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Jindal School of Banking and Finance (JSBF)

cordially invites you to a

Public Lecture

on

Measuring Economic Mobility in India Using Noisy Data: A Partial Identification Approach

by



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Punarjit Roychowdhury is currently an assistant professor in the economics area at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore. He obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from the Southern Methodist University, US in 2017. Primarily an applied microeconomist, Punarjit's research interests lie in the fields of microeconometrics, labour economics, development economics, and behavioural economics. His research papers have appeared in well known journals including Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers, World Development, etc. Punarjit holds a first class Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Calcutta, and a first class Master's degree in applied economics from Presidency College, Calcutta.

Abstract

We examine economic mobility in India while rigorously accounting for measurement error. Such an analysis is imperative to fully understand the welfare effects of the rise in inequality that has occurred in India over the past few decades. To proceed, we extend recently developed methods on the partial identification of transition matrices and apply this methodology to newly available panel data on household consumption. We find overall mobility has been markedly low: at least 7 out of 10 poor households remain poor or at-risk of being poor between 2005 and 2012. We also find Muslims, lower caste groups, and rural households are in a more disadvantageous position in terms of escaping poverty or transitioning into poverty compared to Hindus, upper caste groups, and urban households. These findings suggest inequality in India is likely to be chronic and also challenges the conventional wisdom that marginalized households are catching up on average.

Thursday, 5 September 2019 | Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Venue: T2, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, North Side, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)
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