

**KARTHIK MURALIDHARAN**

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<http://www.econ.ucsd.edu/~kamurali/>

E-mail: [kamurali@ucsd.edu](mailto:kamurali@ucsd.edu)

**Office Address**

Department of Economics (Room 211)  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive, #0508  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508  
Tel: (858) 534-2425; Fax: (858) 534-7040

**Academic Positions:**

Assistant Professor of Economics: University of California, San Diego: July 08 - present  
Post-Doctoral Fellow: Harvard Graduate School of Education: July 07 – June 08

**Affiliations:**

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)  
Junior Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)  
Member, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT (J-PAL)  
Research Affiliate, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)  
Affiliate, Center of Evaluation for Global Action (CEGA)

**Research Interests:**

Fields: Development, Public, Labor  
Topics: Education, Health, Social Protection, Service Delivery, Program Evaluation, Field Experiments

**Education:**

Ph.D. (Economics), Harvard University, June 2007  
Advisors: Michael Kremer, Caroline Hoxby, Martin Feldstein  
Dissertation: Essays on the Economics of Education in Developing Countries  
M.Phil. (Economics), Cambridge University, UK, 1999 (Ranked 1<sup>st</sup>)  
A.B. (Economics), Harvard University, *summa cum laude*, 1998

**Honors and Fellowships:**

2009 – 10	Center for Pacific Economies Fellowship, UC San Diego
2008	Spencer Foundation Exemplary Dissertation Award
2006 – 07	Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2006 – 07	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship
2004 – 06	Bradley Foundation Fellowship
2004	Derek Bok Center Certificate for Excellence in Teaching
2003 – 04	Justice, Welfare, and Economics Fellowship, Harvard University

2001 – 03	Harvard University Graduate Fellowship
1999	Stevenson Prize, Cambridge University
1998 – 99	Eben Fiske Fellowship to Trinity College, Cambridge University
1997	Phi Beta Kappa (junior year inductee)
1995	Detur Prize

### **Published and Forthcoming Journal Articles**

"Teacher Performance Pay: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), forthcoming in the *Journal of Political Economy*

"Teacher Opinions on Performance Pay: Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), forthcoming in the *Economics of Education Review*

"The Impact of Diagnostic Feedback to Teachers on Student Learning: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman), *Economic Journal*, Vol. 120, issue 546, August 2010, pp F187-F203

"Missing in Action: Teacher and Health Worker Absence in Developing Countries" (with Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Michael Kremer, Halsey Rogers), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 2006, pp 91-116

Why are teachers absent? Probing service delivery in Peruvian primary schools (with Lorena Alcázar, Halsey Rogers, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Michael Kremer), *International Journal of Educational Research*, 2006, Vol. 45, pp 117-136

"Teacher Absence in India: A Snapshot" (with Michael Kremer, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Halsey Rogers), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 3, no. 2-3, April-May 2005, pp. 658-67

### **Published and Forthcoming Articles in Edited Volumes**

"Teacher and Medical Worker Incentives in India" in the *Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, edited by Kaushik Basu, Oxford University Press, 2007

"Public and Private Schools in Rural India" (with Michael Kremer), in *School Choice International*, edited by Paul Peterson and Rajashri Chakrabarti, MIT Press, 2008

### **Working Papers**

"Contract Teachers: Experimental Evidence from India" (with Venkatesh Sundararaman)

"School Inputs, Household Substitution, and Test Scores" (with Jishnu Das, Stefan Dercon, James Habyarimana, Pramila Krishnan, and Venkatesh Sundararaman)

"Is there a Doctor in the House? Absent Medical Providers in India" (with Michael Kremer, Nazmul Chaudhury, Jeffrey Hammer, Halsey Rogers)

### **Ongoing Projects**

"The Aggregate Effect of School Choice: Evidence from a two-stage experiment in India"

"Double for what? The Impact of Teacher Certification and Salary Doubling on Learning Outcomes in Indonesia" (with Halsey Rogers, and Menno Pradhan)

"Medical Advice, Quality, and Availability in Rural India" (with Jishnu Das, Alaka Holla, Michael Kremer, and Manoj Mohanan)

"Building State Capacity: Smartcards and Public Programs in India" (with Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar)

## **Policy Papers and General Writing:**

"On the Optimal Size of States," *The Indian Express*, December 16, 2009

"Public Service Delivery in India: Challenges and Opportunities," *India in Transition*, Center for the Advanced Study of India (University of Pennsylvania) September 22, 2007

"Public-Private Partnerships for Quality Education in India," *Seminar*, Issue #565, September 2006

"Reward Teachers But Ensure Output," *The Indian Express*, June 30, 2006

## **Teaching**

Microeconomics of Development (Ph.D.), UC San Diego

Development Economics (Undergraduate), UC San Diego

Running Field Experiments (Masters/Ph.D.), UC San Diego

Economics of Education in Developing Countries (Masters), Harvard University

Public Sector Economics (Undergraduate), Harvard College

## **Invited Seminars and Presentations** (Economics Department unless mentioned otherwise)

- 2010 – 11    Conference on Social Policy in India, University of Warwick  
BREAD Summer Workshop, University of Verona and Trento, Italy  
INSEAD, Singapore  
National University of Singapore  
National University of Singapore – Global Asia Institute  
Singapore Management University  
Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore  
University of Arkansas, Department of Education Reform  
University of Houston  
NBER Economics of Education Fall Meeting  
Conference on Impact Evaluation, Korea Development Institute, Seoul, South Korea  
Conference on Growth & Development, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi  
IGC Bihar Growth Conference, Patna  
IGC India Growth Conference, New Delhi  
Stanford University, Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA)
- 2009 – 10    NBER Summer Institute – Education Group Meeting  
NBER Summer Institute – Personnel Economics Working Group  
Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE)  
Dartmouth College  
UC, Riverside  
UC, Irvine  
Northwestern University  
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta  
J-PAL Bihar Development Conference  
NBER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana  
University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management  
University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics  
World Bank, Development Economics Research Group (DECRG), Washington DC  
Center for Global Development (CGD), Washington DC  
Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE), Stockholm, Sweden  
Conference on Merit Pay for Teachers, Harvard Kennedy School (PEPG)  
Conference on "Education policies: Empirics and design" at KUL, Belgium
- 2008 – 09    NBER-CCER Conference on the Chinese Economy, Beijing  
University of Southern California

- NEUDC, Boston University  
 Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC  
 University of Pennsylvania (Center for the Advanced Study of India)  
 Harvard Kennedy School of Government  
 Indian School of Business, Hyderabad  
 World Bank, Jakarta  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Stanford University  
 University of Florida  
 University of California, San Diego  
 World Bank Workshop on “Making Schools Accountable?”, Washington DC
- 2007 – 08 Ministry of Education and Ministry of Planning, Government of Indonesia  
 World Bank/DFID South Asia Regional Conference on Quality Education, New Delhi  
 Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, New Delhi  
 NBER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana  
 Columbia University  
 Vanderbilt University, Peabody College of Education – National Conference on Performance Incentives  
 Texas A & M University  
 Texas A & M University, Bush School of Government  
 University of California, San Diego  
 CESifo – Munich, Germany – Conference on Incentives in Education
- 2006 – 07 NEUDC, Cornell University  
 Harvard University  
 Yale University, School of Management  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 University of California, Berkeley (ARE)  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, San Diego  
 University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy  
 Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management  
 Harvard University, Graduate School of Education  
 University of Texas, Austin  
 NBER Economics of Education Spring Meeting  
 University of Virginia
- 2005 – 06 Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of School Education  
 NBER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana  
 Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi
- 2004 and earlier NBER Conference on the Indian Economy, Neemrana  
 Global Development Network Conference, New Delhi  
 Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi  
 Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi  
 Network on South Asian Politics and Political Economy (NETSAPPE), CERl, Paris

### **Professional Activities**

- Member: American Economic Association  
 Teacher Quality Advisory Group (Inter-American Development Bank)
- Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*  
*American Economic Review*

*Canadian Journal of Economics*  
*Economic Development and Cultural Change*  
*Economics of Education Review*  
*Economic Journal*  
*India Review*  
*Journal of Development Economics*  
*Journal of the European Economic Association*  
*Journal of Human Development*  
*Journal of Human Resources*  
*Journal of Labor Economics*  
*Journal of Political Economy*  
*Journal of Public Economics*  
*Quarterly Journal of Economics*  
*Review of Economics and Statistics*  
*Review of Economic Studies*  
*Southern Economic Journal*  
*World Bank Economic Review*  
Israel Science Foundation  
National Science Foundation

**Other Employment:**

2002 – Present	Consultant, World Bank Development Economics Research Group: 2002 - 04 South Asia Human Development Unit: 2004 - Present East Asia Human Development Unit: 2007 - Present
2001 – 2008	Resident Tutor, Leverett House, Harvard University
2001 – 2007	Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Economics, Harvard University
1999 – 2001	Associate Consultant, Bain & Company, Singapore

**Personal Information:**

Born	November 1975
Personal	Married, one son
Citizenship	India
Languages	English, Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Chinese (Mandarin)