

SUJOY UPADHYAY

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois-Chicago , PhD. Economics	<i>August 2020- Current</i>
University of Illinois-Chicago , MS Finance	<i>Jan 2019-August 2020</i>
Madras School of Economics , M.A. Economics	<i>August 2016-May 2018</i>
Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira , B.Sc. Economics	<i>August 2013-May 2016</i>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Applied Econometrics, Political Economy, Development Economics
Secondary: Public Economics, Applied Macroeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

“Does Vertical Political Alignment Impact Local Economic Growth? Evidence using Night-Lights from India” (Job Market Paper)

This paper evaluates the impact of vertical political alignment, defined as a constituency being represented by the same political party at both the national and the state legislative levels, on local economic development in India. I exploit close state assembly elections from 1999 to 2013 within a local regression discontinuity design and use DMSP–OLS night-lights growth (supplemented by road construction) as outcomes. Across bandwidth selections, functional forms, and rich control sets, the estimated effects on night-lights growth are extremely small (-0.0046 to 1.02 percentage points) and statistically indistinguishable from zero, with similarly null results for roads. This provides the first systematic test of the currently popular “double engine” rhetoric in India.

“New age Pension Reforms and Household Consumption: Evidence from India”

This paper examines the impact of India’s 2004 pension reform, which shifted civil-service pensions from defined benefit plans to defined contribution schemes, on household consumption. Using a difference-in-differences framework that exploits reform-induced variation across affected and unaffected households, and National Sample Survey data from 1994 to 2012, I estimate a decline of about 27 percent in real monthly per-capita consumption among treated households (95% CI: -65% to -18%). Results are robust to alternative specifications and sample definitions. Overall, the evidence indicates that the transition to defined contributions was associated with sizable reductions in consumption for affected cohorts, lending empirical support to concerns about the welfare consequences of the NPS.

“Can Aggregate Special Items Aid in Predicting Future Inflation?” (with Arthur Pelenq)

This paper enhances inflation forecasting in Phillips Curve models by incorporating ‘special items.’ Recent research shows that forecasts from the Survey of Professional Forecasters often neglect this component. While results do not indicate improved forecasting, using ‘special items’ as a measure of economic slack proves comparable to conventional indicators.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Instructor:

ECON 300: Econometrics	<i>Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024 & Spring 2025</i>
ECON 330: Government and Business	<i>Fall 2023</i>

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

ECON 221: Macroeconomics -Theory & Applications	<i>Fall 2022</i>
ECON 120: Principles of Microeconomics	<i>Fall 2020 & Spring 2021</i>

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Parts Town LLC

Jun 2025 – Aug 2025

Data Science Intern

- Applied causal inference methods (Propensity Score Matching) to assess the effect of overtime work on technician attrition.
- Developed machine learning models (XGBoost, Decision Trees) to predict attrition risk and inform workforce retention strategies.

UI Health, Vitality Lab

Jan 2025 – Present

Research Assistant

- Conducted causal evaluation of health interventions using Difference-in-Differences and Instrumental Variables to study cancer outcomes.
- Implemented Natural Language Processing and Large Language Models to synthesize evidence from more than 1,000 clinical studies.
- Contributed to biomedical imaging pipelines by integrating deep learning models (ResNet, AlexNet) for 3D lung tissue reconstruction.

Anheuser-Busch InBev

May 2018 – Dec 2018

Associate Data Scientist

- Estimated market mix models to analyze the allocation efficiency of Budweiser's \$1 billion U.S. marketing budget across platforms.
- Forecasted brand sales for U.S. and Belgian markets using ARIMA, STL, and Unobserved Components Models with 97% accuracy.
- Estimated demand elasticities for premium products to guide pricing and revenue optimization decisions.

POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Illinois Economics Association, DePaul University

Fall 2025

Economics Research Luncheon, University of Illinois-Chicago

Fall 2025

Dr. Gary Kruh Cancer Research Symposium and Poster Competition, UI Health

Spring 2025

CITD International Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Spring 2024

Economics Research Luncheon, University of Illinois-Chicago

Fall 2023

Economics Research Luncheon, University of Illinois-Chicago

Spring 2023

AWARDS AND HONORS

UIC Graduate Student Council Travel Award

Spring 2024

Competitive travel grant to support conference presentation (\$500).

UIC Economics Department Travel Award

Spring 2024

Competitive travel grant to support conference presentation (\$350).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Software

Stata, R, Python, and Matlab

Other Programs

SQL, Tableau, Excel, and \LaTeX

Languages

Bengali (native), Hindi (Fluent) and English (fluent).

REFERENCES

Ben Ost (Chair)
Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, UIC
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Darren Lubotsky
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