

# Dean Spears

Centre for Development Economics  
Delhi School of Economics  
Delhi, India 110007

www.riceinstitute.org  
dean@riceinstitute.org

## Education

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

*General Examinations*: advanced microeconomic theory, development economics  
additionally completed course sequence for Princeton's psychology Ph.D.

M.A.: Economics, Princeton University, 2009.

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

*Field*: Development Studies.

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

B.A.: International Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2005.

*Minors*: anthropology, economics, history, philosophy, Spanish.  
College of Arts and Sciences top graduate. Phi Beta Kappa.

## Professional Experience

2013 - : visiting research affiliate. Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics

2007-2008: Lecturer in Public Affairs. Woodrow Wilson School. Princeton University.

## Research

### Publications

Having a son promotes clean cooking fuel use in urban India. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2014. *with* Avinash Kishore.

Decision Costs and Price Sensitivity: Field Experimental Evidence from India. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. 2014.

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.

Caste, 'cleanliness', and cash: Effects of caste-based political reservations in Rajasthan on a sanitation prize. *Journal of Development Studies*. 2013. *with* Sneha Lamba.

Poverty and probability: aspiration and aversion to compound lotteries in El Salvador and India. *Experimental Economics*. 2012.

Height and cognitive achievement among Indian children. *Economics & Human Biology*. 2012.

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, Radio Air America*

Bounded Rationality as Subjective Menus: Contraction Consistency and Intertemporal Choice. *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*. 2011.

### **Pending requests to revise and resubmit**

Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Rural Sanitation on Childhood Cognitive Skills: Evidence from India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *Journal of Human Resources*. *with* Sneha Lamba.

Dual economies or dual livelihoods? Short term migration from rural India and non-agricultural employment. *Population Research and Policy Review with* Diane Coffey and John Papp.

### **Research under peer review**

How much international variation in child height can sanitation explain? World Bank Policy Research Working Paper number 6351.

Effects of Rural Sanitation on Infant Mortality and Human Capital: Evidence from a Local Governance Incentive in India.

Who is the Identifiable Victim?: Caste and Charitable Giving among Indian Elites. *with* Ashwini Deshpande.

Village sanitation externalities and children's human capital: Evidence from a randomized experiment by the Maharashtra government. *with* Jeffrey Hammer.

Cognitive Limits, Apparent Impatience, and Monthly Consumption Cycles: Theory and Evidence from the South African Pension. presented at the annual meetings of the American Economic Association, 2013.

Improvements in sanitation coverage in Cambodia explain improvements in child height. *with* Phyrum Kov, Susanna Smets, and Sangita Vyas.

Can an improving disease environment explain the Indian decline in calorie consumption? *with* Josephine Duh.

Increasing average exposure to open defecation in India, 2001-2011.

### **Research in progress**

Sanitation Quality, Use, Access, and Trends: A survey in five states of rural north India. *with* Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, and Sangita Vyas.

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.

Sanitation and health externalities: Resolving the Muslim mortality paradox *with* Michael Geruso.

What doesn't kill you makes you richer: Effects of the early-life disease environment on adult wages in India. *with* Nicholas Lawson.

Hospital incentives and antibiotic resistance.

More money more problems?: Mechanism design of governance incentives in a low-capacity state *with* Rohit Lamba.

Do toilets spill over?: Population density and the effect of sanitation on early-life health. *with* Payal Hathi, Sabine Haque, Lovey Pant, and Diane Coffey

Open defecation, population density, and child height in Madhya Pradesh, India: An ecological analysis of new data on 22,000 children *with* Sangita Vyas, Aashish Gupta, Gregor von Medeazza

Caste and child height in India: Social and economic factors. *with* Diane Coffey, Ashwini Deshpande, and Jeffrey Hammer.

What's so communal about communities in India?: Social distance, coordination, and rural open defecation. *with* Payal Hathi.

## Academic honors & research grants

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.

Princeton Fellowship in Social Policy, 2009-2011.

The Richard S. Simmons '51 Graduate Fellowship, 2008-2009.

Princeton Laboratory for Experimental Social Science grant, 2007.

Truman Scholarship, 2004.

U.S. Presidential Scholar, 2001.

## Teaching experience

### As instructor

Microeconomics for MPP students. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. 2014 (scheduled).

College English. Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, New Jersey. February 2010.

### As teaching assistant

WWS 511c. Microeconomics (MPA, advanced). Princeton. fall 2012.

“Evaluating Social Programs: Executive Training at J-PAL.” Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. MIT. May 2008.

WWS 512b&c. Macroeconomics (MPA – basic and advanced). Princeton. spring 2007.

WWS 507b. Quantitative Analysis (MPA). Princeton. fall 2007.

WWS 509. General Linear Models (PhD). Princeton. fall 2007.

ECON 1123. Principles of Microeconomics (undergraduate). University of Oklahoma. fall, spring 2003.

## Professional Activities

### Conference organization

Panel at UNC Water and Health Conference. 2014 (scheduled). 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

2014: (including scheduled) AEA, PAA (two presentations), UT Austin, Princeton, Delhi School of Economics, Allahabad University, Indian Statistical Institute, World Bank (Nairobi, DC, & Delhi), Gates Foundation (Nairobi), WASH 2014 (Brisbane), NCAER, 3ie, LBSNAA, IFPRI, UNC Water and Health Conference (several presentations)

2013: AEA, Tufts, PAA (coauthor presented at economic demography workshop), 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

2009: University of El Salvador, NEUDC

2008: NEUDC

### Journal refereeing

Econometrica; Journal of Human Resources; Economic Development and Cultural Change; World Development; Demography; Social Science & Medicine; Economics and Human Biology; Health Economics; Journal of Asian Economics; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Food Policy; Poverty and Public Policy; The South Asianist; International Journal of General Medicine; Journal of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Development; Water Resources Research

### Other writing

#### Policy articles

Paper invited by Unicef on malnutrition among Adivasi children in India. 2014 (scheduled).

Paper invited by NCAER and IDS on malnutrition and sanitation in India. 2014 (scheduled).

Are children in West Bengal shorter than children in Bangladesh? *Economic & Political Weekly*. 22 February 2014. *with* Arabinda Ghosh & Aashish Gupta.

Stunting among Children: Facts and Implications. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 24 August 2013. *with* Diane Coffey, Angus Deaton, Jean Drèze, & Alessandro Tarozzi

Can food alone resolve “malnutrition”? Stunting, open defecation and the urgency a of policy response. Public Health Foundation of India conference paper. 2013.

Policy lessons from the implementation of India’s Total Sanitation Campaign. *India Policy Forum*. 2012.

Low Expectations: Reference-Dependent Preferences and Labor Supply in Cape Town, South Africa. *Poverty & Public Policy*. 2012.

#### Newspaper articles

“To stop open defecation in India, go the Pulse Polio way.” *with* Diane Coffey. *Hindustan Times* (India). June 2014.

“Can Modi’s next wave wash away open defecation?.” *with* Diane Coffey. *Mint & The Wall Street Journal* (India). June 2014.

“Coming up short in India.” *Mint & The Wall Street Journal* (India). July 2013.

“Ending open defecation must be a policy priority.” *Ethiopian Herald* (Ethiopia). April 2013.

“The long and short of open defecation.” *The Hindu* (India). March 2013.

“Ending open defecation by paying for what we get.” *Business Standard* (India). August 2012.

“Let the toilet revolution begin!” (not my title) *Business Standard* (India). July 2012.

### **Other experience**

Executive Director, r.i.c.e.: a research institute for compassionate economics. 2011-present. *with* Diane Coffey. [www.riceinstitute.org](http://www.riceinstitute.org)

Short term consultant, World Bank. 2012-present

### **Language skills**

English: native

Spanish: fieldwork proficiency, depreciating

Hindi: intermediate, growing

July 10, 2014