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Diversity Statement

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As a woman of colour whose primary education has been in India followed by the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom and Spain, my range of experiences have been varied and required bridging the gap between primary and higher education (with a steep learning curve). While the migration from the UK to Spain was easier, on account of similar education systems in higher education, the PhD programme came with its own set of challenges. It was quickly evident that Economics had a lot of hidden curriculum which could only be unveiled through interactions between junior and senior colleagues. In order to facilitate this process, a few colleagues and I instituted a student-run initiative called Econisers. The purpose of Econisers was simple, it was to promote increased interaction between senior and junior academics with the purpose of fostering professional and personal development. Thus, creating parity in the diversity.

Apart from my education, my professional experience has developed across several countries notably, India, the UK and Spain. Much like my teaching, this involved working from colleagues around the world. This diverse environment has led to the development of new ideas and innovative problem solving while giving a boost to my productivity. India, for instance aided the development of interacting with government and policy officials while professional work in Spain and the UK enhanced my research capacities.

An additional aspect that has contributed to my growth as individual has been teaching students with diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. On the one hand, this brought enriching discussions to concepts within Economics which traditionally has research focused on developed economies. On the other hand, at a personal level, this has enabled me to develop empathy and patience when the process is challenging. Moreover, has enhanced my communication and presentation skills.

With this background in mind, I think I can contribute importantly to the diverse and multicultural environment at the University of Michigan, using my own experience. Moreover, an important part of my future research is the formation of beliefs with a focus on developed and developing countries, enabling diversity in my research.