

Debdatta Saha

CONTACT INFORMATION	8148, D-7/8 Vasant Kunj New Delhi, 110070, India	<i>Phone:</i> 011-43019072 <i>E-mail:</i> debdatta.saha@gmail.com, debdatta@sau.ac.in Web of Science Researcher ID: ABA-7976-2021
CITIZENSHIP	Indian	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Industrial Organization, Competition Policy, Entrepreneurship	
EDUCATION	PhD in Quantitative Economics from the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Doctoral fellowship, 2006-2013 <i>Advisor:</i> Professor Prabal Roy Chowdhury <i>Thesis title:</i> Essays on Network Industries: Markets, Committees, Information Revelation and Standardization <i>Publication</i> Published by ISI Calcutta (http://library.isical.ac.in:8080/jspui/bitstream/123456789/6161/1/TH388.pdf) London School of Economics, London MSc in Economics, 2001 <i>MSc Dissertation:</i> Liquidity constraints and adoption of new technology in the agriculture of developing countries- A bounded rationality approach Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi MA in Economics (with Specialization in the World Economy), 2000 Presidency College, Calcutta University, Kolkata BSc in Economics, 1998 First class second rank in the University	
AWARDS AND HONOURS	Inlaks Take-Off Grant (2002-03), Mathematical Sciences Foundation, Delhi Ford Foundation Fellowship for academic excellence (1998-2000), Jawaharlal Nehru University Best teacher for undergraduate class teaching at the London School of Economics, 2000 Honorable mention for second position in Calcutta University in BSc Economics, 1998	
PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE	South Asian University, New Delhi <i>Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics</i> 29 July 2022 to present <i>Assistant Professor (Senior Grade)*, Faculty of Economics</i> January 2014 to 2022 <i>*(Senior Grade since 03 September 2018)</i>	

Teaching graduate courses in microeconomics, industrial organization, research methodology and topics on South Asian economic development
Masters' theses and doctoral theses supervision
Organizing secretary for one international conference and one workshop
Coordinator, Placement Cell of the Faculty of Economics

TERI University, New Delhi

Lecturer, Department of Policy Studies *June 2012 to December 2013*

Teaching graduate courses in topics in finance and macroeconomics, industrial organization, law and economics of competition policy
Teaching civil servants a course on microeconomics and competition regulation
Supervision of masters' theses and member of one doctoral committee
Coordinator, Placement Cell

Competition Commission of India, New Delhi

Expert, Economics Division *July 2011 to May 2012*

Economic analysis of abuse of dominance cases with the Commission
Empirical analysis of suo motu cartel case with the Commission
Lectures delivered to the Commission on platform envelopment strategies and other abusive conducts in network industries

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi

Economist *November 2004 to July 2006*

Consultancy for the government of Rajasthan for Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Bill (FRBM) implementation and fiscal assessment for future development, with particular reference to the financing and management of electricity, roads and public sector enterprises
Critical analysis of the Twelfth Finance Commission Report

PUBLICATIONS AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Books

Economics of the Food Processing Industry: Lessons from Bihar, India, Springer (2020)

Journal Publications

Financial Performance and Corporate Distress: Searching for Common Factors for Firms in the Indian Registered Manufacturing Sector. Computational Economics, Springer (2024) (joint with Jessica Thacker). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10614-024-10620-6>

Predicting and explaining firm performance and size using machine learning with a Bayesian perspective, Machine Learning and Applications, Vol. 11, 100453, Elsevier (2023) (joint with Timothy Young and Jessica Thacker). Available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666827023000063>.

Data Privacy and Competition Law at the Crossroads, Economic and Political Weekly, (joint with Tim Young and Jessica Thacker), (2021), Vol. 56, Issue No. 39.

On the Economics of E-pharmacies: Potential Issues for Anti-trust Analysis, Economic and Political Weekly, (joint with Samridhi Verma and Varun Agarwal), (2021), Vol. 56, Issue No. 35, <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/economics-e-pharmacies-potential-issues-anti-trust>.

Understanding the Trade-offs in Drug Development: Retrospect on Lessons from the Early Phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Journal of Developing Societies (Sage), (joint with T.M. Vasuprada), (2021), Vol. 37, Issue No. 3, pp. 329-362, doi:10.1177/0169796X21996833.

Reconciling conflicting themes of traditionality and innovation: an application of research networks using author affiliation, Advances in Traditional Medicine (Springer), (joint with T.M.Vasuprada), (2021), Vol. 21, pp. 841-854, doi: 10.1007/s13596-020-00515-w/.

Investigating Commercial Incentives for Innovation: An Application in Traditional Medicine, Studies in Microeconomics (Sage), (joint with T.M.Vasuprada), (2020), Vol. 9, Issue No. 1, pp. 66-91, doi:10.1177/2321022220941995.

Identity and Perception of Risk for Entrepreneurs: Lessons from an Industrially Less Developed State in India, Athens Journal of Business and Economics, (2019), Vol. 5, Issue No. 2, pp. 163-184.

Coordination and Private Information Revelation, (joint with Prabal Roy Chowdhury), Games, (2018), Vol. 9, Issue No. 3, pp. 64, <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4336/9/3/64>.

An Empirical Approach to the Optimal Size of the Civil Service, (joint with Indira Rajaraman), Public Administration and Development, (2008), Vol. 28, Issue No. 3, pp. 223-233.

Equity and Consistency Properties of the Twelfth Finance Commission Recommendations, (joint with Indira Rajaraman), Economic and Political Weekly Special Issue, (2005), Vol. XL, Issue No. 31, pp. 3413-20.

Book Chapters

Firm Fragility: A Re-Interpretation in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic in The COVID-19 Pandemic, India and the World: Economic and Social Policy Perspectives edited by Rajib Bhattacharyya, Ananya Ghosh Dastidar and Soumen Sikdar, (2021), Taylor and Francis, pp. 231-259.

Industrial Policy: Comparing Bihar and Jharkhand in Social Statistics: Manifestation of Growth edited by Ashmita Gupta, (2020), Primus Books, pp. 237-255.

The Role of Networks in Promoting Innovation: The Interesting Case of Ayurveda Research in India (joint with T.M.Vasuprada) in *Transforming Indian Economy: From Vision to Reality* edited by Yamini Gupt and Ananya Ghosh Dostidar, (2018), Ane Publishing, pp. 13-30.

Competing with Virtual Entities: IT Product Purchases in India (joint with Ram Narayan Shrestha & T.M.Vasuprada) in *Retail Marketing in India: Trends and Future Insights* edited by Anshu Gupta and Kartik Dave, (2016), pp. 1-15,

Emerald Publishing.

Published Report

Report on the Study of the Food Processing Industry of Bihar (IGC Project) (co-authored with Barna Ganguli), (2017), International Growth Centre, London; see <https://www.theigc.org/project/study-of-the-food-processing-sector-in-bihar/>

Final Report on Restructuring State and Local Finances for Rajasthan (co-authored with Indira Rajaraman and O.P. Mathur), (2005), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.

Other Publications

Expert Comment on Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Consultation on Regulatory Principles of Tariff Assessment, 2020; see <https://traigov.in/consultation-paper-regulation-international-mobile-roaming-services>

Expert Comments on TRAI Consultation Paper No. 22/2019; see https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/TT0_Amendment_Eng_16022018.pdf, https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Debdatta_Saha_04032020.pdf

Womens Financial Inclusion Needs a Bigger Fix Than Digital IDs, 2018; see <https://deeply.thenewhumanitarian.org/womensadvancement/community/2018/02/13/womens-financial-inclusion-needs-a-bigger-fix-than-digital-ids>, <https://thewire.in/economy/aadhaar-alone-will-do-little-to-improve-financial-inclusion-of-poor-women-in-india>

Invited column for Ideas for India on food processing industries in Bihar, 2017; see <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/trade/the-study-of-the-food-processing-industry-in-bihar.html>

Chapter on Business Prospects in Bihar (co-authored with Barna Ganguli) for Bihar Chamber of Commerce Publication commemorating 90 years, 2016.

Curriculum Development

- i. Syllabus for Advanced Microeconomics at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
- ii. Syllabus for Industrial Organization at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
- iii. Syllabus for the microeconomics part of the Advanced Economic Theory for the Research Methodology module for doctoral students at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
- iv. Part of the syllabus for the Introduction to South Asian Economies offered by the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University
- v. Three modules on Game Theory for Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for course entitled MEC-001 Microeconomic Analysis, 2015

CONFERENCE AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

International Conferences

- Invited to be a panelist for the Roundtable on the Draft Digital Competition Bill organized by the Centre for Digital Future, New Delhi on 18th July , 2024

- Invited by the Korea Asia Competition Association to present a talk entitled ‘Assessing Recent Changes in Competition Law Analysis of Digital Platform Markets: Special Lens on India’ on 5 June 2024, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Paper titled ‘Innovation, AI/ML and the Enterprise: Review of Trends in Developing Countries with an Application in Firm Performance’ presented at the 12th Asia Pacific Innovation Conference, South Korea, October 2022
- Paper entitled *On the Economics of E-Pharmacies: Potential Issues for Anti-trust Analysis* (joint with Samridhi Verma and Varun Agarwal) presented at the 6th National Conference of the Competition Commission of India, Online on 5 March 2021
- Paper entitled *Affect-Based Decision Making: Entrepreneurship in Industrially Backward Regions* presented at the 7th Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka 17- 18 October 2019
- Paper entitled *Innovation and traditional knowledge: reconciling conflicting themes* (joint with T.M.Vasuprada) presented at the 10th Asia Pacific Innovation Conference, Peking University, Beijing, China, 10-11 October 2019
- Paper entitled *Efficiency of Production in an Less Industrialized Regions: An Application of two stage NDEA* (joint with Sunil Kumar, SAU) presented at the 14th Annual International Symposium on Economic Theory, Policy and Applications held at Athens, Greece, 1-4 July 2019
- Paper entitled *Digitalization as a Tool for Financial Inclusion* presented at the 25th World Congress on Retail Sustainable Banking organized by the World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (Brussels), Taj Hotel, New Delhi, 15-16 November 2018
- Paper entitled *Blended Finance and Industrial Policy in Developing Countries with Missing Middle Industrial Size* presented at the International Conference on Blended Development Finance and the New Industrial Policy held at The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, The Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland, November 8-9 2018
- Paper presented at the 13th Annual International Symposium on Economic Theory, Policy and Applications, ATINER, Athens, Greece, 25 July, 2018.
- Discussant for paper at the Winter School Conference held at the Delhi School of Economics, 13 December, 2017.
- Paper presented at the ADRI Silver Jubilee International Conference on Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision, Maurya Hotel, Patna, 24-28 March, 2017.
- Paper (joint with Manisha Kapoor) presented at the Second National Conference on the Economics of Competition Law, Competition Commission of India, India Habitat Centre, 3-4 March, 2017.
- Paper presented at the IGC Growth Conference, Maurya Hotel, Patna, 16-17 July, 2016.
- Paper (joint with T.M.Vasuprada and Ram Narayan Shreshtha) presented at the First National Conference on the Economics of Competition Law, Competition Commission of India, India Habitat Centre, 4 March, 2016.
- Discussant for paper at the IGC Growth Conference, Maurya Hotel, Patna, 19-20 July 2014.
- Paper (joint with Prabal Roy Chowdhury) presented at the 7th Economic Theory and Policy Conference (Jointly Organized by NIPFP, JNU, and Faculty of Economics, Kagawa University), NIPFP, New Delhi, 21 February, 2014.
- Discussant for paper at the 7th Economic Theory and Policy Conference (Jointly Organized by NIPFP, JNU, and Faculty of Economics, Kagawa University), NIPFP, New Delhi, 20 February, 2014.
- Presented current working paper “Does the market kill bad ideas? An insti-

tutional comparison of committees and markets in network industries” at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi (22 August, 2008)

- Delivered two lectures at the Jamia Millia Islamia University on “The Economics of Networks: Theory and Applications” (03 November, 2008)
- Presented updated version of the paper “Does the market kill bad ideas? An institutional comparison of committees and markets in network industries” at the Delhi School of Economics Winter School Conference (13-16 December, 2008)
- Presented updated version of the paper “Does the market kill bad ideas? An institutional comparison of committees and markets in network industries” at the 4th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi (17-18 December, 2008)
- Selected as one of the participants at the Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development and Globalization held in Manchester, UK conducted by Professor Joseph Stiglitz (15 June-3 July, 2009)
- Paper “Does the market kill bad ideas? An institutional comparison of committees and markets in network industries” selected for presentation at the Second Brazilian Workshop of the Game Theory Society in honour of the 60th Anniversary of the Nash Equilibrium held at Sao Paolo, July 29 to August 4, 2010
- Paper “Can Committees Provide Useful Information?” selected for presentation at the SING 7 conference of the Game Theory Society, Paris (July 18-20, 2011)
- Paper “Strategic Information Revelation, Certification and Coordination in Committees” presented to Professor Stiglitz at the research scholar’s workshop at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi (November 3, 2011)
- Paper “Strategic Information Revelation, Certification and Coordination in Committees” selected for presentation at the 7th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Delhi (15-17 December, 2011)

Keynote Address, Invited Talks and Lectures

- Keynote address at the Annual Festival of the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia University (Ecocracy 2018), 20 March, 2018.
- Panel Discussant alongside Alan Gelb (Centre for Global Development) and Atika Kemal (East Anglia University) for news platform Womens Advancement Deeply in 2018; available at <https://www.newsdeeply.com/womensadvancement/community/2018/02/20/deeply-talks-are-biometric-id-systems-good-for-women>.
- Invited Lectures to teach PhD students one module on research methodology at Department of Business Economics, Delhi University South Campus, 8, 15 & 22 September, 2017.
- Invited Lecture for the elective course Agricultural Markets and Pricing at IIM Ahmedabad, 2 February, 2017.
- Invited Talk at National Seminar on Financial Inclusion & Women Empowerment in India, organized by Department of Economics, Magadh Mahila College, Patna University, 24 September, 2016.
- Talk organized jointly by the IGC and ADRI (Patna) for government officials and other stakeholders in food processing, 9 May, 2016.
- Lecture Series on the Economics of Competition Law organized by the Faculty of Legal Studies, SAU, 8-9 January, 2016.
- Invited Lecture for the elective course Agricultural Markets and Pricing at IIM Ahmedabad, 9 February, 2016.
- Public Lecture on Governance organized by the Lila Foundation in collaboration with SAU and FIND, 7 March, 2015.
- Invited Talk held jointly by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) and International Growth Centre (IGC, Bihar Chapter), 30 April, 2014.

REFEREES FOR
JOURNALS/THESIS
REPORTS

Public Administration and Development, Wiley Publications

Journal of Economic Studies, Emerald Publishing

Athens Journal of Business and Economics

Thesis Report Evaluation for thesis entitled *Electoral Competition, Lobby Formation and Equilibrium Policies: A Theoretical and Empirical Investigation*, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University; December 2020

PRINCIPAL
SUPERVISOR FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PROJECTS

Study of the Food Processing Industries of Bihar (with Barna Ganguli, ADRI, Patna as co-investigator); IGC Project (8900 GBP approximately) *July 2015-August 2016*

Part of the report is included in the book *Economics of Food Processing Industries: Lessons from Bihar, India*, Springer (2020)

RESEARCH
SUPERVISION

MA Dissertation: 21 students (at TERI University and at the South Asian University) as primary supervisor

PhD Supervision: Four ongoing (M.A. Shaleh Sadiq, Nabiullah, Sapnam Adhikari and Subarna Roy Chowdhury) and two completed as primary supervisor. Details for completed theses are as follows:

- i. T.M.Vasuprada. *Thesis title*: "Incentives for Innovation-Patents, Standards and R&D in the Pharmaceutical Industry". PhD granted in 2020.
- ii. Jessica Thacker. *Thesis title*: "Essays on exit of firms and industries". PhD granted in September 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTIVITIES

Organizing Secretary, Sixth South Asian Economic Development Conference, Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, 25-27 February 2021 (Online)

Joint Organizer, Workshop on Economic Theory and Empirics, Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, 20-21 February, 2020

Placement Cell Coordinator at TERI University and at the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University

Member, Gender Sensitization Committee, South Asian University

MEMBERSHIP OF
PROFESSIONAL
BODIES

Invited to be Member of the Academic Council of Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER, Greece) since 2020

Invited to be Member of Asia Competition Association, South Korea since 2022