

ATRAYEE CHOUDHURY

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EDUCATION

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur *August 2019 - December 2023*
Ph.D. in Economics (defended in December, 2023, and degree expected during convocation, 2024)

Banaras Hindu University *2013-2015*
MA in Economics with specialization in Econometrics, First class

Cotton College, Gauhati University *2009-2012*
BSc in Economics (Statistics & Mathematics as subsidiary subjects), First class first with distinction

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics, Applied Macroeconomics, Institutional Economics, Regional Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

The asymmetric impact of fiscal decentralization on ecological footprint - accounting for methodological refinements and various globalization facets

In the wake of global climate change, this study tries to reconcile the competing evidence on the fiscal decentralization–environmental sustainability nexus by examining the impact of the regional authority index, a comprehensive index of decentralization, on ecological footprint - a novel and composite indicator of environmental sustainability. Using novel econometric techniques to account for potential asymmetry and endogeneity issues, such as the dynamic panel threshold methodology, and quantile techniques, on a sample of 53 countries over two decades, we find robust evidence that the effect is non-linear and conditional on the degree of fiscal decentralization. Decentralization exerts a favourable impact on ecological footprint in lower regime countries owing to positive externalities, while the adverse impact of the same is observed in higher regime countries due to the “race to the bottom” phenomenon. Furthermore, the mediating channels of political and financial globalization weaken the positive externalities spillover, whereas social and cultural globalization mitigates the “race to the bottom” effect, addressing the on-going debate about the trade-off between globalization and environmental sustainability. The effective mitigation of climate change impacts under sub-national governance is thus conditioned by an optimal mix of decentralization policies at the ground level, backed by global exchange of socio-cultural policies promoting ecological awareness.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Reconciling the mixed evidence in the fiscal decentralization-government size nexus using panel quantile regression (with Sohini Sahu). *Economic Modelling*, 125, 106347, May 2023. [ABDC – A, Scopus quartile – Q1, Impact Factor – 4.7]

Revisiting the nexus between fiscal decentralization and government size - the role of ethnic fragmentation (with Sohini Sahu). *European Journal of Political Economy*, 75, 102193, March 2022. . [ABDC – A, Scopus quartile – Q1, Impact Factor – 2.5]

Fiscal decentralization, regional disparity and the role of corruption (with Nupur Nirola and Sohini Sahu). *The Annals of Regional Science*, 68(3), 757-787, January 2022. [ABDC – B, Scopus quartile – Q1, Impact Factor – 2.4]

Backdoor Effects of Decentralization on State Investment Spending through Central Grants (with Nupur Nirola and Rohith Jyothish). Regional Studies Association (featured blog), May 2023.

PRE-PH.D. PUBLISHED WORKS

Towards improving implementation of MGNREGS (with Brajesh Jha). Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Agro-Economic Policy Briefs [Policy document for Ministry of Agriculture and Farmerr's Welfare], August 2020.

Rapid assessment of NRM component of MGNREGA and its impact on sustainable livelihoods. Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayat Gyan Studies, New Delhi, May 2018.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Fiscal decentralization and public health outcomes - The role of democracy, women representation in parliament and political regime changes (with Prakashani Singh and Sohini Sahu).

The dynamics behind gender inequality in public health and education outcomes - the role of de jure discrimination against women (with Shafakat Shafi Dar)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi *June 2018 - July 2019* Senior Research Analyst in Agriculture Economics Research Unit (AERU), under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare

Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi *July 2017 - May 2018* Senior Research Analyst under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India project

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation *May 2014 - July 2014* Research Intern Fellow in Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Guwahati, Assam.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur *August 2023 - December 2023* Teaching Assistant: Economy, Society, and Public Policy, UG level

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur *January 2023 – July 2023* Teaching Assistant: Contemporary Issues in Indian Economy, PG level (E masters programme)

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur *August 2021 – June 2022* Teaching Assistant: Development Economics, UG and PG level

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur *August 2020 – June 2021* Teaching Assistant: Topics in Economic Growth, UG, PG & Ph.D.level

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

International Travel Grant, awarded by Dean of Academic Affairs, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for presentation of doctoral work at "Regional Studies Association Winter Conference", London, November 2023.

International Travel Grant, awarded by Dean of Academic Affairs, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur for presentation of doctoral work at "Vietnam Symposium on Global Economic Issues", HoChi Minh, October 2023.

Institute Fellowship for Senior Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (August 2021 – December 2023).

Institute Fellowship for Junior Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (August 2019 – July 2021).

UGC NET Fellow (July 2018).

Gauhati University Gold Medal for securing first rank in BSc Economics (2012) with distinction in Mathematics and Statistics.

Anondoram Baruah Award by State Government of Assam for securing star marks in matriculation (2007).

MEMBERSHIPS HELD

Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) *August 2020 - August 2023*
State Vice President, New Delhi, Mentoring and Soft Skills Council.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

Regional Studies Association (RSA), Winter Conference, London, November, 2023. Vietnam Symposium on Global Economic Issues, Ho Chi Minh, October, 2023.

Regional Studies Association (RSA) Annual Conference (2023): Transforming Regions: Policies and Planning for People and Places at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Europe.

IGIDR Ph.D. Colloquium, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development and Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, November 2022.

XVII International Conference on Public Policy Management, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, August 2022.

Annual Conference of the Money, Macro and Finance, Cambridge University, UK, 2021.

National Conference on Agro-economic Research, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, 2019.

National Conference on Agro-economic Research, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, 2018.

Unit level data extraction from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and extraction of firm level data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), workshop organized by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.

Advanced application of STATA and unit level data extraction from NSSO, workshop conducted by Institute Of Economic Growth, Delhi.

Design and engineering of sample techniques in field surveys, workshop conducted under Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.

Methodology of sample survey and statistical investigations, workshop under National Sample Survey Organization, Government of India.

REFERENCES

Dr Sohini Sahu *ssahu@iitk.ac.in*
Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Dr Surajit Sinha *suraji@iitk.ac.in*
Professor (retired), Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Dr C S C Sekhar *csekhar@iegindia.in*
Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.

