Name: Vinod Dharmarajan

Type of graduate work: 3rd Year PhD student

Institution: University of Washington, Seattle

Major: Economics

Research interests: Empirical IO, Econometrics, Applied microeconomics

Short Bio:

I am a third year PhD student at the Economics Department at University of Washington, Seattle. I have completed two years of coursework covering the graduate level microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics course sequences. I have also specialized in the field of microeconomics (contract theory, auction and mechanism design theory, social network and its applications), empirical industrial organization, and econometrics (time series and non-parametric methods). I also hold a Bachelors' and Masters' degree in Economics from University of Delhi, India.

I am primarily interested in the area of empirical industrial organization. One of the research ideas I am working on involves application of non-parametric methods to address bias correction in structural estimation of auctions. I had the opportunity to take a course offered by Prof. Patrick Bajari. The coursework involved hands on analysis of scanner panel data sets for developing hedonic models to construct the price indices in US. I am also familiar with dynamic structural models and its estimation, both in settings of individual decisions as well as in games with strategic interaction. I am currently working on consumer search and behavioral models in the restaurant industry using Yelp data.

I do not have a dissertation topic at the moment (the PhD program at our department expects us to finalize the topic and committee at the beginning of fourth year). I am interested in attending this workshop as I strongly believe it will give me exposure to cutting edge research and top researchers in the field.