Neha Betai

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Summary

Economics PhD candidate using causal inference to study how generative AI reshapes labor markets, drawing on natural experiments, randomized survey experiments, and large-scale platform transaction and worker survey data. Skilled in Python, Stata, and SQL; experienced communicating findings to government and non-specialist audiences.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, George Washington University — *Expected 2027*
M.A. Applied Economics, Centre for Development Studies, JNU — 2019
B.A. Economics, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai — 2017

Technical Skills

Programming: Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, statsmodels, Dask, NetworkX, Matplotlib, seaborn, NLTK, spaCy), R, Stata, SQL, Git
Econometrics: Linear and logistic regression; panel, time-series, and cross-sectional modeling; causal inference (difference-in-differences, event studies, IV, RDD); experimental design; structural estimation
ML & Data: Text classification, ML, LLM/prompt engineering, web scraping, API integration, Large-scale data cleaning
Surveys: Qualtrics; design, randomized treatments, analysis

Selected Research

Generative AI and Cross-Border Service Outsourcing
with M.X. Chen

- Built a high-frequency transaction panel linking clients, workers, and 2,700 skills on a global platform (2022–24).
- Built skill-level AI exposure indices separating substitution (AI does the task) from augmentation (AI assists the worker): queried GPT-3.5 to GPT-5 via API, ~100 stochastic runs per skill, bootstrapped for model-robust scores.
- Found within-skill concentration rises 14 pp as higher-rated workers capture a shrinking market (DiD).

How Workers Invest in Artificial Intelligence: Experimental Evidence from Global Labor Platforms
Job Market Paper

- Surveyed ~2,000 platform workers globally; documented an adoption–investment gap (high AI use and gains, low spending on tools and learning) not fully explained by income or AI exposure.
- Modeled money and time investment in AI; tested in a three-arm RCT of actionable guidance vs. market information.
- Guidance raises willingness to pay for AI tools; labor-market information does not. Investment depends on prior work use, trust, and expected returns; money responds to returns more than time.

Professional Experience

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore — India
Academic Associate — *2019–2021*

- Built services-trade datasets and led empirical analysis for the UK–India Trade in Services report (UK Dept. for International Trade).
- Cleaned and harmonized data and co-authored policy reports for the Ministry of Commerce (Services in RCEP study).

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) — Mumbai, India
Research Intern — *Summer 2018*

- Designed and ran a household field survey (~300 households) on agricultural credit access; authored the report and presented findings to senior leadership.

Presentations

NEUDC (2026, *scheduled*); NABE (2026); Washington Area International Trade Symposium, Poster (2024, 2026); Graduate Student Seminar, GWU (2026); Development Tea, GWU (2024); ISID, Delhi (2022); NIPFP, Delhi (2021); IGIDR, Mumbai (2020).

Awards

Sara and Brita Levitan Excellence in Teaching Award (2026); ESI University Fellowship (2022–2025); Dunn and Kendrick Summer Award (2024); CIBER Research Grant (2024–2025); Joan Robinson Prize (2019).