

# Palaash Bhargava

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## Education

- M.A. Economics**, Delhi School of Economics. 2014 – 2016  
Percentage: 77.60 % (1164/1500). Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 220+ students in the batch
- B.A. (Hons) Economics**, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi. 2011 – 2014  
Percentage: 82.04 % (2051/2500). Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 110+ students in the batch

## Employment

- Assistant Instructor of Economics**, New York University Abu Dhabi 2017 – present  
**Assistant Instructor of Mathematics**, New York University Shanghai 2018  
**Analyst, Investment Banking Division**, Nomura Services Pvt. Ltd. 2016 – 2017

## Scholarships and Academic Awards

- EXIM Bank Scholarship**, Delhi School of Economics 2015 – 2016  
**Sri Bodhiswar Rai Scholarship**, Delhi School of Economics 2014 – 2015  
**Runners up, Budding Economist**, South Asian Economics' Students' Meet 2013  
**Madhya Pradesh Governor's Medal** for Academic Proficiency, The Scindia School 2011  
**Umang Mathur Award** for Academic Proficiency, The Scindia School 2010  
**Narayan Prasad Bhargava Scholarship** for Language Proficiency, The Scindia School 2005 – 2010

## Research

### *Work in Progress*

#### **Oligarchy, democracy and 'la peur du déclassement'**

I analyse the impact of the fear of losing social status on the levels of democratisation and economic growth. In a political economy model where education makes an individual's vote count and generate positive externality for all agents in the economy, I study the incentives for the elites to initiate a democratic transition by educating the masses when they care about both their status (relative position in the income distribution) and their absolute income. (*Available at SSRN*)

#### **Neural Network Forecasting for Inflation in India: 2012 – 2017** (*joint with Aniruddha Ghosh*)

We attempt to evaluate the usefulness of neural networks in the context of inflation forecasting. Using India's monthly inflation (CPI) numbers from January 2012 to June 2017, we assess the neural net's performance (using Levenberg-Marquardt and the BIC algorithm) vis-a-vis univariate autoregressive models. (*Available at SSRN*)

#### **Role of behavior in political transitions** (*joint with Felix S. Døssing*)

We extend the theory of political transitions (Acemoglu and Robinson 2001, 2003, 2006) and propose a form of repeated-ultimatum bargaining game with taxation and efficiency losses. An implementation of the game in an experiment helps us analyse whether individuals care solely about economic outcomes or there are some non-pecuniary consequences that individuals take into consideration during political transitions and regime changes.

## Research Assistantship

**Research Assistant** for Professor Etienne Wasmer, Oliver Gergaud and Morgane Laouenan on the project, "Brief History of Human Time: A Multi-language Database of Notable People" May 2018 – present

## Academic Papers

**Investment and Locational Advantages: A take on History vs Expectations** (joint with Shivangi Bishnoi)

We analyse the impact of historical investments and coordination failures on the valuation of real-estate properties and the feedback mechanism they generate by extending Krugman's (1991) History vs Expectation model to real estate investments and land prices in India

**Political Economy of Modernisation: Can markets produce counterproductive socio-economic results?**

I produce a qualitative summary of duality of modernisation in South Asian economies and its impact on deterioration of social capital. I analyse the impact of economic development on the urban and rural polity and how it creates dichotomies within the socio-political spheres of the communities studied.

(Presented the paper on behalf of India in the 10<sup>th</sup> South Asian Economics' Students' Meet held in Pakistan. The paper was selected out of 100+ entries from India)

## Other publications

**Afghan War, Foreign Aid and Dutch Disease**, *Harvard Economics Review*: A commentary on the effectiveness of foreign aid in bolstering the Afghan economy so far and possible solutions to prevent the economy from facing symptoms of Dutch Disease, that one case see right now in the manufacturing sector

**Project Enable (Phase 1)**: A Detailed Research Report based on the Right to Education Bill implemented by the Government of India, suggesting policy changes and improvements through the means of involving students in the process of implementation

## Teaching Experience

**Recitation and Lab Instructor**, NYU Abu Dhabi

2017 – present

5000 Years of Notable lives, Fall 2018 (for Professor Etienne Wasmer)

Economic Dynamics, Fall 2018 (for Professor Thomas Sargent)

Intermediate Micro-Economics, Fall 2017, Spring 2018 (for Professors Hervé Crès & Maximilian Mihm)

Calculus with Applications in Economics, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018

**Recitation Instructor**, NYU Shanghai

2018

Integral Calculus, January 2018 (for Professor Hisham Sati)

## Work Experience

**Analyst, Investment Banking Division (Capital Solutions Group)**, Nomura Services Pvt. Ltd. 2016 – 2017

Worked extensively with financial institutions including Banks, Insurance Agencies and Reinsurance Agencies in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region. Daily responsibilities included carrying out ratings analysis, MREL and TLAC calibrations, assisting banks in Grandfathering of subordinated debt instruments and liability management exercises.

## Conferences, Seminars and Summer Schools

Development Graduate Summer School, Paris School of Economics 2018

International Symposium in Experimental Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi 2018

The Frontiers of Network Science, NYU Abu Dhabi 2018

At the forefront of Public Economic Theory, NYU Abu Dhabi 2017

## Positions of Responsibility

- South and South East Asia Development Pole, ShARE Global** 2015-16  
Managed recruitment and establishment of new chapters for ShARE, a global research think-tank in the South Asia and the South East Asia region
- President, Debating Society, Kirori Mal College** 2013-14  
Managed all public speaking related activities within college  
Organised - India's 2nd oldest Annual English Parliamentary (FTD Memorial) and World's oldest Annual Hindi Parliamentary Debate (NSP Memorial)
- Director, Ehsaas Foundation** 2012-14  
Managed the operations of a youth led organization based out of Ghaziabad which assists individuals from Economically Weaker Sections with finance, education, health and whole rounded development in the village, Dujana, Uttar Pradesh
- Director, Project Awaaz, Teach for India** 2014  
Coordinated the activities of volunteers within MCD schools who were working on facilitating public speaking and critical thinking amongst primary school children
- Indian Ambassador, 10<sup>th</sup> South Asian Economics' Students' Meet** 2013  
Represented India at the international students' economic conference held in Pakistan in the capacity of an undergraduate research fellow
- Mentor, Project Enable, Becoming I Foundation** 2012-13  
Assisted schools in building specific inclusive education models to implement the Right to Education Bill  
Engaged in a research based on the Right to Education Bill implemented by the Government of India, suggesting policy changes and improvements through the means of involving students in the process of implementation

## Post Graduate Courses

- Semester 1:** Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Introductory Mathematical Economics  
**Semester 2:** Mathematical Economics (Point Set Topology), Game Theory, Introductory Econometrics, Economic Development and Policy in India  
**Semester 3:** Econometric Methods, Advanced Game Theory, Law and Economics, Dynamic Macroeconomics (Growth Models)  
**Semester 4:** Topics in Economic Theory, Issues in Economic Systems and Institutions, Development Economics, Topics in Econometrics

## Extra Curricular Activities

- Debating:** Winner, Finalist and Chief Adjudicator of over 25 National and International Debating Tournaments including NUJS, CNLU, Premchand International, Asian Youth Parliamentary Debate and Indian Nationals Debating Championship
- Quizzing:** Winner of over 10 National and International Quizzing Competitions including Limca Book of World Records Quiz and All India IPSC Quiz
- Sports:** Winner of several State and Regional Swimming, Aquathlon, Diving and Water-Polo Competitions. Erstwhile member of Madhya Pradesh State Swimming and Water Polo team

## Computer Skills

- Python:** High proficiency  
**STATA:** High proficiency  
**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:** High proficiency  
**Mathematica:** Intermediate proficiency  
**Z-Tree:** Beginner

## Languages known

**English:** Can read, write and speak fluently

**Hindi:** Can read, write and speak fluently

**Oriya:** Conversationally Fluent

**French:** Beginner

## Interests

Sculpting (*Portfolio can be seen at [www.behance.net/palaashb](http://www.behance.net/palaashb)*), Swimming, Badminton, Squash, Debating, Reading & Travelling

Last updated: November 29, 2018