

# Palaash Bhargava

Department of Economics, University of Chicago

Saieh Hall for Economics, 5757 S University Ave, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

[pbhargava@uchicago.edu](mailto:pbhargava@uchicago.edu) | +1 332 600 3253

<https://sites.google.com/view/palaashbhargava>

Last updated: August 1, 2025

## Education

---

Ph.D in Economics, <a href="#">Columbia University</a>	2019 – 2025
M.A in Economics, <a href="#">Delhi School of Economics</a>	2014 – 2016
B.A. (Honors) in Economics, <a href="#">Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi</a>	2011 – 2014

## Research Fields

---

Applied Microeconomics (Development and Labour), Economics of Education, Social Networks

## Academic Employment

---

Senior Research Fellow, <a href="#">Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods</a>	2026 –
Postdoctoral Scholar, <a href="#">Department of Economics, University of Chicago</a>	2025 – 2026
Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar, <a href="#">Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab, University of Chicago</a>	2025 – 2026
Assistant Instructor of Economics, <a href="#">New York University Abu Dhabi</a>	2017 – 2019
Assistant Instructor of Mathematics, <a href="#">New York University Shanghai</a>	2018

## Research

---

### Publications

**[A Cross-verified Database of Notable People \(3500 BC - 2018 AD\)](#)**, Nature Sci Data, June 9; 9(1):290  
(with Morgane Laouenan, Olivier Gergaud, Jean-Benoît Eyméoud, Guillaume Plique and Etienne Wasmer)  
*Coverage: DailyMail UK, NY Post, Metro UK, +135 others*

### Working Papers

**[Popularity, Social Networks and Student Outcomes: Trade-offs in Resolving Social Isolation through Deskmate Assignments](#)**

*Coverage: WorldBank Development Impact Blog*

**[A Family Affair: The Effects of College on Parent and Student Finances](#)** (with Sandra Black, Jeff Denning, Robert Fairlie and Oded Gurantz)

**[Ancestral Origins of Attention to Environmental Issues](#)** (with César Barilla)

**[Homophily and Transmission of Non-cognitive skills in Social Networks](#)** (with Daniel Chen, Matthias Sutter and Camille Terrier)

## Selected Works in Progress

**Let the students teach: Effects of peer tutoring pedagogy on academic and socio-emotional outcomes** *(with Dashleen Kaur, Nikhil Kumar, Madhavi Jha and Tarang Tripathi)*

(On Field, Draft from phase 1 coming soon)

**Trajectories of notable individuals: A cross verified database of locations** *(with Minda Belete, Morgane Laouenan, Olivier Gergaud and Etienne Wasmer)*

(Final Data Verification in Process)

**Historical elite social networks and the escape from the Malthusian trap**

(Data Construction in Process)

**Percolation of Wildfire related Credit Shocks through Family Networks** *(with Shreya Chandra)*

(Data Construction in Process)

**TeachAide – Improving teacher agency and student outcomes through hypercontextualized generative AI chatbots** *(with Tushar Kundu, Chandraditya Raj and Tarang Tripathi)*

(Pilot and Scoping Ongoing)

## Awards and Honors

---

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2024 – 2025
Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University	2019 – 2024
PER Economics Department Fellowship, Columbia University	2019 – 2024
PER Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
California Policy Lab, Graduate Fellowship <i>(with Shreya Chandra)</i>	2023
Winner, Vickrey Award for the best 3 <sup>rd</sup> year paper, Columbia University	2022
Runners up, Wueller Teaching Award for PhD courses, Columbia University	2021
Runners up, Harriss Award for the best 2 <sup>nd</sup> year paper, Columbia University	2021
EXIM Bank Scholarship, Delhi School of Economics	2015 – 2016
Sri Bodhiswar Rai Scholarship, Delhi School of Economics	2014 – 2015

## Research Grants

---

Program for Economic Research at Columbia University Experimental Grant (\$20,700)	2022-2024
The Weiss Fund at University of Chicago (\$25,325)	2023-2026
Center for Development and Economic Policy, Columbia University (\$7,500)	2023-2025
Center for Effective Global Action - PEP Initiative (\$9,200 in conjunction with InvolveEDU)	2024
The Agency Fund (\$270,000 in conjunction with InvolveEDU)	2024-2026
Schmidt Sciences - <i>Proposal Development Grant</i> (\$10,000)	2025

## Other Employment

---

Research Director and Trustee, Aawaaz Foundation	2025 –
Analyst, Investment Banking Division, Nomura Services Pvt. Ltd.	2016 – 2017

## Referee Service

---

Journal of Political Economy, JPE Microeconomics, AER Insights, Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics, Economics of Education Review, Economic Modelling

## Teaching Experience

---

**Economic Growth and Development, Instructor** (Undergraduate level), Columbia University 2022, 2023

**PhD Math Camp Primary Instructor**, Department of Economics, Columbia University 2020, 2021

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, Columbia University 2022 – 2023

Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate level), Spring 2023; Math Methods (Graduate level), Fall 2020

**Recitation and Lab Instructor** (Undergraduate level), NYU Abu Dhabi 2017 – 2019

Markets, Spring 2019; 5000 Years of Notable lives, Fall 2018; Economic Dynamics, Fall 2018; Intermediate Micro-Economics, Fall 2017, Spring 2018; Calculus with Applications in Economics, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019

**Recitation Instructor** (Undergraduate level), NYU Shanghai 2018

Integral Calculus, January 2018

## Conferences and Seminars (\*) Scheduled

---

**2025:** Advances in Field Experiments\*, World Congress of the Econometric Society\*, Junior Applied Microeconomics Workshop (University of Milan), Workshop on Networks and Development, AEF Education Working Group, MZW Text as Data Workshop, Network Science and Economics Conference (Stanford), Lakes Development Workshop, Midwest International Economic Development Consortium, Danish Historical Political Economy Workshop, Peking HSBC Business School, JILAE (U Chicago + UCMA), Max Planck Institute, INSEAD Singapore, Public University of Navarre, New Economic School, Ohio State University, NYU Abu Dhabi

**2024:** North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Interdisciplinary PhD Workshop in Sustainable Development (Columbia University)

**2023:** NBER Innovation Research Bootcamp

**2022:** Network Science in Management (IIM Ahmedabad), Young Scholars Matchmaking Workshop (CEPR - PEDL and NYU Abu Dhabi)

**2021 and before:** Regional and Urban Economics Workshop - “Urban Economics and History” (Paris School of Economics), Development Graduate Summer School (Paris School of Economics), The Frontiers of Network Science (NYU Abu Dhabi), 10<sup>th</sup> South Asian Economics’ Students’ Meet (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

## Languages known

---

English (Fluent), Hindi (Native), Oriya (Intermediate), French (Beginner)

## Software

---

Python, STATA, R, MATLAB, Mathematica, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, SQL

## Interests

---

Stone sculpting, Swimming, Badminton, Squash, Bouldering, Debating & Travelling