

# SHAN AMAN-RANA

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Citizenship: Pakistan  
Gender: Female

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

2022- Assistant Professor of Economics  
University of Virginia, Department of Economics  
2020-2022 *COVID-19 based temporary break*  
2019 Assistant Professor of Economics  
University of Virginia, Department of Economics

## VISITING ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Fall 2024 Visiting Faculty, Yale University, Department of Economics,  
Spring 2025 Visiting Faculty, Princeton University, Department of Economics and Department of Political Science

## AFFILIATIONS:

2023- Invited Researcher, J-PAL  
2015- International Growth Centre (IGC)  
2019- Centre for Economic Research Pakistan (CERP)  
2019- Democracy initiative, Corruption Lab for Ethics, Accountability, and the Rule of Law (CLEAR)  
2021- Fellow, Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Center, LUMS, Pakistan  
2020- Visiting Senior Fellow, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)  
2018-2021 Bissau Economics Lab (BELAB)

## EDUCATION:

2014-2019 PhD Economics, London School of Economics  
2013-2014 MRes Economics, London School of Economics  
2010-2011 MSc. Economics, London School of Economics

## FIELDS OF INTEREST:

Development Economics, Political Economy, Organizational Economics

## RESEARCH

### Publications/Accepted papers

Spillovers in State Capacity Building: Evidence from the Digitization of Land Records in Pakistan (w/ Clement Minaudier (City University), 2025 – *Conditionally accepted, American Economic Review*

Informal Fiscal Systems in Developing Countries (w/ Clement Minaudier (City University) and Sandip Sukhtankar (UVA)), 2025 - *Accepted, Journal of Development Economics*

Meritocracy in a Bureaucracy, 2025 –*Journal of Development Economics*

## **SHAN AMAN-RANA**

Team Size and Diversity (w/ Alexia Delfino (Bocconi University) and Brais Álvarez Pereira (Universidade NOVA SBE)), 2024 – *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*

### **Working Papers (under review or ready to be submitted)**

Screen Now, Save Later? The Trade-Off between Administrative Ordeals and Fraud (w/ Daniel Gingerich (UVA) and Sandip Sukhtankar (UVA)), 2025 - (*R&R (second round)*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*)

### **Other working papers**

Bureaucratic Deliberation and Performance: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin (w/ Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton University) and Lazare Kovo (Emory University)), 2024

### **Work in progress (at advanced stage):**

Gender and Choice Over Co-workers: Experimental Evidence (w/ Alexia Delfino (Bocconi University), Clement Minaudier (City University), Brais Álvarez Pereira (Universidade NOVA SBE) and Shamyla Chaudry (Lahore School of Economics))

### **Work in progress (at preliminary stage - titles subject to change)**

The Political Economy of Urban Waste (w/ Asim I. Khwaja (Harvard) and Shing-Yi Wang (Wharton, UPenn))

Structure of Services and Public Service Delivery (w/ Capt. Retd. Ikram-ul-Haq (PLRA))

Technology and Trust in the State (w/ Claudio Ferraz (UBC) and Capt. Retd. Ikram-ul-Haq (PLRA))

Deliberation and Mental Health of Female Entrepreneurs (w/ Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton) and Suman Zahra (independent researcher))

Colorism and the Marriage Market (w/ Siwan Anderson (UBC) and Ritika Gupta (UVA))

## **GRANTS:**

### **External**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2025      | PEDL (40K GBP as co-PI)   |
| 2025      | JPAL Governance Initiative (~75K USD as co-PI)  |
| 2024      | International Growth Center (three awards ~ 30K, ~20K, ~30K GBP as co-PI)   |
| 2022      | International Growth Center (~ 40,000 GBP as co-PI)   |
| 2021      | JPAL Crime and Violence Initiative grant (75,000 USD as co-PI)<br><i>Returned due to COVID-related challenges.</i>              |
| 2018      | Research Grant (5,000 GBP), STICERD   |
| 2014      | Research Grant (20,000 GBP), International Growth Centre (IGC)  |
| 2014      | PhD Field Research Grant (5000 USD), Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Pakistan                       |
| 2014      | Research Grant (140,000 USD), United States Institute of Peace (with Dr. Jacob Shapiro, Dr. Ali Cheema and Mr. Zulfiqar Hameed) |
| 2012-2013 | Research Fund, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge  |

### **Internal (UVA based)**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2025       | Bankard Fund for Political Economy (~35,000 USD), UVA |
| 2024       | Quantitative Collaborative (10,000 USD), UVA          |
| 2020, 2021 | Quantitative Collaborative (12,500 USD), UVA          |
| 2020, 2021 | Bankard Fund for Political Economy (30,000 USD), UVA  |

**AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2024      | Undergraduate Economics Summer Research Assistantship Fund (UVA)  |
| 2024-25   | Roger Sherman Research Fellow Award for Faculty Excellence  |
| 2013-2018 | Economics Department Award, Full Scholarship, PhD Economics, LSE  |
| 2013      | Offered Visiting Student Research Collaborator (VSRC), Princeton University, Department of Politics, under Dr. Jacob N. Shapiro |
| 2013      | Offered Visiting Graduate Student, University of California San Diego (UCSD), Economics Department under Prof. Eli Berman       |
| 2011-2013 | Cambridge Commonwealth Trust- HEC Pakistan, Full PhD Scholarship  |
| 2009-2011 | Master's Award, Full Scholarship, MSc. Economics, London School of Economics  |
| 2007      | Best in Academics, Civil Service of Pakistan  |
| 2007      | Best Research Paper, Civil Service of Pakistan  |
| 2006      | President of Pakistan Gold Medal, Best Probationary Officer, Civil Services of Pakistan   |
| 2006      | Best in Academics, Civil Service of Pakistan  |
| 2003      | Gold Medal, MSc. Economics, Lahore School of Economics  |
| 2003      | Silver Medal, Dean's Honor List, Lahore School of Economics   |
| 2002      | Gold Medal, M.B.A. Program, Lahore School of Economics  |
| 2002      | Silver Medal, M.B.A. Program, Lahore School of Economics  |
| 2002      | Full Scholarship, MSc. Economics, Lahore School of Economics  |

**TEACHING AWARDS:**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 2021, 2022 | Appreciation from UVA Career Center  |
| 2016       | LSE Best Class Teacher Award   |
| 2016       | Nominated for LSE Students' Union Student-led Most Inspirational Teacher Award |
| 2012-2013  | Best Teaching Fellow in the Economics Tripos, University of Cambridge          |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Invited lectures**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2025 | Development Econ, PhD Economics, Economics Department, Princeton University   |
| 2023 | Clientelism and state capture (Ph.D level), Politics Department, Princeton University   |
| 2023 | Bureaucracy in the developing world (Master's level), School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), Princeton University |

**Core teaching**

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|-----------|---|
| 2022-     | PhD Econ Math Camp, Department of Economics, University of Virginia   |
| 2019-     | Economic Development, Department of Economics, University of Virginia   |
| 2015-2018 | Micro and Macro for Public Policy, Master of Public Administration, School of Public Policy, LSE                    |
| 2013-2018 | Empirical Methods for Public Policy, Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA), School of Public Policy, LSE |
| 2013-2018 | Economic Policy Analysis, Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA), School of Public Policy, LSE            |
| 2013-2014 | Political Science & Public Policy, Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA), School of Public Policy, LSE   |
| 2012-2013 | Economics of Developing Countries, Undergraduate Tripos Part IIB, Department of Economics, University of Cambridge  |

## **SHAN AMAN-RANA**

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|-----------|--|
| 2011-2012 | Development Economics, Undergraduate Tripos Part I, Department of Economics, University of Cambridge |
| 2002-2004 | Microeconomics, Masters level, Department of Economics, Lahore School of Economics                   |

### **ADVISING**

#### **PhD Econ students (initial placement)**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2024 | Jessica Montgomery, AP, University of Kentucky          |
|      | Avantika Prabhakar, AP, Ashoka University               |
| 2021 | Luan Santos, Quantitative Analytics Senior, Freddie Mac |

#### **Master's student (initial placement)**

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|------|--|
| 2023 | Fatimah Shaalan, Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board |
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#### **Research Assistants (initial placement)**

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|-----------|---|
| 2019-2025 | Yanwen Wang, PhD Econ, Cornell University               |
|           | Kathryn Enrique, PhD Econ, Vanderbilt University        |
|           | Joshua Mazhar, Masters, Engineering Columbia University |
|           | Shenyi (Alex) Chen, Masters Cornell                     |
|           | Yuanzhan Gao, Masters, Berkeley ( <i>declined</i> )     |
|           | Da Lin, MSc. Computer Sciences, Duke University         |
|           | Ryan Keller, Senior Associate, Berkeley Research Group  |
|           | Dylan Klapper, Business Analyst, Capital One            |

#### **Research Interns (initial placement)**

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| Haider Nafees Ahmed, Undergraduate Econ, Duke University |
| Ahmad Hassan Faiz Chaddhar, Undergraduate Econ, NYU      |

### **OTHER POSITIONS HELD:**

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| 2017      | Research Assistant for Prof. Oriana Bandiera, London School of Economics     |
| 2005-2019 | Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS) civil servant, Government of Pakistan |
| 2004      | Research Associate, WWF-Pakistan   |

### **SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (including scheduled\*):**

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|------|---|
| 2026 | <b>Seminars:</b> UW Madison Public Econ Seminar*; Development Seminar UC Davis*; Dev Seminar UC Irvine*<br><b>Conferences:</b> Washington Area Meeting of Economic Scientists (GMU)*<br><i>Invited to attend</i> *: Berkeley Conference on State Building in Developing Countries, NBER Organizational Econ meeting, Annual Organizational and Political Economics Conference (Utah)  |
| 2025 | <b>Seminars:</b> Development Econ Workshop (Economics, Princeton); Center for Economic Studies (US Census Bureau) - <i>postponed by them following govt policy</i><br><b>Conferences:</b> Game Theory, Political Economy and Development (Princeton-African School of Econ Research Hub and Moroccan Game Theory Center); Kuznets conference (Yale); Pacific Conference for Development Econ - PACDEV (UCLA, USC); Emerging Research in State Capacity and Political Economy Conference (Oxford) <i>cancelled</i><br><i>Invited to attend</i> : NBER Organizational Econ meeting, BREAD & Princeton Conference on Development Economics, Annual Organizational and Political Economics Conference (Utah) <i>cancelled</i> |
| 2024 | <b>Seminars:</b> MIT Organizational Econ Seminar, Yale Development Seminar, UVA Econ Dept (internal)  |

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|      | <p><b>Conferences:</b> DC Political Economy Center (DCPEC) Research Workshop (Georgetown University); NEUDC (Northeastern), STEG-CEPR annual conference (Barcelona), ThReD Conference (MIT Sloan), Annual Organizational and Political Economics Conference (Utah), Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting (Chicago), Midwestern International Economic Development Conference (University of Chicago); NBER Organization Economics Spring Meeting; RIDGE/LACEA Political Economy Workshop (Chile); SIOE, <i>cancelled</i> (University of Chicago); American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, <i>cancelled</i> (Philadelphia)</p> <p><i>Invited to attend:</i> Washington-Area Political Economy Conference, DC Political Economy Center (DCPEC) at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins University, NBER SI Development Economics, NBER Organizational Econ Fall meeting</p> <p><i>Invited to discuss:</i> Organizational Economics Workshop (Cornell University, <i>declined</i>)</p> |
| 2023 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> UVA Econ Dept (internal); CREB Development Research Seminar Lahore School of Econ (<i>cancelled</i>)</p> <p><b>Conferences:</b> Empirical Management Conference (Stanford); Path2Dev Conference; Southern Economic Association annual meeting; IEA - World Congress (<i>declined</i>); WADES (George Washington University); Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development Workshop (George Mason)</p> <p><i>Invited to attend:</i> NBER Organizational Econ; NBER Compensation of Top Executives: Determinants and Consequences; Firms, trade and development conference (Yale)</p>   |
| 2022 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> UVA (Experimental Economics Reading group); University of Delaware; Quantitative Collaborative Lunch Series; Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, SIOE University of Toronto, Workshop on Corruption and Institutions</p> <p><b>Conferences:</b> Workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation by Mike Ewens (Caltech) and Song Ma (Yale SOM) (as discussant); Pathways to Development Conference, LUMS; <i>Invited to attend:</i> NBER Organizational Econ; NBER SI Gender in the Economy</p>   |
| 2021 | <p><b>Seminars (online):</b> Development seminar University of Michigan; Fordham University; IFPRI; Iowa State University; Williams College; UVA (Development Economics)</p> <p><b>Conferences (online, except**):</b> NBER Organizational Economics fall meeting**; NEUDC (Boston University); Southern Economic Association (SEA); UVA-Richmond Fed-Duke Jamboree; WADES (Georgetown); IEA (<i>cancelled</i>); Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE); London School of Economics Workshop on Clientelism</p>   |
| 2020 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> UVA Junior Economists Lunch Series</p> <p><b>Conferences:</b> WADES (<i>cancelled</i>); IEA (<i>cancelled</i>); EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference (<i>cancelled</i>); Midwest International Economic Development Conference (<i>cancelled</i>)</p>  |
| 2019 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> Queen Mary University of London; World Bank; University of Toronto; University of Virginia; Lahore University of Management Sciences</p>   |
| 2018 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> Institute of Fiscal Studies; London School of Economics (Development, STICERD, Political Science and Political Economy seminars)</p> <p><b>Conferences:</b> Stanford and UC Berkeley: Fourth Development and Political Economics SF Bay Area conference, UC Berkeley</p>   |
| 2017 | <p><b>Seminars:</b> London School of Economics (Development, Labor, STICERD, Political Science and Political Economy seminars)</p>   |

## **SHAN AMAN-RANA**

**Conferences:** IEA; North American Summer Meeting; Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA-ESEM), NEUDC (Tufts University)

### **REFEREEING**

*American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, AEJ: Applied, AEJ: Economic Policy, AER Insights, Review of Economics and Statistics, Nature Cities, Economic Journal, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Development Econ, Journal of Public Economics, Economica, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Letters, Oxford Economic Papers*

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### **Department service**

2024, 2025 Committee for the Distinguished Majors Program (UVA)  
2023 Development Workshop Organizer (UVA)  
2023 Political Economy and Economic History Reading Group Organizer (w/ Kerem Cosar, UVA)

#### **University service**

2022 Organized a conference on corruption and institutions (CLEAR Lab UVA)

#### **National service**

2024 Invited talk: *How research changes the world*, Salus Populi Foundation, Yale University  
2022, 2023 Mentoring job market candidates, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE)  
2021 Scientific programme committee, Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), MIT

#### **International service**

2023-2024 Founded *Azad Soch* – an advocacy organization that takes research to films.  
<https://sites.google.com/view/azadsoch>  
2014 Conference convened: Institutions and their Discontents: Rethinking Economic Development in South Asia, University of Cambridge