

# Vikas PD Gawai

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## SUMMARY

- Experienced economist proficient in advanced causal inference, observational data analysis, and applied econometrics tools such as difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs.
- Skilled in statistical modeling, data exploration, wrangling, and scraping using advanced statistical tools
- Proficient in presenting interdisciplinary research to academic and non-academic audiences, including economics, public policy, sociology, population health, Social Security Administration (SSA), consumer science
- Experience in fieldwork, interacting with stakeholders including state education department, government representatives, teachers, and school children; designed a field experiment to conduct a randomized control trial (RCT) to understand why women participation is lower in STEM education in poor countries
- 8 years of diverse industry experience, including project management, business development, planning, and team leadership (lead a team of over 100 people), demonstrated ability to communicate effectively, manage clients, lead large teams, and maximize profits (32% on a project)
- **Academic Conference Presentations:** Midwest Economic Association (MEA), 2023; Global Health Symposium, 2023; Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), 2022; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), 2022; Population Association of America (PAA), 2022; Departmental seminars at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (12 times)

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Econometrics and Quantitative Economics-** Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA May 2024 (Expected)

*Recipient of several research and diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) awards*

**MS Econometrics and Quantitative Economics,** University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA 2016-18

*Recipient of the award under 'Best Paper scholarship'*

**Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech),** Civil Engineering, Mumbai University, MH, India 2004-08

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Toolbox:** Stata (advanced), Python (basic), R (basic), MS Office, Git, LaTeX, Enclave (confidential/ restricted data handling), Citrix Workspace (for big data)
- **Data Analysis:** Data visualization, Cleaning, Economic Modelling, Communication, Inference, Econometric Analysis

## RESEARCH INTEREST

Health Economics, Aging, Health Disparity, Gender Inequality, Human Capital, Agriculture, Social Security, Causal Inference, Applied Econometrics, Development, Regional Economics

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

**Ph.D. Research & Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

September 2018- Present

- **Wage Gap between US and Foreign-Born Land Grant Scientists** *with Prof. Jeremy Foltz*
  - 50% contributed to the research paper estimating the wage gap between foreign-born and US-born academic faculty;
  - Developed a framework to identify and test sources of the wage gap;
  - Used standard methods in labor economics, including Kitagawa-Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition, to identify whether wage discrimination exists;
  - Scrapped data from the *Web of Science* for about 600 data points;
  - Conducted analysis in Stata with the novel survey data;
  - Presentation at the top field conference -AAEA, in August 2022.
- **Early Life Exposure to Agriculture Shock (Green Revolution) on Later Life Cognitive Health of Older adults** *with Valentina Duque, Jinkook, Lee, Lauren Schmitz* (funded by NIA grant)
  - The first author; contributed over 80% to estimate the causal effect of an increase in agriculture productivity in early life on later-life cognition using the potentially largest aging data in the world (over 70,000 respondents);
  - Crosswalked the historical agricultural data (on about 300 districts) with the contemporary health and education data (of over 600 districts);
  - Used various applied econometrics tools and produced geospatial maps and visualization that show the spatial and temporal variation in agricultural productivity;
  - Presentation at the top policy conference - APPAM, in November 2022.
- **Early-Life Economic Conditions and Old-Age Mortality: Evidence from Historical County-Level Bank Deposit Data** *with Valentina Duque, Jason Fletcher, Hamid NoghaniBehambari, Lauren Schmitz* (funded by NIA, Center for Retirement Research Steven H. Sandell Grant Program pursuant to a grant from the U.S. Social Security Administration (BC20-S2), and the Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA))
  - A major contribution by discovering the bank deposit data, which is arguably the best available data on the proxy for the economic conditions during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the US;
  - Worked with interdisciplinary co-authors from sociology, economics, and public policy;
  - Produced geospatial maps and visualization

- **Does giving bicycles to grade-9 girls motivate grade-6 girls to continue schooling?- Spillover effect of a bicycle policy** (*Best paper award scholarship during Masters of Economics*)
- The solo author paper; used a universe of school administrative data from two states in India on enrollment with over 30,000 schools and over 750,000 girls' enrollment in grade 6
- Used difference-in-differences estimation strategy to find a significant spillover effect of a bicycle policy on girl's enrollment
- **Research Assistant**
- Assisted a project of Profs. Lauren Schmitz and Valentina Duque evaluate early exposure to the Great Depression in the US on later life mortality; data analysis using the restricted HRS data.
- Assisted Andra Ghent (Wisconsin School of Business) in a project that uses the WRDS data to plot time series of Treasuries, corporate debt, common stock, residential real estate, and commercial real estate.

## **Assistant Manager (Sub-contracts, Business Development, and Planning), L&T, ITDC, VEL, Gammon India Ltd**

2008-16

- Worked in various leadership positions in top construction firms in India; supervised about 40 construction workers and 3 supervisors; led a building foundation (deep foundation) project with over 100 manpower including engineers, supervisors, and workers; led a planning department to achieve a 32% profit on a project; achieved a saving of over 6 million INR under the sub-contract negotiations; developed essential soft skills of in the management

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

### **Does the availability of better broadband improve the social security disability applications after the social security administration (SSA) field office closures?- (*funded from an award (\$5000) from the RDRC, CFS at UW-Madison, in collaboration with SSA*)**

- Working on getting the restricted SSA administrative data; developing a proposal using the advanced econometrics method

## **GRANTS AND RESEARCH FUNDING**

<i>RDRC - Junior Scholar Research Competition Award- \$5,000</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
<i>Deborah and David Penn Fund - Research Presentation Award- \$500</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison Graduate School - Research Presentation Award- \$2,500</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison CDE Research Presentation Award- \$950</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison Traisman Agribusiness Graduate Fellowship- \$750</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>American Society of Health Economics (ASHEcon) DEI- Diversity Scholarship</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>UW-Madison Student Research Grants Competition Research Travel- \$1,500</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>UW Madison Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award- \$3,000</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>UW Madison Best Research Paper Scholarship- \$350</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Full Bright equivalent a State Government Scholarship for Masters- \$100,000</i>	<i>2016-18</i>

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

<i>Junior Scholar Intensive Training (CFS, UW-Madison, with SSA)</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>Affiliated with interdisciplinary departments (Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA), Institute of Research on Poverty (IRP), Retirement and Disability Research Center (RDRC)</i>	<i>Various Years</i>

## **LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP**

<i>UW-Madison, Mentor for two undergrad students on a class project under Prof. Foltz</i>	<i>Spring 2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison First Generation (FirstGen), Mentor for one FirstGen undergrad student</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison, Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAE) Mentor for one FirstGen undergrad student</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison First Generation (FirstGen), Member</i>	<i>2021–</i>
<i>UW-Madison CDHA NextGen Population, Mentor for 18 students on research development</i>	<i>Summer 2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAE) Faculty Hiring Committee, Student Representative</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAE) Ph.D. Admission Committee, Student Representative</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>Taylor-Hibbard Club, Athletic Chair</i>	<i>2020–2022</i>
<i>UW-Madison AAE Economic Development Lab Group, Member</i>	<i>2019–</i>

## **ACADEMIC SERVICES (for Scientific Journals and Groups)**

<i>Journal- Economics of Education Review, Reviewer</i>	<i>2022–</i>
<i>American Society for Health Economists (AshEcon), Abstract Reviewer</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAEA), Abstract Reviewer</i>	<i>2022, 2023</i>
<i>AAEA-Health Economics Section (Chair- Prof. Di Fang) Official Twitter Handle co-Manager</i>	<i>2022</i>