

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Title: “Effects of Communication and Group Selection on Risk and Ambiguity Attitudes: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh”

Speaker: **Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Date: December 31st, 2020. 1:00pm -2:00pm



Profile of the speaker:

Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Toronto, Canada, and completed his MA in Economics from York University, Canada. He completed his BBA with a major in Finance and minor in Economics from North South University, Bangladesh, and received the Chancellor’s gold medal from the President of Bangladesh for being the valedictorian of the class of 2004. Dr. Priyo’s research interest includes Macroeconomics, Bank Finance, Corporate Finance, Economic Growth, Development Economics, ICT4D, Behavioral Economics, and Experimental Economics.

Abstract:

In this paper, we conduct lab-in-field experiments using a sample of 206 farmers in Jashore district of Bangladesh and perform four main tasks related to measuring the farmers’ attitudes toward risk and ambiguity in both gain and loss domains: (i) measure the effect of communication on risk and ambiguity attitudes, (ii) investigate the effect of group selection on risk and ambiguity attitudes, (iii) investigate the seasonal variation in the above two cases, and (iv) the gender disparity in the measured attitudes in different environments. Our experiments yield a variety of interesting results including the following: First, farmers exhibit higher risk and ambiguity aversions when they make choices in groups compared to when they choose alone. Second, farmers are less risk averse but more ambiguity averse when group members are self-selected relative to when they are randomly assigned. Third, farmers in our sample are substantially more risk averse during the pre-harvest season compared to the post-harvest season. Finally, women tend to be more risk and ambiguity averse than men as male farmers tend to make more extreme choices than females in all cases.

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