

Kalyani Padmakumar

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Pennsylvania State University (PSU)	2017-Present
M.A. in Economics, Delhi School of Economics (DSE)	2012-2014
B.A. (Honors) in Economics, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi	2009-2012

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomic Development, International Trade, Labor Economics

RESEARCH PAPERS

Small By Choice? Reassessing the Aggregate Implications of Size-Based Regulations

(Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Firms with employment exceeding a threshold level are more regulated than smaller firms in many countries. Current work gauges such rules' impact based on whether firms bunch at the threshold, with more bunching taken to imply higher regulatory costs. In this paper, I show that size-based rules can be highly restrictive for firms even with no bunching. I argue using India's employment protection legislation (EPL) that applies to manufacturing plants with 100+ full-time workers. Although plants do not bunch at 100 workers, I show that EPL restricts employment growth of plants by lowering their transitions from below to above the regulatory threshold. Plants near the threshold also substitute towards contract workers and capital, on which EPL does not apply. To quantify aggregate implications, I develop and estimate a structural dynamic heterogeneous firm model with multiple factors of production and labor search costs. Counterfactuals suggest that removing EPL would make more firms enter and hire full-time workers faster, raising full-time employment and output by 9% and 4% in the long run.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

No Country for Dying Firms: Evidence from India

(with Shoumitro Chatterjee, Kala Krishna & Yingyan Zhao)

Abstract: Firms in India exit at a much lower rate than firms in the US and other developing countries. Additionally, in India, exit rates are much lower in the manufacturing sector than in the services sector. In this paper, we argue that Indian institutions create frictions to firm exit and adjustment in the manufacturing sector. We present several facts that show how manufacturing firms respond to these frictions. We then develop and estimate a dynamic heterogeneous firm model with entry, exit and input (labor and capital) adjustment costs. This allows us to pin down the magnitudes of exit and adjustment costs and their implications for firm development and aggregate manufacturing total factor productivity.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society, London (virtual)	2022
16th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute (virtual)	2021
Trade & Development Student Workshops, Pennsylvania State University	2019-2022

RESEARCH AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant for Prof. Kala Krishna, PSU	2019-2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Parikshit Ghosh, DSE	2016
Market Risk Analyst, Goldman Sachs & Services Pvt Ltd, Bangalore, India	2014-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, TA for Prof. Mark Mcleod, PSU	Spring 2022
Intl. Finance & Open Economy Macroeconomics, TA for Prof. Fernando Parro, PSU	Fall 2020, 2021
Urban Economics, TA for Prof. Shoumitro Chatterjee, PSU	Spring 2020, 2021
Economic Growth & Development, TA for Prof. Bee Roberts, PSU	Fall 2019
Introductory Microeconomic Analysis & Policy, TA for Prof. Paul Kagundu, PSU	Fall 2017 - Spring 2019

SKILLS

Economics: Structural Estimation, Causal Inference, Quantitative Economic Modelling

Programming: Cluster Computing, MATLAB, STATA, Python, L^AT_EX

Languages: Malayalam (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent)

REFERENCES

Kala Krishna (advisor)

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Shoumitro Chatterjee

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SAIS, Johns Hopkins University
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