

OVERVIEW

I am an applied microeconomist with five years of experience leading data-driven projects in collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and researchers. My Ph.D. research causally identifies the effects of policies and interventions meant to improve the lives of immigrants, gig workers, and informal workers.

EDUCATION

- **University of California, Davis** 2027 (expected)
Ph.D. in Economics | Fields: Labor & Development Davis, CA, USA
- **University of California, Davis** 2023
M.A. in Economics Davis, CA, USA
- **Georgetown University** 2019
B.S. in International Economics; Certificate in International Development; Minor in Mandarin Chinese Washington D.C., USA

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Ray Beaumont Award (\$1,000):** UC Davis outstanding graduate student award 2025
- **CEGA Development Economics Challenge (\$18,800):** Full-scale study award 2025
- **Department Research Award (\$5,200):** UC Davis award supporting research 2025
- **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (\$500):** UC Davis award for excellence in teaching 2025
- **Department Travel Award (\$600):** UC Davis award supporting research-related travel 2025
- **SurveyCTO Research Award Honorable Mention:** Free pro subscription to SurveyCTO 2025
- **CEGA Development Economics Challenge (\$7,000):** Travel/scoping study award 2024
- **J-PAL Social Protection Initiative (\$5,175):** Travel/scoping study award 2024
- **Department Fellowship:** UC Davis graduate student support during the first year 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **University of California, Davis** 2023 - Present
Graduate Student Researcher Davis, California, USA
 - Constructed a comprehensive immigration dataset, built shift-share instruments, calculated local projections to estimate the effects of immigration on macroeconomic indicators in OECD countries (with Prof. Giovanni Peri)
 - Analyzed geographic and survey data to produce 30+ maps of the mobility patterns of internal migrants in Bangladesh (with Prof. Ashish Shenoy)
 - Web-scraped data from 27 conferences to build a publicly accessible database of attendees with identified genders of 6,000+ presenters (with Prof. Jenna Stearns & Prof. Keer Yang)
- **IDinsight** 2019 - 2022
Junior Economist (formerly Associate and Senior Associate) New Delhi, India
 - Managed the design, implementation, and analysis of 15 monitoring and evaluation exercises, 2 randomized controlled trials, and 1 process evaluation, impacting over 100,000 beneficiaries
 - Collaborated with government partners to verify 30 indicators and create a comprehensive data strategy for strengthening administrative data for the Aspirational Districts Programme
 - Spearheaded internal initiatives to automate primary data collection processes - generated data pipelines, built dashboards, and designed performance indexes
- **Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development & Evaluation** 2018
Summer Research Assistant Nairobi, Kenya
 - Built data quality systems to run high frequency checks for a randomized controlled trial
- **Institute for Development Impact** 2017 - 2018
Junior Consultant Washington D.C., USA
 - Conducted a meta-analysis to identify the best practices for capacity building initiatives

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

- **Economics of Migration Junior Workshop:** Scientific Committee Member 2024 - Present
- **Economics of Migration Junior Seminar Series:** Co-organizer 2024 - Present
- **Applied Microeconomic Student Seminar:** Co-organizer 2024 - Present
- **Graduate Student Association:** Social Committee 2023 - Present
- **Development Workshop:** Co-organizer 2024 - 2025
- **Graduate Student Association:** President 2023 - 2025
- **First Year Mentorship Program:** Peer mentor 2023 - 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **University of California, Davis** 2022 - Present
Teaching Assistant Davis, California, USA
 - Intro level courses: Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics
 - Upper level courses: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Analysis of Economic Data, Economic Development, Transportation Economics, Economic Development for Weak States
- **Georgetown University** 2016 - 2019
Teaching Assistant Washington D.C., USA
 - Upper level courses: Poverty & Inequality

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] K. Nagpal, M. Mathur, A. Biswas, and A. Fraker. (2021). **Who do Phone Surveys Miss, and How to Reduce Exclusion: Recommendations from Phone Surveys in Nine Indian States.** *BMJ Global Health*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Ahead with H-4 EAD: The Effects of Granting Work Authorization to High-Skilled Female Immigrants**
Labor, Migration, Gender
 - **Research question:** What are the labor market, household, and selection effects of offering work authorization to the spouses of H-1B workers?
 - **Method(s):** Natural Language Processing (NLP), Machine Learning (ML), Matched Difference-in-differences
- **Government Scheme Overload: Take-up and Targeting in a Multi-Scheme Context**
Development, Public, Behavioral | Funding: CEGA & J-PAL (\$30,975) | [Press](#)
 - **Research question:** How does the quantity of government welfare schemes offered to individuals affect the take-up of these benefits and welfare of beneficiaries?
 - **Method(s):** Randomized Controlled Trial in India
- **Uncertainty and Frictions in Gig Work: Evidence via Conditional Income Guarantees**
Labor, Development | With Aleksander Michuda and Shotaro Nakumura | Funding: IDinsight (\$200,000)
 - **Research question:** How do conditional guarantees in the gig economy affect labor supply, earnings, and welfare?
 - **Method(s):** Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda
- **The Diversity of Conference Presenters in Virtual and In-Person Conferences**
Labor, Gender | With Jenna Stearns and Keer Yang | Funding: Academic Female Finance Committee (\$19,750) | [Data](#)
 - **Research question:** How did the transition from in-person to virtual conferences impact women's participation?
 - **Method(s):** Web Scraping, Difference-in-differences Analysis

ARTICLES & BLOGS

- [1] M. Mathur. (2024). **Second Year Shenanigans.** *Personal Blog*
- [2] M. Mathur. (2023). **Flourishing in the First Year.** *Personal Blog*
- [3] R. LuSava, C.H. Huang, B. Brockman, Y. Mkandawire, and M. Mathur (2023). **How Behavioral "Nudges" can Improve COVID-19 Self-Reporting.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [4] M. Mathur and L. Biswal (2022). **How is the Survey Gig going? Understanding the Gender Dynamics of Surveyor Work in India.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [5] M. Mathur (2022). **Why IDinsight is Investing in Building Data Systems for Primary Data Collection Activities.** *IDinsight Blog*

- [6] **M. Mathur** and S. More (2021). **5 Steps to Constructing a Composite Data Quality Index to Assess Overall Surveyor Performance.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [7] **M. Mathur** (2020). **Reflections on Reaching Women Over the Phone in Rural India.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [8] **M. Mathur** and P. Sharma (2020). **Daily Practices to Optimize Remote Survey Teams.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [9] **M. Mathur**, P. Kumar, S. McDonough, and L. Rametse (2020). **How to Ensure Productivity and Data Quality for a Phone Survey at Scale.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [10] **M. Mathur**, P. Kumar, S. McDonough, and L. Rametse (2020). **How to Hire and Train a Phone Survey Team.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [11] **M. Mathur** (2020). **How to Identify the Best Length and Time for a Phone Survey.** *IDinsight Blog*
- [12] **M. Mathur** (2020). **3 Steps to Designing an Effective Phone Survey that Reaches Respondents.** *IDinsight Blog*

PRESENTATIONS

- **Economics of Migration Junior Workshop:** Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid *May 2026*
- **Economics of Migration Junior Seminar Series:** Zoom *April 2026*
- **GPRL-IPA Researcher Gathering:** Northwestern University *April 2026*
- **CEGA Staff Meeting:** University of California, Berkeley *October 2025*

SKILLS

- **Data cleaning, analysis, data visualization coding:** Stata, R, Python
- **Primary data collection and analysis:** SurveyCTO, Nvivo
- **Dataset extraction, management, and construction:** SQL, Big Query, Metabase, Python
- **Research Approaches:** causal inference (randomized evaluations, difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity designs etc.), natural language processing, machine learning
- **Communication:** presenting economic concepts and research, coordinating across partner organizations, organizing conferences, writing reflections, liaising between faculty, staff, and students

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (Native), Hindi (Proficient), Mandarin Chinese (Proficient), Bengali (Basic)

Activities: Ultimate Frisbee, Scuba diving, Hiking, Odissi dance, Debate, Grilling

Work Authorizations: USA (Citizen), India (Overseas Citizen of India)

REFERENCES

1. **Giovanni Peri**
Professor of Economics, UC Davis
Email: gperi@ucdavis.edu
Relationship: Co-Committee Chair
2. **Arman Rezaee**
Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Davis
Email: abrezaee@ucdavis.edu
Relationship: Co-Committee Chair
3. **Diana Moreira**
Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Davis
Email: dmoreira@ucdavis.edu
Relationship: Advisor
4. **Crystal Haijing Huang**
Senior Economist and Director, IDinsight
Email: crystal.huang@idinsight.org
Relationship: Former manager