**ATHER H. AKBARI, PH.D.**

Full Professor (Economics)

Program Coordinator, Masters in Applied Economics and Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics

Chair, Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University

**Faculty Member Information**

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**Biography**

Dr. Ather Akbari is professor of economics at Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Canada. He is a labour economist with research interest in issues related to economics of immigration and education. He has published in several peer-reviewed academic journals on public finance and labour market impacts of immigration in Canada and has also conducted many immigration research projects for federal and provincial governments in Canada. He has testified twice in front of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on immigration. Two of his most recently completed works for provincial governments include Immigration in Nova Scotia: Who Comes, Who Stays, Who Leaves and why? and Impacts of Provincially and Territorially Administered Immigration Programs in Canada. His on-going work on Satisfaction and Well-being of International Students in Atlantic Canada is supported by Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Dr. Akbari’s work is often cited in the news media where he is also often interviewed. National and international newspapers such as The Globe and Mail, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal New York Times and The Economist magazine have cited his immigration research. He chairs the Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (ARGEIAD) and is also the Coordinator of the Master of Applied Economics (MAE) program and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics program (PBCAE) at the Sobey School of Business.

**Research Interests**

* Labour Economics (including Immigration Economics and Education Economics)
* Health Economics

**Education**

* Ph.D., Economics, Simon Fraser University, 1988
* M.A., Economics, Simon Fraser University, 1982
* M.B.A., University of Karachi, 1978 (completed in 1980)

**Memberships** (Present and past)

* Professional organizations: Canadian Economics Association, Western Economics Association, Pakistan Society of Development Economics, Conference Board of Canada Immigration Centre.
* Advisory Board: Jarislowsky Chair on Intercultural Studies (Memorial University of Newfoundland), NUST Journal of Social Science and Humanities, Frontiers in Sociology-Migration and Sociology.

**Appointments**

* Saint Mary's University

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Employed since 1989 (Professor of Economics since 2006)

* Visiting Professor - University of Victoria (1988-89); Lahore University of Management Science (1998-99), Gomal University (March-April 1999), University of Ottawa (Summer 2012, 2015, 2019).
* Director, Graduate Program (Economics) (since July 2015).
* Chair of Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity (since January 2014).
* Co-chair of Economics and labour market integration domain, Atlantic Metropolis Centre (2004-2012).

**Scholarly Contribution****s**

**Publications**

**Academic Journals**

* "Employment Probability of Visible Minority Immigrants in Canada by Generational Status, Circa 2016." Canadian Public Policy 48(S1): pp. 38-48 (October 2022, with S. Debbarman).
* "A Moving Landscape: Ethno-racial Disparities in Intergenerational Co-residence among Canadian Millennials" Population, Space and Place (February 8, 2022, with M. Dilmaghani,

<https://doi.org/10.1002/psp.2560>)

* "Impact of Immigration on Economic Growth in Canada and its Smaller Provinces." **Journal of International Migration and Integration** Vol. 19, No. 1: 129-142 (Feb 2018, with Azad Haider).
* "Economic Benefits of Studying Economics in Canada: A Comparison of Wages of Economics Majors with those in Other Disciplines Circa 2005." **Canadian Journal of Higher Education** Vol. 45, No. 4: 143-165. (with Yigit Aydede)
* "Review of *Social Transformation in Rural Canada, Community, Cultures, and Collective Action.* Edited by John R. Parkins and Maureen Reed U.B.C. Press (2013), English, 414 pages, ISBN 978-0-7748-2381-4." **Canadian Studies in Population**(Fall 2015, issue 4).
* "Human Resource Deficit in Atlantic Canada: A challenge for Regional Economic Development." **Journal of International Migration and Integration** Vol. 16, 2: 225-236. (May 2015).
* "Immigration Policy in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States: An Overview of Recent Trends." **International Migration Review** Vol. 48, No. 3: 801-822. (September 2014 with Martha MacDonald, lead article).
* "Emigration and Trade in a Developing Country: Some Evidence from Pakistan**." Asia Pacific Development Journal**. Vol. 18, No. 2: 57-78. (December 2011 with S. Hyder).
* "Are Educational Credentials of Immigrant and Non-immigrant Workers Perfect Substitutes in Canadian Labour Markets: A Production Function Analysis." **Education Economics** Vol. 21, 5: 485-502. (December 2013, with Y. Aydede, 2012).
* "Effects of Immigration on House Prices in Canada." **Applied Economics** Volume 44, Nos. 13-15: 1645-1658. (May 2012, with Y. Aydede).
* "Labor Market Performance of Immigrants in Smaller Regions of Western Countries: Some Evidence from Atlantic Canada." **Journal of International Migration and Integration / Revue de l'integration et de la migration internationale** Volume 12, No. 2: 133-154. (2011).
* "Demand for Public Health Care in Pakistan." **Pakistan Development Review** Vol. 8, No. 2: 141-154 (Summer 2009, with W. Rankaduwa and A. Kiani).

* "Inflation Targeting in a Small Emerging Market Economy: The Case of Pakistan." **State Bank of Pakistan Research Bulletin** Papers and Proceedings, Vol 2, No. 1: 169-190 (2006, with W. Rankaduwa).
* "A Survey of Selected Presentations of the Conference on Immigration and Outmigration: Atlantic Canada at a Crossroads." **Canadian Ethnic Studies** Special Issue Vol 27, no. 3: 150-154 (with Maurice Mandale, invited paper, 2005).
* "Conceptual Clarity in International Collaboration: A point of departure for policy-related research on discrimination." **Journal of International Migration and Integration** (with A. Gagnon, et al, 2005.).
* "Schooling Quality and Labour Market Performance in a developing country: Some evidence from Pakistan." **Pakistan Development Review** Papers and Proceedings (Fall 2001, co-author: Naeem Muhammed).
1. Examining Working Time Arrangements Using Time Use Survey Data **Institute for Social and Economic Research Working Paper Number 2000-22** (with Andrew Harvey, Kimberly Fisher, Jonathan Gershuny, 2000, ISER Working Papers No. 200-22).
2. "Immigrant Quality in Canada: More Direct Evidence of Human Capital Content, 1956-1994." **International Migration Review,** (33) 1: 0156-0175 (1999).
3. "The Canadian Earnings Functions Under Test." **Applied Economics Letters,** 4:133-139 (with T. Ogwang, 1996)
4. "Provincial Earnings Disparities in Canada: Does the Quality of Education Matter?" **Canadian Journal of Economics,** 29:S337-S339 (Special Issue, Part 1:1996).
5. "Growth of the Manufacturing Sector Employment in Pakistan: A Comparative Analysis of Punjab and Sindh (Preliminary Results)." **Pakistan Development Review** (Papers and Proceedings) 32, no. 4: 1267-1277 (Winter 1993).
6. "The Substitutability of Foreign-Born Labour in Canadian Production: Circa 1980" **Canadian Journal of Economics** 25, no. 3: 604-614 (with D. DeVoretz, 1992).
7. "Do Third World Immigrants Impose a Cost on Canadian Public Treasury?" **Pakistan Development Review** Papers and Proceedings, 28, no. 4: 941-968 (Winter 1989).
8. "The Public Finance Impact of Immigrant Population on Host Nations: Some Canadian Evidence." **Social Science Quarterly** 72, no.2: 334-346 (June 1992).
9. "The Benefit of Immigrants to Canada: Evidence on Tax and Public Services." **Canadian Public Policy** 15, no. 4:424-435 (December 1989).
10. "The Impact of Agricultural Research and Extension on Crop Productivity in Pakistan - A Production Function Approach." **World Development** 14, no. 6: 757-762 (With M. H. Khan, 1986).

**Conference Presentations**

National and international conferences (at least one every year since 1989).

**Books**

* Immigration in Small Urban Centres: Vibrant Communities of Atlantic Canada (Economic and Labour Market Integration Research Domain, Atlantic Metropolis Centre, with W. Rankaduwa, 2011). Vibrant Communities.
* Immigrants in Regional Markets of Host Nations: Some Evidence from Atlantic Canada (Springer Science Publishing, 2013).
* Test Bank Economics Canada in the Global Environment 5th Edition Parkin,P. and R. Bade (with Mark Rush and Glen Stirling, edited by David Gray) Pearson Ed, 2005).
* Test Bank Modern Labour Economics Canadian Edition (Ehrenberg, Smith, Chaykowski) Prentice Hall / Pearson Ed, 2004).

**Book Chapters**

* Akbari, A.H. (2023). Regionalization of Immigration: Some Rationale and Best Practices Across Advanced Countries. In: Zimmermann, K.F. (eds) Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-57365-6_370-1>
* "Why Networks Matter and How They Work? The Role of Social Networks in Attracting and Retaining Immigrants in Small Cities." In Immigration in Small Cities International Perspectives on Migration Series Vol. 12: 141-169 Springer Science publication (edited by G.T. Bonifacio & J.L. Drolet).
* Akbari Ather. (2009). "Immigrant Naturalization and its Impacts on Immigrant Labour Market Performance and Treasury ", The Economics of Citizenship , 127-154
* Akbari Ather. (2002). "Economic Integration of Canada and the United States: A Survey of Social, Cultural and Political Issues", America in the 21st Century.
* The Effects of Immigrants on the German Public Purse (with Late Julian Simon) in **Politics of Immigration Current Issues and Future Directions** Edited by Babkina, A.M. (Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York, 2001).
1. "The Impact of Immigrants on Public Treasury Circa 1990" in **Diminishing Returns: The Economics of Canada's Recent Immigration Policy** C.D. How Institute, Toronto (Edited by Don J DeVoretz, 1995).
2. "Determinants of Welfare Payment Use by Immigrants and Natives in the United States and Canada." (with J.L. Simon) in **Skills, Nativity and Immigration** JAI Press, Washington, U.S.A. (1996:79-100).

**Recent contract research projects**

* "Mobility motivations of international students in Atlantic Canada." Survey research supported by Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Expected completion in June 2023.
* "Economic impact of immigration in Atlantic Canada." Three-year grant received from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) as a co-applicant with Tony Fang of Memorial University of Newfoundland (2021-23 ongoing). One student finished her MAE MRP based on this project
* "Impacts of provincially and territorially administered immigration programs in Canada." Research completed for the Forum of Ministers Responsible for Immigration in Canada, 2021.
* Who comes, who stays, who leaves Nova Scotia and why? Research completed for the Province of Nova Scotia, 2020.

**Other Selected Publications**

1. The Challenges of immigrating to Canada’s smaller cities. (with Jigme Choerab) **Migrant Futures** May18, 2021 **(**[**The challenges of immigrating to Canada’s smaller cities | openDemocracy**](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/pandemic-border/the-challenges-of-immigrating-to-canadas-smaller-cities/)**)**
2. Halifax, A welcoming city. International Observatory of Living Together November 7, 2016. [Blog: Halifax, a Welcoming City | Observatoire international des maires sur le Vivre ensemble (observatoirevivreensemble.org)](https://observatoirevivreensemble.org/en/blog-halifax-a-welcoming-city)
3. The Truth About Immigrant Quality". (With J.L. Simon). **The American Immigration Institute** Arlington, Va, U.S.A. (April 1995).
4. "Economics of Immigration and Racial Discrimination: A Literature Survey (1970-1989)". Prepared for **Policy & Research, Multiculturalism & Citizenship** (Ottawa, 1989).
5. "Propensity to Naturalize and its impact on Labour Market Performance and Public Coffers in the United States of America". Vancouver Centre of Excellence (Spring - 2007).

**Service: Institutional Boards and Committees (selected)**

* Saint Mary’s University Board of Governors (2021-2022, re-elected 2023 for 3 years)
* Faculty of Graduate Studies Executive Committee (since 2021)
* Senate Academic Appeals Committee (2018-2019).
* University Review Committee on tenure and Promotions, 2009/03 - None (Member)

**Service: Professional or Disciplinary**

* Guest editor **Journal of International Migration and Integration** (Fall 2008).
* Editor Thematic section of **International Migration Review**, (Fall 2015, with M. MacDonald)
* Reviewer, Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
* Reviewer Manuscripts, Aid to Scholarly Publications Program at the McGill- Queen's University Press 1999/03 - 1999/03
* Peer reviewed articles for academic journals such as: International Migration Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Applied Economics, Population Economics, etc.
* Spearheaded the developments of Master of Applied Economics program and Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Applied Economics.
* Developed new courses in Environmental Economics and Economics of Natural Resources.

**Other:**

* Citation in a White House document: Fixing Our Broken Immigration System: The Economic Benefits of Providing a Pathway to Earned Citizenship, The Executive Office of the President (U.S), The White House 2012/03 - 2012/03
* Citations in: Globe and Mail, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, The Economist magazine, etc.
* Member, Autism Society of Nova Scotia 1999/03 – Present
* Organized a major conference on immigration entitled, In-Migration and Out-Migration of Immigrants: Atlantic Canada at a crossroads, November 18-19, 2004.
* Organized public outreach events on immigration annually in Atlantic Provinces, since 2015.

**Recent selected media coverages and other mentions:**

* + [PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](https://www.pressreader.com/canada/the-chronicle-herald-metro/20230304/281612424609413)
	+ <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/more/custom-content/identifying-immigration-trends-is-integral-to-the-growth-of-atlantic-canada-100723897/> April 2022
	+ <http://www.klausfzimmermann.de/global-mobility-after-the-pandemic-glo-president-klaus-f-zimmermann-spoke-at-saint-marys-university-in-canada/> sep,2021
	+ <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi6hPiJ7YP6AhX3jokEHXPzAew4ChAWegQIGhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fuploads-ssl.webflow.com%2F5f931bff6aee7ca287dbada2%2F629e3a449dd2c43d2481416f_Key-Insight-Report%25233-FINAL.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1MQbtZqjKfi1rtRxYdjyDi> jun,2022
	+ <https://www.rentalhousingbusiness.ca/steep-increases-stir-up-calls-for-rent-control-in-nova-scotia/> sep,2021
	+ [Steep increases stir up calls for rent control in Nova Scotia | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-rent-control-affordable-housing-1.5713822) (September 6, 2020)
	+ [Nova Scotia housing crisis could squeeze refugees and new immigrants out | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/housing-crisis-refugees-immigrants-nova-scotia-1.6123945) (August 3, 2021).
	+ [https://r.search.yahoo.com/\_ylt=AwrFbLzIMWRkJsYEhwoXFwx.;\_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzMEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1684316745/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.saltwire.com%2ffrom-multisite%2fthe-chronicle-herald%2fopinion%2flocal-perspectives%2fvoice-of-the-people-aug-14-2020-484746%2f/RK=2/RS=B2B.o\_IDQzHbwvaa\_rcSJhKNg\_E-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt%3DAwrFbLzIMWRkJsYEhwoXFwx.%3B_ylu%3DY29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzMEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV%3D2/RE%3D1684316745/RO%3D10/RU%3Dhttps%3A//www.saltwire.com/from-multisite/the-chronicle-herald/opinion/local-perspectives/voice-of-the-people-aug-14-2020-484746//RK%3D2/RS%3DB2B.o_IDQzHbwvaa_rcSJhKNg_E-)
	+ More can be found here: [Sobey in the Media | Saint Mary's University (smu.ca)](https://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/sobey-in-the-media.html)