

# SUNEHA SEETAHUL

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24/06/1989 ◇ Nationality: Mauritian, French ◇ Australian Resident

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**Senior Research Fellow** - Gender Equality in Working Life Research Initiative (Department of Political Economy University of Sydney and University of Sydney Business School)  
**Development Economist Consultant** - World Bank Social Protection and Jobs

## Fields of expertise

Gender and Labor Economics, Development Economics, Climate Change, Health and Social Protection  
Econometrics, Machine-Learning, Qualitative methods

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in Economics, University of Bordeaux** *October 2013 - November 2018*

*Thesis Title:* Where does the stigma lie? Exploring the roles of gender, religion and caste in the Indian labor market.

*Thesis Advisor:* F. Combarrous

*Examination Committee:* B. Harriss-White (Emeritus Professor, Oxford University), P. Lanjouw (Professor, VU Amsterdam), C. Nordman (Research Fellow, French National Institute for Sustainable Development, DIAL, IZA), U. Rani (Senior Development Economist, ILO), T. Bernard (Professor, University of Bordeaux, IFPRI)

**MPhil Research in Applied Economics, University of Bordeaux** *2012-2013*

**Ma Development Practices, University Montesquieu Bordeaux IV** *2010-2012*

**Ba Economic and Social Management, University Montesquieu Bordeaux IV** *2007-2010*

## EXPERIENCE

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**Senior Research Fellow** *11/2023 - Currently*

*Australian Centre for Gender Equality @ Work, University of Sydney*

- Lead researcher for the development of the Gender Equality @ Work Index

**Economist (Consultant)** *June 2021- Currently*

*Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice (Sierra Leone SPJ) and Indonesia Country Office, World Bank*

- Research and analytical support on climate-responsive social protection
- Analysis of COVID-19 Impact Monitoring Survey (Sierra Leone) to conduct a quasi-experimental impact analysis of Emergency Cash transfer and draft research paper
- General economic and statistical analysis support for the Sierra Leone Social Protection and Jobs projects
- Analysis of World Bank COVID-19 High-Frequency Phone Survey to contribute to research brief and presentation on the labor market impacts of COVID-19 in Indonesia

**Research Fellow / Post-doctoral Research and Teaching Fellow** *07/2019-02/2021;  
01/2022-Currently*

*Gender Equality in Working Life Research Initiative, University of Sydney Business School and Department of Political Economy, University of Sydney/ Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University*

- Research activities include survey design, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, producing academic peer-reviewed articles and technical reports, presenting at conferences
- Grant Proposal Writing for National Australian Research Council Discovery Project on work and care

- Commissioned research for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs Investing in Women Initiative, in collaboration with UN Women: Impact Analysis of COVID-19 in Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia. Consulted on survey design and elaboration of country reports and a comparative analysis of online survey data
- Lecturer and coordinator of two courses centered around the critical analysis of economic development concepts and indicators as well as SDGs: Human Rights in Development (Bachelor Level); Human Rights and International Development (Master's Level). Proficiency in Canvas and supervision of two tutors
- Academic Lead for the Global Classroom 2020: Development Policy - collaborative unit of study on the SDGs with the University of Toronto. Conducted two guest lectures on Poverty and Gender Equality in Developing Economies
- Workshop Leader for the Interdisciplinary Impact Unit of Study
- Supervision of CAPSTONE Masters Dissertation

### **Economist (Africa Fellow 2021)**

January 2021 - June 2021

*Gender Group, World Bank*

- Research activities based on the analysis of microlevel baseline survey data from DESMIGRATIF (2018), using econometric and supervised machine-learning methods
- Drafting policy brief on migration and gender in Indonesia
- Drafting working paper: "Why do people move? A data-driven approach to identifying and predicting gender-specific aspirations to migrate in Indonesia" (in the review process for the World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series)
- Presentation of the paper in Africa Fellowship BBL (April 2021) and Office of the Chief Economist East Asia Pacific BBL (June 2021)
- Research proposal for Afrobarometer-World Bank grant (joint with Aisha Abubakar and Dief Nochi Faha): "Through Which Pathways Does Climate-Change Impact Gender Equality? Micro-Level Evidence from African Countries" (Project accepted)

### **PhD/Research and Teaching Assistant/Affiliated Researcher**

October 2013 - June 2019

*University of Bordeaux*

- Research activities include the analysis of the India Human Development Survey data, collecting and analyzing qualitative survey data, authoring and co-authoring research papers
- Fieldwork in Tamil Nadu (India) in collaboration with the French Institute of Pondichery, collaboration with the design of Survey on the perception of discrimination, conducting semi-directive interviews on labor market segmentation with informal workers
- Teaching assistant - Tutorials delivery and design, over 450 hours of teaching experience  
Bachelor level (Economics and Management): Microeconomics; Statistics; Computer Sciences  
Masters level (Applied Economics): Research Methodology in Economics; Data Management and Analysis using Stata
- Supervision of Masters Dissertations

### **Guest Lectures**

- *Social Policy for Development*. Global Development (Political Economy undergraduate unit), University of Sydney (October 2022)
- *Discrimination in developing labor markets*. Human Resource Management Masters, Artois University (December 2017)

### **Internships**

- SERNATUR Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism (Chile, 2012)
- Amnesty International (Mauritius, 2011)
- Permanent Delegation of Thailand to UNESCO (France, 2009)

**The role of gender inequality in the obesity epidemic: A case study from India** With V. Alvarez-Saavedra and P. Levasseur, forthcoming in Journal of Development Studies

**Violation des droits des femmes et malnutrition en Inde : vers de nouvelles formes d'inégalités? (2022)** With V. Alvarez-Saavedra, and P. Levasseur, Mondes en Développement 2022/1 Vol. 197

**Many Rivers to Cross: Social Identity, Cognition and Labour Mobility in Rural India (2021)** With S. Michiels and C.J.Nordman, Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science Vol. 697(1)

**Does inequality have a silver lining? Municipal income inequality and obesity in Mexico (2021)** With P. Levasseur, M. Clement and L. Piasser, Social Science and Medicine Vol. 272

**Is excess weight penalised or rewarded in middle-income countries' labour markets? Comparative evidence from China, India and Mexico (2020)** With P. Levasseur and M. Clement, Kyklos Vol. 73(2)

**Modèles de mélange fini (FMM) appliqués à la segmentation du marché du travail à Bogota (2016)** With T. Deguilhem, Bulletin of Sociological Methodology/Bulletin de Méthodologie Sociologique Vol. 132(1)

## WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS

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**Candle in the Wind?: Insights from COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfers to Informal Sector Workers in Sierra Leone (2023)** -With Samik Adhikari. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper

**Why Do People Move?: A Data-Driven Approach to Identifying and Predicting Gender-Specific Aspirations to Migrate (2023)** -With Daniel Halim. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper

**Gender dynamics in the post-pandemic future of work. High level data release for International Women's Day 2023 (2023)** - With Elizabeth Hill, Rae Cooper, Ariadne Vromen, Meraiah Foley

**Incorporating Climate Resilience in Economic Inclusion Programs: Global Examples and Lessons for Sierra Leone (2022)** - With Liz Giron. World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Working Document

**Public Works Programs and Climate Change: What can we learn from the literature and from existing programs? (2022)** - World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Working Document

**Disability Inclusion in Economic Inclusion and Public Works Program: Rapid Review of Selected Case Studies and Lessons for Sierra Leone. (2022)** - World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Working Document

**Many Rivers to Cross: Social Identity, Cognition and Labour Mobility in Rural India (2021)** - With S. Michiels and C.J.Nordman, IZA Discussion Paper No.14807

**The Philippines and COVID-19: Impact on the private sector (2020)** - With M. Baird and Elizabeth Hill. Investing in Women (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) report in collaboration with UN Women

**Indonesia and COVID-19: Impact on the private sector (2020)** - With M. Baird and Elizabeth Hill. Investing in Women (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) report in collaboration with UN Women

**Vietnam and COVID-19: Impact on the private sector (2020)** - With M. Baird and Elizabeth Hill. Investing in Women (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) report in collaboration with UN Women

**Myanmar and COVID-19: Impact on the private sector (2020)** - With M. Baird and Elizabeth Hill. Investing in Women (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) report in collaboration with UN Women

**COVID-19 and gender in the South-East Asian private sector (2020)** - With M. Baird and Elizabeth Hill. SSPS Review 11-2020

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Which flexibility working arrangements do Australian women want? Mixed-method evidence on evolving patterns and aspirations.** With E. Hill and R. Cooper

**COVID-19 and Industrial Relations Institutions: The impact on formal work and gender equality in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.** With M. Baird and E. Hill, R&R in Journal of Industrial Relations

**Through which Pathways are Perceptions of Climate Shocks Related to Gender Equality? Micro-Level Evidence from African Countries.** With A. Abubakar and D. Nochi Faha, Under Review for Afrobarometer Working Paper Series

**Why do people move? Using machine-learning to identify and predict gender-specific aspirations to migrate in Indonesia.** With D. Halim, Submitted to World Bank Policy Research Working Paper

**Subjective well-being at work and expectations of the future: migration and gender in the Australian workforce.** With E. Hill, Work in progress

**How did COVID-19 reshape work flexibility meanings, practice and aspirations? Insights from a qualitative analysis of Women of Western Sydney** With R. Cooper and E. Hill, Work in progress

**Wasted potential? Measuring the gender-specific consequences of women's labor market participation on child education.** Work in Progress

**Women as agents of change? Climate change and gender role attitudes in the African continent.** Work in Progress

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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**Understanding gender inequality in the post-pandemic future of work** 2022-2024  
*ARC Discovery Project*

- Lead economic investigator working under the supervision of CI Elizabeth Hill and CI Rae Cooper - participated in project draft and survey design; Amount: AUD 280,000

**Afrobarometer Research Initiative** 2021  
*Afrobarometer and World Bank Group*

- Project: "Gender and Climate in African Countries", lead researcher, joint with Aisha Abubakar and Dr. Dief Nochi Faha; Amount: USD 1,500

**World Bank Africa Fellowship** 2021  
*World Bank Group*

- Competitive fellowship with 1% success rate (2021) to conduct research/operational work for the World Bank from January to June 2021

## Australia-France Collaborative Research Program Grant

2021-2023

*Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia- INRAE- University of Sydney*

- Study of the socioeconomic dimensions and determinants of obesity in the Pacific Islands, Co-investigator with with Dr. Pierre Levasseur; Amount: AUD 5,000

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

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Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand 2024	<i>January 2024</i>
The Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2024	<i>February 2024</i>
Regulating for Decent Work - ILO	<i>July 2023</i>
The Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2023	<i>February 2023</i>
2022 Jobs and Development Conference - World Bank/IZA/UNU-WIDER	<i>December 2022</i>
The Australian Sociological Association Conference	<i>November 2022</i>
Building the recovery: creating decent working futures in Australia	<i>December 2022</i>
Afrobarometer-World Bank Authorship Workshop Program, remote	<i>November-December 2021</i>
World Bank Office of the Chief Economist East Asia Pacific BBL, World Bank (USA)	<i>June 2021</i>
World Bank Africa Fellowship BBL, World Bank (USA)	<i>April 2021</i>
Cognition and migration 2020 workshop, IRD (France) and University of Oxford (UK)	<i>December 2020</i>
Symposium international "Manger En Ville" 3ème édition (2020)	
Genre et alimentation à l'épreuve de la vie urbaine (France)	<i>October 2020</i>
The Australian Gender Economics Workshop	<i>February 2020</i>
Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand	
AIRAAANZ- 2020 Conference (New Zealand)	<i>February 2020</i>
The Australian Sociological Association Conference (Australia)	<i>November 2019</i>
Dial-GREThA Workshop, GREThA (France)	<i>June 2019</i>
GDRI International Development Economics Conference, CERDI (France)	<i>November 2018</i>
7ème Journées du Développement GREThA-IDEA, GREThA (France)	<i>June 2018</i>
Association Tiers-Monde Conference, Grenoble (France)	<i>May 2018</i>
Dial-GREThA Workshop, GREThA (France)	<i>June 2017</i>
Bordeaux Development Seminar, GREThA (France)	<i>January 2017</i>
Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes Workshop, French Institute of Pondichery (India)	<i>March 2016</i>
Association Tiers-Monde Conference, Lille (France)	<i>June 2016</i>
6th GREThA Conference, GREThA (France)	<i>June 2016</i>

## PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS

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Speaker at the UN Youth NSW State Conference 2020: "The politics of development: Measuring Development in the 21st Century", Sydney (Australia)	<i>March 2020</i>
Speaker on the topic of "Gender inequality during COVID-19" at the Social Sciences Week Online Event "We're all in this together"? Social inequality in Australia during COVID19", Sydney (Australia)	<i>September 2020</i>

## SUMMER SCHOOLS AND COURSES

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Data Visualisation in Python, ResBaz Sydney, University of New South Wales	<i>August 2019</i>
Database Design and Query, Institut de Santé Public, d'Epidémiologie et de Développement (ISPED), University of Bordeaux	<i>July 2018</i>
Econometrics of Cross-section Data with Applications and Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Analysis, Summer School Program, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics	<i>June 2017</i>

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

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**GREThA- University of Bordeaux - Organizing member for the Development Economics Seminar of Bordeaux** Main organizing member of a weekly Seminar during the first semester of 2016/2017

**Association des Jeunes Etudes Indiennes (AJEI) - Vice-President 2018 (France)** Responsibilities include organizing 2018 edition of the annual AJEI workshop at Maison des Sciences de l'Homme,

ENS Paris-Saclay “*Question(s) de Méthode : la pluralité méthodologique dans les sciences sociales de l’Asie du Sud*”

**University of Bordeaux - Elected Board Member** Electoral College of “PhD students and other Teaching Personnel” for the Law, Political Sciences, Economics and Management Board of Directors for academic years 2014-2015 to 2017-2018

**Accueil et Insertion des Migrants et des Exilés à l’Université de Bordeaux Volunteer** Conducted a weekly seminar to explain and facilitate the integration of migrant students in French higher education (October 2017-February 2018)

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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Languages: English (Bilingual, TOEFL Score 116/120); French (Mother Tongue); Spanish (Fluent); Hindi (spoken); Mauritian Creole (Mother Tongue)

Software and programming skills: Stata (advanced), R (intermediate), Python (beginner), NVivo, Microsoft Access, Tableau, LaTeX

Teaching tools: Canvas (intermediate), Moodle (intermediate), Padlet, Menti

## ACADEMIC REFERENCES

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**Prof. Tanguy Bernard** Head of Economics Department and Professor of Economics at the University of Bordeaux; Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute.

Email: [tanguy.bernard@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:tanguy.bernard@u-bordeaux.fr)

**Prof. François Combarrous** (PhD Advisor) Professor of Economics at the University of Bordeaux.

Email: [francois.combarrous@u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:francois.combarrous@u-bordeaux.fr)

**Prof. Christophe Jalil Nordman** Senior Research Fellow at the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD).

Email: [nordman@dial.prd.fr](mailto:nordman@dial.prd.fr)

**A/Prof. Elizabeth Hill** Associate Professor in the Department of Political Economy (University of Sydney). Deputy Director of the Gender Equality in Working Life (GEWL) Research Initiative, co-convenor of the Australian Work and Family Policy Roundtable and co-convenor of the Body@Work Project.

Email: [elizabeth.hill@sydney.edu.au](mailto:elizabeth.hill@sydney.edu.au)

**Prof. Rae Cooper** Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations (University of Sydney Business School); Director of the Gender Equality in Working Life (GEWL) Research Initiative.

Email: [rae.cooper@sydney.edu.au](mailto:rae.cooper@sydney.edu.au)

**Prof. Marian Baird** Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations (University of Sydney Business School); Presiding Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sydney; Director of the Women, Work and Leadership Research Group in the University of Sydney Business School.

Email: [marian.baird@sydney.edu.au](mailto:marian.baird@sydney.edu.au)

## WORLD BANK REFERENCES

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**Dr. Samik Adhikari** Senior Economist in the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice (World Bank Group)

Email: [sadhikari2@worldbank.org](mailto:sadhikari2@worldbank.org)

**Dr. Junko Onishi** Lead Social Protection Specialist (World Bank Group)

Email: [jonishi@worldbank.org](mailto:jonishi@worldbank.org)