

# phi adajar

they/them

mit department of economics

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## education

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

## research

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- areas Education, Labor, IO, Market Design, Development  
advisors Parag Pathak, Esther Duflo

### in-progress

- 1 No Strings Attached: The Effects of Unraveling in UK College Admissions. 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

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- 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 (×4)
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math talent

2025	Carina Initiatives
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, Club Drosselmeyer (Green Door Labs), consultant on Harvard Museum of Natural History puzzle event (FableVision Studios)
crosswords	A far-too-long streak on the NYT crossword, perennial Boswords competitor, author for 2025 MIT Crossword Open
interests	D&D, jazz piano, baking, trivia, biking