

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

Education

PhD in Economics (with <i>cum laude</i>) 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) Université Paris I Panthéon 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)
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 2025/114

Selective Work in Progress

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

Research Experience

Country Economist, International Growth Center (IGC), 2016 - 2018
Research Associate, Abdul Latif Jameel 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, EPSC Annual Meeting, UB PhD Economics Student Seminar

2023 SAE Annual Meeting, EEA-ESEM Summer Meeting, International Corruption Research Forum, EPSC 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)