

University of California, Santa Cruz  
 Department of Economics  
 1156 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

**Email:** rokapoor@ucsc.edu  
**Phone:** +1 (831) 400-9979  
**Website:** <https://rollykapoor.github.io/>

**Research interests**      Development Economics

**Education**

<b>University of California, Santa Cruz, USA</b>	
PhD in Economics, Department of Economics	2025 (expected)
M.A. in Economics, Department of Economics	2020
<b>University College London, London, UK</b>	
MSc in Economics, Department of Economics	2017
<b>University of Delhi, Delhi, India</b>	
B.A. (Honors) Economics	2015

**Publications**

**(2022) “God is in the Rain: The Impact of Rainfall-Induced Early Social Distancing on COVID-19 Outbreaks”,** with Ajay Shenoy, Bhavyaa Sharma, Guanghong Xu, Haedong Rho, and Kinpritma Sangha  
*Journal of Health Economics* 81: 102575

We measure the benefit to society created by preventing COVID-19 deaths through a marginal increase in early social distancing. We exploit county-level rainfall on the last weekend before statewide lockdown in the early phase of the pandemic. After controlling for historical rainfall, temperature, and state fixed-effects, current rainfall is a plausibly exogenous instrument for social distancing. A one percent decrease in the population leaving home on the weekend before lockdown creates an average of 132 dollars of benefit per county resident within 2 weeks. The impacts of earlier distancing compound over time and mainly arise from lowering the risk of a major outbreak, yielding large but unevenly distributed social benefit

**Works in Progress**      **“Together to Work? Effect of Travel Buddy on Women’s Employment and Mobility in India”,** with Smit Gade

**“The Girl on the Train: Effect of Delhi Metro Transit System on Women’s Employment”,** with Anirban Sanyal

**“Going the Extra Mile: Farm Subsidies and Spatial Convergence in Agricultural Input Adoption”,** with Shilpa Aggarwal, Dahyeon Jeong, Naresh Kumar, David Sungho Park, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot

**“The Sooner the Better: Evaluating the effect of Forecast-Based Action in Kenya and Somalia”**, with Shilpa Aggarwal, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot

**“Understanding Factors for Adoption of Modern Contraceptives: An experiment with Private-sector Health Providers in Liberia”**, with David Sungho Park

<b>Research Grants</b>	G2LM LIC Programme SRG (Phase VI), €24,969	2023
	UCSC Blum Scholars Grant, \$4000	2023
	Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, \$35,010	Spring 2023
	J-PAL GEA Initiative Travel/Proposal Development Grant, \$8040	2022
	UCSC Economics Department Research Grant, \$5000	2022, 2023
	J-PAL K-CAI Research Grant with Shilpa Aggarwal, Jonathan Robinson, and Alan Spearot, \$400,000	2021
<b>Fellowships, and Awards</b>	UCSC Graduate Summer Writing Fellowship, \$6000	2023
	UCSC Eileen Brooks Memorial Research Paper Award, \$2,200	2021
	UCSC Regents’ Fellowships, \$15,000	2019
<b>Research Assistantship</b>	Jonathan Robinson (UCSC), Shilpa Aggarwal (ISB), and Alan Spearot (UCSC)	2020 – 2022
	Ajay Shenoy (UCSC)	2021
	Supreet Kaur (UC, Berkeley), Heather Scholfield (Wharton), and Christina Brown (Chicago)	2017-2019
<b>Teaching Skills</b>	Computer: STATA, QGIS, Python, R, MATLAB, ODK, SurveyCTO, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	
	Language: English (fluent), Hindi (native), Punjabi (Intermediate)	
<b>Citizenship</b>	Republic of India	