**Vikas PD Gawai**

Economist, Ph.D. Candidate, Phone: +1-608-628-8674 • Email: [gawai@wisc.edu](mailto:gawai@wisc.edu) • University of Wisconsin-Madison • Website: <https://vikasgawai.github.io/home/>

**SUMMARY**

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| * Advanced causal inference, observational data analysis, and applied econometrics tools such as difference-in-differences (DID), instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs. * Statistical modeling, data exploration, wrangling, and scraping using advanced statistical tools * 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) * Diverse industry experience, including project management, business development, planning, and team leadership (lead a team of over 100 people), ability to communicate effectively, manage clients, lead large teams, and maximize profits (32% on a project) * **Academic Conference Presentations:** MidwestEconomic Association (MEA), 2023; Global Health Symposium, 2023; Southern Economic Association (SEA), 2023; Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), 2022; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), 2022 & 2023; Population Association of America (PAA), 2022; Departmental seminars at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (over 15 times) |  |

**EDUCATION**

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| **Ph.D. Econometrics and Quantitative Economics**- Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA  *Recipient of several research and diversity awards* | May 2024 (Expected) |
| **MS Econometrics and Quantitative Economics,** University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA  *Recipient of the award under ‘Best Research Paper Scholarship’* | 2016-18 |
| **Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech),** Civil Engineering, Mumbai University, MH, India | 2004-08 |

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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

**RESEARCH INTEREST**

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

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES**

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| **Ph.D. Research & Graduate Research Assistantship, University of Wisconsin-Madison (**September 2018- Present**)**   * **Does High-Speed Internet (Broadband) Affect the Mental Health of Older Adults? (Job Market Paper)** * Sole-authored paper estimating the causal effect of broadband expansion on older adults’ mental health; * Use restricted individual panel data (Health and Retirement Study (HRS)) and recent advances in DID methods for the staggered rollouts of treatment with dynamic treatment effects; * Big data of broadband at the census block level (> 8 million) and then collapse it at the Census Tract level; * Over 47,000 individual-year-level observations were observed for the period of 2010-18. * Coding is mostly done in Stata with over 2200 lines of code; worked in the restricted data enclave of HRS * **Results:** Broadband rollout significantly reduces depression symptoms by 5.7% among older adults; comparable with other major life events like job loss, recession, and loss of a spouse; a back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests broadband has the potential to reduce a cost of over $5 Billion due to severe depression and social isolation. * Explored novel mechanisms of an increase in social connectedness and a decline in social isolation and loneliness * **Policy Implications:** Estimates from this paper are crucial for policymakers since there have been recent massive government investments of over $65 billion to expand broadband. * Presentation at the top conferences- SEA, MEA, APPAM, American University. * **Popular Media Highlight:** [Grow Magazine Cover Story](https://grow.cals.wisc.edu/departments/features/the-road-to-rural-broadband) * **Early Life Exposure to Agriculture Shock (Green Revolution) on Later Life Cognitive Health of Older Adults** *with Lauren Schmitz, Valentina Duque, Jinkook, Lee, Hunter Green* (funded by NIA grant) * First author; we 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); * Coding is mostly done in Stata with over 3100 lines of code; * 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 conference - APPAM. * **Wage Gap between US and Foreign-Born Land Grant Scientists** *with Prof. Jeremy Foltz* ***(revise and resubmit)*** * 100% contributed to the analysis of the paper (about 50% to the writing) 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; * Coding is mostly done in Stata with over 1800 lines of code; * Presentation at the top conferences -AAEA. * **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* ***(revise and resubmit)*** (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 20th 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)* * 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**   * 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 | 2008-16 |

**SELECTED 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**

*RDRC - Junior Scholar Research Competition Award- $5,000 2022-23*

*Deborah and David Penn Fund - Research Presentation Award- $500, $1000 2022-23*

*UW-Madison CDHA Research Presentation Award- $1000 2023*

*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*

*American Society of Health Economics (ASHEcon) Diversity, Equality, Inclusion Scholarship 2021*

*UW-Madison Student Research Grants Competition Research Travel- $1,500 2020*

*National Institutes of Aging (NIA) Grant (P30AG017266) and Grant (R00 AG056599) 2020-*

*UW Madison Graduate Student Summer Fieldwork Award- $3,000 2019*

*UW Madison Best Research Paper Scholarship- $350 2018*

*Indian State Government Scholarship for Masters- $100,000 2016-18*

**ADDITIONAL ACCOLADE**

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| *Summer Diversity Academy Fellow, American University (competitive selection)*  *Junior Scholar (Center for Financial Security, UW-Madison, with Social Security Administration) (competitive selection)* | *2023*  *2022* |
| *Affiliated with interdisciplinary departments (Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA), Institute of Research on Poverty (IRP), Retirement and Disability Research Center (RDRC)* | *Various Years* |

**LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP**

*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 CDHA 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 (for Scientific Journals and Groups)**

*Journal- Economics of Education Review, Reviewer 2022*

*American Society for Health Economists (AshEcon), Abstract Reviewer 2022, 23*

*Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAEA), Abstract Reviewer 2022, 23*

*AAEA-Health Economics Section (Chair- Prof. Di Fang) Official Twitter Handle co-Manager 2022-23*