

Ashwini Deshpande

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WEBSITE: [Ashoka University Faculty Page](#)

Current position

Professor, Department of Economics, Ashoka University

(Founding) Director, Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA), Ashoka University

Areas of specialisation

Current: Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action; (applied to caste and gender in India); Social identity and economic outcomes, specifically labour market outcomes, self-employment; early childhood development, education.

Previous: International debt; Aspects of the Chinese Economy.

Appointments held

2007-2018	Professor, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics
2000-2007	Reader (Associate Professor), Delhi School of Economics
1998-2000	Post-doctoral research fellow, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
1997-2000	Senior Lecturer, Delhi School of Economics
1996-1997	Lecturer, Ramjas College
1993-1996	Research Associate, Delhi School of Economics
1990-1993	Lecturer, Ramjas College

Education

1994	PHD in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
1987	MA in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
1985	BA (HONS.) in Economics, Hindu College, University of Delhi

Awards, Fellowships & Grants

2007	V.K.R.V. Rao Award for economists under 45 years for original and significant contributions to Indian economics
1994	EXIM Bank award for outstanding dissertation in the area of international trade and related issues

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020- Research Fellow, IZA
- 2018 Fellow of the International Economic Association (Lifetime Title)
- 2018- Fellow of the Global Labour Network (GLO)
- 2017- Member, Executive Committee, International Economic Association
- 2019- Non-Resident Senior Reserach Fellow, United Nations University (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki
- 2014 Fellow, Insitute of Advanced Studies, University of Warwick
- 2008-10 Fellow, India China Institute, The New School, New York

GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

- 2020 Co-Principal Investigator (PI), Project on “Short-term effects on the Covid-19 Lockdown on Rural Communities and SHG Members” (joint with Lore Vandewalle, Joshua Merfeld and Kritika Saxena), International Growth Centre (IGC, India)
- 2020 Thematic paper for IWWAGE, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), on “Intersecting Identities, Livelihoods and Affirmative Action: How Social Identity Affects Economic Opportunity for Women in India”, forthcoming March 2021.
- 2020 Principal Researcher for India, South Asia Rural Livelihoods Study, World Bank. Forthcoming July 2021.
- 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 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
- 2013 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
- 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
- 2010 One of four PIs for DFID-funded study “Gender-caste growth assessment” (full citation in “Other Papers”)

- 2010 One of three regional authors for the UN (2010) report: "Can the MDGs provide a pathway to social justice? The challenge of intersecting inequalities" by Naila Kabeer.
- 2005-2008 Chairperson, Annual Conference on Development and Change (ACDC), funded by Ford Foundation, New York and housed at Carnegie Council, New York.
- 2002 UNDP consultancy for "Macro Economics of Poverty Reduction" (full reference in "Other Papers")

Publications

BOOKS

- 2013 *Affirmative Action in India*, Oxford India Short Introductions Series, Oxford University Press, New Delhi
- 2011 *The Grammar of Caste: Economic Discrimination in Contemporary India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Hardcover, 2011; Paperback 2017.

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2021 *Handbook on Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action*, Springer, Major Reference Works, forthcoming.
- 2012 *Global Economic Crisis and the Developing World* (edited with Keith Nurse), Routledge, London
- 2010 *Capital without Borders: Challenges to Development*, Anthem Press, London. Hardcover 2010; Paperback 2012
- 2008 *Globalisation and Development: A Handbook of New Perspectives*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Hardcover 2008; Paperback 2010.
- 2003 *Boundaries of Clan and Color: Cross national comparisons of inter group inequality* (edited with William Darity Jr.), Routledge, London

JOURNAL ARTICLES: 2011 ONWARDS

- 2020 [What does Work From Home Mean for Women?](#), *Economic and Political Weekly* Engage Series, Vol. 55, Issue No. 21, 23 May, 2020
- 2020 ["Social Identity and Perceived Income Adequacy"](#) (with Deepti Goel), *Review of Development Economics*, 24: 339– 361. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12646>
- 2019 ["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>

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

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

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

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

Media Coverage:

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

2017 “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

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

2016 “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

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

Media Coverage:

The Wall Street Journal, October 24, 2012

Indian Express, January 28, 2016

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

Media Coverage:

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

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

Media Coverage:

The Mint on Sunday, May 31, 2015

LiveMint, December 2, 2016

- 2011 “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

WORKING PAPERS

- 2020 The COVID-19 Pandemic and Gendered Division of Paid and Unpaid Work: Evidence from India (updated version of The Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown: First Effects on Gender Gaps in Employment and Domestic Work in India), IZA DP No. 13815, October 2020; Final Updated Version: January 2021

Media Coverage

India Spend, December 15, 2020

Economic Times, November 8, 2020

Livemint, November 17, 2020

NewClick, December 3, 2020

My Op-eds/blogs

Pandemics and Women’s Labour Market Participation in India: A Long View, with Bishnupriya Gupta, November 20, 2020

Indian Express, November 6, 2020

Live Mint, December 29, 2020

- 2020 Is COVID-19 “The Great Leveler”? The Critical Role of Social Identity in Lockdown- induced Job Losses, Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 34, July 2020

Media Coverage

Interview by India Spend, September 6, 2020

NewClick, August 19, 2020

Hindustan Times, August 4, 2020

- 2020 The Covid-19 Pandemic and Lockdown: First Effects on Gender Gaps in Employment and Domestic Work in India, Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 30, June 2020

Media Coverage

Livemint, August 15, 2020

Did Indian Men Do More Work During Lockdown? BBC, August 13, 2020

Times of India, August 7, 2020

BBC Radio 4, Women’s Hour, August 3, 2020, (India domestic work story from 13.57 to 26.02)

Livemint, August 1, 2020

Bloomberg, June 26, 2020

"Bloomberg Equality", Bloomberg TV, June 24, 2020

Times of India, June 18, 2020

Livemint, June 11, 2020

Times of India, June 6, 2020

BBC World Service TV, May 14, 2020

My Op-eds

HuffPost, July 29, 2020

Indian Express, June 6, 2020

2020 "Which Indian Children are Short and Why? Social Identity, Childhood Malnutrition and Cognitive Outcomes" (with Rajesh Ramachandran), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 27, March 2020

2020 "The Impact of an Adult Literacy Program on the Next Generation: Evidence from India" (with Christopher Ksoll, Annemie Maertens, Vinitha R. Varghese), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 26, March 2020

2019 "Can Weak Ties Create Social Capital? Evidence from Self-Help Groups in Rural India" (with Shantanu Khanna), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 23, November 2019

2019 *Nakusha? Son Preference, Resource Concentration and Gender Gaps in Education* (with Apoorva Gupta), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 13, June 2019

2019 "(In)Visibility, Care and Cultural Barriers: The Size and Shape of Women's Work in India, (with Naila Kabeer), Ashoka Economics Discussion Paper No. 10, May 2019

JOURNAL ARTICLES: 2010 AND EARLIER

2010 "Merit, Mobility and Modernism: Caste Discrimination in Contemporary Indian Labour Markets", *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 53(3):433-455, July-September

2007 "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.

2007 "Overlapping identities under liberalisation: gender and caste in India", *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 55(4):735-760

2006 "The Eternal Debate?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41(24):2444-2446, June 17, 2006

2002 "Assets versus autonomy? The changing face of the gender-caste overlap in India", *Feminist Economics*, 8(2):19-35

2001 "Caste at Birth? Redefining disparity in India", *Review of Development Economics*, 5(1):130-144

- 2000 "Tracing the divide: Intergroup disparity across countries", (with William A. Darity, Jr), *Eastern Economic Journal*, 26(1):75-85, Winter 2000.
- 2000 "Recasting Economic Inequality", *Review of Social Economy*, 58(3):381-399, October 2000
- 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.
- Journal Articles on International Debt and China
- 1995 "Rethinking strategy for the global debt crisis", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 30(21), May 27, 1995.
- 1995 "The Strategic role of international credit as an instrument of trade", with Kaushik Basu, *Japanese Economic Review*, 46 (4):333-350
- 1995 "Structural Adjustment in India: a critical assessment", with Prabirjit Sarkar, *Economic and Political Weekly*, XXX (49), December 9, 1995.
- 1996 "Role of foreign capital in Chinese Economic Reforms: A survey", *China Report*, 32(3):295-328
- 1997 "The Debt overhang and the disincentive to invest", *Journal of Development Economics*, 52(1):169-187
- 1998 "Continuing the open door policy: promoting capitalism?", *China Report*, 34(1):111-118, Jan- March 1998.
- 1999 "Loan Pushing and triadic relations", *Southern Economic Journal*, 65(4):914-926
- 2002 "Tale of two cities: Regional Inequality in China on the eve of its entry into WTO", *China Report*, 38(4):523-546
- BOOK CHAPTERS
- 2021 "Many Women Out of the Labour Force?", in Nisha Agarwal (editor), *Her Right to Equality: From Promise to Power*, Penguin Random House, New Delhi, pp. 80-94
- 2021 "The Origins and Effects of Affirmative Action Policies in India", in Tarun Khanna and Michael Szonyi (editors), *Making Meritocracy*, forthcoming
- 2019 "Caste to Class? State Policy Towards Reservation", in Vidhu Verma (editor), *The State in India: Ideas, Norms and Politics*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi
- 2019 "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

- 2018 "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)
- 2016 "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
- 2015 "From Formal to Substantive Equality", in Surinder Jodhka and Divya Vaid (editors) *Seminar Symposium on "Exclusion, Discrimination and Disparity"*, August 2015, No. 672
- 2015 "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
- 2014 "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, pp. 352-373.
- 2013 "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 Weiskopf*, Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing Inc. (Northampton, MA)
- 2012 "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
- 2006 "Graded Inequalities: An assessment of affirmative action in India", in Elaine Dubourdiou (editor), *Affirmative Action Policies: a trans-national analysis*, Ashgate
- 2005 "Do markets discriminate? Some insights from economic theories", in Sukhadeo Thorat, Aryama, Prashant Negi (editors), *Reservations and the private sector: Quest for equal opportunity and growth*, Rawat Publications, Delhi, 2005, pp. 59-65
- 2003 "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)
- 2003 "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, pp. 223-267.
- 2001 "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, pp. 328-348.

Encyclopaedia Entries

- 2007 "Affirmative Action", in Kaushik Basu (editor), *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007, pp. 5-6.
- 2007 "Caste", in Kaushik Basu (editor), *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007, pp 48-50.
- 2007 "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>
- 2008 "Caste and Diversity in India", in John Davis and Wilfred Dolfsma (editors) *The Companion to Social Economics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. 171-187.

Other Papers

- 2013 "Exclusion and Inclusive Growth", *UNDP Discussion Paper*, 2013.
- 2010 "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
- 2006 *Affirmative Action in India and the USA*, Background Paper, World Development Report
- 2002 "Employment and unemployment in Nepal", in *Macro Economics of Poverty Reduction*, UNDP
- 1995 "Some aspects of international debt of developing countries", *EXIM Bank Occasional Paper*

Editorial Work

- 2020- Associate Editor, *Feminist Economics*. (Earlier Associate Editor, 2010-2013). Member, Editorial Board since 2010
- 2017- Associate Editor, *Review of Social Economy*. Member, Editorial Board since 2004

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.

2016- Member, Editorial Board, *World Bank Economic Review*

Writings on Music

2015 “New Voices in Songs: Do Women in Hindi Films Have Greater Agency?”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, L(37):25-27.

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

2010 “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.

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

The Lata Mangeshkar Debate:

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

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

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

Opinion Pieces and Other Short Pieces

See: [Other Writing](#) on my [personal website](#)

Teaching and Research Supervision

UG: Statistics for Economics; Critical Thinking Seminar on “Economic Inequality”; Economics of Discrimination. PG: Economics of Discrimination

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

PH.D

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

- 2015 Smriti Sharma: "Three Essays on Disadvantage and Discrimination in Contemporary India", submitted February 2014, awarded January 2015. (First placement: UNU-WIDER, Helsinki).
- 2019 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.)
- 2020 Mrinalini Jha: "Economics of Discrimination", submitted June 2020
- Ongoing Jitendra Singh, Ashoka University
- M.PHIL
- 2012 Shantanu Khanna: "Wage inequality decomposition: quantile regressions" (jointly supervised with Deepti Goel)
- 2012 Pilu Chandra Das: "Total Factor Productivity in Indian Manufacturing: the story of the Noughties" (jointly supervised with Deb Kusum Das)

Professional and Administrative Service

- 2017- Member, Executive Committee, International Economic Association
- 2017- Member, Advisory Committee, National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), since inception, November 2017
- 2013- Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi
- 2016- Member, Board of Trustees, Indian Social Studies Trust (ISST), September 2016 to present
- 2007 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
- 2005-2008 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 with additional fundraising: Johannesburg, April, 2010. <http://www.policyinnovations.org/calendar>
- 2002 Deputy Director, Cambridge Advanced Program on Development Economics (CAPORDE), University of Cambridge, UK.

Lectures and Conference Presentations

INVITED LECTURES

- 2019 Annual Inequality Lecture at the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, October
- 2019 Opening keynote at the International Association for Feminist Economists (IAFFE) Annual Conference, Glasgow, June
- 2017 9th Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture, Indian Institute for Dalit Studies, New Delhi, April 2017
- 2015 14th C. D. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, Centre for Social Development, Hyderabad, July 2015
- 2015 Lecture on "Affirmative Action in India" at *Brown International Advanced Research Institute*, June
- 2008 Address on Caste Discrimination to a special session of the Danish Parliament, September
- 2007 Rafto Memorial Lecture, September

RECENT SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Solo Public Lecture on "Reality Behind the Caste System in India" on [How The Light Gets In Festival](#), September 2020, London, New York, New Delhi.
- 2020 Covid-19 related webinars and interviews: See the list [here](#)
- 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; ISI Annual Conference on Growth and Economic Development, December 2019