

Aarushi Kalra

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APPOINTMENTS

Oxford University

Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Tutorial Fellow, Worcester College 2026-

Oxford University

Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow, Department of Economics and Nuffield College 2025-26

EDUCATION

Brown University

Providence, RI, USA

Ph.D. Economics 2025

Dissertation Committee: Andrew Foster, Brian Knight, Stelios Michalopoulos, Peter Hull, Daniel Björkegren

Delhi School of Economics

New Delhi, India

M.A. Economics 2017

Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

New Delhi, India

B.A. (Honors) Economics 2015

Exchange: National University of Singapore

WORKING PAPERS

Algorithmic Drivers of Online Behavior: Evidence from a Large Scale Experiment

Awards: BU Platform Strategy Alessandro di Fiore Best Paper Prize Runner-up 2025, Best Paper Award at Cesifo Doctoral Workshop on Economics of Digitization 2025, NEUDC/ Weiss Fund Distinguished Paper Award 2024

A ‘Ghetto’ of One’s Own: Communal Violence, Residential Segregation, and Group Education Outcomes in India

Awards: Winner, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences Graduate Student Paper Prize (2022)

Targeted Disruptions: Internet Shutdowns in India (with Ro’ee Levy and Martin Mattsson)

Local Elections, Leader Identity, and Online Hate Speech at Scale: Evidence from a TikTok-like Platform in Rural India

Effects of Local News on Political Polarization in a Large-Scale Experiment

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- GEM Incubation Fund: Catalyzing AI for Inclusive Change, Harvard University 2025
- CSAE Small Grants, Oxford University 2025
- NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation (USA) 2023
- Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics 2023
- Global Mobility Research Fellowship, Brown University 2023
- Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University 2022
- Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia Summer Fellowship, Brown University 2022
- Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research Funding, Brown University 2022, 2021
- Center for Contemporary South Asia Teaching Fellowship, Brown University 2021
- Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia Winter Fellowship, Brown University 2021
- Swearer Center Engaged Course Mini-Grant, Brown University 2021
- Graduate Program in Development Summer Funds, Watson Institute, Brown University 2021, 2020
- Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Fund, Brown University 2020
- Faculty Prize, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University 2015
- Exchange Scholarship, National University of Singapore 2014

INVITED TALKS, SEMINARS, AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 ASSA (Philadelphia), Oxford Economics, CSAE Workshop, Economics and Analytics Group Ofcom, Oxford Internet Institute, ETH Zurich, University of Nottingham, UC San Diego

2025 Dartmouth Applied Microeconomics and QSS Seminar, University of Oslo Applied Micro Seminar, Stanford Network Science in Economics Conference (plenary session), UChicago Machine Learning for Economics Conference, NBER Summer Institute, CEPR Workshop on Media, Technology, Politics and Society (Bocconi), cesifo Doctoral Workshop on Economics of Digitization (Toulouse), Meta Economics Research Group, Caltech Information and Misinformation in Elections Conference, Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy, DIW Berlin Digital Economy Workshop, Oxford Political Economy Workshop, Hertie School, Warwick

2024 NBER Conference on Information and Competition in the Digital Economy (ISB), ISI-Delhi Growth and Development Conference, ETH Zürich and UZH Workshop in AI + Economics, NEUDC (Northeastern), Harvard Grad PE Seminar, Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society (Nashville), Comparative Welfare State Conference 2024 (Brown)

2023 Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society (UCLA), Asian Meetings of the Econometric Society (IIT-Bombay), Brown Applied Microeconomics Grad Seminar

2022 Spatial Structures in Social Science Colloquium for Best Graduate Student Paper Award (Brown), NBER Conference on Entrepreneurship, Public Policy, and Economics Outcomes (ISB), PAA, Data Science Institute (Brown), Young Economists' Symposium (Yale), Development Data Lab, Growth and Development Conference (ISI Delhi), NEUDC (Yale), Machine Learning for Economics Summer Institute (UChicago)

TEACHING

Instructor for Graduate Course at Oxford University

- Quantitative Methods for M.Sc. in Economic and Social History 2025

Instructor for Undergraduate Courses at Brown University

- Honors Thesis Advising 2025
- Economic and Human Development in South Asia 2021

Teaching Assistant at Brown University

- Machine Learning, Text Analysis, and Economics (*Professor Amy Handlan*) 2024
- Statistical Methods and Economic Analysis for MPA (*Professors Jesse Bruhn, Bryce Steinberg, Neil Thakral, Alex Poterack*) 2022
- Game Theory and Application to Economics (*Professor Roberto Serrano*) 2020
- Intermediate Microeconomics (*Professor Fahri Ulusoy*) 2020
- PhD Mathematics for Economists (*Professor Alex Poterack*) 2019

Instructor for Indian Economic Service Officers Training at the Institute for Economic Growth, New Delhi

- Quantitative Methods in Economics 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Brown University, Economics Department Providence, RI
Research Assistant for Professor Alisa Tazhitdinova 2020

Center for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics New Delhi, India
Research Assistant for Professor Mausumi Das 2017–2018

Ranchi University and IIT-Delhi Jharkhand/ New Delhi, India
Field Investigator for Professors Jean Drèze and Reetika Khera 2013–2018

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Impacts of regional lockdown policies on COVID-19 transmission in India in 2020 (with Paul Novosad, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2022)

Birth Pangs: Universal Maternity Entitlements in India (with Aditi Priya, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2020)

OTHER

- **Service:** Co-founder, *Bahujan Economists*
- **Referee:** Journal of Development Economics, PLOS One, Journal of Comparative Economics, ACM Journal of Computing and Sustainable Societies
- **Open Data Source:** A Dataset of Geolocated Villages and Gram Panchayat Election Candidates in Uttar Pradesh
- **Organization:** Political Economy of AI and Information Filtering Workshop 2026, Oxford; Graduate Student Seminar Speaker Series 2024, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown; Women in Data Science Datathon 2023, Brown; Fair February 2022, Data Science Initiative, Brown
- **Languages:** English (fluent), Hindi (native), Punjabi (advanced), Urdu (elementary)