

Esha Dwibedi

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Education

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|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| PhD in Economics | Virginia Tech | 2022(Expected) |
| MA in Economics | Virginia Tech | 2019 |
| MA in Economics | Jadavpur University | 2016 |
| BA in Economics | Jadavpur University | 2014 |

Research Interests

Behavioural Economics, Experimental Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Publications

S Baidya, B Chakraborty, E Dwibedi, S Maji, I Mallik, A Sen, (2019) “A study on happiness and related factors among Indian college students”, *Journal of Quantitative Economics* 17 (1), 215-236.

Working Papers

“Who plays nice? A surprising meta-meta analysis of 1259 experimental studies” with Jason A. Aimone, Sheryl Ball, Jeremy J. Jackson and James E. West (*Job Market Paper*)

“Vaccine Hesitancy and Betrayal Aversion” with Jason A. Aimone, Abdelaziz Alsharawy and Sheryl Ball (Under review at Vaccine)

Work in Progress

“Betrayal Aversion and Emotion Reappraisal: The Case of Vaccines” with Jason A. Aimone, Abdelaziz Alsharawy and Sheryl Ball

“Nudging and Flu Shot Uptake” with Sheryl Ball and Steve Trost

Teaching Experience

Virginia Tech

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| Instructor | Principles of Microeconomics | Spring 2021 |
| GTA | Behavioral and Neuroeconomics | Fall 2020 |
| GTA | Experimental Economics; Behavioral Economics | Spring 2020 |
| GTA | Labor Economics | Fall 2019 |
| GTA | Economic History of Diversity and Inclusion | Spring 2019 |
| GTA | Analysis of Economic Data | Fall 2018 |
| GTA | Principle of Economics | Spring 2018, Fall 2017 |

Other Relevant Experience

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| GA | HR Analytics and Reporting at Virginia Tech | Fall 2021-present |
| Lab Manager | Virginia Tech Economics Lab | Fall 2021-present |
| Fellow | Data Science for the Public Good Young Scholars Program | Summer 2021 |
| GRA | Virginia Tech Economics Lab | Summer 2018 |
| Fellow | India Fellow Social Leadership Program | 2016-17 |

Attended Conferences and Workshops

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| International Society for Research on Emotion (Flash Talk-Scheduled) | 2022 |
| Nutshell Games - Virginia Tech (Scheduled) | 2022 |
| 38 th Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium (Scheduled) | 2022 |
| Economic Science Association's Job-Market Candidates Seminar Series (Presenter) | 2021 |
| Southern Economic Association Conference (Presenter) | 2021 |
| Data Science for Public Good Symposium (Poster Presentation) | 2021 |
| International Conference on Social Choice and Voting Theory | 2021 |
| 37 th Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium (Presenter) | 2021 |
| 36 th Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium (Presenter) | 2020 |
| Virginia Tech Workshop on Advances in Decision Theory | 2018 |
| Virginia Association of Economists Annual Meet | 2018 |

Honours and Awards

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| <i>Department nominee for Graduate Student Session</i> | |
| Southern Economic Association Conference | 2021 |
| <i>Third Place for Best Paper Presentation</i> | |
| 36 th Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium | 2020 |
| <i>Graduate Assistantship</i> | |
| Department of Economics, Virginia Tech | 2017–2021 |

Skills

Computer Skills: STATA, R, MATLAB, Python
Languages: English (Fluent), Bengali (Native), Hindi (Fluent)

Research Abstracts

“Who plays nice? A surprising meta-meta analysis of 1259 experimental studies” with Jason A. Aimone, Sheryl Ball, Jeremy J. Jackson and James E. West (*Job Market Paper*)

Scientific, social, and political policies in all countries and locations act upon and within a foundation of basic human interaction. Exploring the relationship between cooperative decision-making and societal level institutions is an important job of social science, but such work has historically faced difficulty. Survey measures of behaviors and preferences face the problem of a lack of salience. Observed behavior within each society, from field, laboratory, and observational data is fundamentally constrained by the institutions governing those behaviors, preventing clean behavioral comparisons across institutions due to a lack of comparable counterfactuals. As such, it remains an open question whether and how macro level institutions are fundamentally related to underlying social and decision-making behaviors of people living under those institutions. Here we combine and connect independent measures of institutional economic freedom at the societal level from 50 countries to the salient decision-making data from 1259 laboratory experiments found within six meta-analyses. In experiments conducted within countries characterized by high levels of economic freedom, we find a positive relationship between additional economic freedom and prosocial choices. In countries

with low levels of economic freedom, we find a negative relationship. We find the opposite relationship (an inverted U-shaped) between additional economic freedom and Nash equilibrium strategies. A similar pattern is repeated in a secondary analysis of institutions and experimental data across U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Our results indicate that when designing policy interventions that influence economic freedom, the effect on prosocial behavior, itself an important driver of economic development will likely depend on the baseline institutional environment inside the intervening country.

“Vaccine Hesitancy and Betrayal Aversion” with Jason A. Aimone, Abdelaziz Alsharawy and Sheryl Ball

The determinants of vaccine hesitancy remain complex and context specific. Betrayal aversion occurs when an individual is hesitant to risk being betrayed in an environment involving trust. In this pre-registered vignette experiment, we show that betrayal aversion is not captured by current vaccine hesitancy measures despite representing a significant source of unwillingness to be vaccinated. Our survey instrument was administered to 888 United States residents via Amazon Mechanical Turk in March 2021. We find that over a third of participants have betrayal averse preferences, resulting in an 8-26% decline in vaccine acceptance, depending on the betrayal source. Interestingly, attributing betrayal risk to scientists or government results in the greatest declines in vaccine acceptance. We explore an exogenous message intervention and show that an otherwise effective message acts narrowly and fails to reduce betrayal aversion. Our results demonstrate the importance of betrayal aversion as a preference construct in the decision to vaccinate.

References

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Prof. Susan Chen
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Prof. Jason A. Aimone
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Baylor University
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