

Shonel Sen

Departments of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology and Demography
The Pennsylvania State University

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Current Address: Apt28D, 10 Vairo Boulevard, State College, PA 16803, United States

Personal Information:

Date of birth: 30 November 1984

Citizenship: Indian

Education:

08/2009 – Present:

Ph.D. Candidate in Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics
& Demography (Dual Title) [Cumulative GPA of 3.84 on 4]

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Expected time of graduation: Summer 2013

Concentrations: Development, Population Studies, Natural Resource & Environment

08/2008 – 07/2009:

Ph.D. Student in Economics (subsequently transferred to PSU)

Department of Economics

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

06/2006 – 07/2008:

Master of Arts in Economics [GPA of 9.45 on 10]

Department of Economics

Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

06/2003 – 05/2006:

Bachelor of Arts in Economics [GPA of 9.29 on 10]

Department of Economics

Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

Work Experience:

- Summer 2012: Research Assistant at Dept. of Statistics, Temple University
Supervisor: Professor Kiranmoy Das, Ph.D.
- Spring 2012: Research Assistant for AEREC, PSU
Supervisor: Professor David G. Abler, Ph.D.
- Fall 2011: Teaching Assistant for Agribusiness Management and Community,
Environment & Development, PSU
AGBM 338: Agribusiness in the Global Economy
CED 450: International Development, Renewable Resources and the
Environment
- Summer 2011: Research Assistant at Global Change Programme, JU, India
Supervisor: Professor Joyashree Roy, Ph.D.
- Spring 2011: Teaching Assistant for Agribusiness Management, PSU
AGBM 102: Economic food systems
AGBM 338: Agribusiness in the Global Economy
- Fall 2010: Research Assistant for AEREC, PSU
Supervisor: Professor David G. Abler, Ph.D.
- Summer 2010: Research Assistant at Global Change Programme, JU, India
Supervisor: Professor Joyashree Roy, Ph.D.
- Summer 2009: Teaching Assistant for Economics, UMN
ECON 1102: Principles of Macroeconomics

Research Interests:

Development and Regional Economics; Demography and Population Studies; Health and Behavioral Economics; Experimental Economics; Education.

Work in Progress:

Ph.D. Dissertation on *“Economic Incentives to Reduce Fertility in Developing Countries with Unsustainably High Population Growth Rates”* where I investigate some of the policies that can be implemented to incentivize smaller family sizes in developing countries with above-replacement fertility rates. Specifically, according to the Quantity – Quality model of fertility, what are the most effective target variables that can be used to create feasible and effective policy instruments in order to reduce high fertility and unsustainable population growth rates? With data from the 2001 Indian census, I explore how raising the quality level (health and education) of children may offset the parent’s propensity to have greater number of children to recompense for future uncertainty. I also test the

hypothesis that policy initiatives may not always give the anticipated results as simply subsidizing qualitative improvements in children will not necessarily curtail fertility rates; the reduction in parent's out-of-pocket childcare costs to increase quality may trigger greater childbearing as children are now cheaper to raise.

Interdisciplinary Project on ***“Incentives for Healthy Behavior: Experimental Approach to Reduce Obesity”*** in collaboration with students and faculty from the Department of Agricultural Economics & Health Policy and Administration at the Pennsylvania State University. Using tools from the domains of Behavioral economics and Experimental economics, we aim to target health issues, primarily obesity, among the PSU staff and employees who are at high risk of bad health outcomes. We intend to use instruments like financial rewards, gym memberships and training sessions to encourage physical exercise among our participants and will then track and record the change in health indicators which will help inform better policy decisions.

Other Research:

Participated in a group project entitled ***“Performance of Small-Scale Garment Industry in West Bengal: A Case Study in The Post Liberalisation Era”*** as dissertation part of B.A coursework under the supervision of Prof. A.Dhar, Economics Department, Jadavpur University. The study was mainly based on Primary Data where our objective was to analyze the current conditions of the units and provide a critical analysis of the wage, profit, productivity, employment, costs and market-structure and identify specific trends in these parameters as a result of liberalization in the Indian economy

Worked on project entitled ***“An Analysis of Household Preference Ordering for Environmental Services: Case Study of Kolkata”*** under the supervision of Prof. J.Roy, Economics Department, Jadavpur University for Summer 2007. The study looked into the four main Environmental Problems, namely Water Pollution, Air Pollution, Noise Pollution and Solid Waste and determined the Mitigation and Averting Expenditure of the households.

Research team member at Global Change Program, Jadavpur University for Summer 2010 and Summer 2011 for the project ***“Socioeconomic study of Street Vending in Kolkata”***. Prepared theoretical portion of project report for Kolkata Municipal Corporation and currently collaborating on working paper with Prof. J.Roy, Economics Department, Jadavpur University.

Computer Skills:

Stata, Matlab, SPSS, ArcGIS, Geoda, C++, MS Office

Professional Meetings & Conferences:

Poster entitled “Testing the IPAT: A Cross Country Analysis” presented at the 27th Annual Graduate Exhibition at the Pennsylvania State University, 25 March 2012.

Poster entitled “Testing the IPAT: A Cross Country Analysis” presented at the 18th Annual College of Agricultural Sciences Graduate and Undergraduate Research Expo at the Pennsylvania State University, 14 March 2012.

Participated in 19th Annual Population Research Institute Methodology Workshop “Introduction to Bayesian Statistics” at the Pennsylvania State University, 8 May 2012.

Participated at 48th Annual Conference of the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development "Priorities for Inclusive Agriculture and Rural Development", 3-6 June 2012.

Extra-curricular activities:

Academic Services including Board member of School Student's Council (1999-2002), Joint Secretary of Interact Club of M.B. Girls Higher Secondary School (2001); Class Representative to Teachers-Students Committee at Jadavpur University Economics Department (2003).

Sporting Accomplishments with Gold Medal at WBRA State Rowing Championship (2000); Silver Medal at RFI National Rowing Championships (2000).

Newspaper journalist for the Indian National daily *The Statesman* as Student Coordinator for VOICES (1999-2003) and CAMPUS (2003-2007).

President and founding member of the Penn State Graduate Economics Association (2012-2013).

Awards and Achievements:

Gold Medal from Jadavpur University, for first position distinction in Master of Arts in Economics, 2008.

Susanta Kumar Mitra Memorial Gold Medal for securing highest aggregate marks in Master of Arts in Economics, 2008.

Sandor Fellowship in Environmental Economics for 2008-2009 from the Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Graduate Fellowship for 2009-2010 from University Graduate School, The Pennsylvania State University.

2012 Future Leaders Forum Fellow at the Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development.

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) Policy Communications Fellow for 2012-2013.

Professional Memberships:

- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
- American Economic Association (AEA)
- Population Research Institute, PSU
- Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD)

References:

Name: Professor David G. Abler

Designation: Professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics and Demography, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University.

Contact: d-abler@psu.edu

Name: Professor Spiro E. Stefanou

Designation: Professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University.

Contact: SpiroS@psu.edu

Name: Joyashree Roy

Designation: Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Coordinator, Global Change Program, Jadavpur University, India.

Contact: joyashreeju@gmail.com