Rumi M. A. Khan

California Institute of Technology
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Education

Ph.D | California Institute of Technology | (in progress)
Ph.D in Social Science (Economics).
Research Interests: Economic History, Political Economy

M.A. | Peking University | 2021-2023
Master Thesis: *Persistent Effects of Tang Buddhism*
M.A. in Interdisciplinary China Studies (History and Archeology) as a fully-funded Yenching Scholar at the Yenching Academy at Peking University.

A.B. | Harvard University | 2017-2021
Senior Thesis: *Order, Virtue and Tyranny: Confucian and Legalist Economic Thought and the Ancient Chinese Political Economy, 481 BC - 23 CE*
A.B. (Honors Degree) in Social Studies (Economics, Philosophy and History) and Mathematical Science (Pure Math).

Research

Selected Work in Progress

Religious Awakening and the Provision of Social Goods in the Northeast United States, 1860–1920
How did religious revival and competition between denominations shape what American cities provided before the welfare state? I am building a city-by-year panel from historical city directories to study the private provision of poor relief and other charity goods.

Persistent Effects of Tang Buddhism
Did state-sponsored Buddhist monasteries leave a lasting culture of education? Prefectures with more Tang-era monasteries produced more *jinshi* per capita in later centuries, profoundly shaping Chinese politics.

Confucian Clans and Labor Specialization during Reform and Opening Up, 1980–1985
Did Confucian clans help or hinder China's early rural industrialization? Prefectures with denser clan networks built more labor-intensive firms but grew no more slowly.

Other

Awards and Grants

- Caltech Institute Fellowship (2023-2025)
- Caltech Linde Institute Grant (2024-2025)
- China in Transition Research Grant (2022)
- Yenching Scholarship (2021-2023)

- Howe Fund for the Study of the History of Capitalism (2020)
- Prize Student at the Harvard Center of History and Economics (2019)
- Derek Bok Certificate in Teaching (2019)

Teaching Assistant for

- *Caltech*: Introduction to Economics (Ec11), Understanding China through Finance (BEM109), Introduction to Finance (BEM103)
- *Yenching Academy* The China Model, Economic History of China
- *Harvard* Multivariable Calculus (Math 21a), Multivariable Calculus for Social Sciences (Math 18a), Linear Algebra and Differential Equations (Math 21b)

Employment Experience as a highschool math and english teacher, freelance college consultant, economics resaerch assistant, neuroscience research assistant, executive staff of Delaware Governor John Carney, radio dj, escape room builder and game programmer.

Proficient in Stata, R, LaTeX, Inkscape, QGIS, Excel, Python.