

University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Economics
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Research interests Development Economics

Education **University of California, Santa Cruz, USA**
PhD in Economics, Department of Economics 2025 (expected)
M.A. in Economics, Department of Economics 2020

University College London, London, UK
MSc in Economics, Department of Economics 2017

University of Delhi, Delhi, India
B.A. (Honors) Economics 2015

Publications **(2022) “God is in the Rain: The Impact of Rainfall-Induced Early Social Distancing on COVID-19 Outbreaks”**, with Ajay Shenoy, Bhavyaa Sharma, Guanghong Xu, Haedong Rho, and Kinpritma Sangha
Journal of Health Economics 81: 102575

We measure the benefit to society created by preventing COVID-19 deaths through a marginal increase in early social distancing. We exploit county-level rainfall on the last weekend before statewide lockdown in the early phase of the pandemic. After controlling for historical rainfall, temperature, and state fixed-effects, current rainfall is a plausibly exogenous instrument for social distancing. A one percent decrease in the population leaving home on the weekend before lockdown creates an average of 132 dollars of benefit per county resident within 2 weeks. The impacts of earlier distancing compound over time and mainly arise from lowering the risk of a major outbreak, yielding large but unevenly distributed social benefit

Works in Progress **“Together to Work? Effect of Travel Buddy on Women’s Employment and Mobility in India”**

“The Girl on the Train: Effect of Delhi Metro Transit System on Women’s Employment”, with Anirban Sanyal

“The Sooner the Better: Evaluating the effect of Forecast-Based Action in Kenya and Somalia”, with Shilpa Aggarwal, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot

“Understanding Factors for Adoption of Modern Contraceptives: An experiment with Private-sector Health Providers in Liberia”, with David Sungho Park, and Naresh Kumar

“Remoteness and Input Market Access in Rural Malawi and Liberia”, with Shilpa Aggarwal, Dahyeon Jeong, Naresh Kumar, David Sungho Park, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot

Research Grants	J-PAL GEA Initiative Travel/Proposal Development Grant, \$8040	2022
	UCSC Economics Department Research Grant, \$5000	2022
	J-PAL K-CAI Research Grant with Shilpa Aggarwal, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot, \$400,000	2021
Fellowships, and Awards	UCSC Eileen Brooks Memorial Research Paper Award, \$2,200	2021
	UCSC Regents’ Fellowships, \$7500	2019
Research Assistantship	Jonathan Robinson (UCSC), Shilpa Aggarwal (ISB), and Alan Spearot (UCSC)	2020 – Present
	Ajay Shenoy (UCSC)	2021
	Supreet Kaur (UC, Berkeley), Heather Scholfield (Wharton), and Christina Brown (Chicago)	2017-2019
Teaching Experience	ECON 1: Introductory Microeconomics	Spring 2021
	ECON 100A: Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2020 – Fall 2020
	ECON 100B: Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2022
	ECON 120: Development Economics	Fall 2021
	ECON 139A: Economics of Ecommerce	Winter 2022
Skills	Computer: STATA, QGIS, Python, R, MATLAB, ODK, SurveyCTO, \LaTeX	
	Language: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Punjabi (Intermediate)	
Citizenship	Republic of India	