KRIS GULATI

https://sites.google.com/view/kris-gulati
1080 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110
857-396-3416 ⋄ kgulati@berkeley.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of California, Merced 2021-Present
Classes taken: Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Statistics, Advanced Econometrics, Applied Research Methods, Data Science, and Advanced Game Theory

Visiting Ph.D Student, Berkeley Haas 2023-Present
Hosted by Professors Abhishek Nagaraj and Solène Delecourt
Visiting Ph.D Student, Dartmouth College January 2024-April 2024
Hosted by Professor Heidi Williams
Visiting Ph.D Student, Harvard Business School 2023-2024
Hosted by Professors Kyle Myers and Rem Koning
The University of Nottingham 2015-2017
Master's in Econometrics and Economics, Distinction (equivalent to 4.0 GPA)
The University of London: Goldsmiths College 2012-2015
BA (Honours) Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, Upper Second Class Honours

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Innovation, Strategy, Management, AI, Applied Microeconomics, Field Experiments

JOB MARKET PAPER

Job Market Paper: The Professional Costs of Speech Sanctioning Events: Evidence from Academia
Submitted, (with Lorenzo Palladini, Stockholm School of Economics)

- Steven Klepper Award for Best Young Scholar Paper, DRUID 2024
- Winner of IHS 2024 Research Award Fellowship for my work on the Politics of Innovation and Science

WORKING PAPERS

Political Instability Freezes Science: Evidence from a Government Shutdown
Revise & Resubmit at Research Policy, (with Christian Helmers, Santa Clara University)

- Media coverage: *Nature*

Does Politics Permeate Science? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Political Bias in Academic Opportunity
(with Jessica Khan, Northwest Florida State College)

Benchmarking the Future of Work: Mapping AI Progress to Occupational Tasks
Sole authored

The Gender Ask Gap in Science
(with Astrid Ulv Thomsen, Copenhagen Business School; Hans Christian Kongsted, Copenhagen Business School; Lorenzo Palladini, Stockholm School of Economics; Valentina Tartari, Copenhagen Business School)

From Ancient Centers to Modern Capitals: The Influence of Historic Civilizational Hubs on the Spatial Distribution of Population and Political Power
(with Justin Cook, Tulane University; Raymond Kim, Westmont College)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Impact of Trump on Science
(with Lee Fleming, Berkeley Haas)

The Impact of AI on Science: Evidence from a Field Experiment
(with Rem Koning, Harvard Business School)

The Impact of AI on Mathematics: Evidence from a Field Experiment
(with Bo Cowgill, Columbia Business School; Parker Whitfill, MIT)

A Human-AI Centaur Simulated Benchmark
(with Abhishek Nagaraj, Berkeley Haas)

CASE STUDIES

Managing Science: Perspectives from Postdocs
Harvard Business School Case Study (with Solène Delecourt, Berkeley Haas; Kyle Myers, Harvard Business School; Rem Koning, Harvard Business School; Katelyn Cranney, Stanford University; Scott Sawaya, Harvard Business School;)

GRANTS

2026: Institute of Humane Studies Junior Fellow ($7,000); UC Merced Travel Grant ($1,000)

2025: UC Merced Department Fellowship ($20,000); Innovation Growth Lab (IGL) Seed Award ($8,000); UC Merced Presentation & Travel Grants ($500)

2024: Free Inquiry Grant Program ($13,200); Institute of Humane Studies Research Award ($10,000); Institute of Humane Studies Mentorship Grant ($8,000); Institute of Humane Studies ($3,200); UC Merced Graduate Summer Fellowship ($8,000); Dartmouth College Visiting Ph.D. Fellowship ($7,500); UC Merced Presentation & Travel Awards ($4,150); FIRE Faculty Conference ($1,700); Emergent Ventures Travel Awards ($2,150); ACLEC Travel Award ($475); ICSSI Award ($600)

2023: Wikimedia Research & Technology Fund ($50,000); UC Merced Presentation & Travel Award ($900); Metascience Initiative ($5,000); FIRE Faculty Conference and Travel Award ($2,500); Emergent Ventures Fellowship ($20,000); Global Priorities Institute Travel Award ($3,000)

2022: UC Merced Presentation & Travel Award ($800); Global Priorities Institute Travel Award ($3,000); EA Econ Retreat Travel Award ($500)

SERVICE

Ad hoc reviewer for:
Management Science; Review of Economics and Statistics; Research Policy; Telecommunications Policy; European Association of Young Economists; DRUID 2025

- Organised Berkeley Haas's Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Seminar (2023–Present)
- Advisor to the Undergraduate Badminton Club at UC Merced (2023–Present)
- Mentor for Effective Thesis (2022–Present)
- Advisory Board, Progress Studies Journal (2022–2025)
- Advisory Board and Founding Committee, Unjournal (2022–2025)
- PhD Student Representative, UC Merced (2021–2022)

TEACHING & RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2026: Teaching Assistant for Intermediate Econometrics

2025: Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistical Inference; Instructor of Record for Introduction to Business and Finance; Guest Lecturer for Labor Economics

2024: Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Business and Finance; Guest Lecturer for Economics of Immigration

2023: Teaching Assistant for Advanced Game Theory; Research Assistant for Professor Christian Fons-Rosen (Spring); Research Assistant for Professor Christian Fons-Rosen (Summer)

2022: Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistical Inference (Fall); Research Assistant for Professor Christian Fons-Rosen (Summer); Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistical Inference (Spring)

2021: Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistical Inference (Fall)

PRESENTATIONS

2026: Wharton Innovation Doctoral Symposium; MetaSTEM Seminar (Cognitive Science Department) University of California, Merced, Berkeley Haas Macro Research Seminar

2025: Conference in Field Experiments in Strategy; MetaSTEM Seminar (Cognitive Science Department), University of California, Merced, Berkeley Haas Macro Research Seminar, All California Labour Economics Conference, UC Merced Political Science Works in Progress Seminar, University of Southern California, Censorship in the Sciences: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

2024: Technology and Policy Research Initiative, Questrom School of Business, Boston University, Berkeley Haas Macro Research Seminar, UC Merced Economics Brown Bag Seminar, MetaSTEM Seminar (Cognitive Science Department), University of California, Merced, FIRE Faculty Conference, International Conference on Science of Science and Innovation, Research Policy Early Careers Conference, SOIBS

2023: Research Policy Early Careers Conference, Max Planck RISE Conference, FIRE Faculty Conference

2022: Southern Economic Association Conference

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025: NBER Investments in Early Career Scientists (Virtual Participant); International Growth Lab – Designing Field Experiments; NBER Digital Economics and AI Tutorial

2023: NBER Entrepreneurship Bootcamp; Global Priorities Research Workshop, Keble College, University of Oxford

2022: Economics of Science and Innovation PhD Course, Institute for Progress; Global Priorities Research Workshop, University of Oxford; EA Econ Retreat, Oxford

2018-2019: First year of BSc Mathematics, Distinction (4.0 GPA), The Open University (distant learning classes)

REFERENCES

Abhishek Nagaraj, Associate Professor, Berkeley Haas
nagaraj@berkeley.edu

Lee Fleming, Professor, Berkeley Haas
lfleming@berkeley.edu

Rem Koning, Associate Professor, Harvard Business School
rkoning@hbs.edu

Christian Fons-Rosen, Associate Professor, UC Merced
cfons-rosen@ucmerced.edu

Research Statement and Motivation for the Boot Camp

My research agenda studies how political forces and technological change shape the production of scientific knowledge.

My earlier work has looked at how politics shapes the rate and direction of science. In my job market paper, Cancel Culture: *The Professional Costs of Speech Sanctioning Events Evidence from Academia*, I collect a novel dataset on scholars 'cancelled' for their speed and study how public backlash and sanctioning against academics affects their scientific productivity. Using a staggered difference-in-difference approach, I show that scholars sanctioned for their speech produce 20% fewer papers and receive 5% fewer citations to their prior papers. This work speaks to debates about academic freedom, institutional governance, and the long-run costs of politicising scientific discourse.

Complementing this, I am in the process of submitting a paper on whether there is a bias against conservatives in academia. I conducted several large-scale audit studies to evaluate this. In contrast to common narratives, I find no evidence of political discrimination in STEM fields. However, I do find meaningful bias in the social sciences and humanities. This heterogeneity has important policy implications, particularly in the context of recent and ongoing political scrutiny of universities under the Trump administration. Rather than a monolithic "bias in academia," my results point to field-specific mechanisms, suggesting that blunt political interventions, such as those proposed during the Trump administration, risk misdiagnosing the problem and potentially harming scientific capacity.

Going forward, my research agenda focuses on understanding how artificial intelligence reshapes the production of knowledge. I am currently conducting two randomised controlled trials that evaluate the impact of AI tools on research processes in the life sciences and mathematics, examining how AI affects idea generation, problem selection, and research productivity.

I have applied to the boot camp for the past three years, and I am particularly eager to attend because it closely aligns with my interests in science and innovation. The workshop would provide a valuable opportunity to engage with peers working on related questions, receive constructive feedback, and further develop my research ideas after I complete my PhD.

Cover Letter

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026. I am currently a Ph.D. student in Economics at the University of California, Merced.

My research focuses on the economics of innovation, science, and technology, with particular emphasis on how political, institutional, and technological forces shape scientific productivity, research direction, and labour market outcomes. My job market paper studies the professional costs of speech-related sanctioning events in academia, and has received the Steven Klepper Award for Best Young Scholar Paper at DRUID 2024. In related work, I examine how political instability affects scientific output, including a project currently under *revise and resubmit* at *Research Policy* that studies the impact of the 2013 U.S. government shutdown on Antarctic science.

I am especially interested in innovation as a general-purpose force operating across organisational, political, and technological environments. Several of my current projects examine how advances in artificial intelligence reshape scientific production and occupational tasks, including field experiments on AI use in science and mathematics, and a sole-authored project mapping AI progress to occupational task content to construct a measure of occupational exposure to AI. Across these projects, my goal is to combine large-scale data with credible quasi-experimental and experimental designs to understand how AI will affect science and innovation.

Thank you very much for considering my application. I would be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2026 Innovation Research Boot Camp.

Sincerely,

Kris Gulati

Contact information

Email: kgulati@berkeley.edu
Address: 1080 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, 94110
Mobile number: +1 857 396 3416

Recommendation letter writer

Name: Christian Fons-Rosen
Email: cfons-rosen@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MERCED
5200 N. LAKE ROAD | MERCED, CA 95343
TEL: 209.228.4400

January 29th, 2026

Christian Fons-Rosen
Associate Professor at the Department of Economics
University of California in Merced
cfons-rosen@ucmerced.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in support of Kris Gulati to participate in the *NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026*. Kris is currently a fifth year economics PhD student at UC Merced, where he is interested in the economics of science and innovation, as well as long-run economic growth.

When he joined UC Merced, he asked me to his PhD advisor due to our overlap in research interest in the economics of science and innovation. We have spent a lot time together and it has been the most horizontal relationship I have had with any PhD student in my whole academic career. His knowledge of the literature is tremendous, his vision for new ideas is broad, and his work ethics impeccable. For this reason, it was not a surprise to me to find out that he is already a respected scholar in the field.

Since joining our PhD Economics program, Kris' progress and entrepreneurial spirit have been remarkable. He is by far our PhD student who is involved in more research projects, which is just a reflection of his great creativity. As a result of this motivation to learn from the best scholars, he arranged visits to Harvard Business School (2023) and Dartmouth College (2024). Kris has already been invited to present his work in several workshops or seminars including the Munich RISE Workshop (December 2023) or FIRE conference on academic freedom (October 2023), among many others. He has also been a referee for the top management journal (*Management Science*). Recently, he also received a Revise & Resubmit in *Research Policy* on a joint project with Christian Helmers.

Recognition from top academic scholars came when Kris was awarded the 'Grant for STEM Talent Identification' by Emergent Ventures administered by the Mercatus Center. The initiative was led by Dr. Tyler Cowen, Dr. Heidi Williams, and Dr. David Dening. The goal of the award is to help correct the institutional failure that arises from inadequate investment in talent development and it is aimed at sending individuals from a broader set of communities into the frontiers of science and technology.

I strongly believe that Kris would benefit tremendously from participating in the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026. His knowledge of the literature, his vision of where the field is going, and his openness to engage in academic discussions make him an ideal person to join the boot camp. For all these reasons, I support Kris' application in the strongest possible terms. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Fons-Rosen