

KOTWAL, Ashok Yeshwant

Department of Economics
The University of British Columbia
#997-1873 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
Canada

Office: (604) 822-3091
Fax: (604) 822-5915
ashokk@mail.ubc.ca
kotwal.ashok@gmail.com

Education

1966	B.Tech	Elect Engr, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
1970	M.S.	Elect Engr, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
1982	Ph.D.	Economics, Boston University

Employment

1966-68	IBM, Mumbai. (Customer Engineer)
1970-74	Graphic Systems Inc., Lowell, Mass. (Systems Engineer)
1974-75	Digital Image, Hudson, NH (Systems Engineer)
1980-81	Tufts University, Medford, Mass. Lecturer (Economics)

Rank/Title (UBC)

Assistant Professor, July 1981 – July 1986
Associate Professor, July 1986 – 1993
Professor, July 1993 –
Head, July 1995 – 2000.
Director, Centre for India and South Asia Research, Institute of Asian Research,
UBC, 2003-2008.

Teaching Interests: Development Economics, International Trade, Understanding Globalization.

Major Research Areas

Analysis of organizational structures in LDCs, Labour and credit markets in LDCs, Interaction between agriculture and industry, Economic reforms in India and their impact on poverty, Political Economy of developmental policy-making, Social capital and rural economy, Efficiency of government delivery systems, Delivery of food subsidy in India, Determinants of educational quality.

Present Research Projects

Food Security in India: The goal is to study various aspects of food insecurity faced by the poor in India including the delivery system of food subsidy and the policy toward new agricultural technology. Co-investigators: Bharat Ramaswami (Indian Statistical Institute) and Milind Murugkar (Pragati Abhiyan). This project is funded by a SSHRC-MCRI grant (\$2.5Million) on “Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Program: Understanding Integrated Compliance with International Trade and Human Rights Standards in Comparative Perspective” – for a 5 country study and I am the leader of India team. Several op-ed pieces and a journal article have already come out and a draft of one major paper is being revised. (2009-16).

The Impact of UID on Corruption: The goal is to test through a pilot survey if the unique identification scheme being rolled out in India makes an impact on local corruption in rural

areas. Co-investigators: Siwan Anderson (UBC), Ashwini Kulkarni (Pragati Abhiyan) and Bharat Ramaswami (Indian Statistical Institute). The project is funded by an IDRC grant (\$228,000) (2012-15) and IGC grant of (\$50,000).

Determinants of Educational Quality in Rural India: The goal is to explore ASER data for the key determinants of educational quality in primary schools. Co-investigators: Bharat Ramaswami (Indian Statistical Institute) and Wilima Wadhwa (Indian Statistical Institute).

Significant Administrative Tasks

- (1) Head of the Department of Economics, 1995-2000.
- (2) Member-Executive Committee of Heads to advise the Dean of Arts 1995-96.
- (3) Member-Committee to draft the mission statement for the Faculty of Arts, 1997-98.
- (4) Member-University tuition policy committee, 1998-99.
- (5) Member-Dean's Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2001-02.
- (6) Chair, Distinguished University Scholar Review Panel, 2002.
- (7) Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Economics, 2003.
- (8) Director, Centre for India and South Asia Research, Institute of Asian Research, UBC, 2003- Present.
- (9) Member of the External Review Committee for the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, UBC, 2007.
- (10) Associate Editor – Pacific Affairs. 2005-08.
- (11) Member of the International Advisory Council (Chaired by John Hepburn (Vice President, Research). 2010-11.
- (12) Member of the Advisory Council on India Strategy (Chaired by John Hepburn (Vice President, Research). 2010-2012.
- (13) Member of Adjudication Committee for Hampton Research Grants, UBC, 2012.
- (14) Member of Dean's Search Committee for the Chair in India Studies in IAR, 2013.
- (15) Director, Bachelor of International Economics, Vancouver School of Economics, 2013.

Publications

Book

Why Poverty Persists in India, (with M. Eswaran), Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 1994. This book was translated into Japanese in 1999.

Journal Articles

“The Moral Hazard of Budget-Breaking”, (with M. Eswaran), The Rand Journal of Economics, Winter 1984, 578-581.

“A Theory of Two-Tiered Labour Markets in Agrarian Economies”, (with M. Eswaran), American Economic Review, March 1985, 162-177.

“A Theory of Contractual Structure in Agriculture”, (with M. Eswaran), American Economic Review, June 1985, 352-367.

"The Role of Consumption Credit in Agricultural Tenancy", Journal of Development Economics, December 1985, 273-296.

"Access to Capital and Agrarian Production Organization", (with M. Eswaran), Economic Journal, June 1986, 482-498.

"Why Are Capitalists The Bosses?", (with M. Eswaran), Economic Journal, March 1989, 162-176.

"Credit As Insurance in Agrarian Economies", (with M. Eswaran), Journal of Development Economics, July 1989, 37-53.

"Implications of Credit Constraints for Risk Behaviour in Less Developed Economies", (with M. Eswaran), Oxford Economic Papers, April 1990, 473-482.

"Export Led Development: Primary vs. Industrial Exports", (with M. Eswaran), Journal of Development Economics, July 1993, 163-172.

"A Theory of Real Wage Growth in LDC's", (with M. Eswaran), Journal of Development Economics, December 1993, 243-269.

"Demand Externality as an Impediment to Productivity in LDCs", (with M. Eswaran), Journal of International Trade and Development, March 1996, 1-22.

"Product Quality and the Theory of Comparative Advantage", (with B. Copeland), European Economic Review, (40) 1996, 1745-1760.

"Quality-Biased Technical Progress and North-South Trade" (with B. Copeland), Journal of International Trade and Development, 6, March 1997, 1-14.

"The Political Economy of Underinvestment in LDCs", (with J.M. Baland), Journal of Development Economics, (55), 1998, 233-247.

"Economic Reforms of Agriculture and Rural Growth" (with B. Ramswami), Journal of Policy Reform, (2), 1998, 369-402.

"Agriculture, Innovational Ability, and Dynamic Comparative Advantage of LDCs", (with M.Eswaran), Journal of International Trade and Development, 10:3, March 2001, 275-289.

"Globalization -- Then and Now", Review of Income and Wealth, 47, 4, December 2001.

"The Role of Service Sector in the Process of Industrialization", (with M.Eswaran), Journal of Development Economics, (68), 2002, 401-420.

"A Theory of Gender Differences in Altruism", (with M. Eswaran), Canadian Journal of Economics, Vol.37, no. 4, November 2004, 918-950. (Won the prize for the best paper published in Canadian Economic Journal in 2004).

"Quality Enhancing Trade Liberalization", (with M. Eswaran), the Journal of Development Economics., Vol. 83, No. 2, July 2007, 549-561.

“Sectoral Labour Flows and Agricultural Wages in India -- 1983-2004: Has Growth Trickled Down?” (with M. Eswaran, B. Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa), Economic and Political Weekly , Vol. 44, No. 1, Jan 2009. (Special Article)

“PDS Forever?” (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) invited as a contribution to a symposium on the means of delivering food subsidy in India in the Economic and Political Weekly, May 2011.

“Economic Liberalization and Indian Economic Growth: What’s the Evidence?” (with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) in the Journal of Economic Literature, Vol. 49(4):1152-1199, December 2011.

“The Political Economy of Food Subsidy in India”, (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami), The Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 30, #2, 2012.

Book Chapters

“Credit and Agrarian Class Structure”, (with M. Eswaran), in The Theory of Agrarian Institutions, edited by Pranab K. Bardhan, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1989, 166-184.

“Why Is Poverty in India Impervious to Industrial Progress?”, (with M. Eswaran), in Development Policy and Economic Theory, edited by Kaushik Basu and Pulin Nayak, Oxford University Press, Dehli, 1992, 40-63.

“Industrial Policy in South Korea and Taiwan: Some Causes of Success”, (with M. Eswaran), in The Economics of Cooperation: East Asian Development and the Case of Pro-Market Intervention, edited by J.A. Roumassett and S. Barr, Westview Press, Boulder, 1992, 145-156.

“A Theory of Contractual Structure in Agriculture”, (with M. Eswaran), Reprinted in A Reader in Development, ed, by Dilip Mookherjee and Debraj Ray, Blackwell, 2000.

“Access to Capital and Agrarian Production Organization”, (with M. Eswaran), Reprinted in A Reader in Development, ed, by Dilip Mookherjee and Debraj Ray, Blackwell, 2000.

“The Role of Agriculture in the Process of Development”, (with M. Eswaran) in Understanding Poverty, ed., Roland Benabou, Abhijit Banerjee and Dilip Mookherjee, Blackwell, 2006.

“Outsourcing” (with Milind Kandlikar), Oxford Companion on Indian Economy, Edited by Kaushik Basu, Oxford University Press, 2007.

“Employment and Poverty”, Oxford Companion on Indian Economy, Edited by Kaushik Basu, Oxford University Press, 2007.

“Factor Market Imperfections in Poor Agrarian Economies”, (with Parikshit Ghosh), in the International Handbook of Development Economics, edited by Jaime Ros, Routledge, 2009.

“Growth and Poverty: Experiences of India and Mexico” (with Bharat Ramaswami) Working Paper, Inter American Development Bank, 2009.

“Future Directions of Indian Economy”, the Oxford University Handbook of Indian Economy edited by Chetan Ghate, February 2012.

“Delivering Food Subsidy: State vs Market” (with Bharat Ramaswami) the Oxford Handbook of Food Economy, edited by Ronald Herring, forthcoming.

Op-Ed Pieces

“Don’t Water Down Food Security” (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) in Indian Express, January 19, 2011.

“This is Not a Pipeline”, (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) in Hindustan Times, February 17, 2011.

“For Rich or For Poor”, (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) in Hindustan Times, November 11, 2011.

“Food Security Bill Must Delegate Complete Freedom on Subsidy Targeting to States”, (with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) in Economic Times, December 13, 2011.

“It Simply Can’t Fail”, (with Abhijit Banerjee, Pranab Bardhan, Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami), in Hindustan Times, February 29, 2012.

“Why is Poverty Declining so slowly in India?” (with Arka Roy Chaudhuri), in Ideas for India reprinted in Mint, February 25, 2013.

Working Papers

“One Kind of Democracy” (with Siwan Anderson and Patrick Francois), Working Paper. (Presented at BREAD Conference held on May 6th and 7th, 2011 at New York University, NYC and given as a plenary lecture at the Development Conference on December 17th, 2011 at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi).

“Clientism in Indian Villages” (with Siwan Anderson and Patrick Francois), Working Paper. 2013.

“Why is Poverty Declining so slowly in India?” (with Arka Roy Chaudhuri), for inclusion in a conference volume (IGIDR anniversary conference), March 2013.

Research Grants

1986-87 SSHRC (\$12,300 per year) for Access to Credit in Agrarian Production.

1990-93 SSHRC (\$9330 per year) for Food Price Policy

1992-93 Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector, for Political economy. (\$12,000 (U.S.) per year)

1995-95 Shastri (Rs. 48,000) for Liberalization and the Poor (I was awarded but I had to decline).

1997-00 SSHRC (\$14,000 per year) for Agricultural Sector Reform and Rural Growth.

1998-00 Hampton (\$9,000 per year) for Economics of an NGO. (with Vinay Gidwani)

1986-06 UBC-Humanities and Social Sciences Grant (About \$1600 per year)

2003-05 SHARPE (CIDA – SHASTRI) project grant for The Impact of Economic Reforms on Employment and Poverty (\$71,000). (with Mukesh Eswaran, Bharat Ramswami, and Wilima Wadhwa)

- 2006-09 SSHRC (\$40,000 per year) for Social Capital and Institutional Performance (with Siwan Anderson (Principal Investigator) and Patrick Francois).
- 2008-09 Indo-Canadian Shastri Institute Grant (\$6000) for “The Dynamics of Poverty Decline”.
- 2008-09 Inter American Development Bank (\$10000) (with Bharat Ramswami) “Growth and Poverty: Experiences of India and Mexico”.
- 2009-16 SSHRC-MCRI grant (\$2.5Million) (Pitman Potter as the PI) “Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Program: Understanding Integrated Compliance with International Trade and Human Rights Standards in Comparative Perspective” – for a 5 country study and I am the leader of India team.
- 2012-15 IDRC grant (\$228,000) (with Siwan Anderson, Ashwini Kulkarni, Bharat Ramaswami). “The Impact of UID on Local Corruption”.
- 2012-13 IGC grant (30,000 UK Pounds) (with Siwan Anderson, Ashwini Kulkarni, Bharat Ramaswami). “The Impact of UID on Local Corruption”.

Editorial Boards

- 2005-08 Pacific Affairs (Associate Editor)
- 2008- Journal of Market Integration
- 2012- ‘Ideas for India’, Editor-in-Chief

Invited Lectures (2008-11)

Distinguished Speaker at the University of California, Riverside on May 7, 2008 “How Does Poverty Decline?” (joint paper with Mukesh Eswaran, Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa).

“Liberalization, Growth and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) at CityU-CUHK Joint Symposium on Institutions, Finance and Economic Development, May 24-25, 2009.

“Liberalization, Growth and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) presented at the conference on “The End of the Peasant? Global Capitalism and the Future of Agrarian Society” in Peter Wall Institute Summer Institute, UBC, June 23 to 27, 2008.

“Liberalization, Growth and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) at the Development Conference in the University of Melbourne on June 4, 2009.

“Liberalization, Growth and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) at the University of Adelaide on June 9, 2009.

“Liberalization, Growth and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) at the University of Auckland on July 17, 2009.

“Economic Reforms in India and Poverty Decline” (joint paper with Bharat Ramaswami and Wilima Wadhwa) at Claremont-Mckenna College) on April 2010.

“Food Security in India” (joint with Bharat Ramaswami) at AAS Conference in Honolulu, April 1, 2011.

“The Political Economy of Food Subsidy in India”, (joint with Milind Murugkar and Bharat Ramaswami) at a conference on Public Sector Reforms in India and China at Copenhagen Business School, September 24, 2011.

“One Kind of Democracy” (joint with Siwan Anderson and Patrick Francois), Plenary Lecture at the Development Conference at Indian Statistical Institute, December 17, 2011.

“Why is Poverty Declining so Slowly in India?”, (joint with Arka Roy Chaudhuri), Plenary Lecture at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Anniversary Conference, December 1,2, 2012.

“Why is half the globe still so poor?” Public lecture organized by Foreign Affairs Council, University of California, Riverside, May 13, 2013.

Awards and Honors

Prize for the best paper published in 2004 in Canadian Journal of Economics.

Killam Arts Teaching Prize 2008.

Elected as Senior Fellow of BREAD (Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development), 2008.

Invited to be Associate of ThReD (Theoretical Research in Economic Development), 2011.