

Yajna Govind

Personal information

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Languages: English & French (*native*),
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DOCTORAL STUDIES

Sept 2017 - Present Paris School of Economics, France
Ph.D., Economics. Dissertation: Essays on Migration and Inequality
Expected completion early 2021
Advisors: [Thomas Piketty](#) & [Marion Leturcq](#)

References

[Thomas Piketty](#)
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Institut National en Etudes Démographiques (INED)
9 cours des Humanités, 93322 Aubervilliers, France
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RESEARCH FIELDS

PRIMARY Applied Labor & Microeconomics

SECONDARY Public Economics, Political Economy

PRIOR EDUCATION

2019/20 Visiting scholar, Economics Department, **Harvard University, United States**

2015-17 Master in Public Policy and Development, **Paris School of Economics, France**

2012-15 Bachelor in Economics, **University of Delhi, India**

TEACHING & RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Teaching | Statistical Reasoning and Quantitative Methods
2017 - 2018 | Graduate Program at Sciences Po, Paris

Organizer | The Economics of Migration
2020 - | [Junior Seminar](#)

Consultancy | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
2016 | OECD, France

RESEARCH WORK

(Abstracts are on the last page)

Job Market Paper

- “Is naturalization a passport for better labor market integration? Evidence from a Quasi-Experimental Setting”

Awarded the Etta Chiuri Prize 2020 (SIEP)

Working papers & Research in progress

- “Will you marry mixed? Effect of naturalization reforms on mixed marriages” (with Marion Leturcq)
- “Effect of naturalization of parents on children” (with Mirna Safi & Haley McAvay)
- “Post-colonial Trends of Income Inequality: Evidence from the Overseas Departments of France”, *WID.world Working Paper N° 2020/11*
- “Global Land Inequality” (with Luis Bauluz and Filip Novokmet), *WID.world Working Paper N° 2020/10*
- “Political Cleavages in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Jules Baleyte, Amory Gethin & Thomas Piketty), *WID.world Working Paper N° 2020/18*

Policy Reports

- “Child Poverty in the OECD: Trends, Determinants and Policies to tackle it”, (with O.Thevenon, T.Manfredi & I.Klauzner), *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 218, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2018*
- “A decade of social protection development in selected Asian countries”, *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. OECD Publishing, 2017.*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2020 - 21	PhD Fellowship, Institut Convergences Migrations
2020	Etta Chiuri Prize, Italian Society of Public Economics (SIEP)
2020	Research Grant by EUR PGSE
2020	PSE International Mobility Grant
2020	INED-iPOPs International Mobility Grant
2018 -	Fellow at Institut Convergences Migrations
2017	Research Grant by Labex OSE
2017 -	World Inequality Lab Research Fellow
2017 - 20	PhD Fellowship INED
2017	Research Grant by Fonds Sarah Andrieux
2016 - 18	Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris Scholarship
2015 - 17	French Government Excellence Graduate Scholarship
2012 - 15	Indian Government Scholarship for Undergraduate Program

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 2019/20 35th annual congress of the European Economic Association (Rotterdam), XXXII SIEP Conference (Milan), IFO CEMIR Junior Migration Economist Workshop (Munich), 1st Stockholm Workshop on Diversity and Workplace Inclusion (Stockholm), Public & Labor Graduate Group (Harvard University), Political Economy Workshop (Harvard University), Economic History Graduate Workshop (Harvard University), Applied Economics Lunch Seminar (PSE), LEAP Virtual Seminar Series (Stellenbosch University- *invited*), Warsaw International Economic Meeting (Warsaw), Applied Young Economist Webinar (Warwick), Séminaire Café (INED), Junior Economics of Migration Seminar, Labour and Public Economics Seminar (PSE), Young Economist Meeting Brno (*cancelled*) *Upcoming*: European Winter Meetings, Econometric Society, 10th Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries, OECD
- 2018/19 European Historical Economic Society EHES Conference (Paris), ECINEQ Conference-Study of Economic Inequality (Paris), LAGV International Conference in Public Economics (Aix-en-Provence), 13th International Conference of the AFD on Development (Paris), Doctoral Day of INED (Paris)
- 2017/18 First WID.world Conference (Paris), Rencontres d'Aussois Labex OSE (France), Economic History Seminar (PSE)

RESEARCH WORK - ABSTRACT

Job Market Paper

“Is naturalization a passport for better labor market integration? Evidence from a quasi-experimental setting”

Better integration is beneficial for both migrants and the host country. In this respect, granting citizenship could be an important policy to boost migrants' integration. In this paper, I estimate the causal impact of obtaining citizenship on migrants' labor market integration. I exploit a change in the law of naturalization through marriage in France in 2006. This reform amended the eligibility criteria for applicants by increasing the required number of years of marital life from 2 to 4, generating an exogenous shock and thus a quasi-experimental setting. Using administrative panel data, I first show evidence of the impact of the reform on naturalization rates. I then use a difference-in-differences model to estimate the labor market returns to naturalization. I find that, among those working, citizenship leads to an increase in annual earnings by 29%. This effect is driven by a significant increase in the number of hours worked, as well as a positive effect on hourly wages. While the gain in earnings is similar for both men and women, the effect for men is mostly driven by an increase in hours worked compared to an increase in hourly wages for women. I provide suggestive evidence that naturalization helps reduce informality, and discrimination. This paper thus provides strong evidence that naturalization acts as a catalyst for labor market integration.

“Post-colonial Trends of Income Inequality: Evidence from the Overseas Departments of France”

Most ex-colonies have gained their independence during the decolonization waves in the last century. Recent research on the colonial legacy in terms of inequality has thus mostly focused on these independent states, overlooking the territories which have been assimilated by their ex-colonizers. This paper analyzes the post-colonial inequality in four such territories- La Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Guyane. Drawing on a new income tax dataset put together in this paper, I study the evolution of income inequality in the four oldest French colonies, now overseas departments of France, since their decolonization in 1946 until recent years. I find that the top 1% income share rapidly declined since decolonization and stabilized at the level of metropolitan France in the recent decades. Despite this general catch-up, the top 10% income share remained consistently higher than in the metropolis. Matching contemporary fiscal data to the population census, I uncover underlying cleavages and show that public-sector employment and metropolitans are over-represented at the top of the distribution in the overseas departments. This is partly due to the existence of a metropolitan income premium, likely to further exacerbate the perception of inequality in a post-colonial setting.

“Global Land Inequality”

with Luis Bauluz and Filip Novokmet

Agricultural land is vital for three out of four of the poorest billion individuals in the world yet little is known about the distribution of agricultural land. Existing cross-country estimates of land inequality, based on agriculture census data, measure the size distribution of agricultural holdings. These neither reflect land ownership inequality nor value inequality and often do not account for the landless population. In this paper, we tackle these issues and provide novel and consistent estimates of land inequality across countries, based on household surveys. We show that i) land-value inequality can differ significantly from land-area inequality, ii) differences in the proportion of landless across countries vary substantially, affecting markedly inequality estimates and, iii) regional patterns in inequality according to our benchmark metric (land-value inequality including the landless) contradict existing estimates from agricultural censuses. Overall, South Asia and Latin America exhibit the highest inequality with top 10% landowners capturing up to 75% of agricultural land, followed by Africa and ‘Communist’ Asia (China and Vietnam) at levels around 55-60%.

“Political Cleavages in Sub-Saharan Africa”

with Jules Baleyte, Amory Gethin & Thomas Piketty

This paper draws on political attitudes surveys to document the evolution of political cleavages in Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, four African countries that have held regular multi-party elections in the past two decades. We discuss how colonialism, the politicization of ethnic identities, and the structure of social inequalities have differentially shaped party politics in these countries. Ethnic cleavages are tightly linked to ethnic inequalities, and are highest in Nigeria, at intermediate levels in Ghana, and lowest in Botswana and Senegal. We find evidence of strong educational and rural-urban divides, which cannot be explained by ethnic or regional affiliations. Our results suggest that in these four countries, electoral politics are not only explained by patronage, valence, or leader effects, but also clearly have a socioeconomic dimension. At a time when class cleavages have partly collapsed in old Western democracies, these African democracies could well be moving towards class-based party systems.