

KRISHNA SHARMA

Research Fellow/Economist, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, CA

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Innovation, Growth & Development; Monetary Economics; Applied ML

EDUCATION

Clemson University, SC Ph.D. in Economics <i>M.Sc. in Economic Analytics</i> (Aug 2024)	May 2025
South Asian University, New Delhi, India M.Phil. in Economics	June 2017
St. Joseph's College, Bangalore University, India B.A. in Economics, Sociology, and Political Science	May 2013

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

- **Applied ML with Python for AI Applications** — Stanford University 2026
- **Agentic AI in Action** — Stanford University Feb 2026
- **Launching from Idea to Reality: Startup Founders** — Stanford University Jul 2025
- **Understanding U.S. Intellectual Property Law** — Stanford Law School Jul 2025
- **Credit Course in Legal Literacy** — National Law School of India University

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Computational Economics:** Agent-Based Modeling (ABM), Structural Estimation (MSM).
- **AI & Machine Learning:** Large Language Models (LLM) as measurement, NLP.
- **Econometrics:** Causal Inference, Survey Design, Index Construction.
- **Programming:** Python (PyTorch, Pandas, OpenAI/Anthropic APIs), STATA, LaTeX.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, CA Jan 2025 – Present
State and Local Governance Initiative. Research on innovation governance, Pension Reform.
Supervisor: Prof. Joshua D. Rauh.

Causal Researcher, Pascal Geldsetzer Lab, Stanford University School of Medicine, CA Jan 2026 – Present
Research on causal inference, health economics, and applied econometrics using large-scale electronic health records. Applied quasi-experimental methods, including regression discontinuity and difference-in-differences, to evaluate population health interventions and investigate the causal effect of shingles vaccination on dementia risk.

Research Intern, United Nations, New York Sept 2024
Contributed to the preparation of the *World Social Development Report 2026*.

Instructor, Clemson University, SC 2022 – 2024
Courses: Econometrics; Economics of Money and Banking; Principles of Macroeconomics.

Research Consultant, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, India 2017 – 2018
Analyzed the economic impact of housing programs.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Mentor, Daayitwa Policy Fellowship, Nepal

Policy Fellow, Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal

Expert, OECD expert group on AI augmentation and the future of work, Paris

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Military Expenditure and Foreign Direct Investment Inflow: An Empirical Analysis

Review of International Economics (with N. Regmi and P. Bhandari).

Social Media Discussion and Short-Horizon Stock Returns: Evidence from a Retail Coordination Episode

Digital Finance (with P. Basnet and K. R. Bhatt).

Quantitative Easing and Foreign Holdings of U.S. Treasuries: A Descriptive Study from 2008 to 2023 *Cogent Economics Finance*

Rental Markets for Agricultural Capital Goods: The Structure of Pumpset Services in Nepal's Terai

Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies

Rental Market of Pump-sets in the Central and Western Parts of Nepal Plains

Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development, 30(1–2), 226–243 (with B. Goswami).

The Migration Paradox: Why Remittances Fail to Stimulate Agricultural Investment in Nepal's Terai Plains

Economics Bulletin (with R. N. Shrestha).

Mechanization without Ownership: Market Structure and Pricing in Nepal's Terai

CABI Agriculture and Bioscience.

Rental markets and the mechanization of smallholder agriculture: evidence from Nepal's Terai *Applied Economics Letter*

WORKING PAPERS

AI-Assisted Economic Measurement from Surveys: Evidence from Public Employee Pension Choice

(with Tiancheng Wang)

Under Review at Public Opinion Quarterly

Develops an iterative LLM-based framework for extracting latent measurement structure from survey instruments. Applied to a large-scale public employee retirement plan survey, distinguishes belief-based from constraint-based mechanisms driving pension choice, providing a portable measurement audit for survey design.

Artificial Intelligence, Trust, and Accountability in a Low-Capacity State

(with I. Giri and R. N. Shrestha)

Working Paper

Using original survey data from 343 professionals across eight sectors in Nepal, shows that risk perception is positively associated with AI trust, and accountability expectations function as a baseline adoption condition rather than a trust substitute. Sectoral heterogeneity in trust is sharp, with lower trust in high-stakes domains.

Communication as Governance: Evidence from University Intellectual Property Policies

Working Paper

Assembles a historical corpus of 393 IP policy documents from 149 U.S. research universities (1944–2025). Develops a Policy Communication Index (PCI) via NLP stance classification and documents substantial heterogeneity by institutional type, region, and time.

Mama, I’m Coming Home: Brain Gain through Brain Circulation in India

Working Paper

Constructs a novel dataset combining web-scraped startup profiles, LinkedIn founder histories, and Indian patent records. Returnee-led startups file approximately 18% more patents on average; IV estimates using U.S. immigration policy changes yield an elasticity of substitution between returnees and non-returnees of 1.41.

Time to Major Decision in Federal Innovation Programs: Evidence from SBIR and STTR

Ongoing

Introduces time to major decision as a policy-relevant outcome using administrative data on 57,000 SBIR/STTR awards (2015–2024). Documents substantial heterogeneity across agencies; processing time scales with award size but is not explained by firm ownership characteristics.

Capital Continuation in the Full Spectrum of Private Markets

(with P. Basnet)

Ongoing

Uses SEC Form D filings (2021–2025) covering ~49,000 unique startups to study follow-on fundraising predictability. Public narrative attention measures improve predictive accuracy beyond financing history, with the largest incremental contribution during the post-2022 capital contraction.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Regulatory Migration to Europe: ICO Reallocation Following U.S. Securities Enforcement

(with K. R. Bhatt and I. Giri)

R & R, Journal of Regulatory Economics

Documents a substantial and persistent reallocation of ICO activity toward Europe following the SEC’s July 2017 DAO Report (~14 additional ICOs per region-month), consistent with regulatory spillovers in highly mobile digital-asset markets.

REVISE & RESUBMIT

The Role of Formal Vocational Training in Female Labor Force Participation: Evidence from Nepal

(with P. Dhungana)

R&R, Journal of Development Perspectives

General and Residual Skill Dimensions in Soccer: Factor Structure and Match Participation

(with P. Basnet)

R & R, IEEE Access

POLICY PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

AI Benefit-Sharing Framework: Balancing Access and Safety

2025

Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative, University of Oxford.

Proposes a framework for equitable global access to AI gains integrating redistribution, technology transfer, and non-proliferation mechanisms for Global Majority countries.

Impact of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

2018

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) Report. Large-scale evaluation of India’s rural housing program using macro-fiscal modeling.

SELECTED CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

World Bank Land and Property Conference, Washington DC (April 2026)
University of Arizona, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Nov 2025)
Arizona State University, Technology Transfer Society Annual Conference (Nov 2025)
Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford – AI Governance Workshop (Sept 2025)
Southern Economic Conference, Washington DC (Nov 2024)
ZEW Innovation & Patenting, Germany (Sept 2024)
World Bank (May 2024)
Eastern Economic Association (Feb 2024)
WEAI Tokyo (Mar 2019)

GRANTS, AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate Researcher, AI & Soceity, NAAMII, Nepal (2026)	Affiliate Fellow, Reshaping Work Initiative, Amsterdam (2025) Advisor, National Examination Board, Nepal (2025)
King Center Global Development Grant, Stanford (2025)	
Affiliate, Center for South Asia, Stanford (2025)	Summer School, Stanford Law School (2025) Tollison Fellowship, Clemson University (2025)
Affiliate Researcher, Stanford NLP Group (2025)	TA of the Year, Clemson University (2021) SAARC India Silver Jubilee Scholarship (2015)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: *Digital Finance*; ICLR Workshops 2026.12th International Conference on Computational Social Science. *PLOS ONE* (AI & Finance);
Discussant: ZEW Conference on Innovation and Patenting, Mannheim, Germany, September 2024. ; Western Economics Association International Conference (WEAI), 2021.
Invited Talks (2025): Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford; University of Arizona; Arizona State University (Technology Transfer Society Annual Conference); Kathmandu University, Tribhuwan University.

COMMENTARY AND PUBLIC WRITING

1. “The Act of Voting Carefully.” *The Kathmandu Post*, February 16, 2026.
<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2026/02/16/the-act-of-voting-carefully>
2. “Political Reform as Economic Strategy.” *The Kathmandu Post*, October 9, 2025.
<https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/10/09/political-reform-as-economic-strategy>
3. “Making AI Policy Truly Effective.” *The Himalayan Times*, Opinion.
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/opinion/making-ai-policy-truly-effective>
4. “A University Free from Party Politics.” *Kantipur Daily* (Op-ed in Nepali), October 7, 2025.
<https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2025/10/07/a-university-free-from-party-politics-54-41.html>
5. “Dynamic Support Prices for Farmers.” *Kantipur Daily* (Op-ed in Nepali), March 25, 2025.
<https://ekantipur.com/opinion/2025/03/25/dynamic-support-price-for-farmers-45-39.html>
6. “The Energy Needs of the AI Revolution.” *Nagarik News* (Op-ed in Nepali).
<https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/opinion/1467871-1741666364.html>

7. “How to Mitigate the Risks of AI.” *Nagarik News* (Op-ed in Nepali).
<https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/opinion/1466100-1740361466.html>

MENTORSHIP

Selected Undergraduate Mentees- Recent Status

- Astha Dahal — M.Sc., London School of Economics, London, 2025
- Ritika Sharma — M.A. in Economics, Central Michigan University, 2024
- Nirmal Khatri — Erasmus Mundus Fellow, M.Sc. in Health and Displacement, 2025
- Shreya Khatiwada — M.A. in Economics, Old Dominion University, VA, 2024

REFERENCES

Available on request.