of Economics
 American University
 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
 Washington, DC 20016, USA
 Email: mmeurs@american.edu