

SUSHANT BANJARA

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago PhD, Harris School of Public Policy	Chicago, IL Sep 2021 - Jun 2027
Yale University Masters in Environmental Science	New Haven, CT Aug 2017 - May 2019
Tribhuvan University Bachelors in Civil Engineering	Lalitpur, Nepal Nov 2011 - Apr 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy PhD Researcher	Chicago, IL Sep 2021 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implemented surveys across 200+ Indian villages to study the political economy of sandmining• Analyzed CoreLogic data to estimate the impact of environmental disamenities on real estate values.• Built a novel geospatial database of sandmining in India using GIS and administrative records• Evaluated the effectiveness of Protected Areas globally using about 1 TB of remote sensing data• Authored grant proposals and secured \$204K in competitive research funding.	
The University of Chicago, Department of Economics Research Assistant to Professor Anne Karing	Chicago, IL Jun 2022 - Sep 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted household surveys across 15+ villages in India to study informal credit markets• Contributed to the design of survey instruments and trained a team of 10 field enumerators• Analyzed survey data in Stata and synthesized findings into a report	
Energy Policy Institute at The University of Chicago Research Professional	Chicago, IL Sep 2019 - Aug 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processed and analyzed over 1 TB of U.S. housing market data from Zillow and CoreLogic• Applied machine learning to generate environmental datasets for empirical economic analysis• Built a database of major conservation policy events using 30 years of web-scraped Federal Register data.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago (Master's level courses) Coding Camp, Instructor	Chicago, IL 2026
Methods of Data Collection: Experiments and Surveys (PPHA 44900 1), Head TA	2026
Math Camp, Instructor	2024 - 2025
Statistics for Data Analysis I (PPHA 31002), Head TA	2022 - 2024
Data and Programming for Public Policy I - R (PPHA 30535), Head TA	2023
Yale University (Undergraduate level courses) Intro to Computing for Scientists and Engineers in C++ (ENAS 130)	Chicago, IL 2018
Ordinary and Partial Differential Equation (ENAS 194)	2018

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Innovations for Poverty Action 2025, **\$82,868** (with Kharel A. and Vernot C.)
- Development Economics Research Fund 2025, **\$7,500** (with Kudalkar S.)
- The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics 2025, **\$ 49,000** (with Fan C. and Kapoor V.)

EPIC India Research Fund 2023, **\$10,000** (with Sun Y., Fan C., and Kapoor V.)

The Pearson Institute Grant, **\$10,000** (with Fan C. and Kapoor V.)

Development Economics Research Fund 2023, **\$5,000**

International House Non-Resident Graduate Fellowship 2022 - 2026, **\$3,000 per year**

Griffin Incubator – The Data Revolution 2021, **\$40,000** (with Frank, E. and Missirian, A.)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Midwest International Economic Development Conference, UIUC	2025
Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Workshop in Sustainable Development, Columbia University	2025
LSE Environment Camp, London School of Economics	2025

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Politics Machine: Data Centers and Grassroots Political Actions in the US (with KC P.)

On Strategic Civilian Targeting in Civil War (with Gina Eckhoff)

The Political Economy of Protected Areas Designation Environmental Degradation in One's own Backyard: Who Wins and Who Loses From Sand Mining in India (with Fan, C. and Kapoor, V.)

The Economic Costs of Climate Change from Ecosystem Disruptions: Evidence from Forest Defoliation Outbreaks in the United States (with Dwyer, G., Frank, E., and Liebhold, A.M.)

Land-Use Restrictions and Perverse Incentives: Using Machine Learning to Evaluate the Endangered Species Act from High-Frequency Satellite Data (with Frank, E., and Missirian, A.)

PRE-PHD PUBLICATIONS

Paudel, S. R., Banjara, S. P., Choi, O. K., Park, K. Y., Kim, Y. M., & Lee, J. W. (2017). Pretreatment of agricultural biomass for anaerobic digestion: Current state and challenges. *Bioresource technology*, 245, 1194-1205.

Paudel, S. R., Banjara, S. P., Wagle, A., & Freund, F. T. (2018). Earthquake chemical precursors in groundwater: a review. *Journal of Seismology*, 1-22

SERVICE

Reviewer , 21st Midwest International Economic Development Conference	2023
Co-organiser , Energy and Environment Economics Weekly Student Seminar	2023
Panel Moderator , South Asia Forum - Natural Disasters Risk Management Systems in South Asia	2023
Board Member , South Asian Graduate Students Association at Yale	2017 – 2019

SKILLS

Technical

R, R-spatial, Python, Stata, Google Earth Engine, Remote Sensing, Machine Learning

Languages

Nepali (Native), English, Hindi, Maithili