

Khushi Desai

(She/Her)

[LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Website](#)

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago

Chicago, USA

MS in Computational Analysis and Public Policy

2024- 2026

Core Modules: Computer Science with Applications 1 & 2, Statistics 1 & 2, Machine Learning, Linear Algebra, Databases

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)

Mumbai, India

BA in Economics and Journalism

2023

Core Modules: Descriptive Statistics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Investigative Journalism, Computer Graphics

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, LATEX, SQL, MySQL, ArcGIS

Misc: Pandas/NumPy, SciKit Learn, PyTorch, Matplotlib

Tools: STATA, SurveyCTO, Dedoose, Qualtrics, VBA in Excel, Wolfram Mathematica

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CENTER FOR CLIMATE, HEALTH AND SOCIETY

Chicago, IL

Research Assistant ([Medicaid Working Group](#): Dr. Colleen Grogan)

June 2025 - present

- Examining the impact of Medicaid, the largest single health care insurer in the United States, by conducting qualitative coding of 41 state Medicaid waiver documents using Dedoose software.
- Currently creating a unique dataset of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and re-entry waiver coverage and service delivery information using publicly available Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) documentation. This dataset will be linked to patient-level Medicaid (T-MSIS) claims data to conduct a series of retrospective, longitudinal analyses to determine how these policies are associated with treatment access and subsequent opioid-related care utilization and related health outcomes.

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND RACE LAB ([PEARL](#)) | SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Chicago, IL

Research Assistant (Dr. Patricia Posey)

October 2024 - Present

- Utilized R extensively to analyze the [Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey](#) and [American Community Survey](#) data to investigate the impact of fringe economy use on race, income, and political engagement; delivered insights on the consequences of financial insecurity on racial minorities.
- Wrote 20+ R scripts independently to perform data cleaning, merging, statistical modelling (multivariate OLS, GLM, and Poisson) and data visualization in preparation for [submission](#).

GATEWAY HOUSE INDIAN COUNCIL ON GLOBAL RELATIONS

Mumbai, India

Research Assistant (visiting scholar/part-time)

June 2023 - May 2024

- Analyzed Chinese investments in Pakistan and Nepal under the Belt & Road Initiative across 10+ projects, collaborated with Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja on Indo-Sri Lankan trade relations securing publication in KAS Japan, and supervised 2 interns to create a database of 250+ non-profits with \$50M+ in funding.

FELLOWSHIPS

CENTER FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, IL

Inaugral Data Science and Data Visualization Fellow

September 2025 - June 2026

- Selected as one of three graduate students for the inaugural [Data Visualization Fellowship](#) fellowship with \$16,667 stipend to develop interactive visualizations mapping America's racialized fringe economy evolution (1997-2024) using InfoGroup Historical Business Data and advanced GIS techniques.
- Using [Dissertations Data](#) [PhD] to develop a data visualization project on the sociology of dissertations at the University of Chicago and the geometry of topics, using approaches from quantitative sociology and theoretical computational social science.
- Teaching [Data Art](#) using ggplot2, [spatial data visualisation in R](#) using ggmaps and data science in R modules as a series of workshops aimed towards graduate students and faculty members.

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | HARRIS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Chicago, IL

Graduate Teaching Assistant

March 2025 - May 2025

1. [PPHA 30537 Data and Programming for Public Policy I](#) - Python Programming (Spring 2025)

2. [STAT2/37815: Practical R Programming](#) (Summer 2025)

- (a) Contributed to the development of an open-source package called [AutogradeR](#) to help facilitate automated testing of R code. Wrote unit tests in R to perform unit testing on ggplots at a granular level.

PROJECTS

THE IMPACT PROJECT

Data Scientist

Remote

October 2025 - December 2025

- Developed an automated pipeline to update the [Impact Map](#), using web scraping and LLM-based extraction to process 16,000+ news articles, identifying funding amounts, geographic locations, and population impacts from government policy changes.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY | ACDPS

Research Assistant (visiting scholar/part-time)

Mumbai, India

June 2023-

- Mapping the Impact of AI on Indian Labour- Examining the impact of AI on the Indian political economy and labor, focusing on the platformization of work and 'Digital Taylorism' in India and globally; analyzing economic, social, and gendered effects of automation on workforce within evolving policy landscape.

PUBLICATIONS

1. "[Navigating Health and Education: Children with Disabilities](#)," Astha India, 2023
2. "[Higher Education of Students with Disabilities in India: End-Line Report](#)," NCPEDP, 2024

SPOKEN LANGUAGES

English (Native), Gujarati (Native), Hindi (Native), Marathi (Basic)

REFERENCES

1. [Dr. Patricia Posey](#), Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago: pdposey@uchicago.edu
2. [Dr. Lisa Chinn](#), Head of Data Research Services, Center for Digital Scholarship, University of Chicago: lisachinn@uchicago.edu
3. [Dr. James Evans](#), Max Palevsky Professor, Director, Knowledge Lab, University of Chicago: jevans@uchicago.edu