Vikas PD Gawai

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SUMMARY

o Proficient in advanced causal inference, observational data analysis, and applied econometrics tools such as difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, and regression discontinuity designs.

o Statistical modeling, data exploration, wrangling, and scraping using advanced statistical tools

o Trained in presenting interdisciplinary research to academic and non-academic audiences, including economics, public policy, sociology, population health, Social Security Administration (SSA), consumer science

o 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.

o Eight 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)

o **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 *Recipient of several research and diversity awards (listed below)*	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

o **Toolbox:** Stata (advanced), Python (basic), R (basic), MS Office, Git, LateX, Enclave (confidential/ restricted data handling), Citrix Workspace (for big data)

o **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 (submitted)*
- 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 (submitted)*
  (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   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

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	*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*
American Society of Health Economics (ASHEcon) Diversity, Equality, Inclusion Scholarship	*2021*
UW-Madison Student Research Grants Competition Research Travel- $1,500	*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*
National Institutes of Aging (NIA) Grant (P30AG017266) and Grant (R00 AG056599)	*2020-*

ADDITIONAL ACCOLADE

Summer Diversity Academy Fellow, American University (competitive selection)	*2023*
Junior Scholar (Center for Financial Security, UW-Madison, with Social Security Administration) (competitive selection)	*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*
Agriculture and Applied Economics (AAEA), Abstract Reviewer	*2022, 2023*
AAEA-Health Economics Section (Chair- Prof. Di Fang) Official Twitter Handle co-Manager	*2022*