
Omkar A. Katta

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Education

University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts
summa cum laude with Distinction in Mathematical Economics
Minors in Creative Writing and Statistics

May 2020
GPA: 3.95/4.00

Research Experience

Research Professional, *Big Data Initiative at the Becker Friedman Institute for Economics* Jul 2020 - Present
Mentors: Alexander Torgovitsky, Guillaume Pouliot

Research Assistant, *School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania* Sep 2017 - May 2020
Mentor: Femida Handy

Leadership Alliance Intern, *Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale* Jun 2019 - Jul 2019
Mentor: Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak

Research Synopsis

Nonprofit Governance: Gender Diversity on Boards Nov 2018 - Present
With: John Bush, Hannah Christine, Allison Russell, Femida Handy
Summary: Using data from IRS 990s, we determine whether the gender composition of nonprofit boards influences the adoption of good governance practices.

To Be or Not To Be Active: Game-Theoretic Decision-Making During Pandemics Apr 2020 - Present
Advisors: Aislinn Bohren, Ashwin Kambhampati
Summary: Inspired by my work in Advanced Game Theory (ECON682) I model the trade-off between reducing the risk of spreading/catching the virus and being socially and economically active.

Face to Face vs. Face to Screen: The Short-Term Evaluation of Telesecundarias Apr 2020 - Present
Advisor: Petra Todd
Summary: Continuing my work from Microeconometrics (ECON222), I quantify the effects of attending a telesecundaria relative to attending a traditional school in Mexico on ENLACE test scores in Spanish and Math with a Generalized Roy Model.

Creating a Toilet Habit in Kenya Jun 2019 - Jul 2019
With: Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, Judy Chevalier, Johann Caro-Burnett
Summary: We implemented a large-scale field experiment in Nairobi, Kenya that observes toilet use before, during, and after various incentive schemes to understand how habits form and behavior persists.

Intergenerational Transmission of Environmental Values Mar 2018 - Jun 2019
With: Femida Handy, Itay Greenspan, Tally Katz-Gerro
Summary: We explored parental environmental behaviors and socialization domains as predictors for child environmental behavior by using national samples of parent-child dyads in Israel, South Korea, and the United States.

The Influence of Strategic Potential of a Tennis Game on Effort Oct 2018 - Dec 2018
Advisor: Francis DiTraglia
Summary: Using point-by-point data and player statistics from the ATP website, I studied the likelihood of winning a tennis match when losing a game intentionally would be strategically beneficial.

Ephemerality of Preferences Sep 2017 - Dec 2017
With: Justin Mignatti ; *Advisor:* Irina Pimenova
Summary: We determined whether preferences change within two weeks by comparing the results of baseline and endline surveys that ask participants to rank a various sets of goods.

Conferences, Presentations, and Talks

Center for Undergraduate Research: Spring Research Poster Digital Expo Nonprofit Governance: Gender Diversity on Boards	Apr 2020 Virtual
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Does Gender Composition Influence Adoption of Good Governance Practices? <i>With:</i> John Bush, Hannah Christine, Allison Russell, Femida Handy	Nov 2019 San Diego, CA
Center for Undergraduate Research: Research & Fellowships Week Undergraduate Research Panel: What I Wish I Had Known About Research?	Nov 2019 Philadelphia, PA
Voluntary Sector and Voluntary Research Conference Volunteering in Vietnam: Motivations and Meaning <i>With:</i> Allison Russell, Femida Handy	Sep 2019 Birmingham, UK
Leadership Alliance National Symposium Toilet Habit in Kenya: Formation and Persistence of Good Sanitary Practices	Jul 2019 Hartford, CT

Publications

Omkar A. Katta. The Longevity of Senet and its Symbolism to Ancient Egyptian Beliefs (2018). *American Research Center in Egypt - Pennsylvania Chapter*.

Omkar A. Katta (contributor). A Tail of Two Employees (2018). In Femida Handy and Allison Russell (Eds.), *Ethics for Social Impact: Ethical Decision-Making in Nonprofit Organizations* (pp. 219 - 229). Palgrave Macmillan.

Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa	May 2020 - Present
Dean's Scholar, Penn College of Arts and Sciences	May 2020
Flagbearer, Dept. of Mathematical Economics, University of Pennsylvania	May 2020
Kanta Marwah Prize for Undergraduate Research, (\$700) University of Pennsylvania	Nov 2019 - May 2020
Philosophy of Finance Fellowship, Penn Collegium Society	Sep 2019 - May 2020
Grant for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduates, (\$2000) University of Pennsylvania	May 2019 - Aug 2019
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, (\$3000) Yale University	Jun 2019 - Jul 2019
Dean's List, University of Pennsylvania	Jul 2017, '18, '19

Other Experience

Economics, Statistics, and Mathematics Tutor, The Tutoring Center	Jan 2017 - May 2020
President, Penn Cinema Initiative	Sep 2018 - May 2020
Research Peer Advisor, Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships	Sep 2019 - May 2020
Set Captain, Penn Singers Light Opera Company	Jan 2018 - May 2020
Teaching Assistant, ECON103: Statistics for Economists	Jan 2019 - May 2019

Miscellaneous

Technical Skills: R, Stata, Python, Git, Excel, \LaTeX

Special Interests: Graphite and Digital Sketching, Macrophotography, Choir, Theatre, Percussion