

Jheelum Sarkar

Ph.D. Student · Economics
American University, Washington, DC, USA



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Summary

Research interests in Environmental Economics, Labor and Development Economics. Skilled in interdisciplinary research and large-scale survey data analysis to inform policy decisions. Expertise in impact evaluations, inequality, and labor market. Committed to applied economics research to drive sustainable development.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics (ongoing)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Washington, DC, USA

Aug. 2022 - Present

M.A. in Economics

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Washington, DC, USA

Aug. 2022 - Aug. 2024

M.Phil. in International Trade and Development

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY (JNU)

New Delhi, India

Aug. 2020 - Jun. 2022

- Thesis: *Welfare Effects of Extreme Climate Events on Mountain and Coastal Communities in India: A Case Study*
- Advisor: Prof. Meeta K. Mehra

M.A. in Economics with Specialization in World Economy

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY (JNU)

New Delhi, India

Aug. 2018 - Jul. 2020

- Project: *Short Run Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture in India*

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics

LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

Kolkata, India

Jul. 2015 - Jun. 2018

- Thesis: *Structure of Employment in India*

Working Papers

- Sarkar, J. (2025). *Do STEM graduates fare better at times of crises? Evidence from COVID 19 pandemic in India*. arxiv: [2508.12471](https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.12471)
- Sarkar, J. (2025). [Impact of Flood on Labor Market through Gender Lens: A Case from India](#).
- Sarkar, J. (2024). *Linking Climate Change with Economic Inequality: A Review Essay*. SSRN: [4814257](https://ssrn.com/abstract=4814257)
- Sarkar, J. (2024). *Climate Shocks and Women's Time Poverty in India*. Cambridge Open Engage: [10.33774](https://openengage.org/publications/show/publication/10.33774)
 - Featured as Guest Blog in [Revaluating Care Economy Working Paper Series](#)
- Bhattacharya, G., Mehra, M.K., & Sarkar J. (2024). *Welfare Effects of Catastrophic Climate Events on Mountain Communities: A Case Study from India on the Uttarakhand Flash Floods*. SSRN: 4661678

Work in Progress

- Sarkar, J. (2025). *Demonetization, the Digital Gender Gap, and Human Capital Investment in India*
- Sarkar, J. (2025). *Environmental Justice and Enforcement of Pollution Standards* (with Phuong Ho, Bianca Cecato and Almira Salimgariev).

Publication

Sultana, N., Sarkar, J., & Meurs, M. (2024). *Climate Change-Induced Migration: A Gendered Conceptual Framework*. *Migration and Diversity*, 3(2), 215-233.

Research Experience

Summer Research Assistant

ADVISOR: DR. ELIZABETH STATON

Applied Economics Clinic, Remote

May 2025 — Aug 2025

- Conduct Literature Reviews, Assist in Survey Preparations, Writing Policy Memos
- Collect Data, Manage Research Database, Run Data Analysis

Floods and Labor Market through Gender Lens: A Case from India

ADVISOR: DR. KELLY M. JONES

American University, DC, USA

Aug 2025 — May 2025

- Develop Flood Exposure Measure using information from Google Earth Engine and Census Data
- Utilize Difference-in-Difference Strategy to estimate causal relationship between flood and labor market outcomes by gender.

Government Housing and Entrepreneurship in Indian Slums

WITH DR. GARIMA SHARMA

American University, Washington, DC, USA

May 2024 — Aug 2024

- Analyzed qualitative data using ATLAS.ti from primary surveys of slum dwellers in Orissa, India.
- Demonstrated relationship between dignity of dwelling and social entrepreneurship.

Pew Research Center Dataset Analysis on Religion and Cultural Trends

WITH PROF. BORIS GERSHMAN

American University, Washington, DC, USA

June 2024 — July 2024

- Extracted and cleaned a multi-country, multi-wave dataset on religious pluralism in South and Southeast Asia.
- Studied inter-temporal trends in cultural beliefs, attitudes, and values, including variations by religion, educational attainment, socioeconomic background, and gender.

Transformations and Resilience of Pastoral Systems Amidst Rapid Social-Environmental Changes in Mongolia

WITH PROF. MIEKE MEURS

American University, Washington, DC, USA

June 2023 — Aug 2023

- Developed a theoretical framework to study the intersection of climate change, migration and household decision-making through gender lens.
- Performed systematic literature reviews on climate change, migration, bargaining power and household dynamics with special focus on Mongolia.

Mapping Climate Risk Index: A Case Study of Ladakh, India (Knowledge for Climate Project)

WITH PROF. MEETA K. MEHRA

(In collaboration with University of Zurich, University of Bern, and ETH Zurich, Switzerland)

JNU, New Delhi, India

June 2020 -July 2021

- Developed a quantitative Climate Risk Index for sub-districts in Ladakh, India, using Principal Component Analysis.
- Performed inter-temporal analyses and simulations using detailed demographic, socioeconomic, and physical data at the sub-district level.

COVID-19 and Green Recovery in South Asia: Opportunities for Recovering Better

WITH PROF. MEETA K. MEHRA

(Commissioned by Council for Strategic and Defense Research)

JNU, New Delhi, India

Dec 2020 -Feb 2021

- Developed policy menus for sustainable recovery from the pandemic.
- Focused on the enormous green potential within South Asian countries such as green transport systems, climate-friendly infrastructure, green manufacturing, decarbonizing transitions.

Professional Experience

Editor, Kogod Sustainability Review

WITH KOGOD BUSINESS SCHOOL

American University, Washington, DC, USA

May 2024 — Present

- Edited and reviewed articles, working closely with authors and the editorial board to ensure accuracy, clarity, and adherence to guidelines.
- Developed compelling content on sustainability and business practices.

Teaching Experience

ECON 623: Applied Econometrics I

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. NATALIA RADCHENKO](#)

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, conduct in-class lectures and graded exams

ECON 322: Applied Econometrics I

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. PAUL SULLIVAN](#)

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, graded assignments and exams

ECON 373: Labor Economics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. PAUL SULLIVAN](#)

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2025

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours, graded assignments and exams

ECON 824: Advanced Econometrics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. AMOS GOLAN](#)

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2024

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 150: Economics for Business

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. MARY E. HANSEN](#)

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2024

Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

ECON 803: Microeconomic Analysis

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. SUNH AH BAHK](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2023

ECON 300: Intermediate Microeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. SUNH AH BAHK](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2023

ECON 200: Microeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. DANIEL LIN](#)

- Graded exams and maintaining log files

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Spring 2022

ECON 100: Macroeconomics

TEACHING ASSISTANT OF [DR. BERNHARD GUNTER](#)

- Taught students one-on-one in office hours and graded exams

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Fall 2022

Conferences & Workshops

Fourth Global Carework Summit

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCKS ON GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR

Durham, NC, USA

February 2025

Eastern Economic Association

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCKS ON GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR

New York City, NY, USA

February 2025

Revaluing Care in the Global Economy Workshop, Duke University

PRESENTED WORK ON CLIMATE SHOCKS AND WOMEN'S TIME POVERTY

Duke University (virtually)

September 2024

Levy Institute Gender Workshop

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCK ON GENDER DIVISION OF LABOR

Levy Institute, NY, USA

September 2024

Eastern Economic Association

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE SHOCK ON WOMEN'S UNPAID LABOR

Boston, MA, USA

March 2024

International Society for Ecological Economics, European Ecological Economics, and Degrowth

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE EXTREMES ON HOUSEHOLD WELFARE IN MOUNTAINS

virtually

July 2021

Water Security and Climate Change Conference

PRESENTED WORK ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE EXTREMES ON EARLY CHILD MARRIAGES

Hanoi, Vietnam (virtually)

July 2021

Awards & Scholarships

- **4th Barbara Bergmann Graduate Fellowship for Gender Research**
WITH DEPT. OF ECONOMICS

American University, Washington, DC, USA

May 2024 — Aug 2024

- **Graduate Merit Fellowship**
WITH DEPT. OF ECONOMICS

American University, Washington, DC, USA

Aug 2022 — Present

- **Third Prize for Best Performance in the B.Sc. Economics program**
WITH DEPT. OF ECONOMICS

Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, India

Dec. 2018

Skills

Coding Skills

Stata, R, ArcGIS, Google Earth Engine, TEX

Languages

English (fluent), Bengali (native), Hindi (fluent)

References

- Dr. **Kelly M. Jones**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address – kmjones@american.edu
- Prof. **Mieke Meurs**, Dept. of Economics, American University, Washington, DC 20016, USA. Email Address - mmeurs@american.edu
- Prof. **Meeta K. Mehra**, Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067, India. Email Address - meetakm@jnu.ac.in