

Jan 30: Harshil Sahai, UChicago PhD candidate	
What did you learn from this speaker? What were the speaker's strengths?***	Any other feedback for the speaker?***
Really great engagement with students, was open to discussion and many questions. His strategy of simplifying the research and findings was very helpful	Really enjoyed this lecture and the discussion with everyone
General landscape of school choice literature, as well as his specific thesis studying voucher programs in India. Fascinating how considering how schools would react drastically shifted the ROI and changed the policy decision. Was very engaging throughout the 3 hour lecture, especially through his discussion facilitation. Willingness to engage with questions, even if tangential, made the class feel much more communal and facilitated even more discussion. Also side note: he made some great slides. Great lecturer overall.	Thesis was great and did a fantastic job sharing the content. Wish you the best as you enter the job market.
I learned about the variety in school choice program worldwide. He did a great job of breaking down the papers we read and explain the confusing details. He also was able to answer our very specific questions	There was a lot of information to process and it may have been helpful to incorporate small group discussion to help generate some understanding. This may have not been the speaker's fault, but I would have liked to go into more depth of less material instead of using the entirety of the three hours to cover all of the material.
I enjoyed learning about education policy from a very economic based perspective. I knew little about school choice policy and the theories on how competition can improve quality of schools and I enjoyed learning more about the results of increasing competition amongst schools as a lower-cost solution to improving schools. I appreciated how knowledgeable and passionate Harshil was and I appreciated the lemonade analogy at the beginning of the lecture.	
Harshil was very good at describing the basic economic concepts regarding determining the optimal education opportunities. I really liked how he began with the lemonade stand and then connected the 4/5 studies he talked about throughout his presentation. I learned about the various voucher programs that exist in South America and in Asia, and the attempts to do similar programs in the United States. Harshil asked us questions throughout his presentation that was really engaging and allowed for a better understanding of the studies he presented. Really enjoyed him being a guest lecturer!	Overall he did a really great job and I left the class with a great understanding of his current research and how he expanded from the previous studies we read about. I really liked his engagement with the class.
The presentation felt very structured and clear. It also felt more like a discussion, I felt I could engage with the content, which helped me better understand the subject matter.	I think his presentation was pretty good and very engaged, so I don't have any other feedback.
I thought Harshil's research was super interesting and a direct extension of the literature we read for the class this week. He was clear, had depth of knowledge and was engaging in his approach. His research has so much policy relevance and I would be curious to see if he expands on it to other states in India.	He answered questions really comprehensively. Very engaging session.
It was very interesting and informative to see how he went about planning a concrete economic research project within a "gap in the literature."	You will be a great professor one day! Very impactful lecturer and able to keep the audience engaged

<p>I learned about school choice in developing countries and the intricacies behind different experiments on the topic. The speaker's strengths were explaining the setup and implementation of experiments and engaging the class in the discussion.</p>	<p>I really enjoyed listening to you. You had a great presence in the room, spoke confidently and knowledgeably on all topics covered, and made it an active discussion in the room. All of those contributed to a very successful class and kept everyone engaged.</p>
<p>Did a great job of managing both those who had a lot of knowledge of the region/topic and those who didn't. It was very engaging and a clear lecture</p>	<p>He did a really great job of a more conversational structure really engaging</p>
<p>Harshil was excellent at distilling complex economic theory into layman's terms for individuals who are not as quantitatively inclined to absorb the material.</p>	<p>Excellent presence as a presenter and excellent communication skills. He will do great as a professor one day</p>
<p>The speaker did a good job involving us in presenting their research (e.g. asking us about different figures/slides that they presented throughout the presentation) and on synthesizing both their research and the class readings</p>	<p>Harshil was a bit distracting when speaking because they moved around a lot and weren't consistent in facing the group</p>
<p>I learned about how school choice functions on an international scale. He did a good job presenting the current research as well as uncertainties that still exist. He did an excellent job keeping students engaged, which is especially impressive for such a long class period.</p>	
<p>I learned about the complex nature of school vouchers and the benefits of competition in increasing educational outcomes.</p>	<p>Harshil did a really nice job of explaining complex things in a simple manner. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion that he lead.</p>
<p>I learned a lot from Harshil, and one of his strengths was that his presentation was put together and organized very well. It was interesting to learn about key economic concepts in the beginning and empirical work from other economists for background. Then, in the second half, I enjoyed hearing about Harshil's research himself. Not only did I find his work fascinating and clever, but it also inspired me in terms of my own research (and our final research projects). I learned a lot about what goes into conducting a study and how to approach it.</p>	
<p>Harshil Sahai gave a talk about education, comparing it to lemonade and describing it as having three main components: expanding choice, addressing equal opportunity, and correcting market imperfections. He then discussed the voucher program and presented evidence from Columbia and India to support his ideas. Some of the key takeaways from the presentation include the idea that allowing students more choice in schools can lead to better outcomes, and that addressing equity and market structure is important. Sahai also introduced his paper on India's voucher program and explained how it delivers benefits with costs and has a significant impact on welfare. The speaker was strong in his presentation, with a clear and well-organized PowerPoint filled with data to support his evidence. The talking points were easy to follow and helped to provide a clear understanding of the topic.</p>	<p>Sahai was able to clearly present his ideas and provide supporting evidence to back up his points. The use of data and examples from India and Columbia helped to illustrate the concepts and make the presentation more engaging. Overall, he appeared well-prepared and very knowledgeable! Thank you!</p>
<p>I enjoyed hearing Harshil speak on school choice and how this differs from country to country. I also enjoyed hearing about his own research on school preference.</p>	<p>Thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us. I appreciated hearing you discuss past studies, as well as your own!</p>
<p>Harshil did a great job of telling the story of his research and made me feel super interested and engaged.</p>	<p>He seems super passionate and his teaching style I think will resonate with a lot of people that do not have much econ experience.</p>

<p>I learned about how education needs to balance expanding choice, addressing equal opportunity, and correcting market imperfections. By comparing education to lemonade Harshil really painted a good and interesting picture about how we should view education and improve it. I also learned about different ways to assess how to improve education such as sorting. I also thought questions asked in class were sometimes tricky to answer but Harshil did a great job at answering them the best he could with all his knowledge and really appreciated learning from him about his research.</p>	
<p>I gained a lot insights about the school choice theory, and how to do economic research, which is very helpful. The speaker did a great job in presenting the framework and his own research.</p>	<p>Your research is of great significance. Hope you could expand it to other regions in India and other countries throughout the world!</p>
<p>I learned about the research he designed which studied the affects of incentives through competition.</p>	
<p>For me, Harshil's biggest strength as a presenter was the way he answered questions. Even when a student may have had the wrong idea, he took their point and connected it to what he was actually trying to say. I also appreciated how he related his work to other work that we were or might be familiar with. It made his study seem that much more relevant to us.</p>	<p>Hope to see you as a professor of econ one day soon!</p>
<p>I really liked his passion and how engaging his presentation was. This discussion about school choice was a great supplement for the week's readings and definitely clarified a lot of things that I wanted to further unpack.</p>	<p>I liked how open you were to our questions and your willingness to admit when you didn't have an answer and work through the thought process with us. It was very engaging and nice to hear about your studies in such an interesting topic.</p>
<p>A very strong grasp of the literature, and ability to explain challenging concepts in simple terms without losing out on nuance. I loved the presentation of his JMP. Such interesting data and identification strategy. As someone who wants to do academic research, it was a very useful talk.</p>	
<p>1. It was helpful to learn about the existing school choice literature through its different features (system, participation, subsidy type etc.), as it highlighted how the different components of a voucher design matters through a framework; 2. Harshil was engaging and could patiently and calmly answer all our questions</p>	<p>The speaker could have made it more engaging by pausing at slides to let the students process and then answer his questions</p>
<p>It was a very entertaining class. It was clear that he was very informed about the papers and also the specific country's situation. I'm from Chile and is very interesting to see your country being studied from other perspectives.</p>	
<p>Harshil encouraged audience participation by periodically asking questions and was also extremely responsive to audience questions. He took time to clarify and build on concepts that people were curious about.</p>	

<p>Harshil's topic of research was very pertinent and interesting. He explained his process clearly and succinctly, answering questions as they came up. Academic paper presentations often assume the target audience is fairly familiar with the content being discussed. What I liked about Harshil's presentation was that he made his presentation beginner friendly without losing the nuance of the discussion. He used analogies and examples that were relatable to people outside of the field of education as well to make his points.</p>	<p>Great job! It was one of the most engaging academic paper presentations I've seen (and I've seen a lot being in UChicago!) :)</p>
<p>Loved that he made his research feel really approachable. I find many of these studies to be really complex and I thought he did a good job breaking down his work in a way that made sense.</p>	<p>Nope! He was great!</p>
<p>Great clarity in presentation. I liked how Harshil first went over the current literature before presenting his own thesis work. It helps understand where this work fits into the broader literature. Great work in presenting the models in his thesis as well, very clear!</p>	