

Ajay Shenoy

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Academic

Employment

University of California, Santa Cruz

Associate Professor, Department of Economics (July 2021—)

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics (July 2014-June 2021)

Administrative Service

Ph.D. Program Director (July 2022—)

Other Affiliations

Center for Effective Global Action (January 2017-)

Faculty Affiliate

UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (September 2023-)

Member of the Steering Committee

Visiting Positions

Boston University (Fall 2021)

Institute for Economic Development

Visiting Researcher

Brown University (Fall 2017)

Visiting Scholar

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (April 2014)

Ph.D., Economics

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (April 2011)

MA, Economics

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (May 2008)

BA (with Honors), Mathematics and Political Science

Fields

Development, Growth/Macroeconomics, Political Economy

Publications

The Targeting and Impact of Partisan Gerrymandering: Evidence from a
Legislative Discontinuity (with Dahyeon Jeong)

Forthcoming at the *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Rethinking Transparency: Corruption in Local Public Office in India (with
Dahyeon Jeong and Laura Zimmermann).

Journal of Public Economics, May 2023, 221: 104855

The Political Consequences of Resource Scarcity: Targeted Spending in a Water-Stressed Democracy (with Meera Mahadevan).

Journal of Public Economics, April 2023, 220: 104842

Can the Party in Power Systematically Win a Majority in Close Legislative Elections? Evidence from U.S. State Assemblies (with Dahyeon Jeong)

Journal of Politics, April 2022, 84(2): 1149-1164

God is in the Rain: The Impact of Rainfall-Induced Early Social Distancing on COVID-19 Outbreaks (with Bhavyaa Sharma, Guanghong Xu, Rolly Kapoor, Haedong Rho, Kinpritma Sangha)

Journal of Health Economics, January 2022, 81: 102575.

Estimating the Production Function When Firms Are Constrained

Review of Economics and Statistics, September 2021, 104(4): 666-679

Does Insecure Land Tenure Deter Investment? Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial (with Heather Huntington)

Journal of Development Economics, May 2021, 150: 102632

The Ecological Impact of Place-Based Policies (with Teevrat Garg)

American Journal of Agricultural Economics, August 2021, 103(4):1239-1250

Regional Development through Place-Based Policies: Evidence from a Spatial Discontinuity

Journal of Development Economics, January 2018, 130: 173-189

Market Failures and Misallocation

Journal of Development Economics, September 2017, 128: 65-80

Poverty Traps, Convergence, and the Dynamics of Household Income (jointly with Raj Arunachalam)

Journal of Development Economics, May 2017, 126: 215-230

Risky Income or Lumpy Investments? Evidence on Two Theories of Under-Specialization

Economic Development and Cultural Change, July 2018, 66 (4): 629-671

Working Papers

Political Organizations and Political Scope (with Laura Zimmermann)

Research in Progress

Measuring and Transferring Retail Productivity (with Heather Huntington and Brenda Samaniego de la Parra)

Raising Retail Productivity through Data Pooling (with Jie Bai and David Sungho Park)

Political Misallocation of Electricity in India (with Meera Mahadevan and Bhavyaa Sharma)

A Model of Imperfectly Managed Production

Estimating Non-Neutral Productivity Under Input Market Frictions

**Fellowships,
Awards, and
Grants**

Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries Exploratory Research Grant (2023): £38,622
UCSC Institute for Social Transformation Catalyze Grant (2023) \$14,102
International Growth Centre-Small and Growing Business Fund (2022): £137,000
UCSC Faculty Research Grant (2014,2015,2016,2020,2021): \$2000
UCSC Special Research Grant (2018) : \$8000
University of Michigan Rackham Merit Fellowship
University of Michigan Rackham International Research Award
Becker Research Prize, Southeast Asian Studies Center, U. of Michigan
Thai Studies Conference Travel Grant, UM Center for Southeast Asian Studies
University of Michigan International Institute Conference Travel Grant
University of Michigan Rackham Graduate Research Grant (pre-candidate)
University of Michigan Rackham Conference Travel Grants
University of Michigan Summer Institute Award
University of Michigan Graduate Research Apprenticeship Grant
University of Connecticut Presidential Scholarship
Augusta H. Gerberich Scholarship

**PhD Dissertation
Advisees with
Placements**

Rongchen Liu (Chair) – Data Scientist, Meta / Facebook
DJ Jeong (Co-Chair) – Research Economist, World Bank DIME
Jianan Liu (Member) – Post-Doc and Assistant Professor, Renmin University
David Sungho Park (Member) – Assistant Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management
Eilin Francis (Member) – Post-Doc, MIT J-PAL
Can Kadirgan (Member) - Central Bank of Turkey
Achmad Maulana (Member) - Senior Researcher, Padjadjaran University
Taeree Wang (Member) – Quantitative Associate, Wells Fargo

**Past and
Scheduled
Presentations**

2023: Pomona College, Center for Effective Global Action Africa Evidence Summit, Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop
2022: Williams College, UC San Diego, Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Innovations for Poverty Action Researcher Gathering, Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, Center for Effective Global Action Research Retreat
2021: Boston University, University of Connecticut, University of Southern California, Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference,

Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Midwest International Economic Development Conference

2020: Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference

2019: European Economic Association (Manchester, UK), Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Indian School of Business (Hyderabad), Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi), Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop

2018: Working Group on African Political Economy, Center for Effective Global Action Research Retreat, Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, Econometric Society North America Summer Meetings, Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop, Pacific Conference for Development Economics

2017: Dartmouth College, Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, IGC Firms/Trade/Development Conference (Columbia), Boston University, Yale University, Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop, Society of Labor Economists, Midwest Political Science Association, Political Economy Workshop (University of Michigan), Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Southeastern International/Development Economics Workshop, Michigan State University

2016: CalPoly San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara University, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (Development), Public Economics UK Conference, Banff Empirical Microeconomics Workshop, Econometric Society North America Summer Meetings

2015: Indian School of Business (Hyderabad), Department Seminar, U.C. Merced, Econometric Society World Congress, Midwest International Economic Development Conference, Allied Social Sciences of America

2014: Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (Indian Statistical Institute), Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics

Pre-2014: EconCon Conference (2012), Midwest International Economic Development Conference (2012), Pacific Conference for Development Economics (2012), EconCon, Midwest International Economic Development Conference (2012), Midwest Economic Association Conference (2012), Pacific Conference for Development Economics (2012), Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (2011) AGEP/SI Research Symposium (2009), Symposium for Undergraduates in the Mathematical Sciences (2008), Undergraduate Poster Session at the Joint Mathematics Meetings (2008)

Referee Service

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica, American Economic Review: Insights, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of the European Economic Association, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, National Tax Journal, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Economic Growth, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, World Bank Economic

Review, National Tax Journal, Economica, Oxford Economic Papers, World Development, Journal of Development Studies, Economic Modeling, Journal of Agriculture and Resource Economics, PLOS One

**Non-Academic
Employment**

Co-Coordinator, UM Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center, 2011-2012
Volunteer, UM Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center, 2009-2011, 2012-2013
Business Analyst, Hartford Financial Services Group, 2008-2009
Computer Specialist, University of Connecticut Women's Center, 2006-2008

Languages

Native Konkani, conversational French, basic Hindi

Citizenship

USA