

Certificate of Appreciation

To whom it may concern,

We would like to recognize the outstanding contribution, effort, and dedication of Avirat Desai to our team as a volunteer Advanced research assistant for the CoronaNet Research Project. Avirat was active with our project from 2021-11-08 to 2022-06-07 and, in that time, coded and updated policy information for Greece. Without the support of our dedicated RAs, such as Avirat Desai, we would not be able to sustain our pace of policy documentation which, to date, counts more than 100 thousand policies from virtually every country in the world.

The CoronaNet Research Project is working to gather comprehensive and global data on government responses to the COVID-19 crisis. This work includes gathering information about which governments are responding to the coronavirus, toward whom policies are targeted (e.g. other countries), the types of policies enacted (e.g. travel restrictions, banning exports of masks) and their timing and duration. For more information, see www.coronanet-project.org.

Avirat has been a country expert for Greece. This role involves researching and creating a comprehensive overview of government policies enacted in Greece as well as collecting and entering new and updated policy information related to COVID-19. Becoming a country expert requires passing a series of trainings on how to code data in the CoronaNet database, which uses a custom Qualtrics survey instrument, keeping up with policy coding on a weekly basis, and attending weekly country- or regional coordination meetings as well as project-wide meetings.

After gaining sufficient experience and expertise within CoronaNet, RAs are promoted to Advanced Research Assistant, which is the position currently held by Avirat. This role involves coding an impressive number of 100 policies or more and being engaged as a research assistant for at least 3 months. Advanced research assistants have gained high expertise in PHSM data and the CoronaNet dataset. They have extensive knowledge of the taxonomy and the project structure, and provide support to other research assistants. With their considerable knowledge, they play an integral role in the success of the project.

In addition to being a country expert, Avirat took on the following additional roles within CoronaNet:

- **Regional Manager:** This role involves leading a group of RAs. It involves oversight and support of RAs, including conducting regular performance and activity appraisals to guarantee the development of a consistent and up-to-date dataset. Regional Managers are the first point of contact for RA questions regarding research and organizational issues. The role requires a profound knowledge of the construction of the dataset and strong leadership and management skills in order to foster a team spirit among the RAs, enhance their motivation, and develop a positive work environment.
- **Project Study:** Avirat has participated in a practical experience 'Project Study' module at the Hochschule für Politik at the Technical University of Munich. Through this module, students receive 18 ECTS for 500 hours of practical employment with CoronaNet. Project Study students are incorporated into every aspect of the project—such as coding, validation, cleaning, and managing of data—and also gain significant management experience through leading other RAs as country/regional managers or through managing special projects.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our thanks to Avirat Desai for supporting these important and time-sensitive collection efforts and for being part of the CoronaNet community.



Luca Messerschmidt, Principal Investigator

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CoronaNet Research Team

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Joan Barceló (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Cindy Cheng (TU Munich)

Vanja Grujic (Universidade de Brasília)

Allison Spencer Hartnett (Yale University)

Robert Kubinec (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Luca Messerschmidt (TU Munich)

Timothy A. Model (Havighurst Fellow at the Miami University)

Caress Schenk (Nazarbayev University)

Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir (TU Munich)

