

Dean Spears

Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin

Economics and Planning Unit
Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi

Professional Positions

spring 2017 - : Assistant Professor. Department of Economics. University of Texas at Austin.

2015 - : visiting economist. Economics and Planning Unit. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.

2018 - : Research Fellow. IZA.

2013 - : founding Executive Director. r.i.c.e.

Research

Book

Where India Goes: Abandoned Toilets, Stunted Development, and the Costs of Caste. 2017. with Diane Coffey. Harper Collins, India.

winner of AIIS book prize: 2017 Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences

included in Marginal Revolution's list of best non-fiction books of 2017 and #3 in *The Hindu's* top 10 non-fiction books of 2017; Amazon Best Reads for September 2017

foreword by Angus Deaton

selected coverage: *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, *Foreign Policy*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Caravan*, *The Hindu*, *Hindustan Times*, *Indian Express*, *Business Standard*, *Huffington Post*, *Ideas for India*, *Marginal Revolution*, other magazines, newspapers, & blogs

Journal publications

33. Neighborhood sanitation and infant mortality. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 2018. with Michael Geruso.

32. Impact of population growth and population ethics on climate change mitigation policy. *PNAS*. 2017. with Noah Scovronick, Mark Budolfson, Francis Dennig, Marc Fleurbaey, Asher Siebert, Robert H. Socolow, and Fabian Wagner.

authorship footnote: "NS, MBB, and DS contributed equally to this work."

Economic Sciences and Sustainability Science classifications (PNAS Direct Submission).

31. Health and hunger: disease, energy needs, and the Indian calorie consumption puzzle. *The Economic Journal*. 2017. with Josephine Duh.

winner of the Royal Economic Society Austin Robinson Memorial Prize, 2018.

30. Exposure to open defecation can account for the Indian enigma of child height. *Journal of Development Economics*. forthcoming.
working paper version: How much international variation in child height can sanitation explain? World Bank Policy Research Working Paper number 6351.
media attention: *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, all major English-language Indian newspapers
29. Child height in India: Facts and interpretations from the 2015-16 NFHS-4. *Economic & Political Weekly* (special article section). 2018. *with* Diane Coffey.
28. Implications of WASH Benefits trials for open defecation Sustainable Development Goal. *Lancet Global Health*. 2018. *with* Diane Coffey.
27. Optimal climate policy and the future of world economic development. *World Bank Economic Review*. forthcoming. *corresponding author, with* Mark Budolfson, Francis Dennig, Marc Fleurbaey, Noah Scovronick, Asher Siebert, and Fabian Wagner.
26. Health externalities of India's expansion of coal plants: Evidence from a national panel of 40,000 households. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. 2018. *with* Aashish Gupta.
25. Sanitation, disease externalities, and anemia: Evidence from Nepal. *The Economic Journal*. 2018. *with* Diane Coffey and Michael Geruso.

winner of Population Health Initiative Prize for Faculty Research, 2017.
24. The puzzle of open defecation in rural India: Evidence from a novel measure of caste attitudes in a nationally-representative survey. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. forthcoming. *with* Amit Thorat.
23. Sanitation and religion in South Asia: What accounts for differences across countries?. 2018. *Journal of Development Studies*. *with* Sangita Vyas.
22. Making people happy or making happy people?: Questionnaire-experimental studies of population ethics and policy. *Social Choice and Welfare*. 2017.
21. Optimal population with exhaustible resource constraints. *Journal of Population Economics*. 2017. *with* Nicholas Lawson.
20. Switching to sanitation: Understanding latrine adoption in a representative panel of rural Indian households. *Social Science & Medicine*. 2017. *with* Diane Coffey and Sangita Vyas.
19. Place and child health: The interaction of population density and sanitation behavior in developing countries. *Demography*. 2017. *with* Payal Hathi, Sabrina Haque, Lovey Pant, and Diane Coffey. (non-alphabetical: listed last as co-senior author with Coffey).
18. Understanding open defecation in rural India: Untouchability, pollution, and latrine pits. *Economic & Political Weekly* (special article section). 2017. *with* Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas.

17. An experiment with air purifiers in Delhi during winter 2015-2016. *PLoS ONE*. 2016. *with* Sangita Vyas and Nikhil Srivastav.
16. Disease externalities and net nutrition: Evidence from changes in sanitation and child height in Cambodia, 2005-2010. *Economics and Human Biology*. 2016. *with* Sangita Vyas, Phyrum Kov, and Susanna Smets. (non-alphabetical: listed last).
15. Village sanitation and child health: Effects and external validity in a randomized field experiment in rural India. *Journal of Health Economics*. 2016. *with* Jeffrey Hammer.
14. Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Rural Sanitation on Childhood Cognitive Skills: Evidence from India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *Journal of Human Resources*. 2016. *with* Sneha Lamba (non-alphabetical: leading author).
13. Who is the Identifiable Victim?: Caste and Charitable Giving among Indian Elites. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2016. *with* Ashwini Deshpande.
12. What doesn't kill you makes you poorer: Effects of the early-life disease environment on adult wages in India. *Economics and Human Biology* (lead article, volume 21). 2016. *with* Nicholas Lawson.
11. A smaller human population in 2100 could importantly reduce the risk of climate catastrophe. letter in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 2015.
10. Short-Term Labor Migration from Rural North India: Evidence from New Survey Data. *Population Research and Policy Review*. 2015. *with* Diane Coffey and John Papp.
9. Revealed preference for open defecation: Evidence from a new survey in rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly (special article section)*. 2014. *with* Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Nidhi Khurana, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas.
8. Having a son promotes clean cooking fuel use in urban India. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2014. *with* Avinash Kishore.
7. Decision Costs and Price Sensitivity: Field Experimental Evidence from India. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. 2014.
6. Caste, 'cleanliness', and cash: Effects of caste-based political reservations in Rajasthan on a sanitation prize. *Journal of Development Studies*. 2013. *with* Sneha Lamba.
5. Open defecation and childhood stunting in India: An ecological analysis of new data from 112 districts. *PLoS ONE*. 2013. *with* Oliver Cumming and Arabinda Ghosh.
award for top 10% of papers in *PLoS ONE* by citation count.
4. Poverty and probability: aspiration and aversion to compound lotteries in El Salvador and India. *Experimental Economics*. 2012.
3. Height and cognitive achievement among Indian children. *Economics & Human Biology*. 2012.

2. Economic Decision-Making in Poverty Depletes Behavioral Control. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*. 2011.
media attention: The New York Times, The New Republic, Wikipedia front page
1. Bounded Rationality as Subjective Menus: Contraction Consistency and Intertemporal Choice. *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*. 2011.

Requests to revise and resubmit

2. The Asymmetry of population ethics: Experimental social choice and dual-process moral reasoning. second revision requested from *Economics and Philosophy*.
1. Local social inequality, economic inequality, and disparities in child height in India. second revision requested from *Demography*. with Diane Coffey, Ashwini Deshpande, and Jeffrey Hammer. Presented at PAA 2015.

Working papers

6. Heat, humidity, and infant mortality in the developing world. with Mike Geruso. NBER working paper 24870.
5. An impossibility result for decision-making under normative uncertainty. with Mark Budolfson.
4. Why all plausible population axiologies imply the repugnant conclusion: A proof. with Mark Budolfson.
3. Willingness to sacrifice for climate mitigation in representative samples of Indian adults. with Payal Hathi and Diane Coffey.
2. Neonatal death in India: The effect of birth order in a context of maternal undernutrition. with Diane Coffey.
1. Women's status and children's height in India: Evidence from joint rural households. with Diane Coffey and Reetika Khera. Presented at Economic Demography workshop, PAA 2013.

Policy research, reviews, and book chapters

15. Quantifying India's Climate Vulnerability. *India Policy Forum*. 2018. with Melissa LoPalo, Kevin Kuruc, and Mark Budolfson.
14. Open Defecation in Rural India, 2015-16: Levels and Trends in NFHS-4. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 2018. with Diane Coffey.
13. Maximizing the Public Health Benefits from Climate Action. *Environmental Science & Technology*. 2018. with George D Thurston, Sara De Matteis, Kris Murray, Pauline Scheelbeek, Noah Scovronick, Mark Budolfson, and Paolo Vineis.
12. Caste is stunting all of India's children. *Foreign Policy*. 2017. with Diane Coffey.

11. Purity, pollution, and untouchability: Challenges affecting the adoption, use, and sustainability of sanitation programmes in rural India *with* Aashish Gupta and Diane Coffey. chapter in *Sustainable Sanitation for All: Experiences, Challenges, and Innovations* edited by Petra Bongartz, Naomi Vernon and John Fox. 2016
10. Can collective action strategies motivate behavior change to reduce open defecation in rural India?. *Waterlines*. 2016. *with* Payal Hathi and Diane Coffey.
winner of Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize for 2016
9. Caste and life satisfaction in rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 2016.
8. Improving sanitation is a policy priority for children's human capital in rural India: Lessons from recent literature and the IHDS. chapter in *Undernutrition and public policy in India* edited by Sonalde Desai, Lawrence Haddad, and Amit Thorat. 2016.
7. Seeing Past Ethical Illusions: Greene's *Moral Tribes* and Cooperation and Conflict in India. *Economic & Political Weekly* (book review). 2015.
6. Why sanitation matters for nutrition. chapter 3 in *IFPRI Global Food Policy Report*. 2015. *with* Lawrence Haddad.
5. Height of the problem. *Seminar* 2014. *with* Diane Coffey.
4. Are children in West Bengal shorter than children in Bangladesh? *Economic & Political Weekly*. 22 February 2014. *with* Arabinda Ghosh & Aashish Gupta.
3. Stunting among Children: Facts and Implications. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 24 August 2013. *with* Diane Coffey, Angus Deaton, Jean Drèze, & Alessandro Tarozzi
2. Policy lessons from the implementation of India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *India Policy Forum*. 2012.
1. Low Expectations: Reference-Dependent Preferences and Labor Supply in Cape Town, South Africa. *Poverty & Public Policy*. 2012.

Academic honors & research grants

Austin Robinson Memorial Prize, given annually by the Royal Economic Society for the best paper in *The Economic Journal* by authors within five years of their PhD, 2018.

BMGF OPP1125318, "Evidence-based sanitation policy for rural India" (co-PI with Diane Coffey), \$279,817, 2018-2021.

Labelle Lecturer in health economics, McMaster University, 2017.

Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences, 2017.

Population Health Initiative Prize for Faculty Research, 2017.

Jeroen Ensink Memorial Prize, 2016.

BMGF center grant to r.i.c.e., \$1,399,996, 2015-2019.

Experimental partnership between J-PAL and the Government of Tamil Nadu on rural sanitation behavior (co-PI with Diane Coffey, Sandip Sukhtankar, and Sangita Vyas), \$70,000 (INR 45 lakh), 2015-2016.

NIH 1R03HD081209-01, “Impacts of Sanitation on Child and Maternal Health” (co-PI with Michael Geruso), \$116,005, 2014-2016.

USAID TRAction grant on interaction of population density and sanitation, \$62,267, 2013-2014.

IGC grant on switching to sanitation in rural north India (co-PI with Diane Coffey), £10,000 , 2013-2014.

Gates Foundation grant on sanitation and child health research and evidence based advocacy, \$260,000, 2013-2015.

Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics, 2010.

Truman Scholarship, 2004.

Teaching experience

Courses taught

Development and Population (advanced undergrad). Economics Department, UT Austin. spring 2018.

Development Economics (PhD). Economics Department, UT Austin. spring 2017, 2018.

Workshop on Experimental Methods within Surveys (“Questionnaire-Experiments”). *with* Diane Coffey. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. fall 2016.

Development Ethics; Economics of Inequality and Social Policy. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. spring 2016.

Workshop on Methods in Economic Demography. *with* Diane Coffey. Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. fall 2015.

Microeconomics for MPP students. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. summer 2014, 2015.

Graduate advising

Melissa LoPalo (expected spring 2019, co-chair)

Academic/Research Advisor for Sangita Vyas’ NSF Graduate Fellowship, 2017-

awarded Graduate School Mentoring Fellowship, UT Austin, 2017. (student did not attend UT)

Undergraduate thesis advising

Ashton Martin (2018)

Professional Activities

Conference organization

Consultation on Rural Sanitation Progress under the SBM: Learning from the Field. 2018. co-organized between r.i.c.e. and Accountability Initiative.

Promoting Latrine Use in Rural India. 2016. co-organized between r.i.c.e. and 3ie.

Purity, Untouchability, and Open Defecation: Starting a Conversation for a Swachh Bharat, conference hosted at Jawaharlal Nehru University by r.i.c.e. and the Indian Institute for Dalit Studies. 2015. co-organized with Sangita Vyas and Diane Coffey.

Panel at UNC Water and Health Conference. 2014. co-organized with Diane Coffey and Jan Willem Rosenboom.

Panel at American Economic Association. "Toilet Papers: The Economics of Sanitation in Developing Countries." 2014. co-organized with Manisha Shah.

Conference on child height in India and early-life disease, at the Delhi School of Economics, with the support of the World Bank and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. 2-3 August 2013. co-organized with Ashwini Deshpande and Abhijit Banerji.

Invited seminars and conference presentations

2018 (including scheduled): Yale, Princeton (Climate Futures Initiative), Penn (CASI & PSC), University of Sussex (IDS), NCSU (WASH cluster), TREE (NCSU, RTI, & Duke environmental economics), PAA (two presentations), Institute for Futures Studies (population conference in Stockholm), Social Choice and Welfare (conference in Seoul), Centre for Policy Research (Delhi), India Policy Forum

2017: Princeton (Climate Futures Initiative), The College of New Jersey (Philosopher's Holiday invited lecture), UQAM, Azim Premji University, McMaster University (Labelle lecture), Penn (conference on child development in India), IIT-Delhi, NIPFP, ISI-Delhi

2016: UT Austin (economics), Penn (PSC & CASI), Brown Watson Institute, Tufts Friedman School, Princeton Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton Social Choice & Welfare working papers group, PAA, UNU-WIDER, Tamil Nadu Department of Rural Development, NEUDC (coauthor presented), Indian Statistical Institute, 3ie (Delhi), Ranchi University

2015: Aix-Marseille School of Economics, PAA (two presentations), LBSNAA, Delhi School of Economics, Chicago Booth (Center for Decision Research), 3ie Delhi Evidence Week, UNC Water and Health Conference (coauthor presented posters), Indian Statistical Institute

2014: AEA, PAA (two presentations), UT Austin (economics & population center), Princeton, Delhi School of Economics, Allahabad University, Indian Statistical Institute, World Bank (Nairobi, DC, & Delhi), Gates Foundation (Nairobi), WASH 2014 (Brisbane), IDS-NCAER nutrition conference (Delhi), 3ie, PHFI, LBSNAA, IFPRI (DC), UNC Water and Health Conference (several presentations), IHDS users conference (NCAER), Tufts Friedman School, NEUDC, Ministry of Statistics & NSSO (Government of India), National Centre for Good Governance (Government of India)

2013: AEA, PAA (coauthor presented at economic demography workshop), Tufts Friedman School, University of Virginia, UNC Water and Health Conference, Delhi School of Economics, World Bank (DC, Delhi, & Phnom Penh), Gates Foundation (Phnom Penh, Seattle), Public Health Foundation of India, national NBA conference at Uttarakhand administrative training institute, IFPRI (DC), World Water Week (Stockholm)

2012: PAA (poster & paper), Yale conference on experimental moral psychology and poverty, World Bank (DC & Delhi), Gates Foundation, India Policy Forum (Brookings & NCAER), LBSNAA, NCAER, World Bank Delhi, World Water Week (Stockholm), Indian Statistical Institute, NEUDC

2011: Delhi School of Economics, NCAER, IIT Delhi

2010: University of Cape Town, Princeton Center for Health and Wellbeing

2009: University of El Salvador, NEUDC

2008: NEUDC

Journal refereeing

AEJ; Applied; American Economic Review; American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Demography; Econometrica; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economics & Human Biology; The Economic Journal; Economics & Philosophy; Economic & Political Weekly; Energy Policy; Food Policy; Health Economics; 3ie (funding agency); International Journal of Epidemiology; International Journal of General Medicine; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Applied Philosophy; Journal of Asian Economies; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Development; Lancet Global Health; Nature Climate Change; Poverty and Public Policy; Public Finance Review; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Review of Economics of the Household; Social Choice & Welfare; Social Science & Medicine; The South Asianist; Water Resources Research; World Bank Economic Review; World Development

UT service

organized spring 2018 development seminar speaker series

guest lecturer: PRC professional development course; Innovations for Peace and Development; a McCombs MBA course

Other media

many newspaper and magazine op-ed articles on economic and policy issues: *Indian Express*, *Business Standard*, *Mint*, *India Today*, *Hindustan Times*, *The Hindu*, *Huffington Post*, *Ethiopian Herald*, Ideas for India

TV appearances in India to discuss economic and policy issues: BBC, NDTV, CNN-IBN, Hindustan Times video

Education

Ph.D.: Economics Department, Princeton University, 2013.

M.P.A.: Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, 2007.

M.A.I.S. & B.A.: School of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2005.

Other Professional Experience

affiliate. Climate Futures Initiative, Princeton University, 2016-.

Visiting Associate Research Scholar. WWS, Princeton University, spring 2016.

initial member, National Rapid Action Learning Unit, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of India, 2015-2016.

visiting economist. Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, 2011-2015.

short term consultant (part time), World Bank. 2012-2014

August 7, 2018