

Viola Asri | Curriculum Vitae

Jekteviksbakken 31 – 5006 Bergen – Norway
☎ +47 413 48 926 • ✉ viola.asri@cmi.no
Website: www.sites.google.com/view/viola-asri

Current position

Senior Researcher

Research Group Poverty and Global Health, Chr. Michelsen Institute 03/2023 - present

Postdoctoral Researcher

Department of Economics & Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality” 04/2019 - present
University of Konstanz

Research interests: Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Affiliations

Principal Investigator, Inclusion Economics India Centre (formerly Evidence for Policy Design India), IFMR and Krea University, since 10/2021

Principal Investigator, Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality”, University of Konstanz, since 05/2021

Previously held positions

Doctoral Researcher

Research group on Political Economy and Development, University of Zurich 02/2014 - 03/2019

Visiting Doctoral Scholar

New York University 08/2018 - 11/2018

Bocconi University 01/2017 - 12/2017

Research Associate

Micropension Foundation, New Delhi 06/2013 - 07/2013

Indo-German Social Security Programme, 01/2013 - 07/2013
German Development Cooperation (GIZ), New Delhi

Education

Doctoral Studies in the Research Group Political Economy and Development

University of Zurich, Switzerland 02/2014 - 02/2019

Dissertation: Social Pensions for Greying India - Empirical Analyses of Potential Effectiveness Constraints

Committee: Katharina Michaelowa (advisor), Isabel Günther, Stefan Klonner

Final grade: Summa cum laude

M.A. in International Economics

University of Göttingen, Germany 10/2010 - 12/2013

Semester abroad at Delhi School of Economics, India

B.A. in Economics

University of Göttingen, Germany 10/2007 - 09/2010

Semester abroad at University of Saragossa, Spain

Journal publications

Asri, V., Michaelowa, K., Panda, S., & Paul, S. B. (2022). The pursuit of simplicity: Can simplifying eligibility criteria improve social pension targeting?. **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**, 200, 820-846. [link]

Asri, A., Asri, V., Renerte, B., Föllmi-Heusi, F., Leuppi, J. D., Muser, J., Nüesch, R., Schuler, D. & Fischbacher, U. (2022). Which hospital workers do (not) want the job? Behavioral correlates of COVID-19 vaccine willingness among employees of Swiss hospitals. **PLOS ONE**, 17(5), e0268775. [link].

Asri, A., Asri, V., Renerte, B., Föllmi-Heusi, F., Leuppi, J. D., Muser, J., Nüesch, R., Schuler, D. & Fischbacher, U. (2021). Wearing a mask—For yourself or for others? Behavioral correlates of mask wearing among COVID-19 frontline workers. **PLOS ONE**, 16(7), e0253621. [link]

Asri, V. (2019). Targeting of social transfers: Are India's poor older people left behind?. **World Development**, 115, 46-63. [link]

Working papers

Missing the target: Does increased capacity of the local government improve beneficiary selection? (with K. Biswas, S. Fehrler, U. Fischbacher, K. Michaelowa, A. Rabbani) - AEA RCT Registry AEARCTR-0004510 [link], working paper available [link]

Oh boys oh boys whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when it comes to you? [link]

Contacts matter: Local governance and the targeting of social pensions in Bangladesh (with K. Biswas, S. Fehrler, U. Fischbacher, K. Michaelowa and A. Rabbani) [link]

Work in progress

Unlocking young women's minds at scale? Evidence from urban India (with A. Asri and A. Hoeffler), piloting completed, funding secured, R&R at the Journal of Development Economics Pre-Results Review.

Harmful norms perpetuated through institutions: Election cycles and female genital cutting in Sierra Leone (with L. Corno and E. La Ferrara), analysis stage.

(Over)confidence, gender and the career intentions of schoolchildren (with B. Renerte and A. Asri), analysis stage.

Publication bias in randomized controlled trials: Evidence from the American Economic Association Registry (with J. Leight and T. Imai), data collection completed, pre-registered here.

The causal impact of mother's education on female genital cutting: A cross-country study, analysis stage.

Unlocking career options: The causal impact of internships on labor market entry (with A. Asri and A. Hoeffler), scoping ongoing, funding secured.

Grants and fellowships

External grants.....

Bridging Grant from the Leading House for South Asia and Iran, Zurich University of Applied Sciences: Improving State Capacity to Target Extreme Poverty Among the Elderly (as Co-PI), 11/2020-12/2021 (CHF 25,000)

Small Projects Funding by the International Growth Center, London School of Economics: Improving State Capacity to Target Extreme Poverty Among the Elderly (as Co-PI jointly with A. Rabbani), 08/2020-07/2021 (GBP 20,000)

Seed Money Grant from the Leading House for South Asia and Iran, ZHWA School of Management and Law: Mistargeting of Social Pensions in Bangladesh: Understanding the causes and designing effective remedies (as Co-PI jointly with K. Michaelowa and A. Rabbani), 11/2018-11/2019 (CHF 15,000)

Swiss National Science Foundation Scientific Exchange Grant: Workshop on targeting of social pensions in Bangladesh (as Co-PI jointly with K. Michaelowa and A. Rabbani), 06-07/2018 (CHF 9,300)

Swiss National Science Foundation: Doc.Mobility Fellowship, 01-12/2017 (CHF 42,500)

Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme in the Social Sciences: The poverty-mortality linkage in India (as Co-PI jointly with K. Michaelowa, S. Panda and S. Paul), 2015-2017 (CHF 29,530)

Swiss National Science Foundation: Research for Development Preparatory Grant (as Co-PI jointly with K. Michaelowa and A. Rabbani), 08-10/2015 (CHF 5,060)

Internal grants

Grant from the DFG-Excellence-Initiative Cluster "The Politics of Inequality" for project "Agents of Social Change" (as Lead-PI with Ankush Asri and Anke Hoeffler), 05/2021-04/2024 (EUR 287,149)

Grant from the DFG-Excellence-Initiative Cluster "The Politics of Inequality" for RCT project in Bangladesh (as Co-PI with S. Fehrler), 03/2019-present (EUR 103,435)

This list excludes smaller competitive grants received for preparatory field work by the University of Zurich and by Bocconi University during my PhD.

Primary data collection

Project: Agents of Social Change

In-person survey of female secondary school students in five Delhi government schools (n=250), 2022

Project: Behavioral correlates of COVID-19

Online survey of hospital workers in two Swiss hospitals (n=965), 2021

Online survey of hospital workers in two Swiss hospitals (n=840), 2020

Project: Mistargeting of social pensions in Bangladesh

In-person survey of Old Age and Widow Allowance beneficiaries in Bangladesh (n=3000), 2021

Phone survey of Old Age Allowance selection committee members in Bangladesh (n=1200), 2019

In-person survey of Old Age Allowance beneficiaries and elderly in Bangladesh (n=1050), 2018

In-person survey of and lab-in-the-field experiment with Old Age Allowance selection committee members in Bangladesh (n=85), 2018

Research partnerships

Medha Education Foundation, New Delhi, India, since 2022

Saarthi Education Foundation, New Delhi, India, since 2022

Alohomora Education Foundation, New Delhi, India, since 2022

Inclusion Economics India Centre at IFMR/Krea University, India, since 2021

ARCED Foundation, data collection and research organization, Bangladesh, since 2019

Innovations for Poverty Action, USA, since 2019

Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh, governmental institution, since 2019

BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh, since 2019

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, Bangladesh, 2017-2019

Innovations for Poverty Action, Country office Bangladesh, 2015-2018

Indian Institute of Technology, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, New Delhi, India, since 2014

Research communication

How Do We Promote Healthy Aging in Asia? This Is What the Experts Say, Asian Development Bank [link]

Die Grüne Lupe - Podcast of the Green Office of the University of Konstanz, Guest in the first episode on the 1st Sustainable Development Goal "No poverty" (in German) [link]

Social Security in Bangladesh: A challenge for local governments, campus.kn - The Online Magazine of the University of Konstanz (in German) [link]

Asia's Developing Future: India's elderly Poor are being left behind, podcast on my World Development paper produced by Asian Development Bank [link]

Refereeing

European Economic Review, World Development, Review of Development Economics, PLOS One, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Social Policy Research, ETH Zurich Impact Award for NGOs, External Evaluator for the Impact Award for Swiss NGOs by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Research stays

Inclusion Economics India Centre, New Delhi, India	09/22-11/22, 06/22-08/22, 10/21-03/22
Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, India	10/21-03/22, 02-03/20, 03 & 08-09/16, 08/15
BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh	01-03/21, 09/19-02/20, 06-07/19, 02-03/19
Innovations for Poverty Action, Dhaka, Bangladesh	2018, 2016, 2015
Innovations for Poverty Action, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	01-02/2017

Invited talks

	2022
Yale Gender Brown Bag Seminar at Inclusion Economics at Yale University (online), Principal Investigators Symposium at Inclusion Economics India Centre (online), Shiv Nadar Economics Seminar (Delhi NCR), Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi)	
	2021
Development Research online Colloquium at the University of Bremen (online)	
	2020
Center for Behavioral and Social Change (online), Workshop "Using Data and Evidence for Policy Design" (Dhaka), Evidence for Policy Design (New Delhi), IDInsights (New Delhi)	
	2019
Evidence for Policy Design (New Delhi), Center for Experimental Social Science Nuffield College Flame University (Pune)	
	2017
Research Seminar at Dept. of Economics, University of Milano-Bicocca (Milan)	
	2016
Conference on Ageing in Asia organized by Asian Development Bank Institute and Asian Growth Institute (Kitakyushu), Indo-German Social Security Programme of the German Development Cooperation (New Delhi)	

Selected conference and workshop presentations since 2017

	2023
11th Thurgau Experimental Economics Meeting (Kreuzlingen)	
	2022
Workshop on Political Economy in South Asia (online), Advances in Field Experiments (Chicago)*, Maastricht Behavioral Economic Policy Symposium (Maastricht)*, Workshop on Field Experiments in Economics and Business (Heilbronn), Lahore School of Economics Applied Development Economics Conference 2022 (online), Inaugural Meeting of the MENA Network of Experimental Social Scientists (Abu Dhabi, scheduled), Winter School (Delhi, scheduled) Starred (*) conferences were cancelled due to field work in India	
	2021
16th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development at Indian Statistical Institute (online), Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries (online), Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series (online), Webinar series in Finance and Development (online)	
	2020
Advances in Field Experiments (online), Field Experiments in Economics (online)	
	2019

Annual Conference of the Program on Governance and Local Development (Varberg), Annual International Conference of the Development Economics Research Group of the German Economic Association (Berlin), Inclusive Growth for Sustainable Development (Dhaka), Behavioral Insights into Development and Peace Building (Göttingen), 3rd Conference of the Development Economics Network Switzerland (Zurich)

2018

Annual International Conference of the Development Economics Research Group of the German Economic Association (Zurich)

2017

Annual International Conference of the Development Economics Research Group of the German Economic Association (Göttingen), Welfare Schemes, the State and Corruption in India: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (Zurich), DIAL Conference on Development Economics (Paris), Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) Conference (Zurich), 16th European Development Network PhD Workshop on Development Economics (Wageningen), DENeB PhD Workshop (Berlin)

Conference and workshop organization

Workshop on Targeting of Social Pensions in Bangladesh (with K. Michaelowa), Zurich, July 2018

Academic organization of the Annual Internat. Conference of the Development Economics Research Group of the German Econ. Association (with chairwoman K. Michaelowa), Kiel & Passau, 2015 & 2014

Teaching experience

Introduction to Organizational Economics	Summer 2021
BA Tutorials (online), University of Konstanz	
Introduction to Organizational Economics	Summer 2020
BA Tutorials (online), University of Konstanz	
Social protection in developing countries: Applications of impact evaluation	2016-2018
BA & MA seminar, University of Zurich	
Supervision of seminar and master theses, University of Zurich	2015-2018
Extra-curricular sessions for Spanish learning students	2010-2011
BA & MA, Spanish level B1-C1, University of Göttingen	
Microeconomics	2008-2009
BA Tutorials, University of Göttingen	

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (advanced), French (advanced), Hindi (advanced), Italian (good), Bangla (intermediate)

References

Katharina Michaelowa <i>Professor</i> Department of Political Science, University of Zurich katja.michaelowa@pw.uzh.ch Phone: +41 44 634 4881	Urs Fischbacher <i>Professor</i> Department of Economics, University of Konstanz urs.fischbacher@uni-konstanz.de Phone: +49 7531 88 2652	Atonu Rabbani <i>Professor</i> Department of Economics, University of Dhaka atonu.rabbani@du.ac.bd Phone: +880 2488 1221 318
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Bergen, April 17, 2023