

Prottoy Aman Akbar

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Contact Information

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Academic Position

Assistant Professor, Aalto University Department of Economics and Helsinki GSE 2021-

Other Affiliations

Research Affiliate, CEPR International Trade and Regional Economics program 2024-

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh 2021

Thesis Title: Transit Accessibility and Residential Segregation

M.A. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh 2017

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Middlebury College 2013

Publications

Racial Segregation in Housing Markets and the Erosion of Black Wealth (2025)

The Review of Economics and Statistics, 107(1): 42–54

with Sijie Li Hickly, Allison Shertzer and Randall P. Walsh

Mobility and Congestion in Urban India (2023)

American Economic Review, 113(4): 1083-1111

with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard

Profit Sharing & Peer Reporting (2018)

Management Science, 64(9): 4261-4276

with Jeffrey Carpenter and Andrea Robbett

WORKING PAPERS

Public Transit Access and Income Segregation (2024)

Revise and Resubmit at *International Economic Review*

The Fast, the Slow, and the Congested: Urban Transportation in Rich and Poor Countries (2023)

with Victor Couture (Toronto), Gilles Duranton (UPenn) and Adam Storeygard (Tufts)

Revise and Resubmit at *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Who Benefits from Faster Public Transit? (2022)

Measuring the Cost of Congestion in a Highly Congested City: Bogotá (2017)

with Gilles Duranton (UPenn)

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Drivers of habit: Evidence of persistence from car inspections and neighborhood moves

with Arttu Ahonen (Aalto) and Pablo Warnes (Aalto)

Accessibility, city size, and economic development

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with Victor Couture (Toronto), Gilles Duranton (UPenn), Bernardo Ribeiro (UBC) and Adam Storeygard (Tufts)

Do I drive further or move closer? Travel times and neighborhood sorting in Helsinki
with Arttu Ahonen (Aalto) and Pablo Warnes (Aalto)

Remote Work and Urban Transportation

with Victor Couture (Toronto), Gilles Duranton (UPenn) and Adam Storeygard (Tufts)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Aalto University

- Transport Economics (Master's) Spring 2022-2025
- Urban and Regional Economics (PhD) Spring 2022-2025
- Principles of Empirical Analysis (Bachelor's) Spring 2024-2025

Instructor, University of Pittsburgh

- Game Theory Summer 2018, 2019

Teaching Assistant / Grader, University of Pittsburgh

- Introduction to Microeconomic Theory Summer 2017
- Intermediate Microeconomics Summer 2020
- Intermediate Macroeconomics Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant / Grader, Middlebury College

- Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Fall 2012, Spring 2013
- Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory Fall 2012
- Multivariable Calculus Fall 2012

FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS (>10,000 USD)

Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation, EUR 18,000 "Remote Work and Urban Transportation" (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard)	2024
International Growth Centre, GBP 50,000 "Infrastructure resilience and extreme weather events in Rwanda (and beyond)" (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton, Alejandro Molnar and Adam Storeygard)	2024
NBER / US DoT Economics of Transportation in the 21 st Century, USD 39,000 "Remote Work and Urban Transportation" (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard)	2023
International Growth Centre, GBP 19,000 (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton, Bernardo Ribeiro, and Adam Storeygard)	2023
Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation, EUR 38,280 "Route choice and citywide congestion: Evidence from roadworks in Helsinki" (joint with Pablo Warnes)	2022
International Growth Centre, GBP 40,000 "Economics and Welfare Impact of Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit System (Metro Rail)" (joint with Tomoki Fujii, Arpita Khanna, and Abu S. Shonchoy)	2022
World Bank, USD 90,000 "Accessibility in a Global Sample of Cities" (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard)	2021
NBER / US DoT Economics of Transportation in the 21 st Century, USD 39,000	2020

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“Mobility and Congestion in US Cities” (joint with Victor Couture, Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard) Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship, USD 30,000 North American Regional Science Council	2019-2020
Andrew Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellowship, USD 24,240 University of Pittsburgh	2018-2019
World Bank, USD 30,000	2016
“Spatial Development, Transport and Congestion: Lessons from Indian Cities” (joint with Gilles Duranton and Adam Storeygard) Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, USD 24,262 University of Pittsburgh	2015-2016

CONSULTANCY

Asian Development Bank	2019-25
World Bank	2016, 2021, 2025

INVITED SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	Singapore Management University, Uppsala University
2024	Finnish Economic Association annual meeting (KT-päivät, Lahti), PSE/ESSEC workshop: Platforms, mobility and the sharing economy, VATT Institute for Economic Research, Turku School of Economics, Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB) Workshop on Urban Economics, European meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Copenhagen), Yrjö Jahansson Foundation conference on climate change and inequality (Helsinki), Berlin School of Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, University of Cologne
2023	ASSA (New Orleans), Finnish Economic Association annual meeting (KT-päivät, Espoo), CRED Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics (Bern), NBER Economics of Infrastructure Investment: Public Transportation Meeting, European meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Milan), EEA (Barcelona), EAYE Meeting of Young Economists (Turin), Paris-Dauphine Transport, Energy and Climate Economics Working Group (virtual), NBER Economics of Transportation in the 21 st Century (virtual), University of Warwick, LSE/CEP Urban and Regional Economics seminar, Copenhagen Business School, GATE Public Policies, Cities and Regions workshop (Lyon)
2022	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Nordic Conference in Development Economics (Helsinki), Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB) Workshop on Urban Economics
2021	Aalto University, University of Glasgow, Uppsala University, National University of Singapore, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI Lugano), University of Cincinnati, World Bank (DIME), Universitat de Barcelona, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Western Regional Science Association (virtual), University of Tennessee Knoxville, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (virtual), World Bank (LCR), Western Economic Association International (virtual), European Economic Association (EEA-ESEM, virtual), North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (virtual), ACM conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO, virtual)
2020	University of Pennsylvania, Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG, virtual), Urban Economics Association (virtual)
2019	Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), North American Regional Science Council (Pittsburgh)

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- 2018 Southern Regional Science Association (Philadelphia), Applied Economics, Regional, and Urban Studies (Morgantown), North American Regional Science Council (San Antonio)
- 2017 North American Regional Science Council (Vancouver)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Journal Referee: American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Economics of Transportation, Environment and Planning B, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Macroeconomic Dynamics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics

Grant Review: National Science Foundation

Conference/seminar organization: Co-organizer of the Helsinki GSE Trade, Regional and Urban Economics (TRUE) seminar series (2022-present), local organizing committee of the 12th Symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation (hEART 2024, Finland), local organizing committee of 2021 NBER Decentralization Conference (virtual) on Mechanism Design for Vulnerable Populations

Scientific Program Committee: Urban Economics Association European meeting 2023 (Milan), 2024 (Copenhagen) and 2025 (Berlin); European Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society 2024; hEART 2024 (Espoo); Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO) 2022

Co-founder of the [Cities in Motion Lab](https://citiesinmotionlab.org/) (<https://citiesinmotionlab.org/>)

Executive Committee member of the Association for Economic and Development Studies on Bangladesh (AEDSB, 2023-24)

PhD Thesis outside examiner: Eetu Kauria (University of Turku, 2024)

PhD Thesis committee member: Arttu Ahonen (expected completion in 2025)

MSc Thesis Supervision: Manqiu Sai (2022), Juho Härkölä (2023), Vera Waltari (2023), Naomi Salama (2024), Yuxi Shen (2024), Marko Ikävalko (2024)

Mentoring: Helsinki GSE: Economics job market training for PhD students (2024-); University of Pittsburgh Honors College undergraduate research mentor (Sam Ressin, 2017) and mentor to 2nd year Ph.D. students (2017-2018, 2019-2020)

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh 2016-2018
for Prof. Randall P. Walsh and Prof. Allison Shertzer

Data Analyst, Zell/Lurie Real Estate Center, Wharton, University of Pennsylvania 2013-2015
for Prof. Gilles Duranton, Prof. Jessie Handbury and Prof. Todd Sinai

LANGUAGES: Bengali (native), Hindi (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)

NATIONALITY: Bangladeshi