





# Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  [snairdesai.github.io](https://snairdesai.github.io) |  [snairdesai](#) |  [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 Graduate 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

Summer 2025	Graduate Student Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Dean Yang</a> , University of Michigan.
2022 - 2024	Predoctoral Fellow to Professor <a href="#">Matthew Gentzkow</a> , Dept. of Economics and SIEPR.
2020 - 2022	Research Associate to Dean <a href="#">Ashish Jha</a> , Brown University and Harvard University.
2020 - 2022	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Joshua Aizenman</a> , University of Southern California.

2019 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Tatiana Melguizo</a> , University of Southern California.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Devesh Kapur</a> , Johns Hopkins University.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor <a href="#">Jacques Hymans</a> , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at <a href="#">Equity Research Institute</a> , University of Southern California.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

\* For additional open-access research, policy articles, and data platforms, please consult my [Google Scholar](#).

## Economics Publications

1. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Levy R, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* "The Effects of Political Advertising on Facebook and Instagram." *Nature Human Behavior* (Conditionally Accepted). Working version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#33818\)](#).
2. Allcott H, Gentzkow M, Wittenbrink B, ..., **Nair-Desai S**, *et al.* "Deactivating Social Media Before a Presidential Election Makes People Happier." *AEJ: Economic Policy* (Conditionally Accepted). Working version available as an [NBER Working Paper \(#33697\)](#).
3. 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.
4. Aizenman J, Cukierman A, Jinjara 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 \(#29778\)](#).
5. Jinjara 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 \(#27451\)](#).
6. Jinjara 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 \(#27185\)](#).

## Health Policy Publications

1. 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.
2. **Nair-Desai S**<sup>‡</sup>, 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.
3. 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](#).
4. 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.
5. 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.

## Works in Progress

1. Aizenman J, Ito H, **Nair-Desai S**. “A Cross-National Examination of Economic and Governance Reactions to Global Inflation Shocks.”

*Ph.D. Projects (coauthored with peer graduate students; all contributors are joint-first coauthors):*<sup>1</sup>

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

## Conferences and Presentations

2024   2025	University of Michigan, Health Economics Graduate Student Seminar.
2024	University of Michigan, First Year Graduate Student Seminar.
2022	Stanford Institute for Economic & Policy Research, Predoctoral Research Seminar.
2022	University of Southern California, Department of Economics.

## Academic Honors and Distinctions

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

## Technical Skills

Accomplished in: R, STATA, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.

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

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<sup>1</sup>[AnneMarie Bryson](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley; [Juan Carlos Cisneros](#): PhD Student in Economics, BSE; [Marie Kaul](#): PhD Student in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics; [Abbigail Willis](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley.