

## **BASIT ZAFAR**

Microeconomic and Regional Studies Function  
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### **CURRENT POSITION**

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Economist, Microeconomic and Regional Studies, Research and Statistics Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

### **FIELDS OF INTEREST**

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Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Experimental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

### **EDUCATION**

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Ph.D., Economics

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (2008)  
Dissertation: Decision-making under Uncertainty and Social Interactions  
Committee Chairperson: Professor Charles Manski

M.A., Economics

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (2004)

B.Sc. (Honors), Electrical Engineering and Economics

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California (2003)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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2006-2007	Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University
2003- 2004	Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University
2003	Richard Noland Leadership Award, Caltech
2002-2003	Upperclass Merit Award, Caltech
2001-2002	Merit Award, Caltech

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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“How do College Students Form Expectations”. *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2011, pp. 301-348.

“Can Subjective Expectations Data be used in Choice Models? Evidence on Cognitive Biases”. *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, Vol. 26, Issue 3, 2011, pp 520-544.

“An Experimental Investigation of Why Individuals Conform”. *European Economic Review*, Vol. 55, Issue 6, August 2011, pp. 774-798.

“Double Majors: One for Me, One for Mom and Dad?” *Economic Inquiry*, forthcoming.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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“College Major Choice and the Gender Gap”. *Revise and Resubmit*

“Stereotypes and Madrassas: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan” (with Adeline Delavande). *submitted*

“Determinants of College Major Choice: Identification using an Information Experiment” (with Matthew Wiswall).

“Belief Updating among College Students: Evidence from Experimental Variation in Information” (with Matthew Wiswall).

“Bayesian Social Learning, Conformity and Stubbornness: Evidence from the AP Top 25” (with Daniel Stone).

“Inflation Expectations and Behavior: Do Survey Respondents Act on their Beliefs?” (with Olivier Armantier, Giorgio Topa and Wilbert van der Klaauw).

“Household Debt and Saving During the Great Recession” (with Rajashri Chakrabarti, Donghoon Lee and Wilbert van der Klaauw).

“Heterogeneous Inflation Expectations, Learning, and Market Outcomes” (with Carlos Madeira).

“The Price is Right: Updating of Inflation Expectations in a Randomized Price Information Experiment” (with Olivier Armantier, Scott Nelson, Giorgio Topa and Wilbert van der Klaauw).

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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“Gender Discrimination and Social Identity: Experimental evidence from Urban Pakistan” (with Adeline Delavande).

“Understanding Anti-Americanism among Pakistani Youth: Evidence Using Experimental Variation in Information” (with Adeline Delavande).

“Religious seminaries or Western-style University? College Choice and Subjective Expectations in Urban Pakistan” (with Adeline Delavande).

“Investments in Education and the Rise in Household Income Inequality” (with Lasse Eika and Magne Mogstad).

“Do Female Faculty Influence Female Students’ Choices of Undergraduate Major?” (with Yi Qian).

## **SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2012 Annual meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (scheduled); Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings (scheduled); Ohio State University (scheduled).
- 2011 Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture Tenth Annual Conference; Bocconi University; Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting; Hunter College; IZA Workshop on Discrimination and Ethnicity; NY Fed Brown Bag; NYU Experimental Working Group; Rutgers University; Seventh International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Economics.
- 2010 American Economic Association Annual Meeting; Rochester University; Society of Labor Economists; Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics; North American Experimental Science Association; CIBC Centre Workshop on Post-Secondary Education Decisions and Policies.
- 2009 CIPREE Workshop on Subjective Beliefs in Econometric Models; Dubai School of Government; Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting; Duke University; Midwest Economic Association; Society of Labor Economists.
- 2008 Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Federal Reserve System Applied Microeconomics Conference; Kennedy School of Government (DSG Initiative); Midwest Economic Association; NBER Higher Education Working Group; North American Experimental Science Association, Northwestern University; University of Connecticut

## **REFEREE**

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American Economic Journal: Applied; Berkeley Electronic Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Current Issues in Economics and Finance; Economic Inquiry; Economics of Education Review; Economic Policy Review; Journal of Applied Econometrics; Journal of Econometrics; Journal of Human Capital; Journal of Labor Economics; Review of Economic Studies; Quarterly Journal of Economics.

## **REFERENCES**

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Professor Charles Manski: Department of Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208.  
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Professor Christopher Taber: Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.  
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