

Curriculum Vitae

Ashwini Deshpande
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Research Areas

Current: Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action, with a special focus on caste and gender in India.

Earlier research: International debt; Aspects of the Chinese Economy

Education

Ph.D. (1994) Delhi, Delhi School of Economics on “Some Aspects of the International Debt Crisis of Developing Countries”

M.A. (1987) Delhi, Delhi School of Economics

B.A. (1985) Economics (Honours), Hindu College, University of Delhi.

Employment

January 2019 to present: Professor of Economics, Ashoka University.

November 2007 to December 2018: Professor, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics.

2000- 2007: Reader (Associate Professor), Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics.

July 1998- July 2000: Post-doctoral research fellow, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA.

1997-2000: Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics.

1996-1997: Lecturer, Ramjas College, University of Delhi.

1993-1996: Research Associate, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics.

1990-1993: Lecturer, Ramjas College, University of Delhi.

Awards and Fellowships

V.K.R.V. Rao Award for economists under 45 years for original and significant contributions to Indian economics for the year 2007.

EXIM Bank award for outstanding dissertation in the area of international trade and related issues for 1994.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in 1989.

Research Grants

2019: Lead Applicant on a Small Grant in Humanities and Social Science from the Wellcome Trust, UK, on "Economic and Social Dimensions of Health and Morbidity"

2019: Indian Principal Investigator (PI) on "Challenging Inequalities: A Indo-European perspective" under the EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EQUIP) Consortium for Collaborative Research, along with 3 other co-PIs for France, UK, and Norway respectively.

2016: Co-PI, with Naila Kabeer, London School of Economics, on "Choice constraint and the gender dynamics of labour markets in West Bengal", funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK.

2012-2017: India lead in a multi-country research consortium on "Enhancing Knowledge for Renewed Knowledge against Poverty" (NOPOOR), under the FP7 programme of the European Commission.

Fellowships and Professional Bodies

Member, Executive Committee, International Economic Association, from 2017.

Non-resident Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki.

Member, Advisory Committee, National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), since inception, November 2017.

Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, 2013 to present.

Member, Board of Trustees, Indian Social Studies Trust (ISST), September 2016 to present.

Member, Board of Trustees, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, 2016 to present.

Fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Warwick, UK, October 1 to December 6, 2014.

Fellow, India-China Institute, New School, New York, 2008-2010.

Indo-Shastri Fellowship to visit University of British Columbia, May-June 2005.

Post-doctoral fellowship at the Carolina Population Centre, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998-2000.

Publications

Books

The Grammar of Caste: Economic Discrimination in Contemporary India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Hardcover, 2011; Paperback 2017.

Affirmative Action in India, Oxford India Short Introductions Series, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, March 2013.

Edited Volumes

Boundaries of Clan and Color: Cross national comparisons of inter group inequality (edited with William Darity Jr.), Routledge, London, 2003.

Globalisation and Development: A Handbook of New Perspectives, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Hardcover 2008; Paperback 2010.

Capital without Borders: Challenges to Development, Anthem Press, London, Hardcover 2010; Paperback 2012.

Global Economic Crisis and the Developing World (edited with Keith Nurse), Routledge, London, 2012.

Journal Papers

2000-Present

“Local social inequality, economic inequality, and disparities in child height in India” (with Diane Coffey, Jeff Hammer and Dean Spears), *Demography*, 2019. Cite as: Coffey, D., Deshpande, A., Hammer, J. et al. *Demography* (2019) 56: 1427. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-019-00794-2>

“The 10% Quota: Is Caste Still An Indicator of Backwardness”, (with Rajesh Ramachandran), *Economic and Political Weekly*, LIV(13), 30 March 2019.

“Traditional Hierarchies and Affirmative Action in a Globalizing Economy: Evidence from India” (with Rajesh Ramachandran), *World Development*, 118:63-78, June 2019.

“Double Jeopardy? Stigma of Identity and Affirmative Action”, *Review of Black Political Economy*, April 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034644619837211>.

“Bad Karma or Discrimination? Male-Female Wage Gaps Among Salaried Workers in India”, (with Deepti Goel and Shantanu Khanna), *World Development*, 102:331-344, February 2018.

Media citation: “Forget the Glass Ceiling, Indian Women Must Worry About the Sticky Floor Instead”, *Quartz*, March 18, 2016; *Scroll*, March 21, 2016

“The Impact of a Computer-based Adult Literacy Program on Literacy and Numeracy: Evidence from India”, (with Alain Desrochers, Christopher Ksoll and Abu S. Shonchoy), *World Development*, 96:451-473, August 2017.

“Dominant or Backward? Political Economy of the Demand for Quotas by Jats, Patels and Marathas”, (with Rajesh Ramachandran), *Economic and Political Weekly*, LII(19):81-92, 13 May 2017.

“Disadvantage and discrimination in self-employment: caste gaps in earnings in Indian small businesses”, (with Smriti Sharma), *Small Business Economics: An entrepreneurship journal*, 46(2):325-346, February 2016.

“Who is the Identifiable Victim?: Caste and Charitable Giving in Modern India, (with Dean Spears), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 64(2):299-321, January 2016.

Media citations:

The Wall Street Journal, October 24, 2012

Indian Express, January 28, 2016

[“Does Affirmative Action Reduce Productivity? A Case Study of the Indian Railways”](#), (with Thomas E. Weisskopf), *World Development*, 64:169-180, December 2014.

Media citations:

[The Hindu, February 5 2015](#), Two stories – page 1 and page 10.

[The Hindu, February 12, 2015](#)

[The Mint on Sunday, May 31, 2015](#)

[Indian Express, May 13, 2016](#)

[“Entrepreneurship or Survival? Caste and Gender of Small Business in India”](#), (with Smriti Sharma), *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLVIII(28):38-49, July 13, 2013.

Media citations:

[The Mint on Sunday, May 31, 2015](#)

[LiveMint, December 2, 2016](#)

[“Who is Eligible: Should Affirmative Action be Group- or Class-based?”](#), (with William Darity, Jr. and Thomas E. Weisskopf), *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 70(1):238-268, January 2011.

[“Merit, Mobility and Modernism: Caste Discrimination in Contemporary Indian Labour Markets”](#), *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 53(3):433-455, July-September, 2010.

[“Where the path leads: the role of caste in post university employment expectations”](#) (with Katherine Newman), *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLII(41):4133-4140, October 13, 2007.

[“Overlapping identities under liberalisation: gender and caste in India”](#), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 55(4):735-760, July 2007.

[“The Eternal Debate?”](#), *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41(24):2444-2446, June 17, 2006.

[“Tale of two cities: Regional Inequality in China on the eve of its entry into WTO”](#), *China Report*, 38(4):523-546, 2002.

[“Assets versus autonomy? The changing face of the gender-caste overlap in India”](#), *Feminist Economics*, 8(2):19-35, 2002.

[“Caste at Birth? Redefining disparity in India”](#), *Review of Development Economics*, 5(1):130-144, February 2001.

“Tracing the divide: Intergroup disparity across countries”, (with William A. Darity, Jr), *Eastern Economic Journal*, 26(1):75-85, Winter 2000.

“Recasting Economic Inequality”, *Review of Social Economy*, 58(3):381-399, October 2000

“Does Caste still define disparity: A look at inequality in Kerala, India”, *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, 90(2):322-325, May 2000.

1995-2000

“Rethinking strategy for the global debt crisis”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 30(21), May 27, 1995.

“The Strategic role of international credit as an instrument of trade”, with Kaushik Basu, *Japanese Economic Review*, 46 (4):333-350, December 1995.

“Structural Adjustment in India: a critical assessment”, with Prabirjit Sarkar, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXX (49), December 9, 1995.

“Role of foreign capital in Chinese Economic Reforms: A survey”, *China Report*, 32(3):295-328, 1996.

“The Debt overhang and the disincentive to invest”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 52(1):169-187, 1997.

“Continuing the open door policy: promoting capitalism?”, *China Report*, 34(1):111-118, Jan- March 1998.

“Loan Pushing and triadic relations”, *Southern Economic Journal*, 65(4):914-926, April 1999

Book Chapters

“Caste to Class? State Policy Towards Reservation”, in Vidhu Verma (editor) “The State in India: Ideas, Norms and Politics”, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2019.

“Stigma or Red Tape? Roadblocks in the use of Affirmative Action”, in Zoya Hassan, Aziz Huq, Martha C. Nussbaum (editors), *The Empire of Disgust: Prejudice, Discrimination and Policy in India and the US*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2018. (Working paper version: [Centre for Development Economics, Working Paper No. 280](#), October, 2017)

“Foreign Direct Investment and Intergroup disparities in India”, in Ashok Kotwal, Moshe Hirsh and Bharat Ramaswami (editors), *The Right to Development: Making it Work in India*, University of British Columbia Press, forthcoming 2019.

“Caste Discrimination in Contemporary India”, in Kaushik Basu and Joseph E. Stiglitz (editors) *Inequality and Growth: Patterns and Policy, Regions and Regularities, Vol 2*, Palgrave Macmillan, UK, 2016, pp. 248-273.

“From Formal to Substantive Equality”, in Surinder Jodhka and Divya Vaid (editors) *Seminar Symposium on “Exclusion, Discrimination and Disparity”*, August 2015, No. 672.

“Deprivation, Caste inequality and the Maoist Conflict in India”, in N.Jayaram (editor), *For Satish Saberwal: Essays in Historical and Comparative Studies*, Orient Blackswan, 2015.

“Caste, Class and Gender: Dynamism or Stasis” in Ashima Goyal (editor), *Handbook of the Dynamic Indian Economy*, Oxford India Handbook Series, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014, pp. 352-373.

“Social Justice Through Affirmative Action in India: An Assessment”, in Jeannette Wicks-Lim and Robert Pollin (editors), *Capitalism on Trial: Explorations in the Tradition of Thomas Weisskopf*, Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing Inc. (Northampton, MA), 2013.

“Growth, reforms and inequality: comparing India and China”, (with Lopamudra Banerjee, Yan Ming, Sanjay Ruparelia, Vamsicharan Vakulabharanam, Wei Zhong), in Amiya K. Bagchi and Anthony D’Costa (editors), *Transformation and Development: The Political Economy of Transition in India and China*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.

“Do markets discriminate? Some insights from economic theories”, in Sukhdeo Thorat, Aryama, Prashant Negi (editors), *Reservations and the private sector: Quest for equal opportunity and growth*, Rawat Publications, Delhi, 2005, pp. 59-65.

“Decomposing Inequality: Significance of caste”, in Bibek Debroy and D. Shyam Babu (editors), *The Dalit Question: Reforms and Social Justice*, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, Globus Books, New Delhi, 2004, pp. 33 to 52 (Chapter 3).

“Graded Inequalities: An assessment of affirmative action in India”, in Elaine Dubourdieu (editor), *Affirmative Action Policies: a trans-national analysis*, Ashgate, 2006.

“Gender Discrimination at the Workplace: India, China, Bangladesh”, in Bill Kosanovich (editor), *Improving labour market opportunities and security for workers in developing*

countries, ILAB Symposium Papers, Bureau of International Labour Affairs, Washington DC, 2003, pp. 223-267.

“Casting off servitude: assessing caste and gender disparity in India”, in Kathleen Blee and France Winddance Twine (editors), *Feminism and Anti-racism: International Struggles for Justice*, New York University Press, New York and London, 2001, pp. 328-348.

Working Papers

[Nakusha? Son Preference, Resource Concentration and Gender Gaps in Education](#) (with Apoorva Gupta), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper Series, 07/19, June 2019.

[“\(In\)Visibility, Care and Cultural Barriers: The Size and Shape of Women’s Work in India](#), (with Naila Kabeer), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper Series, 04/19, May 2019.

[“Identity, Perceptions and Institutions: Caste Differences in Earnings from Self-Employment in India”](#), (with Deepti Goel), *Centre for Development Economics, Working Paper No. 259*, August 2016, under submission.

Affirmative Action in India and the USA, Background Paper, World Development Report, 2006.

Encyclopaedia Entries

“Affirmative Action”, in Kaushik Basu (editor), *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007, pp. 5-6.

“Caste”, in Kaushik Basu (editor), *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007, pp 48-50.

“Women in the Labour Force”, in Kaushik Basu (editor), *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007, pp 557-559.

“The Theil Index”, in William Darity, Jr. (editor), *The International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd Edition, Thomson. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3045302737.html>

“Creamy layer” in William Darity, Jr. (editor), *The International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd Edition, Thomson. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3045302737>.

[html](#)

“Caste and Diversity in India”, in John Davis and Wilfred Dolfsma (editors) *The Companion to Social Economics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2008, pp. 171-187.

Other Papers

“Some aspects of international debt of developing countries”, *EXIM Bank Occasional Paper*, 1995.

“Economic Survey 1998-99 and the external sector: myth and reality”, in *The Indian Economy 1998-99: An Alternative Survey*, Delhi Science Forum, Delhi, 1999.

“Employment and unemployment in Nepal”, in *Macro Economics of Poverty Reduction*, UNDP, 2002.

“Does Caste Still matter in Kerala?”, *South India Journal of Social Sciences*, II(1):7-20, June 2004.

“Quest for Equality: Affirmative Action in India”, *The Indian Journal of Industrial Relations*, 44(2):154-163, October 2008.

“Gender Caste and Growth Assessment in India”, (with Rao, N., Verschoor, A., and Dubey, A.), *Report to Department for International Development*, DEV Reports and Policy Paper Series, The School of International Development, University of East Anglia, UK, 2010.

“Exclusion and Inclusive Growth”, *UNDP Discussion Paper*, 2013.

Work in Progress

“Choice, Constraints and Gender Dynamics of Labour Markets in West Bengal”, joint with Naila Kabeer, funded by ESRC, UK.

“Education, Social Mobility and Affirmative Action”: two primary surveys in New Delhi, as a part of the NOPOOR consortium funded by EU (www.nopoor.eu)

“Documenting Quotas in India” (working title), joint with Marc Galanter.

“The Effects of Female Literacy and Numeracy on Household Decision-making and Child Outcomes”, a collaborative project based at the University of Ottawa and Centre for

Development Economics, funded by the SSHRC, Canada.

Impact evaluation of the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM) programme, through a “Maharashtra Well-Being and Livelihoods Panel Survey”, funded by the Social Observatory unit of the World Bank, joint with Shantanu Khanna

Caste Gaps and Untouchability in India, joint with Rajesh Ramachandran.

Understanding household and community level factors behind gender gaps in education, joint with Christophe Jalil Nordman.

Family Type, Son Preference and Gender Gaps in Education, joint with Apoorva Gupta.

Son Preference in India, joint with Catherine Bros Bobin.

Editorial experience

Member, Editorial Board, *World Bank Economic Review* from September 2016.

Member, Editorial Board, *Review of Social Economy* from September 15, 2004.

Member, Editorial Board, *Feminist Economics* from 2010, (Associate Editor, 2010-2013).

Member, Editorial Board, *Indian Economic Review* from 2007.

With William Darity Jr., edited a special issue of *Review of Social Economy* Vol. 58, no. 3, October 2000, on cross national comparisons of racial and ethnic inequality.

Writings on Music

“The Singer and the Voice: Where is the Music?”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 39(48), November 2004.

“Understanding the Singer”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 28 May 2005.

“Not understanding the singer”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40(22-23), 2005.

“A Matter of Name and Shame”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLIV(44), October 31, 2009.

“A man who resides in music”, translated from original Marathi by P.L.Deshpande to English, published in the Mallikarjun Mansur Centenary Celebration Volume, September 2010, reproduced in [Open Magazine](#), 24 September, 2010.

“Scholar Extraordinaire: Ashok Ranade on Hindi Film Music”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XLVI(39), September 24, 2011.

“New Voices in Songs: Do Women in Hindi Films Have Greater Agency?”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, L(37):25-27.

Opinion Pieces and Other Short Pieces

See: <http://econdse.org/ashwini-miscellaneous/>

Seminars and Conferences

Invited Lectures

9th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture, Indian Institute for Dalit Studies, New Delhi, April 2017.

14th C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, Centre for Social Development, Hyderabad, July 2015.

Lecture on “Affirmative Action in India” at *Brown International Advanced Research Institute*, June 2015.

Address on Caste Discrimination to a special session of the Danish Parliament, September 2008.

Rafto Memorial Lecture, September 2007.

Recent select presentations

2018-19: “Choice, Constraints and Cultural Norms: Factors affecting women’s labour force participation in India”, presented at Second Annual Political Economy Workshop, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru, 27th-28th July, 2018; Jadavpur University Annual Conference, December 22, 2018; “Power of Partnership: Research to Alleviate Poverty” conference, New Delhi, December 3-5, 2018; Workshop on ‘Women in the economy’ at the ISI Delhi, March 2019

2018-19: “*Nakusha?* Son Preference, “Unwanted” Girls and Gender Gaps in Education”, presented at IIT Delhi in September, 2018; at the CDE-CAGE workshop, Delhi School of Economics, March 2019; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, May 2019; London School of Economics, May 2019.

December 2017: “Caste Disparities and Affirmative Action”, panelist at the Indian Economic Association Centenary Conference, Guntur.

December 2017: “Understanding Gender Dynamics of Labour Force Participation in West Bengal”, West Bengal Growth and Development Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

December 2017 and September 2017: “Double Jeopardy: Caste, Affirmative Action and Stigma”, at workshop organised by Monash Business School (December), and Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, New Delhi (September).

September 2017: “Do Livelihood Programmes Empower Women? Evidence from Self-help groups in Rural India”, Ashoka University and Delhi School of Economics

April 2017: “Bad Karma or Discrimination? Male-Female wage gaps in India”, XVIII International Economic Conference, Higher School of Economics, Moscow.

1995 - 2016: several conferences and seminars in different parts of India and the United States, including major conferences such as the American Economic Association.

Major Research/Organisational Experience

Chairperson, Annual Conference for Development and Change (an international conference aimed at young, heterodox scholars, supported by Ford Foundation, New York, for three years, starting December 2005). First conference in Neemrana, India, December 2005. Second conference: Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 2006. Third conference: Cape Town, South Africa, December 2007. Fourth conference : Johannesburg, April, 2010. <http://www.policyinnovations.org/calendar/ACDC>.

One of the four principal investigators in a project on Urban Labour Market Inequality in India, initiated by Princeton University, USA and Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi, completed in 2007.

One of the four authors an DFID funded study “Gender-caste growth assessment” designed to bring out the interconnections between growth and gender/caste inequalities in India (full citation in “Other Papers” above).

One of the three regional authors for the UN (2010) report: “Can the MDGs provide a pathway to social justice? The challenge of intersecting inequalities” by Naila Kabear.

Member, Expert Group on the creation of the Diversity Index (as a part of the implementation of the Sachar Committee Report on Muslims in India), Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, September 2007.

Member, Consultative Group on the External Sector, Planning Commission, Government of India, September 2004.

Member, Consultative Group on Industry, Planning Commission, Government of India, September 2004.

July 2002: Deputy Director, Cambridge Advanced Program on Development Economics (CAPORDE), University of Cambridge, UK.

Research Supervision

Ph.D

Usha Jayachandran: awarded 2010: “Socio-economic Analysis of Elementary Education in India” (jointly supervised with Jean Dreze and Badal Mukhopadhyay).

Smriti Sharma: “Three Essays on Disadvantage and Discrimination in Contemporary India”, submitted February 2014, awarded January 2015. (First placement: UNU-WIDER, Helsinki).

Apoorva Gupta: “Education and Social Mobility in India”, submitted October 2017, awarded January 2019. (First placement: Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Ramjas College, University of Delhi.)

Mrinalini Jha (under progress): “Economics of Discrimination”.

M.Phil

Shantanu Khanna (submitted 2012 and awarded): “Wage inequality decomposition: quantile regressions” (jointly supervised with Deepti Goel).

Pilu Chandra Das (submitted 2012 and awarded): “Total Factor Productivity in Indian Manufacturing: the story of the Noughties” (jointly supervised with Deb Kusum Das).

Consulting Experience

Consultant to a project on the “Diversity of Muslim Women’s Lives in India”, conducted by Zoya Hasan and Ritu Menon under the Teen Murti Memorial Library, New Delhi (2001-2002).

Consultant to the World Bank: background paper on affirmative action in India: 2002 and on the MSRLM project, 2014-2015.

Consultant to UNDP on the “Macro economics of Poverty Reduction” project on the Nepal case study. 2002-2003 and on other assignments.

Consultant to DFID: gender and caste in India: 2007-8 (five months).

Consultant to UN: “Can MDGs Provide a Pathway to Social Justice? The Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities”, 2010.

Consultant to a Council for Social Development (Hyderabad) project on Socio-economic profile of Tribals in India (2012-2014).

Personal information

Born 4 July 1965, Nationality Indian, female.

Languages: Fluent in English, Hindi and Marathi. Good working knowledge of Bangla.

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