

## RAVI SOMANI

Development Impact Evaluation Group, World Bank

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My primary expertise is in applied microeconomics, using econometric models to causally estimate parameters of economic theory. I have operational and research experience in applying econometric methods to survey and administrative data and have designed and implemented large-scale surveys and impact evaluations. I have extensive experience engaging with a variety of stakeholders through my work in international organizations, government, and the private sector.

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## EMPLOYMENT

- Economist (ETC), Development Impact Evaluation Group (DIME), World Bank 2019-  
Overseeing research projects on the labor and organizational economics of public institutions in Brazil, Ethiopia, Estonia, India, Lithuania, Malaysia, Romania, and Slovakia. Topics: measuring the impacts of (digital) training initiatives; studying team dynamics and optimal team composition; measuring the impacts of new technologies for citizen-government interactions; measuring stigma and other constraints to delivering mental health services. Contributing to operational projects in India, Malaysia, and Romania. Topics: measuring and identifying the personnel determinants of public-sector productivity; modelling the fiscal implications of public-sector reforms.
- Research Assistant, University College London 2016-2019  
Writing economic theory and conducting empirical analysis to study the effects of monetary incentives for school administrators on student health outcomes.
- Consultant, Governance Global Practice and DIME, World Bank 2015-2019  
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.
- Post-Graduate Teaching Assistant, University College London 2014-2019  
Teaching advanced (PhD) level econometrics and undergraduate development economics courses.
- Economic Advisor, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia 2010-2012  
(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.
- Economic Analyst, Frontier Economics, London 2008-2009  
Advising public- and private-sector clients in strategy, regulation, compliance, and litigation.

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## EDUCATION

- PhD Economics, University College London 2019  
“Essays on Labour Economics in Developing Countries and the Role of the Public Sector”  
Viva committee: Imran Rasul and Florian Englmaier  
Primary supervisors: Marcos Vera-Hernandez and Antonio Cabrales

Visiting Researcher, Bocconi University	<i>Fall 2017</i>
MRes Economics (Distinction), University College London	<i>2014</i>
MSc Economics (Distinction), University College London	<i>2010</i>
BEconSc Economics (First Class Honours and Manchester School Award), University of Manchester	<i>2008</i>

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### **HONOURS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

Innovation Award, Bureaucracy Lab, World Bank	<i>2021</i>
VPU Team Award, Development Economics Vice Presidency, World Bank	<i>2020</i>
International Growth Centre (\$25,742): “A Study of the Constraints to Civil Servant Productivity in Ethiopia”	<i>2016-2019</i>
Bureaucracy Lab Doctoral Fellow, World Bank.	<i>2016-2019</i>
Teaching Excellence Award, University College London.	<i>2017</i>
Ricardo Scholarship, University College London.	<i>2014-2018</i>
David Pearce Scholarship, University College London.	<i>2013-2014</i>
Overseas Development Institute Fellowship.	<i>2010-2012</i>
Manchester School Award, The University of Manchester.	<i>2008</i>

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### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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 Economic Review; World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series

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### **RESEARCH PAPERS**

[The Returns to Higher Education and Public Employment](#) (*World Development*)

[The Persistent Impacts of Electoral Cycles on Public Infrastructure](#) (with Daniel Rogger) (Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Public Economics*)

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

[Hierarchy and Information](#), *Policy Research Working Paper WPS8644* (with Daniel Rogger) (Submitted)  
Public coverage: [The Economist](#), [VoxDev](#), [2018 Ibrahim Forum Report on Public Service in Africa](#)

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

[Does Providing Information to Civil Servants Improve Public Service Delivery?](#)  
Public coverage: [2018 Ibrahim Forum Report on Public Service in Africa](#)

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## ONGOING PROJECTS

Who Should Be Trained? Technology Adoption in the Public Sector (with Michael Best, Daniel Chen, Alessandra Fenizia, Zahid Hasnain, Gianmarco Leon, Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Patricia Paskov, and Daniel Rogger, Christian Schuster)

Manager v Machine: Developing and Evaluating a Market for Back-Office Services in the Public Sector (with Michael Best, Daniel Chen, Alessandra Fenizia, Zahid Hasnain, Gianmarco Leon, Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Patricia Paskov, and Daniel Rogger, Christian Schuster)

Stigma and Mental Health Service Provision in Lithuania (with Michael Best, Daniel Chen, Alessandra Fenizia, Zahid Hasnain, Gianmarco Leon, Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Patricia Paskov, and Daniel Rogger, Christian Schuster)

Increasing Citizen Engagement with Local Governments in Estonia (with Michael Best, Daniel Chen, Alessandra Fenizia, Zahid Hasnain, Gianmarco Leon, Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling, Patricia Paskov, and Daniel Rogger, Christian Schuster)

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## POLICY REPORTS

[Public-Sector Productivity \(Part One\): Why Is It Important and How Can We Measure It?](#)

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

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

Selecting the right staff and keeping them motivated for a high-performing public administration in Romania

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## OTHER

Languages: English (Native), Gujarati (Native), Spanish (Advanced), Amharic (Intermediate)

Citizenship: UK, Overseas Citizen of India Cardholder

Software: Stata, R, Matlab, Tex, Microsoft Office