

Tushar Kundu

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Summary

Economist and data scientist with a Ph.D. in Economics, specializing in causal inference, structural modeling, experimental design, and applied research management. Translates quantitative and qualitative research into actionable tools and policy strategies.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University

May 2026

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics (Honors), Swarthmore College

2017

Skills

- **Research:** Randomized controlled trials, causal inference, structural discrete choice, Bayesian estimation, survey and mixed-methods design
- **Technical:** R, Python, SQL, Stan; reproducible and spatial-data pipelines, R Shiny, ggplot2, plotly, geospatial dashboards
- **Leadership:** Research strategy and standards, stakeholder advising, cross-functional project management

Experience

Research Lead

Planet Reimagined

Remote

Aug 2026 – Present

- Serve as the first full-time research manager, shaping the organization-wide action-research agenda and advising teams on research questions, study design, sampling, data collection, and quality control
- Lead quantitative and qualitative analysis, partnering with the AI/Data Lead to turn findings into reports, metrics, dashboards, geospatial overlays, and advocacy strategies

Data Scientist

Learning Collider

Remote

Oct 2025 – Present

- Analyze human and large-language-model hiring decisions for thousands of software-engineering candidates, measuring accuracy and racial disparities in resume screening
- Develop structural models that decompose screening gaps into taste-based discrimination, statistical discrimination, and biased beliefs

Doctoral Researcher

Columbia University

New York, NY / India

2019 – 2026

- Led a randomized field experiment across five schools, surveying 3,404 parents and deploying a secure portal that delivered preference data to 200+ teachers
- Managed the full research lifecycle, including IRB approval, survey design, field implementation, data pipelines, structural estimation, and stakeholder dissemination

Researcher — Subjective Well-Being Measurement

NBER / USC

Cambridge, MA / Los Angeles, CA

July 2017 – July 2019

- Analyzed 500,000+ stated-preference observations from 896 respondents to estimate marginal utilities across 126 well-being dimensions using structural choice models
- Built R pipelines for data cleaning, validation, and structural estimation; contributed to NBER Working Paper 33846

Selected Dissertation Research

- **What Skills Do Families Want?** Field experiment and structural model showing how parent information helps teachers target instruction toward family priorities
- **What Do People Want?** (with Benjamin, Cooper, Heffetz, and Kimball; NBER WP 33846): Estimated preference weights across 126 well-being dimensions from 500,000+ stated choices
- **AI and Human Decision-Making in Hiring** (with Bergman and Noray): Compared human and LLM screening and decomposed observed bias by economic mechanism

Additional Experience & Awards

Experience: Global Attitudes Intern, Pew Research Center (2016) | Columbia Instructor & TA (2020–2025)

Awards: Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia (2024–25) | Dean's Fellowship, Columbia (2019–20) | Research Grants: \$45,600