Applicant Name:
Prashant Garg

Position:
PhD Student

Department & School:
Department of Economics and Public Policy
Imperial College Business School
Imperial College London

Contact Information:

- **Email:** prashant.garg@imperial.ac.uk
- **Personal Webpage:** https://www.prashantgarg.org/
- **University Webpage:** https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/prashant.garg

Area of Interest:
AI and Big Data; Economics of Networks; Science of Science and Innovation; Media and Political Economy

PhD Program Information:

- **Year of Entry:** 2022
- **Expected Year of Completion:** 2026

Letter of Recommendation Supplied By:

- **Faculty Member:** Professor Thiemo Fetzer
- **Position:** Professor of Economics, University of Bonn & University of Warwick
- **Email:** thiemo.fetzer@gmail.com

Prashant Garg

Curriculum Vitae

Summary

Hi! I'm Prashant, a PhD student at Economics and Public Policy Department of Imperial College Business School. I am also currently a visiting researcher at International Finance Corporation (IFC) and University of Cambridge. In my work, I tend to combine AI and big data with econometrics. Areas of current focus include Production Networks, Knowledge Graphs, and Political Economy. **Personal Webpage**: www.prashantgarg.org

Publications

1. **Political Expression of Academics on Social Media.** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer. *Accepted-in-Principle at Nature Human Behaviour*. View Preprint and www.academicexpression.online. VoxEU.

Working Papers

1. **AI-generated Production Networks** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer, Peter John Lambert, Bennet Feld.Working Paper and aipnet.io.VoxEU.

2. **Causal Claims in Economics.** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer. Working Paper and www.causal.claims.VoxEU.

3. **Politicized Scientists: Credibility Cost of Political Expression on Twitter.** Joint with Eleonora Alabrese and Francesco Capozza. Working Paper.

4. **Local Decline and Populism.** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer and Jacob Edenhofer. Working Paper. VoxEU.

5. **Social and Genetic Ties Drive Skewed Cross-Border Media Coverage of Disasters.** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer. Working Paper

6. **On Bob Dylan: A Computational Perspective.** Working Paper

Work in Progress

1. **Geography of Knowledge** Joint with Hongyu Zhang and Thiemo Fetzer

2. **What Predicts a Top 5?** Joint with Thiemo Fetzer. Expert Survey

3. **Global Innovation Survey Dataset Using LLM** Joint with Ralf Martin

Education

Sep 2022-Present **PhD in Economics**, *Imperial College London*, London, UK
Awards: Graduate Teaching Assistant Scholarship, NERC (UKRI) DTP funding.

Sep 2022 **MRes in Economics**, *Imperial College London*, London, UK
Awards: Distinction.

Sep 2019 **MSc. Economics**, *University College London (UCL)*, London, UK
Dissertation: 'On the nature of deterministic and stochastic trend processes in unit root inference' (supervisor: Prof. Raffaela Giacomini).

Jul 2018 **BSc. Economics**, *Cardiff University*, Cardiff, UK
Awards: First class honour; Helen Robinson Memorial prize for highest score in Microeconomics theory exam.

Jul 2015 **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, *GD Goenka World School*, Gurgaon, India
Awards: Chairman's award for highest overall score (43/45 points) in the school, 99th percentile globally.

Work Experience

Jan 2025–Present **Visiting researcher**, *University of Cambridge*, Cambridge
Computer Science Department. Hosted by Neil Lawrence

Sep 2024–Present **Visiting researcher**, *International Finance Corporation (IFC)*, Paris/DC
Part of Economics Research Unit. Hosted by Ralf Martin

Sep 2019–Sep 2021 **Research and Teaching Assistant ("Predoc")**, *Imperial College London*, London, UK
Research: RA in applied microeconomics. *Teaching:* Executive MBA: *managerial economics* (2020, 2021), MSc. Economics & Strategy for Business: *digital economics & strategy* (2020, 2021), Business for Professional Engineers and Scientists (BPES): *managerial economics* (2019, 2020), Joint Honours/BPES: *business economics* (2020, 2021).

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2025: UK Treasury (HMT) Seminar, STEG Annual Conference. **2024:** CEPR Paris Symposium 2024, Leibniz Open Science Day 2024: Meta-Perspectives in Social Sciences, UniBZ Workshop on Political Economy, AYEW Workshop on AI and Alternative Data, Causal Data Science Meeting, Cambridge Janeway Institute Networks Seminar, 3RD KIEL-CEPR Conference ON Geoeconomics, Advances with Field Experiment (AFE), Economics of Digitization (Cesifo), QPE Early Career Workshop, Workshop on the political economy of environmental policy, RES Annual Conference, Ph.D. Workshop in Networks and Political Economy. **2023:** 2nd Digital Economy Network, AYEW workshop - AI/Text-as-Data Workshop, 6th MWZ Text-as-Data workshop, XII IBEO workshop in Complexity Economics, 5th QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop, RES Easter Training School, Warwick PhD conference

Computer skills

Programming R, Python, SQL, Stata, Matlab, CMD, JS, HTML, Bash/Shell
Systems Google Cloud Platform (BigQuery, Compute Engine, gsutil), AWS, Github

Service

EDI Committee Member, Imperial College Business School (2023-2024)
Chair, PhD Student-Staff Committee, Imperial College (2022-2024)

NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2025

Prashant Garg

I am currently developing my job market paper, which examines how regulatory decisions—particularly FDA drug approvals—create spillover effects across supply chains. . Specifically, I examine how regulatory decisions affect upstream suppliers of active ingredients, reshape competitive dynamics and firm entry, and influence downstream users such as hospitals and biotech firms. These interconnections are crucial for understanding general trends in business dynamism and entrepreneurship, yet traditional analyses have often overlooked them due to data limitations.

To tackle this challenge, I have developed a novel approach that leverages causal graph extraction methodologies applied to company documents, including 10-K reports and earnings call transcripts. This method allows me to build comprehensive networks that capture relationships among firms, products, industries, labor markets, and pivotal events. By constructing these networks, I can quantitatively assess how regulatory shocks propagate through different layers of the supply chain, offering fresh insights into the underlying mechanisms that drive market responses and innovation.

My research builds on my earlier work, which includes ananalysis of Causal Claims in Economic Research (www.causal.claims) and AI-generated production networks (aipnet.io). This projects have honed my skills in applying rigorous, data-driven methods to complex economic phenomena. Building on these experiences, I now focus on the regulatory landscape—a domain where methodological rigor is essential. By isolating the impact of FDA approvals, my research aims to contribute to our understanding of how regulatory environments shape competitive behavior and entrepreneurial activity.

Attending the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp is a unique opportunity for me to refine this work. The boot camp's intensive program, led by scholars who have made significant contributions in entrepreneurship, finance, and innovation, offers an environment to discuss focused future applications of my broadly applicable graph retrieval methodlogy. In a different project, I aim to build an AI-retrieved survey of firms based on it's training dataset of unstructured firm documents, to replicate a version of World Management Survey that one of the speakers, Nick Bloom, co-founded.

I am particularly excited about how the boot camp's collaborative environment can enhance my research before I enter the market in the 2025/26 winter cycle. The intensive format will enable me to refine my causal graph extraction approach, better contextualize my findings within the broader literature on business dynamism, and ultimately develop a more robust framework for analyzing regulatory spillovers. This will not only strengthen my job market paper but also contribute to the evolving dialogue on the intersection of regulation and entrepreneurship.

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
ECONOMICS

15 February 2025

To whom it may concern

Letter of recommendation for Prashant Garg's application to NBER Entrepreneurship Program

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Prashant Garg's application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp.

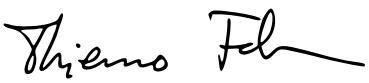
It is a true pleasure to work with Prashant for now more than a year. We connected online and I started working with him providing one on one training on leveraging AI, econometric techniques and processing of unstructured data. This has led to a flourishing joint research pipeline. Prashant is highly proficient in programming and a very quick learner deploying many big data management tools along with the usual as Python, R, and SQL tools for data management. We have leveraged LLMs for a broad range of projects that I think are showcasing the transformational role that large language models can have on driving research in economics.

Our ongoing collaboration has consistently demonstrated Prashant's ability to tackle complex problems with creativity and rigor. For instance, his project on political expression of academics on social media received a "revise and resubmit" at *Nature Human Behaviour* and garnered widespread media attention.

I think Prashant would be very well-suited for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. His work aligns perfectly with the workshop's focus on cutting-edge research methodologies and data-driven approaches. I am confident that his contributions will not only enhance the discussions but also provide valuable insights to other participants.

I urge you to give Prashant's application due consideration and do not hesitate to reach out if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,
Thiemo Fetzer



Prof. Dr. Thiemo Fetzer
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
University of Warwick &
University of Bonn & CEPR
E t.fetzer@warwick.ac.uk
www.trfetzer.com