





Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  snairdesai.github.io |  [snairdesai](https://github.com/snairdesai) |  [sameernairdesai](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sameernairdesai)

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Research Specializations

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Health Economics.

Secondary Fields: Political Economy, Networks and Information Economics.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D. Student in Economics, 2024 - 2029 (expected).

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

B.A. Economics, 2016 - 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

B.A. International Relations & Global Business (Political Science), 2016 - 2020, Highest Honors (3.93/4.00).

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Non-Matriculated Student in Economics and Mathematics, 2022 - 2024.

Brown University, Providence, RI

Non-Matriculated Student in Economics and Mathematics, 2021 - 2022.

London School of Economics & Political Science, London, UK

Visiting Student in Economics and Political Science, 2018 - 2019.

Research Experience

2022 - 2024	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor Matthew Gentzkow , Dept. of Economics and SIEPR .
2020 - 2022	Research Associate to Dean Ashish Jha , Brown University and Harvard University.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Professor Joshua Aizenman , University of Southern California.
2019 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Tatiana Melguizo , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Jacques Hymans , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at Equity Research Institute , University of Southern California.

Journal Articles, Open Access Research, and Data Platforms

* Peer-reviewed journal articles are starred and listed at top. Joint first authorships are marked with †. For additional information please consult my [Google Scholar](#) profile.

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, **Nair-Desai S**, et al. “[The Effects of Facebook and Instagram on the 2020 Election: A Deactivation Experiment.](#)” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. May 2024. *
2. Crane M A, **Nair-Desai S**, Gemmill A, Romley J A, Probasco J C. “[Change in Epidemiology of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the US, 2007-2020.](#)” *JAMA Neurology*. Dec. 2023. *
3. **Nair-Desai S**†, Chambers L, Soto J, Tsai T, Behr C, Lovgren L, Zandstra T, Rivkees S, Beaudoin F. “[Characteristics Associated with High Hospital Spending Over 1 Year Among Patients Hospitalised for COVID-19 in the USA: a Cohort Study.](#)” *BMJ Public Health*. Nov. 2023. *
4. Zong M, Kshirsagar M, Johnston R, Dodhia R, Glazer T, Kim A, Michael D, **Nair-Desai S**, Tsai T, Friedhoff S, Lavista-Ferres J. “[Estimating Vaccine-Preventable COVID-19 Deaths Among Adults Under Counterfactual Vaccination Scenarios in The United States: A Modeling Study Using Observational Data.](#)” *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Research*. Sep. 2023. Reported in NPR and Forbes. *
5. Bruch J, **Nair-Desai S**, Orav J, Tsai T. “[Private Equity Acquisitions Of Ambulatory Surgical Centers Were Not Associated With Quality, Cost, Or Volume Changes.](#)” *Health Affairs*. Sep. 2022. *
6. Aizenman J, Cukierman A, Jinjarak Y, **Nair-Desai S**, Weining X. “[Gaps Between Official and Excess Covid-19 Mortality Measures: The Effects of Institutional Quality and Vaccinations.](#)” *Economic Modelling*. Aug. 2022. Previous version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#29778\)](#). *
7. Ferguson Bryan A, **Nair-Desai S**, Tsai T. “[Surgical Quality Without Walls: The Need for a Better-Quality Reporting System for Ambulatory Surgery.](#)” *JAMA Surgery*. Jun. 2022. *
8. Jinjarak Y, Ahmed R, **Nair-Desai S**, Xin W, Aizenman J. “[Pandemic Shocks and Fiscal-Monetary Policies in the Eurozone: COVID-19 Dominance During January – June 2020.](#)” *Oxford Economic Papers*. Mar. 2021. Previous version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#27451\)](#). *
9. Jinjarak Y, Ahmed R, **Nair-Desai S**, Xin W, Aizenman J. “[Accounting for Global COVID-19 Diffusion Patterns, January - April 2020.](#)” *Economics of Disasters and Climate Change*. Sep. 2020. Previous version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#27185\)](#). *
10. **Nair-Desai S**†, Dasaraju S. “[Intergenerational Gaps in Social and Political Attitudes Amongst Asian Americans.](#)” *Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Jan. 2023.
11. Chin N, Dasaraju S, **Nair-Desai S**†, Nambiar K, Robertson H. “[Our Global Health Frameworks in COVID-19: Who Was Left Behind?](#)” *Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Dec. 2022.
12. Kerwin H, Briggs R, **Nair-Desai S**, Gorzalski A, Pandori M, Friedhoff S, Tsai T. “[An Analysis of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Breakthrough Infections and Associated Clinical Outcomes.](#)” *medRxiv*. Sep. 2021.
13. Renton B, **Nair-Desai S**†, Jha AK. “[COVID-19 Hospital Vaccine Mandate Tracker](#)” *Brown University School of Public Health & Global Epidemics*. Jul. 2021.
14. Dasaraju S, Menon S, **Nair-Desai S**†, Robertson H. “[Winning Hearts & Minds: Through a Shot in the Arm.](#)” *USC Center for Public Diplomacy*. Apr. 2021.
15. **Nair-Desai S**†. “[Equity, Efficiency, and Partnership: Examining Secondary Education in Kerala, India.](#)” *Honors Thesis in Political Economy - University of Southern California & SSRN*. May 2020.

Works in Progress

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Levy R, **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* “The Effects of Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram: A Randomized Experiment.” Under NDA until publication (R&R).
2. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Wittenbrink B, **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* “Deactivating Social Media Before a Presidential Election Makes People Happier.” Under NDA until publication (R&R).
3. Aizenman J, Ito H, **Nair-Desai S**. “A Cross-National Examination of Economic and Governance Reactions to Global Inflation Shocks (2010 - 2022).” Preparing for publication.

*Ph.D. Projects (coauthored with peer graduate students):*¹

4. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Effects of Digital Expansion on Political Outcomes and Normative Change: Evidence from India.”
5. Bryson A M, Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Welfare Effects of Healthcare Expansions to Immigrant Communities: Evidence from Medi-Cal.”
6. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “Interracial Kinship Ties and the ‘American Dream’.”
7. Cisneros J C, Kaul M C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship on Lifestyle Choices.”
8. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Role of Continuous Medicaid Coverage in Reducing Recidivism and Drug Use Among Former Juvenile Inmates.”

Conferences and Presentations

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| 2022 | Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research, Predoctoral Research Seminar. |
| 2022 | University of Southern California, Department of Economics. |

Academic Honors and Distinctions

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| 2024 | Gail R. Wilensky Fellow in Health Economics , University of Michigan. |
| 2020 | Dornsife Scholar , University of Southern California. ² |
| 2020 | Global Scholar , University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | Discovery Scholar , University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | Order of Troy , University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | University Nominee for Marshall Scholarship , University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | First Class Honors , London School of Economics & Political Science. |
| 2019 - 2020 | Easterlin Fellow , University of Southern California. |
| 2018 | Phi Beta Kappa , University of Southern California. |

Technical Skills

Accomplished in: R, STATA, L^AT_EX, VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.

Proficient in: Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS & QGIS, Tableau.

¹Juan Carlos Cisneros: 1st year PhD Student in Economics, Barcelona School of Economics | UPF; AnneMarie Bryson: 2nd year PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley; Marie Kaul: 1st year PhD Student in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics.

²One of ten university-wide recipients at USC, awarded for academic excellence, public service, and campus engagement.