

SRINIVASAN VASUDEVAN

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Affiliations

2025-present Invited Researcher, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Past Positions

2019-2026 Assistant Instructional Professor of Economics and in the College, University of Chicago
2018-2019 Consultant, Development Research Group, The World Bank
2017-2018 Economic Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Education

2012-2017 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin–Madison, Agricultural & Applied Economics
2008-2010 M.R.P., Cornell University, City and Regional Planning
2003-2007 B.Tech., Vellore Institute of Technology, Mechanical Engineering

Working Papers

“Building Friendships and Social Capital: Evidence from a Low-Cost Peer-Interaction Program,” (with L. Schechter)

“Social Returns to Elite Technical Education: Evidence from India”

“Cable TV and Social Change: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Rural India”

Selected Works in Progress

“Supporting Grassroots Journalists: Impact on Local Reporting,” (with P. Mittal and L. Schechter)

“Mass Media and Nation Building: Evidence from India,” (with S. Liu and P. Mittal)

Journal Articles

“Radio and Technology Adoption During India’s Green Revolution: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” 2023. *World Development*, 161.

“Persuading Voters to Punish Corrupt Vote-Buying Candidates: Experimental Evidence from a Large-Scale Radio Campaign in India,” (with L. Schechter) 2023. *Journal of Development Economics*, 160.

Research Grants

2024	UChicago Kiphart Center Grant	\$49,650
2022	UChicago Provost’s Global Faculty Award	\$26,671
2017	Vilas Conference Travel Grant	\$1,000
2016	J-PAL Governance Initiative (with S. Galiani)	\$24,354
2015	J-PAL Governance Initiative (with D. Green)	\$13,000
2014	J-PAL Governance Initiative (with D. Green and L. Schechter)	\$50,000

Awards and Scholarships

2026	Aim for Accessible Wall of Fame, ECON 15500, University of Chicago
2016	Raymond J. Penn Scholarship
2015	Barbara L. Forrest Graduate Student Best Research Paper Award
2014	Distinction in Ph.D. Major Field Exam in Development Economics
2007	Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) Fellowship
2006	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Fellowship

Teaching

University of Chicago

ECON 15500: Introduction to Development Economics

Autumn 2022, Spring 2023, Autumn 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Winter 2026

ECON 11020: Introduction to Econometrics

Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Autumn 2022, Autumn 2023, Spring 2024, Autumn 2024

ECON 20100: Elements of Economic Analysis II

Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Winter 2023, Winter 2024, Autumn 2024, Winter 2025

ECON 20000: Elements of Economic Analysis I

Autumn 2019, Autumn 2020, Spring 2021, Autumn 2021

Advising (Initial Placement)

Master's

2025	Sijia Shen	Pre-Doc, UCLA Econ
	Sherry Tang	Pre-Doc, Harvard Kennedy School
	Xinyu Zhang	Pre-Doc, Northwestern Econ
2024	Sifei Liu	Econ PhD, UW–Madison
	Yiming Ma	Pre-Doc, UPenn Wharton
	Arthur Ji	Investment Banking, Citibank
	Leonardo Wang	Pre-Doc, UPenn Wharton
	Ziyi Zeng	Pre-Doc, MIT Sloan
2023	Xiaoyang Zhang	Pre-Doc, UChicago Econ
	Yujing Huang	Econ PhD, UCLA Anderson
	Lyujia Liu	Econ PhD, University College London
2022	Yunjia Gan	Market Risk Analyst, Credit Suisse
	Artur Bayramyan	Econ PhD, UC San Diego
	Yier Ling	Econ PhD, UChicago
	John Ruf	Pre-Doc, UChicago Booth
2021	Runhua Li	Economist, China Development Bank
	Yulin Wang	Econ PhD, University of Hong Kong
	Minghao Yang	Real Estate PhD, UC Berkeley Haas
	Zhiyao Ma	ARE PhD, UC Davis
2020	Shirui Chen	Econ PhD, UChicago
	Paul LaFond	Senior Analyst, EverQuote
	Xinyu Liu	Finance PhD, INSEAD

Bachelor's

2025	Utkarsh Dandanayak	Pre-Doc, UChicago Econ (best undergraduate thesis award)
2022	Dmitriy Leksanov	Pre-Doc, UCLA

Conference Presentations

2026	Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), Cornell University
2025	North American Economic Science Association Conference, Tucson; Advances with Field Experiments (AFE), UChicago; Substantive Economics and Societies Conference, UChicago
2024	Development Day, Northwestern University
2023	Advances with Field Experiments (AFE), UChicago
2018	Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), UW–Madison
2016	Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), MIT
2015	PODER, Paris School of Economics; Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC), UW–Madison

Invited Talks

2025	Emory University; Chicago School of Thought Webinar Series, UChicago Delhi Center
2019	Indian Institute of Technology–Kanpur; Ashoka University; University of Florida–Gainesville; University of Chicago
2017	American Institutes for Research; Azim Premji University; Analysis Group
2015, 2016	Development Economics Seminar, UW–Madison

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review, Economics of Education Review, India Review, Journal of Development Economics (x2), Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, PLOS ONE, Review of Economics and Statistics

Service

2025-2026	Member, MA Working Group on AI Policy, SSD, UChicago
2025	Discussant, Aims of Education Address, UChicago; Scientific Committee, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) Conference
2024, 2025, 2026	Scientific Committee, Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC)
2022-2026	Coordinator, College Core Tutor Program (Economics)
2022	Mock Lecturer, Undergraduate Recruiting
2021-2025	Organizer, Master's Thesis Workshop
2020	Mentor, Jeff Metcalf Internship Program
2019-2026	Judge, Inter-University Econometrics Game (Oeconomica)
2019-2026	Master's Admissions Committee
2019-2022	Faculty Advisor, RSO Oeconomica (economics UG student research organization)

Other Experience

2010-2012	Research Associate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
2007-2008	Lab Research Assistant, Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM)

Languages

Hindi, Marathi, Tamil (conversational), English, German (conversational), Spanish (conversational), French (basic), ASL (basic)