

DHUSHYANTH RAJU
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dhushyanth Raju is Lead Economist, Social Protection and Jobs (SPJ) Global Practice, the World Bank. In his current position, he works on lending, advisory, and analytical services related to labor market and social welfare policies and programs in Europe and Central Asia. He has previously held technical positions in the Africa regional SPJ department, the South Asia regional chief economist and education departments, and the global social protection and labor (SPL) and gender departments of the World Bank. In the South Asia regional chief economist department, he was responsible for research and advice on human development, labor markets, social welfare, and program evaluations. Dhushyanth's lending experience, in both the design and supervision of projects, covers the full set of lending instruments of the World Bank. He has also contributed to the World Bank's R&D on results-based lending. Dhushyanth's research is mainly in the areas of public economics, labor, risk, poverty, gender, and human development. His research publication record includes reports, chapters in edited volumes, and articles in leading academic journals in economics. Dhushyanth received a PhD in economics from Cornell University, the United States.

WORLD BANK PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fields

Public economics, labor, firms, education, training, risk, poverty, gender, health, nutrition, early childhood development, social assistance, social insurance, social services

Countries

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Eswatini, Ghana, India, Lesotho, Liberia, Nepal, the Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, United States, Zimbabwe

Positions

World Bank, Washington, DC, United States

Social Protection and Jobs, Europe and Central Asia
Lead Economist, 2022–present

Social Protection and Jobs, Africa
Interim Practice Manager, 2021–22
Lead Economist, 2018–22

Office of the Chief Economist, South Asia
Lead Economist, 2016–18
Senior Economist, 2014–16

Development Research Group
World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior
Senior Economist, 2013–14

Education, Human Development, South Asia
Senior Economist, 2010–13
Economist, 2008–10
Young Professional, 2007–08

Gender and Development, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management
Young Professional, 2006–07

Social Protection and Labor, Human Development
Extended Term Consultant, 2005–06

Social Protection and Labor, Human Development, South Asia
Short Term Consultant, 2004

Social Protection and Labor, Human Development
Short Term Consultant, 1998–2001

PUBLICATIONS

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[Hyperlink](#) to research listed in Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)

Journal Articles, Books, Reports, and Contributions to Edited Volumes

Social Protection Program Spending and Household Welfare in Ghana, with Stephen D. Younger and Christabel Dadzie, World Bank, Washington DC, 2023. [book](#) | [working paper, April 2023](#)

Government Social Protection Program Spending and Household Welfare in Lesotho, with Joachim Boko and Stephen D. Younger, *South African Journal of Economics*, 2023. [journal article](#) | adapted from more extensive research in [working paper, January 2021](#)

Delivering Education to the Underserved through a Public-Private Partnership Program in Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, David Blakeslee, Matthew Hoover, Leigh Linden, and Stephen

Ryan, *Review of Economics and Statistics* 104 (3), 2022. [journal article](#) | [working paper 1, August 2017](#) | [working paper 2, September 2017](#) | [SIEF Evidence to Policy brief, February 2018](#)

Shocks and Social Safety Net Program Participation in Ghana: Descriptive Evidence from Linking Climate Risk Maps to Program Beneficiary Rolls, with Mpumelelo Nxumalo, 2022. [brief](#)

Nutrition Sensitivity of Food and Agriculture in South Asia, with Felipe Dizon and Anna Josephson, *Global Food Security*, 2021. [journal article](#) | [working paper, March 2019](#)

Botswana National Employment Policy Development: Input Note, with Mpumelelo Nxumalo, World Bank, Washington DC, 2019. [report](#)

Cities, Slums, and Child Nutrition in Bangladesh, with Kyoung Kim, Quynh T. Nguyen, and Ramesh Govindaraj, *Review of Development Economics*, 2018. [journal article](#) | [working paper, June 2017](#) | [World Bank Research Digest entry, fall 2018](#)

Youth Employment in Nepal, with Jasmine Rajbhandary, *International Development in Focus*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2018. [book](#) | [brief](#)

Health and Nutrition in Urban Bangladesh: Social Determinants and Health Sector Governance, with Ramesh Govindaraj, Federica Secci, Sadia Chowdhury, and Jean-Jacques Frere, *Directions in Development*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2018. [book](#)

Sri Lanka Education Sector Assessment: Achievements, Challenges, and Policy Options, with Halil Dunder, Benoit Millot, Michelle Riboud, Mari Shoji, Harsha Aturupane, and Sangeeta Goyal, *Directions in Development*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2017. [book](#)

Public School Teacher Management in Sri Lanka: Issues and Options, *South Asia Economic Journal* 18(1), 2017. [journal article](#) | [working paper, April 2016](#)

Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, *Journal of Public Economics* 148, 2017. [journal article](#) | [working paper, June 2015](#)

Private School Participation in Pakistan, with Quynh T. Nguyen, *Lahore Journal of Economics* 20(1), 2015. [journal article](#) | [working paper, May 2014](#) | [World Bank Research Digest entry, fall 2014](#)

Evaluating the Impact of Public Student Subsidies on Low-Cost Private Schools in Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, *Journal of Development Studies* 51(7), 2015. [journal article](#) | [working paper, April 2011](#)

Education Policies and Outcomes in Lagging Regions, in Ejaz Ghani, ed., *The Poor Half Billion in South Asia: What is Holding Back Lagging Regions?* Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2010. [book](#)

Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Growth: A Copernican Quest, with Andrew Morrison and Nistha Sinha, in Ravi Kanbur and Michael Spence, eds., *Equity and Growth in a Globalizing World*, World Bank, Washington DC, 2010. [book](#) | adapted from more extensive research in [working paper, September 2007](#)

Gender Equality is Good for the Poor, with Andrew Morrison and Nistha Sinha, *Poverty in Focus* (13), 2008. [periodical](#)

Worker Benefits, in Kaushik Basu, ed., *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007.

Unemployment Benefit Systems in Central and Eastern Europe: A Review of the 1990s, with Milan Vodopivec and Andreas Wörgötter, *Comparative Economic Studies* 47(4), 2005. [journal article](#) | [working paper, March 2003](#)

The Lifelong Learning Demonstration: Interim Report, with Larry Buron, Larry Orr, and Terri Thompson, Abt Associates, Bethesda, 1998.

Published Working Papers

Mining Spillovers and the Formal-Informal Duality in Manufacturing and Services, with Saumik Paul, Working Paper 2024/6, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), February 2024. [working paper](#)

Tackling the Last Hurdles of Poverty Entrenchment: An Investigation of Poverty Dynamics for Ghana during 2005/06–2016/17, with Hai-Anh H. Dang, Tomomi Tanaka, and Kseniya Abanokova, Discussion Paper 16738, Institute of Labor Studies (IZA), January 2024. [working paper](#) | *R&R, Scientific African*

Nonlinear Propagation of Sectoral Productivity Shocks with Variable Elasticities of Substitution, with Saumik Paul, Discussion Paper 16611, Institute of Labor Studies (IZA), November 2023. [working paper](#)

Sectoral Productivity Shock, Regional Differences in Intersectoral Linkages, and Structural Transformation in Ghana, with Saumik Paul, Policy Research Working Paper 10446, World Bank, May 2023. [working paper](#) | [earlier working paper version at IZA](#)

The Financial Risk Protection Provided by Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme, with Stephen D. Younger, Policy Research Working Paper 10073, World Bank, June 2022. [working paper](#)

Benefits and Costs of Public Schooling in Ghana, with Stephen D. Younger, *Policy Research Working Paper 10017*, World Bank, April 2022 | [working paper](#)

Barriers to Growth-Enhancing Structural Transformation: The Role of Subnational Differences in Intersectoral Productivity Gaps, with Saumik Paul, Policy Research Working Paper 9683, World Bank, June 2021. [working paper](#)

Social Assistance Programs and Household Welfare in Eswatini, with Stephen D. Younger, Social Protection and Jobs Discussion Paper 2106, World Bank, June 2021. [working paper](#) | [brief](#)

Structural Transformation and Labor Market Performance in Ghana, with Mpumelelo Nxumalo, Jobs Working Paper 55, World Bank, November 2020. [working paper](#) | [brief](#)

Covariate Shocks and Child Undernutrition: Review of Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries, with Zelalem Debebe, Policy Research Working Paper 9273, World Bank, June 2020. [working paper](#)

Effects over the Life of a Program: Evidence from an Education Conditional Cash Transfer Program for Girls, with Esha Chhabra and Fatima Najeeb, Policy Research Working Paper 9094, World Bank, December 2019. [working paper](#) | *R&R, Economics of Education Review*

Feeding of Infants and Young Children in South Asia, with Harriet Torlesse, Policy Research Working Paper 8655, World Bank, November 2018. [working paper](#)

Youth Labor Skill Training in Nepal, Jobs Working Paper 11, World Bank, January 2018. [working paper](#)

Child Undernutrition in Pakistan: What Do We Know? with Ritika D'Souza, Policy Research Working Paper 8049, World Bank, May 2017. [working paper](#)

Short-Run Learning Dynamics Under a Test-Based Accountability System: Evidence from Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, Policy Research Working Paper 5465, World Bank, November 2010. [working paper](#)

Child Labor Across the Developing World: Patterns and Correlations, with Jean Fares, Policy Research Working Paper 4119, World Bank, February 2007. Background Paper for the *World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation*. [working paper](#)

Effectiveness of Lending for Vocational Education and Training: Lessons from World Bank Experience, with Sudarshan Canagarajah, Amit Dar, and Rikke Nording, Social Protection Discussion Paper 222, World Bank, September 2002. [working paper](#)

Income Support Systems for the Unemployed: Issues and Options, with Milan Vodopivec, Social Protection Discussion Paper 214, World Bank, March 2002. [working paper](#)

The Informal Sector Revisited: A Synthesis Across Space and Time, with Niels-Hugo Blunch and Sudarshan Canagarajah, Social Protection Discussion Paper 119, World Bank, July 2001. [working paper](#)

Unpublished Manuscripts

Platform-Enabled Gig Work in Ghana, with Mpumelelo Nxumalo, 2022.

Searching for STARS in Ghana, with Mpumelelo Nxumalo, 2022.

Exploring Universal Basic Income for India and the South Asia Region, with Ugo Gentilini, 2020.

Early Childhood Development in South Asia, 2020.

Private Tutoring in South Asia, with Ritika D'Souza, 2017.

Teacher Beliefs, Behavior, and Performance Pay, 2015.

Teacher Correlates of Student Academic Achievement in Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Alejandro J. Ganimian, 2014.

The Effects of Accountability-Based Public Subsidies to Low-Cost Private Schools, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, 2013.

Measuring Risk and Opportunity in Human Development: An Application to Child School Participation in Pakistan, with Eliana Carranza, 2012.

The Impacts of Differential Changes in Benefit Levels on Female Enrollment: Evidence from a Gender-Targeted CCT Program in Pakistan, with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, 2012.

Academic Achievement of Government School Students in Pakistan: Evidence from Large-Scale Administrative Data, with Salman Asim, 2011.

Fertility, Contraceptive Use, and Women's Labor Force Participation in Niger, with Andrew Morrison, 2007.

Assessing Current and Changing Labor Market Conditions in Brazil, with Gary S. Fields, 2007.

The Effects of Child Work: A Review of Evidence, 2006.

The Effects of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs on Child Work: A Review of Evidence, 2006.

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States

Ph.D., Economics

Fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics, and Public Policy Analysis

Dissertation: Essays in the Economics of Harmful Child Labor

Committee: Gary Fields, Kaushik Basu, Nancy Chau, and George Jakubson

Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, United States

B.A. (with honors), Economics

Interdisciplinary concentration: Global Development