

# KISHEN SHASTRY KS

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## EDUCATION

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- University of Cambridge** 2021-  
Jesus College  
Ph.D.in Economics; Thesis Title: “Three Essays in Institutional Economics”  
Supervisor: Sriya Iyer; Advisor: Toke Aidt
- University of Cambridge** 2020-2021  
Jesus College  
MPhil in Economic Research
- The Graduate Institute Geneva** 2018-2020  
Masters in International Economics
- National Institute of Technology Karnataka** 2012-2016  
Bachelor of Technology in Computer Engineering

## PUBLICATION

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**Religion, Covid-19 and Mental Health** (with G. Bahal, S. Iyer & A. Srivastava)  
*European Economic Review, Vol 160 (2023)*

Covid-19 and the resulting lockdowns affected various aspects of people’s lives, including their mental health. Using data from an online survey, we investigate the role of religiosity in mediating the effect of Covid-19 on mental health. From February-March 2021, we conducted online surveys in the USA among 5178 individuals. These surveys elicited responses on (i) the incidence of Covid-19 infections among the respondents or their immediate social networks, (ii) religious beliefs and practices, and (iii) mental health. Employing the CES-D scale, which tests for depression in clinical settings, we find that while the incidence of a Covid-19 infection is associated with significantly worse mental health, this negative association is significantly smaller for religious people. We show that the mental health benefits of being religious emanate from the ability to participate in religious activities.

## FELLOWSHIPS

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- The Mercatus Center** 2021 - 2022  
*Adam Smith Fellowship, \$10,000 USD* Fairfax, USA  
Co-sponsored by Mercatus Center and Liberty Fund to critically engage in political economy research
- Ashoka University** 2017 - 2018  
*Young India Fellowship, \$8,000 USD* New Delhi, India  
Post Graduate Diploma in Liberal Arts and Leadership
- George Mason University and The University of Hong Kong** 2017  
*Asian Institute of Political Economy, \$4,000 USD* Hong Kong  
Courses in Political Economy and Political Philosophy

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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- Cambridge Trust Scholarship** 2021  
*The Cambridge Commonwealth, European & International Trust* £80,000 GBP

<b>Cambridge Nehru Bursary</b> <i>Nehru Trust for Cambridge University</i>	2021 £45,000 GBP
<b>Jesus College Bursary</b> <i>Jesus College</i>	2021 £7,500 GBP
<b>Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation Scholarship</b> <i>Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation</i>	2020 £15,000 GBP
<b>Cambridge Trust Scholarship</b> <i>The Cambridge Commonwealth, European &amp; International Trust</i>	2020 £10,000 GBP
<b>The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation Scholarship</b> <i>The Hans Wilsdorf Foundation</i>	2018 \$52,000 USD

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

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<b>The World Trade Organization</b> <i>Research Intern, Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD)</i>	2020 Geneva, Switzerland
<b>Credit Suisse</b> <i>Technical Analyst</i>	2016-2017 Bangalore, India

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Undergraduate Supervisor</b> <i>The Microeconomics of Economic Development (3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate)</i>	2023 University of Cambridge
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## VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY (SELECTED)

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<b>Founder &amp; Chair</b> <i>Cambridge India Conference</i>	2023- University of Cambridge
<b>Founder &amp; President</b> <i>Cambridge University Kannada Society</i>	2022- University of Cambridge




## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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<b>Informal Institutions</b>	Economics of informal institutions, and traditional institutions
<b>Development Economics</b>	Identification strategies, and empirical evidence in complex interactions
<b>Network Economics</b>	Social Networks, and its interaction with institutions

## STATISTICS AND CODING

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<b>Statistical Software</b>	 (Advanced), Stata (Advanced), QGIS (Advanced), Python  (Intermediate), Java  (Intermediate)
<b>Languages</b>	English, Kannada, Hindi, French