

Rishi Bommasani - SPAR Fall 2026

I am broadly interested in mentoring researchers studying the economic impacts of frontier AI. With respect to a specific project, I am flexible and would generally like to co-design something with the mentee that is calibrated to their expertise and skills.

Some general directions of interest:

- Broadening task-level adoption
Motivation: 50% US workers across 90% occupations use AI for just 20% tasks
- Tracking the emergence, utility, and endurance of new work tasks
Motivation: new tasks/workflows/sectors are the base of economic growth in the long-run
- Testing whether consumer use substitutes for labor
Motivation: consumer use for household purposes is more frequent than work purposes based on OpenAI/Google usage data analysis. Consumers using AI to navigate tasks like financial planning or tax filing could reduce demand for services and associated workers
- Bridging economic indicators with technical evaluations
Motivation: we have growing infrastructure on both fronts like <https://digitaleconomy.stanford.edu/project/indicators/> but not enough connection
- Eliciting user behavior from superusers whether on household or work side
Motivation: huge disparities in intensity of use; could learn a lot from those who have adopted the most

Mentees should take a look at this recent work from group to get a sense of my style:

- Building task-level evaluations and simulating workers to produce fine-grained exposure estimates that better model bottlenecks:
<https://econevals.com/>
- Measuring how exposed countries are around the world and how that relates to other factors critical to national AI and economic strategy:
<https://jagged-global-economy.github.io/>
- Running the first and largest-ever study of 4M real job applications assessed by AI to understand adverse impacts to job applicants:
<https://algorithmichiring.github.io/>
- Estimating the time spent by workers across different works in the US labor economy:
<https://estimating-time-spent-on-work.github.io/>
- Proposing how frontier labs should conduct and share information about economic impacts of AI usage:
Forthcoming

Others in the community who work on frontier AI x economics that I collaborate with:

- Erik Brynjolfsson (Stanford)
- Tom Cunningham (METR)
- Abhishek Nagaraj (Berkeley)
- Sam Manning (GovAI)