

phi adajar

they/them

mit department of economics

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education

- 2021– PhD Candidate in Economics, MIT
2017–2021 SB in Mathematical Economics, MIT

research

- areas Education Policy, Labor, Industrial Organization, Market Design
advisors Parag Pathak, Esther Duflo

in-progress

- 1 Unraveling in the UK College Admissions System. With Nagisa Tadjfar, Kartik Vira.
2 Identifying and Nurturing Math Talent: An Experiment with Self-Paced Classes in Tamil Nadu. With Esther Duflo, Glenn Ellison, Sara Fisher Ellison, and Harini Kannan.
Presented at NBER Economics of Talent Meeting, Fall 2025.
3 From Cubs to Bears: Differential High School Access in Chicago. With Parag Pathak.
4 Improving Finite-Sample Estimation of School Effects.
5 School-House Shocks: The Effect of Neighborhood-based School Assignment Policies on Intracity Migration.

affiliations

- 2022– Blueprint Labs, Research Associate

research assistantships

- 2022 Parag Pathak, MIT
2018–2021 Ernst Berndt and Rena Conti, MIT
2020 Ben Olken and Gabriel Kreindler, MIT + Harvard

undergraduate work

- 2021 Evaluating Strategic Play: Manipulations with Symmetric Information in the Boston Mechanism. Thesis advised by Parag Pathak. [link](#)
2021 A Rising Tide for All or Wave for One? The Effect of Charter School Competition on District Achievement. Selected for MIT Undergraduate Journal of Economics, Vol. XX. [link](#)
2019 The Surprising Hybrid Pedigree of Measures of Diversity and Economic Concentration. With Ernie Berndt and Rena Conti. NBER Working Paper #26512. Presented at Society for Economic Measurement Conference (Aug. 2019), NBER Productivity Lunch (Sep. 2019), EMG Workshop (Nov. 2020). [link](#)

teaching

- 2025 Kaufman Teaching Certificate, MIT
2023 14.19, Market Design (UG), TA for Parag Pathak, MIT (rating 6.6/7)
2021 14.02, Principles of Macroeconomics (UG), TA for Ricardo Caballero, MIT (rating 6.5/7)
2019 14.27, Economics and E-Commerce (UG), TA for Sara Ellison, MIT (rating 5.5/7)
2017–2021 Classes on economics, math, science, and other topics, MIT ESP programs (Splash, Spark, HSSP)

leadership + service

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| 2025– | Graduate representative, MIT Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAFA) |
| 2022– | Graduate Resident Advisor (GRA), Burton-Conner (MIT undergraduate dorm) |
| 2023 | GRA member, MIT GRA Training Committee |
| 2021–2024 | Educational counselor (interviewer for undergraduate admissions), MIT Alumni |
| 2020–2021 | Undergraduate representative, MIT Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP) |
| 2020– | Alumni volunteer, National Science Bowl |
| 2019–2021 | Regional and invitational coordinator, invitational founder, MIT Science Bowl |
| 2017–2021 | Chair (2019), Summer HSSP director (2018), MIT Educational Studies Program (ESP) |

awards + fellowships

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| 2025–2026 | Hausman Dissertation Fellowship, MIT Department of Economics |
| 2025–2026 | NBER Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Global Math Talent |
| 2021–2026 | NSF Graduate Research Fellowship |
| 2021 | Phi Beta Kappa, MIT |
| 2020 | Burchard Scholar, MIT |

grants

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|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| uk unraveling | |
| 2023–2025 | George and Obie Shultz Fund (×3) |
| math talent | |
| 2024 | Founders Pledge |
| 2023, 2024 | Agency Fund |
| 2023 | J-PAL Science for Progress Initiative |

potpourri

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|-------------|---|
| music(als) | Michael in “tick, tick... BOOM!” (2024), Kevin in “Remembering Her” (2023), Centrifugues Music Director (2022), can hit an A4 on a good day |
| puzzlehunts | Strategy captain for NES (4th place MIT Mystery Hunt 2025), puzzle writer for Cthulhu Luau (Green Door Labs) |
| crosswords | A far-too-long streak on the NYT crossword, perennial Boswords competitor |
| interests | D&D, jazz piano, baking, trivia, biking |