

GARIMA BHALLA

gbhalla@live.unc.edu

+1 919 360 7742

EDUCATION

- 2011 - 2016** **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** **North Carolina, USA**
PhD Candidate, Department of Public Policy (Expected to Graduate: Jan 2017)
Dissertation: Poverty Alleviation and Public Policy: Three Essays on Impact of
Cash Transfers on Food Insecurity, Life Satisfaction and Informal Transfers
Chair: Dr. Sudhanshu Handa
- 2004 – 2006** **Georgetown University** **Washington DC, USA**
Master of Public Policy, Georgetown Public Policy Institute
Awarded tuition fee waiver & research assistantship
Thesis: Capitalization of the Break-Up of LAUSD into 11 Sub-Districts
- 2000 – 2001** **LaTrobe University** **Melbourne, Australia**
Postgraduate Diploma in Economics, School Of Business
Awarded full tuition fee waiver. Exchange Program Scholar of Lady Shri Ram
College, Delhi University
Minor Thesis: ‘Food Security and Trade Liberalization: Issues for Developing
Countries’
- 1997 – 2000** **Delhi University** **New Delhi, India**
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Economics, Lady Shri Ram College For Women

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Policy, Poverty Reduction, Food Insecurity, Well-being, Applied Microeconomics,
Research Methods, Impact Evaluation, Normative issues in Development, Political Economy of
Development

DISSERTATION PAPERS

“Ability of Household Food Insecurity Measures to capture Vulnerability and Resilience:
Evidence from a Cash Transfer Program in Zimbabwe” [abstract provided at the end; Under
Review]

“Impact of an Unconditional Cash Transfer on Subjective Well-Being and Its Mediators”
[Completed]

“Do Cash Transfers crowd out Informal Inter-Household Transfers?” [In Progress]

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2012 H. Spencer Banzhaf and **Garima Bhalla**. (2012). Do Households Prefer Small
School Districts? A Natural Experiment. *Southern Economic Journal*: January
2012, Vol. 78, No. 3, pp. 819-841

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WORKING PAPERS

- 2016 Bhalla, G., S. Handa, G. Angeles, D. Seidenfeld, on behalf of the Zimbabwe Harmonized Social Cash Transfer Evaluation Team (2016). The Effect of Cash Transfers and Household Vulnerability on Food Insecurity in Zimbabwe, Innocenti Working Paper No.2016-22, UNICEF Office of Research, Florence. <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/859/>
- 2015 **Bhalla, G.**; de Groot, R.; Handa, S.; Osei, R D.; Osei-Akoto, I.; Park, M.; Ragno, L.P. “Heterogeneous Impacts of an Unconditional Cash Transfer Program on Schooling: Evidence from the Ghana LEAP Program” (Under Review) UNICEF Innocenti Working Paper 2015-10. <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/793/>
- 2015 **Garima Bhalla.** “Direct Cash Transfers: Ethical considerations of the Conditionality Dilemma”, Department of Public Policy, UNC-CH

REPORTS

Lead Research Assistant and Contributing Author:

- 2014 American Institutes for Research. (2014). 12-Month Impact Report for Zimbabwe’s Harmonised Social Cash Transfer Programmes. Washington, DC: Author https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Zimbabwe_HSCT_12month_Report.pdf
- 2013 American Institutes for Research. (2013). Baseline Report for Zimbabwe’s Harmonised Social Cash Transfer Programmes. Washington, DC: Author

Contributing Analyst:

- 2014 American Institutes for Research. (2014). Zambia’s Child Grant Program: 36-month Impact report. Washington, DC: Author.
- 2013 American Institutes for Research. (2013). Targeting Report for Zimbabwe’s Harmonised Social Cash Transfer. Washington, DC: Author

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2016** **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** **North Carolina, USA**
Teaching Assistant: PLCY460 Quantitative Methods for Public Policy
- Spring 2015** **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** **North Carolina, USA**
Independent Instructor: PLCY110 Global Policy Issues
(Designed syllabus to focus on theory of global public goods and economic and social challenges related to key global issues including International Trade and International Development)
- 2011 - 2012** **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** **North Carolina, USA**
Teaching Assistant: PLCY101 Introduction to Public Policy, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012

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2000 - 2001 LaTrobe University **Melbourne, Australia**
Teaching Assistant, School of Business: Business and Economic Statistics, First year course; International Trade, Third year course; and Quantitative Analysis, First year course

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

July 2016 Selected to attend “Applied Research in the PPE Framework” colloquium hosted by Mercatus Center, July 2016

Summer 2016 Selected to attend Brocher Summer Academy in Population-level Bioethics: Ethical Issues in Randomized Trials in Development Economics and Health Policy, June 2016

April 2016 Best Poster Award at Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, April 2016

2015 – 2016 Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC- Chapel Hill

Spring 2015 Center for Faculty Excellence Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill

2014 – 2015 Mercatus Center Adam Smith Fellowship, George Mason

2014 C.V. Starr Scholarship, Center for Global Initiatives, UNC-Chapel Hill (USD 4,000)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2016 Population Association of America (PAA), 2016 Annual Meeting.
“Heterogeneous Impacts of an Unconditional Cash Transfer Program on Schooling: Evidence from the Ghana LEAP Program” (Won Best Poster Award)

2015 Southern Economics Association (SEA), Fall 2015 Conference.
“ Do Cash Transfers crowd out Informal Inter-Household Transfers? Evidence from Zimbabwe”

2015 Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM), Fall 2015 Conference.
“Ability of Household Food Insecurity Measures to Capture Vulnerability and Resilience”

2015 Adam Smith June 2015 Colloquium. Mercatus Center, George Mason University.
Invited paper presentation: "Direct Cash Transfers: Ethical considerations of the Conditionality Dilemma"

2015 Center for Global Initiatives, UNC-Chapel Hill, Global Projects Showcase April 2015. Invited presentation: “Unconditional Cash Transfer Programs and Schooling in Ghana”

EMPLOYMENT

2013 - 2016 Carolina Population Center, UNC-Chapel Hill **North Carolina, USA**
Lead research assistant on impact evaluation of Government of Zimbabwe’s Harmonized Cash Transfer Program

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Co-developed detailed Household survey instrument, Youth survey, and Community survey

Conducted fieldwork in Mwenezi district of Zimbabwe to supervise data collection and data entry, and provide support to enumerators

2008 – 2010 William. J. Clinton Foundation New Delhi, India
Associate, Drug Access Team, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Led implementation of multi-tiered strategy for ensuring sustainable and stable worldwide supply of affordable antimalarial medications

Cultivated and managed strategic partnerships with pharmaceutical companies in India that supply antimalarials

Led international effort (under aegis of Procurement and Supply Management Working Group of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership) to harmonize demand forecasts of key anti-malarials

2006 – 2008 Corporate Executive Board Washington DC, USA
Quantitative Consultant, Learning and Development Roundtable

Designed and administered the Learning Effectiveness survey to over fifty Fortune 500 organizations located worldwide. Over 6500 individuals (employees and their managers) were surveyed.

Conducted quantitative analysis to identify attributes of working environment that have a significant impact on effectiveness of development programs

Best Practices Consultant, Investor Relations Roundtable

Conducted research interviews with Investor Relations Officers (IROs) to identify best practices for improving the yield on investor targeting

Developed new service offering, the Message Absorption Diagnostic, a tool for IROs to measure whether the investment community hears and believes their company's key strategic messages

Advised member executives on how to communicate executive compensation disclosure to investors and other key stakeholders

winter 2005 World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland
Intern, AIDS Medicines and Diagnostic Services (AMDS). Evaluated capacity building and training workshops conducted by AMDS for developing countries on procurement and supply management of AIDS, TB, and Malaria drugs

summer 2005 World Resources Institute Washington DC, USA
Intern, Capital Markets Program. Researched global food industry to understand financial risks and opportunities presented by the use of sustainable practices

2002 – 2004 McKinsey & Company Inc. New Delhi, India
Analyst, India Office

Public Health & Development: Strategy formulation to establish Public Health Foundation of India; strategy formulation to combat spread of HIV/AIDS in

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India; conducted research to advise state governments on policies to accelerate economic development; benchmarked India's economic diplomacy strategies
Food & Retail: Wrote white paper on retail sector in India; updated the McKinsey-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) publication on Food and Agriculture; contributed to an international knowledge development effort on global sourcing in the retail sector

SERVICE

2013 Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee. UNC-CH
2012 Public Policy Senator (Student representative) for the Graduate and Professional Student Federation (GPSF), UNC-CH

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Member, Southern Economic Association
Member, Population Association of America

JOB MARKET PAPER ABSTRACT

The Effect of Cash Transfers and Household Vulnerability on Food Insecurity in Zimbabwe

We study the impact of the Zimbabwe Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) on household food security after 12 months of implementation. The program has had a strong impact on a well-known food security scale—the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) - but muted impacts on food consumption expenditure. However, aggregate food consumption hides dynamic activity taking place within the household. When we disaggregate by source of food, we find that households receive fewer gifts and use the cash to obtain more food from the market. The cash in turn gives them greater choice in their food basket, which improves diet diversity. As a result, measures of food security (which capture vulnerability more broadly) and diet diversity show strong improvements, but not aggregate food expenditures. Further investigation of the determinants of food consumption and the HFIAS shows that several dimensions of household vulnerability correlate more strongly with the HFIAS than food consumption. A key vulnerability criterion used by the HSCT to target households, labor constraints, is an important predictor of the HFIAS but not food expenditure, and its effect on food security is even larger during the lean season. This paper provides evidence that a consumption-based measure, such as household food expenditure, may not fully capture either household resiliency or vulnerability.