

Speaker:**Sanchari Roy****Date and Time:**August 14th, 2024 (Wednesday); 3:00 PM**Venue:**

Econometrics lab (room no 402), Fourth floor, Department of Economics, Rahul Bajaj Technology Innovation Centre

Title:**Social networks, gender norms and labour supply: Experimental evidence using a Job search platform**

Abstract: This paper studies the role of job search frictions and gender norms in shaping intrahousehold labour market outcomes in low-income settings. We conduct a field experiment in Delhi, India where we randomly offer access to a hyperlocal digital job search and matching platform either to married couples only (non-network treatment), or together with the wife's peer network (network treatment), or not at all. Approximately one year later, we find that couples in the non-network treatment group exhibit a degree of substitution in labour supply: wives reduce their intensive margin of work, driven by withdrawal from casual labour, while husbands increase theirs. In contrast, husbands in the network treatment group increase their labour supply on both extensive and intensive margins but with no impact on their wives' labour supply on either margin. Instead, wives' occupational structure shifts towards self-employment in the network treatment group. Our findings can be explained by a simple conceptual framework that incorporates gender-differentiated job search frictions, conservative social norms against (married) women's market work and home-production constraint

About the speaker: Sanchari Roy is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Exeter Business School and Visiting Researcher at King's College London. She is also External Research Associate at CAGE Warwick, Affiliate at King's India Institute and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in UK. Sanchari's primary area of research is development economics, focusing on gender inequality, education, labour markets and mental health. Sanchari's research has been published in leading economics journals like the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Journal*, and *Journal of Development Economics*. Prior to Exeter, Sanchari has taught at King's College London and universities of Warwick and Sussex. Sanchari received her PhD in Economics from London School of Economics.