

Judhajit Chakraborty**Contact
Information**

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**Doctoral
Studies**

Michigan State University
Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics, Expected completion May 2024
DISSERTATION: "Essays in International Development and Political Economy"

PRIMARY FIELDS: Applied Microeconomics, International Development, Political Economy
SECONDARY FIELDS: Health Economics, Environment and Development

Professor Eduardo Nakasone
eduardo@msu.edu

Professor Songqing Jin
jins@msu.edu

Professor Scott Swinton
swintons@msu.edu

Professor Christian Ahlin
ahlinc@msu.edu

**Placement
Officers**

Professor James Sears
searsja1@msu.edu

Professor Justin Kappiaruparampil
kappiaru@msu.edu

**Prior
Education**

M.Phil. Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai	2017-2018
M.Sc. Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai	2013-2015
B.Sc. Economics, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Howrah	2010-2013

**Research
Papers**

"Clouds of Comparison: Exploring the Impact of Covariate Shocks on Perceived Relative Deprivation and the Role of Social Policies in Peru" (JOB MARKET PAPER)

Abstract

Perceptions of relative deprivation affects a range of outcomes like preference for redistribution, political discontent and attitudes and trust outcomes. I ask whether covariate shocks in the form of positive rainfall shocks can change perceptions of relative deprivation? Using a household level panel data and within household variation in exposure to extreme rainfall shocks, this paper provides novel empirical evidence on covariate shocks and perceived relative deprivation, in the context of a developing country- Peru. I find that an exposure to extreme rainfall shocks increases the likelihood of perceiving own standard of living to be worse off relative to the other households in the locality or community, conditional on household, month of interview and year fixed effects and household level controls. This is most likely explained by the differential effect of weather shocks across objective outcomes which translates into an increase in relative deprivation, as well as, misperceptions about the losses of other households within a locality. Social protection programs or redistributory policies like the direct cash transfer program- the Peruvian Juntos, and in-kind food assistance programs play an important role in attenuating the effect of rainfall shocks on perceived relative deprivation. Results are robust to a range of harmful thresholds of rainfall shocks, other alternate measures of shock, controlling for household specific idiosyncratic shocks and on a large cross-sectional data with exploiting both within-conglomerate and within-district variations. Key findings from this study could generate interest in identifying changes in perceived relative deprivation as an alternate channel to determining important socio-political outcomes, alongside changes in levels of income.

Working Papers

“When the Temperature Drops, Perceptions Worsen: Effects of Extreme Cold on Perceptions of Government and Civic Participation in the Peruvian Highlands” Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

Perceptions of government and political institutions can have important effects on a wide range of outcomes, such as compliance with laws and demand for public goods. We examine how extreme weather affects individuals’ belief of how well democracy functions in Peru. We construct a unique dataset containing spatially and temporally specific cold temperature shocks and find that extreme cold reduces positive perceptions of democracy. This translates into reductions in civic engagement in formal democratic institutions (as measured by participation in national elections) but increased involvement in local associations. We provide evidence that these effects work through several mechanisms: decreased income, assets, and expenditure as well as increased incidence of illness and some types of crime. Finally, we find that the negative effects of extreme cold are mitigated by government provision of goods and services, namely, social programs, public hospitals, and police resources.

“Impact of COVID mortality on voting behavior: Evidence from Peru”, Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

How did the COVID-19 pandemic lead to changes in voting behavior? Are these changes been guided by drop in confidence or trust in political institutions? Using within district variation in COVID-19 incidence, this paper provides empirical evidence to these questions for a developing country context, Peru. Studying the 2021 Presidential elections in Peru, we find that- conditional on district and election-year fixed effects and a set of potentially confounding variables â districts with a higher incidence of COVID-19 before the elections, shifted their votes towards left leaning parties. This effect is largest for incidence of COVID-19 three months and 4-6 months before the election. This result can most likely be explained by examining changes in voter turnout, and confidence or trust in political institutions.

“Frosty Climate, Icy Relationships: Frosts and Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Peru” Katie Bollman, Judhajit Chakraborty, Leah Lakdawala, Eduardo Nakasone

Abstract.

Violence against women — in particular, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) — is a major health concern for women across the world. In this paper, we study the impact of frosts (temperatures below 0°C / 32°F) on IPV among Peruvian women. Using a dataset that matches women to weather exposure, we find that overall, frost shocks increase IPV: 10 degree hours below -9°C increases the probability of experiencing domestic violence by 0.5 percentage points. These effects are larger for more extreme temperature thresholds. We provide evidence that frosts impact IPV through two main channels. First, extreme cold yields adverse consequences for income, which in turn impacts IPV. Second, extreme cold limits the mobility of individuals, potentially increasing exposure of women to violent partners. To our knowledge, we are the first to measure relative significance of these two channels by utilizing variation in frost timing to distinguish shocks that affect IPV through changes in income from those that act through time spent indoors. We find that the effect of frosts on IPV is mostly driven by frosts that occur during the growing season, when 10 degree hours below -9°C increase the probability of experiencing IPV by 1.5 percentage points. In contrast, we find that non-growing season frosts have no statistically significant effects on IPV.

Prior Employment

Michigan State	Graduate Research Assistant (Dr. Eduardo Nakasone)	2018-2021
Michigan State	Graduate Teaching Assistant (Dr. Steven Miller)	Fall-2022
PwC U.S. Analytics Advisory	Experienced Associate	2016-2017
PwC U.S. Analytics Advisory	Associate	2015-2016
Nomura	Intern- Algorithmic Trading Strategies, Global Markets	Summer-2014

Teaching

Michigan State	<i>Data Analysis for Agri-Food System</i> , Instructor	Spring-2022
Michigan State	<i>Data Analysis for Agri-Food System</i> , Instructor	Summer-2022
Michigan State	<i>Managerial Economics</i> , Instructor	Spring-2023
Michigan State	<i>Managerial Economics</i> , Instructor	Summer-2023

Refereed Publications (Pre-Doc)	Has India Deindustrialised, Prematurely? (with R. Nagaraj), <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2020
	Continued misery or a change in fortune? The Case of Howrah Foundry Industry	
	<i>Book Chapter in Industrialisation for Employment and Growth in India</i> , Cambridge University Press	2021
	Land as Collateral in India (with Sudha Narayanan), <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2019
	An Unequal Process of Urbanisation , <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i>	2017

Talks	2023, 2022	AAEA Annual Meetings
	2022	Development Lunch, Department of AFRE & Economics, Michigan State University
	2023	Southern Economic Conference (<i>Upcoming</i>), Selected Papers: "When the Temperature Drops, Perceptions Worsen: Effects of Extreme Cold on Perceptions of Government and Civic Participation in the Peruvian Highlands" & "Clouds of Comparison: Exploring the Impact of Covariate Shocks on Perceived Relative Deprivation and the Role of Social Policies in Peru"
	2024	Allied Social Sciences Association (<i>Upcoming</i>), Selected Paper: "Frosty Climate, Icy Relationships: Frosts and Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Peru"

Computational Skills R, STATA, QGIS, ArcGIS, LaTeX, SAS, Tableau, Qualtrics, Python (beginner)

References	<u>Professor Eduardo Nakasone</u> eduardo@msu.edu	<u>Professor Songqing Jin</u> jins@msu.edu
	<u>Professor Scott Swinton</u> swintons@msu.edu	<u>Professor Leah Lakdawala</u> lakdawl@wfu.edu