

Ishita Ahmed

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EDUCATION

Stanford University PhD, International Comparative Education and Developmental and Psychological Sciences	2019-present
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>.

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.**, 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) Connections between classroom quality and executive function development in middle childhood.
- Sabol, T., McCoy, D.C., Jeong, J., **Ahmed, I.**, Honoroff, J., Noel, Z., & Ahun, M. (2024) 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 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 <i>Awarded to fund spring quarter stipend and tuition.</i> King Center on Global Development, Stanford University	\$16,872	2025
Dissertation Fellowship <i>Awarded to fund dissertation research promoting diversity and equity in measurement.</i> Center for Measurement Justice and NBME	\$30,000	2024-2025
Dissertation Support Grant <i>Awarded to fund pilot data collection activities in Bangladesh for dissertation.</i> Graduate School of Education, Stanford University	\$5,000	2024-2025
Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship <i>Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research.</i> Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stanford University	\$155,000	2021-2024
Karr Fellowship <i>Awarded to graduate students pursuing interdisciplinary research in education.</i> Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University	\$15,000	2022-2024
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 \$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

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

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

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

COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

- 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