

# Sulin Chowdhury

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.**, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 2025  
(expected)

Dissertation Title: *Three Essays on Inference in Economics*

Dissertation Committee: Nathan Fiala, Charles Towe, Jackson Somers

**M.S.**, Applied and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 2024

**M.S.**, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis, CA, July 2016

**B.A.**, Economics, University of California, Davis, CA, June 2014

**A.S.**, Natural Sciences, Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA, September 2012

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Causal Inference

## WORKING PAPERS

### **Impact of Cyclonic Storms on Early Childhood Health** (Job Market Paper)

This study examines the long-term impacts of Cyclone Sidr, a category-4 storm that struck Bangladesh in 2007, on early childhood health, focusing on children who were in utero during the event. Using data from the 2007 and 2011 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), we assess child health outcomes, specifically height-for-age Z-scores (HAZ), as an indicator of nutritional status and growth. A combination of matching estimations and Difference-in-Differences (DiD) methodologies is employed to analyze the effects of the cyclone across regions and districts with varying levels of impact. Our findings reveal a consistent negative impact on the HAZ scores of children exposed to the cyclone in utero, with greater severity observed in the most affected districts. Despite robust results across methodologies, further research is needed to incorporate additional measures of cyclone intensity and maternal health indicators. This research highlights the lasting consequences of short-duration natural disasters on child health and underscores the importance of targeted interventions in disaster-prone regions.

### **Enhancing the Potential of E-savings to Boost Women's Economic Empowerment in Tanzania** (With Nathan Fiala and Annkathrin Schoofs)

This study explores the potential of e-savings accounts to enhance women's economic empowerment in Tanzania, focusing on the role of intra-household dynamics. Using data from a randomized controlled trial involving 2,543 women entrepreneurs, the study examines the effects of three interventions: private e-savings accounts, announced accounts (shared with husbands), and announced accounts coupled with household cooperation training. The analysis evaluates key outcomes, including income, savings, productive time use, subjective resilience, and food security. Results indicate nuanced effects of the interventions. While e-savings accounts increase financial autonomy, the provision of private accounts resulted in mixed outcomes, including a reduction in household income and productivity. Conversely, announced accounts with cooperation training demonstrated the most consistent improvements in savings and household decision-making. Qualitative interviews revealed that cultural norms and household pressures

significantly influenced the utilization of accounts, with many women disclosing account details to their spouses despite privacy measures. These findings underscore the complexity of using financial tools for empowerment and highlight the need for interventions that address socio-cultural barriers. This research contributes to understanding the interplay between financial inclusion and gender dynamics, offering insights for designing more effective empowerment programs.

### **Impact of Prescription Cap Laws on Estimates of Opioid Misuse in the United States**

(With Jackson Somers and Mengjie Li)

This study investigates the impact of composting regulations on household consumption and purchasing patterns in the United States, focusing on how such policies influence consumer behavior. Utilizing data from the Nielsen Kilts Consumer Panel dataset, which tracks purchasing behaviors across over 60,000 U.S. households, we analyze trends in food purchases before and after the implementation of composting mandates in 148 cities with curbside programs and 67 cities with drop-off programs. Preliminary difference-in-differences (DiD) estimates reveal that the implementation of compost regulations is associated with significant decreases in produce purchases after households are placed under a compost mandate. These findings suggest that the introduction of composting policies may inadvertently alter household consumption behaviors, potentially reflecting shifts in waste awareness or financial constraints. This research contributes to the literature by providing one of the first empirical analyses of the causal effects of large-scale composting regulations on household-level consumption, offering insights for policymakers aiming to balance environmental goals with consumer behavior. Future analyses will expand on these findings to explore potential mediating factors and broader consumption trends.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching Assistant**, Intermediate Applied and Resource Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Spring 2025

**Instructor**, Writing in Environmental Policy, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Spring 2025

**Instructor**, Writing in Food Policy, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Fall 2024

**Teaching Assistant**, Principles of Applied and Resource Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Fall 2024

**Teaching Assistant**, Computational Analysis in Applied Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Spring 2021

**Teaching Assistant**, Business Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis, Spring 2016

**Teaching Assistant**, Business Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis, Fall 2015

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**University of Connecticut**, Research Assistant, Jan 2021 – June 2025

**United States Department of Agriculture**, Student Trainee, Summer 2023

**International Food Policy Research Institute**, Research Analyst, Dec 2016 – June 2020

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Stewart Johnson Scholarship Fund, Fall 2024

Marvin W. Kottke Scholarship Fund, Fall 2022

ARE Professional Development Award, Summer 2024

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Conference, Denver (scheduled)
- 2024 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA), New Orleans
- 2024 University of Connecticut Agriculture and Resource Economics Research Sessions, Storrs
- 2022 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Conference, Washington
- 2017-19 International Food Policy Research Institute: The Integrated Food Policy Research Program, Dhaka (presented Annually)

## **LANGUAGES**

Bangla (native), English (native), Spanish (basic)

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

ArcGIS, GAMS, Git, LaTeX (Overleaf), Matlab, Python, Qualtrics, R, SQL, Stata, SurveyCTO

## **REFERENCES**

### **Professor Nathan Fiala**

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### **Professor Charles Towe**

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