Poverty, Deprivation and Health Disparities in the U.S.

Dr. Shatakshee Dhongde
Associate Professor of Economics,
Georgia Institute of Technology
Multidimensional Deprivation

• Several drawbacks of the official Poverty estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau.

• Propose a **Multidimensional Deprivation Index** (MDI)

• Axiomatic Approach to MDI

• MDI identifies overlapping deprivations experienced in **six** different dimensions of well-being.

• **Health, Education, Standard of Living, Economic Security, Social Connections and Housing Quality**

• Compile data from the American Community Survey (ACS).

• Largest U.S. household survey with 3 million individual records each year.

• **Great Recession: 2008-2015**
Use MDI measure Health Disparities

- Data on about 1 million elderly adults from the 2011 wave of the ACS.
- Health outcomes: i) **difficulty with independent living**, and ii) **vision or hearing difficulty**
- Health care: **health insurance coverage**
- Health determinants: **education and income poverty**.
Relevant Body of Research

• Dhongde S. and Haveman R. (2017) “Multi-Dimensional Deprivation in the U.S.” *Social Indicators Research*
