

Sandip Sukhtankar

Department of Economics
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904

<https://uva.theopenscholar.com/sandip-sukhtankar>
sandip.sukhtankar@virginia.edu

Academic Positions

- 2016- **Department of Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**
Associate Professor
- 2018- Co-Director, UVA-CLEAR (Corruption Lab on Ethics, Accountability, and Rule of Law)
- 2009-16 **Department of Economics, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH**
Assistant Professor
- 2012-14 **Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA**
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Sustainability Science Program (SSP) (2012-13)
Visiting Scholar, Evidence for Policy Design (EPOD) (2013-14)

Affiliations and Professional Positions

- Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*
Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
Affiliate and DIGIFI Africa Board Member, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
Editorial Board, World Bank Economic Review (WBER)
Advisory Board Member, Center for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS)

Education

- 2004-2009 **Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**
Ph.D.
Dissertation Title: Essays in Development Economics
Committee: Sendhil Mullainathan, Rohini Pande, Andrei Shleifer
- 1996-2000 **Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA**
B.A., *Highest Honors*

Publications and forthcoming

“Integrating biometric authentication in India’s welfare programs: Lessons from a decade of reforms” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), forthcoming, *India Policy Forum*.

“[Improving last-mile service delivery using phone-based monitoring](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, vol 13, no 2, pp 52-82, April 2021.

“[India’s National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme: What Do We Really Know about the World’s Largest Workfare Program?](#)” *India Policy Forum*, vol 13, pp 231-86, July 2017.

“[Replications in Development Economics](#),” *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, vol 107, no 5, pp 32-36, May 2017.

“[Building State Capacity: Evidence from Biometric Smartcards in India](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), *American Economic Review*, vol 106, no 10, pp 2895-2929, Oct 2016.

“[Does Firm Ownership Structure Matter? Evidence from Sugar Mills in India](#)”, *Journal of Development Economics*, vol 122, pp 46-62, Sep 2016.

“[Corruption in India: Bridging Research Evidence and Policy Options](#)” (with Milan Vaishnav), *Brookings-NCAER India Policy Forum 2014*, Jul 2015.

“[The Impact of Corruption on Consumer Markets: Evidence from the Allocation of 2G Wireless Spectrum in India](#),” *Journal of Law and Economics*, vol 58, no 1, pp 75-108, Feb 2015.

“[Corruption Dynamics: The Golden Goose Effect](#)” (with Paul Niehaus).
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, vol 5, no 4, pp 230-69, Nov 2013
Awarded the 2014 American Economic Journal: Economic Policy best paper prize by the American Economic Association

“[The Marginal Rate of Corruption in Public Programs](#)” (with Paul Niehaus).
Journal of Public Economics, vol 104, pp 52-64, Aug 2013.

“[Sweetening the Deal? Political Connections and Sugar Mills in India.](#)”
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, vol 4, no 3, pp 43-63, Jul 2012.

“Does Happiness Pay? An Exploration Based On Panel Data from Russia” (with Carol Graham and Andrew Eggers). *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, vol 55, no 3, pp 319-342, Nov 2004.

“Does Economic Crisis Reduce Support for Markets and Democracy in Latin America? Some Evidence from Surveys of Public Opinion and Well Being” (with Carol Graham). *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol 36, no 2, pp 349-377, May 2004.

Working Papers

“[General Equilibrium Effects of \(Improving\) Public Employment Programs: Experimental Evidence from India](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus). Revised & Resubmitted, *Econometrica*.

“[Identity Verification Systems in Welfare Programs: Experimental Evidence from India](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus). Revision requested, *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

“[In-Kind Transfers as Insurance](#)” (with Lucie Gadenne, Sam Norris, and Monica Singhal).

“Policing in Patriarchy: An Experimental Evaluation of Reforms to Improve Police Responsiveness to Women in India” (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla). Revision requested, *Science*.

“Corruption as an Informal Fiscal System” (with Shan Aman-Rana and Clement Minaudier).

Work in Progress

“Targeted Unconditional Framed Cash Transfers for Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Outcomes” (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver).

“Policy Analysis by Revealed Preference: With an Application to Food Security” (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver).

“Engendering Policing: Activating State Capacity for Women’s Security” (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla).

Policy and Other Writing

“In-kind Transfers as Insurance” (with Lucie Gadenne, Sam Norris, and Monica Singhal). [VoxDev](#) and [Ideas for India](#), March 1, 2021.

“[Need to keep an open mind, pilot cautiously.](#)” *Ideas for India*, September 24, 2020.

“[Evaluating the Aadhaar-PDS link](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *Hindustan Times*, February 16, 2020.

“[Strengthen NREGS to support the rural economy](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *Hindustan Times*, March 6, 2019.

“[Use mobiles to improve governance](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver), Op-ed, *Hindustan Times*, December 5, 2018.

“[Go for an “Inclusive Growth Dividend” in India](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *Hindustan Times*, November 6, 2018.

“[Ensuring that #MeToo Doesn’t Fizzle Out](#)” (with Padmini Baruah), Op-ed, *LiveMint*, November 1, 2018.

“[We Need a Choice-based Approach in the Public Distribution System](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *Hindustan Times*, October 3, 2018.

“[Balancing the costs and benefits of Aadhaar](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *LiveMint*, March 6, 2018.

“[Direct Benefits Transfer in Food: Results from One Year of Process Monitoring in Union Territories](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Policy Note, September 2017.

“[Price Risk and Poverty](#)” (with Lucie Gadenne, Sam Norris and Monica Singhal). *Ideas for India*, May 2017.

“[What do We Know about Corruption in India?](#)” (with Milan Vaishnav). *Ideas for India*, September 2015.

“[Building State Capacity for Better Programme Implementation: Lessons from the Andhra Pradesh Smartcard Programme](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan, and Paul Niehaus). *Ideas for India*, December 2014.

“[The Sweet Spot](#)” Op-ed, *The Indian Express*, November 14, 2014.

“[Because the Price was Right](#)” Op-ed, *The Indian Express*, February 18, 2014. (Original title: “The Final Episode of the 2G Saga?”)

“[Two Questions about the 2G Scam](#)” *Ideas for India*, March 2013.

“[Implementing a Biometric Payment System: The Andhra Pradesh Experience](#)” (with Piali Mukhopadhyay, Karthik Muralidharan, and Paul Niehaus). Technical Report, University of California, San Diego 2013.

“[Corruption in MGNREGA](#)”, *Ideas for India*, July 2012.

“What Determines MGNREGA Wages? Some Evidence on Voice and Exit from Orissa”, *India in Transition*, University of Pennsylvania Center for the Advanced Study of India, April 9, 2012.
Reprinted in *Hindu Business Line*

“[The Right to Choose your Food](#)” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Op-ed, *The Indian Express*, August 2, 2011

“Assessing the Scope for Cash Transfers in lieu of the TPDS in Rural and Urban Bihar” (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), Policy Report, July 2011

“The Bigger They are, the Harder They Fall: The Cost of the Crisis in Corporate Governance” (with Robert Litan and Carol Graham) *Milken Institute Review*, 5(1): First Quarter 2003, 37-45

Research Grants

- 2019- JPAL Crime and Violence Initiative (CVI) (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2019- World Bank Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2019-2021 International Growth Center (co-PI with Lucie Gadenne, Sam Norris, and Monica Singhal)
- 2018- Cash Transfers for Child Health (CaTCH) Initiative (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus and Jeff Weaver)
- 2017-18 Economic Development & Institutions program- DFID (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2015- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2015-17 International Growth Center (co-PI with Monica Singhal and Lucie Gadenne)
- 2015-16 Omidyar Network Research Award (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2015-16 International Growth Center (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2014-16 National Science Foundation SES-1426003 (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2014-15 Yale University Global Financial Inclusion Initiative (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2012-14 JPAL Governance Initiative Grant (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2010-14 Omidyar Network Research Award (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus)
- 2009-11 International Growth Centre Research Award (co-PI with Sendhil Mullainathan)
- 2009- Burke Research Award, Dartmouth College
- 2008-09 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant SES-0752929
- 2008 Simon Kuznets Travel Grant
- 2006-2008 Warburg Funds Research Grant

Fellowships and Awards

- 2018-19 Public Voices Fellowship
- 2018 PEGNet Award for “effective cooperation between development research and practice”
- 2014 Best Paper Award, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*
- 2013-14 Junior Faculty Fellowship, Dartmouth College

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- 2012-13 Giorgio Ruffalo Research Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2009, 2012 Rockefeller Award, Department of Economics, Dartmouth College
- 2008-09 Eliot Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2008-09 South Asia Initiative Graduate Student Associate
- 2007 Nominated for Robert F. Levensohn Memorial Teaching Award (best teaching fellow in an undergraduate course), Harvard University
- 2006-09 Doctoral Fellowship, Harvard University Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, a National Science Foundation IGERT program
- 2004-06 Harvard University Fellowship

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

- 2021-22 India Policy Forum 2021, University of Pittsburgh, Texas A&M University, Indian School of Business (Hyderabad), Washington & Lee University, Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI Delhi), DIGIFI Africa Panel, Quantitative Collaborative-UVA
- 2020-21 NBER Development Economics fall meetings, World Bank ID4D, University of Zurich (Public Finance and Development Conference), AEA annual meetings, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), Governance Crime and Conflict Initiative (GCCCI)
- 2019-20 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)-Bhopal, College of William and Mary, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), University of California-San Diego, World Bank (Development Marketplace Award Winners Conference)
- 2018-19 Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), McGill University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), University of Pittsburgh, World Bank (DIME/ID4D), American University (School of International Studies), ASSA Meetings (Atlanta), University of Texas-Austin, Sam Houston State University
- 2017-18 University of Namur, Paris School of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Virginia (Quantitative Collaborative), University of Connecticut, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, World Bank, George Mason University, Midwest International Economic Development Conference (U Minnesota), New Economic School (Moscow)
- 2016-17 Brookings-NCAER India Policy Forum, Virginia Tech, Yale University, AEA meetings (Chicago), University of Houston, Washington Area Development Economics Symposium (WADES, George Mason University), World Bank (DIME Impact Evaluation Design Workshop)
- 2015-16 Stockholm School of Economics SITE Conference, University of Virginia, Harvard-MIT-Brown Joint Seminar in South Asian Politics, Delhi Economics Conclave, Brown University (Political Economy and Labor Studies Forum), Oxford University, AEA meetings (San Francisco)
- 2014-15 University of Bristol, UCL-STICERD Development Seminar (University College London and London School of Economics), Oxford University, Indian Statistical Institute-Delhi (ISI), Clark University, GFII Yale University, WZB Berlin Social Science Center, International Growth Center India Development Policy Conference
- 2013-14 University of Connecticut, Brown University (Applied Micro lunch), Indian Statistical Institute-Delhi (ISI), MIT-Harvard Development Seminar, Harvard India Conference,

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Harvard International Development conference, NBER Organizational Economics workshop, BREAD conference (University of California, Berkeley), ABCDE 2014 (World Bank), CASI workshop (University of Pennsylvania), International Growth Center India Development Policy Conference, Brookings-NCAER India Policy Forum

- 2012-13 NEUDC-Dartmouth, Indian Statistical Institute-Delhi (ISI), AEA meetings (San Diego), Harvard University Applied Theory Seminar, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Bocconi University, Stockholm University, Boston University
- 2011-12 IGC Growth Week (LSE), NEUDC-Yale, Columbia University, Swarthmore College AEA meetings (Chicago), Econometric Society meetings, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern University
- 2010-11 NEUDC-MIT, Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Cornell University
- 2009-10 University of New Hampshire, World Bank (DECRG), Center for Global Development (CGD), Indian Statistical Institute-Delhi (ISI)
- 2008-09 BREAD Conference, Brookings Institution, Dartmouth College, New York University-Wagner School, Boston College, Wesleyan University, Wellesley College, University of Wisconsin-Madison, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), NEUDC-Boston University, NBER Student Political Economics Conference

Teaching Experience

- 2017- 3rd Year PhD Seminar, University of Virginia.
- 2010- Development Economics (BA), Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia
- 2014, 2015 International Growth Center (IGC) Summer School (PhD), Delhi
- Summer 2007 Designed Economic Development course (MBA) for the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR), Chennai, India
- Spring 2007 Microeconomics of Development (BA), Harvard University
- Fall 2006 Development Economics (PhD), Harvard University/MIT, teaching fellow for Professors Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Sendhil Mullainathan

Professional Service

- Referee *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; American Economic Journal: Microeconomics; American Economic Review; American Economic Review: Insights; American Political Science Review; Cambridge University Press; Economica; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economic Journal; Global Innovation Fund; India Review; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Law and Economics; Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Public Policy; National Science Foundation; Nature Human Behavior; Oxford University Press; PEDL; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Review of Economics and Statistics; Review of Economic Studies; Science; World Bank Economic Review (Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2019); World Bank ID4D; World Development*
- Other J-PAL Executive Education, Spring 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2017

Past Research Experience and Other Employment

2003-04 Center for Global Development, Research Assistant to Dr. Nancy Birdsall
2001-03 Brookings Institution, Research Assistant to Dr. Robert Litan and Dr. Carol Graham
2000-01 NERA, Research Associate

Advising and initial placements

2020-21 Moogdho Mahzab, Stanford University, Post-doc at Woods Institute
Divya Pandey, Harvard Kennedy School, Post-doc at EPOD India
2019-20 Devaki Ghose, World Bank Research Group