

Tejaswi (Tessie Krishna) Pukkalla

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Rutgers University	2019-24
M.A. Economics, Rutgers University	2019-22
M.A. Economics, University of Texas at Austin	2018-19
M.B.A. Finance & Strategy, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode	2014-16
B.Tech. Electronics & Communications, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University	2008-12

Academic Work Experience

Montclair State University, Feliciano School of Business, Department of Economics	
Assistant Teaching Professor	2026-
Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies, San Diego State University	
Postdoctoral Research Scholar	2024-26
Princeton University, School of Public & International Affairs	
Lecturer, Research Methods Lab	2022-24
New Jersey Division of Law, Affirmative Civil Rights & Labor Enforcement Office	
Data Analyst Intern for Assistant Attorney General	Spring 2022
Rutgers University, Department of Economics	
Instructor, Undergraduate Macroeconomics	Summers 2021, 2022
Research Assistant for Professor Amanda Agan	2021-22

Research & Teaching Interests

Economics of Crime & Risky Behaviors
Health Economics
Public Economics

Working Papers

"Are E-Cigarette Taxes Losing Their Bite?" (Revise & Resubmit at *Journal of Health Economics*)
"Nicotine Vaping and Youth Mental Health: New Evidence from E-Cigarette Regulations" (Revise & Resubmit at *Health Economics*)
"Do Informal Social Markets and Online Sellers Help Youths to Avoid E-Cigarette Taxation?" (Revise & Resubmit at *American Journal of Health Economics*)
"Health Insurance Protections and Ex Ante Moral Hazard in Risky Health Behaviors" (Revise & Resubmit at *Health Economics*)
"Do Vaping Taxes Tip the Scale? The Effect of E-Cigarette Taxation on Obesity" (NBER WP 33890 w/ Charles J. Courtemanche, Yang Liang, Joseph J. Sabia & Anthony Chuo)
"Diversion, a Deterrence to Delinquency? The Impact of Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program on Recidivism"
"Closer to Home, Farther from Recidivism? The Effect of 'Close to Home' Reform on New York City Youth"

Work in Progress

“From Hallways to Highwalls? The Effect of Florida’s Juvenile Civil Citation Program on School Referral Rates”

“Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Ignite Youth Vaping?” (w/ Dhaval Dave, Joseph J. Sabia & Joaquin Arellanes)

Conference & Guest Seminar Sessions

Invited to Arnold Ventures’ BRIDGE (Building Research Ideas and Generating Evidence) 2025
event on “Improving the Parole Process”

“Crime and Policing: Early Investments”, Southern Economic Association Annual 2025
Conference (Presenter & Discussant)

“Impacts of Criminal Legal Contact”, Association for Public Policy and Management 2025
Fall Research Conference (Presenter & Discussant)

Invited to Arnold Ventures’ BRIDGE event on “Restorative Justice” 2025

4th Annual Workshop on the Economics of Crime for Junior Scholars (Presenter) 2025

“Crime and Policing: Gender, Violence, and Disparities”, Southern Economic Association 2024
Annual Conference (Discussant)

“Crime, Risky Behaviors & Policing Responses”, Association for Public Policy and 2024
Management Fall Research Conference (Organizer & Presenter)

Invited to “Topics on Criminal Justice and Drug Use”, Midwest Economics Association 2024
Annual Conference (Presenter & Discussant)

“Guest lecture on Game Theory”, Rutgers University, Law & Economics Course (UG) 2024

“Recidivism, Policing, and Labor”, Southern Economic Association Annual Conference 2023
(Presenter & Discussant)

“Strategies Addressing Juvenile Crime”, Association for Public Policy and Management Fall 2023
Research Conference (Chair & Presenter)

“Applied Microeconomics Seminar”, Rutgers University, Department of Economics 2023

“Law, Economics, & Antitrust”, International Atlantic Economic Conference (Presenter & 2023
Discussant)

Invited to “Crime, Recidivism, and Risky Behaviors”, Midwest Economics Association 2023
Annual Conference (Presenter & Discussant)

“Flash Presentations by Ph.D. Students”, Texas Economics of Crime Workshop (Presenter) 2022

Academic Grants & Honors

Inaugural cohort of ARTEMIS (Advanced Research Training in Evaluation, Methods, and 2026
Impact Studies) Summer Institute by J-PAL North America

ASHEcon Program Chair prize in the Alcohol, Tobacco, Narcotics & Addiction Program Area 2026

Awarded the Diversity Scholar prize at the 15th Annual Conference of the American 2026
Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies, SDSU 2024-26

Travel Grant awarded by Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University 2023

Dorothy Rinaldi Award for outstanding scholarship, leadership, & service to grad. students 2022
 Sidney I. Simon Award for exemplary economic research in second year research paper 2022
 Teaching Assistantship (Competitive dept. funding for teaching & research at Rutgers) 2020-24
 Research Assistantship (Competitive dept. funding for independent research - Rutgers) 2021-22
 Excellence Fellowship (Competitive dept. grant for first-year graduate study at Rutgers) 2019-20
 Merit Scholarship (Competitive scholarship for grad. study at University of Texas, Austin) 2018

Academic Affiliations (Member)

American Society of Health Economists, Niskanen Center 2025-Current
 Midwest Economics Association, Association for Public Policy & Management, 2023-Current
 Southern Economic Association

Refereeing

American Journal of Health Economics, Economics and Human Biology

Teaching Assistant Experience - Rutgers University, Department of Economics

Law & Economics	Spring 2024
Environmental Economics	Spring 2024
Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2023
International Trade	Fall 2023
Financial & Monetary History of USA	Spring 2021, 2023
European Economic History	Spring 2021, 2023
Computational Methods in Economics	Fall 2022
Graduate Macroeconomic Theory	Fall 2020
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory	Fall 2020

Leadership Experience

Rutgers University

Organizer, Graduate Economics Student Reading Group	2022-23
President, Graduate Economics Student Association	2021-22

Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode

Elected Coordinator, Editorial Board Committee	2014-15
Elected Coordinator, Konsult, the Consulting Interest Group	2014-15

Non-Academic Work Experience

Market Risk Analyst, Credit Suisse Services India Pvt. Ltd.	2016-18
Associate Consultant, CallidusCloud India Pvt. Ltd.	2012-14

Software & Professional Skills

Stata, Git, R, MATLAB, LaTeX, MS Office, Institutional Social Media Management

References

Amanda Agan - Associate Professor, Cornell University

Anne Piehl - Professor, Rutgers University

Joseph J. Sabia - Professor, San Diego State University

Ruonan Xu - Assistant Professor, Rutgers University