Nimbalkar Bhagyashree Laxman

Research Scholar

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&

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Dear NBER Research Boot Camp Selection Committee (Dr. Kevin A. Bryan, Prof. Ina Ganguli, Dr. Kyle Myers)

I am writing to express my strong interest in the 4th NBER Research Boot Camp as a doctoral researcher at Jawaharlal Nehru University specializing in Chinese innovation ecosystems. My research examines the intersection of state funding mechanisms, high-technology clusters, and entrepreneurial dynamics in China, with particular focus on the role of financial institutions in driving regional innovation.

The Boot Camp's rigorous training in innovation economics methodology would address a critical gap in my academic preparation. While my current institution provides excellent grounding in East Asian studies, access to specialized training in contemporary innovation economics remains limited - a challenge common across many Global South institutions.

My ongoing research on Chinese local innovation ecosystems and planned postdoctoral work on the Taobao rural entrepreneurship phenomenon align closely with NBER's empirical approach to studying non-Western innovation systems. The Boot Camp's curriculum would enhance my capabilities in quantitative analysis of entrepreneurial ecosystems, institutional dynamics of innovation clusters, and digital platform economies in emerging markets.

This training opportunity would strengthen my contribution to both academic discourse and policy discussions on innovation-driven development in emerging economies. It would also facilitate valuable knowledge exchange between South Asian and global research communities in innovation economics.
Dr. Aravind Yelery, associate professor at CEAS, SIS, JNU, acknowledged my application to attend boot camp because I have been working as a research assistant on his projects since June 2024.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,
Bhagyashree Nimbalkar.

Nimbalkar Bhagyashree Laxman,

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Professional Profile:

As a sinologist with a distinctive interdisciplinary background spanning Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering and politics with specialization in International Relations, I bring a unique perspective to the study of China's technological development. My doctoral research examines high-tech innovation clusters in China, with particular emphasis on the pivotal role of financial institutions in fostering technological advancement. My research synthesises technical expertise with political economy analysis, investigating how financial mechanisms and institutional frameworks shape China's innovation landscape. This interdisciplinary approach enables nuanced examination of the interplay between technological capabilities, industrial policy, and financial systems within Chinese innovation clusters.

Currently serving as a Research Intern at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and Research Assistant to Dr. Aravind Yelery, Associate Professor, CEAS, JNU, New Delhi, I explore theoretical frameworks surrounding technology adoption, industrial development, and open innovation paradigms in China.

Education:

- 2023- : Pursuing PhD in Chinese Studies, CEAS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2021-2023 : Masters in Politics with Specialization in International Relations (PISM), School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

- 2015-2020 : Masters in Electronics and Telecommunication, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune.

- 2013-2015 : Intermediate or Higher Secondary Certificate from Maharashtra HSC Board with subjects Electronics, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Work Experience:

- January 2024- Present: Research Intern, Institute of Chinese Studies, C R Park New Delhi- 110019.

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- June 2024- Present : Research Assistant, Dr. Aravind Yelery, Associate Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi -110067.

Journal Publications:

- "Barriers to Japanese FDI in India: Insights from a Comparative Study of Local Innovation Ecosystems in India and China" to Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies calls for a paper on India-Japan Partnership Towards Innovation and Sustainability for Journal Publication on 15 October 2024. (Under Publication)

Conference Papers:

- Presented a paper titled, “Economic Integration in the Indo-Pacific: The Role of Local Innovation Ecosystem in Sustaining FDI (A Case study of Vietnam and Malaysia)” in International Conference, “The Indo-Pacific in an Era of Changing Power Dynamics: Economic Integration and Security” - 24 & 25th October 2024.

International Activities:

- September 2024- Part of delegation of international scholars and media persons who Visited Tibet.

Language Proficiency:

- English (Fluent)
- Hindi (Fluent)
- Marathi (Fluent)
- Kannada (Proficient)
- Telugu (Proficient)
- Chinese (Proficient)

List of completed PhD courses:

- Chinese Economic patterns and Development
- Chinese language 1 & 2
- China and Global Political Economy
- Foreign Policy of China
- Issues and Themes in Chinese History, 1840-1949
- Research Methodology
- Society and Culture in China
- Taiwan Cross-Strait relations

One Page Essay describing current & future interests, and reason to attend boot camp

As a doctoral researcher specializing in Chinese studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, my research examines high-technology innovation clusters in China, with particular emphasis on state funding mechanisms and financial institutions. My work bridges innovation studies and political economy, investigating firm dynamics, policy frameworks, and entrepreneurial ecosystems within the Chinese context. My current research portfolio includes several journal submissions focusing on local innovation ecosystems in China. Upon completing my doctorate, I intend to pursue postdoctoral research examining the Taobao entrepreneurial ecosystem, which represents a unique intersection of digital innovation, rural entrepreneurship, and China's broader economic transformation.

The NBER Research Boot Camp presents a crucial opportunity to strengthen my theoretical foundation in innovation economics - a field that remains underrepresented in Indian academia. While JNU excels in East Asian studies and economics, exposure to cutting-edge innovation economics research methodologies remains limited. This knowledge gap reflects a broader challenge faced by scholars in the Global South, where access to specialized training in emerging research fields can be constrained.

Having followed NBER's academic contributions, publications, and conferences since my master's studies, I recognize the Boot Camp as an unparalleled opportunity to engage with leading scholars and contemporary research frameworks in innovation economics. The program's comprehensive curriculum would enhance my analytical capabilities, particularly in: 1. Applying quantitative methods to study entrepreneurial ecosystems

2. Understanding the interplay between state institutions and innovation clusters
3. Analyzing digital platform economies in emerging markets
4. Developing robust empirical frameworks for studying regional innovation systems

This training would significantly advance my career trajectory as a sinologist specializing in innovation economics. The theoretical insights and methodological tools gained would strengthen my future research on Chinese entrepreneurial ecosystems, contributing to both academic literature and policy discussions on innovation-driven development in emerging economies. My research interests align closely with NBER's tradition of rigorous empirical analysis and its growing focus on innovation economics in non-Western contexts. Participating in the Boot Camp would not only enhance my scholarly capabilities but also facilitate meaningful academic exchanges between South Asian and global research communities in this vital field.