

CHANDNI RAJA

Email: chandni.raja@gmail.com

Website: <https://chandniraja.com>

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Economics, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	2019 - present (expected June 2025)
<u>Advisors:</u> John Asker, Martin Hackmann	
M.A. in Economics, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	2021
M.P.A. in Public and Economic Policy, <i>London School of Economics</i>	2014
B.A., <i>University of Southern California</i>	2012

RESEARCH FIELDS

Industrial Organization, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

How Do Hospitals Respond to Input Regulation? Evidence from the California Nurse Staffing Mandate, *Journal of Health Economics*, December 2023

- **Abstract:** Mandated minimum nurse-to-patient ratios have been the subject of active debate in the U.S. for over twenty years and are under legislative consideration today in several states and at the federal level. This paper uses the 1999 California nurse staffing mandate as an empirical setting to estimate the causal effects of minimum ratios on hospitals. Minimum ratios led to a 58 minute increase in nursing time per patient day and 9 percent increase in the wage bill per patient day in the general medical/surgical acute care unit among treated hospitals. Hospitals responded on several margins: increased their use of lower-licensed and younger nurses, reduced capacity by 16 beds (12 percent), and increased bed utilization rates by 0.045 points (8 percent). Using administrative data on discharges for acute myocardial infarction (AMI), I find a significant reduction in length of stay (5 percent) and no effect on the 30-day all-cause readmission rate. The null effect on readmissions suggests that length of stay declined not because hospitals were discharging AMI patients “quicker and sicker”, rather, AMI patients recovered more quickly due to an improvement in care quality per day.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Research Mentorship Program	2022 - 2023
UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program	2022
UCLA Department of Economics Lewis L. Clarke Graduate Fellowship	2021
UCLA Graduate Division Graduate Dean’s Scholar Award	2019 - 2021
UCLA Department of Economics Top TA Award, Pandemic Teaching Award	2020 - 2021
UCLA Department of Economics Fellowship	2019 - 2020
InterMedia and Gates Foundation Data Challenge Grand Prize	2014
USC Presidential Merit Scholarship	2008 - 2012
USC Summer Undergraduate Research Fund, University Research Associates Program	2010

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant	2021 - present
Graduate Research Assistant for <u>Prof.</u> Wesley Yin	
Graduate Research Assistant for <u>Prof.</u> Till von Wachter	
Consultant, <i>World Bank</i>	2018 - 2021
Short-Term Consultant, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, Nigeria	
Short-Term Consultant, Jobs and Skills Global Practice, Liberia	
Short-Term Consultant, Africa Gender Innovation Lab, Nigeria and Ethiopia	
Consultant, <i>Compass Lexecon</i>	2014 - 2017
Senior Analyst, Antitrust and Competition Practice	
Analyst, Antitrust and Competition Practice	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 101)	Fall 2020
* Department of Economics – Pandemic Teaching Award (Fall 2020)	
Teaching Assistant for Organization of Firms (ECON 106I)	Winter 2021
* Department of Economics – Top TA Award (2020 - 2021)	

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Ethiopia Gender Diagnostic Report: Priorities for Promoting Equity, with Niklas Buehren, et al., 2019, World Bank.

Data-Driven Decision Making in Fragile Contexts: Evidence from Sudan, with Naomi Crowther and Ella Spencer, 2017, Eds. Alexander Hamilton and Craig Hammer, World Bank.

Inequalities in Public Services in Sudan: Using a Perceptions-Informed View to Drive Policy in Education, Health, and Water Provision, with Naomi Crowther, Keisuke Okamura, David Rinnert, and Ella Spencer, 2014, U.K. Department for International Development.

Tailored Finance and Organic Growth: A Livelihoods Approach to Financial Inclusion in India, with Rossi Abi-Rafeh, Joshua Bernstein, and Ella Spencer, 2014, InterMedia and Gates Foundation Open Data Analysis Challenge Grand Prize.

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, Microsoft Office Suite, L^AT_EX

Languages: English (native), Tamil (fluent), Spanish (basic)