



Intersections
Monthly Lecture Series
Department of Liberal Arts

Women, Violence and Work: Threat of Sexual Violence and Women's Decision to Work



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Friday, 14th October 2022

11 am to 12 noon

Room 205, Academic Block

The stagnancy of women's workforce participation in urban India is alarming and puzzling, considering the pace of economic development experienced in the previous decade. We investigate the extent to which the low workforce participation of women can be explained by growing instances of officially reported crimes against women. We employ a fixed-effects strategy using district-level panel data between 2004-2012. To address additional concerns of endogeneity, we exploit state-level regulations in alcohol sale and consumption and provide estimates from two different strategies—an instrumental variable approach and a border analysis. Our findings suggest that for every additional sexual crime in a district, approximately 75 women are deterred from joining the workforce. While we find some evidence of heterogeneity across regions and religions, overall the deterrent effect seems to affect women equally across all economic, demographic, and social groups.

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