

KAVYA RAVINDRANATH

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EDUCATION

Ph.D Economics

George Washington University, Washington DC

2021 - Current

M.A. Economics

Madras School of Economics, Chennai

2017 - 2019

B.A. Economics *with minors in Statistics and English Literature*

St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

2014 - 2017

AREAS OF INTEREST

Public Finance, Urban, Development

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Associate - Center for Advanced Financial Research and Learning, Reserve Bank of India

2019 - 2021

PI: Nirupama Kulkarni

- Worked on projects involving zombie lending, credit misallocation, homeownership, and sovereign credit ratings using loan-level datasets such as the LPC Dealscan and MCA, and firm-level datasets such as the Compustat and Thomson Reuters.

INTERNSHIPS

Consultant

Nov 2025 -

World Bank Group, PI: Klaus Deininger

- Exploratory work on property taxes in Malawi

Summer Consultant

May 2025 - August 2025

International Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group

- Conducted ex-ante and terminal AIMM assessments; worked on background research articles on in-office worker trainings, manufacturing agglomeration effects and indigenous crops in Sub-Saharan Africa

Summer Research Associate

May 2023 - August 2023, May 2024 - August 2024

PI: Tanner Regan

- Examined property tax payments in Kampala using KCCA's proprietary property tax data

Summer Research Associate - Energy and Environment Lab, University of Chicago

May 2022 - August 2022

PIs: Michael Greenstone, Olga Rostaphsova, Fiona Burlig and Ludovica Gasse

- Assisted on an RCT examining heavy duty truck emissions in California, in collaboration with the California Air Resources Board using proprietary CARB and DMV data.

WORKING PAPERS

Political Economy of State Borrowing and Financial Crowding Out with Viral Acharya, Nirupama Kulkarni, and Rahul Singh Chauhan

Presented at the 5th World Bank/IFS/ODI Tax Conference, slides available [here](#)

We examine the crowding out of privately-owned firms due to the presence of government-owned firms and state government borrowing, exploiting the variation in staggered state electoral cycles. In particular, we examine the role of politically motivated bond-market lending.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Raising Revenues: A study of property tax compliance in an Indian Municipality (*Job market paper*)

I measure tax compliance using data from a medium-sized Indian municipality by exploiting variation in tax assessments, using property-level tax payments data from for the past decade.

How much influence does a bureaucrat have? A study of caste and crime in India

Using novel data on police bureaucrats, I examine if replacing an upper-caste police bureaucrat with a lower caste one has an impact on the lower-caste residents of the district.

House Prices, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Justice with Rui Zhong

We exploit the Environmental Justice program in California to examine the price elasticity of solar panels using a Regression Discontinuity approach.

CONFERENCES

World Bank/IFS/ODI Tax Conference 2023

POLICY

Progressive tax rate bands and the state of property tax in Kampala with Julius Mutebi, Tanner Regan, Ezra Ssebuwufu

Understanding Sovereign Ratings and Their Implications for Emerging Economies with Nirupama Kulkarni, Gautham Udupa, Kaushalendra Kishore, Ilisa Goenka and Rahul Singh Chauhan

Published in the Economic & Political Weekly, 2023 Report can be accessed [here](#)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced	Stata, \LaTeX
Intermediate	Python, R, Git, MS-SQL, Tableau

REFERENCES

Dr. Elira Kuka
ekuka@gwu.edu

Dr. Paul Carrillo
pcarrilln@gwu.edu

Dr. Remi Jedwab
jedwab@gwu.edu