

AKASH SHAJI

San Francisco, CA | akashnshaji@gmail.com | anshaji@berkeley.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Education

M.S., International and Development Economics

May 2024

University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

- GPA: 3.98 Relevant coursework: Applied Econometrics, Development Economics, Mathematical Economics, Applied Microeconomics
- Graduate thesis: Leveling Up Financial Literacy: Evidence from Game-Based Intervention with Aspiration Treatment amongst Rural Women in India.

B.Sc., Economics, Statistics & Mathematics

May 2022

St Aloysius College (Deemed University)

Mangaluru, India

- CGPA: 8.6 Graduated with honors

Experience

Predoctoral Research Fellow

August 2024 – Present

Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), UC Berkeley · PI: Edward Miguel

Berkeley, CA

- Provide sustained research support across two large-scale empirical projects: the Kenya Life Panel Survey (KLPS) and the Reporting Guidelines and Publication Bias (RGPB) project at BITSS. (See Research Projects below)
- Prepare participant-level analysis files and documentation for NIH submissions; draft analytic memo sections and present findings to faculty and external collaborators.
- Led workshop on Version Control with GitHub at the Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2), UC Berkeley (May 2025); delivered sessions on pre-registration and pre-analysis plans (PAPs) at CEGA Fall 2025 Fellows Training for early-career researchers from LMICs.
- Support Edward Miguel's research operations: manage project website, handle research communications, and assist with administrative duties including scheduling and correspondence.

Research Associate

Sept 2023 – May 2024

The World Bank · IDEAL Project

Berkeley, CA

- Analyzed and synthesized RCTs and impact evaluation studies on elections and governance interventions for the Impact Data and Evidence Aggregation Library (IDEAL).
- Worked with structured data extraction protocols specifically intended for standardization of key information from RCTs and reviewed encodings from peers.

Research Assistant

Dec 2022 – May 2024

Prof. Jesse Anttila-Hughes, University of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

- Cleaned and analyzed demographic health data (DHS dataset) in Stata to investigate determinants of endogenous fertility preferences.
- Independently executed analysis strategies and contributed to developing the empirical and theoretical framework underpinning the project.

Research Projects

Co-Investigator — Reporting Guidelines and Publication Bias (RGPB)

August 2024 – Present

Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences (BITSS), UC Berkeley · PI: Fernando Hoces

Berkeley, CA

- Reviewed, synthesized, and encoded 100+ AEA RCT registrations against associated published materials to assess reporting practices and potential sources of publication bias in pre-registered economics studies.
- Co-authoring paper with Edward Miguel, Fernando Hoces, Erik Sørensen, & Bertil Tungodden on characterizing and understanding missing results in Economics.
- Contributing to development of a practical pre-registration tool to improve registration quality and promote transparent research workflows.

Predoctoral Research Fellow — Kenya Life Panel Survey (KLPS)

Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), UC Berkeley

August 2024 – Present

PI: Edward Miguel, Michael Walker

Berkeley, CA

- Manage and analyze longitudinal panel data across multiple KLPS waves; monitor response and tracking rates for the ongoing KLPS-5 field survey in Kenya.
- Build large-scale merging, cleaning, and validation pipelines in R and Stata; develop modular, reusable code for econometric analyses.
- Contributing to development of a KLPS cohort profile, including descriptive documentation and geographic maps summarizing multi-decade survey coverage.

Principal Investigator — Financial Literacy RCT, India

IDEC Research Team, University of San Francisco

January 2023 – May 2024

Karnataka, India

- Designed and executed a randomized controlled trial on gamified financial literacy and aspiration interventions among rural women in coastal Karnataka; led a team of 3 researchers and supervised 10 enumerators in the field.
- Oversaw all phases of data collection, cleaning, and analysis; managed budget and timeline to on-schedule completion; collaborated with local NGO for culturally sensitive implementation.
- Findings published as M.S. thesis and extended in a multi-country working paper with Agasha, Hobbs, & Wydick (2025).

Research Publications

1. Hoces de la Guardia, F., Miguel, E., **Shaji, A.**, Silva da Rocha, V., Pathan, G., Sørensen, E.Ø., & Tungodden, B. “Beyond Publication Bias: Characterizing and Understanding Missing Results in Economics.” *Manuscript in preparation*.
2. Agasha, E., Hobbs, A., **Shaji, A.**, & Wydick, B. (2025). “Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Aspirations: Results from Pilot Experiments in India, Peru, and Uganda.” <https://doi.org/10.26085/C3XG6R>
3. **Shaji, A.** (2024). “Leveling Up Financial Literacy: Evidence from a Game-Based Intervention with Aspiration Treatment among Rural Women in India.” Technical report <https://repository.usfca.edu/thes/1556/>

Conferences & Presentations

- **Presenter**, “Mastering Version Control with GitHub“, Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2), UC Berkeley, May 2026
- **Instructor**, “Pre-Registration and Pre-Analysis Plans (PAP), Version Control with the GitHub App and GitHub“, CEGA 2025 Fall & 2026 Spring Fellows Trainings, UC Berkeley
- **Presenter**, “Young, United, and Unstoppable: Your Faith in Action for the Planet,” Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, Washington, DC, November 2025
- **Presenter**, “Version Control with the GitHub App and GitHub (Hands-On),” Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training (RT2), UC Berkeley, May 2025
- **Paper Presenter**, Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Stanford University, 2024
- **Paper Presenter**, National Level Seminar on “Ecology, Economics and Sustainability,” St Joseph’s College, Bangalore, 2019

Skills & Methods

Statistical Software	Stata (proficient, including server/Linux environments); R (proficient, including target pipelines); Python (data analysis, visualization)
Research Methods	RCTs, IV regression, difference-in-differences, heterogeneous effects, pre-analysis plan design & auditing, large-scale data cleaning & QA
Tools	Git/GitHub, L ^A T _E X/Overleaf, Dropbox, Linux/Bash, MS Office, Google Suite
Languages	English (fluent); Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Tulu, Tamil; Spanish (beginner)

Fellowships & Honors

Frederic Bastiat Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University	2023–2024
Schmidt Family Foundation Fellow, University of San Francisco	2022–2024