

# Safoura Moeeni

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Citizenship: Iran

## Research Interests

Labor Economics, Economics of the Family, Applied Microeconomics

## Education

- 2013 - present Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Calgary, Canada.  
2006 - 2009 M.Sc. in Economics, Sharif University of Technology, Iran.  
2001 - 2005 B.Sc. in Computer Science, Yazd University, Iran.

## Research

### Ph.D. Thesis:

Committee: Atsuko Tanaka (supervisor), Alexander Whalley (co-supervisor), Eugene Choo

1. "The Effects of Labor Market Opportunities on Education: The Case of a Female Hiring Ceiling in Iran", Joint with Atsuko Tanaka. (under review)

ABSTRACT: This paper estimates the causal effects of labor market opportunities on educational attainment. To isolate these effects, we look at a 2010 policy in Iran that limited female employment in the public sector. We find that this hiring quota significantly worsened female labor market conditions and immediately reduced women's enrollment rates in four-year colleges: a 10 percentage point reduction of the public sector jobs decreased women's enrollment rates by 18%. We also find that the quota decreased the proportion of female students in college majors with strong ties to public employment and increased college majors with weaker associations to the public sector. Our main finding highlights the importance of labor market opportunities for women as a determinant of their educational attainment.

2. "The Intergenerational Effects of Economic Sanctions" Latest revision: August 2018. (mimeo)

ABSTRACT: Economic sanctions became more common in the 20th century, yet little is known about their adverse consequences on the next generation. This paper quantifies the effects of economic sanctions on investment in children's education after the United Nations Security Council imposed economic sanctions against Iran. My analysis of Iranian Households' Income and Expenditure Surveys from 1995 to 2013 reveals two findings. First, the sanctions decreased the probability of attending college by 8.7% and the years of schooling by 0.2 years. Second, households cut the expenditure on children education. In particular, households' spending on school tuition decreased

by 60%. This finding indicates that after the sanctions, households are more likely to enroll their children in public schools, which are relatively low-quality schools. Overall, both educational attainment and investment in education have decreased. Establishing the negative shocks to the next generation's education, an important measure of human development can edify future policy regarding the use of sanctions.

3. "Married Women's Labour Force Participation and Intra-Household Bargaining Power" Latest revision: March 2017. (mimeo)

**ABSTRACT:** I examine effects of education on the labour force participation (LFP) of married women in an intra-household collective decision framework, in which bargaining power is endogenous. In this case, individuals's pre-marriage choices including educational choices and matching on the marriage market, determine their bargaining power. The estimated model exhibits the features that are consistent with the data. First, the female's bargaining power is increasing when a woman is more educated relative to her spouse. Second, women's LFP is an inverse U-shaped function of bargaining power. As a woman's bargaining power increases, she participates more in the labour market. However, over a certain level of bargaining power, women are less likely to work outside the home. So, this paper identifies a new channel through which education can decrease LFP. Using this model, I provide an explanation for the surprising negative relationship between women's education and their participation in the labour market in Iran.

#### **Work In Progress:**

1. "The Role of Labor Market Barriers in the Life Cycle Decisions of Women"
2. "Iranian Education Quota: the Effects of Quality and Quantity of Labor Force"

## Honors and Awards

2018	Dissertation Award (\$10,000), Economics Department, University of Calgary
2018	PhD Teaching Assistant Excellence Prize (\$200), Economics Department, University of Calgary
2018	Conference travel grant (\$500), Faculty of Graduate Study (FGS), University of Calgary
2018	Conference travel grant (\$330), Canadian Economics Association (CEA)
2017	Anton and Dalgarno Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$1,700)
2017	Travel grant (\$1,500), Iran's National Elites Foundation
2017	Conference travel grant, HAND Organization
2015	James D.Gaisford Research Prize for the best second year paper (\$1,000)
2015	Top Econometrics Prize (\$100), University of Calgary
2013-2017	Ph.D Graduate Scholarship (\$110,800), Economics Department, University of Calgary

## Professional Experience

#### **Research Experience:**

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|-------------|--|
| 2016, 2018  | Research Assistant for Dr.Atstuko Tanaka, University of Calgary (Research on College Loans)        |
| 2018        | Research Assistant for Dr.Christopher Bruce, Economica (Research on Assessment of Personal Injury) |
| 2010 - 2013 | Research Associate in Sharif Institute for Economic and Industrial Studies (SIEIS), Iran.          |
|             | (1) "International Competitiveness of Iranian Industrial Sector"                                   |
|             | (2) "Determinants of Iran's Economy: A Medium-run Analysis"  |

**Teaching Experience (Instructor):**

1. University of Calgary, Canada  
Principles of Macroeconomics (2017, undergrad)
2. Payame Noor University, Iran  
Principles of Microeconomics (2009, undergrad)  
Economic Growth and Development (2009, undergrad)  
Public Finance (2009, undergrad)

**Teaching Experience (Teaching assistant):**

1. Grad Courses  
Advanced Econometrics (2015, 2017), University of Calgary  
Industrial Organization (2013), Sharif University of Technology, Iran  
Advanced Microeconomics (2013), Institute for Research in Planning and Development, Iran
2. Undergrad Courses (University of Calgary)  
Principles of Microeconomics (2015, 2016, 2018)  
Principles of Macroeconomics (2018)  
Intermediate Microeconomics (2014)  
Intermediate Macroeconomics (2014, 2017)  
Use of Statistics in Economics (2016, 2018)  
Economics and the Environment (2015)  
The Global Trading System (2014)  
Economic Analysis of Law (2013)  
Electricity Markets (2013)

**Others:**

- 2005 VB Programmer, Iran's Specialized Software Center, Iran.

## Conference and Seminar Presentation

2018	Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics (AASLE) (scheduled)
2018	The Society of Labor Economics (SOLE)
2018	Canadian Economics Association (CEA) Annual Meeting
2018	Department of Economics Seminar Series, University of Calgary
2017	North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society
2017	University of Isfahan, Iran (Invited Speaker)
2016	Department of Economics Seminar Series, University of Calgary
2011	Monetary and Banking Research Academy, Central Bank of Iran
2009	ECLEC Seminar Series, Sharif University of Technology, Iran
2008	Graduate Student Seminar, Sharif University of Technology, Iran

## Professional Activities

**Certificates:**

- Machine Learning, Stanford University and Coursera
- Instructional Skills Certificate, Taylor Institute for Teaching & Learning, University of Calgary
- Graduate Writing Certificate, University of Calgary

Advanced Monetary Economics by Prof.Pierpaolo Benigno  
(Sharif University Winter School 2012)  
Solving, calibrating, estimating and evaluating DSGE models by Prof.Fabio Canova  
(Sharif University Summer School 2011)  
International Macroeconomics by Prof.Gianluca D.Benigno  
(Sharif University Fall School 2011)  
How To Publish a Scientific Journal Article, Springer International Publisher

**Workshops:**

Grad Skills Workshop, University of Calgary  
Game Theory by Prof. Ferenc Szidarovszky, Sharif University Spring School 2008  
Advanced Microeconomics by Prof. H. Sabourian, Sharif University Fall School 2008  
Contract Theory, Sharif University Summer School 2007

**Affiliations:**

The Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), The Econometric Society,  
American Economic Association (AEA), Canadian Economic Association (CEA)

## Skills

**Mathematical and Statistical Skills:**

Advanced Mathematics (Real Analysis, Linear Algebra, Numeric methods, etc.)  
Dynamic Programming  
Machine Learning

**Computer Skills:**

Technical Software: R, Stata, Eviews, Dynare, PcGive, SPSS  
Mathematical Software: MATLAB, Octave, GAMS, Mathematica, Maple  
Computer Programming: Fortran, C/ C++, Visual Basic, ASP  
General Software: LATEX, MS Office

**Languages:**

English (fluent), Farsi (native), Arabic (intermediate)

## References

Available upon request

Curriculum Vitae Updated  
August 2018.