

**Muhammad Umer Zahid**  
[umerzahid@uconn.edu](mailto:umerzahid@uconn.edu) | (856)398-0519

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## QUALIFICATIONS

- Substantial experience in conducting original economics research, including formulation of research questions, development of relevant analytical frameworks, and selection of suitable methods to answer questions.
- Adept at applying causal inference methods to tackle intricate economics problems.
- Well-versed in fundamental machine learning concepts, encompassing Generative and Resampling Methods and Model Selection as well as Tree-Based Methods.
- Skilled in the programming languages R, Stata and SQL, enabling efficient data analysis.

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.**, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 2021– 2025  
(Econometrics and Quantitative Economics)

**M.A.**, Economics, Graduate with Distinction, University of Manchester, United Kingdom Nov 2018

**B.Sc.**, Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan Jun 2016

**Relevant Courses in Ph.D.:** Machine Learning; Applied Econometrics; Advanced Labor Economics

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Causal Inference Methods:** Designing and Conducting Field Experiment; Difference in Differences Methods, Matching; Regression Discontinuity; Instrumental Variables
- **Machine Learning Techniques:** Linear and Quadratic Discriminant Analysis; K- Nearest Neighbors; Cross Validation; Bootstrap; Ridge Regression; Lasso; Principal Component Regression; Random Forest; Causal Forests
- **Others:** Non-Market Valuation (Contingent Valuation Method and Choice Experiments)
- **Programming:** Stata (Highly Proficient); R (Intermediate); SQL (Intermediate)
- **Professional Development:**
  - Attended workshop on Causal Inference by Scott Cunningham (Spring 2023)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Researcher, University of Connecticut** Aug 2021 – Present

- Identified sample population, designed survey instruments, and administered baseline exercises for an IPA-supported field experiment in Kenya. The project aims to measure the impact of a village-based extension program on the adoption of climate-resistant agricultural techniques.
- Conducting continuous difference in differences analysis to evaluate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)'s impact on native-born labor market outcomes in all two-digit Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) occupations.
- Employed stated-preference methods to determine non-market values for wildfire fuel treatment and water clarity programs across Lake Tahoe.
- Utilized Propensity Score Matching to measure the impact of unconditional cash transfers to women on child health outcomes.

### Peer-Reviewed Publication:

- Oil Price Shock and its Impact on the Macroeconomic Variables of Pakistan: A Structural Vector Autoregressive Approach, *International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy*, Nov 2017, 7(5), 83-92

### Conference Presentations

- Unraveling Willingness to Pay Dynamics: Exploring the Effects of Ordering, Certainty, and Goods Bundling (Agricultural and Applied Economic Association (AAEA) 2023, Washington D.C.; Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics (NAREE) 2023, Annapolis, M.D)
- Non-Market Valuation for Fuel Treatment Programs for forest fire at Lake Tahoe Region (AAEA 2022, Anaheim, C.A)
- Impact of Intra-regional trade on Urban-Rural Income gap in Pakistan: A Vector Error Correction Model (South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM) – a World Bank Conference 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka)

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Lead Instructor, University of Connecticut**

Aug 2023 – Present

#### Course: Business Organizations and Labor Markets

- Developed comprehensive course materials, integrating data-driven case studies for real-world insights.
- Cultivated an interactive and inclusive classroom atmosphere, encouraging open discussions and debates.
- Introduced students to various data sources and databases, enabling them to access authentic data sets for research and analysis.

### **Consultant, Government of Punjab, Pakistan**

Feb 2020 – Jul 2021

- Analyzed data on demographic and health indicators from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and Demographic & Health Surveys (DHS) for informed decisions making.
- Contributed as a vital member of a member of the task force focused on addressing the pressing issue of alarming population growth.
- Successfully presented strategic initiatives of the Population Welfare Department of Government during a high stakes meeting with the Chief Minister and played a key role in crafting a presentation for the President of Pakistan.

### **Research Assistant, University of Oxford**

Aug 2016 – Aug 2017

#### Project: Asset-Based Microfinance for Microenterprises: Evidence from Pakistan

- Managed field operations and liaised with relevant stakeholders for a randomized control trial.
- Performed data cleaning tasks.

## **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

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### Academic Awards:

- Awarded Bishop Carder Scholarship, University of Connecticut twice in years 2022 and 2023.
- Awarded Irving and Justine Fellows Scholarship, University of Connecticut, in year 2022.
- Awarded Mahbub-ul-Haq - Amartya Sen Award, best research paper award across more than fifty papers from South Asia, at World Bank Academic Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2016

### Travel Grant by:

- Innovation for Poverty Action to travel to Kenya for a Baseline Review of the Field Experiment Jul 2023
- Agricultural & Applied Economic Association to attend AAEA Annual Meeting Jul 2023
- Northeastern Agricultural & Resource Economic Association to attend NAREA Annual Meeting Jul 2022

## **LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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### **Graduate Student Representative, University of Connecticut**

2022 – Present

- Co-organizer of a Graduate Research Forum at Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE)
- Represented the ARE graduate student body in meetings with university administrators (including College Dean, ARE department head etc.)

### **Referee for following journals:**

- Applied Economics
- Agriculture and Resource Economics Review