

DEVIKA RHISHIKESH LAKHOTE

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EDUCATION

- PhD** **Public Policy Analysis** | **University of Chicago** | Chicago, IL Expected June 2023
Quantitative research on development economics funded by Pearson Institute Scholarship of \$300,000
- BA** **Economics (with distinction)** | **St. Xavier's College** | Mumbai, India April 2015
Won scholarship for 2nd-highest score in the state; Studied abroad at **Yale University**

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Programming languages: **Python** (Intermediate), **SQL** (Basic), **ArcGIS** (Advanced)
Statistical software: **R** (Advanced), **Stata** (Advanced), **MATLAB** (Advanced)

DATA SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

- University of Chicago** | Chicago, IL August 2018 – Present
Doctoral Researcher
- Developed measurement strategies using food expenditure data from 100,000 consumers to reliably estimate their religious identity
 - Analyzed a natural experiment in R to evaluate a billion-dollar infrastructure fund and quantify its long-term impacts on targeted populations
 - Communicated key insights from the COVID-19 economic crisis by analyzing real-time nationwide data in a leading newspaper (The Indian Express) with a readership of over 300,000
 - Built pipelines to extract novel data on 500,000 water supply projects using Python and measured their effect on household water access using instrumental variables technique
 - Mentored junior researchers and over 200 business students, PhDs and MAs through teaching and detailed feedback on their work
- Stanford University** | Palo Alto, CA August 2016 – August 2018
Pre-doctoral Researcher
- Evaluated the social network behavior of millions of Indonesian Twitter users by conducting complex user experiments about vaccine misinformation
 - Devised a Bayesian model in MATLAB and applied it to experimental data from India and Mexico
 - Partnered with scientists to monitor and analyze real-time data from a large-scale experiment on demonetization in India
 - Structured analytical frameworks using rigorous experimentation, random forest algorithms, double-post LASSO, spatial modeling, structural estimation, etc. across projects from Americas, Asia, and Africa

COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- MIT Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)** | Bangalore, India April 2015 – August 2016
Research Associate
- Led and trained a team of 30 surveyors to collect extensive data across 50,000 households in India
 - Designed, executed and analyzed experiments to study financial and information networks in 25k Indian households with a team of 10 researchers
 - Collaborated with subject-matter experts, donors, admin depts. and survey staff for 4-6 projects at a time to produce publication-quality research
- Haiyya** | Mumbai, India January 2012 – August 2013
Finance and Operations Associate
- Single-handedly managed finance and logistics to smoothly run community organizing fellowships for over 2 dozen citizens that taught them how to prevent gendered violence in their neighborhoods
 - Established communication between stakeholders (e.g. police, residents) to improve public safety practices