

Nikhil Agarwal

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Education

Harvard University, Ph.D., Economics, 2013.
Brandeis University, B.A., Economics and Mathematics, 2008.

Academic Positions

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Economics

Paul A. Samuelson Professor of Economics, 2025 – Present

Professor of Economics, 2022 – Present

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), 2019 – 2022

Castle Krob Career Development Assistant Professor of Economics, 2016 – 2019

Assistant Professor of Economics, 2014 – 2016

National Bureau of Economic Research

Research Associate, 2019 – Present

Faculty Research Fellow, 2014 – 2019

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2016 – 2017

Yale University, Cowles Foundation, Postdoctoral Associate, 2013 – 2014

Working Papers

1. "Identification using Revealed Preferences in Linearly Separable Models" (with Pearl Z Li and Paulo Somaini)
2. "Combining Human Expertise with Artificial Intelligence: Experimental Evidence from Radiology" (with Alex Moehring, Pranav Rajpurkar and Tobias Salz).
Conditionally Accepted, *Econometrica*
3. "Designing Human-AI Collaboration: A Sufficient-Statistic Approach" (with Alex Moehring and Alex Wolitzky)

Publications

1. “Demand Analysis under Latent Choice Constraints: An Application to the US Dialysis Market” (with Paulo Somaini).
Forthcoming, Review of Economic Studies
2. “Machine learning predictions for assessing hard-to-place deceased donor kidneys” (with Grace Guan, Joachim Studnia, Sanjit Neelam, Xingxing S. Cheng, Marc L. Melcher, Paulo Somaini, and Itai Ashlagi)
Kidney Medicine, Jan 2026.
3. “Choices and Outcomes in Assignment Mechanisms: The Allocation of Deceased Donor Kidneys” (with Charles Hodgson and Paulo Somaini).
Econometrica, Mar 2025.
4. “Comparative Advantage of Humans versus AI in the Long Tail” (with Ray Huang, Alex Moehring, Pranav Rajpurkar, Tobias Salz, and Feiyang Yu)
AEA Papers and Proceedings, May 2024.
5. “Heterogeneity and Predictors of the Effects of AI Assistance on Radiologists” (with Feiyang Yu, Alex Moehring, Oishi Banerjee, Tobias Salz, and Pranav Rajpurkar)
Nature Medicine, Mar 2024.
6. “Empirical Models of Non-Transferable Utility Matching” (with Paulo Somaini)
Online and Matching-Based Market Design, book chapter, May 2023.
7. “Market Design” (with Eric Budish)
Handbook of Industrial Organization, volume 5, chapter 10, Dec 2021.
8. “Equilibrium Allocations Under Alternative Waitlist Designs: Evidence from Deceased Donor Kidneys” (with Itai Ashlagi, Michael Rees, Paulo Somaini and Daniel Waldinger)
Econometrica, vol 89 (1), pp 37-76, Jan 2021.
(subsumes “An Empirical Framework for Sequential Assignment: The Allocation of Deceased Donor Kidneys”)
9. “Revealed Preference Analysis of School Choice Models” (with Paulo Somaini)
Annual Review of Economics, vol 12, pp 471-501, Aug 2020.
10. “Market Failure in Kidney Exchange” (with Eduardo Azevedo, Itai Ashlagi, Clayton Featherstone and Omer Karaduman)
American Economic Review, vol. 109 (11), pp 4026-4070, Nov 2019.

11. “Dynamic Incentives in Waitlist Mechanisms” (with Itai Ashlagi, Paulo Somaini and Daniel Waldinger)
American Economic Association, P&P, vol. 108, pp 341-347, May 2018.
12. “What Matters for the Productivity of Kidney Exchange?” (with Itai Ashlagi, Eduardo Azevedo, Clayton Featherstone and Omer Karaduman)
American Economic Association, P&P, vol. 108, pp 334-340, May 2018.
13. “Demand Analysis using Strategic Reports: An application to a school choice mechanism.” (with Paulo Somaini)
Econometrica, vol. 86 (2), pp 391-444, Mar 2018. (lead article)
14. “The Welfare Effects of Coordinated School Assignment: Evidence from the NYC High School Match.” (with Atila Abdulkadiroglu and Parag Pathak)
American Economic Review, vol. 107 (12), pp 3635-89, Dec 2017. (lead article)
15. “Latent Indices in Assortative Matching Models” (with William Diamond)
Quantitative Economics, vol. 8(3), pp 685-728, Nov 2017. (lead article, winner of QE best paper award)
16. “Policy Analysis in Matching Markets.”
American Economic Review, P&P, vol. 105(5), pp 246-50, May 2017.
17. “An Empirical Model of the Medical Match.”
American Economic Review, vol. 105 (7), pp 1939-78, Jul 2015. (lead article)
18. “Toxic Exposure in America: Estimating Fetal and Infant Health Outcomes from 14 Years of TRI Reporting.” (with Linda Bui and Chanont Banternghansa)
Journal of Health Economics, vol. 29 (4), pp 557-574, Jul, 2010.
19. “Skewed Bidding in Pay Per Action Auctions for Online Advertising.” (with Susan Athey and David Yang)
American Economic Review, P&P, vol. 99(2), pp 441-447, May 2009.

Other Papers

1. “Superbridge and Bridge Indices for Knots.” (with Colin Adams, Rachel Allen, Tirasan Khandawit, Alex Simon, Rebecca Winarski and Mary Wootters)
Journal of Knot Theory and Its Ramifications, vol. 30 (2), Apr 2021.

2. “The Trade-off Between Vaccine Prioritization and Speed Depends on Mitigation Measures” (with Andrew Komo, Chetan Patel, Parag Pathak and M Utku Unver). Dormant. 2020.
3. “Universal Stochastic Dominance and Equilibrium Selection in Imitation Dynamics.” (with Zhenyu Lai). Dormant. 2012.

Grants

National Science Foundation Research Grant, SES-2519938, 2025-2028
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant, 81819, 2024-2027
 Sloan Foundation Research Grant, 2022-17182, 2022-2025
 J-PAL North America Health Care Delivery Initiative Grant, 2022-2025
 Kidney Transplant Collaborative Research Grant, 2022-2024
 National Science Foundation Research Grant, SES-1948714, 2020-2024
 National Institutes of Health Development Research Grant, R21-DK113626, 2018-2020
 MIT SHASS Research Fund, 2018
 National Science Foundation Research Grant, SES-1729090, 2017-2021
 National Institutes of Health, Pilot Grant, P30AG012810, 2016-2017
 MISTI Global Seed Fund – Chile, 2015-2017
 National Science Foundation Research Grant, SES-1427231, 2014-2018

Honors

Infosys Prize, 2025
 MIT Graduate Economics Association Best Advisor Award, 2017-2018, 2023-2024
 Sloan Research Fellowship, 2019
 Best Paper Award, *Quantitative Economics*, 2017
 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*, 2016, 2017
 Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2013
 National Bureau of Economic Research Nonprofit Fellowship, 2011-2012
 Phi Beta Kappa, 2008
 Wien International Scholarship, 2004-2008

Invited Lectures

Infosys Prize Lecture, 2026
 Design Economics, Mini-Course, IIT-Mumbai, 2026
 EARIE Summer School in Industrial Organizations, 2026
 2026 Mellichamp Summit on AI & Economics at UCSB, Keynote, 2026

Chicago Machine Learning in Economics Summer Institute, Keynote, 2025
TSE Health Economics Conference, Keynote, 2025
NBER-Schmidt New Directions in Market Design, 2023
North American Meetings of the Econometric Society, Plenary Talk, 2023
International Industrial Organization Conference, Plenary Talk, 2021
15th European Matching-in-Practice Workshop, Keynote, 2018
29th Jerusalem Summer School, 2018
AEA Continuing Education Program, 2018
NBER Summer Institute Methods Lectures, 2016

Teaching and Advising

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2014 – Present

Introduction to Microeconomics, Undergraduate
Microeconomic Theory and Public Policy, Undergraduate
Advanced Topics in Industrial Organization, Graduate
Advanced Research and Communication, Graduate
Industrial Organization I, Graduate
Market Design, Graduate
Reading Group, Structural Empirical Methods
Reading Group, Market Design

Ph.D. student advising with initial placement (* indicates co-principal advisor):

1. Jie Bai '16, Microsoft Post-doc, followed by Harvard Kennedy School
2. Yusuke Narita '16, Cowles foundation post-doc, followed by Yale University
3. Vivek Bhattacharya* '17, Northwestern University
4. Alonso Bucarey* '18, Amazon
5. David Liu* '18, Brattle Group
6. Daniel Waldinger* '18, New York University
7. Alan Olivi '19, University College London
8. Anca-Patrica Anghel* '20, Charles River Associates
9. Mert Demirer* '20, MSR post-doc, followed by MIT Sloan
10. Sam Grondahl* '20, Mythical Games
11. Omer Karaduman* '20, Stanford post-doc, followed by Stanford GSB OIT
12. Alex Olssen* '20, Wharton
13. Anton Popov* '20, Cornerstone Research
14. Will Rafey* '20, Berkeley post-doc, followed by UCLA

15. Allan Hsiao* '21, BFI post-doc, followed by Princeton
16. Clemence Idoux '22, Wharton
17. Joseph Shayani* '23, Facebook
18. Dan Aronoff* '23, MIT Digital Currency Initiative
19. Margaret Yellen* '23 (JD-PhD), FTC
20. Viola Corradini '24, Columbia post-doc, followed by University of Wisconsin
21. Adam Harris '24, Cornell University
22. Alex Moehring '24 (Sloan PhD), Purdue University
23. Anna Russo* '24, Harvard Society of Fellows post-doc, followed by Harvard
24. Rebekah Dix* '25, Cowles Foundation post-doc, followed by Stanford
25. Hammaad Adam* '25 (IDSS PhD), Amazon
26. Nathaniel Hickok* '26, Wharton
27. Lia Petrose* '26, Edgeworth Economics
28. Aroon Narayanan* '26, Bocconi

Undergraduate student and pre-doc placement (with placement year):

1. David Zhang '16, Harvard Economics
2. Abigail Ostriker '18, MIT Economics
3. Spencer Pantoja '20, Stanford Economics
4. Lingjun Xia '20, Harvard Statistics, Berkeley Economics (declined)
5. Andrew Komo '22, MIT Economics
6. Manasi Kutwal '23, Michigan Business Economics
7. Yucheng Shang '23, MIT Economics
8. Ray Huang '25, Berkeley Health Policy
9. Sichang Chen '25, University of Toronto Marketing

Yale University, Graduate Industrial Organizations, 2013.

Professional Activities

Co-director: MIT Blueprint Labs

Director: NBER-NIH P30 Network on AI and Healthcare

Affiliate: J-PAL North America

Associate Editor: Econometrica (2024-Present)

AEJ: Microeconomics (2019-2024)

Referee: American Economic Review, AEJ: Applied Economics, AEJ: Microeconomics, Econometrica, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Industrial Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies.

Program Committee: Econometric Society Meetings (2017, 2020, 2023), EC'16, MATCH-UP (2017), NBER IO Summer Institute Meetings (2019), NBER Market Design (2023)

Organizer: 2022 Dynamic Structural Econometrics Summer School in Market Design

Reviewer: National Science Foundation

Seminars and Conferences (includes planned)

2026: Chicago Booth Market Design Conference, Collegio de Mexico, IIT-Mumbai, ITAM, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania

2025: Arizona State University, Carnegie Mellon University, NBER Digitization and AI, Northwestern University (Strategy), McGill University, MIT Sloan TIES, Stockholm University, University of Maryland

2024: ASSA Meetings, CEPR, Columbia University, Northwestern University, Universidad de Montevideo, University of Nottingham, University of Virginia

2023: AI & Big Data in Finance Research Forum, AI for good, Amazon, ASSA Meetings, Boston College, Econometric Society Meetings – Plenary Talk, IIOC, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard University, HEC Paris AI and Entrepreneurship, Keio University, NBER Digitization, New Directions in Market Design, Chicago Machine Learning in Economics Summer Institute, Utah WBEC, University of Tokyo, Virtual Quant Marketing Seminar

2022: ASSA Meetings, Chicago Harris, Cornell University, DSE 2022, Sciences Po, Stanford University, University of Chicago, University of Toronto, Wharton

2021: CREST - Ecole polytechnique, INFORMS Auctions and Market Design, National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine, Michigan State University, MIT/Stanford Organ Allocation Conference, Penn State University, Queens University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania

2020: Lund University, NBER Health Care Meetings, Stockholm University, University of Gothenberg

2019: Chicago Booth, INFORMS, Southern Economic Association Conference, University of British Columbia, University of Maryland

2018: ASSA Meetings, Carnegie Mellon University, Cowles Summer Conference, Conference on Structural Dynamics (University of Copenhagen), Harvard University, NBER Health Care Meetings, Rice University, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Bologna

2017: ASSA Meetings, Brandeis University, CRATE Conference, EARIE Conference, Princeton University, Santa Clara University, Microsoft Research New England, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Davis

2016: Arizona State University, ASSA Meetings, Stanford University, University of California at Los Angeles

2015: ASSA Meetings, Boston College, Dartmouth Winter Conference, Department of Justice, Harvard, Johns Hopkins University, MIT, NBER Industrial Organizations Meetings, Ohio State University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, University of Michigan, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, Universidad Diego Portales, CRES Microeconomics Conference

2014: Boston University, Cowles Summer Conference, Duke University, Harvard University, Microsoft Research, Northwestern University, University of Arizona, University of Calgary, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton), University of Texas at Austin, University of Toronto, University of Wisconsin (Madison), NBER Market Design Meetings, Yale University

2013: Brown University, Central European University, Chicago Booth, Columbia University, Geothe Universität, London School of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Microsoft Research, NBER Market Design Meetings, Princeton University, Stanford Econ/GSB Applied Microeconomics, University of Chicago, University of Edinburgh, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), University of Minnesota, Yale University

Personal

Citizenship: U.S.A., India (OCI)

Birthday: March 1986

Two kids, born in 2022 and 2024