

SUCHIR KALRA

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic history of the Partition of India and its long-term implications for inequality and social mobility; education policy and learning outcomes in low-income school systems; evidence-based public policy with a focus on sustainable development and climate-responsive governance; interdisciplinary and arts-based approaches to social change and community development.

EDUCATION

Ashoka University 2018–2023

B.A. (Hons.) Economics with a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies & Research

Major in Economics, Minor in Computer Science, Concentration in Leadership & Strategy.

Dean's list Award. Teaching Assistant for CS course on "Fairness & Ethics of AI" (Monsoon 2022)

DPS International School Graduated 2018

Cambridge IGCSE & A Levels in Sciences, Economics, ICT, First Language English & Literature

Cambridge International ICE Award with **Distinction**

SKILLS

Python, R, Stata, Excel, LaTeX, GIS (Geospatial Analysis); quantitative and qualitative research; fieldwork and data collection; theatre; community engagement.

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Researcher: Education & Public Policy Jun 2025–Present

- Conducting qualitative fieldwork in public schools on governance and learning outcomes.
- Developing an interdisciplinary theater/art-based learning model that helps in lowering the learning gap for Grade 9th (Eng/SST, Teach For India).

Teaching Fellow, Data Science for Social Scientists (2000-level) Jan 2025–May 2025

Ashoka University — Course by: Prof. Anustubh Agnihotri (PhD, UC Berkeley)

- Supervised students on data-driven research projects using R.
- Introduced advanced data science methods including data visualization, modeling, and GIS (Geospatial techniques)

Teaching Fellow, Quantitative Research Methods (1000 level) Aug 2024 – Dec 2024

Ashoka University — Course by: Prof. Anustubh Agnihotri (PhD, UC Berkeley)

- Taught R programming, research methodology, and data analysis to Political Science majors with little or no programming background.
- Designed coursework, and evaluation rubrics to strengthen methodological foundations and applied research skills.
- Led discussion sessions and mentored student research projects.

Research Assistant: Partition Project 2022

Prof. Johannes Burgers, Ashoka University / James Madison University (Digital Humanities)

- Performed sentiment analysis of pre- and post-Partition Indian literature using R.
- Produced GIS visualizations mapping shifts in sentiment across religious and socioeconomic groups.

Research Intern: Tech & Policy

2021

Takshashila Institution

- Contributed to a Digital Platform Governance project.
- Authored a rapid research note on the economic implications of the WhatsApp lawsuit on the Government of India.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Manager, Office of Financial Aid

May 2023–Mar 2024

Ashoka University

- Evaluated financial aid applications and guided students and families, particularly from low-income backgrounds.
- Helped streamline documentation and grievance redress processes to improve turnaround time.

Development & Fundraising Team Intern

Aug 2022–Mar 2023

Ashoka University

- Prepared impact reports for more than 150 donors of the university.

SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Design Thinking for Sustainability

2022

Collaborative project with the University of Toronto.

Applied design-thinking methods to prototype interventions that address local climate and sustainability challenges.

Inequality in India: Piketty and Boo

2022

Supervised by Prof. Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. Linked macroeconomic theories of inequality with ethnographic evidence from Katherine Boo's *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* to examine distributional impacts in India.

Accessible & Secure CAPTCHA Prototype

2021–2022

Computer Science (Accessibility, Security, GDPR Compliance).

Developed a blind-friendly, secure, and GDPR-compliant CAPTCHA concept to improve web accessibility for visually impaired users.

AI Art and Design Perception Study

2020

Supervised by Prof. Debayan Gupta, Ashoka University

Produced a 96-page research booklet on the technical, philosophical, and economic aspects of AI-generated art, including surveys and interviews with AI artists and market stakeholders.

SOCIAL IMPACT & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Sustainable Dance-Floor (Piezoelectricity Project)

2023

Computation & Creativity Project, Ashoka University— Supervised by Prof. Debayan Gupta

Created a functioning prototype of a piezoelectric dance-floor tile capable of converting kinetic energy into electrical output for sustainable artistic environments.

EV Charging Sustainability Initiative, Ashoka University

2020–2022

Led the initiative to set up EV charging stations on campus in collaboration with university leadership, contributing to institutional carbon footprint reduction and sustainable mobility.

Accessibility and Inclusion Initiatives, Ashoka University

2019–2023

Taught coding, theatre, and cycling to visually impaired peers and proposed campus accessibility improvements to foster greater inclusion and participation.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer actor, Ruchika Theatre Group (Feisal Alkazi)

2024–Present

Cast member in Maxim Gorky's *The Lower Depths*, engaging in theatre that foregrounds questions of social justice and marginality.

Volunteer, Swechha NGO

Participated in environmental and community-based initiatives that combined arts, education, and outreach to sustainability.

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent); Hindi (Fluent); French (B2, DELF/Alliance Française); German (A1).

REFERENCES

Prof. Debayan Gupta

Professor of Computer Science, Ashoka University; Advisor & Collaborator, MIT CSAIL

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Prof. Johannes Burgers

Research Fellow, Ashoka University; Associate Professor of English and Digital Humanities, James Madison University

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