

SUDESHNA MAITRA

Department of Economics, York University
1072 Vari Hall, 4700 Keele Street
Toronto ON Canada M3J 1P3

(416) 736-2100
maitra@yorku.ca
www.sudeshnamaitra.com

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. CURRENT ROLES

2026–present: Associate Professor (with tenure)

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

2026–present: Director, Maitra Development Research Lab

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

B. EDUCATION

2006: Ph.D. in Economics, Princeton University, Princeton, USA

Advisors: Anne Case (Princeton), Jonathan Parker (MIT), Joshua Goldstein (Berkeley)

2003: M.A. in Economics, Princeton University, Princeton, USA

2000: M.S. in Quantitative Economics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India (gold medal)

1998: B.Sc. (Hons) in Economics, Presidency College, Calcutta University, Kolkata, India

C. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2006–2025: Assistant Professor (tenure-track, professorial stream)

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

(on parental leave, 2008-09; on leave without pay, 2010-11; on medical leave, 2012-19; on partial leave, 2020-24)

2024–25: Research Fellow, UN University, World Institute for Development Economics Research

2010: Visiting Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock

2007–09: Research Fellow, The Conference Board, New York

2003–06: Teaching Assistant, Economics Dept. & Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

2000: Special Invited Lecturer, Presidency College, Calcutta University

II. SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A. PUBLICATIONS

1. ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

Maitra, S. (2024)

“On the Theory and Measurement of Relative Poverty using Durable Ownership Data”

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 225: 153–169.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2024.05.009>

Maitra, S. (2018)

“Population Dynamics and Marriage Payments: An Analysis of the Long Run Equilibrium in India”

The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, 18(2).

<https://doi.org/10.1515/bejm-2017-0191>

Maitra, S. (2017)

“Class Matters: Tracking Urban Inequality in Post-Liberalization India using a Durables-based Mixture Model”

Applied Economics Letters, 24(17): 1203-1207.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2016.1265071>

Maitra, S. (2016)

“The Poor Get Poorer: Tracking Relative Poverty in India using a Durables-based Mixture Model”

Journal of Development Economics, 119: 110-120.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2015.07.003>

Maitra, S. (2010)

“Does Patient Self-Management Explain the Health Gradient? Goldman and Smith Revisited”

Social Science and Medicine, 70(6): 802-812.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.08.043>

2. INVITED CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

Maitra, S. (2023)‡

“Mixture Models: Identifying Consumption Classes in Post-Liberalization India”
in *Applied Econometric Analysis Using Cross Section and Panel Data, Contributions to Economics*:
135-166. (editor: Deep Mukherjee)
Springer. ISBN 978-9819949045.

Maitra, S. (2009)‡

“Does Parental Education Protect Child Health? Some Evidence from Rural Udaipur”
in *Econophysics and Economics of Games, Social Choices and Quantitative Techniques*: 213-232.
(editors: Banasri Basu, Bikas Chakrabarti, Satya Chakravarty, Kausik Gangopadhyay)
Springer. ISBN 978-8847015005.

Maitra, S. (2008)

“Is Socioeconomic Status Protective of Health? Some Evidence from Rural Udaipur”
in *Poverty, Health and Development*: 69-94.
(editor: Sujit K. Paul)
Commonwealth Publishers, New Delhi. ISBN 978-8131102473.

Maitra, S. (2007)

“Dowry and Bride Price”
in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition: 440-442.
(editor: William A. Darity Jr.)
Gale Thompson. ISBN 978-0028659657.

Chapters marked with a ‡ are instructional texts for Master’s and doctoral students.

3. INVITED POLICY ARTICLES

Maitra, S. (2026)

“Why Caste Inequality Persists Despite Greater Mobility”
The Policy Edge, 2 August 2026
<https://www.policyedge.in/p/why-caste-inequality-persists-despite-greater-mobility>

4. REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Stuck at the Bottom: Caste-Based Discrimination, Relative Poverty and the Mechanisms of Intergenerational Opportunity Traps.”

- Second International Conference on “Inequalities and Opportunities”, Bari, Italy (2026)

“To Draw a Relative-Poverty Line: An Approach using Mixture Models and CART”:

- GEOM Conference on Equality of Opportunity and Intergenerational Mobility, Bari, Italy (2024)
- Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Gothenburg, Sweden (2023)
- 57th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association, Winnipeg, Canada (2023)

“On the Theory and Measurement of Relative Poverty using Durable Ownership Data”:

- Conference on 100 Years of Development, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA (2022)
- 16th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India (2021)
- Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), Dartmouth, USA (2020)

“Who Are the Indian Middle Class? A Mixture Model of Class Membership Based on Durables Ownership”:

- Canadian Economic Association Meetings, Toronto, Canada (2009)
- World Congress on National Accounts and Economic Performance Measures for Nations, Washington DC, USA (2008)
- Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, USA (2007)
- International Conference on Comparative Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India (2007)

“Population Dynamics and Marriage Payments: An Analysis of the Long Run Equilibrium in India”:

- Institutional and Social Dynamics of Growth and Distribution, Lucca, Italy (2007)
- Canadian Economic Association Meetings, Halifax, Canada (2007)
- Conference on Growth and Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India (2006)
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Charleston, USA (2006)
- Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca NY, USA (2006)

5. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Stuck at the Bottom: Caste-Based Discrimination, Relative Poverty and the Mechanisms of Intergenerational Opportunity Traps” (joint with Sudarsana Kundu).

- UNU-WIDER Conference on Inequality over the Life Course (2025)

“Who Are the Indian Middle Class? A Mixture Model of Class Membership Based on Durables Ownership”. *Presented at:*

- Centre for Social Sciences, Kolkata, India (2011)
- Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada (2009)
- The Conference Board, New York, USA (2007)

“Population Dynamics and Marriage Payments: An Analysis of the Long-Run Equilibrium in India”:

- Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India (2011)
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany (2010)
- University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan (2006)
- Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, Japan (2006)
- The Conference Board, New York NY, USA (2006)
- Washington & Lee University, Lexington VA, USA (2006)
- York University, Toronto, Canada (2006)

B. WORK IN PROGRESS

Maitra, S. (2026)

“Stuck at the Bottom: Caste-Based Discrimination, Relative Poverty and the Mechanisms of Intergenerational Opportunity Traps”

Working paper

(policy collaboration with S. Kundu, Gender at Work & Nayi Disha, Hyderabad, India).

Maitra, S. (2025)

“More Skilled Jobs or Subsidized Education? A Micro-to-Macro Approach to Evaluate Anti-Poverty Policy in India”

Research project (received SSHRC Insight Development Grant, June 2025).

Maitra, S. (2024)

“To Draw a Relative-Poverty Line: An Approach Using Mixture Models and CART”

Working paper

Maitra, S. and Pal, S. (2024 – present)

“Social Norms and Economic Mobility in India”

Research project (received LAPS Seed Grant, 2023)

C. UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES

Maitra, S. (2007) *[Technical report]*

“Who are the Indian middle class? A mixture model of class membership based on durables ownership.”

Maitra, S. (2006) *[Dissertation chapter]*

“Can Population Growth Cause Dowry Inflation? Theory and the Indian Evidence” OR
“Population Growth and Marriage Payments: the Short Run Mechanism of a Marriage Squeeze.”

D. FUNDING

1. RESEARCH GRANTS OBTAINED: EXTERNAL

Grant title: **SSHRC Insight Development Grant**

Role: **Principal Investigator**

Project title: “More Skilled Jobs or Subsidized Education? A Micro-to-Macro Approach to Evaluate Anti-Poverty Policy in India”

Year: 2025

Amount: CAD 71,508

Grant title: **SSHRC Explore Grant**

Role: **Principal Investigator**

Project title: “On Calibrating Theoretical Policy Experiments to Evaluate the Impact of Anti-Poverty Policy in India”

Year: 2024

Amount: CAD 5,000

Grant title: **Shastri Institute Research Grant**

Role: **Principal Investigator**

(in collaboration with Prof. Satya C. Chakravarty,
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India)

Project title: “Class Structure and Durables Ownership:
Trade Liberalization and the Evolution of Living Standards in India”

Year: 2012

Amount: INR 300,000 (approximately CAD 5,500)

Grant title: **SSHRC Travel Grant**

Year: 2006

Amount: CAD 2,661

2. RESEARCH GRANTS OBTAINED: INTERNAL

York University:

2024: LAPS Minor Research Grant – Principal Investigator (CAD 5,000)
2024: YUFA Research Grant – Principal Investigator (CAD 5,000)
2023: LAPS Seed Grant – Co-Investigator: Sumantra Pal (CAD 5,000)
2023, 2024: LAPS Travel Grant (CAD 1,500)
2023, 2024: YUFA Travel Grant (CAD 1,250)
2010: LAPS Research Grant – Principal Investigator (CAD 3,400)
2007: Faculty of Arts Research Grant – Principal Investigator (CAD 2,300)
2006: York University Startup Grant (CAD 15,000)

Princeton University:

2004: Center for Health and Well-Being Research Grant (USD 3,000)
2003: International Economics Section Research Grant (USD 1,500)

3. CONTRACTED RESEARCH

Organization: United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research
(UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland
Role: Principal Investigator
(in collaboration with Sudarsana Kundu, Gender at Work & Nayi Disha, India)
Project title: “Stuck at the Bottom: Caste-Based Discrimination, Relative Poverty
and the Mechanisms of Intergenerational Opportunity Traps”
Years: 2024-25
Amount: USD 8,000

Organization: The Conference Board, New York, NY, USA
Role: Principal Investigator
Project title: “Estimation of Durables’ Demand in the Indian Middle Class”
Years: 2007-09
Amount: USD 10,000

E. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. JOURNAL REFEREEING ACTIVITY

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Review of Income and Wealth, Studies in Microeconomics, Sankhya B, Theoretical Population Biology, Social Science and Medicine, Population and Development Review, Millennial Asia

2. OFFICES IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2024–25: Organizer, Canadian Development Economics Study Group
2010–12: Executive Member, Canadian Development Economics Study Group

3. MAJOR CONSULTATIONS

2007-09: The Conference Board, New York, NY, USA
Project title: “Estimation of Durables’ Demand in the Indian Middle Class”

F. OTHER AWARDS

Princeton University: Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching, 2005
Teaching Assistantship, 2003-06
Graduate School Summer Stipend, Summer 2002-05
Graduate Fellowship, 2001-03

Indian Statistical Institute: Graduate Stipend as Junior Research Fellow, 2000-01
M.R. Iyer Memorial Award for outstanding academic performance
in securing first place in the MS(QE) program, 2000
Awards for academic excellence, 1998-99; 1999-2000
Graduate Stipend for MS(QE), 1998-2000

III. TEACHING

A. UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

1. COURSES TAUGHT AT YORK UNIVERSITY

ECON 1000:	Introductory Microeconomics (2007-08)
ECON 1010:	Introductory Macroeconomics (2009-10)
ECON 1530:	Introductory Mathematical Economics I (2010-11, 2019-20, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26)
ECON 1540:	Introductory Mathematical Economics II (2006-07, 2007-08, 2021-22)
ECON 2300:	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (2009-10)
ECON 2350:	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II (2020-21)
ECON 3559:	Economic Growth and Development – Writing (newly designed curriculum) (2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26)
ECON 4000:	Guided Research: Effective Policy for Long-Run Poverty Alleviation in India (2024-25)

2. RESEARCH SUPERVISION

York University, Department of Economics

Undergraduate Research Supervision for:

- Samya Das *† – “Caste Discrimination and Long-Run Poverty in India” (2024)
Recipient of LAPS Dean’s Award for Research Excellence, 2024
- Michael Tapley *† – “Educational Opportunities and Poverty Reduction Policy” (2024-25)
- Camila Nakamura *† – “Theoretical & Empirical Approaches to Measuring Poverty” (2024-25)
- Noam Lasry * – “Poverty Reduction Policy in Developing Countries” (2024-25)
- Oluwafunmilayo Balogun *† – “Escaping the Informal-Work “Trap” in Nigeria” (2025-26)

*Students marked with a * also participated in my undergraduate summer research groups; see Section III. C. 2 (p11) for more details.*

Students marked with a † opted to participate in independent research following course work for ECON 3559; see Section III. F. (p12) for more details.

Princeton University, Department of Economics

Junior Thesis Advisor (2005-06) to:

- Samson Benen
- Yiting Jin
- Nedra McLaughlin
- Ashwin Rajendra
- Aaron Reed
- Ashley Soloff
- Jordan Wish
- Michael Zaret

B. GRADUATE TEACHING

1. RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Student: Aishwarya Nair (Master's student)
Year: 2023
Project Title: "Relative Poverty in India"

MAITRA DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH LAB

Students: Gulnur Arazli (PhD student, 2026)
Anika Tabassum Amreen (Masters' student)
Abrar Iqbal (Masters' student)
Year: January 2026 – present
Project Title: "Intergenerational Mobility Traps in India"
"More Skilled Jobs or Subsidized Education? A Micro-to-Macro Approach to Evaluate Anti-Poverty Policy in India" (received SSHRC grant, 2025)

C. OTHER TEACHING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024–25: I collaborated with Dr. Lisa Endersby from the York Teaching Commons to evaluate and employ new classroom teaching techniques for ECON 1530 (Mathematics for Economics I). This included classroom observation by Dr. Endersby during my lectures, and feedback from both her and from my students; see my Teaching Dossier for more details.

2024–25: I attended multiple virtual conferences on graduate supervision, including the National Graduate Supervision Conference (2024, 2025).

2. UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GROUPS

2024–present: My research project on caste and economic mobility in India (offered to applicants for the Dean’s Award for Research Excellence) received an overwhelming number of applications from undergraduate students at York University, so I decided to offer more research opportunities for undergraduate students over the summer. While each student in my group – funded either by the university (as with the Dean’s Award for Research Excellence) or from my own research funding – worked on their individual projects, the group frequently met to discuss their findings and offer feedback on each other’s work. During the group sessions, I employed innovative techniques to demonstrate complex economic concepts to students, such as playing board games to demonstrate economic modeling, simulations, and the role of strategic decision-making. Students were encouraged to use these concepts in their research and writing; motivated students from the group have subsequently moved on to graduate school.

D. COURSES TAUGHT AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Princeton University

ECO 202: Statistics and Data Analysis for Economics (undergraduate, 2005-06)
WWS 303: Quantitative Analysis and Public Policy (undergraduate/master’s, 2005-06)
ECO 321: Industrial Organization (undergraduate, 2004-05)
ECO 302: Econometrics (undergraduate, 2004-05)
ECO 100: Introduction to Microeconomics (undergraduate, 2003-04)
ECO 101: Introduction to Macroeconomics (undergraduate, 2003-04)

University of Calcutta, India

Statistics for Economics (undergraduate, 2000-01)

E. TEACHING AWARDS

2005: Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching, Princeton University

F. COURSE AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2023 – present:

I am working on delivering a new format of teaching/supervision/mentorship for ECON 3559 (“Economic Growth and Development”, Writing). Students in each cohort choose the topics in the curriculum and then receive an opportunity to pursue research projects further under my supervision (outside the course). Students who participated in this initiative are marked with † in Section III.A.3 (p9) of this document.

I plan to employ this format to design a new year-long research course in development economics for undergraduate students at York University (expected: 2027-28), offering them a chance to participate in development research as a member of the **Maitra Development Research Lab**. I envision the lab to be a forum for students at all levels (undergraduate, Master’s, Ph.D.) to participate actively in the *process* of research, from the formulation of research questions to analysis, writing and dissemination of research findings. Student members of the lab will also receive opportunities to participate in my current collaborative projects with policymakers and practitioners in India.

2023-24:

I served on the Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience Committee (USSE). We reviewed and restructured Economics course offerings and their pre-requisites’ structure, to address student needs and best practices in the discipline. We also worked on determining the curriculum and pre-requisites for a new course (ECON 1520: Foundations of Mathematical Analysis in Economics) that will be offered to students in Fall 2025.

G. SERVICE ON TEACHING COMMITTEES

2023-24:	Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience Committee
2009-10:	Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience Committee

H. PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEACHING

Publications in textbooks for Master's and Ph.D. students:

Maitra, S. (2023)

“Mixture Models: Identifying Consumption Classes in Post-Liberalization India”

in *Applied Econometric Analysis Using Cross Section and Panel Data, Contributions to Economics*: 135-166. (editor: Deep Mukherjee)

Springer. ISBN 978-9819949045.

Maitra, S. (2009)

“Does Parental Education Protect Child Health? Some Evidence from Rural Udaipur”

in *Econophysics and Economics of Games, Social Choices and Quantitative Techniques*: 213-232.

(editors: Banasri Basu, Bikas Chakrabarti, Satya Chakravarty, Kausik Gangopadhyay)

Springer. ISBN 978-8847015005.

IV. SERVICE

A. ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

2020-26: Computer Liaison Committee
2023-24: Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience Committee
2009-10: Graduate Admissions Committee
2009-10: Undergraduate Studies and Student Experience Committee
2007-08: Economics Seminar Series Committee
2006-07: Economic Research Workshop Committee

B. RESEARCH CENTRE ACTIVITIES

2010-11: York Institute for Health Research, Executive Committee

C. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

2025: Panel Discussion: "SSHRC IDG Information Session for York Faculty", Panelist

D. SERVICE TO ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

2024-25: Canadian Development Economics Study Group (CDESG), Organizer
2010-12: Canadian Development Economics Study Group (CDESG), Executive Committee

Prepared: 10 August 2026.