

# Maiwand Nangyal

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## EDUCATION

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- **University of Oxford** Oxfordshire, UK  
*DPhil in **Economics**, with full scholarship.* *Oct 2024 - Oct 2027*  
*Supervised by: [Professor Stephen Broadberry](#) and [Dr Eric Chaney](#).*  
*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 in **Economics**; with 18/20 “Firsts” and 3/3 commendations.* *Sep 2016 - June 2019*

## 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 and E-Miner), SQL, and 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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- **Week 6 Michaelmas Term, Oxford Graduate Seminar in Economic and Social History, Nuffield College, Oxford (Nov 2025):** Presented DPhil Chapter 1 research to the Economic & Social History graduate seminar at Nuffield College, receiving feedback from faculty members and graduate students across Economic and Social History and Economics.
- **32nd Annual Graduate Workshop; Nuffield College, Oxford (Apr 2024):** Presented MSc dissertation research to the Economic & Social History research group at Nuffield College, with an audience including Professors Sheilagh Ogilvie and Joel Mokyr (joint 2025 Nobel laureate in Economic Sciences), 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 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 across diverse stakeholders from non-technical and technical colleagues ranging from senior leadership to volunteers.
- **University of Exeter** Devon, UK  
*Research Assistant - Department of Economics (Internship)* **May 2019 – June 2019**
  - Assisted Professor Surajeet Chakravarty with experimental design and supported a postgraduate student in data collection. Also developed a thesis proposal on British Afghan cultural identity.

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#### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- **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; regular seminar attendee and occasional presenter.

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#### CONFERENCES

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

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#### REFERENCES

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

**Prof Stephen Broadberry**  
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**Dr Eric Chaney**  
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**Professor Sriya Iyer**  
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