February 12, 2026

Amit Das
Ph.D. Candidate, Management
Lundquist College of Business, University of Oregon
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To: NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026

I am applying to the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. I am a third-year Ph.D. candidate in management (strategy and innovation) at the University of Oregon. I have completed my doctoral coursework and am working on my dissertation.

My research examines what happens to the broader innovation landscape when government R&D policy concentrates resources in a targeted technological domain. I focus on the factor market consequences of targeted R&D subsidies, the role of political capabilities in mediating access to policy-created resources, and the strategic effects on firms' inventive and scientific knowledge production.

The program's emphasis on frontier empirical methods in innovation economics would sharpen how I identify effects of policy on inventive activity as I extend my dissertation to additional policy settings. Participation in the NBER Summer Institute Innovation boot camp would further connect my research to the scholars and conversations it builds on and provide access to the research community essential for the academic career I am pursuing.

My recommendation letter will be submitted by **Professor Lauren Lanahan** (Lundquist College of Business, University of Oregon; **Email: llanahan@uoregon.edu**), my doctoral advisor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Amit Das

AMIT DAS

Ph.D. Candidate, Management (Area: Innovation & Strategy)
Department of Management, Lundquist College of Business,
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403
amitdas@uoregon.edu

PRIOR EDUCATION

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 2023
Master of Science, Computer Science

Techno India University, India 2019
Bachelor of Technology, Computer Science & Engineering

FIELDS

Economics of Innovation, Science & Technology Policy
Industry Emergence & Evolution, Technological Uncertainty, Non-market Strategy

RESEARCH PAPERS

Targeted R&D Policy and Innovation Ecosystem Dynamics: Evidence from the National Quantum Initiative
(with Lauren Lanahan & Andrew Nelson).
Early draft available. Target: Research Policy.

How do targeted R&D subsidies reshape innovation in both targeted and adjacent technological domains? Using the National Quantum Initiative Act of 2018 as a quasi-natural experiment, we combine USPTO patent records, federal lobbying disclosures, and inventor mobility data in a difference-in-differences framework. Targeted patenting surged post-policy while adjacent domains experienced significant growth deceleration, driven by reallocation of productive inventors and stratified by firms' political access.

Scientific Publications as Proactive Regulatory Strategy: Evidence from GDPR and Responsible AI
(with Nur Ahmed & Francisco Polidoro Jr)
Early draft available.

Do firms strategically deploy scientific research to shape anticipated regulatory environments? Exploiting GDPR as an exogenous shock signaling impending AI regulation, we use difference-in-differences estimation and Hierarchical Dirichlet Process topic modeling on publications, patent records, and EU lobbying disclosures from over a thousand AI firms. GDPR-exposed firms significantly increased responsible AI publications post-enactment, with effects concentrated among firms with greater technological and political capabilities.

The Narrow Depth and Breadth of Corporate Responsible AI Research
(with Nur Ahmed, Kirsten Martin & Kawshik Banerjee). *Preprint on arXiv.*

How extensively does industry engage in responsible AI research, and does this research inform commercial innovation? Combining supervised machine learning classification, structural topic modeling, and large-scale patent citation analysis across millions of peer-reviewed articles and five datasets, we document that the vast majority of AI firms show limited or no engagement in responsible AI, with research concentrated on a narrow set of topics relative to academia. Industry patents rarely build on responsible AI literature, suggesting limited integration of ethical considerations into commercialized AI systems.
Media: **Nature Index**, Nature News, Montreal AI Ethics Newsletter.

PH.D. COURSEWORK

Econometrics & Quantitative Methods

EC 523–525	Econometrics I–III
MGMT 607	Applied Econometrics
MGMT 605	Behavioral Research Methods
PSY 512	Applied Data Analysis
EDUC 643	Applied Statistics II
SOC 512–513	Sociological Research Methods I–II
EC 528	Behavioral & Experimental Economics

Strategy, Organization Theory & Innovation

MGMT 607	Economic Foundations of Strategy
MGMT 607	Organization Theory
MGMT 607	Organizational Behavior
MGMT 607	Technology, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Computer Science & Data Science

CS 510	Natural Language Processing
CS 670	Data Science

Social Theory

SOC 617	Sociological Theory I

PRESENTATIONS

International Conference on the Science of Science & Innovation (ICSSI) 2024
Contributed Talk: "The Narrow Depth and Breadth of Corporate Responsible AI Research"

4th AI in Management (AIM) Conference 2024
"Corporate Ethical Science: Industry's Limited Engagement in Responsible AI Research"

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Graduate Employee, Department of Management, University of Oregon 2023–present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor Fall, 2024; Winter, 2026
BA 316: Management, University of Oregon

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Roger Best Teaching Award, Lundquist College of Business 2025
Roger Best Research Award, Lundquist College of Business (Winter, Summer) 2024
Presidential Research Fellowship, UTRGV 2021–2023

RESEARCH SKILLS

Methods: Causal Inference, Natural Language Processing,
Topic Modeling (LDA/HDP), Text Analysis, Archival Research
Programming: Python, R
Tools: LaTeX, Overleaf, Git

Updated: February 2026

Research Statement

My research studies how government policy shapes the rate and direction of inventive activity. A standard result in endogenous growth theory is that R&D investment generates positive knowledge spillovers. Innovation in one domain produces complementary knowledge flows to neighboring domains, raising aggregate productivity. This result depends on the inputs to innovation being elastically supplied. When specialized human capital is scarce, a targeted subsidy does not add to the knowledge stock. It reallocates the researchers who produce that stock. Whether the net effect on innovation is positive becomes an empirical question about the magnitude of crowding out relative to the direct gains in the targeted domain.

I examine this research question in the context of the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Act of 2018. The NQI concentrated federal resources into quantum computing before any private commercial market existed, generating a demand shock for researchers whose training pipeline could not expand quickly. I find that the policy stimulated targeted-domain patenting but produced negative spillovers to adjacent technological domains through a factor market channel. The most productive, boundary-spanning inventors reallocated into quantum, leaving adjacent fields with diminished inventive capacity. I also document a political economy mechanism. Organizations with pre-existing lobbying activity captured disproportionate policy gains through internal reallocation of researchers. Organizations without political access expanded through external hiring and imposed lower costs on neighboring fields. Political capabilities, not only technical merit, shaped the distribution of policy benefits.

In my future work, I plan to pursue two extensions. First, who bears the costs of policy-induced talent reallocation? I plan to estimate heterogeneous effects by organization type and size, testing whether small firms and university labs in adjacent domains absorb disproportionate losses. Second, does the crowding-out mechanism generalize beyond quantum computing? I will extend the analysis to other targeted R&D policies that differ in structure, scale, and the elasticity of the relevant labor supply.

I have completed my doctoral coursework and am in the dissertation writing stage. The boot camp provides an opportunity to learn from and engage with the researchers and academics whose work my own builds on. Learning alongside scholars working on related questions would sharpen how I frame, identify, and communicate my future research.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | Lundquist College of Business

February 12, 2026

To Committee Members of the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp,

I am delighted to recommend **Amit Das** for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. As Amit's doctoral advisor at the University of Oregon's Lundquist College of Business, I have worked closely with him for three years and can attest that he is among the most promising young innovation scholars I have mentored. His research combines rigorous economic theory with sophisticated empirical methods to address fundamental questions about how government R&D policy shapes innovation.

Amit's dissertation work is exceptional in both ambition and execution. He examines a critical yet understudied question: what happens to the innovation frontier when targeted government subsidies concentrate resources in specific technological domains? While endogenous growth theory predicts positive knowledge spillovers from R&D subsidies, Amit recognizes that this result assumes elastic factor supply. When specialized human capital is scarce—as it often is—targeted subsidies may reallocate rather than augment the researcher pool, with potentially negative consequences for adjacent fields.

His empirical analysis of the National Quantum Initiative Act of 2018 demonstrates remarkable research maturity. Amit has documented that while the NQI stimulated quantum computing patents, it generated negative spillovers to neighboring technological domains through factor market crowding out. More impressively, he has identified a political economy mechanism: organizations with pre-existing lobbying capabilities captured disproportionate policy benefits through internal reallocation, while those without political access expanded through external hiring and imposed lower costs on adjacent fields. This finding illuminates how political capabilities, not just technical merit, shape the distribution of policy benefits—a insight with significant implications for innovation policy design. What distinguishes Amit's work is his ability to identify economically meaningful mechanisms and test them rigorously.

Amit is at precisely the right stage to benefit maximally from the boot camp. He has completed his coursework, developed a clear research agenda, and made progress on his dissertation. What he needs now is intensive engagement with the innovation research community whose work his own builds upon. The boot camp will deepen his command of the field's foundational concepts, while participation in the meeting will connect him to the scholars and conversations that will shape his trajectory.

I give Amit my strongest possible recommendation. I am confident he will be an outstanding participant and will benefit tremendously. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Lauren Lanahan, PhD
Associate Professor of Management
Lundquist College of Business, University of Oregon
llanahan@uoregon.edu