





Sameer Nair-Desai

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Additional: Google Scholar, SSRN, LinkedIn

Research Strands and Affiliations

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Information Economics.

Secondary Fields: Health Economics, Political Economy.

Current Affiliations: Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research (SIEPR).

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

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

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

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Non-Matriculated Student in Economics and Mathematics, September 2022 - Present.

Brown University, Providence, RI

Non-Matriculated Student in Mathematics, September 2021 - May 2022.

London School of Economics & Political Science, London, UK

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

Selected Coursework

* Courses are year-long (LSE), semester-long (USC, Brown) or quarter-long (Stanford). Sequential courses are assigned Roman numerals. Proof-based math courses are marked with ‡. For a full list, see my LinkedIn.

Economics & Political Science: Honors Thesis I & II (USC); Microeconomics I & II (USC); Macroeconomics I & II (USC); Econometrics (USC); Development Economics I & II (LSE); Economics and Public Policy I & II (LSE); History of Economics I & II (LSE); History of International Relations (USC); International Organisations I & II (LSE); Political Economy of Latin American Development (USC).

Economics PhD Level Coursework (Stanford): Econometrics III; Econometrics IV; Economic History; Political Economy; Social and Economic Networks (Audit).

Mathematics & Programming: Python Programming (USC); Statistics (USC); Calculus I, II[‡], & III[‡] (USC & Brown); Linear Algebra[‡] (Brown); Real Analysis[‡] (Stanford); Probability Theory[‡] (Stanford).

Law & Finance: Principles of Employment Law (USC); Foundations of Accounting (USC); Foundations of Business Finance (USC); International Trade, Finance, and Commercial Policy (USC).

Research Experience

2022 - Present	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor Matthew Gentzkow, SIEPR and Dept. of Economics.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Dean Ashish Jha, Brown University and Harvard University.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Professor Joshua Aizenman, University of Southern California.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor Devesh Kapur, Johns Hopkins University.
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.

Policy Experience

2019	Intern at the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Economic Development.
2018	Intern at the Canning House.
2018	Intern at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Leadership Experience and Service

2020 - Present	Founder & Director of Economic Research, Meridian Collective.
2019 - 2020	President of Omicron Delta Epsilon, University of Southern California.
2017 - 2018	Vice President of Project RISHI, University of Southern California.
2017	Treasurer of Trojan Parliamentary Debate Squad, University of Southern California.

Journal Articles, Open Access Research, and Data Platforms

* Peer-reviewed journal articles are starred. 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." *PNAS*. 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, Forbes, and Global Epidemics. *
5. **Nair-Desai S**[‡], Dasaraju S (*Meridian Collective*). “Intergenerational Gaps in Social and Political Attitudes Amongst Asian Americans.” *Open Access - Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Jan. 2023.
6. Chin N, Dasaraju S, **Nair-Desai S**[‡], Nambiar K, Robertson H (*Meridian Collective*). “Our Global Health Frameworks in COVID-19: Who Was Left Behind?” *Open Access - Social Science Research Network (SSRN)*. Dec. 2022.
7. 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. *
8. 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). Summary at VoxEU. *
9. 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. *
10. 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.” *Open Access - medRxiv*. Sep. 2021.
11. Renton B, **Nair-Desai S**[‡], Jha AK. “Covid-19 Hospital Vaccine Mandate Tracker” *Data Platform - Brown University School of Public Health & Global Epidemics*. Jul. 2021.
12. Dasaraju S, Menon S, **Nair-Desai S**[‡], Robertson H (*Meridian Collective*). “Winning Hearts & Minds: Through a Shot in the Arm.” *Op Ed - Center for Public Diplomacy*. Apr. 2021.
13. 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). Summary at VoxEU. *
14. Jha AK, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Case for Open Schools in a Pandemic.” *Policy Brief - Global Epidemics*. Dec. 2020.
15. 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). Summary at VoxEU. *
16. **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.
17. Sharma A, **Nair-Desai S**, Ito J. “The Heartland Equity Atlas: Regional Data for Equitable Entrepreneurship” *Data Platform - University of Southern California Equity Research Institute*. Nov. 2019.

Work 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.”
2. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Wittenbrink B, **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* “Deactivating Social Media Before a Presidential Election Makes People Happier.”
3. Aizenman J, Ito H, **Nair-Desai S**. “A Cross-National Examination of Economic and Governance Reactions to Global Inflation Shocks (2010 - 2022).”
4. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “How Does Information Provision Alter Social Norms? Evidence from Indian Newspaper Coverage.”
5. Cisneros J C, Kaul M C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “A Trip to the Theater: The Effects of Censorship in U.S. Cinema on Social Attitudes.”
6. Bryson A M, Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Effects of Coverage Expansions on Immigrant Health Status: Evidence from Medi-Cal.”
7. Cisneros J C, Dasaraju S, **Nair-Desai S**[‡]. “The Networks of Economics: Charting Academic Mobility and Outcomes in Top Economics Journals.”

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. |
| 2020 | North American Association of Indian Students (NAAIS). |

Honors and Distinctions

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| 2021 | University Nominee (USC), Marshall Scholarship. |
| 2020 | Dornsife Scholar, University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | Global Scholar, University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | Discovery Scholar, University of Southern California. |
| 2020 | Order of Troy, 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. |
| 2017 - 2018 | Undergraduate Research Associates Program, University of Southern California. |
| 2017 | Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of Southern California. |

Technical Skills

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

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