

ASHWINI NATRAJ

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Department of Economics

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OFFICE ADDRESS, TELEPHONE & E-MAIL:

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DATE OF BIRTH: 24 Jul 1981

SEX: Female

CITIZENSHIP: Indian

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES:

Sep 2006 – Dec 2011 **MRes Economics** (Merit) United Kingdom
London School of Economics and Political Science

Sep 2002 – Sep 2004 **MSc Econometrics and Mathematical Economics** (Merit) United Kingdom
London School of Economics and Political Science

Jun 1999 – Jun 2002 **BSc Mathematics** (First Class with Distinction) India
St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai

GRADUATE STUDIES: London School of Economics

DATES: Aug 2007 - present

THESIS TITLE: 'Inequality in access, wages and participation'

EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: Spring 2012

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

1. Oriana Bandiera (Advisor)
Department of Economics
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3. Guy Michaels
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Political Economy

Secondary Fields: Labour Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Sep 2009- Aug 2011 **Tutorial Fellow, LSE** United Kingdom
- **Academic Advisor** for fifteen undergraduate students

Mar 2010- Apr 2010 **Lecturer, University of London External Course** Hong Kong

Oct 2006- Present **Graduate Teaching Assistant, LSE** United Kingdom
- Second-year Undergraduate Microeconomics, Mathematics for
Postgraduate Economists, Mathematics for MSc students
- Revision Lectures: Second-year Undergraduate Microeconomics

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD:

Sep 2009- Aug 2011 **Tutorial Fellow, LSE** United Kingdom

Aug 2007-Present **Research Assistant, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE** United Kingdom

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent spoken and written); Hindi (Fluent spoken and written); French (Intermediate spoken and written); Kannada (Fluent spoken); Marathi (Basic spoken)

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2009-2011 LSE Tutorial Fellowship
2009 LSE **Research Studentship**

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Job Market Paper:

“Some Unintended Consequences of Political Quotas” (working paper) 21 Oct 2011

Many countries are considering adopting political quotas for under-represented and disadvantaged minorities, but critics of the policy claim that it undermines political competition. Using evidence from India, I examine the impact of mandated political representation for disadvantaged minorities. Aggregate turnout falls by 9% of the baseline, but I find no negative impact on electoral competition as measured by the margin of victory or number of candidates. Detailed individual-level data for one state suggests that voter participation falls among women and among minorities. This suggests that restricting candidate identity to minorities may cause some bias in voter participation and the relative success of right-wing parties.

Other Papers:

Has ICT Polarized Skill Demand? Evidence from Eleven Countries over 25 years (NBER Working Paper 16138), joint with Guy Michaels and John Van Reenen, Jun 2010

-Revise and Resubmit, Review of Economics and Statistics, Sep 2011

OECD labor markets have become more “polarized” with employment in the middle of the skill distribution falling relative to the top and (in recent years) also the bottom of the skill distribution. We test the hypothesis that information and communication technologies (ICT) are a cause of this polarization. ICT complements the analytical tasks primarily performed by highly educated workers and substitutes for routine tasks generally performed by middle educated workers (with little effect on low educated workers performing non-routine manual tasks). Using industry data on the US, Japan, and nine European countries from 1980-2004 we find evidence consistent with ICT-based polarization. Industries with faster growth of ICT had greater increases in demand for highly educated workers and bigger falls in relative demand for middle educated workers. Trade openness is also associated with polarization, but this is not robust to controls for technology (like R&D). Technologies can account for up to a quarter of the growth in demand for the college educated in the quarter century since 1980.

Does Gender Inequality Hinder Growth?, (Background Paper for World Development Report, 2012), joint with Oriana Bandiera, Jan 2011

This work surveys claims that gender equality causes growth, along with problems of identification and observed methods of resolution. Although gender equality has intrinsic merits as a goal, we find that existing work cannot convincingly make the case that it has instrumental value to increase income or improve other human development measures.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

“Did the Caste System Arise as a Means of Intellectual Property Protection? A Theoretical Model”, (Work in Progress) , Oct 2011

This work models caste as an occupational choice model in which hereditary occupational immobility emerges in equilibrium.