

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of California, San Diego
Department of Economics (Room 315)
9500 Gilman Drive, #0508
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508

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Twitter: @Prof_Karthik_M

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics: UC San Diego: July 2018 – onwards
Tata Chancellor's Associate Professor of Economics: UC San Diego: July 2017 – June 2018
Associate Professor of Economics: UC San Diego: July 2014 – June 2017
Assistant Professor of Economics: UC San Diego: July 2008 - June 2014
Post-Doctoral Fellow: Harvard Graduate School of Education: July 07 – June 08

SHORT-TERM VISITS

Dean's Distinguished Visiting Fellow: Harvard Graduate School of Education: Oct 2015
University College London, Dept. of Economics: Sept – Dec 2012 (sabbatical visit)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Economics), Harvard University, June 2007
M.Phil. (Economics), Cambridge University, UK, 1999 (Ranked 1st)
A.B. (Economics), Harvard University, *summa cum laude*, 1998

AFFILIATIONS

Honorary Advisor (Education & Social Policy), NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
Fellow and Board Member, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
Education Program Co-Chair and Board Member, Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT (J-PAL)
Research Fellow, Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)
Research Affiliate, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
Affiliate, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA)
Research Affiliate, CESifo, Munich (CESifo)
Affiliate, International Growth Center (IGC)
Non-Resident Fellow, National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Fields: Development, Public, and Labor Economics, Political Economy
Topics: Education, Health, Social Protection, Service Delivery, State Capacity, Field Experiments

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Disruption Education? Experimental Evidence on Technology-Aided Instruction in India" (with Abhijeet Singh, and Alejandro Ganimian); *American Economic Review* (accepted for publication)

"Double for Nothing? Experimental Evidence on an Unconditional Teacher Salary Increase in Indonesia" (with Joppe de Ree, Menno Pradhan, and Halsey Rogers); *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2018, Vol 133, No 2, pp 993-1039

"Experimentation at Scale" (with Paul Niehaus); *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2017, Vol 31, No 4, pp 103-24

"Cycling to School: Increasing Secondary School Enrolment for Girls in India" (with Nishith Prakash); *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2017, Vol 9, No 3, pp 321-350

"The Fiscal Cost of Weak Governance: Evidence from Primary Education in India" (with Jishnu Das, Alaka Holla, and Aakash Mohpal); *Journal of Public Economics*, 2017, Vol 145, pp 116-135

"Quality and Accountability in Healthcare Delivery: Audit-Study Evidence from Primary Care Providers in India" (with Jishnu Das, Alaka Holla, and Aakash Mohpal); *American Economic Review*, 2016, Vol 106, No 12, pp 3765-3799

"Building State Capacity: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India" (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), *American Economic Review*, 2016, Vol. 106, No 10, pp. 2895-2929

"A New Approach to Public-Sector Hiring in India for Improved Service Delivery", *India Policy Forum 2015-16*, 2016, Vol 12

"Bridging the Education Gender Gap in Developing Countries: The Role of Female Teachers" (with Ketki Sheth), *Journal of Human Resources*, 2016, Vol. 51, No. 2, pp. 269-297 (Lead Article)

"The Aggregate Effect of School Choice: Evidence from a two-stage experiment in India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2015, Vol. 130, No. 3, pp. 1011-66 (Editor's Choice and Lead Article)

"Priorities for Primary Education Policy in India's 12th Five-year Plan", *India Policy Forum 2012-13*, 2013, Vol 9, pp 1-46

"School Inputs, Household Substitution, and Test Scores" (with Jishnu Das, Stefan Dercon, James Habyarimana, Pramila Krishnan, and Venkatesh Sundararaman), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2013, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp 29-57

"Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), *Journal of Political Economy*, 2011, Vol. 119, No. 1, pp. 39-77

"Teacher Opinions on Performance Pay: Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), *Economics of Education Review*, 2011, Vol. 30, No. 3, pp 394-403

"The Impact of Diagnostic Feedback to Teachers on Student Learning: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), *Economic Journal*, 2010, Vol. 120, issue 546, pp F187-F203

"Missing in Action: Teacher and Health Worker Absence in Developing Countries" (with Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Michael Kremer, Halsey Rogers), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2006, pp 91-116

"Why are teachers absent? Probing service delivery in Peruvian primary schools" (with Lorena Alcázar, Halsey Rogers, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Michael Kremer), *International Journal of Educational Research*, 2006, Vol. 45, pp 117-136

"Teacher Absence in India: A Snapshot" (with Michael Kremer, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Halsey Rogers), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 3, no. 2-3, April-May 2005, pp. 658-67

WORKING PAPERS

"General Equilibrium Effects of (Improving) Public Employment Programs: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Paul Niehaus, and Sandip Sukhtankar); NBER Working Paper 23838

"Inputs, Incentives, and Complementarities in Education: Experimental Evidence from Tanzania (with Isaac Mbiti, Mauricio Romero, Youdi Schipper, Constantine Manda, and Rakesh Rajani)

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"Contract Teachers: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman); NBER Working Paper 19440

"Long-Term Effects of Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from India"

"Is there a Doctor in the House? Absent Medical Providers in India" (with Michael Kremer, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Halsey Rogers)

"Chasing the Syllabus: Measuring Learning Trajectories in Developing Countries with Longitudinal Data and Item Response Theory" (with Yendrick Zieleniak)

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Field Experiments in Education in Developing Countries" in *Handbook of Field Experiments Volume 2*, edited by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo

"Improving Education Outcomes in Developing Countries - Evidence, Knowledge Gaps, and Policy Implications" (with Paul Glewwe) for the *Handbook of the Economics of Education Volume 5*, edited by Eric Hanushek, Steve Machin, and Ludger Woessman

"Teacher and Medical Worker Incentives in India" in the *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, edited by Kaushik Basu, Oxford University Press, 2007

"Public and Private Schools in Rural India" (with Michael Kremer), in *School Choice International*, edited by Paul Peterson and Rajashri Chakrabarti, MIT Press, 2008

POLICY PAPERS, CONVERSATIONS, and BRIEFS

"Charting a Course for the Indian Economy" (a conversation with Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor to the Govt. of India), *Ideas for India*, August 2015

"Big and Small Ideas in Development Economics: Theory, Evidence, and Practice" (a conversation with Kaushik Basu, Chief Economist at the World Bank), *Ideas for India*, February 2015

"Implementing a Biometric Payment System: The Andhra Pradesh Experience," (with Piali Mukhopadhyay, Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), May 2013

"Assessing the Scope for Cash Transfers in lieu of the TPDS in Rural and Urban Bihar," (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), 25 May, 2011

"Brief on Private Schools in India," brief prepared for the Supreme Court of India's deliberations on the constitutional validity of private-school provisions in the Right to Education Act (with Jishnu Das)

"Public-Private Partnerships for Quality Education in India," *Seminar*, Issue #565, September 2006

OP-ED PIECES

"Balancing the Cost and Benefits of Aadhaar," (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), *The Mint*, 06 Mar 2018

"Building State Capacity for Better Program Implementation: Lessons from the Andhra Pradesh Smartcard Program," (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), *Ideas for India*, 03 Dec 2014 (also appeared in *The Mint*)

"Building an Inclusive and High-Performing School System," *Ideas for India*, 29 Jan 2014 (also appeared in *The Mint*)

"Understanding the Relative Effectiveness of Government and Private Schools in India," *Ideas for India*, 22 Jan 2014 (also appeared in *The Mint*)

"Delivering Services to Aam Aadmi," *Indian Express*, 7 Jan 2014

"An Evidence-Based Proposal to Achieve Universal Quality Primary Education in India," *Ideas for India*, 25 Nov 2013

"Using Evidence for Better Policy: The Case of Primary Education in India," *Ideas for India*, 18 March 2013 (also appeared in *The Mint*)

"India's States Can be Laboratories of Policy Innovation," *The Business Standard*, 11 December, 2011

"The Right to Choose your Food," (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar), *The Indian Express*, 2 August, 2011

"On the Optimal Size of States," *The Indian Express*, December 16, 2009

"Reward Teachers But Ensure Output," *The Indian Express*, June 30, 2006

TEACHING

Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award (2015)

Microeconomics of Development (Ph.D.), UC San Diego

Macroeconomics of Development (Ph.D.), UC San Diego

Development Economics (Undergraduate), UC San Diego

The Indian Economy (Undergraduate), UC San Diego

Running Field Experiments (Masters/Ph.D.), UC San Diego

Economics of Education in Developing Countries (Masters), Harvard University

Public Sector Economics (Undergraduate), Harvard College

ADVISING & MENTORING

Post-doctoral Fellows - Ph.D school (placement after post-doc)

- Jeff Weaver – Yale (University of Southern California, Economics)
- Eun-Young Shim – U Penn, Economics (Amazon)
- Alejandro Ganimian – Harvard Graduate School of Education (NYU, Steinhardt School of Education)

Ph.D. students (with first placement after Ph.D.); * indicates chair or co-chair of dissertation committee:

- Mauricio Romero* (ITAM)
- Diego Vera (IADB)
- Sarojini Hirshleifer* (UC Riverside, Economics)
- Arman Rezaee (UC Davis, Economics)
- Ketki Sheth* (UC Merced, Economics)
- Yendrick Zieleniak (Amazon)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Memberships: American Economic Association

Editorships: *Co-editor: India Policy Forum*

Board of Editors: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

Associate Editor: Journal of Development Economics

Peer Review:

Journals: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Economic Journal, India Review, International Economic Review, Journal of*

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Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Development, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Labor and Development, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of School Choice, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, Southern Economic Journal, World Bank Economic Review

Funding Agencies: CEGA, DFID-ESRC, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Israel Science Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT (J-PAL), John Templeton Foundation, National Science Foundation (NSF), Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDL), USAID DIV, World Bank.

HONORS and FELLOWSHIPS

2017	Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, UC San Diego
2017	Tata Chancellor's Endowed Chair in Economics, UC San Diego
2015	Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, UC San Diego
2011 – 2012	National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship
2011	CESifo Distinguished Young Affiliate Prize
2009 – 2010	Center for Pacific Economies Fellowship, UC San Diego
2008	Spencer Foundation Exemplary Dissertation Award
2006 – 2007	Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2006 – 2007	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship
2004 – 2006	Bradley Foundation Fellowship
2004	Derek Bok Center Certificate for Excellence in Teaching
2003 – 2004	Justice, Welfare, and Economics Fellowship, Harvard University
2001 – 2003	Harvard University Graduate Fellowship
1999	Stevenson Prize, Cambridge University
1998 – 1999	Eben Fiske Fellowship to Trinity College, Cambridge University
1997	Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard College (junior year inductee)
1995	Detur Prize, Harvard College

INVITED SEMINARS and LECTURES (Economics Department unless mentioned otherwise)

2017 – 18: NBER Summer Institute, Development Economics Program; NBER Summer Institute, Economics of Education Program; University of California, Davis; University of California, Santa Cruz; Conference on Development Economics & Impact Evaluation, University of Mannheim, Germany; University of Washington; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi; University of British Columbia; Stanford; University of Toronto; MIT; RISE Conference, Oxford

2016 – 17: IGC India Growth and Development Conference, New Delhi; 2017; NBER Summer Institute, Economics of Education Program; University of California, Berkeley; Princeton University (x2); Columbia Teachers College; Oklahoma State University; University of California, Irvine; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; University of Colorado, Boulder; Inter-American Development Bank; World Bank; LSE/UCL; University of California, Riverside; RAND

2015 – 16: India Policy Forum, New Delhi; IGC India Growth and Development Conference, New Delhi; NBER Summer Institute, Economics of Education Program; Northwestern University; Cornell University; University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign; University of Chicago, Education Workshop; University of Chicago, Booth School of Business; University of Chicago, Demography Workshop; Stanford, University, Health Economics Workshop; University of California, Berkeley; Harvard University, Graduate School of Education (x2); Delhi Economics Conclave, New Delhi; Yale University; Brown University; University of Texas, Austin; University of Arkansas, Dept. of Education Reform; NBER Healthcare Economics Spring Meeting; Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, Germany; German Economic Association, Economics of Education Section (keynote lecture); University of California, Irvine.

2014 – 15: IGC India Growth and Development Conference, New Delhi; IGC Bihar Growth Conference, Patna, Pontifica; University de Catolica, Santiago, Chile (x2); CESifo Economics of Education Conference, Munich, Germany; Michigan State University; IGC Growth Week; Stanford University; Freeman Spogli Institute; Columbia University; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Stanford University; Graduate School of Education; National University of Singapore; Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; New York University; BREAD Spring Conference; Columbia University; Cambridge University.

2013 – 14: Young Lives Conference, Oxford University (Keynote Lecture); IGC South Asia Growth Conference, New Delhi; National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi; Indian Administrative Service Phase IV Training; LBSNAA; Mussoorie; IGC Bihar Growth Conference; Patna, IGC Growth Week; London, Center for Effective Global Action; UC Berkeley; Duke University (x2); BREAD Fall Conference; NBER (Cambridge, MA); NBER Economics of Education Fall Meeting; Center for Global Development, Washington DC; Georgetown University; World Bank – 10th Anniversary Conference on WDR 2004; Pacific Conference for Development Economics; Center for Good Governance; Hyderabad Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai; NCAER Distinguished Lecture, New Delhi; Harvard-Brown-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics; Oxford University; Blavatnik School of Government; University of Maryland; George Mason University; BREAD Spring Conference; UC Berkeley; University of Southern California; Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research; Oregon State University; Commission on Science and Technology (Costech); Govt. of Tanzania.

2012 – 13: Conference on Public Finance Issues in China; Tsinghua University, Beijing; NCAER-Brookings India Policy Forum, New Delhi; IGC India Growth Conference, New Delhi; USAID Early Grade Reading Workshop, New Delhi; International Food Policy Research Institute, (IFPRI), Washington DC; CESifo Economics of Education Conference, Munich; IGC Growth Week, London, UK (x3); University of Sussex; Oxford University (x2); NBER Economics of Education Fall Meeting; Azim Premji University, Bangalore; Cambridge University; University of Warwick; Royal Holloway, London; Institute for Fiscal Studies, London; University College, London; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER, Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Indian Statistical Institute; Growth & Development Conference, New Delhi; University of Southern California; University of California, Berkeley; Pacific Conference for Development Economics; CMPO Conference; University of Bristol (Keynote Lecture); Cabinet Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India; Conference on Human Development in Developing Countries; HKUST, Hong Kong.

2011– 12: Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai; Performance Management Unit, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India; Planning Commission, Government of India; Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India; Ministry of Finance, Government of India; CESifo Economics of Education Conference, Munich; Stanford University; Harvard University; South Asia Initiative Lecture; Yale University; NBER Economics of Education Fall Meeting; University of Southern California; RAND Corporation, Santa Monica; IGC Bihar Growth Conference; Patna Indian Statistical Institute; Growth & Development Conference, New Delhi; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; IGC India Growth Conference, New Delhi; School Choice National Conference, New Delhi; National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi; LSE/UCL; University of Warwick; Department for International Development (DFID), London, UK; Center for Global Development (CGD), Washington DC; Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance, Washington DC; University of California; Society for Research on Education Effectiveness (SREE) Conference, Washington DC; Stanford University, Liberation Technology Seminar Series; UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business; University of Connecticut; IGC/CEPR Workshop on State Capacities, London, UK; University of Maryland, Conference on Applied Microeconomics.

2010– 11: Conference on Social Policy in India; University of Warwick; BREAD Summer Workshop; University of Verona and Trento, Italy; INSEAD, Singapore; National University of Singapore; National University of Singapore – Global Asia Institute; Singapore Management University; Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore; University of Arkansas; Department of Education Reform University of Houston; CEGA; UC Berkeley; NBER Economics of Education Fall Meeting; Conference on Impact Evaluation, Korea Development Institute, Seoul, South Korea; Indian Statistical Institute, Growth & Development Conference, New Delhi; IGC Bihar Growth Conference, Patna; IGC India Growth Conference, New Delhi; World Bank, New Delhi; Stanford University, Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA).

2009– 10: NBER Summer Institute – Education Group Meeting; NBER Summer Institute – Personnel Economics Working Group; Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE); Dartmouth College; UC Riverside; UC Irvine; Northwestern University; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta; J-PAL Bihar Development Conference, Patna; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; University of Minnesota; Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics; World Bank; Development Economics Research Group (DECRG), Washington DC; Center for Global Development (CGD), Washington DC; Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE), Stockholm, Sweden; Conference on Merit Pay for Teachers, Harvard Kennedy School (PEPG); Conference on "Education policies: Empirics and design" at KUL, Leuven, Belgium.

2008– 09: NBER-CCER Conference on the Chinese Economy, Beijing; University of Southern California; NEUDC; Boston University; Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC; University of Pennsylvania (Center for the Advanced Study of India); Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; World Bank, Jakarta; University of California, Berkeley; Stanford University; University of Florida; University of California, San Diego; World Bank Workshop on "Making Schools Accountable?", Washington DC.

2007– 08: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Planning; Government of Indonesia; World Bank/DFID South Asia Regional Conference on Quality Education, New Delhi; Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India,

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New Delhi; NBER-NCAER-ICRIER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Columbia University; Vanderbilt University; Peabody College of Education – National Conference on Performance Incentives; Texas A & M University (x2); Bush School of Government; University of California, San Diego; CESifo – Munich, Germany – Conference on Incentives in Education.

2006– 07: NEUDC; Cornell University; Harvard University; Yale University, School of Management; Washington University in St. Louis; University of California, Berkeley (ARE); University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, San Diego; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management; Harvard University, Graduate School of Education; University of Texas, Austin; NBER Economics of Education Spring Meeting; University of Virginia.

2005– 06: Government of Andhra Pradesh; Department of School Education NBER-NCAER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

2004 and earlier: NBER-NCAER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana; Global Development Network Conference, New Delhi; Azim Premji Foundation; Bangalore, Delhi School of Economics; New Delhi Ministry of Human Resource Development; Government of India, New Delhi; Network on South Asian Politics and Political Economy (NETSAPPE) Conference, CERI, Paris.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2002 – 2013	Consultant, World Bank
2001 – 2008	Resident Tutor, Leverett House, Harvard University
2001 – 2007	Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Economics, Harvard University
1999 – 2001	Associate Consultant, Bain & Company, Singapore

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born	November 1975
Citizenship	India; United States Permanent Resident (Green Card holder)
Languages	English, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Chinese (Mandarin)