Research Assistant for Prof. Stéphane Mechoulan – Dalhousie University

Are you an economics or public policy undergraduate student considering a pre-doctoral fellowship or graduate school and looking for a project that will sharpen your research credentials?

We're looking for motivated students with strong empirical and data science skills and an interest in law, development, or institutional economics to join a research project examining how mediation reforms affect judicial outcomes in India. The project leverages a massive dataset of over 80 million court cases and exploits quasi-experimental variation in the rollout of court-annexed mediation centers across Indian districts.

- Work with one of the largest legal datasets ever assembled—spanning millions of district court cases
- Help construct a novel dataset on the staggered introduction of mediation centers across Indian states and districts
- Analyze the effects of mediation mandates on case duration, settlement rates, and trial intensity
- Apply modern econometric techniques (e.g., Difference-in-Differences with staggered treatment timing)
- Build research experience directly relevant for pre-doctoral or PhD applications

This is a chance to work on a project that combines serious empirical work with questions at the intersection of legal reform, institutional design, and economic development. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Stata, Python, R, or SQL, and comfort working with large-scale datasets. Students pursuing a second major or minor in computer science, statistics, or data science are especially encouraged to apply.

How to apply: Applicants should write both to me s.mechoulan@dal.ca (as well as to brishtiguha@gmail.com (my co author Brishti Guha's email).

Applicants should send a CV with a statement of their major/minor and their current GPA. In their application email they should specify which courses they have taken (or are currently taking) and any relevant experience beyond coursework.

We would want the RA to put in 4-5 hours a week.