

Saima Khan

New York University · Development Research Institute · 14A Washington Mews, Room no. 304

· NY, NY 10003 · Ph: +1 347 567 4103 · khan.saima.econ@gmail.com · [LinkedIn Profile](#) · [Personal Website](#)

Summary

- New York based Research Economist at NYU Abu Dhabi; PhD in Economics (Applied Micro & Labor) with ~4 years postdoctoral experience in analyzing large data sets to conduct program evaluations.
- Led 2 large-scale surveys of ~2000 children worth ~\$100,000 in Bangladeshi slums, using grants from the National University of Singapore and Singapore Ministry of Education; adept at project management, survey design, interdisciplinary teamwork and clearly communicating technical material to a diverse audience.
- Proficient at Stata and \LaTeX ; skilled at statistical inference and econometric methods like linear and logistic regressions, propensity score matching, fixed effects, instrumental variables, bootstrapping and clustering.

Research Experience

Research Economist (Postdoctoral Associate)

Feb 2019 – Present

New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), Division of Social Science

New York, USA

- Spearheaded first rigorous program evaluation of renowned BRAC primary schools to show traditional schools are superior to non-formal schools, in terms of math scores, for urban slum children.
- Applied logit and multinomial logit to identify factors influencing school switching behavior among disadvantaged students, thus hampering long run educational outcomes.
- Enhanced data trimming methods, to generate more robust treatment effects when evaluating interventions.
- Merged and cleaned data, in Stata, from two waves of our own people level household surveys to create a longitudinal data set.

Research Economist (Postdoctoral Fellow)

Feb 2018 – Jan 2019

National University of Singapore, Centre for Family and Population Research

Singapore

- Implemented propensity score matching; compared innovative JAAGO schools to Government and NGO schools to find gender heterogeneity in achievement, thus calling for female friendly education policy.
- Developed novel balancing test technique to effectuate more rigorous impact evaluation studies.
- Retraced and re-interviewed 83% (1620/1953 children) from our 2015 survey to examine longer term trends in learning achievement, school switching, and drop-out behavior.
- Designed household and school questionnaires to collect data on demographics, health indicators, socioeconomic background and schooling history.

Research Scholar (PhD Candidate)

Aug 2012 - Oct 2017

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

- Surveyed ~2000 children and guardians in Dhaka's slums to study innovative schooling models amongst marginalized communities.
- Implemented rare event sampling method to identify treatment and control households.
- Administered cognitive tests to ~2000 children, adhering to testing rules, to obtain standardized test scores.
- Collaborated with clinical psychologists to obtain internationally standardized cognitive tests worth \$ 2500.

Education

PhD in Economics

Aug 2012 – Oct 2017

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

Master of Social Sciences (MSS) in Economics

Aug 2007 – Dec 2008

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Economics

Jan 2003 – Aug 2006

North South University (NSU)

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Project Management Experience

PhD candidate & Research Economist (Postdoctoral Fellow)

Aug 2012 - Jan 2019

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

- Recruited, trained and supervised ~100 field staff and research assistants thus ensuring survey and testing rules are maintained to ensure data quality.
- Monitored survey firm and day to day field operations for quality control.
- Coordinated with legal and regulatory strategic partners to uphold data security and protect the rights and welfare of respondents.
- Engaged with stakeholders to calculate survey budget to cost effectively complete 2 large-scale projects.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant

Aug 2013 – Dec 2016

National University of Singapore (NUS)

Singapore

- Taught undergraduate Macroeconomics courses to 360 students in 6 semesters; proctored & graded exams.

Lecturer of Economics

Jan 2010 – Jul 2012

North South University (NSU)

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Designed curriculum and taught 5 undergraduate Economics courses to 900 students in 8 semesters.
- Mentored students on public speaking, journal writing, and conference organization.
- Guided students on college selection and statement of purposes for their graduate school applications.

Conferences and Seminars (Selected)

Presented paper “**Does BRAC Provide Highly Effective Schooling in Developing Countries?**” at:

- 23rd INFER (International Network for Economic Research) Annual Conference, *virtual* (Sep 2021)
- Australian Conference of Economists 2021, *virtual* (July 2021)
- 14th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal, *virtual* (July 2021)
- 2021 Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference, *virtual* (June 2021)
- 11th Biennial Conference of the Czech Economic Society, *virtual* (May 2021)

Presented paper “**Selection, Gender and the Impact of Schooling Type in the Dhaka Slums - Better Data Matters!**” at:

- NYU Development Economics Seminar, *New York, USA* (Feb 2020)
- Joint Congress of European Economic Association and Econometric Society, *Manchester, UK* (Aug 2019)
- 2019 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, *Seattle, USA* (June 2019)
- 2019 China Meeting of the Econometric Society, *Guangzhou, China* (June 2019)
- Asian and Australasian Society of Labor Economics 2018 Conference, *Seoul, South Korea* (Dec 2018)

Scholarships and Awards

Goh Keng Swee PhD Scholarship in Economics, NUS, Singapore

Aug 2016 - Jul 2017

Funded Final year of PhD; awarded S\$40,000 and full tuition fee waiver

Research Scholar, NUS, Singapore

Aug 2012 - Jul 2016

Funded 4 years of PhD; awarded S\$108,000 and full tuition fee waiver

Graduate Student Research Support Scheme, NUS, Singapore

May 2015 - Dec 2015

Awarded S\$6,000 for thesis related fieldwork

Graduate Students' Teaching Award (Semesters 1 and 2), NUS, Singapore

Dec 2014 & Jun 2014

Award valued at S\$200

NYU Abu Dhabi Postdoc Research Fund

Feb 2019 - Aug 2021

Awarded \$1,500 for research activities, conference fees and travel expenses