

SONAN MEMON

PIDE, QAU Campus, P.O.Box 1091, Islamabad 44000, Pakistan

+923332764571 • smemon@pide.org.pk • sonanmemon

EMPLOYMENT

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad
Research Fellow 2021–Current

Department of Economics, IBA Karachi
Lecturer 2020–2021

EDUCATION

Somerville College, University of Oxford, UK
MPhil Economics 2018–2020
Thesis Title: *Rational Herds and Endogenous Fluctuations in Consumer Sentiment*

Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan
Bachelor of Science (Honors) 2014–2018
Major: Economics and Mathematics, CGPA = 3.92/4.0, Economics CGPA = 4.0/4.0

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Excellence in Teaching at IBA Karachi.
- Awarded the fully funded Oxford-Sir Anwar Pervez Graduate Scholarship (awarded to two Pakistani graduates) from Oxford University for MPhil Economics Program (2018-2020).
- Represented Pakistan in 14th South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM 2018) for budding economist competition.
- Awarded merit scholarship in 2017-2018, due to 2nd position in Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences by LUMS.
- Awarded Pakistan level distinction in A level Economics and Urdu, along with joint second position in Karachi, across three A level subjects for 2014 exams.

GRE Results

GRE General: 336/340. Verbal: 98th Percentile. Quantitative: 94th Percentile. Analytical: 93rd Percentile.

KEY GRADUATE COURSES AT OXFORD

- Heterogeneous Agent Models in Economics (Professor Jesús Fernández-Villaverde).
- Advanced Macroeconomics (2 courses): Solution and Estimation of DSGE Models, Rational Inattention, Learning, Robust Control, Bayesian VAR's and Applied Monetary Policy.
- Advanced Econometrics (1 course): Machine Learning, High Dimensional Data and Outlier Detection.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Monetary Policy: monetary policy for cryptocurrencies, effects of central bank independence and inflation targeting on price stability and impact of inflation/growth volatility on income inequality.
- Business Cycle Theory: modeling of consumer sentiments in social learning and New Keynesian models to understand their role in driving business cycles.
- Search and Matching Markets: modeling of Airbnb and marriage markets.

Research Assistance

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK **Empirical Macro**
As Research Assistant for Dr. Irfan Qureshi 2017-2022

- 2017-2018: Worked as RA on estimation of elasticity of intertemporal substitution (EIS) through survey data.
- 2018: Worked as RA on estimation of structural vector autoregression models (SVAR's) for studying monetary policy and exchange rate shocks.
- 2022: Worked as RA on relationship between Political Business Cycles and Inflation/Growth using a novel quarterly data.

Research Work

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK

MPhil Thesis, Supervisor: Professor Michael McMahon

2019-2020

- I wrote a theoretical thesis, building a social learning model in general equilibrium, in which *endogenous* and *asymmetric* business cycles can emerge due to *endogenous* fluctuations in consumer sentiment.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Undergraduate Senior Project, Supervisor: Dr. Irfan Qureshi

2017-2018

- Worked on paper titled "Central Bank Independence and Inflation Volatility" to examine relation between governor turnover rate and inflation volatility.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Memon, S, Qureshi, IA. Income inequality and macroeconomic instability. Rev Dev Econ. 2020; 00: 1– 32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12730>

Memon, S. Machine Learning for Economists: An Introduction. Commentary, The Pakistan Development Review. 2021; Vol.60, No. 2. 201-211. <https://doi.org/10.30541/v60i2pp.201-211>

Current Working Papers

Jointly Endogenous Sentiments and Business Cycles

Cryptocurrencies: Review of Economics and Policy

Airbnb: A Two Sided Matching Market in Housing

Research Tools

- Programming Tools (Advanced Expertise): Julia, L^AT_EX, R, Stata
- Programming Tools (Intermediate Expertise): Dynare, MATLAB, Github
- Empirical Macro Tools: Cross-Country Panel Data Regressions, Various Vector Autoregression Models and Machine Learning (LASSO, Neural Networks and Bandit Problems)

Teaching (2020-2021)

For IBA Karachi: Intermediate Macroeconomics and Machine Learning <https://github.com/sonanmemon>

References

Dr. Irfan Qureshi
Macroeconomist
Asian Development Bank (ADB), Philippines
iqureshi@adb.org

Dr. Nadeem Haque
Vice Chancellor
PIDE, Islamabad
nhaque.imf@gmail.com

Dr. Michael McMahon
Professor
Department of Economics, Oxford University
michael.mcmahon@economics.ox.ac.uk

Dr. SM Hasan
Associate Professor
LUMS, Lahore
smhasan@lums.edu.pk