Ameek Singh

a.singh78@lse.ac.uk | *ameeksingh.com*

Education

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) *[Sep 2019 - July 2026]*

MRes/PhD in Economics (viva passed without corrections)
Fields: *Development; Labor; Organisational economics; Applied Micro*

Harvard Kennedy School *[Sep 2017 - Jun 2019]*

Master in Public Administration - International Development (MPA/ID)

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay *[Jul 2009 - May 2013]*

B.Tech, Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science

Research Papers

Working Papers

Learning-by-Doing at Home? Childhood Shocks, Home Production, and the Persistence of Girls' Domestic Work *[Job Market Paper]*

Gender gaps in domestic work are larger in developing countries and emerge early in life, raising the question of whether labour-intensive home production reinforces gendered specialisation during childhood. I study this process using rainfall shocks in rural India, where favourable rainfall expands consumption and, with it, demand for household work. Girls exposed to unusually high rainfall at ages 4–7 spend 28 percent more time on domestic work at ages 12–17, with no comparable effect for boys; the response is concentrated among eldest daughters. In a model of home production, a lower opportunity cost alone cannot raise household consumption per minute of domestic work, whereas acquired skill can. In households whose eldest daughter experienced unusually high rainfall at ages 4–7, this ratio is 10 percent higher when current rainfall is high. Together, the findings support learning-by-doing as a mechanism through which childhood task assignments shaped by gender norms can amplify subsequent gender gaps in domestic work.

Building Relationships for Sustainable Supply Chains: Experimental Evidence from the Rwanda Coffee Sector *[Manuscript upon request]*

with Rocco Macchiavello, Iris Steenkamp, and Mohamed Abouaziza

Repeated exchange in agricultural supply chains need not sustain relational contracts that make promises credible and support investment. With a multinational coffee exporter in Rwanda, we test whether clarifying expectations and benefits can help strengthen such relational contracts. We randomise invitations to a low-cost programme and offer farm-upgrading contracts sixteen months later. Attendance more than triples take-up of a contract conditional on upgrading and delivery, but not of a simpler unconditional contract, consistent with stronger relational contracting.

Work in Progress

Mitigating Automation-Induced Mass Layoffs in Global Value Chains: Experimental Evidence from Burundi *[Baseline ongoing]*

with Tommaso Crosta, Srishti Gupta, and Iris Steenkamp

Developing countries face competing priorities: advancing the technological frontier and raising productivity while sustaining employment and reducing poverty. As a coffee exporter in Burundi automates seasonal jobs held by about 2,500 women, we study how workers and their households adjust to displacement. We examine workers' beliefs about automation risk, how networks and informal insurance cushion job loss, and whether firm-led mitigation can reduce its costs.

Optimal Implementation of PES in Supply Chains: Contracts, Monitoring, and Verifiability *[RCT endline ongoing]*

with Rocco Macchiavello and Iris Steenkamp

Scaling payments for ecosystem services requires affordable monitoring and credible promises of payment. In an RCT with 3,711 coffee farmers paid to plant trees, we compare upfront and relational (survival-bonus) payments, test low-cost call-centre monitoring, and give farmers a stamped booklet that records their own compliance. Preliminary results indicate that the booklet raises programme take-up by 20 percent, with the increase concentrated among women farmers.

Structural Transformation and Children's Time Allocation *[Data harmonization done]*

with Gabriela Deschamps

We study children's time allocation across development using what is, to our knowledge, the first global time-use dataset focused on children. It brings together over 70 surveys from more than 30 countries. Girls begin domestic work before boys enter paid work, and their domestic hours exceed boys' paid-work hours in every country, with less leisure rather than less schooling. We are developing a structural-transformation model linking household production and childhood skill acquisition to rationalise these patterns.

Downstream Loyalty, Sustainability Programs, and Labor Market Frictions *[RCT completed]*

with Rocco Macchiavello and Iris Steenkamp

Investments with delayed returns are hard to finance through supply chains when buyers cannot rely on future deliveries; renewing coffee trees, for instance, leaves them unproductive for two to three years. We randomise farmers between an upfront contract and one that pays conditional on later delivery to the exporter, and a second trial tests frictions in hiring the labour that renewal requires. The delivery-contingent contract has lower take-up but raises subsequent deliveries, helping the exporter capture the returns to its investment.

Lawyers and Development *[Data harmonization done]*

How does the role of legal services change as economies develop? I harmonise more than 250 nationally representative datasets from over 50 countries to measure legal employment across countries and over time. Lawyers per capita rise with development; this growth is driven by the legal-services sector rather than in-house legal counsel, and lawyers' wages keep pace with their expanding supply. I rationalise these facts with a model in which legal services provide knowledge of regulatory boundaries.

Grants and Awards

Labor Market Effects of Automation of Seasonal Jobs in Low-Income Settings: Evidence from Burundi

with Iris Steenkamp, Srishti Gupta, and Tommaso Crosta

Jobs and Opportunity Initiative - J-PAL ($30,077) *[2025-2027]*

STEG Small Research Grant, Round 11 (£22,000) *[2026-2028]*

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Supply Chain: Agroforestry with Coffee Farmers in Rwanda

with Rocco Macchiavello and Iris Steenkamp

King's Climate Action Initiative - J-PAL ($366,437) *[2025-2028]*

International Growth Centre - LSE ($125,000) *[2024-2026]*

PEDL ($125,000) *[2024-2026]*

Evaluating Bundles of Resources and Information on Productivity and Gender-Driven Differences in the Rwanda Supply-Chain

with Rocco Macchiavello and Iris Steenkamp

Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative - J-PAL ($281,000) *[2023-2025]*

Productivity of Home Production and Women's Economic Development

with Gabriela Deschamps

Hub for Equal Representation - LSE ($4,200) *[2023-2024]*

Lawyers and Development

Hayek Grant - LSE ($2,500) *[2023-2024]*

Presentations

Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development *[Dec 2026, scheduled]*

North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) *[Nov 2026]*

IFS/STICERD/UCL Development Work in Progress Seminar *[Oct 2026]*

IGC Uganda Climate Change Resilience Workshop *[June 2024]*

Teaching

Firms and Markets [2022-2026]

Core module in organisational economics
MSc in Economics and Management, School of Management, LSE
Last student rating: 4.8/5

Quantitative Methods for Public Policy [2021-2024]

Master of Public Policy, School of Public Policy, LSE
Last student rating: 4.6/5
Excellence in Teaching Award, 2024

Principles of Econometrics [2020-2021]

Core econometrics for second-year undergraduates in Economics at LSE
Last student rating: 4.6/5

Public Policy Applications [2021-2022]

Master of Public Policy, School of Public Policy, LSE

Firms in Developing Countries [2022-2024]

Final-year undergraduates, LSE Summer School

Research and Professional Experience

Harvard Business School *[Sep 2017 - Jun 2019]*

Research Assistant to Prof. Vincent Pons — Cambridge, MA

The World Bank, Development Research Group *[May 2018 - Aug 2018]*

Research Intern — Bengaluru

J-PAL South Asia, MIT *[Jul 2015 - Jun 2017]*

Research Associate — New Delhi, India

Fractal Analytics *[Jul 2013 - Jun 2014]*

Data Scientist — Mumbai

References

Prof. Rocco Macchiavello
Professor of Management, LSE
r.macchiavello@lse.ac.uk

Sir Tim Besley
School Professor of Economics, LSE
t.besley@lse.ac.uk