

# Shekhar Mittal

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## EDUCATION

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University of California, Los Angeles, **Anderson School of Management** SEPTEMBER 2013 – CURRENT

Ph.D., Global Economics and Management

Areas of Interest: Political Economy, Development, India.

University of Chicago, **Harris School of Public Policy** SEPTEMBER 2011 – JUNE 2013

Awards: Dean's Scholarship (2011-2013), J.N. Tata Scholar (2011), K.C. Mahindra Scholar (2011)

Delhi University, **Delhi College of Engineering**, New Delhi, India AUGUST 2003 – JUNE 2007

Bachelor of Engineering in *Computer Engineering, First Division*

## RESEARCH

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### ***Ongoing***

*Where's Value? Using VAT data to Improve Compliance* MAY 2015 ONWARDS  
with Professor Aprajit Mahajan

*Information Provision and Participatory Budgeting: Mohalla Sabhas in Delhi* OCTOBER 2015 ONWARDS  
with Professor Aprajit Mahajan, Stefano Fiorin

### ***Past Experience***

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Romain Wacziarg SUMMER 2013, SUMMER 2015  
**Anderson School of Management**, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Cultural distances using World Values Survey*

- Developed multiple indices to measure cultural distance across countries, using the World Values Survey data.
- Measured the correlation between cultural and genetic distance across countries.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Paola Giuliano SUMMER 2015  
**Anderson School of Management**, University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Edward Leamer JULY 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2013  
**Anderson School of Management**, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Estimated extreme coefficients of  $2^k$  regressions*

- Implemented possible methods to efficiently determine extreme coefficients of  $2^k$  regressions.
- Developed efficient techniques to identify all the orthants of  $2^k$  regression coefficients.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Marianne Bertrand APRIL 2012 – JUNE 2013  
**Booth School of Business**, University of Chicago  
*Evaluation of Right to Public Service Schemes*

- Travelled to Karnataka to understand the design and implementation of the Right to Public Services Act. Interacted with all the government level stakeholders and visited various government offices.
- Developed and piloted a survey questionnaire which captured the experience and perception of citizens who availed the services that are covered under the Act.
- Undertook a field trip to Bihar, India to understand the time-use of district magistrates and to understand the bureaucratic setup at the district level.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes

APRIL 2012 – DECEMBER 2012

[Harris School of Public Policy](#), University of Chicago

*Effect of name order in senate roll call voting pattern.*

- Using combined fixed effects at the senator level and at the congress level, evaluated the impact of alphabetical order of the senators' last names on Senate roll call.
- Wrote Perl scripts to extract senate and house roll-call data starting from 1940 into a analyzable data set.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes

JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012

[Harris School of Public Policy](#), University of Chicago

*Understanding voting patterns for simultaneous elections in a given year at the precinct level*

- Designed a Stata program that extracts information from the Cook County precinct level election results into a user-friendly data set.
- Wrote Stata programs to clean and analyze data.

Graduate Research Assistant to A. Rupa Datta, Vice President and Senior Fellow OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 2012

[National Opinion Research Centre](#) at the University of Chicago

*National Survey of Early Care and Education*

- Managed the IRB approval process for all the school districts from which the survey intended to interview early care providers.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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- International Growth Centre (IGC) Research Grant (£50,830). Project: "Where's Value? Using VAT data to Improve Compliance"
- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative Pilot Study Research Grant (\$49,050). Project: "Information Provision and Participatory Budgeting: Mohalla Sabhas in Delhi"

## WRITING

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- *Short Paper*: "Distance as an instrument for measuring centralized control in government schools", December 2012.

*Summary*: The paper shows that the quality and outcomes of a government school deteriorate as the distance of a government school from district headquarters increases. This effect is absent in private schools which tend to be decentralized.

- *Research Design as part of course-work*: "Indian Politics: The Criminals beget Criminals Effect", May 2012.  
*Summary*: I create a research design that uses regression discontinuity design to prove that when the incumbent in Indian elections is a criminal, and the opposition party thinks that there is a high probability of the election being close, the opposition party also tends to nominate a criminal. [Link](#)
- *Policy Memo*: "Reservation in Private Schools under the Right to Education Act: Model for Implementation", Shekhar Mittal and Parth J Shah, December 2010.  
*Summary*: The memo suggests a model for effective implementation of a specific provision under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. [Link](#)

## TEACHING

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**UCLA Anderson**: Teaching Assistant - Managerial Economics (MBA, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-17),

International Studies: India (MBA, 2015-16), and Impact Creation, Analysis and Evaluation (MBA, 2016-17).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Senior Campaign Associate, [Centre for Civil Society](#), New Delhi, India

JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011

Program Manager and Platform Engineer, [Praja](#), Bangalore, India

AUGUST 2009 – JUNE 2010

Software Engineer, [Cisco Systems](#), Bangalore, India

JULY 2007 – JULY 2009

## SKILLS

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**Highly Proficient:** Stata, Drupal, C, Emacs, Linux (Ubuntu)

**Proficient:** MySQL, R, Python

**Experienced:** Matlab, Latex, Perl, HTML, CSS

**Certifications:** Machine Learning Foundations: A Case Study Approach (Coursera), Machine Learning: Regression (Coursera), Machine Learning: Classification (Coursera), Machine Learning: Clustering & Retrieval (Coursera),

## PERSONAL

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**Citizenship:** Indian

**Languages:** Hindi (native), English (highly proficient)

## REFERENCES

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- **Romain Wacziarg, Professor of Economics**  
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- **Aprajit Mahajan, Associate Professor**  
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