Prerna Kundu

Vancouver School of Economics
University of British Columbia
6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1L4, Canada

prerna96.kundu@gmail.com
prernakundu.github.io

Education

University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics — 2021 – present
Ph.D. in Economics

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi — 2017 – 2019
M.A. in Economics

Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi — 2014 – 2017
B.A. (Hons.) in Economics

References

Professor Siwan Anderson
Vancouver School of Economics
University of British Columbia
siwan.anderson@ubc.ca

Professor Nathan Nunn
Vancouver School of Economics
University of British Columbia
nathan.nunn@ubc.ca

Professor Heather Sarsons
Booth School of Business
University of Chicago
heather.sarsons@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Matt Lowe
Vancouver School of Economics
University of British Columbia
matt.lowe@ubc.ca

Research Fields

Development Economics, Behavioural Economics, Economics of Gender

Publications

Creating Cohesive Communities: A Youth Camp Experiment in India
(with Arkadev Ghosh, Matt Lowe, and Gareth Nellis)
Review of Economic Studies, 2025.

Working Papers

Can Inheritance Reform Change Custom? Evidence on Female Land Ownership from India
(with Sankalp Sharma)

Research in Progress

Women's Mobility and Norm Spillovers in Rural Haryana
(with Kalyani Chaudhuri and Ragini Jain)

The Evolution of Family Land Rights: Evidence from Highway Construction in Rural India
(with Sankalp Sharma)

Data Resources

Haryana Land Records Database (with Sankalp Sharma; in progress)
The universe of digitized land ownership records for Haryana, India, linked to cadastral maps.

Research Grants

Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, UChicago (US$48,781) — 2025

CEGA Development Economics Challenge (US$5,000) — 2024

CIDER Small Grant in Innovative Data, UBC (CA$13,000) — 2024

CIDER Small Grant in Innovative Data, UBC (CA$5,272) — 2023

Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, UChicago (US$7,430) — 2023

J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant (US$20,862) — 2022
with Arkadev Ghosh, Matt Lowe, and Gareth Nellis

Fellowships and Awards

PhD Fellowship, Stone Centre on Wealth and Income Inequality, UBC 2025 – 2027

Runner-up, NBER Gender in the Economy Dissertation Fellowship 2025

Four Year Doctoral Fellowship, UBC 2022 – 2026

President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award, UBC 2021 – 2025

R. Howard Webster Foundation Fellowship, Green College, UBC 2022, 2024

Albert Whiteley Memorial Fellowship, UBC 2021

Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, UBC 2021

Presentations

2026: CEGA Research Retreat, World Bank Land and Property Research Conference, Canadian Economics Association (CEA), Dev/PE Brown Bag (UBC)

2025: AECGD (ISI Delhi)$^{+}$, Dev/PE Brown Bag (UBC)

2024: NBER Diversity, Identity, and Nation Building Meeting^{+}, Dev/PE Brown Bag (UBC)

2023: AECGD (ISI Delhi), Advances in Field Experiments (UChicago), NBER Development Economics Meeting^{+}, Empirical Lunch (UBC)

$^{+}$*presented by co-author*

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Vancouver School of Economics, UBC (third-year undergraduate)

Introduction to Econometrics	2023, 2025
Introduction to Empirical Economics	2023, 2024
Introduction to International Finance	2024
Fertility, Families and Human Migration	2022

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Vancouver School of Economics, UBC

Siwan Anderson (UBC) Jun 2023 – Dec 2023

Matt Lowe (UBC) and Benjamin Roth (HBS) Sep 2023 – Nov 2023

Research Associate, J-PAL South Asia Jun 2019 – Jun 2021

PIs: Karthik Muralidharan (UCSD), Paul Niehaus (UCSD), Sandip Sukhtankar (UVA), and Jeffrey Weaver (USC)

- Led implementation of a randomized controlled trial evaluating an unconditional cash transfer to pregnant and lactating mothers in Jharkhand, in partnership with the Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission
- Oversaw four large-scale data collection rounds with a sample of over 5,000 respondents

Professional Service

Referee: JEBO; Economics of Education Review

Founder, Women in Econ and Policy Jun 2020 – present

Strategic oversight, team management, and fundraising for a community of 2,000+ women. Leading the scale-up of a mentorship and resource-sharing program across 8 colleges in India, funded by the IEA Women in Leadership in Economics Initiative.

Other Writing

How Youth Camps Helped Build Social Cohesion in India (with Arkadev Ghosh, Gareth Nellis, and Matt Lowe). *VoxDev*, October 22, 2025.

"Women, Academia, and Economics: A Five-Decade Perspective from India" (with Kadambari Shah). In preparation for *History of Gender and Feminist Economics in*

South Asia, Rajshree Bedamatta and Ritwika Patgiri (eds.), Routledge.

Can Information Lead to Better Voting Decisions? Evidence from Information Campaigns in India. *The Print*, April 20, 2020.

Personal

Citizenship: India; Canadian Permanent Resident
Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (native)
Software: Stata, R, Python, LaTeX, SurveyCTO

Last updated: October 2026