

ZAKI WAHHAJ

Department of Intl. Development, King's College London, Bush House NE Wing, 30 Aldwych, London WC2B 4BG, UK

EMPLOYMENT:

Professor of Development Economics, King's College, Univ. of London, September 2024 onwards

Professor of Economics, University of Kent, October 2022-September 2024)

Previous Positions: Reader (October 2018-22), Senior Lecturer (October 2014-18),

Lecturer (2012-14)

Lecturer in Development Economics, University of Oxford (2008-11)

Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Namur, Belgium (2006-08)

Research Assistant, Economic Research Division, Goldman Sachs Intl., London (1999-2001)

EDUCATION:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (Cambridge, MA, USA), PhD in Economics, 2006

Yale University, (New Haven, CT, USA), BSc in Economics and Mathematics, 1999

RESEARCH FUNDING:

Global Innovation Fund, Principal Investigator (2023-2025), US\$ 805,000

- Study on Developing Youth Groups in Bangladesh to Support Peers at Risk of Early Marriage

Toulouse School of Economics FIT IN Initiative, Principal Investigator (2022-2024), US\$ 15,000

- Study on Interoperability in Mobile Financial Services and Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh

Gates Foundation WEE-DiFine Research Prog., Principal Investigator (2021-2023), US\$ 48,300

- Study on Digital Wage Payments via Mobile Money to Low-Income Urban Women in Bangladesh

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, Co-Investigator (2021-24), Amount: US\$ 980,000

- Study on Millet Processing by Women's SHGs in India

UNU-WIDER, Co-Investigator (2020-21), US\$ 5,000

- Study on Access to Microfinance and Female Labour Force Participation

Grand Challenges Canada, Scientific Advisor (2019-21), Can\$ 100,000

- Study on Birth Registration of Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh

UK Department of International Development, Principal Investigator (2017-21), £ 57,0238

- Study on Child Marriage Law, Gender Norms and Marriage Customs

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, Co-Investigator (2016-22), US\$ 505,000

- Study on Agricultural Insurance and Migrant Networks in Burkina Faso

Australian Agency for International Development, Principal Investigator (2013-16), £ 380,000

- Study on Female Secondary Schooling and Gender Norms in Bangladesh

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS:

Economica, Journal Associate Editor (2023-26)

Impact and Engagement Lead, Human and Social Sciences Division, Univ. of Kent (2022-24)

Research and Innovation Community Prize (highly commended category), Univ. of Kent (2022)

Research Mentorship Award, Division of Human and Social Sciences, Univ. of Kent (2022)

King's College London, External Examiner (2020-23)

European Development Research Network, Associate Member (2020-Present)

Global Labor Organization, GLO Fellow (2019-Present)

LSE, External Examiner BSc Philosophy, Politics, Economics (2018-19)

ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Visiting Research Fellow (Autumn 2018)

STICERD, London School of Economics, Visiting Research Fellow (2016-2017)

UNU-WIDER Gender and Development Project, Scientific Committee Member (2015-2018)

DfID Econ. Development and Institutions Project, Scientific Committee Member (2015-2016)

Theoretical Research in Development Economics, Research Associate (2011-Present)

Centre for the Study of African Economies (Oxford), Research Associate (2010-17)

Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (Louvain), Research Associate (2006-08)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- 1) Shonchoy and Wahhaj (2023), "Birth Registration, Child Rights and Local Governance in Bangladesh", chapter in *Decentralised Governance: Crafting Effective Democracies Around the World*, edited by J-P Faguet and S. Pal, LSE Press.
- 2) Augsburg, Malde, Olorenshaw and Wahhaj (2023), "To Invest or not to Invest in Sanitation: Role of Intra-household Gender Differences in Perceptions and Bargaining Power", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 3) Amirapu, Asadullah and Wahhaj (2022), "Social Barriers to Female Migration: Theory and Evidence from Bangladesh", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 4) Wahhaj (2022), "The Economics of Early Marriage: Causes, Consequences and Policy Solutions", *Handbook of the Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, Springer.
- 5) García-Alonso and Wahhaj (2021), "Social Diversity and Bridging Identity", *Oxford Economic Papers*
- 6) Asadullah, Mansoor, Randazzo and Wahhaj (2021), "Is Son Preference Disappearing from Bangladesh?", *World Development*
- 7) Crensil, Gschwandtner and Wahhaj (2020), "The Effects of Risk and Ambiguity Aversion on Technology Adoption", *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*
- 8) Kazianga and Wahhaj (2020), "Will Urban Migrants Formally Insure their Rural Relatives?", *World Development*
- 9) Asadullah and Wahhaj (2019), "Early Marriage, Social Networks and the Transmission of Norms", *Economica*
- 10) Mahmud and Wahhaj (2019), "Charitable Giving, Signalling and Microcredit", *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*
- 11) Wahhaj (2018), "An Economic Model of Early Marriage", *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*
- 12) Kazianga and Wahhaj (2017), "Intra-household Resource Allocation and Familial Ties", *Journal of Development Economics*

- 13) Pal and Wahhaj (2016), "Fiscal Decentralisation, Local Institutions, and Public Good Provision: Evidence from Indonesia", *Journal of Comparative Economics*
- 14) Casini, Vandewalle and Wahhaj (2015), "Public Good Provision in Indian Rural Areas", *World Bank Economic Review*
- 15) Platteau, Somville and Wahhaj (2014), "Elite capture through information distortion: A theoretical essay", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 16) Platteau and Wahhaj (2014), "Strategic Interactions between Modern Law and Custom", *Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture*, edited by Ginsburgh and Throsby, Elsevier.
- 17) Baland, Somanathan and Wahhaj (2013), "Repayment Incentives and the Distribution of Gains from Group Lending", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 18) Kazianga and Wahhaj (2013), "Gender, Social Norms and Household Production in Burkina Faso", *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
- 19) Ngo and Wahhaj (2012), "Microfinance and Gender Empowerment", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 20) Aldashev, Chaara, Platteau and Wahhaj (2012), "Modern Law as a Magnet to Reform Unfair Customs", *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
- 21) Aldashev, Chaara, Platteau and Wahhaj (2012), "Using the Law to Change the Custom", *Journal of Development Economics*
- 22) Aldashev, Platteau and Wahhaj (2011), "Legal Reform in the Presence of a Living Custom: An Economic Approach", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
- 23) Wahhaj (2010), "Social Norms and Individual Savings in the Context of Informal Insurance", *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

- 24) Guirkinger, Platteau and Wahhaj, "Behind the Veil of Cultural Persistence: Marriage and Divorce in a Migrant Community", *Economic Journal*, revised and resubmitted.
- 25) Ghatak and Wahhaj, "Motivational Investments and Financial Incentives", *Journal of Law, Economics and Organisation*, revised and resubmitted.
- 26) Amirapu, Asadullah and Wahhaj, "Can Child Marriage Law change Attitudes and Behaviour?", *Journal of Law, Economics and Organisation*, revise-and-resubmit.

COMMENTARIES IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- 27) Asadullah, Islam and Wahhaj (2018), "Gender Bias in Bangladesh School Textbooks", *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 05 June 2018.
- 28) Amin, Asadullah, Hossain and Wahhaj (2017), "Eradicating Child Marriage in the Commonwealth", *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, 18 April 2017.
- 29) Amin, Asadullah, Hossain and Wahhaj (2017), "Can Conditional Cash Transfers Eradicate Child Marriage?", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 11 February 2017.
- 30) Asadullah and Wahhaj (2016), "Child Marriage Law and Freedom of Choice in Bangladesh", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 16 January 2016.

COMMENTARIES IN PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA:

Ideas for India (2017, 2022), *UNU-WIDER Blog* (2022), *VoxDev* (2019, 2021), *UNESCO World Education Blog* (2017, 2018, 2021), *Project Syndicate* (2017, 2021), *The Conversation* (2014, 2017), *Development and Cooperation* (2016), *Open Democracy* (2016), *The Diplomat* (2014), *World Bank South Asia Blog* (2014), *LSE International Development Blog* (2019).

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION (Year of PhD Completion, Placement):

Mahreen Mahmud (2016, University of Exeter)

Francis Darko (2017, University of Coventry)

Hamna Ahmed (2017, Lahore School of Economics)

Christian Crentsil (2018, University of Kent)

Nudrat Faria Shreya (2020, PDRI-DevLab, University of Pennsylvania)

Aniema Atorudibo (2022, University of Greenwich)

Guillermo Cabanillas-Jiminez (2022, Universidad de Alcala)

OTHER SELECTED GRANTS:

- University of Kent, Division of Human and Social Sciences Research Centre Funding, Amount £1,930 in December 2022; £1,958 in March 2022 (Co-Applicants: Amrit Amirapu, Irma Clots-Figueras, Bansi Malde, Anirban Mitra, Rinchan Mirza)
- University of Kent, GCRF Impact Funding, April 2021; Amount £1,875 (Co-Applicant: Anirban Mitra); GCRF Emergency Response Fund, May 2020; Amount £3,469; GCRF Partnership Development Fund, November 2019; Amount: £9,500, (Co-Applicants: Anirban Mitra, Amrit Amirapu).
- Royal Economic Society Special Project Grant, November 2018 (Co-Applicants: Amrit Amirapu and Anirban Mitra; Amount: £3,000)
University of Kent REF Impact Fund, November 2018, Amount: £2,200