

# Veda Narasimhan

Contact

November 2021

University of Zurich  
SOF J-06, Schonberggasse 1,  
Zurich, CH-8001, Switzerland

Email: veda.narasimhan@econ.uzh.ch  
Phone: +41 76 531 5027  
<https://sites.google.com/view/vedanarasimhan>

## Education

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Ph.D. in Economics, <b>University of Zurich</b> Advisors: Lorenzo Casaburi, David Yanagizawa-Drott, Joachim Voth	08.2016 - Present
Visiting Researcher, <b>Yale University</b> , USA	01.2020 - 06.2020
MSc in Economics, <b>London School of Economics &amp; Political Science</b> , UK	08.2013 - 06.2014
BA (Hons) in Economics, <b>McGill University</b> , Canada First-class with a Minor in Political Science	09.2010 - 05.2013

## Research Fields

Economic Development, Political Economy, Empirical Micro

## References

Prof. Lorenzo Casaburi  
Professor of Economics  
University of Zurich  
Switzerland, CH-8001  
+41 44 634 61 38  
lorenzo.casaburi@econ.uzh.ch

Prof. David Yanagizawa-Drott  
Professor of Economics  
University of Zurich  
Switzerland, CH-8001  
+41 44 634 61 31  
david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch

Prof. Joachim Voth  
Professor of Economics  
University of Zurich  
Switzerland, CH-8001  
+41 44 634 55 47  
voth@econ.uzh.ch

## Research

### Job Market Paper

#### “Decentralization, Rural Development, and Growth: Evidence from India”

*Summary:* This paper studies the trade-off between rural development and urbanization-led growth in the context of a federal decentralization reform in India that devolved power to village councils. Using a RDD identification strategy, it shows that treated villages experienced better development outcomes and higher population growth. Additionally, these rural improvements initiated by local political institutions precipitate changes in the spatial distribution of rural populations that lead to improvements in aggregate outcomes without negative consequences on rural-urban migration.

## Work in progress

### “GST and Internal Trade”

*Summary:* In July 2017 the Indian government implemented a Goods and Service Tax (GST) reform. This reform resulted in the previous system of state-level taxation being replaced by a single harmonized tax regime that covered the entire country. This project looks at how the reform affected external trade flows, as well as the spatial distribution of production. Focusing on firm-level outcomes and trade data, the project will map the consequences of reducing trade costs through this large-scale reform.

## Relevant Work Experience

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### Teaching Assistant

Global Poverty & Economic Development (graduate) - University of Zürich F2017, F2018, F2020  
(for Prof. L. Casaburi)

Advanced Microeconomics (graduate) - University of Zurich F2019  
(for Prof. R. Weber)

### Other work experience

Junior Economist at the Research Department 01.2015 – 05.2016  
**International Labor Organization**, Switzerland

Contributions to Publications (World Employment and Social Outlook 2016, World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2015). Management of Global Employment Trends and Wage Projection models.

Intern at the Research Department 07.2014 – 12.2014  
**International Labor Organization**, Switzerland

Research Assistant at Grantham Research Institute 02.2014 – 06.2014  
**London School of Economics and Political Science**, United Kingdom

## Professional Activities

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### Presentations

2021: University of Zurich (internal), Zurich Political Economy Seminar Series

2020: University of Zurich (internal), Yale University (visiting researcher)

## Awards and Fellowships

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Forschungskredit Research Scholarship, University of Zurich, July 2020-June 2021

Doc.Mobility Fellowship to visit Yale University, Swiss National Science Foundation, January-June 2020

Department Teaching Award (Top 3), University of Zurich

## Personal Information and Skills

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Citizenship: India

Languages: English (Native), French (Intermediate), German (Basic)

Software/programming: Stata, Python, R, QGIS