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**DOCTORAL STUDIES:**     Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2008  
DISSERTATION: "Essays on Ethnic Integration"

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES**

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**PRIOR EDUCATION**     B.A.                     Economics             Univ. of California, Berkeley             2003

**CITIZENSHIP**     Malaysian

**LANGUAGES**     English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Malay (all fluent). Japanese, Spanish (basic)

**RESEARCH & TEACHING FIELDS**     Primary Fields: Public Finance, Urban Economics  
Secondary Fields: Development, Applied Econometrics

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**     Introductory Microeconomics (undergraduate, MIT course 14.01),     Spring 2007  
Instructor  
Economic Research and Communication (undergraduate, MIT course 14.33), Teaching Assistant to Professor Sara Ellison     Fall 2006

<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	Research Assistant to Professor Peter Diamond Consultant, World Bank	Fall 2004, 2005-2007 2003-2007
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**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS** MIT Graduate Fellowship, 2003-2008

**RESEARCH PAPERS:** **“Estimating Ingroup Preferences Using Ethnic Housing Quotas in Singapore.” (Job Market Paper)**  
 Abstract: Many ethnically diverse countries try to promote desegregation in areas such as education, employment, immigration and housing. While several studies have focused on the consequences of segregation, there is little work on the causes of segregation. One potential cause is ingroup preference. This paper estimates ethnic ingroup preferences (taste to interact with ethnic ingroup members) for residential neighborhoods using variation from an ethnic housing quota policy in Singapore. My approach combines policy induced variation akin to a regression discontinuity identification strategy with a structural demand estimation framework à la Berry, Levinsohn, and Pakes (1995). I find that all groups have strong preferences to live with at least some other members of their ethnic group. However, the majority (the Chinese) exhibit preferences that are inverted U-shaped so that after a neighborhood reaches 43% Chinese, they would rather add a new neighbor from the other group.

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:** **“Estimating the Impact of an Ethnic Housing Quotas Policy in Singapore on Housing Prices Using a Regression Discontinuity Framework.”**  
 Abstract: In many countries, integration policies take the form of quotas such as affirmative action quotas, quotas on immigrants as well as quotas on housing. This paper estimates the impact of one such integration policy—the ethnic housing quotas policy in Singapore. The ethnic housing quotas are a set of upper bounds on ethnic proportions to encourage spatial integration across the 3 main ethnic groups in Singapore: the Chinese, Malays and Indians. A direct consequence of the ethnic housing quotas is its effect on equilibrium housing price. Since 92% of Singaporeans are homeowners (Singapore Census, 2000), the policy has a direct impact on the housing wealth of the three ethnic groups. Standard analysis using OLS regressions will bias the treatment effect because of omitted variables (Chinese-constrained areas are more desirable for Chinese buyers). In this paper, I address the omitted variable problem by employing a regression discontinuity design that compares average housing prices above and below the quotas, but close to the quota discontinuity. I find that the quotas *increase* the average price of Chinese-constrained areas by 6-11% and *decrease* the average price of Malay- and Indian-constrained areas by 3-4% and 1-3% respectively.

**“Seasonality in Consumption in Eastern Indonesia: Evidence from a Field Experiment”, joint with Karna Basu.**

Abstract: There is evidence that autarkic savings is insufficient at smoothing consumption across agricultural cycles. Moreover, even within agricultural cycles, when income variation is relatively more predictable, individuals seem to be unable to allocate savings from the harvest season for consumption in lean seasons, which

results in large fluctuations in consumption over time. Using extensive data collection and a field experiment, this project will study inter-seasonal consumption and savings behavior in 240 villages (~13,860 households) in Eastern Indonesia from 2008 to 2011. We survey households twice each year for 3 years, during harvest and during the lean season. There are three broad goals in this project. First, we design a series of games to understand time preferences. Second, we evaluate three interventions designed to help farmers smooth consumption: a simple storage technology, a commitment savings product, and a credit product. The first intervention provides access to a storage technology with a high rate of return while the second intervention provides storage with a commitment technology. A third intervention provides credit access to the poor during the lean season to be repaid during harvest. The combination of the three interventions as well as the detailed data collection will allow us to investigate the reasons behind the lack of savings. In particular, the impact and the welfare implication of these interventions will be very different if households have inconsistent time preferences. The savings technology with commitment will improve welfare with sophistication, and credit may reduce welfare if households are tempted to borrow too much.