

# Sahiba Lal

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## Work Experience

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**Graduate Student Instructor – Department of Agricultural Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley** *September 2021 – Present*

*Professor: Maximilian Auffhammer*

### Roles and Responsibilities: -

- Teaching – Through discussion sections, help students gain a deeper understanding of concepts introduced in lectures through instruction and problem-solving
- Conduct office hours – facilitate students' success in course, academic and professional goals.

**Research Associate – Agricultural Practices in Punjab (Stubble Burning), The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia** *September 2019 – September 2020*

*Principal Investigators: Seema Jayachandran (Northwestern), Rohini Pande (Yale), Namrata Kala (MIT), Kelsey Jack (UCSB)*

**Study aim:** Evaluation of a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) intervention (RCT) to test the effectiveness of financial rewards for reducing stubble burning among paddy farmers in Punjab leading to better environmental, health and agricultural outcomes.

### Roles and Responsibilities:-

- Leading survey design & coding, implementation & conduct of various data collection phases of the study – Implementation of PES programme, Field Monitoring survey to assess farmer compliance, Census survey to test representativeness of study sample, Endline survey (which transitioned from in-person to phone due to Covid-19) – under fast moving, rigid agricultural timelines.
- Recruiting, training, leading and managing large ~100 member first-time survey teams on different types of surveys requiring expertise in agricultural processes.
- Data cleaning, analyzing backcheck data, report writing, data quality maintenance.

**Research Associate – Measuring Women's Agency (MWA), J-PAL SA** *Jan – June 2019*

*PIs: Seema Jayachandran (NU), Monica Biradavolu (QualAnalytics), Jan Cooper (J-PAL SA)*

**Study aim:** A mixed methods measuring study aimed at generating a practical, validated measure of women's agency.

### Roles and Responsibilities:-

- Designing & coding survey questionnaires, lab-in-field (Willingness to Pay – WPE) experiment, running pilot exercises, refining study design and surveying instruments
- Managing teams: Recruiting, training, & supervising both field-based and data operations teams.

- Supervising data collection while ensuring data quality and productivity on field and through HFCs.
- Ensuring project compliance with IRB and J-PAL data-collection and security protocols.
- Designing backcheck code and conducting backcheck analysis.

### **Haryana Immunization (HIM), J-PAL SA**

(Research Associate: *May 2018 – January 2019*, Research Consultant: *November 2017 – May 2018*, Intern: *September – November 2017*)

**PIs:** *Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, Arun Chandrashekar, John Floretta, Harini Kannan, Anna Schrimpf*

**Study aim:** A large-scale RCT studying the impact of non-cash incentives on immunisation rates.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:-**

- Leading qualitative investigation on impact of RCT – designing the research questions, creating data-collection tools, training, sampling, and data analysis – to help uncover nuances in quantitative data.
- Conducting, recruiting and training for high quality focus group discussions with programme implementers and in-depth interviews with programme beneficiaries (~150-odd interviews conducted independently).
- Quantitative data cleaning using STATA; Implementation monitoring across programme districts – involving data work and coordination with field staff.

### **Intern – Economic Development Unit, CARE India** (*September 2016 – December 2016*)

**Organisation aim:** A non-profit focused on alleviating poverty and social injustice through empowerment of women from poor and marginalised communities with projects in health, education, livelihoods and disaster preparedness and response.

**Department objective:** Building of and enabling and gender-transformative environment for conducting economic activities. Programmes centre on women smallholders, business-women, employees and homeworkers belonging to poor and marginalised communities, with the objective of empowering them with knowledge and enhanced access to inputs, services, technologies and opportunities.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:-**

- Tested & created Functional Literacy and Women’s Leadership Development modules for ‘Where the Rain Falls’ (WtRF) (a climate resiliency project for ‘Adivasi’ (tribal) farmers in Chhattisgarh).
- Conducted literature review, assessed capacity building requirements through quantitative & qualitative data collection from 80 women across programme villages, & created reports on findings.

### **Intern – Programme Development Unit, CARE India** (*January 2016 – August 2016*)

**Department Objective:** Raising funds for CARE India programmes through international and non-corporate institutional fundraising, creating and maintaining donor partnerships, supporting design, proposal and development of programmes

**Roles and Responsibilities:-**

- Gathering market intelligence – creating dossier of donors, key to facilitating executive meetings.
- Donor forecasting and solicitations, conducting trend analysis of donor funding.
- Proposal development assistance; creating long-term market plans.

## Education

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- **University of California**, Berkeley, California, U.S.A *(2021 – Present)*  
*Master's in Public Administration (Development Practice) at the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP)*

**Fall Courses:** Economics of Sustainable Resource Development, Applied Impact Evaluation, Strategic Planning and Project Management, Foundations of Public Health, Pedagogy Course: ARE 375

- **Delhi University, Sri Venkateswara College**, New Delhi, India *(2013 – 2015)*  
*First Division (77%) in Bachelor's of Commerce (Program)*

**Key Traits honed & Skills gained:-**

- Strong quantitative skills through mathematics, economics and financial modules.
- Adaptability – being a lateral transfer case from the UK (due to family circumstances) to a different course in the second year, had to adjust to a vastly different academic culture.
- Hard work and Perseverance – studied double the course load in an already quantity-focussed educational environment.
- Quick learning – autodidact in technical and alien subjects of Accounting and Tax
- Developed insight into economics and policy specific to India.
- Advanced Excel techniques – payroll, loan sheets, and statistics.

**Notable Courses:** Micro & Macroeconomics, Economic Development & Policy in India, Business Maths & Statistics, Industrial Economics, Computer Applications in Business, Law (Company & Corporate), Accountancy (financial, corporate, cost)

- **University of Westminster**, Marylebone Road, London, UK *(2012 – 2013)*  
*Completed Cert (HE) with Distinction in BSc. (Honours) Business Economics*

**Key Skills gained:-**

- Application of quantitative skills specific to the economic environment.
- Analysed and evaluated topics for Economics, Business, Marketing and Managerial modules for writing reports and presentations.

- Interviewed managers to test the concept of the ‘managerial escalator’. The report produced was graded the highest in the seminar group.
- PowerPoint presentations to seminar groups delivered with confidence; handled Q&A convincingly.
- Team leader in many group presentations and reports at University.
- Managed group projects – receiving individual submissions, editing and compiling them. Coordinating activities among members for final group presentations.
- Proficiency in key areas of Microsoft Office – Word, PowerPoint and Excel.

**Notable Courses:** Quantitative Analysis of the Economic Environment, Business Context, Professional Competencies, Principles of Marketing, Role of the Manager

- **St. Dominic’s Sixth Form College**, Harrow, Greater London *(2010 – 2012)*  
*A-levels: Mathematics, Economics and Chemistry*

## Other Experience, Interests & Awards

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- Core member of Effective Altruism, Delhi.
- Lived and studied in the UK for 3 years. Also travelled to France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Portugal as a tourist, giving me a rich cultural exposure.
- Awarded ‘academic excellence scholarship’ at University of Westminster, UK.
- Volunteered at Cancer Research, UK for six months while at university.
- Member of Amnesty International Society at university.
- Received a Jack Petchey Award at Sixth Form for being an ‘Outstanding Achiever’ for sleeping out, raising money and publishing article for the Cardinal Hume Centre for the homeless.
- CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) rep for tutor group at Sixth Form.

## Skills

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- Technical Skills – R, STATA, SurveyCTO, Dedoose (qualitative analysis software), MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint.
- Soft Skills – Communication (written and verbal), self-motivation, teamwork and leadership.
- Advanced fluency in English and Hindi.