

Dr Dipanwita Sarkar



Dr Dipa Sarkar is an applied econometrician whose research focus is in the areas of behavioural and labour economics. She obtained her PhD in Economics from Southern Methodist University in Texas and was awarded the Dean's Fellowship for Outstanding Doctoral thesis.

She is a Senior Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology, and has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the US and Australia. Dipa applies empirical models to enable causal interpretation of program effects using large datasets, with primary focus on education and health outcomes of children and young adults. She has worked with several government departments in Australia to create a large longitudinal database on criminal behaviour and educational outcomes during school years to study the impact of compulsory schooling law on crime.

Currently, she is conducting laboratory and field experiments to understand behaviour and decision-making. She has worked on large field surveys in Australia to study the role relative age among peers in classrooms in determining attitudes towards competition and self-confidence. Her recent work in India involves conducting large scale field experiments in northeast India to evaluate the long-term impact of violent conflict during childhood on attitudes and economic preferences in adulthood; and understand implicit preferences for caste-based discrimination. She is a frequent contributor to media and has published commentaries in ABC news, Courier Mail, APN media, among others.