

## Abu S. Shonchoy

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### Personal Details

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### Current Positions

*Assistant Professor of Economics* August 2018 -  
Department of Economics, Florida International University (FIU), Florida, USA  
*Affiliated Professor* July 2020 -  
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at MIT  
*Research Fellow* August 2019 -  
IZA - Institute of Labor Economics, Bonn, Germany  
*Research Fellow* September 2019 -  
GLO - Global Labor Organization (GLO)

### Past Positions

*Visiting Scholar* March 2016 - September 2018  
Wagner School of Public Services, New York University (NYU), New York USA  
*Research Fellow (Tenured)* July 2010 - September 2018  
Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor* 2012 - 2016  
University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP), Tokyo, Japan  
*Adjunct Assistant Professor* 2011  
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo Japan.  
*Research Internship* 2007- 2008  
International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC, USA.  
*Lecturer* 2005 -2006  
BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Education

*PhD in Economics* 2011  
University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia.  
*Master of Economic Policy* 2005  
The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia.  
*Bachelor of Social Sciences in Economics (First class, Honors)* 2003  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Research Interests

*Primary:* Development and Labor Economics.  
*Secondary:* Behavioral and Experimental Economics.

### Recognition/Award

(1) *Albert Berry Prize* for best paper in Canadian Economic Association Conference, Ottawa. 2016  
(2) *Best Presentation by a Young Researcher* in “Making Impact Evaluation  
Matter” conference organized by 3ie, ADB and PIDS, Manila. 2014  
(3) *Highest Score* in student evaluation, University of Technology Sydney (UTS) 2010  
(4) *Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship*, The Tokyo Foundation 2009

- (5) *Hector Kinloch Public Speaking Champion*, Frank Fenner Hall, (ANU). 2005  
 (6) *Neil Vousden Memorial Scholarship* Australian National University (ANU). 2004

## Publications

- (1) Poverty and Migration in the Digital Age: Experimental Evidence on Mobile Banking in Bangladesh (With Jonathan Morduch, Jean Lee, Hassan Zaman and Saravana Rabindran). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* [Forthcoming].
- (2) Fertility and Rural Electrification in Bangladesh (with Tomoki Fujii). *Journal of Development Economics* [Forthcoming].
- (3) Can Solar Lanterns Improve Youth Academic Performance? Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh (with Yuya Kudo and Kazushi Takahashi). *The World Bank Economic Review*. (Volume 33, Issue 2, June 2019, Pages 436–460).
- (4) Short-term Impacts of Solar Lanterns on Child Health: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh (with Yuya Kudo and Kazushi Takahashi). *Journal of Development Studies*. (Volume 55, Issue 11, June 2019, Pages 2329–2346).
- (5) Impact of Electrification on Children’s Nutritional Status in Rural Bangladesh (with Tomoki Fujii and Sijia Xu). *World Development*. (Volume 102, February 2018, Pages 315–330).
- (6) The Impact of a Computer Based Adult Literacy Program on Literacy and Numeracy: Evidence from India (with Ashwini Deshpande, Christopher Ksoll and Alain M. Desrochers) *World Development*. (Volume 96, August 2017, Pages 451–473).
- (7) How Does Contract Design Affect the Uptake of Microcredit among the Ultra-poor? Experimental Evidence from River Islands of Northern Bangladesh (with Seiro Ito, Kazushi Takahashi and Takashi Kurosaki). *Journal of Development Studies*. (Volume 53, Issue 4, 2017).
- (8) Political Institutions, Governance and Consumption Expenditure in Developing Countries: A Panel Data Analysis *Contemporary Economic Policy*. (Volume 34, Issue 4, October 2016).
- (9) Seasonal Migration and Micro-credit in the Lean Period: Evidence from Northwest Bangladesh. *Developing Economies*. (Volume 53 Number 1, March 2015).
- (10) The Informal Labour Market in India: Transitory or Permanent Employment for Migrants? (With Junankar PNR). *IZA Journal of Labor and Development*. (Volume 3, Issue 9, July 2014). Reprinted in “Development Economics: The Role of Agriculture in Development”, edited by Raja Junankar, Chapter 5.1, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

## Papers under review or in preparation for journals

- (1) Seasonality and School Dropout: Ramadan School Holidays as a Natural Experiment in Bangladesh (With Seiro Ito). Under review in *Journal of Human Resources*. *IDE Discussion Paper 295*.
- (2) Impact of Seasonality-adjusted Flexible Microcredit on Repayment and Food Consumption: Experimental Evidence from Rural Bangladesh (with Takashi Kurosaki). *IDE Discussion Paper 460*.
- (3) Tertiary Education, University Admission Gap and Credit Constraints: An RCT experiment in a Developing Country (With Yasuyuki Sawada and Hisaki Kono). Under review in *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. *IDE Discussion Paper 580*.

(4) Impact of Political Protests (Strikes) on Manufacturing Firms: Evidence from Bangladesh (with Kenmai Tsubota). Under review in *Management Science*. *IDE Discussion Paper 523*.

(5) The Dynamics of Spending and Absorption of Aid: Panel Data Analysis.

### Working Papers

(1) Peer Influence and Pro-social Motivations in Technology Adoption: Evidence from bKash (with Jean Lee, Saravana Ravndran and Jonathan Morduch).

(2) Food Crop Diversification as a Risk-Mitigating Strategy during Conflict: Evidence from Cote d'Ivoire" (with Saumik Paul and Andrew Dabalen). *IDE Discussion Paper 496*

(3) Illusion of Gender Parity in Education: Intrahousehold Resource Allocation in Bangladesh (with Sijia Xu and Tomoki Fujii). *IDE Discussion Paper 522*

(4) Conditional Cash Transfer, SMS Nudges, and Loss Framing: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Bangladesh (With Tomoki Fujii, Christine Ho and Rohan Roy).

### Edited Book Volume

"Seasonality and Microcredit, The Case of Northern Bangladesh". SpringerBriefs in Economics, Springer (2014).

### Selected Book Chapters

(1) "Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Education in Bangladesh: Achievements and Challenges" (with Hisaki Kono and Yasuyuki Sawada), In: Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada, Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, and Dr. Naohiro Kitano (eds) *Economic and Social Development of Bangladesh: Miracle and Challenges*, Chapter 7, Palgrave Macmillan. 2017

(2) "Does Participation in Vocational Training Differ on Agricultural Seasonality" (with Israt Jahan), In: Selim Raihan (eds) *Structural Change and Dynamics of labor Markets in Bangladesh*, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka, Chapter 10. 2016

(3) Temporary Migration in the Lean Period: Evidence from Northern Bangladesh, (with Abu Shahriar and Sakiba Zeba), In: Munir Quddus and Farida Khan (eds.) *Bangladesh Economy in the 21st Century: Selected Papers from the 2008-09 Conferences at Harvard University*, University Press Ltd., Dhaka, Chapter 13. 2011

### Book Review

Review of "What Works in Development: Thinking Big and Thinking Small" by Jessica Cohen and William Easterly, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C. (Developing Economies, Volume 50, Number 1). 2017.

### Other Articles and Policy Briefs

(1) "Solar Lanterns and Youth Academic Performance in Bangladesh?" with Yuya Kudo and Kazushi Takahashi. *World Bank Research Digest* (Volume 13, Number 2, Winter 2019, Page 9). ([Click here](#)) 2019.

(2) "Would you pay more for soap when purchasing with mobile money?" with Jean Lee and Jonathan Morduch. Report to IMTFI. ([Click here](#)) 2017.

(3) “Better design of a vocational training programme: Can on-the-job training play a role?” IGC Policy Brief ([Click here](#)). 2016.

(4) “Understanding blackouts: Analysing detailed blackouts information of Dhaka” IGC Policy Brief ([Click here](#)). 2016

## Research Grants

(1) *JPAL-MIT* grant on Digital Identification and Finance Initiative in Africa (DigiFI) (with Emma Riley [University of Oxford]) 2019 (USD 10,000). Principal Investigator.

(2) *Gates Foundation grant* on “Mobile Banking in South Asia” (with Jonathan Morduch [NYU], Jean Lee [MCC] and Saravana Ravindran [UCLA]) 2019-2022 (USD 2 million).

(3) Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) competitive grant on “Study on Community Surveillance Support to Reduce Child Marriage in Bangladesh (with Zaki Wahhaj [Kent University, UK])” Principal Investigator. (2019-2020). Amount: CAD 99,000.

(4) *Gates Foundation grant* on “Testing the impacts of digital G2P payments” (with Reshmaan Hossam [Harvard Business School], Natalia Rigol [Harvard Kennedy School] and Benjamin Roth [Harvard Business School]) 2017-20 (USD 817,000)

(5) *Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF)* of World Bank on “How can we improve nutrition counselling sessions by community health workers?” (with Agha Ali Akram [LUMS] and Akib Khan [IDinsight]) 2019-20 (USD 100,000) Principal Investigator.

(6) *Grant-in-aid Scientific Research A/B* funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science on , “Empirical Analysis on the Impact of Social Ties on Female Labor Force Participation in South Asia” (with Momoe Makino, IDE-JETRO). 2018-2021 (160,000 USD).

(7) *Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) Grant* on “Skin in the Game: Microequity and Mentorship for Online Freelancing based Micro-entrepreneurs in Bangladesh” (with Simon Quinn [Oxford University], Muhammad Meki [Oxford University] and Mehrab Bakhtiar [University of Maryland]) 2017-19 (GBP 35,000) Principal Investigator.

(8) *Grant-in-aid Scientific Research A/B* funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science on “Seasonal vulnerability and its remedy in rural Bangladesh: Evidence from the frequent data and randomized experiments”, (with Kazushi Takahashi [Sophia University], Hisaki Kono [Kyoto University], Takashi Kurosaki [Hitotsubashi University] and Jun Goto [Hitotsubashi University]). 2017-2022 (USD 120,000)

(9) *International Growth Center (IGC) Grant* on “Training Program for RMG sector: Long-term impact” (with Tomoki Fujii [Singapore Management University] and Christopher Woodruff [Oxford University]). 2016-18 (GBP 70,000.00) Principal Investigator

(10) *GRIPS internal funding for Emerging State Project* titled “Improving Hygiene Practice Using a Mobile Phone Based Platform: The case in Bangladesh” (with Chikako Yamauchi [GRIPS] and Reshmaan Hussam [Harvard Business School]) (JPY 400,000) 2016-2017.

(11) *Singapore Management University* research grant (with Tomoki Fujii and Christine Ho) 2017 (SGD 25,000).

(12) *Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University* research grant on “Evaluating the Impact of Microcredit Schemes Targeted towards the Ultra-Poor in the River Islands of Northern

Bangladesh” (with Seiro Ito [IDE-JETRO], Kazushi Takahashi [Sophia University] and Takashi Kurosaki [Hitotsubashi University]) 2017 (JPY 100,000).

(13) *University of Munich* (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) grant on “Lab-in-the-field experiments for product demand and group aspects in microlending” (with Kristina Czura [University of Munich] and Simeon Schudy [University of Munich]) 2016-17 (Euro 50,000).

(14) *International Growth Center (IGC) Grant* on “Mobile Banking and Remittances Among Garment Workers in Bangladesh: An Experimental Study” (with Jonathan Morduch [New York University] and Jean Lee [Millennium Challenge Corporation]) 2014-2017 (GBP 45,000)

(15) *IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (GLM — LIC) Phase II grant* on “Reducing Extreme Poverty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement” (with Selim Raihan [University of Dhaka]) 2013-2016 (EUR 350,000) Principal Investigator

(16) *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada* (SSHRC, (435-2013-1913)) Insight Grants, University of Ottawa “Information and Communication technology in adult literacy classes: Effectiveness and Empowerment impacts from three continents” (with Christopher Ksoll [Mathematics], Annemie J. Maertens [University of Sussex] and Alain Desrochers [University of Ottawa]). 2013-2016

(17) *The Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMTFI)* titled “Risk Preferences, Time Preferences, and Willingness-to-Pay with Mobile Money versus Cash in Bangladesh” (with Jonathan Morduch [New York University] and Jean Lee [Millennium Challenge Corporation]) 2014-2015 (USD 20,000)

(18) *The Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme)* titled “Employment effects of different development policy instruments: Bangladesh” (with Selim Raihan [University of Dhaka]) (CHF 100,000)

(19) *IDRC Research Grant* on “Changing labour markets in Bangladesh: Understanding dynamics in relation to economic growth and poverty” (with Selim Raihan [University of Dhaka]). 2013-2015 (USD 400,000)

(20) *International Growth Center (IGC) Grant* on “Understanding Blackout”, Bangladesh round 2014-2015 (GBP 10,000) Principal Investigator

### **Other Visiting/Temporary positions**

University of Oxford, Department of International Development (2019).

Economics Department, Singapore Management University, Singapore (2012, 2014, 2015).

Economics Department, Kent University, Canterbury, UK (2016)

Sessional Lecturer, University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia (2008-2010)

Adjunct Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Sydney, Australia. (2009-2010)

### **Academic Supervision**

*Main Supervisor:* Ehsan Asghari Ghara, Mohammad Javad Mehregan

*PhD Committee:* Javier Munoz, Asif Hasan Dhiman

*Master Thesis (University of Tokyo, Japan):* Sirajum Munira, Mizanur Rahman Khandaker, Ed Lucio and Ida Panting

*External PhD Thesis (McGill University, Canada):* Mehnaz Rabbani.

### **Teaching Experience**

(1) Master/Phd “ <i>Development Economics: Micro Approach</i> ” University of Tokyo, Japan	<i>Spring 2011-2015</i>
(2) Master/Phd “ <i>Development Finance</i> ” University of Tokyo, Japan	<i>Summer 2012-2015</i>
(3) Master/Phd “ <i>Development Economics</i> ” National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan	<i>Winter 2011</i>
(4) Master of Commerce (MCom) “ <i>Introductory Data and Statistics</i> ” University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia	<i>2008-2010</i>
(5) MBA 2nd Year “ <i>Economics for Management</i> ” University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), Australia	<i>2009-2010</i>
(6) MBA 2nd Year, “ <i>Managerial Economics</i> ” BRAC University, Bangladesh	<i>Winter 2005</i>
(7) Undergraduate “ <i>Intermediate Macroeconomics</i> ” BRAC University, Bangladesh	<i>Winter 2005</i>

### Seminars

*USA:* Columbia University, New York University, Sacred Heart University, The World Bank, Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, University of Miami, John Hopkins University, Central Florida University.

*Japan:* Hitotsubashi University, University of Tokyo, Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), International University of Japan, Waseda University, Hiroshima University, Sophia University.

*Australia:* University of Western Sydney, University of New South Wales, Monash University, University of Technology Sydney

*Singapore:* Singapore Management University, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University

*Bangladesh:* University of Dhaka, BRAC University, The World Bank Dhaka Office.

*Switzerland:* ETH Zurich.

*UK:* Kent University, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex.

*New Zealand:* The University of Auckland.

### Selected Conferences (Since 2014)

*2019*

The Center for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) Conference Oxford, The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Chicago, Southern Economic Association Conference (SEA) Washington DC, Western Economic Association Conference (WEAI); Tokyo, American Economic Association (AEA) San Diego

*2018*

American Economic Association (AEA) Philadelphia, Southern Economic Association Conference (SEA) Washington DC, The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference Cambridge

*2017*

American Economic Association (AEA) Chicago, IGC/IPA/BIGD Conference Dhaka, IZA—GLM Researcher Conference, World Bank, Washington DC. Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Tufts University.

*2016*

Canadian Economic Association (CEA) Ottawa, Southern Economic Association Conference (SEA) Washington DC, The Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference Cambridge.

*2015*

American Economic Association (AEA) Boston, Canadian Economic Association (CEA) Toronto, Political Economy, Accountability and Governance (BIGD) Dhaka, The Center for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) Conference Oxford, IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference on New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries, Washington DC.

2014

“Making Impact Evaluation Matter” Manila, World Trade Organization Public Forum Geneva, Canadian Economic Association (CEA) Annual Meeting Vancouver, American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting Philadelphia, Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev) Los Angeles.

### Journal Referee (Alphabetically)

*Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science, African Journal of Agricultural Research, Asian Economic Journal, Contemporary Economic Policy (2), Economic Development and Cultural Change, Feminist Economics, Economic Modelling, Empirical Economics, Energy and Development, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Bangladesh Studies, Journal of Resources, Journal of International Economics and Economic Policy, Pakistan Journal of Social Science, PLOS One, Population and Environment, Review of Development Economics, Review of Urban and Regional Development Studies, The Developing Economies (10), The Economic And Labour Relations Review, World Development (3).*

### Membership

American Economic Association, Canadian Economic Association, Japanese Economic Association, Western Economic Association International, Bangladesh Young Economist, Association for Economic and Development Studies on Bangladesh (AEDSB) [Currently serving as General Secretary]

### Policy Engagements

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|---|--------|
| (1) Consultant, Asian Development Bank, USA                               | 2019 - |
| (2) Consultant, Jobs and Social Protection, the World Bank, USA           | 2017 - |
| (3) Research Consultant, Alliance Forum Foundation, Japan                 | 2012 - |
| (4) Fellow, South Asian Network for Economic Modeling (SANEM), Bangladesh | 2011 - |
| (5) Founder and Advisor, MOMODa Foundation, Bangladesh                    | 2016 - |

### Review Committee

- (1) Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) Grant
- (2) Institute of Developing Economies, IDE-JETRO

### Other Recognitions/Awards

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|---|------|
| (1) First Runner-up of the <i>Best Overall Presentation</i> award in “Making Impact Evaluation Matter” conference organized by 3ie, ADB and PIDS, Manila. | 2014 |
| (2) <i>University International Postgraduate Scholarship (UIPA)</i> , UNSW.   | 2006 |
| (3) <i>Australian School of Business (ASB) Supplementary Scholarship</i> , UNSW.  | 2006 |
| (4) <i>Faculty Scholarship</i> , University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.   | 2004 |
| (5) Nominated and attended the <i>3rd Meetings of the Nobel Laureate of Economic Sciences</i> .   | 2008 |

### Other Services

Conference Convenor/Organizer:

- (1) “IDE Conference 2015: Labor and Employment in Developing Countries” January 2015, Japan.
- (2) “Labour Markets in South Asia: Evidence and Policy Lessons” December 2015, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- (3) FIU Economics Department Seminar Organizer.

### Field Research Experience

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Ghana.

## Country Work Experience

Bangladesh, Australia, Japan and the United States.

## Media Mention

- (1) Global Dev Blog: (*The illusion of gender parity in education: evidence from Bangladesh*).
- (2) BBC World, UK: (*Microcredit and debt*).
- (3) ABC Net, Australia: (*Microcredit and poverty*).
- (4) TVS TV, Japan: (*DVD and Distance Learning*).
- (5) New Age, Bangladesh: (*Mobile Banking*).
- (6) The Daily Star, Bangladesh: (*Garments Sector*).

## Language

Bangla/Bengali (native), English (fluent), Hindi/Urdu (conversational), Japanese (beginner), Arabic (reading/writing).

## References

Jonathan Morduch, Professor of Public Policy and Economics,  
New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
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Christopher Woodruff, Professor of Development Economics,  
University of Oxford, Department of International Development,  
Queen Elizabeth House, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB  
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