

Pioneer Research Program Evaluation Form

Scholar Information

Scholar Name First/Given Name: **Aaryani**

Last/Family Name: **Sahay**

Scholar's Research Concentration at Pioneer: Immigration Economics

Title of Scholar's Research Paper: Forced Assimilation: An Analysis of the Economic Implications of 2004 Headscarf Ban in France

Grading and Academic Oversight Section

Program grade conferred by professor: **A**

**Full grading rubric approved by Pioneer Academics and Oberlin College*

The Pioneer Research Program's college accreditation and academic oversight are conducted collaboratively with Oberlin College:

Listing on Common Application:	"Summer Program, Credit Awarded Directly by Oberlin College"
Course Title on Coalition Application:	"099" "Pioneer Research Course"
College Course ID on UC Application:	"INST 099" "Pioneer Research Course"

Comprehensive Evaluation Section

Evaluator Name & Full Title: Shyam Gouri Suresh, Associate Professor

College/University & Department: Davidson College, Economics

Full Educational Background of Evaluator: PhD Economics, 2008, University of Texas at Austin
B.S. Economics and Engineering, 2003, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.

Please briefly explain the nature and requirements of the research paper and your interaction with the scholar:

Aaryani and I met in a group setting for five 90-minute sessions in which I taught some of the main economic concepts and ideas related to immigration. After the group sessions, Aaryani and I met individually for five hour-long sessions to discuss her research paper. Aaryani was an active and engaged participant in all these sessions. Her ability to think with nuance and clarity was evident to me right from the start. I devote much of the first two group sessions to a discussion of the intersection of economics, philosophy, and policy. Even though this material is often new and unfamiliar to students, I could tell that Aaryani relished the intellectual challenge posed by having to grapple with ambiguity and multiple perspectives.

The research paper required scholars to conduct a careful economic analysis of an immigration policy of any country of their choice. Scholars were permitted to choose an existing policy, a proposed policy, or even a policy they designed themselves. Rather than choose an immigration policy, Aaryani decided to use techniques and theories from the economics of immigration to study the impact of the ban on headscarves in France. Even though this policy is formally unrelated to immigration, Aaryani recognized how it was, in effect, an immigration related policy since immigrants are disproportionately affected by it. I am often skeptical when students propose topics that are far removed from the ones discussed in the group sessions, but since Aaryani had amply demonstrated her intelligence and work ethic in the group sessions, I was eager to give her the intellectual freedom to pursue this topic.

Aaryani's paper was of very high quality. She introduced her paper by explaining the particularities of French culture and policy in the context of the treatment of immigrants. Next, she described the history of immigration into France and how the share of Muslims among immigrants has increased in recent years. Having laid out the background, Aaryani went into the specifics of the policy banning headscarves. She explained the political motivations that led to the policy, she described how the implementation of the ban was inconsistent across religions and varied widely across enforcing institutions, and she discussed how it was perceived by religious groups and human rights organizations. Next, she discussed relevant academic literature citing ideas and papers from the fields of psychology, philosophy, politics, and economics. Building on the previous sections of her paper, Aaryani then conducted the economic analysis necessary to answer her core question. Finally, in her conclusion, she summarized her findings in a nuanced and compelling manner while simultaneously acknowledging the limitations of her study. Overall, Aaryani's paper was very impressive in terms of organization, clarity, depth of reasoning, and the range of perspectives considered.

Please rate the scholar in the following areas:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Ability to form original ideas and concepts	X				
Ability to communicate thoughts in an effective and articulate manner	X				
Ability to synthesize and organize information from disparate sources	X				
Level of scholar's curiosity, aptitude and industriousness	X				

Based on the scholar's performance through Pioneer, how would you rate this scholar's potential for undergraduate level academic work at a top college/university?

One of the best I have encountered, top 5% <u> X </u>	Excellent, top 10% <u> </u>
Very Good, top 25% <u> </u>	Good, top 50% <u> </u>
Below Average <u> </u>	

Describe some of the scholar's strengths:

Aaryani is intelligent, hardworking, clear in her thinking and writing, and keen to explore and understand multiple perspectives.

Aaryani's intelligence and work ethic were evident in how she approached her chosen topic of study. As soon as she started working on the topic, she did a deep dive into the literature on the topic and found several relevant papers from several different fields. Several of those papers were based on sophisticated empirical techniques or dense theories but thanks to Aaryani's intelligence, persistence, and work ethic, she was able to read and grasp key elements from all of them.

Aaryani's ability to think clearly and through multiple perspectives was apparent from how she was able to recognize the benefits and costs of a highly controversial and emotionally loaded policy. Rather than quickly pick a side, she diligently thought through all the arguments presented from a range of perspectives and arrived at her own nuanced conclusions that were well backed by reasons and evidence.

In terms of her ability to write, Aaryani is among the best I have seen through the Pioneer program. She writes clearly and effectively, and her writing required very few edits on my part.

Describe some areas in which the scholar can improve:

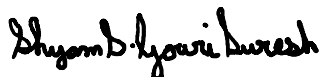
To be candid, Aaryani is already on par with very good incoming first year students at Davidson College. As she takes more courses and writes more technical papers, she will undoubtedly improve in terms of her ability to independently incorporate more refined quantitative approaches in her research.

While the second half of the research work was one-to-one with the professor, the first half involved a small research cohort of 3-6 scholars. Describe the contribution that the scholar made to the research group discussion and learning:

Aaryani was an active and engaged participant in the research group discussion. She offered valuable comments and asked good questions.

Would you recommend this scholar to a college admissions officer at a top college or university? Why or why not?

I would recommend Aaryani to a college admissions officer at a top college or university without any hesitation. She has the intellectual ability, the work ethic, and the writing ability needed for academic success at a top college.

Evaluator name (signed): 

Evaluator name (printed): Shyam S. Gouri Suresh

Date: October 11, 2021

Evaluator contact details (email and phone): [shgourisuresh@davidson.edu](mailto:shgourisuresh@ davidson.edu), +1-704-894-2755

Pioneer Academics affirms that the scholar whose research paper is attached has followed Pioneer Academics' protocols for developing original research and that their paper has met Pioneer Academics' standards for authenticity. The grading and evaluation have met the standards collaboratively defined by Pioneer Academics and Oberlin College & Conservatory. If there are any questions regarding the work's academic integrity, please contact us at academic.integrity@pioneeracademics.com or by calling (855) 572-8863. We will conduct an immediate review and respond to your questions promptly.