Centre for Development Economics

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Report
(April 2018 - March 2019)

September 2019

Centre for Development Economics
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1 Introduction

The Centre for Development Economics (CDE) was established as a non-profit society in 1992 with an endowment grant from the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is located at the Delhi School of Economics. The Centre promotes collaboration with other institutions and individuals interested in economics and development policy. It acts as a research adjunct to the Department of Economics, augmenting the infrastructure and providing research support. It hosts visitors, organises conferences and workshops, houses faculty research projects, offers fellowships to masters and doctoral students, and engages with the government on matters of economic policy. The CDE also runs an active seminar series, holds occasional public lectures in collaboration with the Department of Economics, and publishes a working paper series to disseminate research by its members and their collaborators. A nationally recognized flagship event of CDE is its annual Winter School. It comprises invited lectures by internationally renowned economists including Nobel Laureates and contributed papers by early career researchers who get an opportunity to be mentored by experts.

The Centre has a well equipped computer lab with latest software and hardware for meeting the research and training needs of MA, MPhil and PhD programmes of the Department of Economics. It also has an archive of major data sets and a library for use by local researchers. The Centre is managed by a council of eight members, elected for a two-year term from among the economics faculty. The members of CDE are all faculty in the Department of Economics. Selected ex-faculty and other economists of eminence are co-opted as associate members.

The activities of CDE are funded by interest income from two endowment grants from the Ministry of Finance, from project income, and from contributions by individuals and institutions interested in promoting the goals of the Centre. In addition to the endowment grant in 1992, the Centre received a corpus fund from the Ministry of Finance in 2012 for hosting visitors and awarding fellowships for doctoral and post-doctoral students. It has also received project support from various ministries of the Government of India, the European Union and the Research Council of Norway, among others.

During the period April 2018 to March 2019, members of the department continued to contribute to the field of economics and development studies in significant ways. Several faculty members published their research in leading national and international academic journals. They also participated in policy debates through writings in popular journals and newspapers, produced two well-received economic forecasts. The department remains a UGC Centre of Advanced Study. For the sixth consecutive year, it was ranked the highest amongst university economics departments in India by Repec, a global electronic archive of working papers and publications in economics (http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.india.html). Faculty members also participated in several national and international conferences. During the year, the department organized two major international conferences and a weekly seminar series that brought in distinguished speakers.
The composition of the current council for the period 2019-2021 is:

**Shreekant Gupta**  
Executive Director  
**Dibyendu Maiti**  
Managing Director

**Paramjit**  
Secretary  
**Surender Kumar**  
Treasurer

**Aditya Bhattacharjea**  
Member  
**Ram Singh**  
Member

**Uday Bhanu Sinha**  
Member  
**Sudhir A. Shah**  
Member ex-officio (Head, Economics Department)

The following staff members support the activities of CDE:

**Vacant**  
Manager  
**Rajesh Papnai**  
Senior Office Assistant

**Mandeep Kaur**  
Systems Administrator  
**Rohit Koli**  
Junior Systems Administrator

**Mritunjay Singh Bisht**  
Office Assistant  
**Ashok Kumar**  
Junior Office Assistant

**Sonveer Vats**  
Junior Systems Administrator

CDE accounts are maintained by chartered accounts Jayaraman & Co. and are audited by the firm Khanna & Annadhanam.

## 2 Conferences and Workshops

Major events this year were the Winter School, Asia Pacific Innovation Conference, and UGC-SAP sponsored workshop on Growth and Productivity of Indian Economy: Contemporary Issues jointly with the Department of Economics. Each of these events brought together researchers and policy makers from reputed national and international universities and institutions.
Winter School

The annual Winter School was held from December 10-13, 2018 at the Department of Economics in collaboration with The Econometric Society with financial support from EXIM Bank and others. Each year the Winter School combines invited lectures by distinguished economists with parallel sessions where early career researchers present their work. Invited speakers at Winter School 2018 are listed below. In addition there were ten parallel sessions covering all areas of economics where over 100 junior faculty and doctoral students presented their research.

The following lectures were given by the invited speakers:

- **Manuel Arellano**, (CEMFI, Madrid)
  - Lecture 1 - The Econometrics of Quantiles and Distributions with Applications to Inequality and Causality I
  - Lecture 2 - The Econometrics of Quantiles and Distributions with Applications to Inequality and Causality II
  - Lecture 3 - The Econometrics of Quantiles and Distributions with Applications to Inequality and Causality III

- **Christopher Udry**, (Northwestern University)
  - Lecture 1 - The Social Organisation of Agriculture in Developing Countries I
  - Lecture 2 - The social Organisation of Agriculture in Developing Countries II
  - Lecture 3 - The Social Organisation of Agriculture in Developing Countries III

- **John Leahy**, (University of Michigan)
  - Lecture 1 - Rational Inattention
  - Lecture 2 - Robust Control
  - Lecture 3 - Endogenous Beliefs

- **George Mailath**, (University of Pennsylvania)
  - Lecture 1 - Repeated Games I
  - Lecture 2 - Repeated Games II
  - Lecture 3 - Repeated Games III
Growth and Productivity of Indian Economy: Contemporary Issues

In collaboration with the Department of Economics, CDE conducted a UGC-SAP sponsored national workshop with the above title on 11-12 February 2019. Improvement in productivity is a key driver of economic growth. This workshop focused on theoretical and theoretical aspects of growth and productivity with particular reference to India. More than fifteen scholars from different parts of India presented their research and over sixty participants attended the workshop. The workshop concluded with a well attended panel discussion on “Productivity, Growth and Employment in India”. The panel comprised eminent scholars and commentators, namely, B.N. Goldar, Swaminathan Aiyar, Shamika Ravi and Avdesh Shukla.

Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference (APIC 2018)

This annual event brings together scholars in the Asia Pacific region interested in the legal, managerial and economic aspects of innovation. APIC 2018 was hosted by CDE and Department of Economics and was held on 13-14 December 2018. The conference commenced with introductory talks delivered by Dr. Naushad Forbes (Forbes Marshall Private Limited) and Dr. Shashi Tharoor (Member of Parliament and author). The conference programme included invited lectures by Bronwyn Hall (University of California at Berkeley), Peter Yu (Texas A&M University), Susy Frankel (Victoria University of Wellington), Ralph Winter (University of British Columbia), and David Levine (European University Institute). It also featured academic papers by national and international scholars and a panel discussion. The panelists were Shamnad Basheer (Nirma University), Jayashree Watal (World Trade Organization) and Susy Frankel.

3 Public Lectures and Seminars

CDE and the Department of Economics organized a public lecture by Prof. Jean Pisani-Ferry (European University Institute) on “Can Economic Multilateralism Survive” on January 7, 2019.

4 Visitors and Fellowships

The CDE hosted Anirban Mukherjee (University of Calcutta), Arijit Sen (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta) and Jean Dreze (Ranchi University).

Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The CDE instituted a post-doctoral fellowship in 2015. Recent PhD graduates as well as those who have submitted their PhD thesis but are yet to be awarded their degree are eligible. The fellowship
helps the candidate engage in research before holding a formal academic position. During 2018-19 the fellowship was awarded to Gopakumar Achuthankutty (PhD ISI Kolkata).

**Doctoral Fellowships**

The CDE offers monthly stipends to meritorious doctoral candidates who are not in receipt of any other financial support. The fellowship is offered to one student from each cohort for a period of up to five years.

**Krishna Raj Travel Fellowships**

In 2006, the Sameeksha Trust established the Krishna Raj Summer Travel Fellowships, in memory of the longest serving editor of Economic and Political Weekly (EPW). It has been housed at CDE since its initiation. Under this programme masters students from Economics, Sociology and Geography conduct fieldwork-based short research projects, either individually or in groups. Inter-disciplinary research collaborations are particularly encouraged. This research is conducted in the summer vacation and is followed by a written report and presentation. Some of the best papers from this fellowship have been published in the EPW over the years. Six fellowships were awarded during the summer of 2018.

CDE also houses the Suresh Tendulkar Fund from which two masters scholarships are awarded annually in consultation with the Department of Economics.

5 **Ongoing Research Projects**

1. **Choice, Constraint and Gender Dynamics of Labour Markets in West Bengal**
   
   Funding agency: Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK
   
   Project tenure: August 2016 - July 2019
   
   Principal Investigators (PIs): Ashwini Deshpande (CDE) and Naila Kabeer (LSE)
   
   The project focuses on West Bengal as a case study for exploring factors that differentiate labour force participation by men and women with a view to better understand the recent decline in female participation rates. The research seeks to address questions such as what combinations of social norms and economic motivation help explain how men and women engage with the labour market and how this varies for different socio-economic groups. The project will draw specific policy implications from the analysis. Quantitative data from a household survey in seven districts has been collected and preliminary findings from the survey have been presented in seminars. In-depth qualitative interviews are currently under way.
2. **Public Policy Research Support Grant**

   Funding agency: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
   Project tenure: November 2017 - October 2020
   PIs: Mausumi Das, Parikshit Ghosh, Sudhir Shah and Rohini Somanathan (all at CDE)
   This grant aims at bringing available technical knowledge to policy analysis in India. Academics engaged in basic research in economic theory and statistical analysis typically have little to do with those designing and executing policy. Yet, effective policy-making requires an understanding of the incentives and behavior of those responding to new policies. The project will facilitate greater exposure to frontier research for graduate students and researchers, provide training for teachers and create a forum where academics and practitioners working in different policy-relevant areas can share their expertise and research findings. Over the coming year, this project will, inter alia, fund a number of theoretical and empirical studies that will together improve our understanding of public service delivery in India.

3. **Disaggregated Industry Level Productivity Analysis for India: The KLEMS Approach**

   Funding agency: Reserve Bank of India
   Project tenure: January 2015 - December 2019
   PIs: K. L. Krishna (CDE), Deb Kusum Das (Ramjas College, University of Delhi), B N Goldar (IEG), Suresh Aggarwal (University of Delhi) and Abdul Azeez Erumban (The Conference Board, Brussels)
   The objective of the project is measurement and analysis of factor productivity in 27 industries comprising the Indian economy since 1980-81. The project uses the KLEMS methodology developed by Dale Jorgenson (Harvard University) and his associates, as part of the World KLEMS Initiative and implemented in many countries across the world. Datasets on measures of output and factor inputs for the years 1980-81 onwards are being constructed for 27 industries, broad sectors and the total economy, using official data sources, such as NAS (National Accounts Statistics), ASI (Annual Survey of Industries) and NSS Employment-Unemployment Surveys.

4. **ICT, Responsible Innovation and Well being**

   Funding agency: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and TIK, University of Oslo
   Project tenure: May 2017 - Sept 2019
   PIs: Dibyendu Maiti (CDE) and Uday Bhanu Sinha (CDE)
Proliferation and continuous innovation in the domain of information and communications technology (ICT) has had a profound and lasting influence on human society and economy. With regard to the latter, ICT has had a deep impact on economic outcomes such as income, employment, productivity, trade flows and sectoral dynamics. This project focuses on these aspects with special reference to India and other developing countries. Some of the questions it aims to answer are what are the transmission mechanisms for impacts of ICT, are all these impacts positive, how do markets for ICT work, etc.

5. **Challenging Inequalities: An Indo-European perspective**

   Funding agency: EqUIP and ICSSR

   Project tenure: January 2019 - December 2021

   PIs: Ashwini Deshpande and Rohini Somanathan (CDE); Arunava Sen and Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay (Indian Statistical Institute Delhi); Shabana Mitra (Indian Institute of Management Bangalore).

   This project is based across four countries: India, UK, Norway and France, under the aegis of the EU-India Platform for the Social Science and the Humanities (EqUIP). The funding for the Indian component comes from the Indian Council for Social Science Research. Multiple researchers are working collaboratively on a range of sub-themes under the overall theme of inequality, such as measurement of inequality, attitudes towards inequality and fairness, and policies to mitigate inequalities.

6. **Indian Forecasting Model - United Nations Link Project**

   Funding Agency: Reserve Bank of India

   PIs: Pami Dua (CDE) and N. R. Bhanumurthy (NIPFP)

   Adviser: V. Pandit (Sri Sathya Sai University, Andhra Pradesh)

   The Department of Economics is the India counterpart of the World Project LINK (initiated and guided by Nobel Laureate late Lawrence Klein) which integrates independently developed national macro models into a global model for macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis. It is coordinated jointly by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the University of Toronto. In the initial phase V. Pandit and late K. Krishnamurty from Institute of Economic Growth were actively associated with the project. In 2018-19, model simulations were undertaken twice and submitted to UNDESA for their flagship publication - World Economic Situation and Prospects. The Indian Economic Outlook for 2018-19 and 2019-20 was also prepared and presented by the PIs at various international fora.
6 Completed Research Projects

1. India’s Economic Development: Informing Economic Policy Choices
   
   Funding agency: Ministry of Finance, Government of India
   
   Project tenure: 2016 - 2018
   
   PIs: Ashwini Deshpande, Anirban Kar, Deepti Goel, Mausumi Das, Parikshit Ghosh, Abhijit Banerji and J. V. Meenakshi (all at CDE) and Subrata Guha (JNU)
   
   The project included research on issues central to the current economic policy initiatives. The topics included agriculture and nutrition, land acquisition, education, electricity pricing and groundwater use, social identity, and clientelist politics. The research output was delivered in the form of 6 papers, each analyzing a question of policy importance.
   
   The paper titled “The Effect of Electricity Pricing on Groundwater-Based Agriculture: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in West Bengal” analyzed a reform wherein electric pumps were metered and charged per unit of power, in terms of its impact on food security and equity. “Does Diversification in Agricultural Production Translate into Diversified Rural Diets?” was another paper that dealt with issues in agriculture. The paper investigated the causes of limited dietary diversification in the presence of agricultural diversification. Continuing on this theme, “Compensation and Rehabilitation Policy for Land Acquisition” explored trading mechanisms (procedures to allocate or reallocate land, along with payment schemes), that will result in the efficient transfer of land while at the same time leaving all parties to the transaction satisfied.
   
   Switching to education, the paper on “Role of Education in Growth and Development: Channels Beyond Labour Productivity” argued that evaluating the role of education solely through its effect on labour productivity is parochial. For instance, more educated citizens are able to make better consumption and investment choices, as well as better choices for their children. The paper models these other pathways, outlines their growth implications, and explores their empirical consequences.
   
   “Caste Identity and Institutions: Perceptions About Remunerative Earnings from Self-Employment in India” dealt with issues surrounding social identity. The paper analyzed whether, controlling for factors such as education, traditionally disadvantaged groups have lower benchmarks for what they consider adequate remuneration as compared to the general population. Lastly, “Clientelist Politics and Local Governance” tried to understand how clientelism can be a potential tool used by incumbent parties to consolidate their hold on power, sway votes in their favour, thus leading to a decline in the effectiveness of political competition altogether.
7 Honours/Distinctions

Banerji, Abhijit

- Associate Editor, *Indian Economic Review*

Bhattacharjyea, Aditya

- Member, Technical Committee for Funding Research Studies, Workshops and Conferences, Research and Analysis Division, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, 2017 - present.
- Member, Competition Law Review Committee, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, 2018 - present.

Bag, Sugata

- ICCR Visiting Chair of Economics, Centre for Contemporary Indian Studies at University of Colombo, 2019-2020

Dua, Pami

- Member, Monetary Policy Committee, Reserve Bank of India, 2016 to 2020
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Quantitative Economics*
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Developing Areas*

Gupta, Shreekant

- Nominated as a Lead Author for Sixth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Vice-President, Indian Society for Ecological Economics (INSEE) for a two year term (2018-2020).
- Associate Editor, *Indian Economic Review*
- Editorial Board, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*
Maiti, Dibyendu

- Member, Core Group on Policy and EoDB for Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises under the CII National MSME Council (2019 -20)
- Member, Manav Rachana International Institute of Research and Studies.
- Associate Editor, Progress in Development Studies
- Resource Person, Union Public Service Commission, Government of India.

Meenakshi, J.V.

- Member, National Statistical Commission, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, June 2017-January 2019
- Editorial Board, Agricultural Economics
- Associate Editor, Indian Economic Review

Sinha, Uday Bhanu

- Editor-in-chief, Indian Economic Review
- Member, Academic Council, Institute of Economic Growth

Singh, Ram

- Member, Appeal Committee, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Government of India.
- Sub-domain Chair for The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Government of India.

Somanathan, Rohini

- Appointed International Economic Association (IEA) Fellow (life-time title), 2018-.
8 Members

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<tr>
<th>Current Faculty</th>
<th>Associate Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abhijit Banerji</td>
<td>B. L. Pandit</td>
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<td>Aditya Bhattacharjea</td>
<td>Badal Mukherji</td>
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<td>Anirban Kar</td>
<td>G. Balachandran</td>
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<td>Ashwini Deshpande</td>
<td>Jean Dreze</td>
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<td>Deepti Goel</td>
<td>K L Krishna</td>
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<td>Dibyendu Maiti</td>
<td>K. Sundaram</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mausumi Das</td>
<td>Kaushik Basu</td>
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<tr>
<td>J.V. Meenakshi</td>
<td>Nira Goyal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pami Dua</td>
<td>O. P. Bhardwaj</td>
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<td>Param Jit</td>
<td>Om Prakash</td>
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<td>Parikshit Ghosh</td>
<td>Partha Sen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ram Singh</td>
<td>Pulin B. Nayak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rohini Somanathan</td>
<td>Puran B. Mongia</td>
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<td>Santosh Panda</td>
<td>R. N. Pradhan</td>
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<td>Shreekant Gupta</td>
<td>R.K. Das</td>
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<td>Sudhir A. Shah</td>
<td>Ranjan Ray</td>
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<td>Sugata Bag</td>
<td>Sanjay Subrahmanyam</td>
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<td>Sunil Kanwar</td>
<td>T.C.A. Anant</td>
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<td>Surender Kumar</td>
<td>V Pandit</td>
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<td>Uday Bhanu Sinha</td>
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9 Faculty Publications

Members of CDE publish journal articles, book chapters and books on a wide range of topics. In addition, there is a working paper series to disseminate research by its members and visitors.
Journal Articles


• **Dua, P.** and Garg, N.K. (Forthcoming). Determinants of Labour Productivity: Comparison between Developing and Developed Countries of Asia-Pacific, *Pacific Economic Review*.


Book Chapters


Books


CDE Working Papers

- 297: Carbon-sensitive Meta-Productivity Growth and Technological Gap: An Empirical Analysis of Indian Thermal Power Sector by Surender Kumar and Rakesh Kumar Jain

- 296: Labour Market Flexibility in Indian Industry : A Critical Survey of the Literature by Aditya Bhattacharjea

- 295: FDI and International Collusion by Uday Bhanu Sinha

- 294: The Measurement and Mismeasurement of Social Difference by Rohini Somanathan

- 293: Global Economic Crisis 2008 - A Contemporary Reappraisal with an Ethical Perspective by Vishwanath Pandit

- 292: Trade, Market Imperfections and Labour Share by Dibyendu Maiti


- 290: Public Private Partnerships Vs. Traditional Roads Project Delivery Time, Costs and Quality by Ram Singh

- 289: Drivers of Student Performance - Evidence from Higher Secondary Public Schools in Delhi by Deepti Goel and Bidisha Barooah

- 288: On Existence and Properties of Pure-strategy Equilibria under Contests by Sakshi Gupta and Ram Singh
287: Shadow Price of CO2 Emissions in Indian Thermal Power Sector by Rakesh Kumar Jain and Surender Kumar

286: ICT, Leisure Externality and Wellbeing by Dibyendu Maiti

10 Seminars Organised

- Shivi Kalra, State University of New York at Binghamton. (26th February 2019 at 3:00 PM), Modeling Social Learning as Epidemics using Twitter Data.

- Karna Basu, Hunter College, City University of New York. (14th February 2019 at 3:00 PM). Commitment as Extortion.


- Abhinash Borah, Ashoka University. (24th January 2019 at 3:00 PM). Choice via Social Influence.

- Rajiv Sethi, Barnard College, Columbia University. (15th January 2019 at 3:00 PM). The Geography of Lethal Force.

- Rodney Smith University of Minnesota (Friday, 11th January 2019 at 3:05-4:15 pm and 14th January 2019 11:40-12:50 pm and 1:30-2:40 pm) General Equilibrium and Growth.

- R. David Simpson, RDS Analytics, LLC. (10th January 2019 at 3:00 PM). Operating rules and sediment management for hybrid run-of-river/peaking capacity hydroelectric plants.

- Anirban Mukherjee (22nd November 2018 at 12:00 PM-1:00PM and 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM) Does (studying) history matter


- Pulapre Balakrishnan, Asoka University (19th September 2018 at 3:00 PM). Inflation Models and Inflation in India.

- Sisir Debnath, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. (6th Sept 2018 at 3:00 PM). No Free Lunch: Using Technology to Improve the Efficacy of School Feeding Programs (with Sheetal Sekhri).
• Parag Waknis, Ambedkar University (30th Aug 2018 at 3:00 PM) Payment system shocks under Goods and Financial Market Segmentation.

• Souvik Dutta IIM, Bangalore. (6th Sept 2018 at 3:00 PM). No Free Lunch: Using Technology to Improve the Efficacy of School Feeding Programs (with Sheetal Sekhri).

• Samarth Gupta NCAER. (23rd August 2018 at 3:00 PM). What do good managers do - Evidence from an Insurance Firm in India.

• Sabyasachi Das Ashoka University. (16th August 2018 at 3:00 PM). Group Size and Political Representation Under Alternate Electoral Systems.

• Debopam Bhattacharya University of Cambridge (8th August 2018 at 3:00 PM). Empirical welfare analysis under social interactions.

• Atanu Rakshit Nazarbayev University (2nd August 2018 at 3:00 PM). Bayesian Learning and Statistical Discrimination in the Market for Small Business Loans.

• Ram Sewak Dubey, Montclair State University (26th July 2018 at 3:00 PM) Anonymous Representation under Uniform Improvement Pareto: A Characterization of Infinite Utility Domains.

• Rohan Dutta, McGill University. (25th July 2018 at 3:00 PM). Peer Monitoring, Ostracism and the Internalization of Social Norms (with David K. Levine and Salvatore Modica).

• Ram Sewak Dubey, Montclair State University. (26th July 2018 at 3:00 PM). Anonymous Representation under Uniform Improvement Pareto: A Characterization of Infinite Utility Domains.

• Madhav S. Aney, Singapore Management University (26th April 2018 at 3:00 PM). Jobs for Justice(s).

• Gaurav Arora, IIIT Delhi. (12th April 2018 at 3:00 PM). Conservation Easement Allocations Amidst Localized Spillovers in Grassland Conversion: Analysis using remotely-sensing data.

• Neha Khanna Department of Economics Binghamton University. (5th April 2018 at 3:00 PM) High Priority Violations and Intra-firm Pollution Substitution.
11 Seminar/Conference Presentations


- Dua, Pami: “Econometrics and Forecasting: Alchemy or Science”, Workshop on Applications of STATA and Eviews Packages for Analysis of Socio-Economic Data, School of Social Sciences and Policy, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, March 2019.


- Singh, Ram: Public Lecture on “Unemployment in India”, Delhi Public Library, Delhi, January 03, 2019.