

Atif Rao

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1541 International Court, Manhattan, 66502, Kansas, USA

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

An agricultural economist specializing in the economic impacts of climate change on international agricultural trade. Seeking to leverage advanced skills in econometric modeling and large-scale climate data analysis to develop and inform evidence-based policies for climate adaptation and resilient global food systems.

Interest: environmental economics, international agriculture trade, trade policy, climate change, econometrics

EDUCATION

Kansas State University

Ph.D. Candidate in Agricultural Economics (Fulbright)

Major Professor: Dr. Nelson Villoria

Present

Manhattan, KS, USA

Friedrich Schiller University of Jena

M.Sc. Economics

Mar 2015

Jena, Germany

Dissertation: An Empirical Analysis of the Impact of FDI on Innovation (Distinction in Thesis)

Bahauddin Zakariya University

Bachelor in Business Administration and Information Technology

Aug 2010

Multan, Pakistan

PUBLICATIONS

[P.1] **Rao, Atif**, Muhammad Ali, Jason M. Smith (2024). *Foreign direct investment and domestic innovation: Roles of absorptive capacity, quality of regulations and property rights*. PLOS One. [\[link\]](#)

WORKING PAPERS

[W.1] **Rao, Atif**, and Villoria, Nelson (2025). *Weather extremes and agricultural trade: Evidence from corn and soybean production in the US Midwest*. [\[link\]](#) [submitted in JAAEA for publication]

[W.2] **Rao, Atif**, and Villoria, Nelson (2025). *Climate Disasters and Rice and Wheat Trade in South and Southeast Asia: A Gravity Model Analysis*. [\[link\]](#)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Kansas State University [\[link\]](#)

Graduate Research Assistant

Present

Manhattan, USA

- First dissertation essay examines how weather extremes affect corn and soybean exports from the US Midwest, using PRISM and CMIP6 climate data with USDA NASS and ERS statistics in a two way fixed effects framework.
- Second essay analyzes how climate disasters influence rice and wheat trade in South and Southeast Asia, combining EM-DAT disaster records and USITC bilateral trade data in a gravity model setup.
- Third essay applies a gravity framework globally to study how climate disasters affect production and exports of corn, soybeans, rice, wheat, and cotton, using FAO, USITC, and EM-DAT data.

Management Systems International [\[link\]](#)

Field Researcher

Aug 2016 - Jan 2017

Islamabad, Pakistan

- Participated in planning workshops to develop data collection instruments and analysis frameworks for logistics management information systems (LMIS).
- Conducted interviews, prepared detailed field notes, translated audio to English, and used MAXQDA for qualitative data analysis to support high quality evaluation reports.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute [\[link\]](#)

Research Associate

Feb 2016 - Aug 2016

Islamabad, Pakistan

- Contributed to policy-oriented research on climate change and agriculture in Pakistan, analyzing how climate variability affects crop yields and rural livelihoods and informing related briefs and reports.
- Assessed the sustainable development implications of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and analyzed national and provincial budgets to track climate-related public expenditures and gaps in resource allocation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northwest Minzu University [\[link\]](#)

Mar 2017 - Mar 2022

Vice Director and Lecturer of Economics

Lanzhou, China

- Taught courses including Quantitative Methods in Economics, Financial Economics, International Finance, Global Economic Issues, and Economics and Law.
- Co-led a collaborative academic program with Utah State University, managing curriculum standards and cross-cultural academic exchange.
- Managed teaching administration (schedules, registration, and course selection) and served as academic advisor for third- and fourth-year economics students.

Bahauddin Zakariya University

2010

Lecturer (Microeconomics)

Multan, Pakistan

- Taught introductory microeconomics for MBA students, emphasizing demand, costs, pricing, and market structure for managerial decision making.
- Used business cases and simple data exercises to help students apply microeconomic tools to marketing, operations, and finance.

AWARDS

AAEA Case Study Competition, 3rd Place

Aug 2025

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

2025 AAEA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

Fulbright Ph.D. Scholarship

July 2022

United States Education Foundation for Pakistan (USEFP)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Weather Extremes and Agricultural Exports in the Midwest of the United States: Evidence from Corn and Soybeans

21 Aug 2025

Risk and Profit Conference

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Vice President

Aug 2025 - Present

Fulbright Kansas State Group, Manhattan, KS, USA

- Organized events and workshops to foster an inclusive environment for Fulbright students.
- Led a team of volunteers to facilitate cross-cultural exchange and dialogue.

Vice President

Aug 2024 - Aug 2025

International Buddies Group, KSU, USA

- Organized social and cultural events to build an inclusive community for international students and support their transition to campus life.
- Lead a team of volunteers and collaborated with the international student office to plan, coordinate, and deliver cross-cultural programs throughout the academic year.

President

Mar 2013 - Mar 2015

Pakistan Student Association, FSU Jena, Germany

- Led a student organization to promote cross-cultural understanding and support incoming international students.
- Developed collaborations with other student groups to organize cultural and academic events.

SKILLS

Quantitative and Climate Modeling: R, Python, Stata, experience with large climate datasets (PRISM, CMIP6, EM-DAT, CRU) and trade data (USITC, USDA ERS, FAO, UNCTAD).

Policy and Data Analysis: Policy analysis, qualitative data analysis (MAXQDA), data visualization (Power BI).

Languages: English (Fluent), Urdu/Hindi (Native), German (Conversational), Arabic (Basic), Mandarin (Basic).

REFERENCES

1. Dr. Nelson Villoria, Major Professor, Agricultural Economics Department, Kansas State University, USA | Email: nvilloria@ksu.edu
2. Dr. Nathan Hendricks, Professor, Agricultural Economics Department, Kansas State University, USA | Email: np@ksu.edu
3. Dr. Peri Da Silva, Professor, Economics Department, Kansas State University, USA | Email: pdasilva@ksu.edu