

Ishita Ahmed

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Stanford University
Postdoctoral Scholar

August 2025-present

EDUCATION

Stanford University
PhD, International Comparative Education and Developmental and Psychological Sciences

September 2025

University of Maryland College Park
Masters, Economics

August 2018

The College of William & Mary
Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, Economics and International Relations

May 2011

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Published Manuscripts

Ahmed, I., Bertling, M., Zhang, L., Ho, A. D., Loyalka, P., Xue, H., Rozelle, S., & Domingue, B.W. (2024). Heterogeneity of item-treatment interactions masks complexity and generalizability in randomized controlled trials. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19345747.2024.2361337>

Jukes, M. C. H., **Ahmed, I.**, Baker, S., Draper, C. E., Howard, S. J., McCoy, D. C., Obradović, J., & Wolf, S. (2024). Principles for adapting assessments of executive function across cultural contexts. *Brain Sciences*, 14(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci14040318>

Ahmed, I., Steyer, L., Suntheimer, N. M., Wolf, S., & Obradović, J. (2022). Directly assessed and adult-reported executive functions: Associations with academic skills in Ghana. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 81, 101437. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2022.101437>.

Hoddinott, J., **Ahmed, I.**, Ahmed, A., & Roy, S. (2017). Behavior change communication activities improve infant and young child nutrition knowledge and practice of neighboring non-participants in a cluster-randomized trial in rural Bangladesh. *PLoS one*, 12(6), e0179866. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0179866>.

Under Review

Ahmed, I., Hoddinott, J., Roy, S., & Ahmed, A. (2025). Impacts of cash, food, and nutrition behavior change communication on long-run child development: Experimental evidence from Bangladesh.

Ahmed, I., & Obradović, J. (2025). A movement-based working memory measure rooted in observational learning: Relevance for cognitive skills and everyday behaviors.

Finch, J.E., **Ahmed, I.**, Bardack, S., & Obradović, J. (2025) Connections between classroom quality and executive function development in middle childhood.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Ahmed, I., & Obradović, J. (2025). Children's executive function behaviors in rural Bangladesh: Contextual insights and alignment with direct assessments.

Obradović, J., **Ahmed, I.**, et al. (2025). Executive function from observation and reflection tool (EFFORT): Multinational validation of a culturally adaptable and publicly available survey instrument.

Obradović, J., **Ahmed, I.**, & Sulik, M. J. (2025). A validation of a new play-based tablet assessment of curiosity and causal exploration with 3-8 year olds.

Sabol, T., McCoy, D.C., Jeong, J., **Ahmed, I.**, Honoroff, J., Noel, Z., & Ahun, M. (2025) The ‘rug rat race’?: Early childhood community experts’ perspectives on the skills children need to thrive in the 21st century.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Society for Research in Child Development May 2025

Ahmed, I. & Obradović, J. (2025). A movement-based working memory measure rooted in observational learning: Relevance for cognitive skills and everyday behaviors.

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness September 2023

Ahmed, I., Bertling, M., Zhang, L., Loyalka, P., Xue, H., Rozelle, S., Domingue, B.W. (2023). Heterogeneity of item-treatment interactions masks complexity and generalizability in randomized controlled trials.

Society for Research in Child Development March 2023

Ahmed, I., Sulik, M.J., Wolf, S., Obradović, J. (2023). Executive function speed and accuracy: Associations with children’s academic skills in Ghana.

National Council on Measurement in Education April 2022

Ahmed, I., Bertling, M., Loyalka, P., Domingue, B. (2021). Differential item functioning across randomized controlled trials in educational settings.

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness September 2021

Ahmed, I., Pearman, A., Durkin, K. (2021). Parental involvement and the differential effects of preschool on kindergarten readiness.

Society for Research in Child Development April 2021

Ahmed, I., Steyer, L., Suntheimer, N., Wolf, S., Obradović, J. (2021). Direct assessment, teacher report, and assessor report of executive function skills and behaviors: Unique associations with academic achievement in Ghana.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

Graduate Student Fellowship \$16,872 2025

Awarded to fund spring quarter stipend and tuition.

King Center on Global Development, Stanford University

Dissertation Fellowship \$30,000 2024-2025

Awarded to fund dissertation research promoting diversity and equity in measurement.

Center for Measurement Justice and NBME

Dissertation Support Grant \$5,000 2024-2025

Awarded to fund pilot data collection activities in Bangladesh for dissertation.

Graduate School of Education, Stanford University

Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship \$155,000 2021-2024

Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research.

Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stanford University

Karr Fellowship \$15,000 2022-2024

Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research in education.

Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University

International Research Grant <i>Awarded to fund international exploratory research.</i> King Center on Global Development, Stanford University	\$14,000	2022, 2024
Fellowship for Minoritized Professionals in Educational Measurement <i>Awarded to fund costs of attending the National Council on Measurement in Education conference.</i> Chan Zuckerberg Initiative	\$3,000	2022
Researchers of Color Mentored Travel Award <i>Awarded to researchers of color accepted to present at the conference.</i> Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness	\$1,000	2021
Institute of Education Sciences Fellowship <i>Awards fund doctoral student training in quantitative education policy analysis</i> Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University	\$60,000	2019-2021
Stanford Impact Lab Collaborative Research Fellowship Immigration Policy Lab <i>Awarded to engage in problem-focused research.</i>	\$3,000	2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Consultant, Dr. Rachel Glennerster, Center for Global Development** October 2023-present
- Develop and pilot a math test item bank for impact evaluations across multiple countries
 - Conduct psychometric analyses to calibrate items and estimate impacts as learning adjusted years of schooling
- Global Executive Function Initiative, Stanford University** May 2022-present
- Publish guidelines for standardized executive function direct assessment task selection, analysis, and data reporting
 - Develop and pilot contextually adaptable parent, teacher, and assessor reports of executive function behaviors
 - Design interview protocols for mixed methods research to examine novel direct assessment measures
- Streetlight Project, Harvard and Northwestern University** December 2021-present
- Conduct literature review on measurability, malleability, universality, and validity of psychological constructs in underrepresented populations with Dr. Dana McCoy and Dr. Terri Sabol
 - Qualitative analysis of interviews with parent and teacher perspectives on skills important for children's learning
- Research Assistant, Dr. Isaac Mbiti, University of Virginia** June 2018-August 2019
- Analyze data and draft papers on teacher incentives and vocational education in Kenya, Tanzania, and Ghana
 - Collaborate on research project to analyze impact of curriculum reform on learning outcomes in Tanzania
- Research Assistant, Dr. Pascaline Dupas, Stanford University** August 2013-September 2016
- Analyze randomized controlled trial data from 2,050 youth respondents and their households in Ghana
 - Oversee survey design and implementation across 400 junior high and secondary schools in Ghana
- Project Associate, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Accra, Ghana** July 2012-July 2013
- Manage follow-up survey for randomized controlled trial to estimate the returns to secondary education with principal investigators Dr. Pascaline Dupas, Dr. Esther Duflo, and Dr. Michael Kremer
 - Design, pilot, and implement survey instrument for 2,050 youth respondents and their guardians across six southern regions of Ghana with 98% of respondents successfully tracked and surveyed
 - Organize survey fieldwork, hire field staff, and monitor survey activities
 - Manage daily project finances and operational budget of US\$250,000 for project activities
 - Coordinate data entry and clean datasets using STATA

Field Coordinator, The World Bank Group

October 2015-August 2016

- Implement the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) Multi-Tier Energy Access Tracking
- Framework on a global scale across 20-30 different countries
- Lead team to design and finalize questionnaire measuring energy access using a multi-tier approach
- Collaborate to develop the methodological report and sampling strategy for the survey
- Oversee survey activities: select survey firms, train enumerators, data collection and cleaning

Intern, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Dhaka, Bangladesh

January 2012-May 2012

- Assist Dr. Mushfiq Mobarak and Dr. Raymond Guiteras with a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of demand and supply interventions on the adoption of improved sanitation in rural Bangladesh
- Design and pilot test survey questionnaires, train and supervise 54 enumerators on survey administration, and manage baseline survey administration for 8,400 households
- Collaborate with NGO partners to implement interventions for 18,250 households

Intern, UN World Food Programme (WFP), Dhaka, Bangladesh

August 2011-December 2011

- Collaborate to design and implement randomized controlled trial to evaluate food and cash transfers and nutrition behavioral change communication interventions
- Assist in training NGO workers, conducting baseline surveys, and monitoring beneficiary selection for an emergency operation to assist flood victims in Satkhira district of Bangladesh
- Edit assessment reports and case study write-ups for dissemination to ambassadors and government officials

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Psychology (Psych 1), Teaching Assistant, Stanford University

Fall 2023 & Spr 2024

- Teach two weekly sections for 15 undergraduate students each to apply psychology concepts to real word situations and engage students in discussion
- Mentor students during office hours on psychology interests and career trajectories

Parenting and Family Relationships in Childhood (Educ 370), Guest Lecturer, Stanford University

Spr 2024

- Teach class on parental involvement in education for 12 Masters and PhD students that focused on students designing interventions for culturally responsive parenting programs

Resource Allocation in Education (Educ 222), Teaching Assistant, Stanford University

Spr 2022

- Provide written feedback to Masters and PhD students on essay assignments examining tradeoffs for competing goals and outputs in education policy

Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 306), Teaching Assistant, Univ. of Maryland College Park

2016-2018

- Teach exam review sections on foundational microeconomics theories and applications
- Mentor students during office hours on economics interests and career trajectories

SERVICE AND MENTORSHIP

Stanford Graduate School of Education Student Mentor

2020-2022

- Mentor incoming master's and doctoral students on courses, research, work-life balance during graduate school, and career pathways

Undergraduate Research Assistants, Stanford University

2023-2024

- Advise undergraduate research assistants on research projects and post-graduate research careers

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

Society for Research in Child Development

National Council for Measurement in Education
