

EDUCATION	<p>Ph.D. in Economics (expected in Summer 2010) Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA <i>Dissertation Title:</i> Essays on experimental studies involving charitable donations <i>Advisor:</i> Prof. Tim Cason.</p> <p>M.S. in Economics (Dec, 2005) Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA.</p> <p>M.S. in Quantitative Economics (June, 2001) Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India</p> <p>B.Sc with Economics Honors (June, 1999) Calcutta University, Kolkata, India</p>
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	<p>ESA Travel Award, ESA Asia Pacific Conference in Australia, 2010</p> <p>Certificate for Teaching Excellence, Purdue University, 2008 <i>Outstanding graduate student instructor</i></p> <p>Knox Fellowship, Purdue University, 2004 - 2005</p> <p>Advanced Category Performance Bonus, American Express, 2003 <i>Recognition of leadership and analytic skills.</i></p> <p>Graduate Scholarship, Govt. of India 1999-2001</p> <p>Top-Ten Rank Holder, Calcutta University, 1999 <i>Economics Honors</i></p>
PRESENTATIONS	<p>“Conspicuous Consumption and Social Rank Seeking: An Experimental Study Involving Charitable Donations”. International ESA Meetings, Pasadena 2008.</p>
WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Charitable Donation as Conspicuous Consumption: An Experimental Study” <i>Job Market Paper</i></p> <p>“Endowment Origin and Charitable Giving: An Experimental Study”</p> <p>“A Gender Study of Compliance and Risk Seeking.”</p>
INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE	<p>Business Analyst, American Express, India (July 2001- May 2003).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▷ Rule development to prevent fraudulent transactions.▷ Data acquisition, model building, data analysis with SAS and CART▷ Internet and Mail Order Fraud, Merchant Fraud, International Fraud.▷ Direct interface with business partners in USA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor for Undergraduate Microeconomics (Sum07). <i>Evaluation: 3.2/5 and 3.4/5</i>
	Instructor for Undergraduate Macroeconomics (Sum08). <i>Evaluation: 3.9/5</i>
	Recitation TA for Undergraduate Principles of Economics (F04, S05). <i>Evaluation: 4.3/5, 4.0/5, 4.0/5, 3.9/5 and 3.9/5</i>
OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TA for Microeconomics for Executive MBA Course
	TA for Graduate Course of Econometrics
	TA For Behavioral Economics
	TA for Undergraduate Econometrics
	RA for Vernon Smith Experimental Economics Laboratory
	RA for Environment Protection Agency Project <i>PI: Tim Cason (Purdue Economics) and Leigh Raymond (Purdue Political Science)</i>
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION	Participant in the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics . <i>Twelfth Workshop at George Mason University, (Summer 2006)</i>
	Referee for Experimental Economics
	Member of American Economic Association. Member of Economic Science Association. Member of International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA)
TEACHING INTEREST	Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Microeconomics, Mathematical Economics, Macroeconomic Theory.
RESEARCH INTEREST	Public Economics, Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Econometrics, Game Theory, Bayesian Analysis.
COURSE HIGHLIGHTS	<i>At Purdue University:</i> Econometrics, Industrial Organization, International Trade, Time Series, Experimental Economics, Game Theory etc.
	<i>At Indian Statistical Institute :</i> Econometric Application, Econometric Theory, Time Series, Trade and Development, Game Theory, Development Economics etc.
COMPUTING	MS-Excel, SAS, STATA, CART, z-Tree, L^AT_EX, Matlab, R, C
IMMIGRATION STATUS	<i>Citizenship:</i> Indian.
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Dissertation Summary

Charitable contributions continue being a widely studied subject in economics. Some core areas of interest are understanding the motives for charity and generating better fund raising methods. Two related issues are studied in this dissertation, namely,

1. How social rank signaling motives can lead to charitable contribution.
2. How earning environments can affect one's decision to make charitable donation.

We study the above issues with the help of laboratory experiments which, unlike field studies, provide us with a controlled environment and the opportunity of altering treatment conditions in order to draw well calibrated inference.

In our first essay we explore how the effect of social recognition on charitable giving can be partially explained by the theory of conspicuous consumption due to Glazer and Konrad (1996, American Economic Review). According to this theory, when social rank is determined by factors that are unobservable to others, people may use charitable donation as an instrument to signal their social status, by ensuring that their observed donation rank exactly matches their unobserved social rank. We present an experimental study where we witnessed such a phenomenon – subjects suitably changed their initial allocation to charitable donation to reduce the mismatch between their donation rank and endowment rank. With the help of varying treatment conditions and a careful hierarchical Bayesian data analysis we establish that the effect of rank mismatch on the change in donation was more than what could be explained by the intrinsic utility subjects derived by donating to charity.

In our second essay, we report two experimental studies in which we assess how origin of wealth affects charitable giving. In one experiment we ask if the amount donated to charity depends on whether endowment is earned or received as a gift. In the second, we explore whether the nature of the earning environment – competitive or cooperative – affects charitable contribution. Our statistical analysis indicates that whether endowment is earned or received as a gift seems to make no difference to the amount donated to charity. However, the earning environment has an interesting effect on the donation amount. In the cooperative setting, subjects who contribute more to the success of their teams appear less giving than their teammates as well as those who earn the same amount through competition.

REFERENCES

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