

Vatsal Khandelwal

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics, University of Exeter
v.khandelwal@exeter.ac.uk Website: www.vatsal-khandelwal.com

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Department of Economics
University of Exeter, 2024–present

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Economics (2017-2021)

Supervisors: Prof. Stefan Dercon, Prof. Alexander Teytelboym

University of Oxford

M.Sc., Economics for Development (2016-2017)

Awarded distinction. Luca D’Agliano Prize for Best Dissertation. George Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit) for Best Overall Performance.

St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai

B.A., Economics (2012-2015)

Awarded distinction. Batch Valedictorian (Arts) for highest CGPA.

FELLOWSHIPS/ VISITING APPOINTMENTS

University of Oxford

Academic Visitor, Department of Economics (2024–present)

Peter J. Braam Junior Research Fellow in Global Wellbeing, Merton College (2021–2024)

Stanford University

Visiting Scholar, King Center on Global Development (Summer 2023)

Harvard University

Visiting Fellow (Spring 2021)

PUBLICATIONS

“Learning in Networks with Idiosyncratic Agents.” *Games and Economic Behaviour*, 2024. [\[Paper\]](#)

WORKING PAPERS

“Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions” (with Ronak Jain). [\[Draft\]](#)

Awarded the Economics Job Market Best Paper Award, European Economic Association and UniCredit Foundation.

Coverage: [VoxDev](#), [Ideas of India Podcast at the Mercatus Centre](#).

“Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan” (with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim). [\[Draft\]](#)

Coverage: [VoxDev](#)

“Spatial Inequality and Informality in Kenya’s Firm Network” (with Verena Wiedemann, Peter Wankuru Chacha, and Benard Kipyegon Kirui). [\[Draft\]](#)

“Peer Effects in Social Networks: Evidence from an Entrepreneurship Experiment” (with Juni Singh). [\[Draft\]](#)

“Caring Until It Costs: Teacher Responses to Student Mental Well-being” (with Minahil Asim and Preetham Rodrigues).

GRANTS

Joint PEDL and STEG Small Grant (£24,954), 2025. “Financial Frictions and Supply Chain Linkages in Kenya” with Verena Wiedemann, Peter Wankuru Chacha, and Benard Kirui.

CSAE Top up Research Grant (£6,440), 2022. “Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions” with Ronak Jain.

JPAL Post Primary Education Grant (\$20,548), 2020. “Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan” with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim.

Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Grant (\$40,000), 2019. “Great Expectations: Experimental Evidence from Schools in Pakistan” with Ronak Jain and Minahil Asim.

Centre for the Study of African Economies Research Grant (£4,030), 2019. “Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions” with Ronak Jain.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Economics Job Market Best Paper Award, European Economic Association and UniCredit Foundation (2023)

Final Year Doctoral Bursary, Department of Economics, University of Oxford (2020)

Two Year Doctoral Bursary, Department of Economics, University of Oxford (2018)

Hicks Scholarship in Economics, Linacre College, University of Oxford (2017)

Luca D’Agliano Prize for Best Dissertation, MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford (2017). Awarded for “Social Networks, Risk Sharing and Circular Migration: Evidence from Rural India”.

George Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit), Best Overall Performance in the MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford (2017)

Queen Elizabeth House Departmental Scholarship, covering all fees and living costs for the MSc in Economics for Development (2016). Awarded by the Scholarships Committee for the Oxford Department of International Development and Corpus Christi College.

Dr. Edgar DaSilva Memorial Prize and Mr. Badi C Tyabjee, J.J & B.J Lalwani, and Billoo scholarship for highest aggregate in B.A. examinations, St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai (2015)

Vinod Mehra Scholarship for Best Cultural Talent, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (2015)

Fredie A. Mehta Scholarship for highest marks in Economics in First and Second Year, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (2014)

Certificate Of Merit by the Central Board of Secondary Education “for reasons of outstanding academic performance and for being among the top 0.1% of successful candidates” of the All India Senior School Certificate Examinations in Mathematics (2012).

TEACHING

University of Exeter

Introduction to Econometrics, undergraduate (2024–25)

Development Economics, undergraduate (2025–26)

University of Oxford

Microeconomic Theory, Course Convener (Lecturer), MSc in Economics for Development (2023–24). Taught game theory: discrete/continuous games, hidden action, signalling, auctions.

Applications of Behavioural Economics to the Developing World, Course Convener (Lecturer), MSc in Economics for Development (2022–23)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Microeconomics, Department of Economics (2020–21). Taught Microeconomics to first year Economics MPhil students.

Core Microeconomics, Microeconomic Analysis, Quantitative Economics, Pembroke College (2019–20).

Microeconomic Analysis, Game Theory, Quantitative Economics, Pembroke College (2018–19).

Pre-sessional math course, Teaching Assistant (with Dr. Natalie Quinn), MSc in Economics for Development (2018)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Affiliated Researcher at [Lab²](#) — a metascience lab for experimentation in science. (2023-)

Managed [CSAE's Coders' Corner](#) – a repository of advice around coding.(2020-2021)

SOFTWARE

Matlab, Stata, Mathematica, Gephi, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics