

Sakshi Upadhyay

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EDUCATION **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**, Virginia, USA
Ph.D., Economics 2021 (expected)

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India,
M.Phil., Development Economics, 2016
M.Sc., Economics, 2015

Indraprastha College For Women, University of Delhi, Delhi, India
B.A.(Hons), Economics, 2013

FIELDS OF INTEREST Behavioral Economics, Applied Theory, Experimental Economics

DISSERTATION Role of Social Preferences and Coalitions in a Public Goods Game

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE Sudipta Sarangi (*Co-Chair*), Sheryl Ball(*Co-Chair*), Eric Bahel, Xu Lin

GRANTS **National Science Foundation Grant:** *Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics: To Join or Not to Join: Coalition Formation in a Public Goods Game*”, awarded amount \$ 9597 (received March 2020)

WORKING PAPERS *To join or not to join: Coalition Formation in Public Good Games* [**Job Market Paper**]

Abstract: Commitment mechanisms such as coalitions can increase public good provisioning. This paper studies the role of social preference in a two stage public goods game where heterogeneous agents have the option to join the coalition. In the first stage, agents choose whether to join a coalition and in the second stage, coalition votes on whether its members will contribute. I find that individuals with stronger social preferences are more likely to join the coalition and vote for the coalition to contribute to the public good. I further show that higher return from public good leads to more people joining the coalition and contributing to the public good. These results hold whether the coalition’s decision is determined by a majority voting or a unanimous voting rule.

Coalition Formation in Public Goods Games: Experimental Evidence (with Sudipta Sarangi and Sheryll Ball)

Data collected October 2020, draft coming soon.

Abstract: Inclusion of social preferences in coalitions can help explain the existence of large sized coalitions. In this experiment, subject's payoffs are determined by exogenously inducing social preferences, Rawlsian preferences in particular into individual's utility function. We find that subjects with pro-social preferences have a higher probability of joining the coalition and contributing to the public good. Joining the coalition translates in contributing to the public good. Also higher MPCR (return from the public good) results in increase in coalition size, higher probability of subjects joining the coalition and contributing to the public good. Joining and contributing to the public good also depends positively on previous periods payoff of least well-off person, thus confirming presence of Rawlsian preferences.

WORK
IN PROGRESS

Coalition formation in Public Goods Game: An experimental test with endogenous preferences (with Sudipta Sarangi and Sheryl Ball): Data collection will begin January 2021

Betrayal Aversion: Correlation in Psychology and Economics experiments (with Sheryl Ball and Jason Aimone)

Impact of Impact of Water Conservation on Crop Burning Choice: Evidence from India (with Nilesh Shinde)

PUBLICATIONS

Social Preferences and Public Goods provision (with Sudipta Sarangi, forthcoming, Game Theory and Networks - New Perspectives and Directions, Springer Nature, 2021)

Abstract: This paper surveys the literature on social preferences and their incorporation in a public goods game. The Nash equilibrium in a typical public goods game is to free ride; however experimental evidence shows that players frequently cooperate. When an individual's utility function accounts for social preferences, one can explain cooperative behavior and contribution to public goods. This chapter surveys a number of different models of social preferences and their impact on public goods provision, both theoretically and empirically. Finally, we examine how provisioning of the public goods is affected by social preferences when agents play this game in networks and coalitions.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Microeconomic Theory (Undergraduate), Virginia Tech, Summer 2020, Spring 2020, Summer 2019

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Game Theory and Strategic Reasoning , Ashoka University, Delhi, India, Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant, Experimental Economics (Graduate), Virginia Tech, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant, NeuroEconomics, Virginia Tech, Fall 2018,

Teaching Assistant, Money and Banking, Virginia Tech, Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant, Principle of Economics (Micro and Macro), Virginia Tech, Fall 2016

RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Virginia Tech, Summer 2020-present

Associate Collaborator, SAIG, Statistics Department, Virginia Tech, Fall 2020

Research Assistant, Management Department, Virginia Tech, Fall 2020

Research Assistant, Biocomplexity Institute, Virginia Tech, April-October 2018

Research Assistant, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India, July 2015-July 2016

Intern, Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai, India, June-July 2014

FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS

Research Fellowship, Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Virginia Tech, Summer 2020

Graduate Instructor of the Year (Economics Department, Virginia Tech), Spring 2020

Recipient of "Rising Scholar Award", Economics Department, Virginia Tech, Summer 2018

Best Third Year Paper Award, Economics Department, Virginia Tech, Summer 2019

Graduate Research Development Program (GRDP) research support awards, Fall 2019

Graduate Travel Fund (Graduate School, Virginia Tech), Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowship, Virginia Tech, 2016-Present

PRESENTATIONS

Behavioral Research in Economics Workshop, India, December 2020 (*scheduled*)

ESA seminar for Job market Candidates, December 2020 (*scheduled*)

Southern Economic Association 90th Meeting, November 2020

Winter School 2019, Delhi School of Economics, India, December 2019

Southern Economic Association 89th Annual Meetings, November 2019

30th Stony Brook International Conference on Game Theory, July 2019

Spring 2019 Midwest Economic Theory and International Trade Meetings, May 2019

35th Graduate Student Association Research Symposium, Virginia Tech, March 2019

14th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, India, December 2018

Virginia Association For Economist, April 2018

DISCUSSANT
ACTIVITIES Southern Economic Association 89th Annual Meetings, November 2019

COMPUTER
SKILLS Stata, R, MATLAB, ZTree, Microsoft Office, L^AT_EX

REFEREING
SERVICES Economic Modelling, Virginia Journal of Social Sciences

ADDITIONAL
TRAINING IFREE's 24th Annual Workshop in Experimental Economics (Chapman University)

AFFILIATIONS American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association

LANGUAGES English (Proficient), Hindi (Native)

CITIZENSHIP/
VISA India/F1 Visa

REFERENCES

Sudipta Sarangi
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Department of Economics
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Sheryl Ball
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