

Nicholas Ryan

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Economic Growth Center
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Academic Employment

2023– Yale University, Department of Economics, Associate Professor (with tenure)
2022–23 Yale University, Department of Economics, Associate Professor (without tenure)
2015–22 Yale University, Department of Economics, Assistant Professor
2014–15 Yale University, Cowles Foundation, Postdoctoral Associate
2012–14 Harvard University and Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Prize Fellow in Economics

Affiliations

2015– National Bureau for Economic Research (NBER), Faculty Research Fellow (DEV, EEE)
2015– Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliate
2014– Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Affiliate
2014– International Growth Centre (IGC), Co-Director, Energy Programme

Education

2012 Ph.D., Economics Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thesis: “Empirical Essays on Firm Behavior in India”
Advisors: Esther Duflo and Michael Greenstone
2005 B.A., Economics, *summa cum laude* University of Pennsylvania

Research

Published papers

“Rationing the Commons” (with Anant Sudarshan). *Journal of Political Economy* (2022), 30 (1): 210-257.

“The Competitive Effects of Transmission Infrastructure in the Indian Electricity Market.” *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics* (2021), 13 (2): 202-242.

“Contract Enforcement and Productive Efficiency: Evidence from the Bidding and Renegotiation of Power Procurement Contracts in India.” *Econometrica* (2020), 88 (2): 383-424.

“The Consequences of Treating Electricity as a Right” (with Robin Burgess, Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan). *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (2020), 34 (1): 145-169.

“The Value of Discretion in the Enforcement of Regulation: Experimental Evidence and Structural Estimates from Environmental Inspections in India” (with Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone and Rohini Pande). *Econometrica* (2018), 86 (6): 2123-2160.

“A Tale of Two Runs: Depositor Responses to Bank Solvency Risk” (with Rajkamal Iyer and Manju Puri). *Journal of Finance* (2016), 71 (6): 2687-2726.

“Truth-telling by Third-party Auditors and the Response of Polluting Firms: Experimental Evidence from India” (with Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone and Rohini Pande). *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2013), 128 (4): 1499-1545.

“What Does Reputation Buy? Differentiation in a Market for Third-party Auditors” (with Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone and Rohini Pande). *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings* (2013), 103 (3): 314-319.

Working Papers

“Holding Up Green Energy: Counterparty Risk in the Indian Solar Power Market,” *NBER Working Paper #29154* (2021).

Revise & Resubmit, *Econometrica*.

“Can Pollution Markets Work in Developing Countries? Experimental Evidence from India” (with Michael Greenstone, Rohini Pande and Anant Sudarshan). *Mimeo*.

“Demand for Electricity on the Global Electrification Frontier” (with Robin Burgess, Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan). *Mimeo*.

“Energy Productivity and Energy Demand: Experimental Evidence from Indian Manufacturing Plants,” *NBER Working Paper #24619* (2018).

“Targeting through Social Norms: Experimental Evidence from India’s #GiveItUp Campaign” (with Prabhat Barnwal).

Accepted based on pre-results review, *Journal of Development Economics*.

“Praying for Rain” (with José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez and Salvador Gil-Guirado). *Mimeo*.

Selected Research in Progress

“Buying out Distortions: Evidence from Agricultural Power in Punjab” (with Anant Sudarshan)

“Advantageous Selection in Subsidy Reform: Evidence on Electricity Subsidies for Indian Farmers” (with Anant Sudarshan)

“Lighting up Bihar: Electricity Rationing and the Public Good Nature of Electricity Supply” (with Robin Burgess, Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan)

“Does Serving the Poor Cause Corruption?” (with Prabhat Barnwal)

Honors, Awards & Fellowships

2022-27	NSF CAREER Award
2012-14	Sustainability Science Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School
2011	AMID Early-Stage Researcher Fellowship
2010-11	Martin Fellowship for Sustainability
2009-10	Jameel Fellow, Jameel Poverty Action Lab
2005	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> , University of Pennsylvania
2004	Simon Kuznets Fellowship in Economics

Visits

2022	Columbia University Program for Economic Research
2017	University of California Energy Institute, UC Berkeley
2017	Becker-Friedman Institute, University of Chicago

Invited and Conference Presentations

2022-23: Harvard Kennedy School, MIT Sloan, UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley Haas School, Wharton BEPP, Columbia University, Duke University, Northwestern University, NBER DEV, University of Southern California, New York University, Coase Conference.

2021-22: Carnegie Mellon, Duke University, Indiana University, Columbia University, Rice University, University of Michigan, Economics of Energy Markets and Energy Access (Chicago), UCLA, Boston College, Coase Conference, UC Berkeley, NBER Summer Institute IO, NBER Summer Institute EEE.

2020-21: University of Colorado, Zurich Conference on Public Finance and Development, Berkeley/Harvard/Yale EEE Seminar, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, IIM Bangalore, University of Chicago, Northeast Workshop on Environmental and Energy Economics, NBER Summer Institute DEV.

2019-20: Columbia University, University of Maryland - Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California - Berkeley, Central European University, Western Economic Association International Meeting, BREAD Spring Conference, NBER Summer Institute EEE.

2018-19: NBER Development Winter Meeting, NBER EEE March Program Meeting, Northwestern University, Harvard Kennedy School, Tufts University, MIT/Harvard Development Workshop, Western Economic Association International Meeting, NBER Summer Institute EEE

2017-18: University of Chicago, University of California - San Diego, Cal State East Bay, University of California - Davis, University of California - Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon University.

2016-17: Boston University, Brown University, Dartmouth College – Northeast Energy Conference, London School of Economics, University of Namurs, Paris School of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Chicago, University of Virginia, NBER EEE Meeting.

2015-16: Cornell University, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University, Stanford University, Michigan State University, NBER - Future of Energy Distribution, IGC Bihar Growth Conference, American Economics Association Annual Meetings, Minneapolis Federal Reserve.

2013-14: Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Northwestern University, University of Chicago - Booth, University of Chicago - Economics, University of Pennsylvania - Wharton, University of California - Berkeley & Haas, Yale University, Harvard Kennedy School, London School of Economics, Duke University, CEPR / PODER Development Symposium, IGC Bihar Growth Conference, IGC Growth Week.

2012-13: Texas A&M, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, University of California - Santa Barbara, Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), University of Virginia, University of California - Davis, IGC Bihar Growth Conference.

2011-12: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Professional Activities

Referee for: *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, *B.E. Journal of Economics and Policy*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics Letters*, *Energy Journal*, *Energy Policy*, *Environment and Development Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Industrial Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Management Science*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Finance*, *Quantitative Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Science*, *World Bank Economic Review*.

Conference organizer: Cowles Models & Measurement Conference (2021, with Chao Fu and Phil Haile); LSE Environment Week (2022, with Robin Burgess et al.); Northeast Universities Development Consortium (2022, with Rohini Pande)

Evaluating Social Programs (Executive Training, Jameel Poverty Action Lab – South Asia), Teaching Assistant (2008, 2009) and Lecturer (2012-14)

Non-Academic Employment

2005–07 Federal Reserve Board, Washington Research Assistant

Grants

Project title	Donor	Amount	Grant #	From	To
Institutions for Carbon Abatement in Developing Countries	National Science Foundation – CAREER	USD 513,991	SES-2143098	22-Apr	27-Mar
Rationing the Commons: A Research Program on the Efficiency of Institutions for Groundwater Management	National Science Foundation	USD 458,193	SES-1919076	19-Aug	21-Jul
Direct Benefit Transfers for Electricity	US Agency for International Development (US AID) - DIV	USD 799,078	7200AA19 FA00008	19-Aug	22-Aug
Rajasthan Electricity Project	Payment and Governments Research Programme	USD 406,305	NA	19-Feb	
Emission Trading Scheme for Particulate Matter Air Pollution	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)	USD 430,934	DPW1.1067	17-Mar	19-Dec
Direct Benefit Transfers for Electricity (DBTE) Pilot Program	USD 128,189	MCP Foundation	GA-MCP-RJE-2018/1	18-Sep	19-Dec
Monitoring the performance of agents in public service delivery	Economic Development and Institutions	GBP 22,000	PO 26435	18-Apr	19-Apr
Give It Up	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	INR 1,454,406	4600732427/ 12.6.2018	18-Apr	19-Mar
Give It Up	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	INR 1,454,406	PO 18000055- ON-10157	18-Apr	
Give It Up	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	INR 2,908,811	NA (MOU)	17-Apr	17-May
Direct Benefit Transfers for Electricity	J-PAL Government Partnership Initiative	USD 50,000	PO 107301	17-Jun	18-Jul
Lighting up Bihar: Electrification to Sustain Growth	Private Enterprise Development in Low-income Countries (PEDL)	GBP 272,246	MRG004_3858	16-May	18-Jan
Clearing the Air: The Effects of Transparency on Plant Pollution Emissions	International Growth Centre	GBP 101,300	1-VRE-VINC- VXXXX- 89417	16-Nov	17-Dec
Residential Electricity Consumption Survey	World Bank	INR 3,187,914	7182743	17-Mar	17-Jun
Agricultural Electricity Subsidy Reform and Power Leakage in Rajasthan	J-PAL Governance Initiative	USD 50,000	5710004162	16-Jan	17-Jun
Developing an implementing innovative mechanisms for electricity subsidy delivery to the agricultural sector	Shakti Foundation	INR 5,986,958	G16 SSEF-207	16-May	17-May
Trust and the Purchase of Energy-Efficient Durable Goods	UC Berkeley	USD 25,000	9134	16-Mar	17-Feb
Increasing the Transparency of Environmental Regulation	Private Enterprise Development in Low-income Countries (PEDL)	GBP 39,966	PEDL_LOA_3784	16-Jan	16-Dec

Project title	Donor	Amount	Grant #	From	To
Wastewater as a Collective Action Problem: Effluent Trading for Water Quality in Urban India	J-PAL Urban Services Initiative	USD 215,454	5710003828	14-Nov	16-Oct
Welfare benefits assessment of electricity services to the rural population - EL survey and analysis	Shakti Foundation	INR 2,982,238	G15 SSEF-185	15-Dec	16-Apr
Environmental Regulation as an Information-Based Technology	US Agency for International Development (US AID)	USD 314,954	AID-OAA-F-14-00034	14-Oct	16-Apr
Husk Power	Acumen Fund	USD 30,000	NA	14-Sep	
Lighting Up Bihar: Electricity Service Delivery as a Collective Action Problem	J-PAL Urban Services Initiative	USD 160,675	5710003773	14-Jan	16-Mar
Lighting up Bihar: Electrification to Sustain Economic Growth	J-PAL Governance Initiative	USD 297,122	5710003995	15-Oct	16-Mar
Asymmetric Information and the Energy-Efficiency of Durable Goods: Evidence from Cooking Stoves in India	International Growth Centre	GBP 98,353	1-VRE-VINC-VXXXX-89303	15-Apr	16-Mar
The welfare benefits of rural electrification: Studying the demand for solar energy amongst rural populations	LGT Venture Philanthropy	USD 30,000	NA	15-Feb	16-Feb
Lighting up Bihar: Electrification to Sustain Growth	International Growth Centre	GBP 92,000	1-VCE-VINB-VXXXX-34202	13-Nov	15-Dec
Assessment of energy and climate co-benefits of improved air quality management	Shakti Foundation	INR 1,258,628	1504-50745	14-Jul	15-Jun
Building Environmental Regulation that Enables Growth	International Growth Centre	GBP 103,290	1-VCE-VINC-VXXXX-35138	13-Nov	14-Nov
Increasing the Transparency of Environmental Regulation	Shakti/Climateworks Foundation	USD 39,491	13-0603	13-Dec	14-Nov
How does energy efficiency pass-through to product markets? Evidence from Indian manufacturing firms	Private Enterprise Development in Low-income Countries (PEDL)	USD 40,000	PEDL.LOA.1657.13-01	13-Oct	14-Mar
Understanding Adoption of Clean Development Mechanism Technologies to Improve Energy Efficiency	MIT Energy Initiative	USD 99,004	5710003166	11-Apr	12-Sep
Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships for the Indian and Global Environment	US Agency for International Development (US AID) - DIV	USD 185,553	AID-OAA-G-12-00007	11-Apr	12-Sep