

Mohammadali Mokhtari (Ali)

June 2024

Phone: +41782080413

Email: mokhtm@usi.ch,

[Personal Web](#)



ORCID

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Economics of Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI Lugano)
October 2019-Now

Fields of interest: Health Economics, Development Economics.

Advisors: Prof. Fabrizio Mazzonna, Prof. Lorenz Kueng.

Thesis: "Early Life Circumstance and Long-Term Health"

Researcher Department of Economics of University of Zurich
July 2018-
February 2019
Development Economics Group

Master Institute for Management and Planning Studies-Tehran (IMPS)
2012 - 2015
Major: Industrial Engineering

Bachelor Amir Kabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic)
2008 - 2012
Major: Mathematics and Industrial Engineering (Dual Degree)

WORKING AND UNDER REVIEW

PAPERS

2024 [The Vital Role of Cash Transfers: Lessons from the Largest Energy Subsidy Reform in the Developing World](#)

Selected for university of Tehran policy making think thank ([link media](#))

Abstract:

This paper examines the effect of cash transfers on households impacted by the 2010 energy subsidy reforms in Iran, which provided monthly lump-sum payments to Iranian citizens, excluding non-Iranian residents. We show reform generates 17% income gap and a 12% poverty rate gap between cash and non-cash recipients, leading to a nutrition gap and at least one change in parental behaviors affecting children. Health data reveal a growth gap for children exposed to the reform early in life, especially among low-income groups. Counterfactual analysis shows that without transfers, cash recipients share poverty rates and income distributions similar to non-cash recipients.

2024 [Inequality and Energy Subsidies Reform: Insights from the Largest Cash Transfer in the Developing World.](#)
With H Ghoddusi.

Selected for ERF 2024 Annual Conference
(The ERF conference is highly competitive, featuring two rounds of review, financial support for authors, and top speakers in development economics such as Daron Acemoglu, James Robinson, and Jeffrey Sachs, ... [link](#)).
Selected for European Public Choice 2024 in Vienna([link](#))
Selected for European commission knowledge for Policy 2023([link](#))
Selected for IIAS conference 2023 Doha. Presented on February 8 2023([link](#))

Abstract:

We study the distributional effect of one of the largest global subsidy reforms, which replaced more than 40 billion of USD annual energy subsidies with universal cash transfers in Iran. Using a novel identification strategy, we find a significant redistribution effect that has not been documented in previous studies. The reform led to an increase in expenditures for the bottom 70\% and a decrease for the top 20%. Lower deciles experience greater expenditure growth, as large as 30\% growth in the bottom 10%. The Gini index also decreased by 14 percent. More importantly, our findings show that transfers are the primary factor in reducing inequality, with the reform's impacts reversing as the fixed lump-sum cash transfers diminish over time due to inflation in the country. We estimate that one USD daily cash transfer to each individual, instead of energy subsidy, leads to an 8 percent decrease in the Gini Index. These results inform policy debates on energy policy and universal basic income (UBI).

PUBLICATIONS

2023 [Opioids Ease My Pain: Early-life Malnutrition and Elderly Outcomes](#)
Mokhtari (2023). *Social Science & Medicine*, 327, 115940.

Selected for the [Rare Voice in Economics conference 2022](#)
Selected for Swiss National Bank Foundation Alumni conference 2021 in the Gerzensee ([link media](#))

2021 [Short-term fetal nutritional stress and long-term health: Child height](#)
With SM Karimi, BB Little. *American Journal of Human Biology* 33 (6)
[Selected as Editor's choice article of Journal in 2021](#)

JOURNAL SERVICES

Elsevier reviewer (Social Science & Medicine, SSM Population)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022 **Top Cited Article 2020- 2021 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN BIOLOGY**

2001 **Rank 3**

The winner of the national bronze medal in the mathematics Olympiad in Iran.

PUBLICATIONS IN PERSIAN

- 2020 [The Lasting Effect of Iran Occupation in WWII on the Height of People in Tehran](#)
Y Dadgar, M Noferesti, M Vesal, MA Mokhtari *. *JPBUD* 2020, 25(3): 117-143
- 2020 [An assessment of the level, trend, and distribution of multidimensional poverty in Iran](#)
Y Dadgar, M Noferesti, MA Mokhtari*. *The Journal of Planning and Budgeting* 2020,
25 (2):25-43
Winner of best article welfare article of year in Iran

TEACHING JOB HISTORY

- September 2020 to now **Teaching Assistant** [Macroeconomics 1](#)
Master of Economics in USI Lugano by Prof. Giovanni Pica
[Overall, TA Satisfaction \(scale 1-10\) =8.83 \(Faculty Mean=7.85\)](#)
- Teaching Assistant** [Macroeconomics 2](#)
[Overall, TA Satisfaction \(scale 1-10\) =9.60 \(Faculty Mean=7.85\)](#)
- September 2022 to now **Teaching Assistant** [Quantitative Methods for Policy Evaluation](#)
Master of Economics in USI Lugano by Prof. Fabrizio Mazzonna
[Overall, TA Satisfaction \(scale 1-10\) =8.75/10 \(Faculty Mean=7.48\)](#)
- Before PhD teaching History:
- May 2016 - June 2018 **Teaching Assistant** National university of Iran (SBU)
- August 2014 - May 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Institute for Management and Planning Studies.
- 2007 to 2018 **Statistic and Mathematics Teacher**, National Organization for
Development of Exceptional Talents in Iran

TEACHING INTERESTS

Statistics, Econometrics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Mathematics in all fields,

RESEARCHING INTERESTS _____

Economics, Health, Household finance.

LANGUAGE ABILITIES _____

English: Proficient

Italian: B1

Deutsch: A2

Persian: Mother Language

Arabic: B1

SOFTWARE SKILLS _____

Python (Expert Level), Stata (Expert Level), R (advance level), SPSS (advance level)

REFERENCES _____

Giovanni pica: Dean- Faculty of Economics- USI Lugano-CH

Email : giovanni.pica@usi.ch

Web page : <http://usi.to/vj5>

Fabrizio Mazzonna: Professor – Head of Department of Economics-USI Lugano-CH

Email : fabrizio.mazzonna@usi.ch

Web page: <http://usi.to/qfq>

Seyed M. Karimi: Associate Professor- Department of Public Health-Louisville- USA

Email : seyed.karimi@louisville.edu

Web page : <https://louisville.edu/sphis/directory/seyed-m-karimi-phd>

Lorenz Kueng: Professor - Faculty of Economics-USI Lugano-CH

Email: lorenz.kueng@usi.ch

Web page: <http://usi.to/3rj>