

# Mitali Roy Mathur

Economics Ph.D. Candidate

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<https://mitali-mathur.github.io/>

## OVERVIEW

I am an applied microeconomist with five years of experience leading data-driven projects in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and researchers. My Ph.D. research causally identifies the effects of policies and interventions meant to improve the lives of immigrants and internal migrants. I have active projects in the U.S., India, and Uganda and enjoy creatively balancing rigor with practical constraints when using data to inform policy.

## EDUCATION

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|---|----------------------|
| • <b>University of California, Davis</b>  | 2027 (expected)      |
| <i>Ph.D. in Economics   Fields: Labor &amp; Development</i>   | Davis, CA, USA       |
| • <b>University of California, Davis</b>  | 2023                 |
| <i>M.A. in Economics</i>  | Davis, CA, USA       |
| • <b>Georgetown University</b>  | 2019                 |
| <i>B.S. in International Economics; Certificate in International Development; Minor in Mandarin Chinese</i> | Washington D.C., USA |

## HONORS & AWARDS

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| • <b>Ray Beaumont Award (\$1,000):</b> UC Davis outstanding graduate student award               | 2025 |
| • <b>CEGA Development Economics Challenge (\$18,800):</b> Full-scale study award                 | 2025 |
| • <b>Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (\$500):</b> UC Davis award for excellence in teaching | 2025 |
| • <b>Department Travel Award (\$600):</b> UC Davis award supporting research-related travel      | 2025 |
| • <b>CEGA Development Economics Challenge (\$7,000):</b> Travel/scoping study award              | 2024 |
| • <b>J-PAL Social Protection Initiative (\$5,175):</b> Travel/scoping study award                | 2024 |
| • <b>Department Fellowship:</b> UC Davis graduate student support during the first year          | 2022 |

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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|--|------------------------|
| • <b>University of California, Davis</b>   | 2023 - 2025            |
| <i>Graduate Student Researcher</i>   | Davis, California, USA |
| ◦ Analyzed geographic and survey data to produce 30+ maps of the mobility patterns of internal migrants in Bangladesh, (with Prof. Ashish Shenoy)  |                        |
| ◦ Web-scraped data from 27 conferences to build a publicly accessible database of attendees with identified genders of 6,000+ presenters (with Prof. Jenna Stearns & Prof. Keer Yang)        |                        |
| • <b>IDinsight</b>   | 2019 - 2022            |
| <i>Junior Economist (formerly Associate and Senior Associate)</i>  | New Delhi, India       |
| ◦ Managed the design, implementation, and analysis of 15 monitoring and evaluation exercises, 2 randomized controlled trials, and 1 process evaluation, impacting over 100,000 beneficiaries |                        |
| ◦ Collaborated with government partners to verify 30 indicators and create a comprehensive data strategy for strengthening administrative data for the Aspirational Districts Programme      |                        |
| ◦ Spearheaded internal initiatives to automate primary data collection processes - generated data pipelines, built dashboards, and designed performance indexes                              |                        |
| • <b>Georgetown University Initiative for Impact &amp; Development Evaluation</b>  | 2018                   |
| <i>Summer Research Assistant</i>   | Nairobi, Kenya         |
| ◦ Built data quality systems to run high frequency checks for a randomized controlled trial  |                        |
| • <b>Institute for Development Impact</b>  | 2017 - 2018            |
| <i>Junior Consultant</i>   | Washington D.C., USA   |
| ◦ Conducted a meta-analysis to identify the best practices for capacity building initiatives   |                        |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|---|------------------------|
| • <b>University of California, Davis</b>  | 2022 - Present         |
| <i>Teaching Assistant</i>   | Davis, California, USA |
| ◦ Intro level courses: Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics   |                        |
| ◦ Upper level courses: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Analysis of Economic Data, Economic Development, Transportation Economics, Economic Development for Weak States |                        |
| • <b>Georgetown University</b>  | 2016 - 2019            |
| <i>Teaching Assistant</i>   | Washington D.C., USA   |
| ◦ Upper level courses: Poverty & Inequality   |                        |

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

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• Economics of Migration Junior Workshop: Scientific Committee Member	2024 - Present
• Economics of Migration Junior Seminar Series: Co-organizer	2024 - Present
• Applied Microeconomic Student Seminar: Co-organizer	2024 - Present
• Graduate Student Association: Social Committee	2023 - Present
• Development Workshop: Co-organizer	2024 - 2025
• Graduate Student Association: President	2023 - 2025
• First Year Mentorship Program: Peer mentor	2023 - 2025

## PUBLICATIONS

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- [1] K. Nagpal, M. Mathur, A. Biswas, and A. Fraker. (2021). **Who do Phone Surveys Miss, and How to Reduce Exclusion: Recommendations from Phone Surveys in Nine Indian States.** *BMJ Global Health*

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- **The End of the Trail: The Effects of Granting Work Authorization to Female Immigrant Spouses**  
*Labor, Migration, Gender*
  - **Research question:** What are the labor market, household, and selection effects of offering work authorization to the trailing spouses of immigrants?
  - **Method(s):** Natural Language Processing (NLP), Machine Learning (ML), Event Study Analysis
- **Government Scheme Overload: Take-up and Targeting in a Multi-Scheme Context**  
*Development, Public, Behavioral | Funding: CEGA & J-PAL (\$30,975)*
  - **Research question:** How does the quantity of government welfare schemes offered to individuals affect the take-up of these benefits and welfare of beneficiaries?
  - **Method(s):** Randomized Controlled Trial in India
- **Uncertainty and Frictions in Gig Work: Evidence via Conditional Income Guarantees**  
*Development, Labor | With Aleksander Michuda and Shotaro Nakamura | Funding: IDinsight (\$200,000)*
  - **Research question:** How do conditional guarantees in the gig economy affect labor supply, earnings, and welfare?
  - **Method(s):** Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda
- **The Diversity of Conference Presenters in Virtual and In-Person Conferences**  
*Labor, Gender | With Jenna Stearns and Keer Yang | Funding: Academic Female Finance Committee (\$19,750)*
  - **Research question:** How did the transition from in-person to virtual conferences impact women's participation?
  - **Method(s):** Web Scraping, Difference-in-differences Analysis

## ARTICLES & BLOGS

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- [1] M. Mathur. (2024). **Second Year Shenanigans.** *Personal Blog*
- [2] M. Mathur. (2023). **Flourishing in the First Year.** *Personal Blog*
- [3] R. LuSava, C.H. Huang, B. Brockman, Y. Mkandawire, and M. Mathur (2023). **How Behavioral “Nudges” can Improve COVID-19 Self-Reporting.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [4] M. Mathur and L. Biswal (2022). **How is the Survey Gig going? Understanding the Gender Dynamics of Surveyor Work in India.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [5] M. Mathur (2022). **Why IDinsight is Investing in Building Data Systems for Primary Data Collection Activities.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [6] M. Mathur and S. More (2021). **5 Steps to Constructing a Composite Data Quality Index to Assess Overall Surveyor Performance.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [7] M. Mathur (2020). **Reflections on Reaching Women Over the Phone in Rural India.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [8] M. Mathur and P. Sharma (2020). **Daily Practices to Optimize Remote Survey Teams.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [9] M. Mathur, P. Kumar, S. McDonough, and L. Rametse (2020). **How to Ensure Productivity and Data Quality for a Phone Survey at Scale.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [10] M. Mathur, P. Kumar, S. McDonough, and L. Rametse (2020). **How to Hire and Train a Phone Survey Team.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [11] M. Mathur (2020). **How to Identify the Best Length and Time for a Phone Survey.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [12] M. Mathur (2020). **3 Steps to Designing an Effective Phone Survey that Reaches Respondents.** *IDinsight Blog*

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

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**Languages:** English (Native), Hindi (Proficient), Mandarin Chinese (Proficient), Bengali (Basic)

**Technology:**

- Advanced: Stata, R, and SurveyCTO
- Intermediate: Python, Nvivo, and Apache Superset
- Experience: SQL, Big Query, Tableau, and React Javascript

**Activities:** Ultimate Frisbee, Scuba diving, Hiking, Odissi dance, Debate, Grilling

**Work Authorizations:** USA (Citizen), India (Overseas Citizen of India)

## **REFERENCES**

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**1. Arman Rezaee**

Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Davis  
Email: abrezaee@ucdavis.edu  
*Relationship: Committee Chair*

**2. Giovanni Peri**

Professor of Economics, UC Davis  
Email: gperi@ucdavis.edu  
*Relationship: Advisor*

**3. Monica Singhal**

Professor of Economics, UC Davis  
Email: msinghal@ucdavis.edu  
*Relationship: Advisor*

**4. Diana Moreira**

Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Davis  
Email: dmoreira@ucdavis.edu  
*Relationship: Advisor*

**5. Crystal Haijing Huang**

Senior Economist and Director, IDinsight  
Email: crystal.huang@idinsight.org  
*Relationship: Former manager*