

# Sourav Das

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## Employment

- 04/22-present: Research Associate  
Public Economics Unit  
University of Kassel, Germany
- 08/22-present: Lecturer  
Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- 04/23-09/23: Program Manager, Master's in Economic Behaviour & Governance,  
University of Kassel, Germany
- 09/21-02/22: Research Assistant  
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn, Germany

## Education

- 04/22-present: Ph.D. researcher  
Public Economics Unit  
University of Kassel, Germany
- 09/24-11/24: **Visiting Ph.D. Scholar**  
**Harvard University, Boston, USA**
- 03/25-04/25: **Visiting Ph.D. Scholar**  
**Tel Aviv University, Israel**
- 04/19-12/21: M.S. in Economic Behaviour & Governance  
University of Kassel, Germany
- 01/14-06/18: B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics  
Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh

## Research Interests

Public Economics, Behavioral Economics, Mental Health, Development Economics, Machine learning

## Work in Progress

- “Analyzing behavioral patterns in an online peer-to-peer mental health support platform” with **John Naslund** (from **Harvard Medical School**).
- “Enhancing mental health through positive psychology interventions in social media feeds: A field experiment”
- “Cumulative effect of IMC on local policy choices - evidence from four German states” with **Ivo Bischoff** (working on data).
- “Political propaganda cycle” with **Konstantinos Theocharopoulos**, **Patrick Hufschmidt**, **Hamidur Rahman**.

## Papers Published/ Submitted to Journals

- [“Does inter-municipal cooperation reduce the intensity of tax competition? Evidence on inter-local industrial parks in Germany”](#) with **Ivo Bischoff**, **Reinhold Kosfeld** (Revise & Resubmit, *European Journal of Political Economy*).

- [“Political budget cycles and alignment in federal systems: the case of India”](#) with **Konstantinos Theocharopoulos, Patrick Hufschmidt** (Revise & Resubmit, *European Journal of Political Economy*).
- [“Institutional change and politically motivated discretionary transfers: evidence from India”](#) (under review, *Economics & Politics*).

## Teaching Experience

- University of Kassel
  - Public Economics (lecture+tutorial), Winter 2022/23, Winter 2023/24
  - Behavioural Economics meets Public Sector (with Prof. Dr. Ivo Bischoff), Winter 2023/24
  - Contemporary Issues in Public Economics, Summer 2025
- Fulda University of Applied Sciences
  - Introduction to Economics & Research (lecture+tutorial), Winter 2022/23, Summer 2023, Winter 2023/24, Summer 2024

## Other Training

MAKGS-course for Ph.D. students: Spatial Econometrics, Applied econometric analysis of stated choice data, Behavioral Economics, Python Programming and Machine Learning for Economic Research, Text as Data in Economics. **Courses participated at Harvard: Foundations of Global Mental Health** by **Vikram Patel & Giuseppe Raviola**.

## Research Visits

- 09/2022: University of Barcelona, Spain (Topic-New challenges in the delivery of local public services. Pressures from aging and climate change).
- 02/2023: Poznan University of Economics and Business, Poland (Topic-Social media and its role in local government: A Polish-German comparison).
- 09/2023: Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany (2nd Workshop on Field Experiments in Economics and Business). Keynote speakers: **Susan Dynarski (Harvard) & Frank Schillbach (MIT)**

## Conference Presentation

- 03/2023: European Public Choice Society, Hannover, Germany. (Title- Does inter-municipal cooperation reduce the intensity of tax competition? Evidence on inter-local industrial parks in Germany)
- 07/2023: Silvaplan Political Economy, Pontresina, Switzerland. (Title- Effect of institutional change on opportunistic behavior of incumbent parties: evidence from India)
- 02/2024: RGS Doctoral Conference, Essen, Germany. (Title- Political budget cycles and alignment in federal systems: the case of India)

## Invited Talk

- 01/2024: University of Siegen, Siegen, Germany. (Title- Political Budget Cycles in Federal Systems: The Case of India)

## Other Activities

- 08/2023-present: Associate, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University, Australia.

## Languages

English (fluent), German (advanced), Bangla (Native), Hindi (Basic)

## Citizenship

Bangladesh (Permanent resident in Germany; citizenship expected in April 2025)

## **Soft. Skills**

Stata (advanced), R (intermediate), Python (advanced), Latex (advanced)

## **Referees**

Dr. John A. Naslund  
Co-director  
Mental Health for All Lab  
**Harvard Medical School**  
Email: [John\\_Naslund@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:John_Naslund@hms.harvard.edu)

Prof. Dr. Ivo Bischoff  
Head of Public Economics unit  
**University of Kassel, Germany**  
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Prof. Dr. Arye L. Hillman  
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Prof. Dr. Carsten Hefeker  
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