

## Ferdous Z. Sardar

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### Education

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Ph.D., Economics, University of Washington (Expected June 2022)  
 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

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Health Economics, Development Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

### Working Papers

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- Adoption and Impact of Mobile Health Services: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh (Job market paper)
- How COVID-19 Risk Information Affects Beliefs and Behaviors: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh
- Bridging the Gap: The Impact of Transportation Infrastructure

### Research Experience

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Research Manager, IGC funded Project in Bangladesh, PI: Dan Honig (JHU)	2019
Visiting Researcher, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)	SPR 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

### Teaching Experience

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University of Washington, Seattle	2017-present
Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics (Win & Aut '19; Win & Spr '20; Win, Spr & Aut '21)	
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (Win & Aut '18; Aut '20)	
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics (Win, Sr & Aut '17)	
Teaching Assistant, Principles of Macroeconomics (Spr '18)	
University of Washington, Bothell	2019-2020
Instructor, Introduction to Microeconomics (Aut '19)	
Instructor, Managerial Economics (Win '20; Spr '21)	
Instructor, Special Topics (in Game Theory) (Sum '20)	
Seattle Central College	2018-2019
Instructor, Introduction to Microeconomics (Win & Sum '18)	
Instructor, Business Statistics (Sum '19)	

### Other Experience

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

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2021: Pacific Development Conference, UC San Diego  
 Annual Canadian Economic Association Conference  
 Annual Meeting of Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Conference  
 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Houston, TX (scheduled)

## Refereeing

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 2021: Journal of Development Economics
 

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## Departmental Service

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 Organizer, Labor/Development Brownbag Seminar, University of Washington
 

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AUT 2018, WIN 2019

## Citizenship

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 Bangladeshi
 

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## References

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 Rachel Heath (Chair)

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Alan Griffith

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## Abstracts of Working Papers

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*“Adoption and Impact of Mobile Health Services: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh”* (Job market paper)

Abstract: In this paper, I provide experimental evidence that the adoption of a beneficial healthcare technology can be increased by nudging people to try it once. Though mobile health services (MHS) are freely available from trained health professionals in Bangladesh, very few rural households use this service. I conduct a cluster randomized controlled trial where households randomly receive information about the MHS, are encouraged to save phone numbers of MHS providers, and are encouraged to try the service once. I find that all treatments improve awareness, but only experimentation leads to higher adoption of MHS both in the extensive and intensive margins. Using random assignment into treatments that lead to higher adoption of MHS as an instrument, this is the first paper to show that the adoption of MHS decreases households' health expenditure, mostly due to the reduction in medicine expenditure. This happens because households, who adopted MHS, are also less likely to visit informal providers who often overprescribe medicine.

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

Abstract: The local prevalence of infections and the severity of its consequences are among the key determinants of the adoption of preventive behaviors for an infectious disease. 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 the treatment group information about the coronavirus case number in their districts and the case fatality rate in Bangladesh and worldwide. Immediately after receiving the information, the treatment group perceives higher infection risk. Nine to fifteen days after the intervention, those who received information underestimate the local prevalence less and, consequently, still perceive higher infection risk than the control group. The treatment group also updates their belief about the 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.

*“Bridging the gap: the impact of transportation infrastructure”*

Abstract: In this paper I provide causal evidence on how access to transportation networks change households' income and their decisions to send their kids to work or school by taking advantage of a “quasi-random” placement 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. Before the construction of the bridge, households in the northwest had lower income and consequently, many households used to send their children to work instead of school. Due to the bridge, at least 30% more firms were created in that region and the household income increased by more than 5%. This led to 5 percentage points reduction in child labor force participation and employment. This further led to higher school enrolment and years of schooling.