Aarushi Kalra

University of Oxford, Economics aarushirita.github.io aarushiritakalra@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Brown University

Providence, RI, USA

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

2025

Dissertation Committee: Andrew Foster, Brian Knight, Stelios Michalopoulos, Peter Hull, Daniel Björkegren

Delhi School of Economics

New Delhi, India

M.A. Economics 2017

Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

New Delhi, India

B.A. (Honors) Economics

2015

Exchange: National University of Singapore

Teaching and Research Fields

Digital Economies and AI, Development Economics, Political Economy

Working Papers

Social Media Algorithms versus Preferences in a Large-scale RCT

Awards: NEUDC/ Weiss Fund Distinguished Paper Award 2024, Best Paper Award at CesIfo Doctoral Workshop on Economics of Digitization 2025, BU Platform Strategy Symposium Alessandro di Fiore Best Paper Prize Runner-up

Presented at (* =upcoming): Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society 2024 (Nashville), Brown Applied Microeconomics Seminar 2024, Harvard Grad PE Seminar, NEUDC 2024, ETH Zürich and UZH Workshop in AI + Economics 2024, NBER Conference on Information and Competition in the Digital Economy 2024, ISI-Delhi Growth and Development Conference 2024, Caltech Information and Misinformation in Elections Conference 2025, South Asia Seminar Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy, Digital Economy Workshop DIW Berlin 2025, Applied Microecomics and QSS Seminar Dartmouth, Network Science in Economics Conference Stanford 2025, cesIfo 8th Doctoral Workshop on Economics of Digitization Toulouse, CEPR 3rd Workshop on Media, Technology, Politics and Society Bocconi, Applied Micro Seminar University of Oslo, Machine Learning for Economics Conference at UChicago, NBER SI 2025

A 'Ghetto' of One's Own: Communal Violence, Residential Segregation, and Group Education Outcomes in India

Awards: Winner, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences Graduate Student Paper Prize (2022)

Presented at: Comparative Welfare State Conference 2024 (Brown), Summer Meetings Econometric Society 2023 (UCLA), Asian Meetings of the Econometric Society 2023 (IIT-Bombay), NEUDC 2022 (Yale), Population Association of America Conference 2022 (Atlanta), Indus Action (New Delhi), Spatial Structures in

Social Science Colloquim 2022 (Brown), Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development 2021 (ISI-Delhi), Brown-MIT Graduate Development Workshop 2021, Brown Applied Micro Lunch 2020

Elections, Leader Identity, and Backlash

Presented at: NBER Conference on Entrepreneurship, Public Policy, and Economics Outcomes 2022 (ISB-Hyderabad), Machine Learning for Economics Summer Institute 2022 (UChicago), Data Science Institute 2022 (Brown), Young Economists' Symposium 2022 (Yale), Development Data Lab, Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development 2022 (ISI-Delhi)

Hate Thy Neighbor: Evidence on the Effects of Local News on Political Polarization from a Large-Scale RCT

Presented at: Brown University Applied Micro Lunch Seminar 2023

Targeted Disruptions: Internet Shutdowns in India (with Ro'ee Levy and Martin Mattsson)

Work Experience

Brown University, Economics Department	Providence, RI
Research Assistant for Professor Alisa Tazhitdinova	2020
Center for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics	New Delhi, India
Research Assistant for Professor Mausumi Das	2017–2018
Ranchi University and IIT-Delhi	Jharkhand/ New Delhi, India
Field Investigator for Professors Jean Drèze and Reetika Khera	2013–2018

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

• Global Mobility Research Fellowship, Brown University	2023
• Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University	2022
• Center for Contemporary South Asia Teaching Fellowship, Brown University	2021
• Graduate Student Fellowship, Brown University	2018
• Faculty Prize, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University	2015
• Exchange Scholarship, National University of Singapore	2014

GRANTS

• NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Sciene Foundation	2023
• Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics	2023
• Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia Summer Fellowship, Brown University	2022
• Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Funding, Brown University	$2022,\ 2021$
• Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia Winter Fellowship, Brown University	2021
• Swearer Center Engaged Course Mini-Grant, Brown University	2021

TEACHING

Instructor for Undergraduate Course at Brown University • Honors Thesis Advising 2025 • Economic and Human Development in South Asia 2021 Teaching Assistant at Brown University • Machine Learning, Text Analysis, and Economics (Professor Amy Handlan) 2024 • Statistical Methods and Economic Analysis for MPA (Professors Jesse Bruhn, Bryce Steinberg, Neil Thakral, Alex Poterack) 2022 • Game Theory and Application to Economics (Professor Roberto Serrano) 2020 • Intermediate Microeconomics (Professor Fahri Ulusoy) 2020 • PhD Mathematics for Economists (Professor Alex Poterack) 2019 Instructor for Training Indian Economic Service Officers (GoI) at the Institute for Economic Growth, New Delhi • Quantitative Methods in Economics with STATA 2018

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Impacts of regional lockdown policies on COVID-19 transmission in India in 2020 (with Paul Novosad, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2022)

Birth Pangs: Universal Maternity Entitlements in India (with Aditi Priya, Economic and Political Weekly, 2020)

OTHER

- Service: Co-founder, Bahujan Economists
- Referee: Journal of Development Economics, PLOS One, ACM Journal of Computing and Sustainable Societies, Journal of Comparative Economics
- Organization: Fair February 2022, Data Science Initiative, Brown; Women in Data Science Datathon 2023, Brown; Graduate Student Seminar Speaker Series 2024, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown
- Affiliations: Populations Studies and Training Center at Brown, Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia
- Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Punjabi (advanced), Urdu (elementary)

Updated on August 18, 2025