

Organization: LSE/STICERD

Location: Remote, LSE student preferred

Start Date: ASAP

Length of Commitment: 6 months

Principal Investigators: Ananya Kotia (LSE), Utkarsh Saxena (Oxford)

Overview of the Role: We are seeking a Research Assistant to oversee a portfolio of three research projects. One field-based RCT explores the role of artificial intelligence in enhancing judicial and bureaucratic state capacity in India. The second project is building a harmonized data repository of Indian firm and household microdata. The third studies the impact of import competition on firm management and performance. This position offers the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in data analysis using a wide variety of economic methods.

Key responsibilities include (1) data analysis and cleaning of large admin firm and household data from India (2) developing a code base to clean and analyze periodic survey responses from the field, (3) help with grant applications, progress reports etc. (4) typesetting research output for seminars and reports. We are looking for a proactive individual with familiarity with applied economics, specially coding in Stata.

The successful candidate will join a team of Principal Investigators (PIs) and Research Assistants (RAs) and a Research Manager (RM). They will gain direct experience collaborating with PIs on various stages of a research project—from fundraising, data analysis to research dissemination through presentations and reports.

Project 1: Artificial Intelligence and Judicial State Capacity

PIs: Ananya Kotia (LSE), Utkarsh Saxena (Oxford)

This project seeks to address India's substantial judicial backlog of over 50 million cases by evaluating the impact of integrating AI-driven tools like transcription, translation, OCR scanning, and case flow management software in courtrooms in a large Indian state. The intervention aims to test the impact of such tools on case resolution times and judicial decision-making.

Project 2: India Data Lab

PIs: Ananya Kotia (LSE)

The India Data Lab (IDL) is an initiative to harmonize unit-level microdata from India's key household and firm surveys, specifically the National Sample Surveys (NSS) and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). In collaboration with LSE, IGC, and NITI Aayog, the IDL will integrate these datasets into the National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP). By cleaning and standardizing these complex datasets into a single, analysis-ready repository, the IDL aims to significantly streamline research efforts and enhance empirical studies on India's economy.

Project 3: Family Matters: Globalization, Management, and Firm Productivity

PIs: Ananya Kotia (LSE)

This project aims to study how globalization shapes firm management and productivity in India. It combines variation in import competition with newly compiled data on family-managed firms, focusing on family ties and tenure records of over 6 million company directors. The study seeks to understand whether firms respond to competition by professionalizing management and how such changes contribute to productivity growth at both the firm and economy-wide level.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Economics or a related social science field. A master's degree in Economics or a related social science field is a plus.
- Strong data analysis and coding skills; prior experience with Stata is desired
- Ability to work in a team, ability to multitask and manage multiple projects on the ground, and be self-motivated.
- While extensive field experience is not required, some exposure to field research (e.g., survey design, supervising data collection, or working with field teams) is desirable to better understand project context.
- Excellent organizational skills, attention to detail, and strong written and verbal communication.

Responsibilities

- Clean, merge, and analyze large-scale administrative and survey microdata (firm and household) using Stata.
- Develop reproducible codebases for cleaning and analyzing periodic survey responses and administrative data.
- Conduct background research, literature reviews, and data documentation to support research design and dissemination.
- Prepare technical documentation and data request notes for internal use and external audiences.
- Contribute to drafting research outputs, including grant applications, progress reports, academic papers, policy briefs and other funder deliverables.
- Assist with preparing materials for seminars, workshops, and dissemination events.
- Maintain project documentation, ensuring transparent workflows and compliance with data security and ethical research protocols.
- Support field-facing teams by reviewing survey instruments, piloting survey modules, and interpreting feedback from the field to improve data quality

Application: Apply through this form.