Richie Dilip Kurian

Lecturer in Economics
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Academic Profile

I am a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Essex, where I am also completing my PhD in Economics. My research lies in experimental and behavioural economics and public policy evaluation, with applications to tax compliance, financial formalisation, collective action and local governance. I combine laboratory experiments with applied microeconometrics to study how individuals, organisations and economies respond to policy, enforcement, risk and economic shocks. I have more than four years of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching experience, including module leadership and curriculum design, and came to economics through civil engineering, commercial banking and public administration.

Education

2023 – present	**PhD in Economics**, University of Essex Expected completion: April 2027 Thesis: *Behavioural Responses to Liquidity Shocks, Tax Compliance, and Cooperation under Collective Risk* Supervisors: Dennie van Dolder and Neslihan Sakarya
2023	**MRes in Economics**, University of Essex
2018	**MSc in Economics**, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
2014	**MA in Public Administration**, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
2010	**BTech in Civil Engineering**, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology (RIT)

Academic Positions

2026 – present	Lecturer in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Essex
2024 – 2025	Assistant Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Essex
2020 – 2022	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, St Berchmans College, India

Research Interests

Primary	Experimental and behavioural economics · Applied Econometrics
Secondary	Development economics · Behavioral Public finance and policy evaluation

Working Papers

Liquidity under Constraint: Experimental Evidence on Behavioural Adaptation to Sudden Monetary Shocks (Job Market Paper)

Using India's 2016 demonetisation as a template, I embed a sudden restriction on cash in a repeated tax compliance game. Unlike field data, the design makes unreported cash holdings observable. Participants are randomly assigned to a baseline without a shock, a pre-announced shock or a sudden shock. While enforcement is heightened, both shocks shift behaviour towards compliance: cash-financed spending falls sharply and deposits rise. Once enforcement ends, cash spending returns to its pre-shock level, but deposits remain higher after a sudden shock, particularly among participants who were previously audited. Loss aversion and tax morale shape whether these effects persist.

Cooperation under Escalating Risk: Evidence from a Dynamic Public Goods Experiment (with Friederike Mengel and Dennie van Dolder)

The Effect of Brexit on the UK: A Synthetic Control Analysis (with Neslihan Sakarya)

Work in Progress

Behavioural Barriers to Digital and Financial Formalisation among Informal Microentrepreneurs in India (with Pavanam Thomas)

Trust-Based Management and the Financial Resilience of Local Government in Sweden (with André Lino and Ileana Steccolini)

Funding and Grants

2025 — Behavioural Science Small Grant, University of Essex
Funded a laboratory experiment run at ESSEXLab, April–May 2026

2023 – 2026 — Economics PhD Scholarship, Department of Economics, University of Essex

Presentations

Cooperation under Escalating Risk: Evidence from a Dynamic Public Goods Experiment

2025 — BREW–ESA India Meeting, MDI Gurgaon

2025 — Workshop on the Psychology of Climate Risk Communication, University of Leeds

2025 — Internal Seminar, Department of Economics, University of Essex

Earlier presentations (national and international conferences, India)

2022 — *Agronomy of Pepper and the Indo-ASEAN FTA: Instability in Area, Production and Yield*
International Online Conference on the Future of Commerce and Management in the Indian Economy

2022 — *Women SHGs, Microfinance and Empowerment*
National conference, N.S.S. Hindu College, Changanacherry

Teaching

University of Essex, Lecturer in Economics (2026 – present)

- Management of New Technology (undergraduate) – lecturer
- Econometrics (postgraduate) – lecturer
- Global Politics and Economic Policies (undergraduate) – lecturer; prepared teaching materials
- Supervising nine undergraduate dissertations
- Personal tutor to 15 undergraduate students (foundation and final year)

University of Essex, Assistant Lecturer (2024 – 2025)

- Mathematical Economics (undergraduate) – teaching assistant; marking
- Behavioural Economics (undergraduate) – teaching assistant; marking

St Berchmans College, Assistant Professor (2020 – 2022)

- Lecturer (undergraduate and postgraduate): Mathematical Economics, Behavioural Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Operations Research, Agricultural Economics, Economics of Health and Education
- Led curriculum and syllabus design, with learning outcomes and assessments built on Bloom's Taxonomy
- Supervised one undergraduate and one postgraduate dissertation; placement and CV mentoring

Research Experience

2026 — Senior Research Officer, Department of Government, University of Essex
Managed and ran a laboratory experiment on school choice with appeals at ESSEXLab, for Dr Claudia Cerrone (City St George's, University of London)

2024 — Research Officer, Essex Business School, University of Essex (6 months)
Structural equation modelling of trust-based management and financial resilience in Swedish local government, with André Lino and Ileana Steccolini

Professional Experience

2016 – 2019 — Assistant Manager, State Bank of India, Bengaluru
Loan processing, financial management and evaluation

2011 – 2015 — Project Manager, Highrange Builders and Developers, Kottayam
Project management, surveying, planning and billing

Skills

Software — R, Stata, MATLAB, SPSS

Experiments — Laboratory design and implementation in oTree and z-Tree

References

Dr Dennie van Dolder
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