

MD FERDOUS ZAMAN SARDAR

<https://sites.google.com/uw.edu/fzsardar>

fzsardar@uw.edu

(989) 854-9586

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Washington (Expected June 2021)

Thesis Title: *“How COVID-19 Risk Information Affects Beliefs and Behaviors: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh”*

M.A., Economics, Central Michigan University, 2016

M.B.A., Finance, Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka, 2012

B.A., English, University of Dhaka, 2008

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Health Economics, Labor Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington, Seattle

Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics WIN 2019, AUT 2019, WIN 2020, SPR 2020

Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics WIN 2018, AUT 2018, AUT 2020

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics WIN 2017, SPR 2017, AUT 2017

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Macroeconomics SPR 2018

University of Washington, Bothell

Instructor, Introduction to Microeconomics AUT 2019

Instructor, Managerial Economics WIN 2020

Instructor, Special Topics (in Game Theory) SUM 2020

Seattle Central College

Instructor, Introduction to Microeconomics WIN 2018, SUM 2018

Instructor, Business Statistics SUM 2019

Central Michigan University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Micro Principles for Business SPR 2015, FALL 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Macro Principles for Business FALL 2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Business Statistics FALL 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Manager, IGC funded Project in Bangladesh 2019

PIs: Tim Besley (LSE), Adnan Khan (LSE) and Dan Honig (JHU)

Visiting Researcher, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) Spring 2019

Research Assistant, Professor Alan Griffith, University of Washington SUM 2018, AUT 2018

Research Assistant, Professor Aydin Cecen, Central Michigan University SUM 2015, SPR 2016

Research Associate, Zenith Investments Limited, Dhaka 2011

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director, Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh) 2011 –2014

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Organizer, Labor/Development Brownbag Seminar, University of Washington AUT 2018, WIN 2019

CITIZENSHIP

Bangladeshi

REFERENCES

Rachel Heath (Chair)

Associate Professor

Department of Economics

University of Washington

rmheath@uw.edu

Alan Griffith

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics

University of Washington

alangrif@uw.edu

Fahad Khalil

Professor

Department of Economics

University of Washington

khalil@uw.edu

Prof. Haideh Salehi-Esfahani (teaching reference)

Teaching Professor

Department of Economics

University of Washington

haideh@uw.edu

RESEARCH PAPERS

Job Market Paper:

How COVID-19 Risk Information Affects Beliefs and Behaviors: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh

Abstract: The local prevalence of an infectious disease and the severity of its consequence are among the key determinants of the adoption of preventive behaviors. In a phone survey of more than two thousand individuals in Bangladesh, I find that most people either do not know or underestimate the local prevalence of COVID-19 infections and overestimate the fatality rate. In a randomized experiment, I give treatment group information about the coronavirus case number in their districts and the case fatality rate in Bangladesh and worldwide. Nine to fifteen days after the intervention, the treatment group update their belief about infection risk upward and fatality rate downward. Potentially due to this countervailing update of risk beliefs, the information does not have any effect on the self-reported preventive behaviors.

Work in Progress:

Bridging the Gap: the Impact of Transportation Infrastructure

Abstract: Developing countries and development agencies around the world spend heavily for the construction of various transportation infrastructure. However, the economic impact of these large projects is not conclusive in literature (Donaldson, 2018; Faber, 2014; Asher and Novosad, 2019). In this paper, I provide additional causal evidence of access to transportation networks by taking advantage of a “quasi-random” construction of a large bridge in Bangladesh which connected a region of more than 25 million people to the main part of the country by road and rail. By using publicly available data and the difference-in-difference method, I estimate the impact of this bridge. I find the bridge caused an increase in employment by 0.6% within 3 years and an increase in income by around 8% within 7 years. However, the impact varies by road network centrality.

Transforming the Public Sector by Improving Bureaucratic Performance: Mission Match and Slack in Bangladesh (with Timothy Besley, Adnan Khan and Daniel Honig)

Abstract: This project seeks to push forward the frontier of work on management and implementation by incorporating both the objective functions of field agents and the organizational structures under which they labor. The motivation of employees is rarely considered in designing reform efforts intended to improve performance. As a first phase in a broader reform effort, this study explored the motivation and feelings of engineers, and their view on what might improve their workplaces. In this project, we surveyed 413 engineers of the Bangladeshi Local Government Engineering Department. Findings suggested high levels of intrinsic motivation. Greater levels of intrinsic motivation were also associated with a greater desire to have more discretion in the conduct of the job, suggesting that greater flexibility for agents may lead to better performance. Motivation also varied by office, suggestive of peer effects and spillovers – of office level motivational equilibria.

How to Reintegrate the International Migrant Workers Involuntarily Returned Due To COVID-19? (with Narayan C. Das)

Abstract: Millions of people around the world lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 induced widespread economic slowdown. International migrant workers are hurt even more as they are overrepresented in occupations most immediately affected by mass layoffs (Sanchel et al., 2020; Gelatt, 2020). During this pandemic, thousands of Bangladeshi international migrant workers involuntarily returned home. Partnering with BRAC migration program, we conducted a phone survey of more than two thousand international migrant workers who returned to Bangladesh during the first half of 2020. While two-thirds of them intend to remigrate, around 12.4% plan to start a business. Most of them face capital constraint. Another 14.4% remain undecided. In addition to the short-run effect of job and earning loss, many of them face long lasting debt burden. Due to this unanticipated return, many have not been able to fully repay their huge amount of loan which they borrowed to finance their costly international migration. Outstanding loan amount is negatively correlated with the duration of stay abroad. We plan to conduct an experiment to find out what kind of reintegration policy will be effective.