Lalit Sethia

| Phone: 617-901-6636 | Email: lalit@bu.edu | Webpage: Website / LinkedIn |

Ph.D. economist with over eight years of experience in advanced data analysis to extract robust insights. Expertise in statistical and causal analysis, and machine learning methods. Proficiency with Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, and SQL. Passionate about optimizing business decision-making through data-driven insights.

Professional Experience

Doctoral candidate, Department of Economics, Boston University (Aug/2016-present)
- Spearheaded projects in international economics, distilling complex research to formulate and test hypotheses through advanced empirical design and analysis. Organized findings into compelling narratives and presented at workshops.
- Obtained private data from the World Tourism Organization and implemented an instrumental variable strategy in a quasi-experimental setting to show that high travel costs decrease international trade. Developed and validated a quantitative model of international trade featuring business travel and showed that easier access to visas could increase trade between EU and China by 1.3%, and output in EU by 0.43%.
- Gathered unique data on Indian factories to track IT capital and investment. Performed a within-industry analysis to show that large companies invested disproportionately more in IT than smaller companies. Implemented a spatial difference-in-difference strategy to show that geographical barriers did not affect technology diffusion.
- Performed an intent to treat analysis to show that guaranteed employment to adults in a low-income household leads children in the household to substitute the adults in the household enterprise, thereby increasing child labor.
- Constructed a metric to quantify demand risk at the industry level and implemented a high-dimensional regression model to discover a robust increase in demand risk with the upstreamness of an industry in the global value chain.
- Collaborated closely with other researchers to create a novel dataset tracking international expansions by scraping SEC's website. Showed that serial M&A activity could significantly increase (>50%) market power of US firms.
- Stayed up-to-date with the research frontier and incorporated cutting edge technologies for best available solutions.

Teaching fellow, Center for Data Science/Department of Economics, Boston University (2018, Jan/2021-present)
- Designed and delivered lectures for 3+ years to over 500 students, communicating with confidence and clarity.
- Emphasized programming with Python. Created data pipelines for sequential application of transformers to preprocess the data, and taught classification models including logistic regression, SVMs, neural networks, and decision trees.
- Covered topics in probability and statistics, econometric methods, and experimentation and causal inference.

Consultant, World Bank, Washington D.C. (Summer 2019)
- Proposed a new measurement of poverty using realistic household demand to account for non-food consumption. Highlighted the relevance of price index with simulations in MATLAB.

Investment Banking analyst/associate, UBS-Verity Knowledge Solutions, India (Jul/2011-Feb/2014)
- Communicated with clients, delivered on tight timelines, coordinated with team members, and mentored juniors.
- Automated the team's comps database weekly update and reduced analyst burden from an entire day to under 3 hours.
- Developed deep knowledge of companies, their pipelines, and regulations across the healthcare sector. Developed valuation models including DCFs. Created detailed reports with original insights for M&A advisory.

Education

Ph.D. (Economics), Boston University**,** Aug/2016-Sep/2024 (Expected)
- Specialization: International-, Macro-economics; Graduate student fellowship (2016-2022)

M.Sc. (Quantitative Economics), Indian Statistical Institute (New Delhi**,** India), Jul/2014-May/2016
- First class with distinction (76%); Merit scholarship (2015, top 5 position in the cohort).

B.Tech. (Biotechnology), National Institute of Technology (Warangal**,** India)**,** Jul/2007-May/2011
- First class with distinction (8.46/10); Indian Academy of Science—Summer Fellowship (2010)