

# Malik Altaf Hussain

Department of Economics, George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA 22030

[mhusa5@gmu.edu](mailto:mhusa5@gmu.edu)  
<https://malikahussain.github.io/>  
Phone: +1 (703) 953-5332

## Education

<b>George Mason University</b> , Fairfax, VA	<i>2020 – Present</i>
Ph.D. in Economics	
Primary Fields: Law and Economics, Economics of Religion	
Secondary Fields: Historical Political Economy, Culture and Economics	
<b>Research Assistant</b> to Prof. Noel D. Johnson	<i>2020 – 2023</i>
<b>Jawaharlal Nehru University</b> , New Delhi, India	<i>2014 – 2017</i>
M.Phil. in Economics	
<b>South Asian University</b> , New Delhi, India	<i>2010 – 2012</i>
M.A. in Development Economics	
<b>Aligarh Muslim University</b> , Aligarh, India	<i>2007 – 2010</i>
B.A. in Economics	

## Research Interests

Historical Political Economy, Economics of Religion, Development Economics, Health Economics, and Applied Econometrics.

Focus on religion's role in vaccine hesitancy and its economic impact, particularly on public health interventions in colonial India.

## Job Market Paper

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

## Publications

**Hussain, M.A.** and M. Tyagi (2024). "Political Connections and Credit Access: Evidence from Small Businesses and Microenterprises in India." *Small Business Economics*.

**Hussain, M.A.** and M. Tyagi (2024). "Political Connections of Firms and Access to Credit: Evidence from the Indian Corporate Sector." *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, vol. 69.

**Hussain, M.A.** and M. Tyagi (2020). "Role of Political Connections in Land Investment: Evidence from Rural India." *Constitutional Political Economy*.

## 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

Emergent Ventures India Fellowship	2024 – 2025
Public Choice Fellowship	2023 – 2025
Bradley Fellowship	2021 – 2024
Mercatus Center Ph.D. Fellowship	2020 – 2023

## Conferences and Presentations

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
International Institute of Public Finance Congress, University of Linz	2022
ASREC Graduate Workshop on Economics of Religion, Chapman University	2022

## Skills and Languages

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

**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](mailto:njohnsol@gmu.edu)

### Prof. Mark Koyama

Professor of Economics, George Mason University  
Email: [Mark.Koyama@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.Koyama@gmail.com)

### Prof. Alex T. Tabarrok

Bartley J. Madden Chair in Economics, George Mason University  
Director, Center for Study of Public Choice  
Email: [atabarro@gmu.edu](mailto:atabarro@gmu.edu)

### Prof. Vincent Geloso

Assistant Professor of Economics, George Mason University  
Email: [vincentgeloso@hotmail.com](mailto:vincentgeloso@hotmail.com)