





Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  snairdesai.github.io |  [snairdesai](#) |  [sameernairdesai](#)

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Research Specializations

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Health Economics.

Secondary Fields: Political Economy, Networks and Information Economics.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D. Student in Economics, 2024 - 2029 (expected).

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

B.A. Economics, 2016 - 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

B.A. International Relations & Global Business (Political Science), 2016 - 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Non-Matriculated Graduate Student in Economics and Mathematics, 2022 - 2024.

Brown University, Providence, RI

Non-Matriculated Student in Economics and Mathematics, 2021 - 2022.

London School of Economics & Political Science, London, UK

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

Research Experience

Summer 2025	Graduate Student Research Assistant to Professor Dean Yang , University of Michigan.
2022 - 2024	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor Matthew Gentzkow , Dept. of Economics and SIEPR.
2020 - 2022	Research Associate to Dean Ashish Jha , Brown University and Harvard 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.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor Devesh Kapur , Johns Hopkins University.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Jacques Hymans , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at Equity Research Institute , University of Southern California.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

* For additional open-access research, policy articles, and data platforms, please consult my [Google Scholar](#).

Economics Publications

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Levy R, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* "The Effects of Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram." *Nature Human Behavior* (Forthcoming). Working version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#33818\)](#).
2. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Wittenbrink B, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* "Deactivating Social Media Before a Presidential Election Makes People Happier." *AEJ: Economic Policy* (Forthcoming). Working version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#33697\)](#).
3. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* "[The Effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 Election: A Deactivation Experiment](#)." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. May 2024.
4. 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 \(#29778\)](#).
5. 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 \(#27451\)](#).
6. 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 \(#27185\)](#).

Health Policy Publications

1. Crane M A, **Nair-Desai S**, Gemmill A, Romley J A, Probasco J C. "[Change in Epidemiology of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the US, 2007-2020](#)." *JAMA Neurology*. Dec. 2023.
2. **Nair-Desai S**[‡], 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.
3. 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](#) and [Forbes](#).
4. Bruch J, **Nair-Desai S**, Orav J, Tsai T. "[Private Equity Acquisitions Of Ambulatory Surgical Centers Were Not Associated With Quality, Cost, Or Volume Changes](#)." *Health Affairs*. Sep. 2022.
5. 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.

Works in Progress

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Levy R, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* “The Effects of Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram: A Randomized Experiment.”
2. Aizenman J, Ito H, **Nair-Desai S**. “A Cross-National Examination of Economic and Governance Reactions to Global Inflation Shocks.”

*Ph.D. Projects (coauthored with peer graduate students; all contributors are joint-first coauthors):*¹

1. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**. “The Effects of Digital Expansion on Political Outcomes and Normative Change: Evidence from India.”
2. Bryson A M, Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**. “The Welfare Effects of Healthcare Expansions to Immigrant Communities: Evidence from Medi-Cal.”
3. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Interracial Kinship Ties and the ‘American Dream’.”
4. Cisneros J C, Kaul M C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship on Lifestyle Choices.”
5. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**. “The Role of Continuous Medicaid Coverage in Reducing Recidivism and Drug Use Among Former Juvenile Inmates.”

Conferences and Presentations

2024 2025	University of Michigan, Health Economics Graduate Student Seminar.
2024	University of Michigan, First Year Graduate Student Seminar.
2022	Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research, Predoctoral Research Seminar.
2022	University of Southern California, Department of Economics.

Academic Honors and Distinctions

2024	Gail R. Wilensky Fellow in Health Economics , University of Michigan.
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	University Nominee for Marshall Scholarship , 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.

Technical Skills

Accomplished in: R, STATA, L^AT_EX, VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.
Proficient in: Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS & QGIS, Tableau.

¹[Juan Carlos Cisneros](#): PhD Student in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra | Barcelona School of Economics; [AnneMarie Bryson](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley; [Marie Kaul](#): PhD Student in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics.