

# Dean Spears

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## Education

Ph.D.: Economics Department, Princeton University, 2013.

*General Examinations*: advanced microeconomic theory, development economics  
additionally completed course sequence for Princeton's psychology Ph.D.

M.A.: Economics, Princeton University, 2009.

M.P.A.: Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, 2007.

*Field*: Development Studies.

M.A.I.S.: School of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2005.

B.A.: International Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2005.

College of Arts and Sciences top graduate. Phi Beta Kappa.

## Professional Experience

2013 - : visiting research affiliate. Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics

2007-2008: Lecturer in Public Affairs. Woodrow Wilson School. Princeton University.

## Research

### Pending requests to revise and resubmit

Can an improving disease environment explain the Indian calorie consumption decline puzzle?  
*Economic Journal*. with Josephine Duh.

Effects of Early-Life Exposure to Rural Sanitation on Childhood Cognitive Skills: Evidence from  
India's Total Sanitation Campaign. *Journal of Human Resources*. with Sneha Lamba.

Who is the Identifiable Victim?: Caste and Charitable Giving among Indian Elites. *Economic  
Development and Cultural Change*. with Ashwini Deshpande.

Dual economies or dual livelihoods? Short term migration from rural India and non-agricultural  
employment. *Population Research and Policy Review*. with Diane Coffey and John Papp.

## Publications

Revealed preference for open defecation: Evidence from a new survey in rural north India. *Economic & Political Weekly (special article section)*. 2014. *with* Diane Coffey, Aashish Gupta, Payal Hathi, Nidhi Khurana, Nikhil Srivastav, and Sangita Vyas.

Having a son promotes clean cooking fuel use in urban India. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 2014. *with* Avinash Kishore.

Decision Costs and Price Sensitivity: Field Experimental Evidence from India. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. 2014.

Open defecation and childhood stunting in India: An ecological analysis of new data from 112 districts. *PLoS ONE*. 2013. *with* Oliver Cumming and Arabinda Ghosh.

Caste, ‘cleanliness’, and cash: Effects of caste-based political reservations in Rajasthan on a sanitation prize. *Journal of Development Studies*. 2013. *with* Sneha Lamba.

Poverty and probability: aspiration and aversion to compound lotteries in El Salvador and India. *Experimental Economics*. 2012.

Height and cognitive achievement among Indian children. *Economics & Human Biology*. 2012.

Economic Decision-Making in Poverty Depletes Behavioral Control. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*. 2011.

*media attention: The New York Times, The New Republic, Radio Air America*

Bounded Rationality as Subjective Menus: Contraction Consistency and Intertemporal Choice. *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*. 2011.

## Research under peer review

How much international variation in child height can sanitation explain? World Bank Policy Research Working Paper number 6351.

*media attention: The New York Times, The Economist, Time, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, all major English-language Indian newspapers*

Effects of Rural Sanitation on Infant Mortality and Human Capital: Evidence from a Local Governance Incentive in India.

Village sanitation externalities and children’s human capital: Evidence from a randomized experiment by the Maharashtra government. *with* Jeffrey Hammer.

Cognitive Limits, Apparent Impatience, and Monthly Consumption Cycles: Theory and Evidence from the South African Pension. presented at the annual meetings of the American Economic Association, 2013.

Improvements in sanitation coverage in Cambodia explain improvements in child height. *with* Phyrum Kov, Susanna Smets, and Sangita Vyas.

Increasing average exposure to open defecation in India, 2001-2011.

## Research in progress

Women's status and children's height in India: Evidence from joint rural households. *with* Diane Coffey and Reetika Khera. Presented at Economic Demography workshop, PAA 2013.

Sanitation and health externalities: Resolving the Muslim mortality paradox *with* Michael Geruso.

What doesn't kill you makes you richer: Effects of the early-life disease environment on adult wages in India. *with* Nicholas Lawson.

Hospital incentives and antibiotic resistance.

More money more problems?: Mechanism design of governance incentives in a low-capacity state. *with* Rohit Lamba.

Place and child health: The interaction of population density and sanitation behavior in developing countries. *with* Payal Hathi, Sabrine Haque, Lovey Pant, and Diane Coffey

Open defecation, population density, and child height in Madhya Pradesh, India: An ecological analysis of new data on 22,000 children *with* Sangita Vyas, Aashish Gupta, Gregor von Medeazza

Caste and child height in India: Social and economic factors. *with* Diane Coffey, Ashwini Deshpande, and Jeffrey Hammer.

What's so communal about communities in India?: Social distance, coordination, and rural open defecation. *with* Payal Hathi.

## Academic honors & research grants

NIH 1R03HD081209-01, "Impacts of Sanitation on Child and Maternal Health" (co-PI with Michael Geruso), \$116,005, 2014-2016.

USAID TRAction grant on interaction of population density and sanitation, \$62,267, 2013-2014.

IGC grant on switching to sanitation in rural north India (co-PI with Diane Coffey), £10,000 , 2013-2014.

Gates Foundation grant on sanitation and child health research and evidence based advocacy, \$260,000, 2013-2015.

Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics, 2010.

Princeton Fellowship in Social Policy, 2009-2011.

The Richard S. Simmons '51 Graduate Fellowship, 2008-2009.

Princeton Laboratory for Experimental Social Science grant, 2007.

Truman Scholarship, 2004.

## Teaching experience

Microeconomics for MPP students. Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. 2014.

College English. Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, New Jersey. February 2010.

Teaching assistant for 5 graduate policy economics and statistics courses at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School. 2007-2010.

## Professional Activities

### Conference organization

Panel at UNC Water and Health Conference. 2014 (scheduled). co-organized with Diane Coffey and Jan Willem Rosenboom.

Panel at American Economic Association. "Toilet Papers: The Economics of Sanitation in Developing Countries." 2014. co-organized with Manisha Shah.

Conference on child height in India and early-life disease, at the Delhi School of Economics, with the support of the World Bank and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. 2-3 August 2013. co-organized with Ashwini Deshpande and Abhijit Banerji.

### Invited seminars and conference presentations

2014: (including scheduled) AEA, PAA (two presentations), UT Austin, Princeton, Delhi School of Economics, Allahabad University, Indian Statistical Institute, World Bank (Nairobi, DC, & Delhi), Gates Foundation (Nairobi), WASH 2014 (Brisbane), IDS-NCAER nutrition conference (Delhi), 3ie, LBSNAA, IFPRI, UNC Water and Health Conference (several presentations), IHDS users conference (NCAER)

2013: AEA, PAA (coauthor presented at economic demography workshop), Tufts Friedman School, University of Virginia, UNC Water and Health Conference, Delhi School of Economics, World Bank (DC, Delhi, & Phnom Penh), Gates Foundation (Phnom Penh, Seattle), Public Health Foundation of India, national NBA conference at Uttarakhand administrative training institute, IFPRI (DC), World Water Week (Stockholm)

2012: PAA (poster & paper), Yale conference on experimental moral psychology and poverty, World Bank (DC & Delhi), Gates Foundation, India Policy Forum (Brookings & NCAER), LBSNAA, NCAER, World Bank Delhi, World Water Week (Stockholm), Indian Statistical Institute, NEUDC

2011: Delhi School of Economics, NCAER, IIT Delhi

2010: University of Cape Town, Princeton

2009: University of El Salvador, NEUDC

2008: NEUDC

**Journal refereeing**

Econometrica; Journal of Human Resources; Economic Development and Cultural Change; World Development; Demography; Social Science & Medicine; Economics and Human Biology; Health Economics; Journal of Asian Economics; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Food Policy; Poverty and Public Policy; The South Asianist; International Journal of General Medicine; Journal of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Development; Water Resources Research

**Other writing**

Policy research articles

Height of the problem. *Seminar* 2014. *with* Diane Coffey.

Paper invited by NCAER and IDS on malnutrition and sanitation in India. 2014.

Are children in West Bengal shorter than children in Bangladesh? *Economic & Political Weekly*. 22 February 2014. *with* Arabinda Ghosh & Aashish Gupta.

Stunting among Children: Facts and Implications. *Economic & Political Weekly*. 24 August 2013. *with* Diane Coffey, Angus Deaton, Jean Drèze, & Alessandro Tarozzi

Can food alone resolve “malnutrition”? Stunting, open defecation and the urgency a of policy response. Public Health Foundation of India conference paper. 2013.

Policy lessons from the implementation of India’s Total Sanitation Campaign. *India Policy Forum*. 2012.

Low Expectations: Reference-Dependent Preferences and Labor Supply in Cape Town, South Africa. *Poverty & Public Policy*. 2012.

Newspaper articles

“Left, right, and toilets” *Mint & The Wall Street Journal* (India). August 2014.

“To stop open defecation in India, go the Pulse Polio way.” *with* Diane Coffey. *Hindustan Times* (India). June 2014.

“Can Modi’s next wave wash away open defecation?.” *with* Diane Coffey. *Mint & The Wall Street Journal* (India). June 2014.

“Coming up short in India.” *Mint & The Wall Street Journal* (India). July 2013.

“Ending open defecation must be a policy priority.” *Ethiopian Herald* (Ethiopia). April 2013.

“The long and short of open defecation.” *The Hindu* (India). March 2013.

“Ending open defecation by paying for what we get.” *Business Standard* (India). August 2012.

“Let the toilet revolution begin!” (not my title) *Business Standard* (India). July 2012.

## Other experience

Executive Director, r.i.c.e.: a research institute for compassionate economics. 2011-present. *with* Diane Coffey. [www.riceinstitute.org](http://www.riceinstitute.org)

Short term consultant, World Bank. 2012-2014

## Language skills

English: native

Spanish: fieldwork proficiency, depreciating

Hindi: intermediate, growing

September 20, 2014