

# Sameer Nair-Desai

🌐 Sameer Nair-Desai | 🏠 [snairdesai.github.io](https://snairdesai.github.io) | 📧 [snairdesai](mailto:snairdesai) | 📄 [sameernairdesai](https://sameernairdesai)

## Office Contact Information

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Additional: Google Scholar, SSRN, LinkedIn

## Research Strands and Affiliations

**Primary Fields:** Development Economics, Health Economics.

**Secondary Fields:** Information Economics, Political Economy.

**Current Affiliations:** Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research (SIEPR).

## Education

*University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA*

B.A. Economics, May 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

B.A. International Relations & Global Business (Political Science), May 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

*Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA*

Non-Matriculated Student in Economics and Mathematics, September 2022 - Present.

*Brown University, Providence, RI*

Non-Matriculated Student in Mathematics, September 2021 - May 2022.

*London School of Economics & Political Science, London, UK*

Visiting Student in Economics and Political Science, September 2018 - June 2019.

## Selected Coursework

\* Courses are year-long (LSE), semester-long (USC, Brown) or quarter-long (Stanford). Sequential courses are assigned Roman numerals. Proof-based math courses are marked with ‡. For a full list, see my LinkedIn.

**Economics & Political Science:** Honors Thesis I & II (USC); Microeconomics I & II (USC); Macroeconomics I & II (USC); Econometrics (USC); Development Economics I & II (LSE); Economics and Public Policy I & II (LSE); History of Economics I & II (LSE); History of International Relations (USC); International Organisations I & II (LSE); Political Economy of Latin American Development (USC); PhD Social and Economic Networks (Stanford - Audit); PhD Econometrics III (Stanford); PhD Advanced Topics in Econometrics (Stanford).

**Mathematics & Programming:** Python Programming (USC); Statistics (USC); Calculus I, II<sup>‡</sup>, & III<sup>‡</sup> (USC & Brown); Linear Algebra<sup>‡</sup> (Brown); Real Analysis<sup>‡</sup> (Stanford); Probability Theory<sup>‡</sup> (Stanford).

**Law & Finance:** Principles of Employment Law (USC); Foundations of Accounting (USC); Foundations of Business Finance (USC); International Trade, Finance, and Commercial Policy (USC).

## Research Experience

2022 - Present	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor Matthew Gentzkow, SIEPR and Dept. of Economics.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Dean Ashish Jha, Brown University and Harvard University.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor Devesh Kapur, Johns Hopkins University.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Professor Joshua Aizenman, University of Southern California.
2019 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Tatiana Melguizo, University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Jacques Hymans, University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at Equity Research Institute, University of Southern California.

## Policy Experience

2019	Intern at the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Economic Development.
2018	Intern at the Canning House.
2018	Intern at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

## Leadership Experience and Service

2020 - Present	Founder & Director of Economic Research, Meridian Collective.
2019 - 2020	President of Omicron Delta Epsilon, University of Southern California.
2017 - 2018	Vice President of Project RISHI, University of Southern California.
2017	Treasurer of Trojan Parliamentary Debate Squad, University of Southern California.

## Journal Articles, Open Access Research, and Data Platforms

\* Peer-reviewed journal articles are starred. Joint first authorships are marked with <sup>‡</sup>. For additional information please consult my Google Scholar profile.

1. **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**, Chambers L, Soto J, Tsai T, Behr C, Lovgren L, Zandstra T, Rivkees S, Beaudoin F. "Characteristics Associated with High Hospital Spending Over 1 Year Among Patients Hospitalised for COVID-19 in the USA: a Cohort Study." *BMJ Public Health*. Nov. 2023. \*

2. Zong M, Kshirsagar M, Johnston R, Dodhia R, Glazer T, Kim A, Michael D, **Nair-Desai S**, Tsai T, Friedhoff S, Lavista-Ferres J. "Estimating Vaccine-Preventable COVID-19 Deaths Among Adults Under Counterfactual Vaccination Scenarios in The United States: A Modeling Study Using Observational Data." *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Research*. Sep. 2023. Reported in NPR, Forbes, and Global Epidemics. \*

3. **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**, Dasaraju S (*Meridian Collective*). “Intergenerational Gaps in Social and Political Attitudes Amongst Asian Americans.” *Open Access - Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Jan. 2023.
4. Chin N, Dasaraju S, **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**, Nambiar K, Robertson H (*Meridian Collective*). “Our Global Health Frameworks in COVID-19: Who Was Left Behind?” *Open Access - Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Dec. 2022.
5. Bruch J, **Nair-Desai S**, Orav J, Tsai T. “Changes in Clinical Outcomes Associated with Private Equity and Non-Private Equity Acquisitions of ASCs.” *Health Affairs*. Sep. 2022. \*
6. Aizenman J, Cukierman A, Jinjara Y, **Nair-Desai S**, Weining X. “Gaps Between Official and Excess Covid-19 Mortality Measures: The Effects of Institutional Quality and Vaccinations.” *Economic Modelling*. Aug. 2022. Previous version available as an NBER Working Paper (#29778). Summary at VoxEU. \*
7. Ferguson Bryan A, **Nair-Desai S**, Tsai T. “Surgical Quality Without Walls: The Need for a Better-Quality Reporting System for Ambulatory Surgery.” *JAMA Surgery*. Jun. 2022. \*
8. Kerwin H, Briggs R, **Nair-Desai S**, Gorzalski A, Pandori M, Friedhoff S, Tsai T. “An Analysis of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections and Associated Clinical Outcomes.” *Open Access - medRxiv*. Sep. 2021.
9. Renton B, **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**, Jha AK. “Covid-19 Hospital Vaccine Mandate Tracker” *Data Platform - Brown University School of Public Health & Global Epidemics*. Jul. 2021.
10. Dasaraju S, Menon S, **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**, Robertson H (*Meridian Collective*). “Winning Hearts & Minds: Through a Shot in the Arm.” *Op Ed - Center for Public Diplomacy*. Apr. 2021.
11. Jinjara Y, Ahmed R, **Nair-Desai S**, Xin W, Aizenman J. “Pandemic Shocks and Fiscal-Monetary Policies in the Eurozone: COVID-19 Dominance During January – June 2020.” *Oxford Economic Papers*. Mar. 2021. Previous version available as an NBER Working Paper (#27451). Summary at VoxEU. \*
12. Jha AK, **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**. “The Case for Open Schools in a Pandemic.” *Policy Brief - Global Epidemics*. Dec. 2020.
13. Jinjara Y, Ahmed R, **Nair-Desai S**, Xin W, Aizenman J. “Accounting for Global COVID-19 Diffusion Patterns, January - April 2020.” *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*. Sep. 2020. Previous version available as an NBER Working Paper (#27185). Summary at VoxEU. \*
14. **Nair-Desai S<sup>‡</sup>**. “Equity, Efficiency, and Partnership: Examining Secondary Education in Kerala, India.” *Honors Thesis in Political Economy - University of Southern California & SSRN*. May 2020.
15. Sharma A, **Nair-Desai S**, Ito J. “The Heartland Equity Atlas: Regional Data for Equitable Entrepreneurship” *Data Platform - University of Southern California Equity Research Institute*. Nov. 2019.

## Working Papers

1. Crane M A, **Nair-Desai S**, Romley J A, Gemmill A, Probasco J C. “Epidemiology of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the United States, 2007-2022”. *Forthcoming, JAMA Neurology*.

## Work in Progress

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Mason W, Wilkins A, Barberá P, Cisneros J C, Crespo-Tenorio A, Dimmery D, Freelon D, González-Bailón S, Guess A M, Kim Y M, Lazer D, Malhotra N, Moehler D, **Nair-Desai S**, Nait el Barj H, Nyhan B, Paixao de Queiroz A, Pan J, Settle J, Thorson E, Tromble R, Velasco C R, Wittenbrink B, Wojcieszak M, Zahedian S, Franco A, de Jonge C K, C, Stroud N J, Tucker J A. “The Effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 Election: A Deactivation Experiment.” *R&R, Nature*.
2. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Mason W, Wilkins A, Barberá P, Cisneros J C, Crespo-Tenorio A, Dimmery D, Freelon D, González-Bailón S, Guess A M, Kim Y M, Lazer D, Malhotra N, Moehler D, **Nair-Desai S**, Nait el Barj H, Nyhan B, Paixao de Queiroz A, Pan J, Settle J, Thorson E, Tromble R, Velasco C R, Wittenbrink B, Wojcieszak M, Zahedian S, Franco A, de Jonge C K, C, Stroud N J, Tucker J A. “The Effects of Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram: A Randomized Experiment.”
3. Aizenman J, Ito H, **Nair-Desai S**. “A Cross-National Examination of Economic and Governance Reactions to Global Inflation Shocks (2010 - 2022).”
4. **Nair-Desai S<sup>†</sup>**, Cisneros J C, Dasaraju S. “The Networks of Economics: Co-Authorship Maps in ‘Top Five’ Journals.”

## Conferences and Presentations

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| 2022 | Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research, Predoctoral Research Seminar. |
| 2022 | University of Southern California, Department of Economics.                      |
| 2020 | North American Association of Indian Students (NAAIS).                           |

## Honors and Distinctions

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|-------------|---|
| 2021        | University Nominee (USC), Marshall Scholarship.                                 |
| 2020        | Dornsife Scholar, University of Southern California.                            |
| 2020        | Global Scholar, University of Southern California.                              |
| 2020        | Discovery Scholar, University of Southern California.                           |
| 2020        | Order of Troy, University of Southern California.                               |
| 2020        | First Class Honors, London School of Economics & Political Science.             |
| 2019 - 2020 | Easterlin Fellow, University of Southern California.                            |
| 2018        | Phi Beta Kappa, University of Southern California.                              |
| 2017 - 2018 | Undergraduate Research Associates Program, University of Southern California.   |
| 2017        | Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of Southern California. |

## Technical Skills

Accomplished in: STATA, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.

Proficient in: Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS & QGIS, Tableau.