Aman Desai

PhD Program in Economics

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**EDUCATION**

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| --- | --- |
| Expected 2025 | PhD in Economics, **CUNY Graduate Center** |
| 2018 | MS in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics, **SUNY at Buffalo** |
| 2015 | Diploma for Graduates in Economics, **University of London International Programmes** |
| 2014 | BTech in Civil Engineering, **Gujarat Technological University** |

**FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Labor Economics, Applied Micro-econometrics, Machine Learning in Social Science

**JOB MARKET PAPER**

**Measuring Income Inequality of Opportunity: Accounting for Dynamic Complementarity**

**Abstract :** According to the egalitarian principle of justice, life success can be attributed to two main factors: circumstances beyond an individual's control and personal effort within an individual’s control. Roemer's concept of equality of opportunity proposes that individuals should be compensated for inequalities resulting from unequal circumstances. Dynamic complementarity in skill formation suggests that early childhood skill gaps often persist in adulthood, leading to unequal outcomes. Using PSID data, I classify all measurable factors before the age of consent at 18 as circumstances. My findings show that 42.57% of inequality can be attributed to inequality of opportunity before an individual becomes an adult. Moreover, nearly 34% of total outcome inequality stems from unequal circumstances faced by individuals at or before age 5. These results highlight the importance of considering childhood circumstances—factors beyond individual control—when measuring inequality of opportunity rigorously.

**PAPERS IN PROGRESS**

**Impact of COVID-19 on Student Performance: Using Exam Level Data from a Public College in NYC,** *with Theodore Joyce*

**Abstract :** We analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on undergraduates’ performance in an introductory economics course at a large public university. One challenge in analyzing student academic outcomes during the pandemic was the explicit change in grading policies by college administrators as well as the implicit adjustment by faculty designed to mitigate the impact of an abrupt shift to online learning amidst the stress and uncertainly associated with the pandemic. To limit the impact of grading policies we analyze changes in the raw scores on a common final administered to all sections of the course the year before and for four semesters after the spring of 2020. To limit variation in the difficulty of the exams from before to during the pandemic, we compare student performance on nearly identical questions on the final exam overtime. Adjusted mean scores on the common final fell by 0.6 points and the probability of answering the qualitatively same question on the final fell, on average, by 5.7 percentage points. Students with lower GPAs were 4.3 percentage points less likely to answer similar questions correctly relative to students with higher GPAs during the pandemic.

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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| 2023-2024 | Stone Center Junior Scholarship |
| 2022 | Open Pedagogy Fellowship |
| 2018-2023 | Graduate Center Fellowship |

**SEMINARS/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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| 2024 | Stone Center Multidisciplinary Seminar Series, NYC, New York |
| 2024 | PSID Annual User Workshop, Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| 2024 | Dissertation Seminar in Economics, CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, New York |
| 2023 | Dissertation Seminar in Economics, CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, New York |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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| **Adjunct Lecturer** |  |
| 2022-present | ECO 4000 Statistical Analysis for Economics and Finance, Baruch College |
| 2021-present | ECO 1002 Macroeconomics, Baruch College |
| 2019-2022 | ECO 1001 Current Economic Problems, Baruch College |
| 2019-2020 | BUSN 3400 Introduction to Economics and Business Statistics, Brooklyn College |
| **Teaching Assistant** |  |
| 2019-2022 | ECO 4100 Applied Micro-Econometrics, Dr. Theodore Joyce, Baruch College |
| 2017 | ECO 407 Macroeconomic Theory, Dr. James Holmes, SUNY at Buffalo |

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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| 2023 | Research Assistant to Dr. Theodore Joyce, Research Foundation, CUNY |
| 2022 | Research Assistant to Dr. Rafia Zafar, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality |
| 2019-2022 | Research Assistant to Dr. Miles Corak, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality |

**WORKSHOPS**

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| 2024 | Inequality by Numbers, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality |
| 2023 | Machine Learning and Heterogeneous Effects |
| 2023 | Machine Learning and Causal Inference |
| 2022 | Causal Inference Mixtape II |
| 2022 | Causal Inference Mixtape I |
| 2022 | PSID Data User Workshop |

**SOFTWARE SKILLS**

R, Stata, Python, MS-Excel, Latex

**LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), Gujarati (native)

**REFERENCES**

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| --- | --- |
| Dr. Miles Corak (Advisor) | Dr. Theodore Joyce |
| Professor of Economics | Professor of Economics |
| PhD Program in Economics | Zicklin School of Business |
| CUNY Graduate Center | Baruch College |
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|  |  |
| Dr. Lilia Maliar | Dr. Wim Vijverberg |
| Professor of Economics | Professor of Economics |
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