

Aakansha Jain

Department of Economics, Iowa State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics , Iowa State University	Aug 2022 – May 2027 (expected)
M.Sc. in Economics , Shiv Nadar University, India	2018–2020
B.Sc. in Economics (Minor: Mathematics & Statistics, First-Class Honours), Lady Brabourne College, University of Calcutta, India	2014–2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Agricultural Labor, Development Economics, Rural Development, Migration, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Manternach, R., Jain, A., Orazem, P.F., & Soborowicz, L. (2025). “Are College Towns Really Recession Proof?” *Growth and Change*, 56(4): e70064.

Book Chapters

Jain, A., Montenegro, C., & Orazem, P.F. (forthcoming, 2026). “Youth Labor Markets in High- and Low-Income Countries.” In K. Leicht (Ed.), *Oxford University Handbook on the 21st Century Economy*. Oxford University Press.

WORKING PAPERS

“The Rise of H-2A: Causal Evidence on Guestworker Substitution for Settled Farm Labor”	<i>Job Market Paper</i> solo-authored
“Trends in College Wage Premiums in India, 1987–2012 [link] ”	Solo-authored, 2025
“An Overview of the 2024 Iowa State University Alumni Survey [RePEc] ”	with A. Andrade, J. Eyles, K. Kimle, P.F. Orazem, and R. Unal

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Does Broadband Close the Rural Education Gap?”	with L. Han and J.V. Winters
“Returns to Farming Among ISU Alumni”	with I. Cho and P.F. Orazem
“Firm Entry and Serial Entrepreneurship Among ISU Alumni”	with D. Lin and P.F. Orazem

POLICY REPORTS

- Crespi, G., and Jain, A. (2026). "Where Do They Go? Migration Patterns of Iowa State University Alumni." *Agricultural Policy Review*, Winter 2026. Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University. [\[link\]](#)
- Andrade, A., Eyles, J., Jain, A., Kimle, K., Orazem, P.F., & Unal, R. (2025). "How a Land Grant College Affects Business and Job Creation." *Agricultural Policy Review*, Fall 2025. Center for Agricultural and Rural Development, Iowa State University. [\[link\]](#)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Media Mentions

- "Iowa State college graduates left for bigger cities, but they're returning to Iowa." *Axios Des Moines*, April 21, 2026. Coverage of Crespi and Jain (2026). [\[link\]](#)

Outreach Writing

- Jain, A. (2024). "How to Compute Real Income or Real Value of a Given Currency?" *Ask an Economist*, Department of Economics, Iowa State University, November 6, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting, Houston, TX Nov 2026
Selected Paper: JMP.
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO Jul 2026
Selected Paper: JMP.
- Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2025
"Are College Towns Really Recession Proof?"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Iowa State University

ECON 3530: Money, Banking, and Financial Institutions Spring 2025
Instructor of record for 60 students. Designed the course syllabus, prepared all lecture slides, managed homework and in-class quizzes using the Pearson platform, and coordinated with a teaching assistant for grading. Topics included monetary policy, central banking, financial regulation, and international finance.

Teaching Assistant, Iowa State University

- ECON 1020: Principles of Macroeconomics Spring 2026
Assisted with Friday lectures and prepared and graded weekly quizzes.
- ECON 2070: Quantitative Methods in Economic Analysis I Fall 2025
Conducted weekly math-focused lab sessions for 30 students; opened each session with a guided example and supported students in applying quantitative methods to economic problems.
- ECON 3530: Money, Banking, and Financial Institutions Fall 2024
Attended all lectures to provide continuous student support; conducted review sessions before exams, solved practice problems in class, and graded written exams.

- ECON 1010: Principles of Microeconomics (Online, Accelerated) Winter 2024
Taught an intensive one-month asynchronous section; recorded comprehensive review sessions and hosted live Q&A discussions.
- ECON 1020: Principles of Macroeconomics Fall 2023
Led independent biweekly recitations reviewing lecture content and exam materials; facilitated in-class discussions and addressed conceptual questions.
- ECON 1010: Principles of Microeconomics (Online) Spring 2023
Managed student communication in a fully online course; resolved queries via email, maintained virtual office hours, and supported engagement in an asynchronous format.
- ECON 1010L: Principles of Microeconomics Lab Fall 2022
Guided students through core microeconomic concepts in weekly lab sessions; clarified problem-solving methods, graded lab assignments, and provided individualized support.

Mentorship

- Help Room Tutor Spring 2023 – Fall 2024
Assisted students across principles and intermediate courses during weekly help-room hours. Ranked top 3 of 25 TAs; recommended for ISU Teaching Excellence Award.
- Graduate Mentor, “Saturday Morning Breakfast Club” Spring 2023 – Present
Mentor undergraduate and graduate students through their own research projects in a weekly research program in the ISU Department of Economics, founded by Peter Orazem in 2014. Advise students on research questions and data sources, and guide them through dataset construction, cleaning, and Stata programming. Several papers listed above originated in Breakfast Club collaborations.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral

- Research Assistant, Iowa State University Jul 2025 – Present
Led data construction and analysis on the ISU Alumni Surveys across several projects: rural–urban migration patterns across graduating cohorts, and entrepreneurship among alumni using the pooled 2008 and 2024 surveys, estimating how graduation-year economic conditions and family business ties shape whether and when graduates start businesses.
- Research Assistant, Iowa State University Summer 2024
Supported the 2024 ISU Alumni Survey data pipeline; cleaned raw Qualtrics survey responses, constructed employment and entrepreneurship measures, and produced descriptive tabulations used in subsequent policy reports and working papers.
- Research Assistant, Iowa State University Spring 2024
Contributed empirical analysis to college-town business-cycle resilience project; assisted with data construction and supported undergraduate researchers.

Pre-Doctoral (India)

- Research Assistant, Indian School of Business Summer 2022
Contributed to pilot RCT evaluating Bihar’s Public Distribution System; managed survey logistics and data cleaning.
- Research Assistant, IFMR LEAD Aug 2021 – Mar 2022

Analyzed differential impacts of COVID-19 on mental well-being of men and women using difference-in-differences; data analysis in Stata and geo-coding in R and Google API. PIs: Amrita Dhillon (KCL), Farzana Afridi (ISI Delhi), Sanchari Roy (KCL).

- Research Assistant, King's College London Jun 2020 – Jul 2021
Developed composite measures of state performance for MGNREGA and PMGSY; supervised team of RAs for data quality control of large administrative dataset. PIs: Amrita Dhillon (KCL), Farzana Afridi (ISI Delhi), Arka Roy Chaudhury (Shiv Nadar).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee: *Growth and Change, Journal of Development Effectiveness*
- Elected Chair, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Graduate & Professional Student Senate, ISU 2023–2024
- Senator, Department of Economics, Graduate & Professional Student Senate, ISU 2023–2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Mentee, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) 2025–2026
- Preparing Future Faculty Course (GRST 5850), Iowa State University Fall 2025

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, Python, L^AT_EX, Google API (geo-coding), Excel

Data: IPUMS (CPS, ACS, Decennial Census), USDA NASS Census of Agriculture, DOL H-2A administrative records, ISU Alumni Survey, NSSO (India), DISE (India education)

Methods: Panel data, difference-in-differences, shift-share/Bartik IV, event study, regression discontinuity, RCT design and evaluation

Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (native)

REFERENCES

Dr. John V. Winters

Co-Major Advisor, Professor

Iowa State University

winters1@iastate.edu

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518 Farm House Lane, Ames, IA 50011

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Dr. Peter F. Orazem

Co-Major Advisor, University Professor

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