

# Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  [snairdesai.github.io](https://snairdesai.github.io) |  [@snairdesai](https://snairdesai) |  [sameernairdesai](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sameernairdesai)

## Office Contact Information

611 Tappan Avenue  
Department of Economics  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI, 48104

## Personal Contact Information

Phone: +1 (323) 940-8850  
Email: [nairdesa@umich.edu](mailto:nairdesa@umich.edu)  
Website: <https://snairdesai.github.io>  
GitHub: <https://github.com/snairdesai>

## Research Specializations

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

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

## Education

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

Ph.D. Student in Economics, 2024 - 2030 (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.

## 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* (Conditionally Accepted). 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." *AJE: Economic Policy* (Conditionally Accepted). 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, Jinjarak 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. Jinjarak 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. Jinjarak 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<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.
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

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

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. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**, Willis A. “The Role of Continuous Medicaid Coverage in Reducing Recidivism and Drug Use Among Former Juvenile Inmates.”
4. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**, Willis A. “The Effects of Gentrification on Education and Later-Life Outcomes”
5. Cisneros J C, Kaul M, **Nair-Desai S**. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship.”

<sup>1</sup>[AnneMarie Bryson](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley; [Juan Carlos Cisneros](#): PhD Student in Economics, BSE; [Marie Kaul](#): PhD Student in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics; [Abbigail Willis](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley.

## Grants and Funding

2025 – 2027	\$10,000: <a href="#">The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences</a> *Co-PI with Juan Carlos Cisneros and Marie Kaul.
2025 – 2026	\$30,000: <a href="#">Institute for Research on Labor and Employment</a> (Family Policy Hub). *Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abigail Willis.
2025 – 2026	\$6,000: <a href="#">Institute for Research on Labor and Employment</a> . *Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abigail Willis.
2020	\$10,000: <a href="#">Dornsife Scholars Program</a> (University of Southern California).

## Conferences and Presentations

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

## Research Experience

Summer 2025	Graduate Student Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Dean Yang</a> , University of Michigan.
2022 - 2024	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor <a href="#">Matthew Gentzkow</a> , Dept. of Economics and SIEPR.
2020 - 2022	Research Associate to Dean <a href="#">Ashish Jha</a> , Brown University and Harvard University.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Joshua Aizenman</a> , University of Southern California.
2019 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Tatiana Melguizo</a> , University of Southern California.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Devesh Kapur</a> , Johns Hopkins University.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Jacques Hymans</a> , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at <a href="#">Equity Research Institute</a> , University of Southern California.

## Academic Honors and Distinctions

2025 - 2030	Population Studies Center Graduate Fellowship ( <a href="#">NICHD</a> ), University of Michigan.
2024	Gail R. Wilensky Fellow in Health Economics, University of Michigan.
2020	Dornsife Scholar; Global Scholar; 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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.

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