Srikanth Prasad J
2220 Piedmont Ave, F434
Berkeley, CA 94720-1900
Ph: 510-570-5773
srikanth_prasad@berkeley.edu

February 6, 2025

Selection Committee
NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp
National Bureau of Economic Research
Cambridge, MA

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in participating in the 2025 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. I am currently a PhD Student in Management of Organizations at the Haas School of Business, with a focus on innovation economics and organizational behavior.

My research examines how various contexts and tools shape innovation outcomes, with particular attention to the human elements of innovation. Currently, I am working with Professor Abhishek Nagaraj on understanding how AI assistance tools impact knowledge production in open-source communities. Having recently completed the IFP- PhD Short Course on Economics of Ideas, Science, and Innovation (2024), I am eager to deepen my understanding of innovation economics through this intensive boot camp experience.

The boot camp's comprehensive curriculum and distinguished faculty roster particularly excite me. I am especially interested in the sessions on innovation policy, copyrights and supply of innovators, as they directly relate to my dissertation research interests. I strongly believe that the opportunity to attend the summer boot camp would provide invaluable exposure to cutting-edge research while joining a vibrant community of innovation scholars, which would be instrumental in shaping my academic journey.

Professor Abhishek Nagaraj (nagaraj@berkeley.edu), my advisor at Berkeley Haas, will be providing my letter of recommendation. I am confident that my background in both academic research and practical experience in technology and policy sectors would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the discussions while learning from the diverse perspectives of fellow participants.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of participating in this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Srikanth Prasad J

Srikanth Prasad J

2220 Piedmont Ave, F434 Berkeley, CA 94720-1900
Ph:+1 510-570-5773 srikanth_prasad@berkeley.edu

EDUCATION

PhD Student, University of California, Berkeley
Haas School of Business - Management of Organizations (Macro) 2023–Present

MSc in International Management (CEMS), Bocconi University 2018–2020

MBA, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta 2017–2019

B.Tech, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras 2008–2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad (Strategy) 2021–2023

Product Manager , Play Simple Games, Bangalore 2019–2021

Policy Assistant , Ministry of Human Resources, Government of India, Delhi 2015–2017

WORKING PAPERS

Impact of AI assistance tools on Knowledge Production in Open-Source Communities *(with Abhishek Nagaraj and Eunae Yoo)*

Does Shuffling the Cards Reduce Gender Disparities in Innovation? Investigating Inventor Performance in M&A Contexts *(with Deepak Jena)*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. "Can Radical Organizational Changes Reduce Gender Disparities in Innovation?" – *People and Organizations Conference, Wharton 2022*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Innovation — Science of Science — Digital Platforms — Aesthetic Innovation — Artificial Intelligence and Knowledge Production

REFERENCES

Abhishek Nagaraj, Associate Professor, Haas School of Business nagaraj@berkeley.edu
abhishekn.com

PhD COURSEWORK

Current - Spring 2025

Labor Economics *(Patrick Kline and Christopher walters)*

Completed

Economics of Ideas, Science, and Innovation (*IFP Online PhD Short Course, 2024)*
Econometrics A & B *(by Samarjit Das.Indian School of Business, 2022)*
UC Berkeley (2023–2025)
Probability and Statistics *(Aprajit Mahajan)*
Econometrics: Multiple Equation Estimation
Applied Econometrics *(Kirill Borusyak)*
Social Networks *(Dennis Feehan)*
Advanced Study in Organizations *(Heather Haveman)*
Big Data and Development*(Joshua Blumenstock)*

Research Statement and Interest in NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp

My research interests lie at the intersection of innovation economics and organizational behavior, with a particular focus on understanding the human elements that drive innovation. As a PhD Student in Management of Organizations at Berkeley Haas, I am currently pursuing two main research streams that explore how different contexts and tools shape innovation outcomes.

My primary research project, in collaboration with Professor Abhishek Nagaraj, investigates how AI assistance tools impact knowledge production in open-source communities. This work examines a crucial question in the digital age: while AI tools promise significant efficiency gains, how might they affect contributors' motivation and, consequently, the long-term sustainability of open-source communities?

In a parallel stream of research, I am exploring aesthetic innovation and design collaborations. This work examines how design innovators differ from traditional technical innovators and how their collaborative patterns influence innovation trajectories. In this, I hope to understand the unique characteristics of aesthetic innovators and their role in interdisciplinary collaboration in shaping innovation outcomes.

My interest in attending the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025 stems from three key motivations. First, having benefited greatly from last year's short course on the Economics of Innovation, I see the boot camp as an invaluable opportunity to deepen my understanding of theoretical frameworks and empirical approaches in innovation economics. The program's comprehensive curriculum, delivered by leading scholars in the field, would provide crucial insights for developing my dissertation research.

Second, the boot camp's focus on bridging various economic subfields—from labor markets to organizational economics—aligns perfectly with my research interests. As someone currently taking advanced labor economics courses to strengthen my theoretical foundation, I am particularly excited about the opportunity to learn from scholars like John Van Reenen, Ina Ganguli, and Heidi Williams, whose work spans these domains.

Finally, the boot camp would provide an unparalleled opportunity to become part of a community of scholars passionate about innovation research. The chance to interact with fellow participants and established researchers would not only help refine my current research ideas but also foster collaborative relationships that could extend throughout my academic career.

Looking ahead, I plan to develop a research agenda for my dissertation focused on understanding how technological and organizational changes affect individual innovators and innovation outcomes. The boot camp's combination of rigorous coursework, exposure to cutting-edge research, and networking opportunities would be instrumental in helping me shape my research career.

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend *Srikanth Prasad* for the 2025 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. Srikanth is a promising second-year PhD student at Berkeley Haas with a deep interest in innovation economics. His research focuses on how various contexts and tools shape innovation outcomes, and he has particularly exciting ideas about integrating design innovation with mainstream innovation literature. He has passed his qualifying exams and is in good standing in our PhD program.

Srikanth recently completed the online PhD course on the Economics of Ideas, Science, and Innovation offered by Heidi Williams and colleagues, which further solidified his interest in this field. The NBER boot camp would be an invaluable next step in his development, exposing him to rigorous frameworks and connecting him with a vibrant community of scholars. Given his strong analytical skills and enthusiasm for innovation research, I am confident he will contribute meaningfully to discussions and benefit greatly from this opportunity.

I strongly support his application.

Sincerely,

Abhishek

Abhishek Nagaraj

Associate Professor, UC Berkeley Haas

web: http://www.abhishekn.com

cell: +1 617-401-1662