

# Maiwand Nangyal

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Citizenship: United Kingdom

Wolfson College  
University of Oxford  
Linton Road  
Oxford, OX2 6UD  
United Kingdom

## EDUCATION

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- **University of Oxford** Oxfordshire, UK  
*DPhil in **Economics**, with full scholarship.* **Oct 2024 - Oct 2027**  
*Primary Research Interests:* Development Economics, Economic History, Political Economy.  
*Secondary Research Interests:* Applied Econometrics, Machine Learning.
- **University of Oxford** Oxfordshire, UK  
*MSc in **Economic & Social History**; with full scholarship.* **Oct 2023 - Aug 2024**
- **University of Cambridge** Cambridgeshire, UK  
*MPhil in **Economics**; with full scholarship.* **Sep 2020 - Aug 2021**
- **University of Exeter** Devon, UK  
*BSc (Hons) in **Economics*** **Sep 2016 - Jun 2019**  
*18/20 "Firsts"; 3/3 annual Dean's/Departmental commendations.*

## SKILLS SUMMARY

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**Languages:** English (native), Pashto (native), Dari, Urdu and Hindi.  
**Methods:** Econometrics, Impact Evaluations, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Agent-based Dynamic Microsimulation Modelling.  
**Programming:** Stata, R, Python, Julia, SAS (E-Guide, Studio, E-Miner), SQL, Java.  
**Modelling, Visualisation & Tools:** AnyLogic, QGIS, Mathematica, Excel, Word and PowerPoint.  
**Documentation:** LaTeX, Overleaf and R Markdown.

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

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- **The Game of Thorns: Empirically Analysing the Impact of Opium Cultivation on Terrorism within Afghanistan 1994–2017:** with [Dr Ahmad Zia Wahdat](#).

## PRESENTATIONS

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- **Oxford Graduate Seminar in Economic and Social History, Nuffield College (Nov 2025):** Presented DPhil Chapter 1 research; received feedback from faculty and graduate students.
- **32nd Annual Graduate Workshop, Nuffield College (Apr 2024):** Presented MSc dissertation research; audience included Professors Sheilagh Ogilvie and Joel Mokyr (joint 2025 Nobel laureate in Economics) and incorporated their feedback into the final dissertation.

## EXPERIENCE

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- **Data for Afghanistan** Remote  
*Director of Research* **Feb 2025 - Present**
  - Collaborating with [Dr Ahmad Zia Wahdat](#) to compile datasets and visualisations on Afghanistan for empirical research (<https://dataforafghanistan.org/posts>).
- **UK Civil Service - Department for Work and Pensions** London, UK  
*Fast Stream Economist **Post-DTA (SEO-equivalent)*** **Sep 2021 - Sep 2023**
  - **Post 1: Contract Management & Partner Delivery Division (Finance Group)**
    - \* Led two employment programme impact evaluations worth £1 billion using Propensity Score Matching on billions of observations of HMRC/DWP microdata, line managing a

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Statistician, with results informing ministerial policy decisions.

- \* Conducted real-time analyses using SAS and SQL, delivering accurate responses to ministerial briefings, Freedom of Information requests, and Parliamentary Questions under tight deadlines.

- **Post 2: Working Age Modelling and Forecasting Division (Policy Group)**

- \* Contributed to the development, validation and successful launch of a department-critical agent-based dynamic microsimulation model in AnyLogic/Java covering  $\approx 6$  million Universal Credit claimants, integrating machine learning-derived model inputs and securing stakeholder approval for outputs.
- \* Applied advanced SAS programming (Enterprise Miner & Studio) to merge DWP datasets, optimising complex variable interactions and achieving significant runtime efficiency.

- **Grade Manager for DWP Economist Placement Students (Aug 2022 - Sep 2023)**

- \* As one of three Grade Managers, led end-to-end recruitment and assessment of placement economists across the Government Economic Service, coordinating with Chief Economists and HR whilst overseeing sifting, logistics, and assessment moderation.
- \* Provided pastoral and professional support to placement economists, coaching them through technical assessments and mock interviews in economic theory, introducing structured exit surveys, and adapting communication to diverse audiences, from senior leadership to volunteers and across technical and non-technical colleagues.

- **University of Exeter**

Devon, UK

*Research Assistant - Department of Economics (Internship)*

**May 2019 - June 2019**

- Assisted Dr Surajeet Chakravarty with experimental design and supported a postgraduate student in data collection. Also developed a thesis proposal on British Afghan cultural identity.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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- **upReach:** Selected for the upReach professional development programme (2016-2019), earning the 'Gold Award.'
- **Society for Professional Economists:** Member between 2022-25.
- **Economic History Society:** Active member.
- **Oxford Research Groups:** Affiliated with Economic History, CSAE, and Political Economy; seminar attendee and occasional presenter.

## CONFERENCES

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Nov 2021	Bristol Festival of Economics	Attendee; Bristol, UK.
Oct 2022	Government Economic Service Annual Conference	Attendee; London, UK.
July 2023	DWP Work, Pensions & Labour Economics Study Group (WPEG) Conference	Attendee; Sheffield, UK.
June 2025	ESRC Grand Union DTP Annual Conference	Attendee; Oxford, UK.
Dec 2025	OWL (Oxford-Warwick-LSE) Economic History Workshop	Attendee; Oxford, UK.

## REFERENCES

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References available upon request; I kindly ask that you contact my referees only with my prior agreement.

**Prof Stephen Broadberry**

Department of Economics

University of Oxford

Email: [Contact](#)

Profile: [View Profile](#)

**Dr Eric Chaney**

Department of Economics

University of Oxford

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**Professor Sriya Iyer**

Faculty of Economics

University of Cambridge

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