

Shraddha Mandi

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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics | *Boston University*

Expected 2027

Fields: Macroeconomics, International Trade, Development
Committee: Masao Fukui, Natalia Ramondo, David Lagakos

MSc in Economics for Development | *University of Oxford*

2020

Classification: Distinction (Highest Degree Classification)

BSc (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics | *King's College London*

2018

Classification: First Class Honors (Highest Degree Classification)

SELECTED RESEARCH

Optimal Trade Policy with Multinationals—A Quantitative Approach

Job Market Paper

This paper studies how multinational production reshapes optimal unilateral trade policy in a general-equilibrium quantitative trade model with many countries, sectors, and input-output linkages. I compare economies with and without multinational production calibrated to match the same input-output trade data. Accounting for multinational production lowers effective foreign export-supply elasticities, raising the optimal U.S. uniform tariff, while largely preserving the relative exporter-sector tariff schedule. Thus, richer production choices need not imply more elastic trade: when disciplined by the same aggregate data, they reveal stronger underlying differences in production-location fundamentals.

Methods and Data: Quantitative Trade Modeling; Analytical and Numerical Optimization in General Equilibrium.

The Dynamics of Agricultural Productivity Gaps

with Douglas Gollin, David Lagakos, and Xiao Ma | **American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics (Conditionally Accepted)**

This paper draws on cross-country census data to study how agricultural productivity gaps have evolved over the last four decades. We find little tendency for gaps to decline on average despite global decreases in agricultural employment shares. We analyze the dynamics of agricultural productivity gaps through the lens of an open-economy model of structural change. We calibrate the model using international trade data, which help discipline changes in comparative advantage over time. Quantitatively, the model predicts that relatively faster physical productivity growth in the non-agricultural sector has, in many countries, offset the movement of labor out of agriculture, leading to persistently lower value added per worker in agriculture than in the non-agricultural sector.

Methods and Data: Harmonization of Cross-Country Census Microdata; Structural-Change Modeling.

Misclassification of Locations and the Measurement of Urban-Rural Gaps

with Douglas Gollin, Martina Kirchberger, and David Lagakos | **Work in Progress**

Methods and Data: Measurement and Classification Error; Geospatial Analysis; Panel Data; LSMS Household Surveys.

The Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Son Preference—Evidence from India

Work in Progress

Methods and Data: Causal Inference; Instrumental Variables; Household Microdata; Novel Outcome Measures.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University

Boston, USA

Teaching Assistant

Sep 2023--Present

- EC102: Introduction to Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)
- EC202: Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)
- EC704: PhD Macroeconomics (Graduate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Boston University

Boston, USA

Research Assistant to Professor David Lagakos

Jun 2023--Jan 2025

- Took over an established research workflow for converting over 1,000 unstructured historical life narratives into structured data, learned the existing system, and strengthened its documentation, reproducibility, and quality-control procedures.
- Led a research-assistant team, set priorities, allocated tasks, trained members, troubleshooted problems, and documented procedures for project handover.
- Reported technical progress, limitations, and findings concisely to senior researchers, validating outputs and flagging issues relevant for interpretation and decisions on next steps.

Oxford Department of International Development

Oxford, UK

Research and Programme Assistant, Structural Transformation and Economic Growth

Sep 2020--Jun 2022

- Worked across a broad portfolio of international development research with researchers from diverse countries, disciplines, career stages, and institutions, adapting quickly to new questions, datasets, methods, and working contexts.
- Assessed grant proposals and empirical, theoretical, and quantitative research; provided anonymous referee-style feedback identifying weaknesses and translating technical critique into constructive guidance for junior researchers.
- Helped review and edit invited papers for a special issue, worked with authors to make specialized economic research accessible to a broad academic audience.

Mandi PLM Technologies GmbH

Sindelfingen, Germany

Assistant to the Managing Director

Jun 2018--Sep 2019

- Supported the Managing Director of a specialist consultancy serving Mercedes-Benz Group AG across contracts, accounting, tax, employee relocation, and operations, taking ownership of unfamiliar tasks and shifting priorities as needed.

Ernst & Young

Stuttgart, Germany

Intern, Financial Accounting Advisory Services

Jun 2017--Jul 2017

- Supported a major corporate carve-out under tight deadlines, analyzing and quality-checking financial data, and preparing materials for managers and partners.
- Quickly learned a new financial reporting system, identified recurring user errors, developed a practical guide, and trained colleagues to use the system independently.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award 2026 | *Boston University*

Departmental award recognizing exceptional overall performance in PhD-level teaching.

Distinction in PhD Macroeconomics Qualifying Exam 2023 | *Boston University*

Awarded for exceptional performance on the comprehensive first-year PhD macroeconomic qualifying exam.

Arthur Lewis Prize for the Best Examination Essays in Development Economics 2020 | *University of Oxford*

Awarded for the best Development Economics examination essays across all MSc and MPhil students.

George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance 2020 | *University of Oxford*

Awarded to the student ranked first overall in the MSc Economics for Development.

Distinction in MSc Economics for Development Thesis | *University of Oxford*

Awarded highest grade classification for thesis “The Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Son Preference—Evidence from India”.

SKILLS

Languages:

English (Native), German (Advanced), Spanish (Intermediate), Kannada (Intermediate)

Programming:

Python, Julia, MATLAB, Stata, R, GIS, Git, Cluster Computing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Germany

REFERENCES

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Boston University
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