

RAVI SOMANI

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PROFILE

My core technical expertise is in public institutions, labor markets, and education economics. I have worked on analytical and operational projects and have authored several research papers in these areas. I have designed and implemented surveys and impact evaluations across a range of contexts and topics, including digital governance, capacity building, and mental health. I have extensive experience in government and stakeholder engagement.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2019- **Economist (ETC), Development Impact Evaluation Department, World Bank**
Overseeing research projects on public-sector productivity in Ethiopia, Estonia, India, Lithuania, Malaysia, Romania, and Slovakia. Topics: measuring the effectiveness of capacity building and digital training programs; new technologies for citizen-government interactions; stigma in mental health services. Contributing to operational projects in Romania and India. Topics: measuring and identifying the personnel determinants of public-sector productivity.
- 2016-2019 **Research Assistant, University College London**
Writing economic theory and conducting empirical analysis to study the effects of monetary incentives for school administrators on student health outcomes.
- 2015-2019 **Consultant, World Bank.**
Field management and stakeholder engagement for a large-scale survey of public officials in Ethiopia on civil-service reform; data analysis, reporting, and dissemination of results.
- 2014-2019 **Post-Graduate Teaching Assistant, University College London**
Developing and conducting seminars on advanced econometrics and development economics.
- 2010-2012 **Economic Advisor, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia (Overseas Development Institute Fellowship)**
Overseeing the implementation and supporting the design of the World Bank-supervised General Education Quality Improvement Program (GEQIP and GEQIP II); supporting the design of DFID's Results Based Aid Pilot; managing the financial modelling for the education sector.
- 2009-2010 **Economic Analyst, Frontier Economics, London.**
Advising public- and private-sector clients in strategy, regulation, compliance, and litigation.

EDUCATION

- May, 2019 **PhD Economics, University College London**
*"Essays on Labour Economics in Developing Countries and the Role of the Public Sector"
Viva Committee: Imran Rasul and Florian Englmaier.*
- Fall, 2017 **Visiting Researcher, Bocconi University**
- 2014 **MRes Economics (Distinction), University College London**
- 2010 **MSc Economics (Distinction), University College London**
- 2008 **BEconSc Economics (First Class Honours and Manchester School Award), The University of Manchester**

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Labour Economics, Public Policy and Public Administration

WORKING PAPERS

["The Returns to Higher Education and Public Employment"](#)

["Bureaucrat Time Use and Productivity: Evidence from a Survey Experiment"](#) (with Jozefina Kalaj and Daniel Rogger)

["Hierarchy and Information"](#) (with Daniel Rogger)

Public coverage: [VoxDev](#), [2018 Ibrahim Forum Report on Public Service in Africa](#)

["Does Providing Information to Civil Servants Improve Public Service Delivery?"](#)

Public coverage: [2018 Ibrahim Forum Report on Public Service in Africa](#)

["Supervisor Bias, Gender and Organizational Efficiency"](#)

ONGOING PROJECTS

"Who Should Be Trained? Technology Adoption in the Public Sector"

"Manager v Machine: Developing and Evaluating a Market for Back-Office Services in the Public Sector"

"Stigma and Mental Health Service Provision in Lithuania"

"Increasing Citizen Engagement with Local Governments in Estonia"

"Election Cycles and Service Delivery in Water and Sanitation: Evidence from 3 Contexts"

POLICY REPORTS

["Moving Further on Civil Service Reforms in Ethiopia"](#)

["Liberia Forestry Development Authority : An Institutional Capacity Assessment"](#)

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2016-2019 Bureaucracy Lab Doctoral Fellow, World Bank.
2016-2017 Teaching Excellence Award, University College London.
2014-2018 Ricardo Scholarship, University College London.
2013-2014 David Pearce Scholarship, University College London.
2010-2012 Overseas Development Institute Fellowship.
2008 Manchester School Award, The University of Manchester.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2016-2019 International Growth Centre (\$25,742): "A Study of the Constraints to Civil Servant Productivity in Ethiopia"

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Bocconi University; Centre for the Study of African Economies; Ethiopian Development; Research Institute and IGC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Queen Mary University of London; Government of Malaysia (Webinar); Stockholm School of Economics; Sussex University; University College London; University of Oxford; Warwick University; World Bank Development Research Group Series.

REFEREEING

Education of Economics Review; World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series

OTHER

Languages: English (Native), Gujarati (Native), Spanish (Advanced), Amharic (Intermediate)
Citizenship: UK and Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder
Software: Stata, Matlab, R, Tex, Microsoft Office