

Namrata Kala

Address: MIT Sloan School of Management, E62-516, 100 Main St, Cambridge MA 02139

Email: kala@mit.edu

Academic Employment

Associate Professor (with tenure) in Applied Economics, MIT Sloan School of Management (2023-present)

W. Maurice Young (1961) Career Development Assistant Professor of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management (2018-2023)

Assistant Professor in Applied Economics, MIT Sloan School of Management (2017-2023)

Prize Fellowship in Economics, History and Politics (Harvard University) and Postdoctoral Fellowship at Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) (2015 to 2017)

Education

PhD, Environmental Economics, Yale University (December 2015)

MPhil, Environmental Economics, Yale University (May 2012)

MA International and Development Economics, Yale University

BA (honors) Economics, Delhi University

Professional Activities

Editor, Economic Journal (2024-present)

Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER: DEV, EEE)

Research Affiliate, Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR: Development, Climate Change and the Environment)

Fellow, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)

Scientific Advisor, J-PAL Air and Water Lab South Asia

Research Programme Director, Firms, International Growth Center (2023-Present)

Academic Advisor, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Initiative, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) (2021-Present)

Research Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research Affiliate, International Growth Center (IGC)

Faculty Affiliate, MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR)

Research Affiliate, Center for History and Economics, Harvard University

Theme Leader, Climate and Environment Theme, PEDL Initiative (2023-2024)

Member, Editorial Board, VoxDev (2023-2024)

Published/Accepted Papers

1. “The Impacts of Managerial Autonomy on Firm Outcomes” (*Econometrica*)
2. “Money (Not) to Burn: Payments for Ecosystem Services to Reduce Crop Residue Burning” with Kelsey Jack, Seema Jayachandran, and Rohini Pande (forthcoming, *AER: Insights*)
3. Adhvaryu, Achyuta, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham. “Returns to On-the-job Soft Skills Training” *Journal of Political Economy* 131.8 (2023): 2165-2208.
4. Adhvaryu, Achyuta, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham. "Management and Shocks to Worker Productivity." *Journal of Political Economy* 130.1 (2022): 1-47. Lead Article
5. James Fenske, Namrata Kala, and Jinlin Wei. “Railways and Cities in India” *Journal of Development Economics* 161 (2023): 103038
6. “Fetal Origins of Mental Health: Evidence from Africa” with Achyuta Adhvaryu, James Fenske, and Anant Nyshadham *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 72.2 (2024): 493-515.
7. Fenske, James, and Namrata Kala. "Linguistic Distance and Market integration in India." *The Journal of Economic History* 81.1 (2021): 1-39. Lead Article
8. Adhvaryu, Achyuta, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham. “The Light and the Heat: Productivity Co-benefits of Energy-Saving Technology.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 102.4 (2020): 779-792
9. Bharadwaj, Prashant, James Fenske, Namrata Kala, and Rinchan Ali Mirza. "The Green Revolution and Infant Mortality in India." *Journal of Health Economics* 71 (2020): 102314.
10. Adhvaryu, Achyuta, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham. "Booms, Busts, and Household Enterprise: Evidence from Coffee Farmers in Tanzania." *The World Bank Economic Review* 35, no. 3 (2021): 586-603.
11. Fenske, James, and Namrata Kala. "1807: Economic Shocks, Conflict and the Slave Trade." *Journal of Development Economics* 126 (2017): 66-76.

12. Fenske, James, and Namrata Kala. "Climate and the Slave Trade." *Journal of Development Economics* 112 (2015): 19-32.
13. Kala, Namrata, Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, and Robert Mendelsohn. "The Impact of Climate Change on Agro-ecological Zones: Evidence from Africa." *Environment and Development Economics* 17.6 (2012): 663-687. (author order is by contribution)
14. Kurukulasuriya, Pradeep, Namrata Kala, and Robert Mendelsohn. "Adaptation and Climate Change Impacts: a Structural Ricardian Model of Irrigation and Farm Income in Africa." *Climate Change Economics* 2.02 (2011): 149-174. (author order is by contribution)

Working Papers

1. "Mechanizing Agriculture" with Julieta Caunedo (revise and resubmit, *American Economic Review*)
2. "The Power of Persuasion: Causal Effects of Household Communication on Women's Employment" (with Madeline McKelway) (revise and resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*)
3. "Rules and Compliance in Determining Organizational Outcomes: Evidence from Delegation in Environmental Regulation" with James Fenske and Muhammad Haseeb (revise and resubmit, *Journal of European Economic Association*)
4. "Firm Presence, Pollution, and Agglomeration: Evidence from a Large-Scale Randomized Environmental Place-Based Policy" with Michael Gechter
5. "Seeing Green: The Effects of Financial Exposure on Climate Beliefs and Political Attitudes" (with Michelle Hanlon, Saumitra Jha, Nemit Shroff, and Chagai Weiss)
6. "Power to the Personnel? The Impacts of Managerial Discretion vs. Worker Democracy in Employee Recognition" (with Madeline McKelway)
7. "Environmental Permits, Regulatory Burden, and Firm Outcomes" with James Fenske and Muhammad Haseeb
8. "The Effects of Digital Surveillance and Managerial Clarity on Performance" with Elizabeth Lyons
9. "Learning, Adaptation and Climate Uncertainty: Evidence from Indian Agriculture" (previously circulated as "Ambiguity Aversion and Learning in a Changing World: The Potential Effects of Climate Change from Indian Agriculture")
10. "Economies of Density and Congestion in Capital Rental Markets" with Julieta Caunedo and Haimeng Zhang

Selected Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

1. Weiss Fund: "Mitigating Downside Price Risk and Optimizing Input Delivery to Enhance Agroforestry Adoption in India" (\$99,894.00). Co-authors: Teevrat Garg (UCSD)
2. World Bank European Regional Competitiveness Policy Lab (EuroCOMP Lab) (\$200,000). "The Private and Social Returns to Innovation Grants: A Randomized Control Experiment in Romania" Co-authors: Alex Avdeenko (World Bank), Reena Badiani (World Bank), Yuhei Miyauchi (BU)
3. J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI). "Organizational Structure and Resilience of Worker Productivity" Co-authors: Francis Annan (UC Berkeley) and Kelsey Jack (UC Berkeley)
4. J-PAL Air and Water Labs in India: Solutions and Advancements through Research for Water and Air (SARWA). "The Role of Governance in Maintaining Local Public Goods: Evidence from Drinking Water Systems in Karnataka" Co-authors: Anna Tompsett (Stockholm)
5. J-PAL Governance Initiative "Decentralized approaches to managing local public goods: Evidence from drinking water systems in Karnataka." Co-authors: Anna Tompsett (Stockholm)
6. J-PAL Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI). "The Impacts of Cold-storage Access on Climate Adaptation in Agriculture" Co-authors Shweta Bhogale and Eleanor Wiseman
7. IGC Sustainable Growth Hub. "Drinking Water Quality in Rural India". Co-authors: Aditya Shrinivas (IIM-Bangalore), Anna Tompsett (Stockholm), Hemant Pullabhotla (Deakin)
8. PEDL Pilot Grants (with Kelsey Jack), Fall 2024
9. Weiss Fund, Spring 2024
10. J-PAL Air and Water Lab South Asia Pilot Funding, Summer 2024
11. J-PAL Gender Economic Agency, Spring 2024
12. J-PAL Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (DAISI), Fall 2023
13. PEDL Major Grants (with James Fenske and Muhammad Haseeb), Fall 2022
14. AER: Insights Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2022
15. MIT Sloan Junior Faculty Research Assistance Program (JFRAP) Grant, Fall 2021
16. EFA Head funds for junior faculty research, Spring 2022
17. J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (JOI) Initiative Pilot Grant, Spring 2022
18. Structural Transformation & Economic Growth (STEG) Exploratory Research Grant (with Michael Gechter), Fall 2021
19. Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) Exploratory Grant (with Michael Gechter), Spring 2021
20. National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant, Economics Program, Fall 2020
21. MIT Sloan Junior Faculty Research Assistance Program (JFRAP) Grant, Fall 2019
22. Cash Transfers for Child Health Initiative Grant (with Kelsey Jack, Seema Jayachandran and Rohini Pande), 2019
23. J-PAL Post Primary Education (PPE) Pilot Grant (with Maddie McKelway), 2019
24. J-PAL Crime and Violence Initiative Pilot Grant (with Supreet Kaur and Aprajit Mahajan), 2019
25. MIT Energy Initiative Seed Grant (with Chris Knittel), 2019
26. Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative Grant (with Julieta Caunedo), Spring 2019
27. Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative Grant (with Kelsey Jack, Seema Jayachandran and Rohini Pande), Spring 2019
28. MIT Sloan Junior Faculty Research Assistance Program (JFRAP) Grant, Fall 2018

29. The Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics Grant (with Michael Gechter, Penn State University), Harvard University, Fall 2018
30. International Growth Center (IGC) India Program Grant (with Michael Gechter, Penn State University), Fall 2018
31. International Growth Center (IGC) India Program Grant (with Julieta Caunedo, Cornell University), Fall 2018
32. International Growth Center (IGC) Program Grant (with Shefali Khanna, Harvard University), Fall 2018
33. American Economic Review (AER) Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2018
34. The Competitiveness Policy Evaluation Lab (ComPEL) Impact Evaluation Implementation Grant, World Bank (with Guignonan Serge Adjognon, Kelsey Jack, and Saahil Karpe), Fall 2017
35. The Competitiveness Policy Evaluation Lab (ComPEL) Pilot Funding World Bank (with Guignonan Serge Adjognon, Kelsey Jack, and Saahil Karpe), Fall 2017
36. Prize Fellowship in Economics, History, and Politics, Harvard University, 2015-2017
37. Yale University Dissertation Fellowship, 2009-2014
38. IGC India Central Program Grant (with Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham), Fall 2013
39. Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) PhD Exploratory Grant, Spring 2013

Referee Service

American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Science, American Economic Journal: Applied, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the European Economic Association, National Science Foundation, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative Grant Proposals, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Gender and Economic Agency Initiative Grant Proposals, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Air and Water Lab Proposals, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Economic Growth, International Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic History Review, Environment and Development Economics, Journal of African Economies, Climate Change Economics, Social Science Quarterly, Climatic Change, Weather Climate and Society, World Bank Economic Review, The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Economics Letters, World Bank Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) Group Grant Proposals, The Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI) Grant Proposals, GLM-LIC

Scientific Committees

1. IGC Firms, Trade and Development Conference (2024)
2. LSE Environment Week (2024)
3. CEPR/BREAD/TIME/TCD/STICERD Development Economics Annual Symposium

(2024)

4. CEPR Development Economics Annual Symposium (2024)
5. NBER Energy and Environmental Economics (Spring 2024)
6. PEDL Climate Change and Environment Exploratory Grants (2023)
7. LSE Environment Week (2023)
8. BREAD Conference (Spring 2023)
9. IGC Firms, Trade and Development Conference (2023)
10. Scientific Committee, Private Sector Development Initiative, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) (2021-present)
11. PEDL Exploratory Grants Program Special Call on Climate and Social Compliance (2019)
12. PEDL Major Grant Committee (2018)
13. Scientific Committee, North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC) (2020)
14. Scientific Committee, North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC) (2021)