

## **Rohini Somanathan**

### Curriculum Vitae

#### **Education**

Ph.D in Economics, Boston University, 1996.

M.A. in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, 1988.

B.A. (Honours) in Economics, Delhi University, 1986.

#### **Current Research Interests**

Economic Development, Political Economy, Public Economics.

#### **Professional Experience in Higher Education**

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi: Professor, 2008-onwards.

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi: Reader in Economics, 2005-2007.

University of Michigan: Assistant Professor of Economics, 1998-2005.

Indian Statistical Institute: Assistant Professor, 2002 – 2004.

Emory University: Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, 1995 -1998

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi: Lecturer in Economics, 1989-1990.

#### **Courses Taught**

*Delhi School of Economics:* The Economics of Health and Education, Special Topics in Development, Econometrics, Contemporary Issues in Historical Perspective.

*University of Michigan:* Development Economics, Empirical methods in Development and Public Policy, Public Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics.

*Indian Statistical Institute:* Development Economics, Statistics, Sample Survey Methods.

*Emory University:* Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization, Economic Development and Public Policy.

#### **Published and Forthcoming Papers**

“[Repayment incentives and the distribution of gains from group lending](#)” (with Jean-Marie Baland and Zaki Wahhaj), *Journal of Development Economics*, forthcoming.

"Back on the Rails: Competition and Productivity Change in State-owned Industry" (with Sanghamitra Das, Kala Krishna and Sergey Lychagin), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* Volume 5, Issue 1 pp 136-62, 2013.

"The application of nonparametric tests to poverty targeting" with Isha Dewan, *Economics Letters*, 2011.

"Climate Change: Challenges Facing India's Poor" with E. Somanathan, *Economic and Political Weekly*, volume 44 No. 31 August 01 - August 07, 2009.

"Racial Inequality and Segregation Measures: Some Evidence from the 2000 Census" with Rajiv Sethi, *The Review of Black Political Economy*, Volume 36, Issue2 , 2009

"Mapping Indian Districts Across Census Years, 1971-2001" with Hemanshu Kumar, *Economic and Political Weekly* 36(9), 2009, 783-792

"Micro-finance Lifespans: A Study of Attrition and Exclusion in Self-Help Groups in India" with Jean-Marie Baland and Lore Vandewalle, *India Policy Forum*, July 2008.

"Quantifying Misallocation in Centrally Provided Public Goods." with Siva Athreya, *Economics Letters*, volume 98(2), 2008, pp. 201-206.

"The Political Economy of Public Goods: Some Evidence from India", with Abhijit Banerjee, *Journal of Development Economics*, volume 82, number 2, 2007, 287-314.

"Is Skill-Biased Technological Change Here Yet? Evidence from Indian Manufacturing in the 1990s." with Eli Berman and Hong Tan, *Annales d'Economie et de Statistique*, special issue in honor of Zvi Griliches, volume 79/80, 2006.

"The assumptions and arithmetic of caste-based reservations, *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 17, 2006, 2436-2438.

"History, social divisions and public goods in rural India" with Abhijit Banerjee and Lakshmi Iyer, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, April-May 2005, 3(2-3) , 639-47.

"Inequality and Segregation", with Rajiv Sethi, *Journal of Political Economy*, volume 112, number 6, December 2004.

"A Simple Model of Voice", with Abhijit Banerjee, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, February 2001.

"School Heterogeneity, Human Capital Accumulation, and Standards." *Journal of Public Economics*, March 1998 pages 369-397.

### **Book Chapters**

"The Demand for Disadvantage" in Jean-Philippe Platteau and Robert Peccoud (ed.) *Culture, Institutions, and Development: New Insights into an Old Debate*, (Routledge: 2010)

"Public Action for Public Goods", with Abhijit Banerjee, and Lakshmi Iyer, in T. Paul Schultz and John Strauss (ed), *Handbook of Development Economics* vol. IV, (North Holland: 2008).

"Poverty and Exclusion" in *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Kaushik Basu (ed.) Oxford University Press, February, 2007.

### **Book Reviews**

*Democracy and Development* by Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, Oxford University Press, published in *The Book Review*, Volume XXVII, no. 11.

*Distribution and Development: A New Look at the Developing World* by Gary S. Fields, MIT Press, *Economica*, Volume 71, number 282, May, 2004.

*Social Science Knowledge and Economic Development: An Institutional Design Perspective* by Vernon W. Ruttan, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Volume 90, issue 2, 574-576.

### **Tributes**

"Suresh Tendulkar and his Delhi School Family", *Economic and Political Weekly*, August 6, 2011.

"P.C. Mahalanobis: The Plan Man", *India Today*, March 26, 2007.

## **Working Papers**

"Patronage in Public Administration: Presidential Connections, Position Assignments and the Performance of the Korean Public Prosecutors, 1992-2000." (with Nowook Park).

"The Effects of Open Enrollment Plans on School Composition and Student Attainment: A Theoretical Analysis with Evidence from Massachusetts."

"Aid and Agency in Africa: Explaining Food Disbursements Across Ethiopian Households, 1994-2004." (with Nzinga Broussard and Stefan Dercon)

## **Work in Progress**

"Caste Loyalties and Redistributive Politics in India" (with Avidit Acharya and John Roemer )

"Caste Hierarchies and Social Mobility in India" (with Rajiv Sethi )

"Social Exclusion in a Laboratory Microfinance Experiment" (with Jean Marie Baland, Lata Gangadharan and Pushkar Maitra )

"Public Goods Access and Juvenile Sex Ratios in Rural India: Evidence from the 1991 and 2001 Village Census Data" (with Anil B. Deolalikar and Rana Hasan)

"Poverty Reduction in India: New Evidence based on Micro-data" (with Ingvild Almås and Anders Grøn Kjelsrud)

"Schools, Tutors and Child Learning in India" (with Michael Walton)

"The Evolution of Institutions to Solve Public Good Problems" (with Karla Hoff and Pontus Strimling")

"The Impact of School Meals on Attendance, Learning and Health Outcomes in Delhi" (with Farzana Afridi and Bidisha Barooah)

"Regulatory Policies to limit the use of Plastic Bags in Urban India" (with Kanupriya Gupta)

## **Awards and Fellowships**

Leon Levy Foundation Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 2010-2011.

Podlich Distinguished Fellow, Claremont McKenna College, 2010.

## **Current Professional Activities and Positions**

Member of the Executive Committee, International Economic Association.

Lead Economist, International Growth Centre, Bihar Program.

Board Member, Oxfam India

Member of Committee of Direction, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum.

World Development, Editorial Advisory Board.