

# Devika Rhishikesh Lakhote

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Chicago** | Chicago, IL June 2023

PhD in Public Policy (STEM Certified Major: Econometrics and Quantitative Economics)

- Relevant coursework: Advanced **Statistics**, Advanced **Econometrics**, Advanced **Microeconomics**

**St. Xavier's College** | Mumbai, India April 2015

BA in **Economics** (with distinction)

## PROGRAMMING SKILLS

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Languages: **R**, **Python**, **SQL**, MATLAB, Stata, JavaScript

Tools/Packages: VS Code, git, Jupyter, llamaindex, Excel, Power BI

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)** | Washington, DC July 2023 – Present

Data Scientist

- Combined novel data sources (geospatial and machine learning) with econometric methods to measure the impact of anti-poverty policy interventions, enhancing analytical rigor and expanding 3ie's technical offerings
- Managed the team, budget, hiring and strategic planning of a \$500k project with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (US foreign aid agency) to advocate for research-based institutional reform
- Developed 3ie's technical innovation strategy for partnerships and contributed to fundraising efforts, resulting in three high-impact proposals
- Spearheaded the development of generative AI tools, such as a chatbot for 3ie's portal, to streamline evidence synthesis workflows, reducing time-to-insight for researchers and policymakers by over 20-30%
- Developed and delivered training sessions on integrating AI, geospatial analysis, and causal inference, equipping 70+ staff members with advanced analytics skills and enhancing organizational capacity

**University of Chicago** | Chicago, IL August 2018 – June 2023

Doctoral Researcher

- Estimated the impact of a billion-dollar infrastructure fund using quasi-experimental methods to uncover a 20% increase in children's enrollment in schools, that had not been measured before
- Managed a team from start-to-end to conduct rigorous statistical analysis of consumer behavior using a 100,000-household dataset to define a complex and advanced metric of religious identity
- Identified and extracted new unstructured data on 500,000 water supply projects using Python and predicted the construction of water pipes in remote areas of India using LASSO and Random Forest Algorithm
- Communicated research findings from the COVID-19 economic crisis by visualizing real-time nationwide data in a leading newspaper article (The Indian Express) with a readership of over 300,000
- Mentored junior researchers and over 200 students through teaching, supervising and evaluating their work

**Stanford University** | Palo Alto, CA August 2016 – August 2018

Pre-doctoral Researcher

- Developed statistical models to study how to dispel vaccine misinformation on Indonesian Twitter by analyzing complex, large-scale experimentation data
- Advised on A/B testing strategy along with a team of scientists to measure, in real-time, the spread of misinformation during the unprecedented demonetization crisis in India
- Effectively identified and applied machine learning and statistical techniques such as rigorous experimentation, random forest algorithms, propensity modeling, double-post LASSO, spatial modeling, structural estimation, etc. across projects from Americas, Asia, and Africa that contributed to 6 publications in top journals

**MIT Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)** | Bangalore, India April 2015 – August 2016

Research Associate

- Led and trained a team of 30 surveyors to collect survey & experiment data across 50,000 households in India
- Partnered with subject-matter experts, donors, admin depts. and survey staff for 4-6 experiments at a time to align priorities of all stakeholders and drive actionable research
- Designed, implemented and analyzed complex A/B tests in deep collaboration with 10 researchers to credibly say that your close friends and advisors influence a large portion of your life's key financial decisions

**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
- Facilitated communication between stakeholders (e.g. police, residents, local politicians) to drastically improve public safety practices in Mumbai