




# PRERANA MAHESHWARI

West Lafayette, Indiana

 [www.prerana-maheshwari.com](http://www.prerana-maheshwari.com)  [mahesh24@purdue.edu](mailto:mahesh24@purdue.edu)  [www.linkedin.com/in/prerana-maheshwari/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/prerana-maheshwari/)

## CANDIDATE SUMMARY

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Economics PhD student with a passion for behavioral research using experiments and modeling methods. Currently, designing and conducting lab experiments to understand labor market discrimination and collective action problems. Extensive experience of 7+ years in large data analysis, statistical modeling, and research writing.

## EDUCATION

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### Purdue University

August 2021 – May 2026

*Doctor of Philosophy in Economics — Behavioral and Experimental Economics*

*West Lafayette, Indiana*

- **Fellowship:** Ross fellowship– Recognizes academic excellence

### Shiv Nadar University

August 2017 – May 2019

*Master's in Economics — Thesis on political economy and environmental outcomes*

*Delhi, India*

- **Assistantship:** Graduate Assistantship Program

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Indian Institute of Management- IIMB

June 2019- June 2020

*Research Associate*

*Bangalore, India*

- **Project Overview:** Investigated under-provisioning of public goods (schools, wells) in rural India, focusing on how caste segregation and taste-based discrimination affect outcomes.
- Designed and maintained lab-in-field experiment setups (hardware and software), streamlining implementation workflows. Coordinated with field agency and led sessions as narrator and lead officer.
- Managed data cleaning and statistical programming for Census and other local secondary datasets for project motivation as well as the data from the experiment.
- Collaborated with PI's to interpret findings and draft research summaries for policy recommendations.

### Vernon Smith Experimental Economics Lab - Purdue University

August 2021- Present

*Graduate Researcher*

*West Lafayette, Indiana*

- Designed and led original research in behavioral and experimental economics (refer working papers section), developing lab-based studies to investigate decision-making factors.
- Co-authored several papers with colleagues and conference collaborators, fostering a collaborative environment through shared expertise, coordinated objectives, and effective teamwork.
- **Conferences:** Presented at multiple academic conferences, including the Economic Science Association (ESA) North America Meeting & Workshop on Experimental Economics for the Environment, Germany, receiving feedback from leading scholars and honing public-speaking skills.

*Research Associate*

- Lead economics lab experiments streamlining experimental protocols, reducing recruitment and data-collection time by establishing standardized participant workflows, managing end-to-end project execution.
- Conducted an extensive literature review on female labor force participation in Iran and the MENA region. I compared research findings from both developing and developed countries, drawing out parallels and differences that could inform better policy design
- Performed literature reviews for belief-updating projects, conducted simulation-based replications, and developed experiment software.

### Department of Economics - Purdue University

August 2021- Present

*Teaching Assistant*

*West Lafayette, Indiana*

- Teach a full course in Principles of Economics (Spring 2025, Summer 2024) and Introductory Microeconomics (Summer 2023) as the instructor of record, designing lectures, assessments, and learning materials.
- TAed multiple courses in economics, support additional undergraduate courses by developing teaching materials, assisting with grading, and mentoring students on research methodologies.
- **TAed Courses:** Health Economics, Quantitative Economics with Python, Macroeconomics for Undergraduates and Masters

## WORKING PAPERS

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### “Convenience vs Conscience - Impact of Real Effort in Consumption on Pro-Environmental Behavior”

- Designed an economics lab experiment to examine how inconvenience (effort and time) influences pro-environmental and self-beneficial behavior, revealing its context-dependent nature using within-subject treatment variations.
- Findings highlight that inconvenience is often used as a justification to avoid environmentally friendly actions, with important implications for promoting sustainable behaviors.

### “Agentic Women and Workplace Bias: Experimental Evidence”

- Experiment to test if agentic qualities can correct inaccurate statistical gender discrimination.
- I will be testing the hypothesis for both entry-level type jobs and senior roles that involve leadership, isolating the effect of breaking gender norms on women in leadership positions.

### “Doomsday Effect - encouraging cooperation in collective risk social dilemma games” with Talha Cakir & Yuting Chen

- Examining how observing doomsday-like outcomes of collective action problems (e.g., climate change) in neighbors or AI agents influences individuals’ willingness to cooperate.
- Exploring the potential of such simulations as policy tools to promote cooperative behavior and drive sustainable decision making.
- Investigating whether negative spillovers of neighbors’ loss on self-benefit can have a differential effect on individual’s cooperation.

### “Entertaining Protests” with Joshua Ammons & Zhongheng Qiao

- Examining how entertainment influences protest participation by disentangling it from the protest’s overarching goals.
- Using two protest methods in the lab that differ only in entertainment value, we aim to measure how much participants genuinely care about the cause versus the event’s entertainment value.

## PUBLICATION

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*“Beyond the Headline GDP Growth Rate: Inequality in Economic Growth”*, Economics and Political Weekly (2020), with Ritwik Banerjee.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Data Analysis and Modeling:** Python, R, STATA, MATLAB.

**Project Management:** End-to-end research design, timeline coordination, stakeholder reporting.

**Collaborations:** Experience in organizing workshops, leading student associations, & managing research teams.

**Communication and Reporting:** Technical writing, presentations, posters, and policy briefs.

## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

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**Vice Chair- Research and Communications:** Doctoral Students Association- Mitchel Daniels School of Business. Twice recipient of Outstanding Officer of the Year Award.

**Vice President:** Economics Students Society- Shiv Nadar University.