





Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  snairdesai.github.io |  [snairdesai](#) |  [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
Website: <https://snairdesai.github.io>
GitHub: <https://github.com/snairdesai>

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* (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." *AEJ: 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, 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. 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. 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. Cisneros J C, Kaul M C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship on Lifestyle Choices.”
5. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Interracial Kinship Ties and the ‘American Dream’.”

Grants and Funding

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| 2025 – 2026 | \$30,000: Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (Family Policy Hub).
<i>*Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abbigail Willis.</i> |
| 2025 – 2026 | \$6,000: Institute for Research on Labor and Employment .
<i>*Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abbigail Willis.</i> |
| 2020 | \$10,000: Dornsife Scholars Program (University of Southern California). |

Conferences and Presentations

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| 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. |

Academic Honors and Distinctions

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| 2025 | Population Studies Center Graduate Fellowship (NICHD) , 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, \LaTeX , VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.
Proficient in: Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS & QGIS, Tableau.

¹[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.