

# VIKAS PD GAWAI

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## EDUCATION

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University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D., Ag and Applied Economics	<i>Expected 2024</i>
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Masters of Economics	<i>2016-18</i>
University of Mumbai, India, Bachelor of Technology, Civil Engineering	<i>2004-08</i>

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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Health, Aging, Social Security, Public Policy, Human Capital, Caste (Race), Gender, Agriculture, Broadband

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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- Does Exposure to Broadband Technology Affects the Mental Health of Older Adults? (*draft coming soon*)

(Presentation - MEA, American University, SEA, UW-Madison)

## WORKING PAPERS

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- Discrimination in Science: Salaries of Foreign and US Born Land-Grant University Scientists *with Jeremy Foltz (Revise and Resubmit)* (Presentation - AAEA, UW-Madison)

**Abstract-** The dominance of the US innovation and academic system relies heavily on foreign-born labor for its success. Recent literature has shown evidence of wage gaps in academia based on gender and race; however, little is known about whether a wage gap might exist for foreign-born faculty. This paper studies the wage gap between the US and foreign-born agricultural and life science faculty at 52 US Land Grant Universities (LGU) using a survey of over 1,400 scientists conducted in 2005 and 2015. We develop a framework to categorize the sources of a potential wage gap into testable categories that capture *direct* discrimination as well as indirect (*systemic*) discrimination. We find that among the tenure-track faculty, foreign-born earn about 4% or \$5,200 lower annual wages even though, on average, foreign-born scientists work more hours per week and produce about 52% more journal articles than US-born scientists. The estimated wage gap is robust to a range of alternative empirical specifications. The decomposition analysis suggests that about one-third of the wage gap is due to direct discrimination, and about two-thirds is due to various types of systemic discrimination. Using our framework, we then rule in and rule out some important types of systemic discrimination. Estimates from this paper are crucial for understanding potential policies that could improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in US academia.

-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- (under review)*

**Abstract-** This paper studies the long-run mortality effects of in-utero and early-life economic conditions. We examine how local economic conditions experienced in the Great Depression, proxied by county-level banking deposits during in-utero and first years of life, can influence old-age longevity. We find that a one-standard-deviation rise in per capita bank deposits is associated with an approximately 2.8 months increase in longevity at old ages (a 0.4 percent increase with respect to the outcome mean). The effects are robust across a wide array of specification checks. Additional analyses comparing state-level versus county-level economic measures provide insight into the importance of controlling for local-level confounders and exploiting more granular measures in exploring the relationship between early-life conditions and later-life mortality.

-Spillover Effects of a Bicycle Policy on Girls' Enrollment in Middle Schools (*Award under Best Paper Scholarship, Dept. of Economics, UW-Madison, 2018*)

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- The Effect of Early Life Exposures to the Green Revolution on Aging Outcomes *with Valentina Duque, Jinkook, Lee, Lauren Schmitz (presented at APPAM)*
- The Intergenerational Effect of Early Life Exposures to the Green Revolution on Human Capital *with Valentina Duque, Lauren Schmitz (presented at PAA)*

## COMPETITIVE HONORS

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- Diversity Fellow, School of Public Affairs, American University 2023-
- Research Fellow, Retirement and Disability Research Center (RDRC) Center for Financial Security (CFS), Social Security Administration (SSA) 2022-
- American Society of Health Economics (ASHEcon) **DEI- Diversity Scholarship** 2021
- Dept. of Economics, UW Madison **Recognition under ‘Best Research Paper Scholarship’-** 2018

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- RDRC - Junior Scholar **Research Competition** Award- \$5,000 2022-23
- Prof. Jeremy Foltz **Research Travel** Award- \$1,100 2023
- Deborah and David Penn Fund - **Research Presentation** Award- \$500 2022
- UW-Madison Graduate School - **Research Presentation** Award- \$2,500 2022
- UW-Madison CDE **Research Presentation** Award- \$950 2022
- UW-Madison Traisman Agribusiness **Graduate Fellowship**- \$750 2021
- UW-Madison Student Research Grants Competition **Research Travel**- \$1,500 2020
- UW Madison Graduate Student **Summer Fieldwork** Award- \$3,000 2019
- Indian State Government Scholarship for Masters in Economics- \$100,000 2016-18

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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- Graduate Student, Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA), and Center for Demography and Ecology(CDE) 2019–Current
- Graduate Student, Institute of Research on Poverty (IRP) 2021-2022
- Graduate Student, Center for South Asia, (CSA) 2020–

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Midwest Economics Association (MEA) 2023
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) 2022
- Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 2022
- Population Association of America (PAA) 2022

## LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP

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

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

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Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), *Abstract Reviewer* 2023  
Journal- Economics of Education Review, *Reviewer* 2022-23  
American Society for Health Economists (AshEcon), *Abstract Reviewer* 2022  
Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAEA), *Abstract Reviewer* 2022, 2023  
AAEA-Health Economics Section (Chair- Prof. Di Fang) *Official Twitter Manager (with Lei Pan)* 2022-23

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant** to Prof. Lauren Schmitz (UW Madison, School of Public Affairs) and Prof. Valentina Duque (University of Sydney, Princeton University, American University) 2020–  
**Research Assistant** to Prof. Jeremy Foltz and Prof. Bradford Barham (UW Madison, AAE) 2018-2020  
**Research Assistant** to Prof. Andra Ghent (UW Madison, Wisconsin School of Business, ) May-Sept (2018)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Guest Lecturer: **Agricultural & Economic Development of Africa (Health)**, (Instructor- Osaretin Ohurotimi) UW-Madison, AAE 477 Spring 2022  
Guest Lecturer: **International Studies (Gender Gap in Developing Countries)**, (Instructor- Prof. Jeremy Foltz) UW-Madison, AAE 374 Spring 2022  
Guest Lecturer: **DEI-focused course- The Economics of Race and Gender** (Gender Gap in Developing Countries), (Instructor- Prof. Meghan I. Esson) Bentley University, EC 298 Spring 2022

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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STATA, R(basic), Python(basic), Latex

## REFERENCES

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### Jeremy Foltz (advisor)

Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
jdfoltz@wisc.edu, (608) 262-6871

### Lauren Schmitz

Assistant Professor, La Follette School of Public Affairs  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
llschmitz@wisc.edu, (608) 263-7398

### Valentina Duque

Visiting Scholar, Princeton University, 2022-2023  
Assistant Professor, Department of Public Admin-

istration and Policy

American University  
vduque@american.edu

### Priya Mukherjee

Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
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### John Mullahy

Professor, Population Health Sciences  
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