

CHANDNI RAJA

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EDUCATION

Ph.D in Economics, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	2019 - present (expected June 2025)
<u>Advisors:</u> John Asker, Martin Hackmann	
M.A. in Economics, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	2021
M.P.A. in Public and Economic Policy, <i>London School of Economics</i>	2014
B.A., <i>University of Southern California</i>	2012

RESEARCH FIELDS

Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

How Do Hospitals Respond to Input Regulation? Evidence from the California Nurse Staffing Mandate, *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Health Economics, May 2023*

- **Abstract:** Mandated minimum nurse-to-patient ratios have been the subject of active debate in the U.S. for over twenty years and are under legislative consideration today in several states and at the federal level. This paper uses the 1999 California nurse staffing mandate as an empirical setting to estimate the causal effects of minimum ratios on hospitals. Minimum ratios led to a 58 minute increase in nursing time per patient day and 9 percent increase in the wage bill per patient day in acute care among treated hospitals. Hospitals responded on several margins: increased their use of lower-licensed and younger nurses, reduced capacity by 16 beds (12 percent), and increased bed utilization rates by 0.045 points (8 percent). Using administrative data on discharges for acute myocardial infarction (AMI), I find a significant reduction in length of stay (5 percent). I investigate whether the decline in length of stay is indicative of higher care quality or hospitals discharging patients “quicker and sicker” due to capacity constraints. I find no effect on the 30-day readmission rate and conclude there was an increase in care quality per day for AMI.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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| ● UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Research Mentorship Program | 2022 - 2023 |
| ● UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program | 2022 |
| ● UCLA Department of Economics Lewis L. Clarke Graduate Fellowship | 2021 |
| ● UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Dean's Scholar Award | 2019 - 2021 |
| ● UCLA Department of Economics Top TA Award, Pandemic Teaching Award | 2020 - 2021 |
| ● UCLA Department of Economics Fellowship | 2019 - 2020 |
| ● InterMedia and Gates Foundation Data Challenge Grand Prize | 2014 |
| ● USC Presidential Merit Scholarship | 2008 - 2012 |
| ● USC Summer Undergraduate Research Fund, University Research Associates Program | 2010 |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant 2021 - present
 - Graduate Research Assistant for Prof. Wesley Yin 2022 - present
 - Graduate Research Assistant for Prof. Till von Wachter 2021 - 2022
- Consultant, *World Bank* 2018 - 2021
 - Short-Term Consultant, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, Nigeria 2020 - 2021
 - Short-Term Consultant, Jobs and Skills Global Practice, Liberia 2019
 - Short-Term Consultant, Africa Gender Innovation Lab, Nigeria and Ethiopia 2018 - 2019
- Consultant, *Compass Lexecon* 2014 - 2017
 - Senior Analyst, Antitrust and Competition Practice 2016 - 2017
 - Analyst, Antitrust and Competition Practice 2014 - 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant for Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 101) Fall 2020
 - * Department of Economics – Pandemic Teaching Award (Fall 2020)
- Teaching Assistant for Organization of Firms (ECON 106I) Winter 2021
 - * Department of Economics – Top TA Award (2020 - 2021)

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Ethiopia Gender Diagnostic Report: Priorities for Promoting Equity, with Niklas Buehren, et al., 2019, World Bank.

Data-Driven Decision Making in Fragile Contexts: Evidence from Sudan, with Naomi Crowther and Ella Spencer, 2017, Eds. Alexander Hamilton and Craig Hammer, World Bank.

Inequalities in Public Services in Sudan: Using a Perceptions-Informed View to Drive Policy in Education, Health, and Water Provision, with Naomi Crowther, Keisuke Okamura, David Rinnert, and Ella Spencer, 2014, U.K. Department for International Development.

Tailored Finance and Organic Growth: A Livelihoods Approach to Financial Inclusion in India, with Rossi Abi-Rafeh, Joshua Bernstein, and Ella Spencer, 2014, InterMedia and Gates Foundation Open Data Analysis Challenge Grand Prize.

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, Microsoft Office Suite, L^AT_EX

Languages: English (native), Tamil (fluent), Spanish (basic)