Balasai Vanukuri

Paris School of Economics | Citizenship: India
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FIELDS

Development Economics, Economics of Education, Behavioural and Political Economy

EDUCATION

Paris School of Economics *Sept. 2022 – Present*
PhD in Economics
Dissertation: "Essays in Development Economics and Political Economy"
Advisors: Oliver Vanden Eynde and Karen Macours

Massachusetts Institute of Technology *Fall 2025*
Visiting PhD Scholar, Department of Economics
Host: Abhijit Banerjee

Paris School of Economics *2019 – 2021*
MRes in Economics: Analysis and Policy in Economics, with *honors*

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi *2014 – 2019*
B.Tech and M.Tech in Chemical Engineering; Minor: Business Management

REFERENCES

Karen Macours *(advisor)*
PSE Chaired Professor
Paris School of Economics
karen.macours@psemail.eu

Oliver Vanden Eynde *(advisor)*
PSE Chaired Professor
Paris School of Economics
o.vandeneynde@psemail.eu

Nishith Prakash
Dean's Professor of Economics
and Public Policy
Northeastern University
n.prakash@northeastern.edu

Liam Wren-Lewis
Professor
Paris School of Economics
liam.wren-lewis@psemail.eu

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Backlash or Bonding?: Effect of Integration Policies in the Context of Affirmative Action" *(draft available)*

WORKING PAPERS

"Impact of Weather Shocks on Trust in Agrarian Communities: Evidence from Rural India" *(Master's thesis, draft available)*

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Family Trees of Opportunity: Vertical Peer Effects and Skill Transmission in Public Universities" (with Oscar Diaz and Palaash Bhargava)

"Enabling Access to Safe Water: Evidence from Gujarat" (with Vrinda Sharma)

"Transfers, Income Diversification and Climate Adaptation: Long-term Evidence" (with Karen Macours, Patrick Premand, and Renos Vakis)

"Meta-analysis of On-farm and Off-farm Training Programs" (with Karen Macours, Marcelo Gantier, and Amit Khanal)

"Natural Disasters, Land Markets, and Inter-Religious Dynamics: Evidence from Bihar" (with Oliver Vanden Eynde and Nitin Bharati)

Teaching

Econometrics 2 *2026–27*
Teaching Assistant, Master's in Economics, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Econometrics 2A *2026–27*
Teaching Assistant, Analysis and Policy in Economics (APE), Paris School of Economics

Linear Algebra (undergraduate) *2026–27*
Teaching Assistant, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Econometrics 1 *2022–23, 2023–24*
Teaching Assistant, Master 1 in Public Policy and Development (PPD), Paris School of Economics

Research Position

Tobin Pre-doctoral Fellow *Jul 2021–Aug 2022*
Yale University (Prof. Rohini Pande)

Consulting

Short-Term Consultant *Feb–Dec 2026*
World Bank (Development Impact Group)

Research Consultant *Apr 2023–Dec 2025*
Warwick Business School (Prof. Giorgia Barboni)

External Consultant *Dec 2020–Jan 2021*
OECD

Research Funding

Integration Policies in the Context of Affirmative Action
(Roommates Integration and Mentoring projects)

Weiss Fund for Development Economics	$43,449 (2024)
CEPREMAP Research Grant	€8,000 (2023, 2024)
CNRS-PSE Development Group	€7,600 (2023, 2024)
Education Policy and Social Mobility Chair	€9,200 (2024, 2026)
EUR-PgSE Research Grant	€4,000 (2024)

Safe Water Access (joint with Vrinda Sharma)

Weiss Fund for Development Economics (pilot)	$15,500 (2026)
CNRS-PSE Development Group	€11,000 (2025, 2026)
EUR-PgSE Research Grant	€1,500 (2026)
SurveyCTO Primary Data Collection Grant	€1,000 (2026)

Presentations

2026: World Inequality Conference, QUML PhD Workshop, NOVAFRICA Conference, Nordic Conference on Development Economics, Minorities in Economics Conference, CEPR Economics Job Market Bootcamp, 5th NSE PhD and Postdocs Workshop, MPI/ECONtribute Workshop, IÉSEG School of Management (invited)

2025: MIT Behavioral Seminar, Development Political Economy Seminar, Northeastern University brown bag, Tufts University PhD Seminar

2023: India China Conference, University of Namur

2022: India China Conference, PSE

Fellowships and Awards

Doctoral Contract ED 465 (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), full scholarship to study at the Paris School of Economics *2022*

Master APE Scholarship (Paris School of Economics), €5,000 *2020*

Charpak Master BCS Scholarship (French Government) *2020*

Professional Service

Refereeing: *Journal of Development Economics*

Seminar organization: Casual Friday Development Seminar, Paris School of Economics

Skills

Programming: Stata (advanced), R (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), Google Earth Engine/JavaScript (intermediate), ArcGIS/QGIS (basic), Python (basic)

Online Courses: MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (MIT)

Languages: Telugu (native), Hindi (advanced), English (advanced), French (elementary, A2)

Last updated: October 13, 2026