





# Sameer Nair-Desai

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

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GitHub: <https://github.com/snairdesai>

## Research Specializations

**Primary Fields:** Labor Economics, Development Economics.

**Secondary Fields:** Political Economy, Health Economics.

## Education

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

Ph.D. Student in Economics, 2024 - 2030 (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.

## 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

*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. 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. Bryson A M, **Nair-Desai S**, Willis A. “The Effects of Gentrification on Education and Later-Life Outcomes”
5. Cisneros J C, Kaul M, **Nair-Desai S**. “Screening Desire: The Effects of Hollywood Censorship.”

<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; [Abigail Willis](#): PhD Student in Economics, UC Berkeley.

## Grants and Funding

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2025 – 2027 | <b>\$10,000:</b> <a href="#">The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences</a><br><i>*Co-PI with Juan Carlos Cisneros and Marie Kaul.</i>                                |
| 2025 – 2026 | <b>\$30,000:</b> <a href="#">Institute for Research on Labor and Employment</a> (Family Policy Hub).<br><i>*Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abbigail Willis.</i> |
| 2025 – 2026 | <b>\$6,000:</b> <a href="#">Institute for Research on Labor and Employment</a> .<br><i>*Co-PI with AnneMarie Bryson and Abbigail Willis.</i>                     |
| 2020        | <b>\$10,000:</b> <a href="#">Dornsife Scholars Program</a> (University of Southern California).  |

## Conferences and Presentations

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|------|--|
| 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.                      |

## Research Experience

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|-------------|---|
| 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.  |

## Academic Honors and Distinctions

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|-------------|--|
| 2025 - 2030 | <a href="#">Population Studies Center Graduate Fellowship (NICHD)</a> , University of Michigan.  |
| 2024        | <a href="#">Gail R. Wilensky Fellow in Health Economics</a> , University of Michigan.  |
| 2020        | <a href="#">Dornsife Scholar</a> ; <a href="#">Global Scholar</a> ; <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,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , VSCode, Qualtrics, HPC & SLURM, Git & GitHub, Docker.  
Proficient in: Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS & QGIS, Tableau.