

## **Aix-Marseille School of Economics**

ETE Masters 2 Student

### **Office Contact Information**

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Marseille

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Languages: Punjabi (native),  
English (fluent), Hindi/Urdu (fluent)

### **Education:**

B.S Applied Mathematics, 2014  
with distinction (First Division/Grade A),  
University of Sargodha, Pakistan

M.S. Information and Operational Management, 2017  
(specialization: economics and applied statistics)  
Cumulative GPA: 3.96/4.0  
First Position in the State of Punjab (Gold Medal by the Chief Minister)  
University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Masters Theoretical and Empirical Economics, 2022  
(specialization: microeconomics)  
Aix-Marseille School of Economics, France

### **References:**

**Professor Marc Sangnier**  
Aix-Marseilles University;  
University of Namur.  
[marc.sangnier@unamur.be](mailto:marc.sangnier@unamur.be)

**Professor Avner Seror**  
Aix-Marseilles University;  
[avner.seror@univ-amu.fr](mailto:avner.seror@univ-amu.fr)

**Citizenship:** Pakistani

### **Research Interests:**

Development Economics, Sports Economics, Political Economy.

## **Working Papers:**

*Judicial Capture and the Rule of Law* (with S. Mehmood)

We provide systematic evidence of a quid pro quo favor exchange between Judiciary and the government, and estimate the impact of judicial corruption on Rule of Law. We find that when the Pakistani government allotted houses to judges, their rulings in favor of the government increased and the quality of their judicial decisions decreased. Our instrumental variable strategy based on judges' birthplaces and the evidence we present in support of the identifying assumption suggest that our results are causal. The analysis of mechanisms reveal that incentives generated by the house allocation are key to explain these results. Our estimates indicate that cumulatively allocation of houses cost the government about 0.02 percent of GDP, however, it allowed the government to expropriate additional land worth 0.05 percent of GDP every year.

*Altruistic Vaccination– (COVID-19 RESPONSE)*

**with (Syngjoo Choi, Jun Hyung Kim, and Avner Seror)**

We study the altruistic motives behind vaccination intentions. Using data from a field experiment in Pakistan, we find that providing information about the probability of transmitting COVID to others substantially increases vaccination intention. We find that subjects are more responsive to a treatment that focuses their attention on the loss experienced when they do not get vaccinated and infect others relative to a treatment that focuses their attention on the gain experienced when they get vaccinated and do not infect others. We explain our findings in a theoretical model that accounts for reference-dependent preferences and loss aversion. We finally calibrate our model and show that our experimental evidence are consistent with the existence of both substantial loss aversion and altruistic motives in vaccination decisions.

## **Work in Progress:**

*Judges as Norm Enforcers*

In this paper, we hope to study the impact of religious leaders in enforcing conservative social norms in Pakistan. Utilizing a unique dataset on local-level family courts, we hope to show that whether districts where historically the shrine density was high, there is a large decline in ruling in favor of women in cases where a woman unilaterally files for divorce. We further hope to link enforcement of conservative social norms to female labour force participation and local economic development.

*Wolf guarding the Sheep: Regulatory Capture in Agricultural Markets*

In this project, I hope to study how regulatory agencies may engage in monopoly pricing. We do this in context of Pakistan where we examine how politicians just winning elections and those just losing may impact price fixing behaviour in the agriculture markets in a Regression Discontinuity Design. I have compiled a list of names of “sugar barrons”, these are politicians-cum-industrialists that both hold key regulatory offices as well as have large personal stakes in the sugar industry. I hope to match this with votes data from Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and examine how these politicians just winning elections impact local sugar prices, quantity produced and local economic development in the district.

## **Work Experience:**

**May 2017 – Dec 2021:**

**Senior Researcher at the Center for Economic Research Pakistan (CERP) and Senior Researcher at Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD)**

1. PAD and CERP are collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture in Pakistan.
  - a. Assistance on various RCTs in Pakistan with Farmers and Extension Agents.
  - b. Assistance on conducting audits on Soil testing facilities to measure their precision and accuracy.
2. CERP is collaborating with the Punjab Police
  - a. Assistance in Police reform policy to induce behavioral changes in police to reducing policebrutality
3. PAD and CERP are collaborating with Punjab Skill Development Fund (PSDF)
  - a. Assistance on RCT based on M-learning.
4. PAD and CERP are collaborating with IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development)
  - a. Assistance on policy development to improving rural women participation in Pakistan's Labour Force
5. PAD and CERP are collaborating with the Government of Pakistan and the Private sector (Nestle, DS Farms and KADO (Karakoram Area Development Organization)
  - a. Assistance in Policy development to move farmers towards Organic Farming practices in Hunza District in the Gilgit Baltistan Province of Pakistan

Principle Investigators of these projects are Michel Kremer, Shawn Cole, and Heiner Baumann.

## **2015-2017:**

**Research Assistant at CERP and PAD**

1. Generating reports and presenting them to Government Officials and PIs
2. Meeting several high-profile government officials to build and maintain relationships.
3. Managing and allocating government's field staff as well as PAD/CERP field staff.
4. Running multiple data analysis for PAD, CERP and AD, Punjab.

## **2014-2015:**

**Research Assistant at Central Bank of Pakistan (SBP)**

**Research Assistance to Dr Sajawal Khan**

1. Worked on the Project "Optimal Monetary Policy in the Presence of an Informal Sector and Firm-Level Credit Constraints"
2. Worked on data cleaning (survey data), descriptive statistics and basic econometric analysis.

## **Teaching Experience:**

**2013-2014 Teaching Assistant, Prof. Dr. Jamil Amir.**

1. Took Q&A (review) classes and tutorials.
2. Helped with class record-keeping, such as tracking attendance and calculating grades.
3. Solved all homework problems once a week with class.

## **Awards and Honors:**

2017 Honorary Gold Medal by the Chief Minister

2015-2017 University High Achiever Scholarship during Masters

2010-2014 University Excellence Scholarship during Bachelors

## **Conferences:**

APSA 2020, MPSA 2021, IOEA 2022

## **Computer Skills:**

Stata, R, Eviews, Python, C++, MATLAB, Latex, MS Office, ArcGIS