Curriculum Vitae

Robin Dhakal

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Earn consistently high ratings as an Instructor of undergraduate economics courses.
- Have been receiving excellent reviews and accolades from students for over three years.
- Outstanding track record in ensuring student success.
- Demonstrated high aptitude for economics research.

EDUCATION

- **Ph.D., Economics**, University of South Florida, Tampa FL, (August 2011 – December 2016)
  DISSERTATION: *Education and Health Impacts of the Political Reservation System on Minorities in India*
- **M.A., Economics,** University of South Florida, Tampa FL, (August 2011 – May 2015)
- **B.A., Business & Economics**, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC, 2010
- **B.A., Mathematics & Computer Science**, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC, 2010

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

- Omicron Delta Epsilon membership, 2011: invitation based on my graduate-level academic achievements in Economics.
- Research grant from the Department of Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida, 2016: based on my work in the job-market paper; grant used for the working paper.

ACADEMIC /TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, August 2015 to present

- Teach two courses each semester and one course during the summer: undergraduate-level Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics (average class size of 50 students).

Graduate Teaching Associate, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, August 2013 to August 2015

- Taught one course each semester and one course during the summer: Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics (average class size of 40 students).

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, August 2011 to August 2013

- Tutored undergraduate economics students in various courses; graded papers and exams; taught occasional class periods; organized and led group tutoring sessions, providing assistance to approximately 10 students per session.

Department Tutor, Department of Mathematics, Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC, August 2007 to January 2010

- Tutored undergraduate mathematics students in calculus and statistics; organized and led group tutoring sessions, providing assistance to approximately 5 students per session.

COURSES TAUGHT AND TUTORED

Taught

- Principles of Microeconomics
- Principles of Macroeconomics

Tutored

- Health Economics
- Principles of Microeconomics
- Game Theory
- Intermediate Price Theory
- Antitrust Laws
- American Economic History

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "The Impact of Political Reservation on the education outcomes of the Minorities in India."
  Presented to the students and faculty of the Department of Economics, University of South Florida: January 2015 and May 2015
- "Sustainable Business Plan- A Smoothie Shop"
  Presented to the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, and to the faculty and students of Warren Wilson College: May 2010
- "Modeling the Trajectory of a Cricket Ball"
  Presented to the Department of Mathematics of Warren Wilson College, and to mathematics scholars in Asheville, NC: May 2010

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- Job Market paper: "The Impact of Political Reservation on the Education Outcomes of Minorities in India"
  Abstract: Article 334 of the Constitution of India (1950) stipulates that certain electoral districts in each state should be reserved for minority groups, namely the "Scheduled Caste"(SC) and the Scheduled Tribe"(ST), through the reservation of seats in the states' legislative assemblies. Even though the original article stated that the reservation policy would be in place for just twenty years, it has been amended several times and is still in effect. This paper examines the impact of the policy on the education outcomes of the SC population. Variations in seat quotas are generated by the timing of elections in different states and the states' fluctuating SC populations. This paper uses data from 25 Indian States and 3 Union Territories for the years 1990-2011 to form a panel dataset to estimate the impact of the quota system on both enrollment and dropout rates among SC students in all levels of schooling. I use the fixed effect regression to test the mechanisms through which an elected SC legislator could have an influence on the education outcomes for the SC population in the represented state. I then use the resulting variables as my controls to identify the causal relationship using the dynamic panel data model. I find that a SC legislator has the potential to influence the number of schools built, as well as the amount of education and welfare expenditure allocated to the SC population. Moreover, I find that the SC political reservation has a positive and statistically significant impact on the SC enrollment rates and a negative and significant impact on the dropout rates, in all levels of schooling.

- Working paper: "Does the Political Reservation in India Help Reduce Child Mortality among the Minority Groups?"
  Abstract: In its 1950 constitution, the Government of India instated a quota based political Affirmative Action policy, with hopes of uplifting the socio-economic status of its minority groups, namely the "Scheduled Caste"(SC) and the Scheduled Tribe"(ST). By this policy, certain electoral districts in each state are to be reserved for members of the SC and the ST via. the reservation of seats in the states' legislative assemblies. The seat quotas are variable in nature because of variation in state-by-state election timing and changing populations of SC and ST. This paper examines the impact of such policies on childhood mortality within the SC population. I use the Cox Proportional Hazard model on data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3) to estimate state-wide infant and under-five mortalities among the SC children and then assess whether the political reservation reduces the mortality rates. I control for several biological, socio-economic, behavioral, and environmental variables, in addition to the quota variable. I find that the political reservation for the SC has a significant impact in reducing the infant and under-five mortality rates within the SC population.

- "Budget Analysis – City of Clearwater"
  Seeking to understand the budgeting process of the City of Clearwater, and its fiscal health I interviewed the director of the Office of Budget and Management and the Assistant City Manager. I then co-authored a detailed analysis of the Annual Budget of the City of Clearwater for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, concluding that "beyond balance, Clearwater's budget reflects fiscal accountability, responsibility and transparency and by and large financial sustainability".

- "Grant Application – Volunteer of America"
  I compiled a comprehensive grant application package on behalf of Volunteers of America for a grant of $98,000. The funds were to be allocated toward increasing the number of mobile health centers for homeless veterans in southern Florida.

- Undergraduate Project: "Modelling the Trajectory of a Cricket Ball"
  As a capstone undergraduate research, I constructed aerodynamics equations to model the trajectory of a cricket ball using real game data from Hawk-Eye technology. The paper was presented to the faculty of the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Physics, as well as to the students of Warren Wilson College.

- Undergraduate Project: "Sustainable Business Plan- A Smoothie Shop"
  As an additional capstone project, I formulated a complete Sustainable Business Plan by conducting in-field interviews to assess the feasibility of operating a sustainable smoothie shop in Swannanoa, NC. The results were presented to the faculty of the Department of Business and to the CEOs of local businesses in nearby Asheville, NC.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Creative Teaching Ideas Workshop, Common Sense Economics for Life, February 2015
- Preparing for College Teaching, University of South Florida, May 2013 to July 2013
- USF Teaching Assistant Training Workshop, University of South Florida, August 2011

SOFTWARE/TECHNOLOGY

- SAS, STATA, MatLab, Microsoft Office (Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Dreamweaver, Java, HTML

OTHER

- Nationality: Nepal
- POSSESS A VALID WORK PERMIT to legally work in the U.S.
- Languages spoken: Nepali (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent)