

# Shekhar Mittal

110 Westwood Plaza, C-525 Entrepreneurs Hall Los Angeles, CA - 90095-1481, USA

☎ 734-780-1120 ✉ [shekhar.mittal.2017@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:shekhar.mittal.2017@anderson.ucla.edu) 🌐 <http://shekhar.me>

## EDUCATION

---

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

---

### *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 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.

## WRITING

- *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

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

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

**Proficient**: Matlab, MySQL, R, Python

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

**Certifications**: Machine Learning Foundations: A Case Study Approach (Coursera), Machine Learning: Regression (Coursera)

## PERSONAL

---

**Citizenship:** Indian

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

## REFERENCES

---

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Romain Wacziarg, Professor of Economics</b><br/>Anderson School of Management, UCLA<br/>110 Westwood Plaza, o C-510 Entrepreneurs Hall<br/>Los Angeles, CA - 90095-1481<br/><a href="mailto:wacziarg@ucla.edu">wacziarg@ucla.edu</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Aprajit Mahajan, Associate Professor</b><br/>Dept. of ARE, UC Berkeley<br/>219 Giannini Hall<br/>Berkeley, CA 94720-3310<br/><a href="mailto:aprajit@gmail.com">aprajit@gmail.com</a></li></ul> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|