

Ritika Verma

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Education

New York University, USA <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	Sept. 2021– 3.82/4
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi <i>Master of Arts, Economics (Rank 3 in a batch of 250+ students)</i>	Aug. 2018 – Aug. 2020 81.6% (1224/1500)
Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi <i>Bachelor in Arts, Economics (Rank 8 in a batch of 150+ students)</i>	Jul. 2015 – May 2018 8.95/10

Research Fields

Entrepreneurial Finance, Microeconomic Theory, Financial Economics, Contract Theory, Corporate Finance Theory

Working Papers

Financing Innovation with Reputation Concerns

In a dynamic model, an investor, financing the project, cannot observe project failure and the entrepreneur, facing career concerns, can hide failure. There is a tension between promoting early disclosure of failure and providing sufficient incentives for it. The optimal contract incentivizes disclosure of failure during an initial transparency stage. This is followed by a delayed disclosure stage, where the failure is disclosed with a lag of random length. The model explains several empirical patterns in venture capital financing and the financing of innovation.

Venture Capital Contracts with Informed Investors

A cashless entrepreneur designs a contract backed by future cash flows to raise funds from an informed investor. The entrepreneur can exert costly effort to improve payoff relevant outcome where the marginal benefit depends on the quality of the project. The quality of the project is observed privately by the investors. This study investigates the optimal contract that an entrepreneur proposes to an investor given these two specific information frictions. In equilibrium, a trade-off emerges between the surplus maximization of projects of different qualities. In particular, this tradeoff creates an endogenous preference for risk by the entrepreneur when designing the menu of contracts. The results are applied to predict the effect of divergence in the entrepreneur's subjective beliefs on the project's outcome and overall efficiency in the economy.

Work in Progress

Price Discrimination with Costly Search <i>with Orestis Vravosinos</i>	2026
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Conference Presentations

Finance Theory Group Summer School <i>University of Washington, Seattle, USA</i>	2025
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6th Annual Economics Conference	2025
<i>Ahmedabad University, Gujarat, India</i>	
19th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development	2024
<i>Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India</i>	

Teaching Experience

Political Economy (Undergraduate)	Spring 2026, Spring 2025
<i>Teaching Assistant for Prof. Arjada Bardhi</i>	
Game Theory I (MSQE)	Fall 2025, Fall 2024
<i>Teaching Assistant for Prof. Erik Madsen</i>	
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023
<i>Teaching Assistant for Prof. Viprav Saini</i>	
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Summer 2025, Summer 2024
<i>Main Instructor</i>	
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Spring 2023
<i>Teaching Assistant for Prof. Basil Williams</i>	
Microeconomics I (PhD Core)	Fall 2022
<i>Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ariel Rubinstein & Prof. Alfred Galichon</i>	

Professional Activities

Service: NYU Micro Theory Student Lunch organizer	2023-2024, 2024-2025
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Pre-PhD Projects

Land Pooling and Project Choice	2020
SEVA: Smart Extension of Vaccine Administration (link)	Semi Finalist, 2019
<i>The Geneva Challenge 2019, Graduate Institute of Geneva</i>	
Gender Bias, Fertility and Sex Selective Abortions in India	2017

Work Experience

Research Associate	Sept. 2020 – Jul. 2021
<i>CAFRAL, Reserve Bank of India</i>	
<i>Mumbai, India</i>	
Research Assistant (Part-time)	Sept. 2020 – Jul. 2021
<i>Prof. Mausumi Das</i>	
<i>Delhi School of Economics & Institute of Economic Growth</i>	
Summer Intern, Fraud Analytics	Jun. 2019 – Jul. 2019
<i>Barclays Global Service Centre Private Limited</i>	
<i>Noida, India</i>	
Summer Intern	Jun. 2016 – Jul. 2016
<i>Indian Realty Exchange, QUIKR India Pvt Ltd.</i>	
<i>Delhi, India</i>	

Scholarships and Grants

Henry M. MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship <i>New York University</i>	2021-2026
GSAS Dean's Student Travel Grant <i>New York University</i>	2024
C.V. Starr Travel Grant <i>New York University</i>	2025, 2024
Prof. Late Suresh D.Tendulkar Memorial Scholarship <i>Delhi School of Economics</i>	2019-2020
Delhi University Post Graduate Scholarship <i>Delhi School of Economics</i>	2018-2019
KPMG Merit cum Need Scholarship <i>Shri Ram College of Commerce</i>	2017-2018
KPMG Merit cum Need Scholarship <i>Shri Ram College of Commerce</i>	2016-2017

Technical Skills

Languages: R, Python, Matlab, MySQL

Softwares: STATA, SAS Enterprise Guide, SAS Enterprise Miner, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office

Languages

English (fluent), Hindi (native), French (basic)

Personal

Date of Birth: September 17, 1997

Citizenship: India

US Visa: F1 status