

PROF. MEENAKSHI SUNDARAM

Professor of Economics

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PROFILE

Development economist working on household finance, labour markets and the evaluation of public programmes in South Asia. Twenty years of teaching, research and policy engagement.

EDUCATION

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|-------------|---|
| 2002 – 2007 | Ph.D., Economics
<i>Carlisle University</i>
Dissertation: Credit, risk and the rural household |
| 1999 – 2001 | M.A., Economics
<i>Ganga Valley University</i>
First rank |
| 1996 – 1999 | B.A. (Hons.), Economics
<i>St. Aldwin's College</i> |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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|----------------|---|
| 2016 – Present | Professor of Economics
<i>Coromandel School of Economics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead a 15-member research group running field experiments in four states.Director, Centre for Household Finance (2019–present). |
| 2011 – 2016 | Associate Professor
<i>Coromandel School of Economics</i> |
| 2007 – 2011 | Assistant Professor
<i>Westbridge Institute of Social Science</i> |
| 2018 – 2019 | Visiting Scholar
<i>Linden Hill University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sabbatical; co-authored three papers on digital payments. |

PUBLICATIONS

- Sato, Y., Fischer, A., **Sundaram, M.**, & Kim, J. (2026). Understanding female labour force participation. *Economic Policy Letters*, 8(3), 264–286.
- Mensah, K., Menon, V., Kim, J., & **Sundaram, M.** (2026). Evidence on trade costs and regional growth. *Annual Conference on Development Economics*, pp. 234–247.
- Sundaram, M.**, Menon, V., & Okafor, D. (2026). Towards rural employment guarantees. *Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research*, 14(8), 24–41.
- Menon, V., **Sundaram, M.**, & Banerjee, P. (2025). Rethinking digital payments and small firms. *Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research*, 19(7), 193–201.
- Iyer, M., Fischer, A., & **Sundaram, M.** (2025). Evidence on school meals and attendance. *Economic Policy Letters*, 24(10), 794–807.

- Rao, S., Haddad, N., Menon, V., & **Sundaram, M.** (2025). New approaches to female labour force participation. *Annual Conference on Development Economics*, pp. 481–489.
- Okafor, D., **Sundaram, M.**, Banerjee, P., & Mensah, K. (2024). Understanding trade costs and regional growth. *Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research*, 40(9), 115–123.
- Gupta, R., Menon, V., Chen, L., & **Sundaram, M.** (2024). A study of digital payments and small firms. *Economic Policy Letters*, 30(8), 619–633.
- Sundaram, M.**, & Rao, S. (2024). Revisiting school meals and attendance. *Journal of Development Studies Review*, 26(11), 681–702.
- Banerjee, P., **Sundaram, M.**, Kim, J., & Okafor, D. (2023). Scaling trade costs and regional growth. *Review of Labour and Markets*, 10(7), 606–618.
- Sato, Y., **Sundaram, M.**, Mensah, K., & Chen, L. (2023). Evidence on microfinance and household resilience. *Review of Labour and Markets*, 33(3), 589–600.
- Sato, Y., Banerjee, P., & **Sundaram, M.** (2023). Towards digital payments and small firms. *Annual Conference on Development Economics*, pp. 551–560.
- Menon, V., Okafor, D., & **Sundaram, M.** (2022). A study of monsoon shocks and food prices. *Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research*, 23(11), 242–260.
- Sundaram, M.**, & Chen, L. (2022). Evidence on trade costs and regional growth. *Annual Conference on Development Economics*, pp. 152–163.
- Sundaram, M.**, & Gupta, R. (2022). Evidence on microfinance and household resilience. *Economic Policy Letters*, 21(10), 642–664.
- Sundaram, M.**, Gupta, R., & Banerjee, P. (2021). Designing for microfinance and household resilience. *Economic Policy Letters*, 42(5), 516–533.
- Sundaram, M.**, & Fischer, A. (2021). Evidence on trade costs and regional growth. *Annual Conference on Development Economics*, pp. 708–722.
- Banerjee, P., & **Sundaram, M.** (2021). Designing for digital payments and small firms. *Economic Policy Letters*, 28(3), 586–604.
- Sundaram, M.**, & Mensah, K. (2020). Rethinking trade costs and regional growth. *Economic Policy Letters*, 35(3), 196–205.
- Sato, Y., Kim, J., & **Sundaram, M.** (2020). New approaches to microfinance and household resilience. *Economic Policy Letters*, 5(2), 464–485.
- Fischer, A., Rao, S., Banerjee, P., & **Sundaram, M.** (2020). Towards digital payments and small firms. *Journal of Development Studies Review*, 33(6), 339–351.
- Sundaram, M.**, Sato, Y., & Iyer, M. (2019). Rethinking rural employment guarantees. *Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research*, 43(1), 264–273.
- Haddad, N., Okafor, D., & **Sundaram, M.** (2019). Scaling trade costs and regional growth. *Review of Labour and Markets*, 14(8), 875–894.
- Sundaram, M.**, Fischer, A., Rao, S., & Haddad, N. (2019). Measuring female labour force participation. *Review of Labour and Markets*, 33(4), 149–167.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

- › Poster: “Understanding school meals and attendance”, Symposium on Development Studies Review, Berlin, 2026.
- › Seminar: “Scaling digital payments and small firms”, Annual Conference on Development Economics, Melbourne, 2026.
- › Seminar: “Revisiting digital payments and small firms”, Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research, Toronto, 2025.
- › Contributed talk: “Measuring female labour force participation”, Review of Labour and Markets, Melbourne, 2025.
- › Poster: “Rethinking female labour force participation”, Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research, Melbourne, 2024.

- › Seminar: “Measuring rural employment guarantees”, Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research, Berlin, 2024.
- › Contributed talk: “Designing for microfinance and household resilience”, Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research, London, 2023.
- › Poster: “Designing for school meals and attendance”, Working Paper Series, Centre for Policy Research, Singapore, 2023.
- › Poster: “Revisiting rural employment guarantees”, Economic Policy Letters, Kyoto, 2022.
- › Keynote: “New approaches to digital payments and small firms”, Review of Labour and Markets, London, 2022.

TEACHING

- › Graduate: Development Economics, Econometrics II, Field Experiments
- › Undergraduate: Principles of Economics, Indian Economy
- › Supervised 14 Ph.D. students to completion; 6 now in academic posts

GRANTS, AWARDS & HONOURS

- › Principal Investigator, national social science council grant (2022–2025), ₹2.8 crore
- › Co-PI, international development foundation evaluation (2019–2022), USD 1.1M
- › Best Paper Prize, Annual Conference on Development Economics (2015)
- › Fellow, national academy of social sciences (2021)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- › Member, state expert committee on financial inclusion (2020–2023)
- › Associate Editor, Journal of Development Studies Review (2018–present)
- › Programme committee, Annual Conference on Development Economics

SKILLS

Methods: Randomised evaluations, panel econometrics, survey design

Software: Stata, R, SurveyCTO

Languages: English, Tamil (native), Hindi

REFERENCES

Prof. A. Delacroix

Professor of Economics, Whitmore College
a.delacroix@university.edu

Prof. K. Mensah

Professor of Economics, Carlisle University
k.mensah@university.edu

Dr. R. Gupta

Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research
r.gupta@think.example