

Prerna Kundu

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Education

Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia

2021-Present

PhD Candidate in Economics

Fellow at the Stone Centre for Wealth and Income Inequality (2025-2027)

Fields: Development Economics and Behavioral Economics

University of Delhi

MA Economics, Delhi School of Economics

2017 - 2019

BA (Hons) Economics, Shri Ram College of Commerce

2014 - 2017

Publications

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

Professional Experience

Research Assistant

Siwan Anderson (UBC)

Jun 2023 - December 2023

Matt Lowe (UBC) and Benjamin Roth (HBS)

September 2023 - November 2023

Research Associate, J-PAL South Asia

Jun 2019 - Jun 2021

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

- Led the implementation of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to test the effectiveness of an unconditional cash transfer to pregnant and lactating mothers in Jharkhand
- Oversaw 4 large-scale data collection rounds with a sample of over 5000 respondents. Worked on digitizing survey instruments, sampling, managing a field team of 120+ surveyors, running high-frequency quality checks, and data cleaning
- Worked closely with the Jharkhand State Nutrition Mission to implement the cash transfer scheme and ensure compliance with RCT protocols

Teaching Experience

- **Introduction to Econometrics**, Teaching Assistant (3rd year undergraduate) 2025, 2023
- **Introduction to International Finance**, Teaching Assistant (3rd year undergraduate) 2024
- **Introduction to Empirical Economics**, Teaching Assistant (3rd year undergraduate) 2024, 2023
- **Fertility, Families and Human Migration**, Teaching Assistant (3rd year undergraduate) 2022

Leadership Experience

Founder, **Women in Econ and Policy**

Jun 2020-Present

- Providing strategic oversight, leading fundraising, and building partnerships for an India-based nonprofit working to solve the gender representation problem in economics and public policy in India
- Leading the implementation of a 4 year intervention with 8 colleges, funded by the International Economic Association (IEA)

Professional Service

Referee: Economics of Education Review

Research Grants

- CEGA Development Economics Challenge 2024
- CIDER Small Grants in Innovative Data, UBC 2024, 2023
- Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, UChicago 2023
- J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant 2022
with Arkadev Ghosh, Matt Lowe, Gareth Nellis

Fellowships and Awards

- Runner-up, NBER Gender in the Economy Dissertation Fellowship 2025
- Four Year Doctoral Fellowship, UBC 2022-2026
- International Tuition Award, UBC 2021-2025
- President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award, UBC 2021-2025
- R Howard Webster Foundation Fellowship, Green College 2022, 2024
- Albert Whiteley Memorial Fellowship, UBC 2021
- Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, UBC 2021

Presentations

- **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)*

**presenting author, ⁺presentation by co-author*

Other Writing

“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 (editors), Routledge.

[Can information lead to better voting decisions? Evidence from information campaigns in India](#), *The Print*, April 20th, 2020

[How Free Do We Want to Be?](#) (*with Akash Pattanayak and Meghana Mungikar*), *The Wire*, August 24th, 2018

Skills and Languages

Software: STATA, R, LaTeX, SurveyCTO

Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (native)