

Title: Alcohol Consumption and Intimate Partner Violence: Long-Term Effects of a Temporary Alcohol Ban

Speaker: Prof. Arnab Basu, Cornell University

Area: Economics

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Abstract:

We trace the impact of a partial liquor ban – from launch to reversal – on alcohol consumption and women’s experience with intimate partner violence (IPV) in Kerala, India. Decomposing the policy-induced and reversal effects by employing difference-in-differences and event-study approaches, we identify a significant reduction in alcohol consumption (but only in liquor-serving bars) with an accompanying reduction in IPV during the policy period. However, both alcohol consumption and IPV rebounded to pre-ban levels after the policy removal. Heterogeneity analysis further reveals these effects to be confined only amongst high-wealth households. A battery of robustness tests confirms our findings.

Speaker Profile:



Arnab K. Basu is an economist and professor at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. His primary research interests are within the area of labor markets in developing countries, the economics of eco- and social labeling, and designing lab-in-the-field experiments to elicit behavioral preferences.

Within labor markets, Basu's research spans topics on the informal sector, minimum wage and enforcement, labor contracts, employment guarantee schemes, child labor, human trafficking, and migration driven by climate and social networks. Within behavioral economics, his research involves both designing experiments as well as the use of secondary data to analyze altruism, intra-household bargaining power, human capital investments, and response to disasters in various countries (Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Vietnam). Basu is also involved in several projects that are India-specific, such as the link between indoor air pollution and child mortality, differential health (hypertension and clinical depression) reporting error amongst older adults, the effect of Kerala's partial alcohol ban on intimate partner violence, and dishonest behavior in individual and group settings.

Basu is a research fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics in Bonn, Germany, a fellow of the Global Labor Organization, and a recent visiting scholar at the World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki, Finland, and visiting professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford, UK. He was awarded a research fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany, and is a recipient of the Theodore W. Schultz Young Economist Prize awarded by the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE). He is an associate editor for the Journal of Economic Policy Reform and an academic editor for the Public Library of Science journal, PLoS ONE.

Basu holds a PhD in economics from the Johns Hopkins University, and an MA in economics from the Delhi School of Economics, India.

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