

Professor. Ranjan Ray  
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## Biography

Ranjan undertook his undergraduate studies in Presidency College at the University of Calcutta, his postgraduate studies at the Delhi School of Economics and completed his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Prior to moving to Monash, Ranjan served as Lecturer in Econometrics at Manchester University, UK, Professor of Public Economics at the Delhi School of Economic, India and Professor and Head of Economics at the University of Tasmania, Australia. He has also held visiting positions at the University of British Columbia, Canada, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy and Cornell University, USA. Ranjan is currently on the editorial board of the *Review of Income and Wealth* (journal of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth) and *Economic Record* (journal of the Economic Society of Australia).

### A measure of social justice

Deprivation and social justice are not only recurring themes in Professor Ranjan Ray's wide-ranging research, but ones that cut firmly through some established boundaries. 'The old line between developed and developing countries, and development and non-development economics, is blurred and that's reflected in my research,' he says. 'I don't divorce the two.'

An early interest in data, methodology, analytical framework and policy has persisted throughout Ranjan's 30 or so years in economics research, but he has slowly shifted his emphasis away from statistics and towards development.

'I don't see development as being only the preserve of or restricted to third world countries,' he says. 'There are a lot of developmental issues and implications for people in Australia; the divide between indigenous and non-indigenous people, for example.'

One-time boundaries are also collapsing, he says, as booming countries like India and China close the gap in one direction, and global financial crises draw others back.

Poverty and inequality are relevant across the spectrum. Ranjan has recently been widening his study of such issues to multidimensional deprivation, a term that recognises the complex nature of deprivation, of which capacity to spend is merely one aspect.

'You may not be poor but you may be deprived,' he says. 'It is perfectly possible that you are above the poverty line but still don't have access to health, to electricity, to schooling, to water.'

His research drills deeper to determine how different groups in society are affected, comparing, for example, those who own their own homes and those who don't, city dwellers and those in remote areas, and indigenous and non-indigenous people.

This project highlights Ranjan's broad view of his field, using not only data from developing countries but also Australian data from the HILDA (Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia) survey.

Other research relates to issues arising throughout the development spectrum.

Child labour is a longstanding interest that sits at the developing end, as does a current project on the interplay between corruption and the informal sector. Small businesses such as tea-stalls tend to slip under the radar; some may be entirely legitimate, others may not. Ranjan is considering whether corruption contributes to the informal sector, and vice versa.

Quite different issues -- the effects of price changes, measurements of equality, and how inflation redistributes wealth towards or away from certain socioeconomic groups - involve study of developed nations such as Australia and Britain. Australian Research Council Discovery Project grants have supported many of Ranjan's projects.

Related Links:

For detailed information about Ranjan, please refer to Ranjan's CV.

More information about Ranjan can be found on IDEAS webpage.

Ranjan is also featured on Google Scholar.

## Employment

### Professor

Department of Economics  
MONASH UNIVERSITY  
23 Jan 2008 → present

## Research outputs

**Social and emotional well-being and economic insecurity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders: a multidimensional approach**

Kumar, S. & Ray, R., 2024, (Accepted/In press) In: Journal of International Development. 23 p.

**Heterogeneity in prices and cost of living within a country: new evidence on the north-south divide in Italy**  
Menon, M., Perali, F., Ray, R. & Tommasi, N., Sept 2023, In: *Economic Modelling*. 126, 21 p., 106401.

**Chronic poverty measures**

Nicholas, A. & Ray, R., 2023, *Research Handbook on Measuring Poverty and Deprivation*. Silber, J. (ed.). 1st ed. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, p. 181-191 11 p. (Elgar Handbooks in Development).

**Coal plants, air pollution and anaemia: evidence from India**

Datt, G., Maitra, P., Menon, N. & Ray, R., 2023, In: *Journal of Development Studies*. 59, 4, p. 533-551 19 p.

**Optimal commodity taxation – a new computational procedure with application to India**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Santra, S., 2022, In: *Indian Growth and Development Review*. 15, 1, p. 123-138 16 p.

**Progressivity and redistributive effects of income taxes: evidence from India**

Datt, G., Ray, R. & Teh, C., 2022, In: *Empirical Economics*. 63, 1, p. 141-178 38 p.

**Should commodity tax rates be uniform across regions in a heterogeneous country? Evidence from India**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Santra, S., Nov 2021, In: *Journal of Policy Modeling*. 43, 6, p. 1310-1331 22 p.

**COVID-19: facts, figures, estimated relationships and analysis**

Ray, R. & Kumar, S., 2021, In: *Indian Economic Review*. 56, p. 173-214 42 p.

**Regionally disaggregated estimates of global income inequality with evidence on sensitivity to purchasing power parity**

Ray, R. & Singh, P., 2021, In: *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*. 26, 2, p. 252-270 19 p.

**National and subnational purchasing power parity: a review**

Majumder, A. & Ray, R., 2020, In: *Decision*. 47, p. 103-124 22 p.

**The spatial price map of India drawn using pseudo unit values**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Santra, S., 2020, In: *Indian Growth and Development Review*. 13, 3, p. 537-560 24 p.

**Review of Deprivation, Inequality and Polarization: Essays in Honour of Satya Ranjan Chakravarty, by Dasgupta, Indraneel and Mitra, Manipushpak (eds.) (Springer Nature, Singapore, 2019), pp. xiii + 220.**

Ray, R., Dec 2019, In: *Economic Record*. 95, 311, p. 522-525 4 p.

**Differentiating between dimensionality and duration in multidimensional measures of poverty: methodology with an application to China**

Nicholas, A., Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 1 Mar 2019, In: *Review of Income and Wealth*. 65, 1, p. 48-74 27 p.

**Food consumption, calorie intake and undernourishment in India: the recent evidence on role of welfare schemes**

Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2019, *Disease, human Health, and Regional Growth and Development in Asia*. Batabyal, A. A., Higano, Y. & Nijkamp, P. (eds.). 1st ed. Singapore Singapore: Springer, p. 21-46 26 p. (New frontiers in Regional Science: Asian Perspectives; vol. 38).

**A multidimensional dynamic measure of child disadvantage: a methodological tool for policymakers**

Mishra, A., Ray, R. & Risse, L., Oct 2018, In: *Social Indicators Research*. 139, 3, p. 1187-1218 32 p.

**A framework for the simultaneous measurement of spatial variation and temporal movement in prices in a heterogeneous country: the dynamic household regional product dummy model**

Chakrabarty, M., Majumder, A. & Ray, R., Sept 2018, In: *Review of Income and Wealth*. 64, 3, p. 703-730 28 p.

**Do *in utero* shocks have adverse effects on child health outcomes and can welfare schemes ameliorate such effects? Evidence from Andhra Pradesh, India**

Ahmed, S. & Ray, R., 2018, In: Journal of Biosocial Science. 50, 6, p. 770-799 30 p.

**Household Behaviour, Prices, and Welfare: A Collection of Essays Including Selected Empirical Studies**

Ray, R., 2018, 1st ed. Singapore Singapore: Springer. 431 p. (Themes in Economics: Theory, Empirics, and Policy)

**How does child disadvantage change with age? An analysis of Australian children**

Mishra, A., Ray, R. & Risse, L., 2018, In: Journal of Human Development and Capabilities. 19, 4, p. 477-498 22 p.

**Sensitivity of global and regional poverty rates to alternative purchasing power parities**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Santra, S., 2018, In: Indian Growth and Development Review. 11, 1, p. 34-56 23 p.

**The link between preferences, prices, inequality, and poverty: the Indian evidence**

Ray, R., 2018, *Markets, Governance, and Institutions in the Process of Economic Development*. Mishra, A. & Ray, T. (eds.). Oxford UK: Oxford University Press, p. 98-116 19 p.

**Sensitivity of purchasing power parity estimates to estimation procedures and their effect on living standards comparisons**

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**World Bank's Poverty enumeration: a critical examination of the process, methodology, and numbers**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Santra, S., 17 Jun 2017, In: Economic and Political Weekly. 52, 24, p. 43-52 10 p.

**The role of prices in welfare comparisons: methodological developments and a selective survey of the empirical literature**

Ray, R., 1 Jun 2017, In: Economic Record. 93, 301, p. 314-332 19 p.

**Estimates of spatial prices in India and their sensitivity to alternative estimation methods and choice of commodities**

Majumder, A. & Ray, R., Mar 2017, In: Social Indicators Research. 131, 1, p. 145-167 23 p.

**A unified framework for the estimation of intra and inter country food purchasing power parities: India, Indonesia and Vietnam**

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**India's economic performance in the post-reforms period: A tale of mixed messages**

Ray, R., 2016, *Globalisation and the Challenges of Development in Contemporary India*. Venkateswar, S. & Bandyopadhyay, S. (eds.). Singapore: Springer, p. 41-59 19 p. (Dynamics of Asian Development).

**Estimating purchasing power parities from household expenditure data using complete demand systems with application to living standards comparison: India and Vietnam**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2015, In: Review of Income and Wealth. 61, 2, p. 302 - 328 27 p.

**Multidimensional deprivation in China, India and Vietnam: A comparative study on micro data**

Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2015, In: Journal of Human Development and Capabilities. 16, 1, p. 69 - 93 25 p.

**Preferences, spatial prices and inequality**

Chakrabarty, M., Majumder, A. & Ray, R., 2015, In: Journal of Development Studies. 51, 11, p. 1488 - 1501 14 p.

**Spatial comparisons of prices and expenditure in a heterogeneous country: Methodology with application to India**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2015, In: Macroeconomic Dynamics. 19, 5, p. 931 - 989 59 p.

**Crime, corruption and the role of institutions**

Chatterjee, I. & Ray, R., 2014, In: Indian Growth and Development Review. 7, 1, p. 73 - 95 23 p.

**Determinants of pregnancy and induced and spontaneous abortion in a jointly determined framework: evidence from a country-wide, district-level household survey in India**

Ahmed, S. & Ray, R., 2014, In: Journal of Biosocial Science. 46, 4, p. 480 - 517 38 p.

**Health consequences of child labour in Bangladesh**

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**International comparison program of the World Bank: How meaningful is the exercise for India?**

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**Rangarajan Committee Report on poverty measurement: another lost opportunity**

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**Spatial variation in prices and expenditure inequalities in Australia**

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**Child health in West Bengal - Comparison with other regions in India**

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**Food consumption patterns and malnourished Indian children: Is there a link?**

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**Multi-dimensional deprivation in India during and after the reforms: Do the household expenditure and the family health surveys present consistent evidence?**

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**Temporal comparisons of prices, expenditure and growth in India: A state-wise analysis**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2013, In: Indian Growth and Development Review. 6, 2, p. 195 - 211 17 p.

**Calculating rural-urban food price differentials from unit values in household expenditure surveys: A comparison with existing methods and a new procedure**

Majumder, A., Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2012, In: American Journal of Agricultural Economics. 94, 5, p. 1218 - 1235 18 p.

**Does the evidence on corruption depend on how it is measured? Results from a cross-country study on microdata sets**

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**Duration and persistence in multidimensional deprivation: Methodology and Australian application**

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**Interaction between HIV awareness, knowledge, safe sex practice and HIV prevalence: Evidence from Botswana**

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**Multi-dimensional deprivation in the awakening giants: A comparison of China and India on micro data**

Ray, R. & Mishra, A., 2012, In: Journal of Asian Economics. 23, 4, p. 454 - 465 12 p.

**Do inequality and prices affect comparisons in living standards? The Indian evidence**

Mishra, A. & Ray, R., 2011, In: Economic and Political Weekly. 46, 3, p. 39 - 46 8 p.

**Globalisation, India's evolving food economy and trade prospects for Australia and New Zealand**

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**Measuring the multi-dimensional knowledge deprivation of HIV/Aids: A new approach with Indian evidence on its magnitude and determinants**

Ray, R. & Sinha, K., 2011, In: Journal of Biosocial Science. 43, 6, p. 657 - 684 28 p.

**Prices, inequality, and poverty: Methodology and Indian evidence**

Mishra, A. & Ray, R., 2011, In: Review of Income and Wealth. 57, 3, p. 428 - 448 21 p.

**Demographic demand systems with application to equivalence scales estimation and inequality analysis: The Australian evidence**

Blacklow, P., Nicholas, A. & Ray, R., 2010, In: Australian Economic Papers. 49, 3, p. 161 - 179 19 p.

**Evaluating the distributional implications of price movements: Methodology, application and Australian evidence**

Nicholas, A., Ray, R. & Valenzuela, M., 2010, In: Economic Record. 86, 274, p. 352 - 366 15 p.

**Dietary diversity, food security and undernourishment: The Vietnamese evidence**

Mishra, V. & Ray, R., 2009, In: Asian Economic Journal. 23, 2, p. 225 - 247 23 p.

**Education and child labor: A global perspective**

Ray, R., 2009, *The World of Child Labor: An Historical and Regional Survey*. Hindman, H. D. (ed.). New York, USA: M E Sharpe Inc, p. 118 - 126 9 p.

**Food insecurity, undernourishment and poverty in India during the 1990s**

Ray, R., 2009, *Post-Reform Development In Asia: Essays for Amiya Kumar Bagchi*. Sanyal, M. K., Sanyal, M. & Amin, S. (eds.). India: Orient BlackSwan, p. 61 - 82 22 p.

**Diversity in calorie sources and undernourishment during rapid economic growth**

Ray, R., 2008, In: Economic and Political Weekly. 43, 8, p. 51 - 57 7 p.

**Household expenditure patterns and gender bias: Evidence from selected Indian states**

Lancaster, G., Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2008, In: Oxford Development Studies. 36, 2, p. 133 - 157 25 p.

**Is there gender bias in the household's time allocation in a developing country? The Indian experience**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2008, In: Journal of Quantitative Economics. 6, 1-2, p. 81 - 100 20 p.

**Changes in food consumption and the implications for food security and undernourishment: India in the 1990s**

Ray, R., 2007, In: Development and Change. 38, 2, p. 321 - 343 23 p.

**Changes in household and child nutritional status and their determinants in a transition economy: Evidence from Vietnamese panel data**

Mishra, V. & Ray, R., 2007, In: Journal of Quantitative Economics. 5, 1, p. 1 - 16 16 p.

**Endogenous intra-household balance of power and its impact on expenditure patterns: Evidence from India**

Lancaster, G., Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2006, In: Economica. 73, 291, p. 435 - 460 26 p.

**Equity implications of reforms on living standards and child health in post-apartheid South Africa**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2006, *Trade, Growth and Inequality in the Era of Globalization*. Sharma, K. & Morrissey, O. (eds.). 1 ed. Abingdon UK: Routledge, p. 86 - 101 16 p.

**Gender bias in nutrient intake: evidence from selected Indian states**

Lancaster, G., Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2006, In: South Asia Economic Journal. 7, 2, p. 255 - 298 44 p.

**Household expenditure patterns and resource pooling: evidence of changes in post-apartheid South Africa**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2006, In: Review of Economics of the Household. 4, 4, p. 325 - 347 23 p.

On setting the poverty line based on estimated nutrient prices: Condition of socially disadvantaged groups during the reform period

Ray, R. & Lancaster, G., 2005, In: *Economic and Political Weekly*. 40, 1, p. 46 - 56 11 p.

The impact of children's work on schooling: Multi-country evidence

Ray, R. & Lancaster, G., 2005, In: *International Labour Review*. 144, 2, p. 189 - 210 22 p.

**The impact of intra household balance of power on expenditure pattern: the Australian evidence**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2005, In: *Australian Economic Papers*. 44, 1, p. 15 - 29 15 p.

**A method of calculating regional consumer price differentials with illustrative evidence from India**

Coondoo, D., Majumder, A. & Ray, R., 2004, In: *Review of Income and Wealth*. 50, 1, p. 51 - 68 18 p.

**Analysis of resource inflows and their impact on household behaviour: evidence from South Africa**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2004, *Household Behaviour, Equivalence Scales, Welfare and Poverty*. Dagum, C. & Ferrari, G. (eds.). Germany: Physica Verlag, p. 107 - 127 21 p.

Child labour: A survey of selected Asian countries

Ray, R., 2004, In: *Asian-Pacific Economic Literature*. 18, 2, p. 1 - 18 18 p.

**Household characteristics and living standards: evidence from India**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2004, *South Asia in the Era of Globalisation: Trade, Industrialisation and Welfare*. Bhattacharya, M., Smyth, R. & Vicziany, M. (eds.). New York NY USA: Nova Science Publishers, p. 165 - 194 30 p.

**The impact of resource inflows on child health: evidence from Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, 1993-98**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2004, In: *Journal of Development Studies*. 40, 4, p. 78 - 114 37 p.

How have the disadvantaged fared in India after the economic reforms?

Meenakshi, J. V. & Ray, R., 2 Apr 2003, *Trade Policy, Growth and Poverty in Asian Developing Countries*. Taylor & Francis, p. 202-213 12 p.

**Intra-household resource allocation, consumer preferences and commodity tax reforms: Australian evidence**

Blacklow, P. & Ray, R., 2003, In: *Economic Record*. 79, 247, p. 425 - 433 9 p.

**Resource inflows and household composition: evidence from South African panel data**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2003, In: *Journal of International Development*. 15, p. 1037 - 1047 11 p.

**The effect of transfers on household expenditure patterns and poverty in South Africa**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2003, In: *Journal of Development Economics*. 71, 1, p. 23 - 49 27 p.

Impact of household size and family composition on poverty in rural India

Meenakshi, J. V. & Ray, R., 2002, In: *Journal of Policy Modeling*. 24, 6, p. 539 - 559 21 p.

International poverty comparisons on unit record data of developing and developed countries

Lancaster, G. & Ray, R., 2002, In: *Australian Economic Papers*. 41, 2, p. 129 - 139 11 p.

Tests of income pooling on household budget data: The Australian evidence

Lancaster, G. & Ray, R., 2002, In: *Australian Economic Papers*. 41, 1, p. 99 - 114 16 p.

The determinants of child labour and child schooling in Ghana

Ray, R., 2002, In: *Journal of African Economies*. 11, 4, p. 561 - 590 30 p.

**The joint estimation of child participation in schooling and employment: comparative evidence from three continents**

Maitra, P. & Ray, R., 2002, In: Oxford Development Studies. 30, 1, p. 41 - 62 22 p.

**Analysis of child labour in Peru and Pakistan: A comparative study**

Ray, R., 2000, In: Journal of Population Economics. 13, 1, p. 3 - 19 17 p.

**Child labor, child schooling, and their interaction with adult labor: Empirical evidence for Peru and Pakistan**

Ray, R., 2000, In: The World Bank Economic Review. 14, 2, p. 347 - 367 21 p.

**A Cross-Country Study of Equivalence Scales and Expenditure Inequality on Unit Record Household Budget Data**

Valenzuela, M. R. & Ray, R., 1999, In: Review of Income and Wealth.

**A Cross-Country Study of Household Poverty and Inequality on Unit Record Household Budget Data**

Valenzuela, M. R. & Ray, R., 1999, In: Economic Development and Cultural Change.

**Marginal and non-marginal commodity tax reforms with rank two and rank three demographic demand systems**

Ray, R., 1999, In: Oxford Economic Papers. 51, 4, p. 689 - 712 24 p.

**Sensitivity of 'optimal' commodity tax rates to alternative demand functional forms: An econometric case study of India**

Ray, R., 1986, In: Journal of Public Economics. 31, 2, p. 253 - 268 16 p.

**Measuring the costs of children: An alternative approach**

Ray, R., 1983, In: Journal of Public Economics. 22, 1, p. 89 - 102 14 p.

**Analysis of a time series of household expenditure surveys for India**

Ray, R., 1980, In: Review of Economics and Statistics. 62, 4, p. 595 - 602 8 p.

## **Projects**

**Living Standards, HIV/AIDS and its Impact on the Next Generation**

Maitra, P., Inder, B., Ray, R. & Ray, R.

Australian Research Council (ARC), Monash University

2/01/08 → 30/06/13

**Modelling Food Expenditure, analysing Nutrient Security, Measuring Hunger and Calculating Purchasing Power Parity:**

**Methodological Advances with Policy Applications**

Ray, R.

Australian Research Council (ARC)

1/01/07 → 31/12/13

**Modelling decision making within the household and analysing its welfare implication: Methodological advances with policy applications**

Maitra, P., Ray, R., Basu, K. & Ray, R.

Australian Research Council (ARC)

1/01/04 → 31/12/06

**Resource Inflows, Intrahousehold Resource Allocation and their Impact on Expenditure Patterns, Child Health and Household Composition**

Maitra, P., Ray, R., Chatterji, M. & Ray, R.

Australian Research Council (ARC), Monash University

1/01/02 → 31/12/05

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