

University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Economics
1156 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Email: rokapoor@ucsc.edu
Phone: +1 (831) 400-9979
Website: <https://rollykapoor.github.io/>

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

“Going the Extra Mile: Farm Subsidies and Spatial Convergence in Agricultural Input Adoption”, with Shilpa Aggarwal, Dahyeon Jeong, Naresh Kumar, David Sungho Park, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot

“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

Research Grants	UCSC Blum Scholars Grant, \$4000	2023
	Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, \$35,010	Spring 2023
	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 Graduate Summer Writing Fellowship, \$6000	2023
	UCSC Eileen Brooks Memorial Research Paper Award, \$2,200	2021
	UCSC Regents’ Fellowships, \$15,000	2019
Research Assistantship	Jonathan Robinson (UCSC), Shilpa Aggarwal (ISB), and Alan Spearot (UCSC)	2020 – 2022
	Ajay Shenoy (UCSC)	2021
	Supreet Kaur (UC, Berkeley), Heather Scholfield (Wharton), and Christina Brown (Chicago)	2017-2019
Teaching Skills	Computer: STATA, QGIS, Python, R, MATLAB, ODK, SurveyCTO, \LaTeX	
	Language: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Punjabi (Intermediate)	
Citizenship	Republic of India	