INTRODUCTION TO AFTERNOON SESSION
Design of policy interventions to alleviate chronic poverty and disadvantage: largely missing from conventional analyses are the psychological mechanisms through which the experience of poverty forms the beliefs, values and aspirations of the poor and the marginalised.

Pro-poor policies tend to focus on relaxing external constraints that may perpetuate poverty traps, such as lack of credit or insecure property rights, but internal constraints such as learned helplessness, pessimistic beliefs, an external locus of control and cognitive constraints are also important.

These internal constraints are endogenous because they adapt to the experience of chronic poverty. Over time, however, they become an independent source of disadvantage for poor persons in their own right.
Pro-poor policies that address these concerns will alleviate poverty more effectively than those that address external constraints alone.

Role for Orchestras.

Related evidence:

World Development Report 2015 “Mind, Behavior and Society”

Fieldwork in Kolkata provides evidence of the potential impact of an intervention, “Dream-Building”, in addressing stigma, self-image and self-belief.
Linked Papers and Knowledge Exchange Activities

**Papers:**


“Poverty and Aspirations Failure”, (with P. Dalton and A. Mani), *Economic Journal*.

“Sex Workers, Stigma and Self-Belief: Evidence from a Psychological Training Program in India” (with Smarajit Jana, Anandi Mani, Sandip Mitra, Sanchari Roy).

“Empowerment: Theory and policy”, (with P. Dalton) (Work-in-Progress)

**Knowledge Exchange/Impact Activities:**

Article in Ideas for India, The Conversation, The Scotsman, Chatham House Policy briefing paper


Keynote speaker at SES/GES Workshop on “Inclusive Growth”

ESRC IAA award, Impact Workshops in India.