

Hitanshu Pandit, Ph.D.

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Research Scientist

Applied microeconomist specializing in econometric analysis, policy evaluation, and Big Data applications. Skilled in R, Python, and SQL, with research that spans labor economics, healthcare, and urban policy. Experienced in designing data-driven strategies that support the leadership of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Boston, resulting in actionable insights for program design and evaluation. Seeking to apply empirical research and data-driven insights to support decision making.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics - University of North Carolina, Greensboro

M.A. in Economics - Central University of Kerala, India

B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics - University of Delhi, India

Professional Experience

Research Scientist — Northeastern University — 2023 - Present.

- Led advanced causal inference projects using youth employment data and MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education data.
- Implemented a Randomized Control Trial and conducted econometric analyzes that increased youth applications through in-school workshops to contribute to the Mayor's Youth Job Guarantee.
- Developed a model to reduce selection bias in youth employment applications by incorporating fairness metrics, ensuring opportunities for all while maintaining program efficiency.
- Mentored junior team members in statistical analysis of survey data to understand youth experiences and recommend best practices to the Office of Youth Employment, City of Boston.

Research Associate — University of North Carolina — 2021 - 2023.

- Partnered with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the cost savings of the High-Fidelity Wraparounds and Tiered Care Coordination program using Medicaid claims and encounters data.
- Using advanced statistical methods such as synthetic control and staggered differences in differences to find approximately 20% decrease in expenses related to ED visits.
- Processed and analyzed Mobile Device Data (Real World Data) providing monthly foot traffic information for approximately 5 million establishments in the United States

Instructor — University of North Carolina — 2019 - 2021.

- Delivered courses in business statistics and introduction to microeconomics to classes of approximately 90 students each semester.
- Successfully transitioned curriculum to online formats during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Selected Research & Reports

- Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Examining Inequities in Summer Youth Employment Programs (*With Alicia S. Modestino, Mindy Marks & Hanna Hoover*)
- Behavioral Responses to Time-Varying Congestion Pricing: A Natural Experiment from NYC.
- Simply can't wait: Evaluating the effect of food industry minimum wage increase in California on local labor markets
- Who Pays for Higher Wages? Evidence from Consumer Spending after California's Fast-Food Minimum Wage Increase
- Safety Net Under Strain: Measuring Community Health Center visit patterns after Medicaid Unwinding Implementation (*With Nana B. Addai*)
- Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: What Can We Learn from Summer Learn and Earn Programs? (*With Alicia S. Modestino, Mindy Marks & Hanna Hoover*)
- Where do Opportunity Zone Jobs Go? A Social Network Analysis of Employment Flows in Place-Based Tax Policy (*With Kishan Narayan*)
- City Limits: The relationship between employment and minimum wage using mobile-device locations

- Estimating the Cost Savings of Tiered Care Coordination and High-Fidelity Wraparound: Evidence from North Carolina - Submitted to NC-DHHS
- Assessing the Effectiveness of In-School Workshops on Youth Application and On-boarding Rates for the SuccessLink Summer Jobs Program - Submitted to the Office of Youth Employment, City of Boston
- Uncovering Key Drivers of Young Adults Living at Home: A Machine Learning Analysis of Demographic and Socioeconomic Factors (*With Parul Jain, Roque Martinez & Nicol Nicola*)

Skills

Analysis Methods: Machine Learning | Big Data Analytics | A/B Tests | Randomized Control Trials | Difference-in-Differences | Regression Discontinuity Designs | Instrumental Variables

Technical: R | Python | STATA | SQL | rMarkdown | L^AT_EX | Git | Gephi

Grants, Honors, Affiliations and Fellowships

IHS-Grant-IHS019702 | Experiential PhD Certificate - Northeastern University, Boston | NULab - Research Affiliate | Global Action for Policy - Research Affiliate | Arnold Ventures - Professional Development Grant | Kathleen Price and Joseph M. Bryan Fellowship | Graduate School Association UNCG - Professional Development Grant | Travel Grant - Dept. of Economics, UNCG | University Grant Commission Merit Scholarship, Govt. of India | CBSE - CSSS Merit Scholarship, Govt. of India

Reviewer Service

Southern Economics Journal | Economics of Education Review | Journal of Development Economics | Nature - Scientific Reports

Selected Conferences & Presentations

Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day (2022) | Western Economic Association International Conference (2022) | Rising Scholars Conference at Chicago Booth (2022) | Southern Economic Association International Conference (2022-24) | Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop by Fed Atlanta (2023) | GAP Policy Seminar, Northeastern University (2024) | C2C Policy Research Seminar, Northeastern University (2025)