

# AZHAR HUSSAIN

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## EDUCATION:

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<b>London School of Economics and Political Science</b> PhD Economics	2020 – 25
<b>London School of Economics and Political Science</b> M.Res Economics	2018 – 20
<b>Indian Institute of Technology, Varanasi</b> B.Tech Mining Engineering	2010 – 14

## RESEARCH FIELDS:

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**Primary:** Environmental Economics, Development Economics

**Secondary:** Political Economy, Spatial Economics

## WORKING PAPERS:

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### **Climate Change and Firm Dynamics: Evidence from Manufacturing Plants in Indonesia**

Developing countries, with their economic centers often situated in vulnerable areas, are expected to face the brunt of climate change impacts. Indonesia stands out due to its significant risk of disasters, exacerbated by floods of all types and the rapid rise of sea levels. Examining the immediate impact of flooding—considering both its spatial and temporal scale—on the manufacturing sector’s value-added and capital stock reveals detrimental effects on both, partly due to dynamics of firm entry in the flood-prone regions. Moreover, these negative effects persist in the long term, with cumulative flood exposure leading to reductions in aggregate value-added and capital stock, driven in part by both firm entry and exit dynamics.

### **Global Gains from a Green Energy Transition: Evidence on Coal-Fired Power and Air Quality**

**Dissatisfaction** with Tim Besley. *CEPR Discussion Paper*, no. 18046, 2023.

Phasing out coal-fired power in favor of renewables is a central part of the green transition. As well as reducing carbon emissions, it should have an immediate and perceptible benefit for air quality. This paper uses geocoded survey data from 51 countries to show that people living within 40 km of coal-fired power plants are indeed more dissatisfied with ambient air quality. We then construct the equivalent variation for closing down coal-fired power plants and find that air quality benefits support the case for a green transition, with implications for policy action in this area.

### **From Streets to Ballots: The Impact of Climate Protests on Public Awareness and Electoral Outcomes**

with Javad Shamsi and Ranjana Sinha. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4939241>.

Climate-related protests have become increasingly widespread across the world. This paper empirically investigates the impact of climate protests on public awareness and subsequent political behavior. First, we document that such protests significantly elevate climate change awareness, as evidenced by increased Google search intensity for climate-related topics and heightened media coverage in both the United States and Europe. We then demonstrate that this surge in public interest translates into tangible political action. Specifically, we observe that the widespread *Fridays for Future* protests in Europe increased support for Green parties in the 2019 European Parliamentary elections. Additionally, we employ textual analysis to present suggestive evidence of the protests’ influence on the prioritization of climate issues in UK Parliamentary speeches. Our findings suggest that climate protests have the potential to shape policy discourse.

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS:

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### **Understanding Environmental Preferences and Drivers of Climate Action**

with Tim Besley and Michael Callen

### **Illuminating Development: Socioeconomic Impact of Rural Electrification in India**

### **Political Economy of Religious Salience in Electoral Competition: Theory and Evidence from India**

## METHOD CONTRIBUTIONS:

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**A Practical Guide to Climate Econometrics: Navigating Key Decision Points in Weather and Climate Data Analysis** with James Rising, Kevin Schwarzwald, and Ana Trisovic. *Journal of Open Source Education*, 7(75), 90, 2024.

The use of econometrics to study how social, economic, and biophysical systems respond to weather has started a torrent of new research. It is allowing researchers to better understand the impacts of climate change, disaster risk and responses, resource management, human behavior, and sustainable development. In light of this, we present a new tutorial that offers step-by-step guidance on carrying out a climate econometric analysis. Moreover, it features reusable code snippets in multiple programming languages and points to several pre-existing packages while providing some introductory comments on their appropriate use.

## POLICY BRIEFS:

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**Are Perceptions of Air Quality More Negative for Those Who Live Close to Coal-fired Power Stations?** with Tim Besley. *British Academy Policy Brief*, August 12, 2022.

**Could a National Investment Bank Support Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis?** with Tim Besley, Richard Davies, and Nick Stern. *Economics Observatory*, September 30, 2020.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

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Research Assistant to Professor Tim Besley, LSE	2020 –
Research Assistant to Professor Robin Burgess, LSE	2019
Research Assistant to Professors Michael Greenstone and Solomon Hsiang, University of Chicago	2016 – 18
Senior Research Associate at Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)	2014 – 16

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

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European Economic Association Travel Grant	2023
Royal Economic Society Conference Grant	2023
STICERD Michio Morishima Student Grant	2023
PEDL Exploratory Research Grant	2022
British Academy SSF Grant (with Tim Besley)	2022
STICERD Research Grant for PhD students	2021
Member of Action Team for the UK Royal Society DELVE initiative	2020
Chevening Scholarship supported by the FCDO, UK ( <i>declined</i> )	2016
J-PAL Best Innovation Award for survey data tracking and cleaning	2016

## INVITED CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS:

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(\* indicates presentations by a co-author)

2024: Oxford Development Economics Workshop, Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics–UCSB, RES Annual Conference, TrEnCE Working Group–Paris Dauphine, Political Economy of Environmental Policy–Stockholm School of Economics\*, IFS–UCL–LSE Development Seminar, ~~LSE South-east Asia Centre PhD Workshop~~

2023: RES PhD Conference, BREAD Conference–MIT, Essex PhD Conference, EEA–ESEM Annual Congress, MWIEDC–Houston, NICEP–Nottingham, LSE Environment Day, LSE Environment Week, AYE Working Group–Monash & Warwick, ISEC–Bengaluru\*, ~~HPF Annual Conference, NCDE–Gothenburg, MCEE–Mannheim, ACEGD–ISI Delhi~~

2022: British Academy Roundtable, ~~NEUDC–Yale~~

## TEACHING:

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EC351: International Economics, LSE (Summer School)	2022, 24
EC338: International Trade, LSE (Undergraduate)	2023
PP4G9E: Public Policy in Practice II, LSE (Graduate)	2023

EC212: Introduction to Econometrics, LSE (Summer School)	2021, 23
EC320: Applied Econometrics and Big Data, LSE (Summer School)	2021, 22
EC201: Microeconomic Principles I, LSE (Undergraduate)	2020 – 22
EC102: Introductory Economics, LSE (Undergraduate)	2019 – 20
<u>Awards</u>	
LSE Class Teacher Bonus Award ( <i>based on students' ratings</i> )	2020 – 22
LSE Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award ( <i>nominated</i> )	2021

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND SERVICE:

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Developing LSE Economics database for Research Excellence Framework (REF2029)	2024 –
Research Advisor at Gallup, Inc.	2021 –
Coordinator for the Hayek Programme at LSE	2020 –
Organizing Team Member for Development Reading Group at LSE	2020 – 22
Referee: Economica, Young Economist Symposium (Yale)	

## SKILLS:

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Computing: C, C++, Matlab, Python, QGIS, R, Stata  
 Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Urdu (native), Arabic (beginner)

## PERSONAL:

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Born in Bihar, India. Married, with one son.  
 Running results: 2023 Manchester Half Marathon (1:45:44), 2024 Edinburgh Marathon (4:03:53)