

# Ishita Ahmed

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Stanford University</b> PhD, International Comparative Education and Developmental and Psychological Sciences	2019-present
<b>University of Maryland College Park</b> Masters, Economics	August 2018
<b>The College of William &amp; Mary</b> Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, Economics and International Relations	May 2011

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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### 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>.

### Dissertation Papers

- Ahmed, I.**, Hoddinott, J., Roy, S., Ahmed, A. (2024). RCT impacts of cash, food, and nutrition behavior change communication on long-term child development in Bangladesh.
- Ahmed, I.**, Obradović, J. (2024). Investigating alignment between executive function assessment and everyday application in rural Bangladesh.
- Ahmed, I.**, Obradović, J. (2024). Adapting and validating executive function measures for rural Bangladesh.

### Other Manuscripts in Preparation

- Ahmed, I.**, Sulik, M.J., Wolf, S., Obradović, J. (2024). Executive function speed and accuracy: Associations with children's academic skills in Ghana.
- Ahmed, I.**, Pearman, A., Durkin, K. (2024). Parental involvement and the differential effects of preschool on kindergarten readiness.
- Ahmed, I.**, Bettinger, E. (2024). Texting the path to success: Empowering parents with college application know-how.
- Finch, J.E., **Ahmed, I.**, Bardack, S., Obradović, J. (2024) Executive functions mediate associations between classroom quality and achievement in middle childhood.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**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

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<b>Graduate Student Fellowship</b> <i>Awarded to fund spring quarter stipend and tuition.</i> King Center on Global Development, Stanford University	\$16,872	2025
<b>Dissertation Fellowship</b> <i>Awarded to fund dissertation research promoting diversity and equity in measurement.</i> Center for Measurement Justice and NBME	\$30,000	2024-2025
<b>Dissertation Support Grant</b> <i>Awarded to fund pilot data collection activities in Bangladesh for dissertation.</i> Graduate School of Education, Stanford University	\$5,000	2024-2025
<b>Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship</b> <i>Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research.</i> Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stanford University	\$155,000	2021-2024
<b>Karr Fellowship</b> <i>Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research in education.</i> Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University	\$15,000	2022-2024
<b>International Research Grant</b> <i>Awarded to fund international exploratory research.</i> King Center on Global Development, Stanford University	\$14,000	2022, 2024
<b>Fellowship for Minoritized Professionals in Educational Measurement</b> <i>Awarded to fund costs of attending the National Council on Measurement in Education conference.</i> Chan Zuckerberg Initiative	\$3,000	2022
<b>Researchers of Color Mentored Travel Award</b> <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** \$60,000 2019-2021  
*Awards fund doctoral student training in quantitative education policy analysis*  
Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University

**Stanford Impact Lab Collaborative Research Fellowship** \$3,000 2020  
Immigration Policy Lab  
*Awarded to engage in problem-focused research.*

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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**Research Consultant, Dr. Rachel Glennerster, University of Chicago** 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**

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**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 world 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**

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**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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

Society for Research in Child Development

National Council for Measurement in Education

## **COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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- Software - STATA, R, Mplus, LaTeX, Dedoose, Atlas.ti, otter.ai, MS Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
- Fluent in English, conversant in Bengali, and elementary proficiency in Spanish and French