

# VINAYAKAN SAJEEV BEENA

LYMEC Member ◊ Bologna, Italy

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## EDUCATION

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**MSc Economics & Public Policy**, University of Bologna, Italy 2023 - 2025  
with Specialisation on Policy Analysis and Evaluation  
Current GPA: 8.2/10

**PGD in Applied Statistics**, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India 2022 - 2023  
Overall GPA: 9/10

**B.A. Economics-Mathematics (Major-Minor)**, University of Kerala, India 2019 - 2022  
Overall GPA: 8.725/10 (*School Topper — Represented 3000 students at the Library Committee*)

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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Public Policy , LGBTQIA+ Economics, Political Economy of India

## EXPERIENCE

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**Council Officer** May 2022 - Present  
[Rethinking Economics International \(RE\)](#) *Hybrid*

- Instigated Queering Economics Action Circle and LGBTQIA+ collective for RE members across the globe in 2022 and now leading the Global movement towards finding better Economics to deal with Climate Crisis.

**Research Intern** Sep 2022 - Nov 2022  
Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University *New Delhi, India*

- Cleaned, recorded, renamed raw data sets and produced code-books for the Raw data ([View Project](#))

**Summer Intern** May 2022 - July 2022  
Indian Institute Of Management (IIM) *Kozhikode, India*

- Analysed works by James M. Buchanan, Friedrich Hayek, Ronald Coase and Deirdre McCloskey .

**Junior Research Analyst** Feb 2021 - July 2021  
Hedge School of Applied Economics (HSAE) *Kochi, India*

- Acquainted with the basics of macroeconomic analysis, stock valuation and wealth management.

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**Public Policy New Voices Europe Fellowship** March 2024 - Present  
Salzburg Global Seminar and the Walt Disney Company *Virtual and Salzburg, Austria*

- Engaged in an year-long fellowship focused on fostering inclusive communities and democracies through public policy.

**Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship** Aug 2023 - July 2024  
Mercatus Center, George Mason University *Washington, USA*

- Engaged in a series of colloquia where I interacted with Mercatus scholars and other fellows who work on policy analysis. and policy-relevant academic research. ([Profile](#))

**Queer Youth Leadership Course :KSF Fellowship** May 2023 - Present  
High Commission of Canada in India, Lakshya Trust & Keshav Suri Foundation *Mumbai, India*

- Was part of long intensive workshops that focused on the emotional, mental, physical, social and political well-being of queer young adults. Also conducted a session on [Equity In Education: Cultivating Inclusive Academic Spaces](#).

## Prometheus Fellowship

Prometheus Foundation, Students for Liberty

April 2023 - Present

*Hybrid*

- Chosen as one of only 50 students globally for the fellowship valued at \$42,347, I am dedicated to deepening my grasp of classical liberal principles and free-market economics, aiming to apply this knowledge to address real-world challenges.

## Youth Leadership Fellowship

Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR)

Jan 2023 - Nov 2023

*Kochi, India*

- Funded by the Atlas Network, USA, this fellowship has afforded me the chance to make contributions to Public Policy Research in Kerala, focusing on liberty and economic freedom through research, writing, and public speaking activities. ([View more](#))

## Don Lavoie Fellowship

Mercatus Center, George Mason University

Jun 2022 - Jun 2023

*Online*

- As a fellow, I participated in the web portal and online reading discussion sessions conducted by senior Hayek Program researchers that acquainted me with Austrian, Virginia, and Bloomington schools of political economy and recent work in these traditions.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book Chapter

- **Education and Empowerment of Tribal Women: Empirical and Theoretical Dialogues** 2020. *Empowerment of Tribal Women in South India: Gender Perspectives* Eds. TM. Sukumaran, A. Anji. Kalpaz. Co-wrote with *TM. Sukumaran* ([View](#))

### Interview

- **A Thing of Beauty is not a Joy forever: Woe of Kashmir** ([View](#))  
An interview with a Kashmiri activist-economist *Afreen Faridi* discussing the lockdown in the valley(2020)

### Popular Article

- **The Case for Libertarian Redistribution** ([View](#))  
Rethinking redistribution, ensuring a basic standard of living for all citizens for a free society to function properly.(2023)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- **Reforming undergraduate Economics Curricula in Kerala's Universities: A Case for the Job market** 2021. Co-authored with *Justin George* presented at International Conference On *Employment Opportunities in the field of Social Science* by Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India
- **Education and Empowerment of Tribal Women: Empirical and Theoretical Dialogues** 2020. Co-authored with *TM. Sukumaran* presented at the National Seminar on *Gender and Domestic Violence: Problems and Prospects of Empowering Tribal Women in South India* sponsored by the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi
- **The Economics of Language: A Theoretical and Conceptual Study on Economics of Malayalam Language** 2020. Co-authored with *Vipin Chandran* presented at National Seminar on *Higher Education in India in the Neo-liberal Policy Regime: Concerns & Opportunities* sponsored by Dept. of Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala

## WORKING PAPER

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- **Drag-Phobia and Prosperity: The Economic Impact of Increased Drag Popularity on Queer Communities in Canada.** Co-authored with *Connor Sutton*. Presented at the 50th Anniversary ACEA Conference, Halifax, 2024.

- **Queering Economics in Action: Introducing our project– The Institute for Queer Economics.** Co-authored with *Dennis Venter, Hussein Cheaito*. Presented at the 2024 EGOS Colloquium, Milan. *Sub-theme 78: Time to Create Queer Spaces: Queering Organization Studies*.
- **Hayek’s Seminar and Shenoy’s Scepticism: Exploring Austrian Inspiration in Indian Economics 2023.** Co-authored with *Samrudha Surana* presented at International Conference On *History of Economic Thought* at Azim Premji University, India

## SUMMER SCHOOLS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

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- Logic for Economists by University of Amsterdam Nov 2023
- Queering Identities: LGBTQ+ Sexuality and Gender Identity by University of Colorado Nov 2023
- Gender and Sexuality: Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace by University of Pittsburgh June 2023
- The Art and Science of Economic Policy by Indian Institute for Human Settlements June 2023
- Teaching LGBTQ+ Health course by Stanford University May 2023
- 2nd cohort of Liberty International’s Socratic Reading Circles Mar 2023
- Global Pluralist Economics Training 2022 by Exploring Economics Sept 2022
- Summer Academy for Pluralist Economics by Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik Aug 2022
- Liberty Camp-2022 by Liberty International & SFL July 2022
- Austrian Economics Workshop by Centre for Civil Society & GIPE July 2022
- Econometrics for Policy Course by Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics Jan 2022
- 4th UNCTAD YSI Summer School Aug 2021

## SELECTED AWARDS & PRIZES

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- **LGBTQIA+ Matters Top 10 Team 2023** Competing with teams from Europe and South Asia emerged in the final 10, shedding light on Trans entrepreneurship in Pakistan in a policy- Hackathon by Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
- **Outstanding Student Award 2022** by Dept. of Economics, Sree Narayana College, Kollam for overall performance as an Undergraduate student and was awarded by Prasanth Chandran IES (Director, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi)
- **NudgeIt, Shastra 2022** , the biggest behavioural science competition in India organised by IIT, Madras was won by my team The Choice Architects, crafting nudges in the health and nutrition sector to improve the dietary diversity among toddlers. ([View](#))

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

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- *Founder*, [KN Raj Economics Club](#) (2021 - Present)
- *Academic Programs Lead*, *South Asia (NC)*, [Students for Liberty](#) (2023 - 2024)
- *Head of Strategy & Collaboration*, [Economiga](#) (2021 - Present)
- *Co-Founder*, [Institute for Queer Economics](#) (2023 - Present)
- *Co-Organiser*, Price Theory Summer Workshop (2023)
- *LGBT Advocacy Week Volunteer*, Outright International (Jan 2024).

## MISCELLANEOUS

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**Programming Skills** STATA (intermediate) , R (beginner), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X(intermediate), and Python (beginner).  
**Languages** English (fluent), Malayalam (native)