

# VATSAL KHANDELWAL

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## EMPLOYMENT

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- (2024 - ) Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Department of Economics, University of Exeter.
- (2021-2024) Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing at Merton College, University of Oxford.

## EDUCATION

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- (2021) **Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Economics**, University of Oxford.  
*Supervisors: Prof. Stefan Dercon, Prof. Alexander Teytelboym.*
- (2017) **MSc in Economics for Development**, University of Oxford.  
*Awarded distinction. Awarded the Luca D'Agliano Prize for the Best Dissertation and George Webb Medley Prize, proxime accessit (runner up) for Best Overall Performance.*
- (2015) **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics**, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.  
*Awarded distinction. Pronounced batch Valedictorian (Arts) for the highest CGPA.*

## Visiting Positions

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- **Academic Visitor**, Department of Economic, University of Oxford. *2024-2025*
- **Visiting Scholar**, King Center on Global Development, Stanford University. *Summer, 2023*
- **Visiting Fellow**, Harvard University. *Spring Term, 2021*

## RESEARCH

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### Publications

- "Learning in Networks with Idiosyncratic Agents." (2024) *Games and Economic Behaviour*

### Working Papers

- "Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions" (with Ronak Jain) [Draft available here](#).  
*Awarded the Economics Job Market Best Paper Award, European Economic Association and UniCredit Foundation. Coverage: [VoxDev](#), [Ideas of India Podcast at the Mercatus Centre](#).*
- "Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan" (with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim). [Draft available here](#). *Coverage: [VoxDev](#)*
- "Do Some Peers Matter More Than Others? The Heterogeneous Impacts of Social Networks on Female Entrepreneurship" (with Juni Singh). [Draft available here](#).
- "Spatial Inequality and Informality in Kenya's Firm Network" (with Verena Wiedemann, Peter Wankuru Chacha, and Benard Kipyegon Kirui). [Draft available here](#).

## Work in Progress

- “Impact of a Government-led Mental Health Intervention on Teaching Practices and Student Outcomes” with Preetham Rodrigues.
- “Parental Involvement in Education and Children’s Human Capital Formation” with Sonya Krutikova, Abu Siddique, Michael Vlassopoulos and Yves Zenou. *Data collection ongoing.*
- “Mask Up! How Social Networks affect Adoption of Public Health Behaviors and Norms” with Dennis Egger, Aleksandra Jakubowski and Michael Walker.
- “Increasing Take Up of Oral Iron Supplements” with Abu Siddique.
- “The Costs of Exploration: How does Access to Potential Suppliers affect Firm Performance?” with Diana Beltekian.
- “Social Networks, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence” with Sonia Bhalotra and Selim Gulesci.
- “Network Dynamics of Temporary Migration” Previously titled “Social Networks, Risk Sharing and Circular Migration: Evidence from Rural India.”

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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- (2022) CSAE Top up Research Grant (£6,440) for “Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions” with Ronak Jain.
- (2020) JPAL Post Primary Education Grant (\$20,548) for “Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan” with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim.
- (2019) Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Grant (\$40,000) for “Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan” with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim.
- (2019) Centre for the Study of African Economies Research Grant (£4,030) for “Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions” with Ronak Jain.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

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- (2023) Economics Job Market Best Paper Award, European Economic Association and UniCredit Foundation.
- (2020) Final Year Doctoral Bursary, Department of Economics, University of Oxford.
- (2018) Two Year Doctoral Bursary, Department of Economics, University of Oxford.
- (2017) Hicks Scholarship in Economics, Linacre College, University of Oxford.
- (2017) Luca D’Aglano Prize for the Best Dissertation in the MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford. Awarded for the paper “Social Networks, Risk Sharing and Circular Migration: Evidence from Rural India”.
- (2017) George Webb Medley Prize, proxime accessit (runner up) for Best Overall Performance in the MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford.
- (2016) Queen Elizabeth House Departmental Scholarship (covering all fees and living costs for the MSc in Economics for Development). Awarded by the Scholarships Committee for the Oxford Department of International Development and Corpus Christi College.

- (2015) Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial Prize and Mr. Badi C Tyabjee, J.J & B.J Lalwani, and Billoo scholarship for highest aggregate in B.A. examinations, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- (2015) Vinod Mehra Scholarship for the Best Cultural Talent, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- (2014) Freddie A. Mehta Scholarship for highest marks in Economics in First and Second Year and continuing with Economics in the Third Year at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- (2012) Certificate Of Merit by the Central Board of Secondary Education "for reasons of outstanding academic performance and for being among the top 0.1% of successful candidates" of the All India Senior School Certificate Examinations in Mathematics.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Teaching

- (2023-24) Course Convener for Microeconomic Theory, MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford. Taught topics in game theory including discrete and continuous games, hidden action, signalling, and auctions.
- (2022-23) Course Convener for "Applications of Behavioural Economics to the Developing World", MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford.
- (2020-21) Department of Economics Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Oxford. Taught classes in Microeconomics to first year Economics MPhil students.
- (2018) Assisted Dr. Natalie Quinn in revising and delivering the pre-sessional math course for the MSc in Economics for Development at the University of Oxford.

### Undergraduate Teaching

- (2019-20) Department of Economics Graduate Teaching Assistant at Pembroke College, Oxford. Taught Core Microeconomics, Microeconomic Analysis, and Quantitative Economics.
- (2018-19) Department of Economics Graduate Teaching Assistant at Pembroke College, Oxford. Taught Microeconomic Analysis, Game Theory, and Quantitative Economics.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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- **Other Roles/Affiliations:**
  - (2020-2021) Managed [CSAE's Coders' Corner](#) – a repository of advice around coding.
  - (2023-) Affiliated Researcher at [Lab<sup>2</sup>](#) — a metascience lab for experimentation in science.
- **Softwares skills:** Matlab, Stata, Mathematica, Gephi, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics.