

Sandip Sukhtankar

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University of Virginia
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Academic Positions

- 2016-2023-2018-23 **Department of Economics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**
Professor
Co-Director, UVA-CLEAR (Corruption Lab on Ethics, Accountability, and Rule of Law)
- 2016-23 Associate Professor
- 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

- Board of Reviewing Editors, *Science*
Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*
Fellow, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
Affiliate and DIGIFI Africa & SPI Board Member, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
Editorial Board, *World Bank Economic Review*

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

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

[“In-Kind Transfers as Insurance”](#) (with Lucie Gadenne, Sam Norris, and Monica Singhal). *American Economic Review*, vol 114, no 9, pp 2861-97, September 2024.

[“General Equilibrium Effects of \(Improving\) Public Employment Programs: Experimental Evidence from India”](#) (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus). *Econometrica*, vol 91, no 4, pp 1261-1295, July 2023.

[“Policing in Patriarchy: An Experimental Evaluation of Reforms to Improve Police Responsiveness to Women in India”](#) (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla). *Science*, vol 377, issue 6602, pp 191-198, July 2022.

[“Integrating biometric authentication in India's welfare programs: Lessons from a decade of reforms”](#) (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), *India Policy Forum*, vol 18, July 2022.

[“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

[“Informal Fiscal Systems in Developing Countries”](#) (with Shan Aman-Rana and Clement Minaudier). *Under review.*

[“Screen Now, Save Later? The Trade-Off between Administrative Ordeals and Fraud”](#) (with Shan Aman-Rana and Daniel Gingerich).

[“Cash Transfers for Child Development: Experimental Evidence from India”](#) (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver).

“Digital Technology and Social Protection: Promises and Pitfalls,” paper prepared for the *Handbook of Social Protection* (Benjamin Olken and Rema Hanna, editors).

“Recognizing Women: Representation, Resources, & Police Responsiveness in India” (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla). *Revision requested.*

Work in Progress

“Gender Dynamics in Government Job Recruitment” (with Arielle Bernhardt, Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner, and Akshay Mangla).

[“High frequency monitoring in India’s Public Distribution System”](#) (with Gaurav Chiplunkar, Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Kartik Srivastava).

Policy and Other Writing

[“Reforming India’s public works scheme raised incomes”](#) (with Karthik Muralidharan and Paul Niehaus), *VoxDev*, Oct 30, 2023.

[“Improving police responsiveness to gender-based violence: Evidence from India”](#) (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla), *VoxDev*, Nov 2, 2022.

[“Women officers must be on front lines of policing”](#) (with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla), *Hindustan Times*, August 1, 2022.

[“Improving last-mile service delivery using phone-based monitoring: Evidence from India”](#) (with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Jeff Weaver), *VoxDev*, Aug 1, 2021.

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

[“Mobile Money”](#) (with Tavneet Suri, Jenny Aker, Catia Batista, Michael Callen, Tarek Ghani, William Jack, Leora Klapper, Emma Riley, and Simone Schaner) *VoxDevLit*, 2(1), February 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 (last ~10 years)

- 2024- Bankard Fund for Political Economy award (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner)
- 2024- Quantitative Collaborative award (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner)
- 2022-24 Veddis Foundation ASPIRE grant (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2022-24 JPAL Social Protection Initiative co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus and Jeff Weaver)
- 2022-24 JPAL Innovation in Government Initiative (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2022-24 MCP Family Foundation (co-PI with Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus and Jeff Weaver)
- 2019-2021 JPAL Crime and Violence Initiative (CVI) (co-PI with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner and Akshay Mangla)
- 2019-2020 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)
- 2018-22 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)

Fellowships and Awards (last ~10 years)

- 2024 *Financial Times* (UK) Best Academic Research with Societal Impact Award
- 2022 University of Virginia Research Achievement Award
- 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
- 2012-13 Giorgio Ruffalo Research Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations (last ~10 years)

- 2024-25 University of Notre Dame, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Indore, University of Southern California, University of California-Irvine
- 2023-24 University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), University of Michigan, Social Protection Handbook Conference (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Economics of Violence and Harassment Against Women Conference (Stanford University), World Bank (South Asia Gender Innovation Lab), Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (ISI Delhi), Western Ontario University, University of Delaware

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- 2022-23 100 Years of Development Conference (Cornell University), Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), NITI Aayog, Indian School of Business (Hyderabad), Indian Statistical Institute-Delhi, AEA Meetings (New Orleans), Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad, Ashoka University, Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office-Delhi, National University of Singapore
- 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

Teaching Experience

- 2023- Development Economics (PhD), University of Virginia
- 2017-2022 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

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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	<i>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</i>
Other	J-PAL Executive Education, Spring 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2017 J-PAL Research Staff Training 2021, 2022

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

2021-22	Md Amzad Hossain, University of Arkansas Luan Santos, Freddie Mac
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