

# SANTOSH KUMAR

## Contact Information

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## Education

Ph.D. in Economics, **University of Houston**, 2009 (expected)  
Dissertation Title: “*Childhood Immunization, Mortality and Human Capital Accumulation: Micro-Evidence from India*”

**Advisors:** Aimee Chin (Co-Chair), Chinhui Juhn (Co-Chair), Rohini Pande (Harvard)

M.A. in Economics, **University of Houston**, 2006

M.A. in Economics, **Delhi School of Economics**, 2002

B.A. in Economics, **University of Delhi**, 1999

## Fields of Interest

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Health Economics  
Applied Econometrics

## Job Market Paper

“Childhood Immunization, Mortality and Human Capital Accumulation: Micro-Evidence from India”

## Work in Progress

“Economic and Social Impacts of Rural Roads in India” with Prof. Abhijit Banerjee (MIT) and Prof. Rohini Pande (KSG, Harvard)

“International Trade and Mobility” with Prof. Adriana Kugler (University of Houston)

“The Child Quantity-Quality Trade-off in Developing Countries”

## Research Experience

Research Assistant Aug 2003–August 2004, Summer 2006–Present  
**Prof. Abhijit Banerjee (MIT)**  
**and Prof. Rohini Pande (Harvard)**

Research Associate May 2002–August 2003  
**National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** Delhi, India

## Field Work and Survey Experience

Economic and Social Impacts of Rural Roads (with Abhijit Banerjee and Rohini Pande): 2006-2008

Parochial Politics: Ethnic Preferences and Political Corruption (Abhijit Banerjee and Rohini Pande) (Working Paper, KSG, Harvard, July 2007); (BREAD Working Paper No. 152): 2003-2004

Impact Assessment of Rural Development Programs in Mangan District, India, NCAER: 2002

Kisan Credit Card Scheme: Impact, Weaknesses and Further Reforms, NCAER: 2003

## Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Ruxandra Prodan, Economics of Globalization, Fall 2008  
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (**Class Size-94**), University of Houston, Spring 2008  
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (**Class Size-74**), University of Houston, Fall 2007  
Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics (**Class Size-66**), University of Houston, Spring 2007  
Teaching Assistant, Dr. Polly Hardee, International Monetary Economics, Fall 2004 - Summer 2005

## Paper Presentations

8th Annual Missouri Economics Conference, Columbia, MO, March, 2008  
XIIIth Texas Econometrics Camp, Kerrville, TX, Feb, 2008  
Graduate Workshop, Department of Economics, University of Houston, TX, Spring 2008  
Graduate Workshop, Department of Economics, University of Houston, TX, Fall 2007  
Graduate Workshop, Department of Economics, University of Houston, TX, Spring 2007

## Conference Participation

16th Annual Texas Monetary Camp, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, TX, 2008  
15th Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE), Bangalore, India, May, 2003

## Honors and Awards

BREAD/CEPR/University of Verona Summer School in Development Economics, University of Verona, Alba Di Canazei, Italy, July 2008, (Declined)  
Henry Graham Grant, 2007-2008, **\$6000**  
Jhamandas Watulmull Fund Scholarship, Fall 2008, **\$1000**  
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL, MIT) Summer Course, Chennai, India, July, 2006  
Cullen Supplemental Fellowship, Fall 2004–Summer 2006  
Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowship, Fall 2004–Summer 2009

## Professional Affiliations

American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Midwest Economic Association

## Computer Skills

Stata, GAUSS, Eviews, LaTeX

## Personal Information

Citizenship: India

Gender: Male

## Job Market Paper

Title: “*Childhood Immunization, Mortality and Human Capital Accumulation: Micro-Evidence from India*” (Abstract)

In the mid-1980s, the Indian government embarked on one of the largest childhood immunization programs-called “Universal Immunization Program” (UIP)-in order to reduce the high mortality and morbidity among children. I examine the effect of this immunization program on child mortality and educational attainment by exploiting district-by-cohort variation in exposure to the program. Results indicate that exposure to the program reduced infant mortality by 0.4 percentage points and under-five child mortality by 0.5 percentage points. The effects are more pronounced in rural areas, for poor people, and for members of historically disadvantaged groups. While the program clearly reduced mortality, it had mixed effects on children’s educational outcomes. I find it had a negative impact on primary school completion, but a positive impact on secondary school completion. The negative effect at low levels of schooling may be due to lower average health among marginal surviving children or resource constraints faced by the government where investment in child health programs may have crowded out investment in school infrastructure and quality. The greater propensity to complete secondary school on the other hand may be due to improved health among those farther away from the margin of survival.

## References

Aimee Chin (Co-Chair)

Associate Professor

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Chinhui Juhn (Co-Chair)

Henry Graham Professor of Economics and Graduate Co-Director

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Rohini Pande

Mohammed Kamal Professor of Public Policy

John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard, Cambridge, MA, 02138, USA

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Abhijit Banerjee

Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics

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Rebecca Achee Thornton (Teaching Reference)

Director of Undergraduate Advising and Affairs

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