Applicant's name: Anurag Piyamrao Wasnik

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Postal address: Flat-410, 8989, Highland Court, SFU Burnaby Campus, Simon Fraser University, Pin: V5A 0G7, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

School: Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University

Areas of interest: Entrepreneurial economics; Entrepreneurial finance; Innovation Ecosystems; Technology Commercialization; Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship; University Spinoffs; Innovation Policy

Entry into the Ph.D. program: September 2023

Expected year of completion: September 2027

Faculty Member supplying a letter of recommendation: Prof. Elicia Maine (Current PhD supervisor), Associate Vice-President, Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation (AVPKMI), W.J. VanDusen Professor of Innovation & Entrepreneurship

LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/anurag-wasnik-308701108/

As a second-year PhD candidate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy at Simon Fraser University, my research bridges innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurial finance, and policy design to address how institutions catalyze high-impact entrepreneurship. My academic journey is deeply rooted in practical experience: prior to my PhD, I served as an Innovation Lead at the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog (apex public policy think-tank of the Government of India), under the mentorship of Dr. Chintan Vaishnav (Mission Director, AIM, and Senior Lecturer at MIT). In this role, I was responsible for fostering bilateral innovation partnerships between India and other countries (e.g. USA, Israel, Denmark, Australia, and Sweden) to scale deep-tech ventures. In one such initiatives, I led a cohort of thirty academic scientists, supporting them in commercializing their research, including innovations like a skin-spraying gun for wound healing and an early detection device for cervical cancer. With seven years of experience in strategy management and innovation policy consulting, I bring an implementation-focused perspective to my research, driving my agenda at the intersection of economics, policy, and entrepreneurial strategy.

I am currently involved in three research projects. First, we are exploring how innovation program managers at DARPA, ARPA-E, and the European Innovation Council create and shape opportunities for breakthrough climate innovation. Second, we are investigating how and why do interconnected innovation ecosystems emerge and scale-up with a specific focus on actors' positioning (value chain) and roles (leadership and value creation). Third, we are examining how academic scientists can leverage technology–market matching to translate their radical inventions into commercially viable innovations. My current work draws inspiration from scholars like Scott Stern and Jorge Guzman, whose research on innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystems and innovation policy and management has guided my approach.

In the next phase of my PhD, I plan to investigate how policy-driven interventions can catalyze systemic innovation in emerging industries, using India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) as a focal case. Drawing on the Regional Innovation Ecosystems (RIE) framework, I aim to map the green hydrogen ecosystem in India and use the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) as a case study to analyze the "theory of change"—specifically focusing on how financial incentives, regulatory levers, and pilot projects fuel technology adoption, knowledge spillovers, and entrepreneurship. I am also interested in exploring the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's evolving role as a "venture capitalist," examining how its funding models and strategic partnerships shape green hydrogen startups trajectory. The Boot Camp's emphasis on entrepreneurial finance aligns closely with my goals, and I look forward to refining my research with insights from scholars like Scott Stern and Josh Lerner, whose expertise will help me build a stronger theoretical and empirical foundation for studying government-led innovation ecosystems.

The NBER Boot Camp offers a unique opportunity to immerse myself in the interdisciplinary dialogue driving entrepreneurship research. By attending the boot camp, I aim to strengthen my empirical strategies, particularly in addressing methodological challenges related to entrepreneurial finance and ecosystem dynamics, while connecting with peers studying similar dynamics in other regions. As I transition from coursework to core research, this workshop will be instrumental in sharpening my research questions and positioning my work within broader academic and policy conversations.

In summary, participating in the boot camp would accelerate my growth as a scholar committed to understanding how institutions and finance can unlock entrepreneurial potential globally. I am eager to contribute my perspective and learn from this exceptional community. Thank you for your consideration.

ANURAG PIYAMRAO WASNIK
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Gaglardi Way, Burnaby, BC, Canada, V5A 4W9
anurag_wasnik@sfu.ca | Linkedin

Ph.D. Candidate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy (2023- Expected 2027)
Simon Fraser University, Beedie School of Business, British Columbia, Canada
Dissertation topic: Evolution of Green Hydrogen Innovation Ecosystems
Supervisory Committee: Elicia Maine (AVP, Knowledge Mobilization and Innovation, SFU), Jon Thomas (Director, Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, UFV)

Other admits received:
- Master of Public Policy with $20,000/yr scholarship, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, USA
- PhD at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA (Part Scholarship) [Innovation & Ent. Policy]

Post Graduate Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning [online] (2020-21)
University of Texas, McCombs School of Management, Portfolio

M.Sc. – International Management with high honors and a grant [Top-5 percentile] (2018-19)
Bocconi Università, Milan, Italy

MBA - General Management with a dual degree scholarship (2017-19)
Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India [Ranked-1 B School in India]

B.Tech – Mechanical Engineering with high honors (2009-13)
National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, Telangana, India

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entrepreneurial economics; Entrepreneurial finance; Innovation Ecosystems; Technology Commercialization; Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship; University Spinoffs; Innovation Policy

WORKS UNDER REVIEW

Thomas, Jon, **Wasnik, Anurag,** Elicia Maine, Francesco Matteucci and Finlay MacNab "*How do Innovation Managers at DARPA, ARPA-E and European Innovation Council create and shape opportunities for breakthrough climate innovation" (Nature Energy)*

Wasnik, Anurag, Elicia Maine, Jon Thomas and Einar Rasmussen. "*Cyclical Nexus-Switching in Academic Entrepreneurship: How Academics may use Technology-market matching to Commercialize Radical Inventions?*" *(Research Policy)*

Wasnik, Anurag. Financing and funding strategies for entrepreneurial ventures in uncertain environment *(Entrepreneurship in Uncertainty: Building and Sustaining Ventures – De Gruyter, book chapter)*

WORK IN PROGRESS

Wasnik, Anurag, Rennings, Michael**,** Elicia Maine, Broering, Stefanie and Thomas, Jon "Scaling-up emerging innovation ecosystems - Case of Canada's green hydrogen economy*" (Finalizing analyses and drafting manuscript)*

Wasnik, Anurag (2025)**.** "*Microalgae – the energy crop and the future it beholds for India's energy security.*" *(Finalizing analyses and drafting manuscript)*

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Kar, Rohan **and Wasnik, Anurag.** (2023) "*Progress and trends in healthcare marketing strategy (2018-2022): a descriptive and bibliometric analysis of the Web of Science (WOS) dataset" (International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing)*

Kar, Rohan **and Wasnik, Anurag.** (2023) "*Determinants of Institutional Births in 'Public Health Facilities' in India: An Analysis of the National Family Health Survey, 2019–21 (NFHS-5) Factsheet" (Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care)*

Wasnik, Anurag and Jain Abhinav. (2023) "*Government Support for Startups: A Comprehensive Analysis of Funding Initiatives and the Role of the Indian Government in Nurturing the Startup Ecosystem*" *(Economics and Business Quarterly Review)*

Wasnik, Anurag and Sarraf Ishan. (2023) "*Impact of Governance and Financial Development on Foreign Direct Investment in BRICS Nations.*" *(Economics and Business Quarterly Review)*

Wasnik, Anurag and Sarraf Ishan. (2023) "*Carbon Footprint of printing flight tickets: A study in the Indian context*" *(Geographical Review of India)*

Wasnik, Anurag and Shah Chancy. (2023) "*Assessing the adequacy of Green plantations along Indian National Highways: A study on NH-48 in the Delhi region*" *(Geographical Review of India)*

Soni, Riddhish**,** Divyang Soni**,** Karan Behar and **Wasnik, Anurag**. (2023) "*Polarimetric SAR applications for Groundwater targeting: A case study for Durg District, Chattisgarh*" *(Geographical Review of India)*

Wasnik, Anurag and Chayanam Divya. (2021) "*Is the anti-incumbency sentiment changing in Tamil Nadu? A case study of 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections*" *(Journal of Social and Political Sciences)*

BOOK CHAPTERS

Wasnik, Anurag (2023). India's Journey Toward Cleaner and Affordable Energy for Achieving SDG 7: Progress and Prospects (pp. 105–121) *(Sustainability: Science, Policy, and Practice in India - Springer Nature)*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Beedie Dean's Fellowship, Beedie Family Graduate Scholarship, PhD Research Scholarship
- $20,000 USD, MPP Scholarship, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy*
- Scholarship grant of €5600 by Bocconi University, Italy
- Dual Degree scholarship by Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India
- Recipient of Sri Kalicharan Memorial Scholarship, Batch of 1975-80 Excellence Scholarship, and Sri Salek Chand Memorial Scholarship for excelling in studies, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities at NIT- Warangal

**Scholarships received but not availed*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT/ GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Assisted in data collection, analysis, and interpretation, demonstrating proficiency in Qualitative and Quantitative methods. (for Prof. Elicia Maine, September 2023-present)
- Assisted in writing federal grant application with a team of 5 people to the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Canada and thereby securing **$22.9M** funding for **technology commercialization**

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member: AoM [ENT and TIM divisions] (2023-present), SMS (2023-present)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Financial Economics of Climate and Sustainability, 2024 by Peter Tufano, Geoffrey Heal, Stefan Reichelstein, Stefano Giglio, Johannes Stroebel and others
- (Ongoing) (1/100 selected of 300) Course on Organizing Climate Transition (BS4CL) by Jennifer Howard-Grenville, Tima Bansal, Sara Soderstorm, Caroline Flammer, & others

- Virtual Summer School in Entrepreneurship Research 2024 - by Vishal Gupta, Daniel Bennett & others
- Research in Entrepreneurship studies - NORSI [Nordic Research School in Innovation and Entrepreneurship] by Einar Rasmussen, Anna Brattstrom & others
- Research Methods by Prof. Joel Baum (Univ. of Toronto); Quantitative Research, SFU by Prof. CK

CONTRIBUTOR TO NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL POLICY WHITEPAPERS

- Gearing up to Solve Food Security Challenges: Role of Indian Agri-tech Startups, Joint publication by NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission, UNCDF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rabo Foundation (April 2023)
- Urban Wastewater Scenario in India - Joint publication by NITI Aayog, NMCG, and IIT Bombay (August 2022) (ISBN: 978-81-956821-1-9)
- Reimagining Healthcare in India through Blended Finance - Joint publication by USAID and NITI Aayog (2022, February) (ISBN: 978-81-953811-8-0)

CHAIRED PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- How can Scientists/ academicians scale their Science-based/ Deep-Tech startup ideas? (May 2021)
- AIM-UNCDF South-South Innovation Challenge for Indian Agri-Tech Startups (December 2021)
- How to fight Air pollution in Delhi using innovative technologies? (December 2021)
- Water Innovation Challenge: How India & Denmark can work together on green initiatives? (December 2021)
- Innovations in Sports-Tech: How can Deep-Tech be used in Sports for para-athletes? (August 2022)

MEDIA ARTICLES

G20 - Startup20

- Why is the G20-Startup20 Engagement Group a Game-Changer? (November 2023)
- India to amplify voices of startups during its G20 presidency (February 2023)

Energy and Sustainability

- Speaker at the Clean Hydrogen Innovation in Canada webinar (January 2025)
- Energy as a service in contemporary India (October 2022)
- How shifting to Green bonds can help shape India's transition?" – World Economic Forum (July 2022)
- Energy rush – The race for the creation of an artificial sun (March 2022)
- The pasture becomes greener for the Green Hydrogen industry in India (March 2022)
- India's transition to a clean energy system (December 2021)

Healthcare Sector

- The journey to SDG 3.1 and 3.2: Does India require a short-term supplementary strategy? (July 2023)
- Antimicrobial-resistant fungi: The next pandemic in the making? (March 2023)
- The National Organ Transplant program (NOTP) – the road ahead (January 2023)
- AMR in India – Can Gain-of-Function (GoF) research prevent the next pandemic? (February 2022)
- Metrics-based approach to analyze the performance of a Healthcare Innovation Ecosystem (October 2021)
- Mapping the Indian Healthcare Innovation Ecosystem (HIE) – profligacy or gold dust? (September 2021)

Frontier Technologies Sector

- India needs a regulatory framework to protect citizens from ChatGPT-led disruptions (April 2023)
- Why are governments jumping onto the super-apps bandwagon? (April 2023)
- Governance in Metaverse soon to be a reality? (November 2022)
- Can social media be used as a systematic tool for public redressal? (November 2022)
- Justice Digitization: Use of AI-ML in Indian Judicial System (September 2022)
- Meta Governance: Role of Metaverse in India's E-Governance (March 2022)

Deep-Tech Sector

- Deep-Tech Startups are bedrock and growth engine of a nation's future (June 2022)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Innovation Lead, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog [National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog, Government of India, Ex-Planning Commission of India) (2021-23)
- Research Associate, Psephology Studies, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) (2021)
- Strategy Management Consultant, Project Lead – Energy, Sustainability, Livelihood, Tourism at Accenture Strategy, Energy and Sustainability Practice, Geographies: India, UAE, Saudi Arabia (2019-21)
- Energy Consultant, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India [ONGC] (2013-16)

Last Update: Feb 6, 2025