





Sameer Nair-Desai

 Sameer Nair-Desai |  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 Dean Yang , University of Michigan.
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.
2020 - 2021	Research Assistant to Professor Devesh Kapur , Johns Hopkins University.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant to Professor Jacques Hymans , University of Southern California.
2017 - 2020	Research Assistant at Equity Research Institute , 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**[‡], 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):*¹

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. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**, Willis A. “The Role of Continuous Medicaid Coverage in Reducing Recidivism and Drug Use Among Former Juvenile Inmates.”
4. Cisneros J C, Kaul M C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship on Lifestyle Choices.”
5. Cisneros J C, **Nair-Desai S**. “Interracial Kinship Ties and the ‘American Dream’.”

Grants and Funding

2025 – 2026	\$30,000: Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (Family Policy Hub). *Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abbigail Willis.
2020	\$10,000: Dornsife Scholars Program (University of Southern California).

Conferences and Presentations

2024	University of Michigan, Health Economics 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	Gail R. Wilensky Fellow in Health Economics , University of Michigan.
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	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.

¹[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.