

# Shekhar Mittal

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## EDUCATION

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University of California, Los Angeles, **Anderson School of Management** SEPTEMBER 2013 – CURRENT

Ph.D., Global Economics and Management

Areas of Interest: Development, India, Public Finance.

Awards: Dissertation Year Fellowship (2017-18), UCLA Graduate Division

University of Chicago, **Harris School of Public Policy** SEPTEMBER 2011 – JUNE 2013

Awards: Dean's Scholarship (2011-2013), J.N. Tata Scholar (2011), K.C. Mahindra Scholar (2011)

Delhi University, **Delhi College of Engineering**, New Delhi, India AUGUST 2003 – JUNE 2007

Bachelor of Engineering in *Computer Engineering, First Division*

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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*Enforcement in Value Added Tax: Is Third Party Verification Effective?* MAY 2015 ONWARDS

with Aprajit Mahajan

*Who's Bogus? Using Machine Learning to Identify Fraudulent Firms in Delhi* JANUARY 2017 ONWARDS

with Aprajit Mahajan, Ofir Reich

## OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Romain Wacziarg SUMMER 2013, SUMMER 2015

[Anderson School of Management](#), University of California, Los Angeles

*Cultural distances using World Values Survey*

- Developed multiple indices to measure cultural distance across countries, using the World Values Survey data.
- Measured the correlation between cultural and genetic distance across countries.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Paola Giuliano SUMMER 2015

[Anderson School of Management](#), University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Edward Leamer JULY 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2013

[Anderson School of Management](#), University of California, Los Angeles

*Estimated extreme coefficients of  $2^k$  regressions*

- Implemented possible methods to efficiently determine extreme coefficients of  $2^k$  regressions.
- Developed efficient techniques to identify all the orthants of  $2^k$  regression coefficients.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Marianne Bertrand APRIL 2012 – JUNE 2013

[Booth School of Business](#), University of Chicago

*Evaluation of Right to Public Service Schemes*

- Travelled to Karnataka to understand the design and implementation of the Right to Public Services Act. Interacted with all the government level stakeholders and visited various government offices.
- Developed and piloted a survey questionnaire which captured the experience and perception of citizens who availed the services that are covered under the Act.
- Undertook a field trip to Bihar, India to understand the time-use of district magistrates and to understand the bureaucratic setup at the district level.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes APRIL 2012 – DECEMBER 2012  
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago  
*Effect of name order in senate roll call voting pattern.*

- Using combined fixed effects at the senator level and at the congress level, evaluated the impact of alphabetical order of the senators' last names on Senate roll call.
- Wrote Perl scripts to extract senate and house roll-call data starting from 1940 into a analyzable data set.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012  
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago  
*Understanding voting patterns for simultaneous elections in a given year at the precinct level*

- Designed a Stata program that extracts information from the Cook County precinct level election results into a user-friendly data set.
- Wrote Stata programs to clean and analyze data.

Graduate Research Assistant to A. Rupa Datta, Vice President and Senior Fellow OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 2012  
National Opinion Research Centre at the University of Chicago  
*National Survey of Early Care and Education*

- Managed the IRB approval process for all the school districts from which the survey intended to interview early care providers.

## GRANTS

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- Economic Development and Institutions (EDI) consortium (£22,000). Project: "Who is Bogus? Catching fraudulent firms in Delhi"
- International Growth Centre (IGC) Research Grant (£50,830). Project: "Where's Value? Using VAT data to Improve Compliance"
- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative Pilot Study Research Grant (\$49,050). Project: "Information Provision and Participatory Budgeting: Mohalla Sabhas in Delhi"
- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative Travel Grant (\$5,000). Project: "Improving Public Service via the Ballot Box: Evidence from Delhi"

## PRESENTATIONS

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2017: Dept of Finance (Govt of NCT of Delhi), Office of Chief Economic Advisor (Govt of India); GEM-BPP Workshop; UCLA Graduate Conference on South Asia; RIDGE Public Economics (Uruguay);  
2016: Dept of Finance (Govt of NCT of Delhi); Graduate Student Brownbag (UC-Riverside);

## TEACHING

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**UCLA Anderson:** Teaching Assistant - Managerial Economics (MBA, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-17), International Studies: India (MBA, 2015-16), and Impact Creation, Analysis and Evaluation (MBA, 2016-17).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Senior Campaign Associate, *Centre for Civil Society*, New Delhi, India JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011  
Program Manager and Platform Engineer, *Praja*, Bangalore, India AUGUST 2009 – JUNE 2010  
Software Engineer, *Cisco Systems*, Bangalore, India JULY 2007 – JULY 2009

## SKILLS

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**Highly Proficient:** Stata, Drupal, C, Emacs, Linux (Ubuntu)

**Proficient:** MySQL, R, Python

**Experienced:** Matlab, Latex, Perl, HTML, CSS

**Certifications:** Machine Learning Foundations: A Case Study Approach (Coursera), Machine Learning:

Regression (Coursera), Machine Learning: Classification (Coursera), Machine Learning: Clustering & Retrieval (Coursera),

## PERSONAL

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**Citizenship:** Indian

**Languages:** Hindi (native), English (highly proficient)

## REFERENCES

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- **Romain Wacziarg, Professor of Economics**  
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- **Aprajit Mahajan, Associate Professor**  
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