

Malik Altaf Hussain

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Education

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|---|-----------------------|
| George Mason University , Fairfax, VA | <i>2020 – Present</i> |
| Ph.D. in Economics | |
| Primary Fields: Political Economy, Economic History | |
| Secondary Fields: Development Economics, Applied Econometrics | |
| Research Assistant to Prof. Noel D. Johnson | <i>2020 – 2023</i> |
| Jawaharlal Nehru University , New Delhi, India | <i>2014 – 2017</i> |
| M.Phil. in Economics | |
| South Asian University , New Delhi, India | <i>2010 – 2012</i> |
| M.A. in Development Economics | |
| Aligarh Muslim University , Aligarh, India | <i>2007 – 2010</i> |
| B.A. in Economics | |

Research Interests

Development Economics, Historical Political Economy, Economics of Religion, Culture and Economics, Long Run Economic Growth and Applied Econometrics

Job Market Paper

Pox, Piety, and Paradox: The Economics of Vaccination in British India (*Draft available upon request*)

This paper presents new historical evidence on the cultural roots of vaccine hesitancy and its medium-term effects. Using a newly compiled district-level dataset with religion-specific vaccination rates across colonial India (1868-1878), I examine how Hindu religious beliefs affected smallpox vaccination uptake. An instrumental variables approach using historical Hindu temple desecration sites shows that a one standard deviation increase in Hindu population share leads to a 0.89 to 1.98 percentage points decrease in Hindu vaccination rate at the district level. These effects are specific to Hindu populations and operate through religious and cultural practices. By 1891, a one standard deviation increase in Hindu share is associated with 17.7 and 12.6 percentage point increases in unmarried and widow ratios among young adults aged 10-25. The findings highlight the societal impact of culturally-driven vaccine hesitancy and guide culturally sensitive health policies.

Publications

Hussain, M.A. and M. Tyagi (2024). “Political Connections and Credit Access: Evidence from Small Businesses and Microenterprises in India.” *Small Business Economics*, Published 15 July 2024, Accepted 26 June 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11187-024-00950-y>.

Hussain, M.A. and M. Tyagi (2024). “Politically Connected Firms and Access to Credit: Evidence from India.” *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, 69, 527-542, June.

Hussain, M.A. and M. Tyagi (2020). “Role of Political Connections in Land Investment: Evidence from Rural India.” *Constitutional Political Economy*, 31, 344–362.

Working Papers

Mistrust and Vaccination in Colonial India: 1870-1926 (with Noel D. Johnson)

Religion and Consumption of Drugs in Colonial India (With Noel D. Johnson and Shruti Rajagopalan)

Colonization in a Network of Allies

Railways and Health Outcomes in Colonial India

Fellowships and Awards

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| Emergent Ventures India Fellowship | <i>2024 – 2025</i> |
| Public Choice Fellowship | <i>2023 – 2025</i> |
| Bradley Fellowship | <i>2021 – 2024</i> |
| Mercatus Center Ph.D. Fellowship | <i>2020 – 2023</i> |

Conferences and Presentations

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| Markets and Society Conference , Mercatus Center | 2024 |
| International Conference on Indian Business and Economic History , IIM Ahmedabad | 2023 |
| ACES Political Economy Summer School , UC Berkeley | 2023 |
| PPE Summer School , Chapman University | 2023 |
| ASREC Graduate Workshop on Economics of Religion , Chapman University | 2022 |

Skills

Skills: R (Intermediate), Stata (Proficient), QGIS (Geospatial Analysis); LaTeX (Document Preparation)

Additional Information

Nationality: Indian

Languages: Kashmiri (Native), Urdu (Native), English (Fluent)

Referee

Constitutional Political Economy, International Tax and Public Finance, Review of Development Economics, Small Business Economics, European Financial Management

References

Prof. Noel D. Johnson – PhD advisor

Professor of Economics, George Mason University

Email: njohnsol@gmu.edu

Prof. Mark Koyama

Professor of Economics, George Mason University

Email: Mark.Koyama@gmail.com

Prof. Alex T. Tabarrok

Bartley J. Madden Chair in Economics, George Mason University

Director, Center for the Study of Public Choice

Email: atabarro@gmu.edu

Prof. Vincent Geloso

Assistant Professor of Economics, George Mason University

Email: vincentgeloso@hotmail.com