

# Shekhar Mittal

740 Weyburn Terrace, Apartment C12, Los Angeles, CA 90024  
☎ 734-780-1120 ✉ [shekhar.mittal.2017@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:shekhar.mittal.2017@anderson.ucla.edu) 🌐 <http://shekhar.me>

## 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 EXPERIENCE

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Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Romain Wacziarg JULY 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2013

[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 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.
- Formulated questionnaires under the Right to Information Act to get data which could help measure the performance of district level IAS officers as part of their statutory & regulatory responsibilities.
- Reviewed government documents to understand the statutory and developmental responsibilities of IAS officers and narrowed the research problem.

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 analysable 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.
- Did quality control of the survey responses received from the field.

## 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*: [http://shekhar.me/papers/pe\\_researchdesign.pdf](http://shekhar.me/papers/pe_researchdesign.pdf)

- *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*: <http://shekhar.me/papers/viewpoint10.pdf>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011

- Co-ordinated the School Voucher for Girls project that piloted school choice in India.
- Did advocacy and research on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, a law that aims to implement elementary education as a fundamental right.
- Worked on development and expansion of the [Right to Education Portal](#), which tracked all the happenings in India related to the Right to Education Act.

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

AUGUST 2009 – JUNE 2010

- Spearheaded MobiliCity, a citizen-driven initiative to understand problems and discuss solutions for sustainable transportation in Bangalore.
- Formulated associations with various organisations, including Loksatta - a local political party and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation - the local public transport authority, to use Praja as the platform to run their campaigns.
- Led development efforts for Praja’s web-portal by exploiting social media, open source technologies, and mobile platforms.

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

JULY 2007 – JULY 2009

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

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- 2010    *Co-Lead*, [Bangalore Water Index](#), Bangalore, India  
2009-2010    *Mentor*, *Drupal Technology*, [Step2](#)  
2008-2010    *Founder*, [Soapbox](#), Bangalore, India  
2008    *Co-Lead*, [Clean Nandi Green Nandi](#), Bangalore, India  
2006-2007    *Chairman*, IEEE Student Branch, Delhi College of Engineering

## SKILLS

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

**Proficient:** Matlab, MySQL, R, Perl

**Experienced:** Latex, Python, HTML, CSS

## REFERENCES

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- **Romain Wacziarg, Professor of Economics**  
Anderson School of Management, UCLA  
110 Westwood Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90077  
[wacziarg@ucla.edu](mailto:wacziarg@ucla.edu)
- **Marianne Bertrand, Chris P. Dialynas Professor of Economics**  
Booth School of Business, University of Chicago  
5807 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637-1610  
[marianne.bertrand@chicagobooth.edu](mailto:marianne.bertrand@chicagobooth.edu)
- **B. Pablo Montagnes, Assistant Professor**  
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago  
1155 E. 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
[pmontagnes@uchicago.edu](mailto:pmontagnes@uchicago.edu)
- **Dan Black, Professor**  
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago  
1155 E. 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
[danblack@uchicago.edu](mailto:danblack@uchicago.edu)