

# Sofia Amaral

s.amaral@worldbank.org | World Bank Page | Personal Page

## Current Position

2023 – Economist, World Bank  
South Asia Gender Innovation Lab (SAR GIL)  
Social Development Department, Data Talent Board

## Publications

1. Street Police Patrols and Gender-Based Violence in Public Spaces: Experimental Evidence from Urban India  
*with G. Borker, N. Fiala, N. Prakash, and M. Sviatschi*  
**Quarterly Journal of Economics** (2025)
2. Helping Families Help Themselves: The (Un)intended Impacts of a Digital Parenting Program  
*with L. Dinarte, P. Dominguez, and S. Perez-Vincent*  
**Journal of Development Economics** (2024)

## Working Papers

3. Deterrence or Backlash? The Causal Effect of Arrest on the Dynamics of Domestic Violence  
*with G. Dahl, V. Endl-Geyer, T. Hener, and H. Rainer*  
**R&R Journal of Political Economy**
4. Gender, Crime and Punishment: Evidence from Women Police Stations in India  
*with S. Bhalotra and N. Prakash*  
**R&R Economic Development and Cultural Change**
5. Gender-Based Violence in Schools and Girls' Education: Experimental Evidence from Mozambique  
*with A. Garcia-Ramos, S. Gulesci, S. Ore, A. Ramos, and M. Sviatschi*
6. Talk or Text? Evaluating Response Rates by Remote Survey Method during Covid-19  
*with L. Dinarte, P. Dominguez, S. Perez-Vincent, and S. Romero*

## Selected Work in Progress & Projects in the Field

7. Personal Initiative Skills and Social Norms: Experimental Evidence from Microentrepreneurs in Rural India  
*with I. Gaddis, A. Pinto, J. Sethi, R. Sheriff – writing stage*
8. Debiasing Law Enforcement: Effects of an Expressive Arts Intervention in India  
*with G. Borker, N. Prakash, and M. Sviatschi – writing stage*
9. Entrepreneurial Mind-sets at Scale: Evidence from a Curriculum Expansion in India  
*with A. Bhalothia, R. Chaurey, I. Gaddis, G. Khanna, S. Malik, A. Mukhopadhyay, N. Prakash, R. Rakesh – second endline in progress; draft available*
10. Childcare and Women's Safety Trade-offs in Latin America  
*with L. Dinarte-Diaz, Marcela Mello, and P. Kobl – writing stage*

## 11. Bus-ting to Success: Experimental Evidence on Subsidized Transportation for Girls in Highly Remote Contexts

with K. Vyborny, I. Gaddis – *endline in progress*

### Funding

2019 – 2023	Leibniz Association – Pact for Research and Innovation (746,093 EUR – PI)
2019 – 2020	Princeton University – Education Overdeck (175,600 USD – Co-I)
2019 – 2020	World Bank – DFID (175,000 USD – Co-I)
2021 – 2022	J-PAL – Post-Primary Education Covid Round (153,285 USD – Co-I)
2020	Inter-American Development Bank (150,000 USD – Co-I)
2020 – 2021	UNICEF – Mozambique (140,000 USD – PI)
2022 – 2024	J-PAL – Crime and Violence Initiative (99,999 USD – Co-I)
2020	World Bank – Research Support Budget (79,000 USD – Co-I)
2020	Princeton University (75,000 USD – Co-I)
2019	J-PAL – Crime and Violence Initiative (70,296 USD – Co-I)
2020 – 2021	Weiss Foundation (60,140 USD – Co-I)
2019 – 2020	IGC – Bihar Initiative (55,511 GBP – PI)
2022 – 2024	J-PAL – Gender and Economic Agency Initiative (50,000 USD – Co-I)
2020 – 2021	ifo Institute – Research Grant (50,000 USD – PI)
2019 – 2020	Princeton University – New Ideas in the Social Sciences (49,923 USD – Co-I)
2020	J-PAL – Crime and Violence Initiative (45,019 USD – Co-I)
2020	UCHV (30,000 USD – Co-I)
2020 – 2021	GIZ Mozambique (30,000 USD – PI)
2020 – 2021	Weiss Foundation (30,000 USD – Co-I)
2020	World Bank – Early Childhood Program (10,000 USD – Co-I)
2022 – 2024	The Fund for Innovation in Development (199,000 USD – Co-I)
2022 – 2024	J-PAL – Crime and Violence Initiative (150,000 USD – Co-I)
2022 – 2024	RSB – World Bank (65,000 USD – Co-I)
2023 – 2024	Early Learning Partnership – World Bank (150,000 USD – Co-I)
2023 – 2026	Yale University Y-RISE (300,000 USD – Co-I)
2023 – 2026	Knowledge for Change Program (140,000 USD – Co-I)
2024 – 2026	IGC (75,000 GBP – Co-I)
2024 – 2026	UFGE, World Bank (150,000 USD – Co-I)
2024 – 2025	iConnect, World Bank (250,000 USD – Co-I)
2024 – 2025	iConnect, World Bank (119,700 USD – Co-I)
2025 – 2027	UFGE, World Bank (250,000 USD – PI): Female Entrepreneurship and Access to Markets in India
2025 – 2026	Digital Development Partnership, World Bank (175,000 USD – co-PI): Digital Skills and Financial Literacy in Pakistan
<b>Total:</b>	<b>app. 3.7 million USD</b>

### Education

2010 – 2015	Ph.D. Economics – University of Birmingham, UK
2009 – 2010	M.Sc. Development Economics – University of Birmingham, UK
2005 – 2009	B.Sc. Economics – University of Coimbra, Portugal

## Previous Employment

2019 – 2023	Leibniz Association Junior Research Group Leader <a href="#">Economics of Violence Against Women</a>
2018 – 2022	Assistant Professor <a href="#">ifo Institute, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich</a>
2016 – 2017	Senior Research Officer University of Essex

## Scholarships & Awards

2025	World Bank, Vice-Presidency Unit Awards
2012 – 2013	Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (Ph.D. Scholarship)
2010 – 2014	Doctoral Bursary, University of Birmingham (Waiver of tuition fees)

## Conferences and Seminars

2026	Queen’s University; Indian School of Business (scheduled); World Bank (DECRG; Education)
2025	DIME-KDI Conference; EBRD; NBER – Children and Families; Econometric Society World Congress; CEPR Development Economics Annual Symposium; Africa Chief Economist, World Bank; Center for Global Development
2024	ISI, Delhi; NBER – Crime; Northeastern University; World Bank; Johns Hopkins University; SAR GIL
2023	ASSA; Texas Crime Workshop; LSE–Chicago Crime Conference; Africa Gender Lab; Bank of Portugal
2022	NBER Development Program Meeting; Nova SBE; Catolica–Lisbon; LACEA–Brain Workshop; Princeton Applied Seminar Group; Princeton Development Tea; University of Bath
2021	Bavarian Micro Day; Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries; Monash University; Bocconi; Methods and Measurement Conference (IPA–Northwestern); West Midlands Police Force; Gender Working Group (Mozambique); GBV–COVID International Research Group; IZA; IEA World Congress; Online Economics of Crime Seminar; Nordic Conference in Development Economics; University of Colorado, Denver
2020	NBER Development; University of Connecticut; Stockholm School of Economics; Virtual Economics of Crime Seminar; German Economics Association; SEA (New Orleans); Urban Labs, University of Chicago; LSE–CEP Crime Seminars; Texas A&M Crime Workshop; Eastern Economic Association (Boston); IAFE–ASSA (San Diego)
2019	Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad); IFPRI; Barcelona Summer Forum; Indian School of Business (Hyderabad); Eastern Economic Association (New York); EconVAW Workshop (ifo)
2018	Passau Gender Workshop; Southern Economic Association (D.C.); European Economic Association (Cologne); EEG–Minho; Bath; CSAE (Oxford); ifo Institute; University of Birmingham

<2017                    ISI, Delhi; University of Essex; IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics; Royal Economic Society Conference; University of Ottawa; UBC; 5<sup>th</sup> Summer School in Development Economics; French Economic Association Conference

## Policy Reports, Research Notes, Blogs, Webinars

Policy Report: [Women’s Economic Empowerment in Pakistan: An Evidence Guided Toolkit for More Inclusive Policies](#) – *World Bank Publications*

Policy Brief: [Building Entrepreneurial Mind-Sets: Evidence from a Large Scale Educational Intervention in India](#) – *SAR GIL Policy Brief*

Policy Brief: [Supporting Sri Lankan Families Through Childcare Adoption: An Evidence-Based overview of the Gaps, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks and Policies](#) – *SAR GIL Policy Brief*

Research Note: [Domestic Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Overview of the Expected Impact and Possible Ways Out](#) – *ifo Schnelldienst (in German)*

Blog: [Soft skills training helps grow businesses in rural India](#) – *South Asia World Bank*

Blog: [How police patrols reduced severe street harassment in India](#) – *VoxDev*

Blog: [Training teachers on gender-based violence helps keep girls safe in school](#) – *VoxDev*

Blog: [Can at-scale parenting interventions effectively reduce violence towards children?](#) – *VoxDev*

Blog: [Using remote surveying methods to collect data during challenging times](#) – *Let’s Talk Development*

Blog: [Stepping Out and Stepping Up: Transport and Women’s Economic Empowerment in South Asia](#) – *SAR GIL*

Blog: [Arrests Are Effective at Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence](#) – *VoxEU*

Webinar: [Women on the Move](#) – How improved transportation can enhance women’s economic empowerment ([video](#))

Webinar: [Police Role in Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response](#)

Webinar: [Unpacking the Recent Increase in Women’s Labor Force Participation in India](#) ([link](#))

Webinar: [Tackling Gender Based Violence: Policies, Evidence, Lessons](#) – African Union

## Referee Activity

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Review of Economics and Statistics; AEJ: Economic Policy; Journal of Development Economics; British Journal of Political Science; Labour Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Comparative Political Studies; PLOS One; American Political Science Review; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Journal of Development Studies; AEJ: Applied Economics; Journal of Public Economics.

## Other Responsibilities and Academic Service

2023 –                    Focal Point for India – SAR GIL

2024 –                    Organizer: Gender Research in South Asia Seminar by SAR GIL, World Bank

2019 – 2024	PhD Supervision: Victoria Kaiser (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bavaria)
2019–2024	Research Assistant Support in Placements: A. Kekhre (Virginia); A. Kushi (Michigan); A. Priya (Brown); N. Oomenn (Northeastern); S. Ramirez (Northeastern); P. Aggarwal (World Bank); S. Ore (Columbia); D. Basak (Notre Dame)
2018 – 2022	Deputy Director of the <a href="#">Center for Labor Economics, ifo Institute</a>
2021 –	Scientific committee member and mentorship: CGD workshop on School-Related GBV; Al Capone Conference; Association for Mentoring in Economics (AMIE); Africa GIL Ghana workshop; Diversity in Economics LMU Fireside Chats
2019	Organizer: EconVAW Workshop
2016 – 2017	Co-Organizer, Institute for Social and Economic Research, Essex – External Seminars

## Professional Affiliations

2026 –	<a href="#">IZA</a> Research Fellow
2025 –	Center for Research on Women and Jobs, World Bank
2023 –	GAP Policy Institute, Northeastern University
2018 –	<a href="#">CESifo</a> Research Affiliate
2018 –	Fellow of the Center for Crime, Justice and Policing, University of Birmingham, UK
2020 –	Member of the Female Experts AcademiaNet, Swiss National Science Foundation

## Media Mentions

Podcast Interviews: Probable Causation; Interpol

Blogs: [IPA – RECOVR COVID Hub](#); [J-PAL Crime and Violence Initiative](#); [The Prevention Collaborative](#)

Media Coverage: *Nature*; *OZY*; *Quartz India*; *Scroll.in*; *The Indian Wire*; *Times of India*; *International The News*; *Daily Times*; *Glory Magazine*; *Profit*

Other: Research profile feature at [Global Portuguese Scientists / Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos](#); Panelist, 2020 German Economics Association on impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on gender inequality

## Research Visits

Spring 2026	Visiting Scholar, Indian School of Business – Host: Shilpa Aggarwal
Fall 2022	Nova SBE, NovAfrica – Host: Pedro Vicente & Cátia Batista
Spring 2022	Princeton University – Host: Maria Micaela Sviatschi
September 2019	SAIS, Johns Hopkins University – Host: Ritam Chaurey
August 2019	World Bank – Host: Shwetlena Sabarwal
April 2018	CESifo – Host: Helmut Rainer
Fall 2013	University of British Columbia – Host: Siwan Anderson

## Other

**Country Experience:** India, Mozambique, El Salvador, Pakistan, Bangladesh, UK

**Languages:** Portuguese (native), English (proficient), Spanish (intermediate)

## Teaching Experience

Summer 2025	Invited Lecture – M.Phil Development Economics, Princeton University
Summer 2024	Invited Lecture – M.Phil Development Economics Course, Utrecht University
Summer 2019	Lecturer – Economics of Crime (BSc), Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany
Fall 2019	Lecturer – Measurement of Gender-Based Violence (invited lecture course), Indian Institute of Management, India
2012 – 2014	Teaching Assistant – Development Economics (BSc, MSc), University of Birmingham, UK
2011 – 2014	Teaching Assistant – Political Economy (MSc), University of Birmingham, UK

## Personal

Portuguese Citizen. Married. One Child (2023).

## References

### Nishith Prakash

Professor of Public Policy and Economics – Northeastern University

Fellow at BREAD, CESifo, CReAM, IZA, HiCN, IPA Network Researcher, Global Labor Organization, and INSIDE-SPAIN.

Contact: [nishith.prakash@uconn.edu](mailto:nishith.prakash@uconn.edu)

### Helmut Rainer

Professor of Economics – ifo Institute, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich

Fellow at CESifo.

Contact: [rainer@ifo.de](mailto:rainer@ifo.de)

### Maria Micaela Sviatschi

Associate Professor of Economics – Princeton University

Fellow at NBER, BREAD, J-PAL, and CESifo.

Contact: [msviatschi@princeton.edu](mailto:m sviatschi@princeton.edu)

### Selim Gulesci

Associate Professor of Economics – Trinity College, Dublin

Fellow at BREAD, CEPR, J-PAL, LEAP, and TIME.

Contact: [gulescis@tcd.ie](mailto:gulescis@tcd.ie)

*Last Updated: January 2026*