SHEIKH ATIYA ISLAM

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Education

Pennsylvania State University Ph.D. in Economics — Expected 2027
Primary fields: Industrial Organization, Health Economics
Dissertation Committee: **Conor Ryan (Main Adviser)**, Joris Pinkse, Mark Roberts

University of Dhaka M.S.S. in Economics — 2019
GPA: 3.91/4.00

University of Dhaka B.S.S. in Economics — 2018
GPA: 3.99/4.00

Research Fields

Primary Fields: Industrial Organization, Health Economics
Secondary Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Environmental & Energy Economics

Job Market Paper

"Physicians' Location Choice and Access to Healthcare: Case of *Dobbs* 2022" *Job Market Paper*

This paper studies how local legal and regulatory environments affect physicians' geographic practice choices. I construct a novel state-year panel of major and minor abortion restrictions and link it to longitudinal physician practice-location microdata. Reduced-form evidence shows that a one-standard-deviation increase in legal permissiveness is associated with 0.089 more annual OB/GYN arrivals per 100,000 residents relative to general surgery, a magnitude benchmark equal to about 26 percent of the 2017–2021 mean annual OB/GYN arrival rate. I then estimate a county-level discrete-choice model with persistent heterogeneity in incumbent-location attachment; a one-standard-deviation increase in permissiveness is associated with about 6.3 percent higher relative odds of choosing a county as a destination, while incumbent physicians are more persistent in restrictive environments. Counterfactuals imply that, absent measured net tightening since 2015, about 427 OB/GYN physician-equivalents would have been geographically reallocated across counties by 2024, with a modest shift toward counties with lower baseline OB/GYN availability.

Research in Progress

"Role of Information on Physicians' Prescription Choice: Evidence from FDA Accelerated Approval" — 2022–Present

This project studies physician product choice under evolving clinical information generated by the FDA Accelerated Approval program. I examine how prescribing responds as post-approval evidence changes and how updating varies with physician experience, prior prescribing histories, and market environments, with the goal of distinguishing persistent product preferences from information frictions.

"Energy Transition in the Context of the First Market-Based Cap-and-Trade Program in the U.S." *(with Emily Pakhtigian)* — 2025–Present

This project studies plant-level adjustment to carbon pricing under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative using EIA plant and generation data. We examine effects on plant operation, electricity generation, fuel use, and exit, including heterogeneity across regulated and deregulated electricity markets.

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Emily Pakhtigian, Penn State School of Public Policy May–July 2025
Constructed and analyzed plant-level datasets from EIA 860, EIA 923, eGRID, and electricity-market sources; conducted empirical analysis and contributed tables, figures, and counterfactual exercises to the RGGI working paper.

Research Assistant to Conor Ryan, Penn State Department of Economics May–July 2023
Cleaned and analyzed NHIS and Open Payments data; developed reproducible R workflows and conducted empirical analysis for research on healthcare and pharmaceutical markets.

Research Consultant, East West University, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2020–2021
Contract research on a tobacco project involving survey design, data validation, meta-analysis, and preparation of the final project report.

Selected Presentations

Pennsylvania State University, *Job Market Practice Talks and Workshops* 2024–2026
"Physicians' Location Choice and Access to Healthcare: Case of *Dobbs* 2022"

EEEPI Seminar Series, Pennsylvania State University February 2026
"Energy Transition in the Context of the First Market-Based Cap-and-Trade Program in the U.S."

Pennsylvania State University, Workshop Presentation 2023
"Role of Information on Physicians' Prescription Choice: Evidence from FDA Accelerated Approval"

16th Asian Business Research Conference, Dhaka 2019
"Tourism and SDGs in Bangladesh"

YSI Asia Convening, Hanoi 2019
"The Impact of Foreign Remittances on Income Inequality: Bangladesh Case"

Teaching Experience

Pennsylvania State University, Instructor of Record Summer 2026; Summer 2024
ECON 306: Introduction to Econometrics, Summer 2026, 39 students, remote asynchronous
ECON 104: Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy, Summer 2024, 57 students, remote asynchronous

Pennsylvania State University, Teaching Assistant
ECON 501: Econometrics; ECON 445: Health Economics; ECON 425: Economics of Public Expenditures; ECON 422: Applying Monetary Theory and Monetary History; ECON 304: Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis;
ECON 104: Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy; ECON 102: Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy

Academic Service & Mentoring

Graduate Assistant, Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring 2026–27
Pennsylvania State University
Advise undergraduates on research opportunities, faculty outreach, competitive fellowship applications, and research-readiness programming; organize outreach and networking programs connecting students with faculty researchers.

Fellowships & Awards

Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies	2026
Dean's List	2018
Prime Minister's Gold Medal, University of Dhaka	2018
Professor Dr. Nasrin Khondoker Memorial Gold Medal, University of Dhaka Highest CGPA in the College of Social Sciences	2018

Computing & Languages

Computing: R, Julia, Stata, Python, LaTeX, Excel, Git/GitHub
Languages: Bangla (native), English (fluent), French (B1)
Citizenship: Bangladesh

References

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