

Speaker:

Prof. Utteeyo Dasgupta
Fordham University

Date and Time:

October 28th, 2026 (Wednesday); 3:30 to 4:30 PM

Venue:

**Room 401, 4th floor, Seminar Room, A91 Eco Hub Building,
Department of Economics, IIT Bombay**

**Title:**

Is Inequality Enough? Redistributive Preferences Across Income Levels

Abstract:

Does willingness to redistribute depend only on relative inequality, or also on absolute income levels? We investigate this question through a lab-in-the-field experiment in Pakistan. Allocators make costly redistribution decisions affecting three recipients in two income environments with identical relative income distributions. We also vary whether income ranks arise through luck or task performance. We find that allocators redistribute less in the higher-income environment and exhibit greater fee sensitivity. We find little evidence that redistribution differs between luck and performance. These findings suggest that support for redistribution may weaken as absolute living standards improve, even when relative inequality remains unchanged.

About the speaker:

Dr. Dasgupta's research interests are in the positive, normative, and strategic aspects of decision-making. He primarily uses economics experiments and game theory for his research. He has published in the Journal of the European Economic Association, Review of Economics and Statistics, the Journal of Public Economics, the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, and other peer-reviewed journals. His teaching interests are in Microeconomic Theory, and in particular, Experimental/Behavioral Economics and Game Theory. He is a Research Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and the Global Labor Organization (GLO). He serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization and Economic Inquiry. He co-edited the Handbook of Experimental Development Economics (Edward Elgar).