Rizwan S. Kazi

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY — Expected May 2024
Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics and Economics
Dean's List

The Bronx High School of Science, The Bronx, NY — June 2020
Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors and Mastery in Math

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My economics research interests include political economy, development economics, growth, and microeconomic theory. My mathematics research interests include game theory, probability theory, and dynamical systems.

SKILLS

Languages Arabic (elementary), Bengali (native), English (native), French (intermediate), Hindi (professional), Latin (elementary), Urdu (professional)

Technical Skills LaTeX, ArcGIS (intermediate), C++ (beginner), HTML/CSS (beginner), MATLAB (proficient), Python (beginner), QGIS (proficient), R (proficient), SPSS (proficient), Stata (proficient)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Assistant — March 2023 - present
University of Chicago Energy & Environment Lab

I will be a research assistant to the E&E Lab's projects, analyzing of environmental and energy data and utilizing quasi-experimental and experimental methods to provide government partners with guidance on key policy questions. I specifically work on employing machine learning techniques. I work under Professor Michael Greenstone and Director Olga Rostapshova.

Research Assistant — April - December 2021, September 2022 - present
Columbia University Department of Economics

In Summer 2021, I provided research assistance to Professor Shang-Jin Wei for his book project and collaborated with him to design a research project studying Chinese trade policy. For this project, I qualitatively analyzed more than 1200 bilateral and multilateral trade disputes to determine the trade policy patterns of China and other large economies and quantitatively analyzed the relationship between involvement in trade disputes and trade volume, using MATLAB and Excel for data analysis. I presented my research at the Columbia Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Stanford Research Conference. In Fall 2021, I provided research assistance to Assistant Professor Elliot Lipnowski on computing rationalizable outcomes in multistage games. The project sought to synthesize existing literature on extensive-form rationalizability, drawing from foundational papers by David Pearce, Pierpaolo Battigalli, and Marciano Siniscalchi. In Fall 2022, I provided research assistance to Postdoctoral Research Fellow Niharika Singh. The project I worked on analyzed the impacts of collective action on rural women's livelihoods. I used Stata for data analysis. Additionally, I also separately assisted doctoral candidate Akanksha Vardani, looking at women's property rights in Pune, India. For Spring 2023, I provide research assistance to Assistant Professor Jack Willis. The paper is concerned with dynamic poverty targeting, comparing the performance of machine learning models to basic linear regressions. I use Python and R for cleaning and analysis. Separately, I am co-authoring a paper with Dian Jiao and Marshall Mo (Stanford) looking at the effects of recent reforms on firm productivity in India. I use C++ for optimization.

Summer Fellow — February 2022 - September 2022

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale

I provided research assistance to Professor Mushfiq Mobarak at the Yale School of Management and Department of Economics on the ground in Bangladesh, working out of the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development in Dhaka with Dr. Sakib Mahmood. Projects included an analysis of COVID-19 policies and their effects on schools and learning in Bangladesh, a study of agricultural adaptations in the face of climate change, and a test of the climate resilience of government interventions directed against poverty like unconditional cash transfers and migration programs. I used Stata and R for data analysis and ArcGIS, QGIS, and Python for geospatial data analysis.

Research Assistant — August 2021 - February 2022

Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University

I served as research assistant at the Columbia Population Research Center and Center on Poverty and Social Policy on the Poverty Tracker project under Dr. Christopher Wimer. I worked with modeling the effects of housing and healthcare policies. Additionally, I also assisted with metadata cleaning of the Poverty Tracker longitudinal study under Data Manager Schuyler Ross. I used Stata for data analysis and cleaning.

Intern — June - August 2020

Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University

I worked under Policy Associate Rachel Karasik and the Oceanic Plastic Pollution team on the Plastics Policy Inventory, a database of international, national, and subnational public policies targeting plastic pollution. I coded and qualitatively analyzed these policies using nVivo.

Student Researcher — August 2018 - March 2020

New York University Department of Economics

I worked with Professor Debraj Ray to design a research project studying poverty alleviation policies in developing countries. For this project, we developed a theoretical model considering in-kind and cash transfers and applied the model to Indian census data. The resultant paper was submitted to the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, and the New York City Science and Engineering Fair. My work was cited in L. Gadenne, et al., *In-Kind Transfers as Insurance*, NBER Working Paper 28507.

Teaching Experience

I've tutored the following courses for Columbia University's James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising.

- Calculus II
- Calculus III
- Introduction to Applied Mathematics
- Introduction to Econometrics

Events Attended

2020 "On commodity transfers in developing countries," presented at the New York City Science and Engineering Fair, March 8.

2021 Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition, January 15-17.

2021 Freshman Discovery Day, organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, April 19.

2021 Pre-doctoral Research in Economics workshop, organized by Pathways to Research and Doctoral Careers, June 12-13.

2021 Connect, organized by the D.E. Shaw Group, June 23-24.

2021 UNCTAD YSI Summer School 2021 on Globalization and Development Strategies, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Institute

for New Economic Thinking's Young Scholars Initiative, August 2-7.

2021 "China in Trade Disputes," presented at the Columbia Undergraduate Research Symposium, October 15.

2022 Columbia University Mathematical Modeling Workshop, January-February 13.

2022 Columbia Mathematical Modeling Contest, January 20-24.

2022 Columbia Undergraduate Learning Seminar in Theoretical Computer Science: *Philosophy and Theoretical Computer Science* and *High-Dimensional Probability and Applications to Computer Science*, February 4-28.

2022 "China a Cheater?: The PRC in Trade Disputes," presented at the Stanford Research Conference, April 9-11.

2022 2022 Insight Series, organized by Goldman Sachs, May 31-June 28.

2022 Digitalization and New Frontiers of Service Delivery: Opportunities and Challenges, organized by the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, June 20-22, organizer.

2022 Columbia Undergraduate Math Society Proof Workshop, September 16-October 7, teaching assistant.

2022 Columbia University Department of Mathematics Directed Reading Program *in Probability Theory and Stochastic Calculus*, Fall 2022.

2022 "The Markov Property for Brownian Motion," presented before the Columbia University Department of Mathematics Directed Reading Program, December 13.

Awards

2020 2020 Banyan Scholar; National AP Scholar

2021 Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Scholarship

Coursework

Fall 2020 Intermediate Macroeconomics; Calculus III

Spring 2021 Calculus IV; Methods & Problems of Philosophical Thought

Summer 2021 Linear Algebra

Fall 2021 Intermediate Microeconomics; Research Course; Introduction to Modern Analysis I; Calculus-Based Introduction to Statistics

Spring 2022 French Theory in a Global Context; Introduction to Modern Analysis II; Critical Theory: A Global Perspective

Fall 2022 Introduction to Econometrics; Political Economy; Research Course; Ordinary Differential Equations; Introduction to Modern Algebra I

Spring 2023 Advanced Microeconomics; Behavioral Finance; Economic Development; Game Theory; Research Course; Theoretical Foundations of Political Economy

Fall 2023 Advanced Macroeconomics; Advanced Probability Theory; Undergraduate Seminar in Mathematics

Activities

Columbia Economic Review — Staff Editor 2020 - 2022, Deputy Editor 2022 - present
I am a member of the Journal Team, responsible for producing the print edition of the Columbia Economic Review, an undergraduate journal dedicated to economics, editing papers of academic rigor and novelty written by undergraduates.