

# Abhinav Khemka

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## Research Interest

- Political Economy, Development Economics, Comparative Politics, Applied Economics

## Academic Positions

Ramón Areces Postdoctoral Fellow  
Department of Economics and Economic History  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Dec 2025-

Postdoctoral Scholar  
University of Milan (Statale)  
Nov 2024 - Oct 2025

## Affiliations and Visiting Stays

Affiliated Researcher, CLEAN unit, Bocconi University  
Affiliated Researcher, IEB, Universitat de Barcelona  
Research Visiting Scholar, University of California Berkeley  
PhD Visiting Researcher, Università Ca' Foscari  
Sept 2024 -  
Sept 2024 -  
Fall 2023  
Spring 2019

## Education

PhD in Economics (with *cum laude*)  
University of Barcelona and IEB  
Thesis Committee: Elisabetta Aurino, Paolo Pinotti (chair), Milan Vaishnav  
2020- 2025  
Masters in Models and Methods of Quantitative Economics (QEM)  
Universite Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne  
IDEA Graduate Program, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
2018 - 2020  
Masters in International Economics and Finance (Advanced)  
University of Queensland  
2013 - 2015  
BA in Economics  
Michigan State University  
2007 - 2011

## Publications

Why Do Voters Elect Criminal Politicians? *European Journal of Political Economy*, 82 (2024): 102527  
Export-Led Growth in India: A Bounds Testing Approach (with Temesgen Kifle and Bryan Morgan),  
*Journal of Developing Areas*, Volume 52, Number 1, Winter 2018

## Working Papers

Manipulating the System: Clientelism and Criminality in Politics (Job Market Paper), Submitted  
Effort or Entitlement? An Email Experiment with Dynastic Legislators (with Sunakshi Jindal)  
Silent Citizens: Political Corruption and Tax Disclosure (with Claudia Serra-Sala). UNU Wider Working Paper Series

## Selective Work in Progress

The Impact of History Textbook Changes on Nationalistic Sentiments  
Empowerment through Engagement: The Impact of Women's Self-Help Groups on Political Participation (with Gianmarco Daniele)  
The Unintended Political Consequences of Expanding Police Authority: Evidence from London (with Victoria Biagi, Enrico Cavallotti)  
Defecting for Immunity: Criminal Charges and Strategic Party Switching (with Gaurav Bhattacharya)

## Research Experience

Country Economist, International Growth Center (IGC), 2016 - 2018  
Research Associate, Abdul Latif Jamil Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2015-2016

## Teaching

Instructor, Public Economics, University of Barcelona, Spring 2024  
Instructor, Principles of Taxation, University of Barcelona, Fall 2021  
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Microeconomics, University of Queensland, Spring 2014

## Academic Achievements

Best PhD Paper Award Runner-up, 2022: School of Economics, University of Barcelona  
Best Postgraduate Thesis Award, 2015: Economics Department, University of Queensland  
Best Undergraduate Thesis Award, 2011: Economics Department, Michigan State University

## Grants and Scholarships

Ramón Areces Foundation Postdoctoral Grant, 2025: 150000 Euros  
Corruption, Tax Preferences and Compliance, 2024: UNU WIDER (PI) 8000 USD  
Mobility Grant for Young Researchers, 2023: SEBAP 4200 Euros  
Ethnic Identities and Political Selection, 2021: IEB (PI) 1750 Euros  
AGAUR FI Doctoral Scholarship, 2021-2024: 80000 Euros  
QEM Erasmus Mobility Scholarship, 2019: 5000 Euros  
QEM Consortium Scholarship, 2018-2020: 15000 Euros

## Conferences and Workshops

- 2025** EMPESA Annual Meeting, CLEAN Summer Crime Workshop
- 2024** EPSA Annual Meeting, EMPESA Annual Meeting, EPCS Annual Meeting, UB PhD Economics Student Seminar
- 2023** SAEe Annual Meeting, EEA-ESEM Summer Meeting, International Corruption Research Forum, EPCS Annual Meeting, UB PhD Economics Student Seminar
- 2022** UB PhD Economics Student Seminar, UB PhD Economics Workshop
- 2021** IV UB PhD Workshop on Empirical Political Science
- 2020** IDEA Graduate Program Workshop

## Referee Services

European Journal of Political Economy, World Development, Journal of Developing Areas, Economics of Governance

## Skills

- Technical** Stata (Advanced), Python (Advanced), R (Intermediate), Matlab (Beginner)
- Others** SurveyCTO, KoBoToolbox, LaTeX
- Field Work** Bihar, India (2016-2018, 2021), Sierra Leone (2018), Bangalore, India (2025)
- Language** English (Fluent), Hindi (Native), Bengali (Native)