

SHIKHAR SINGH

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PROFILE

I research democratic accountability, ethnic politics and the politics of development, with a focus on South Asia. One line of my research looks at how transformative changes in the welfare state affect ethnic politics. A second strand seeks to explain why decentralization often fails to deliver expected improvements in public goods provision, local state capacity, and political responsiveness. A third line of work focuses on why citizens don't hold elected officials accountable for bad outcomes like air pollution and inadequate response to public health crises. I employ a mixed-methods approach to study these issues, using experiments, observational analyses, and extensive fieldwork. My research draws on first-hand experience of the world of politics. Prior to the PhD, I worked for a year and a half fielding and analyzing surveys for India's Congress party in its election war-room. Apart from research, I have taught a wide range of graduate-level quantitative methods courses and undergraduate-level comparative politics courses. In 2020, I received a university-wide award for excellence in teaching.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Research Fellow July 2022 — Present
Center for the Advanced Study of India
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT
Ph.D, Political Science Aug 2015 — May 2022
M.Phil., M.A., Political Science 2018

Dissertation: [Three Essays on Distributive Politics in India](#) 

Committee: Steven Wilkinson (Chair), Susan Stokes, Gregory Huber

Fields: Comparative Politics (Distinction), Quantitative Methods, American Politics

Balliol College, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K.
B.A., History and Politics (First Class) 2011 — 2013

On an Inlaks Scholarship (10 merit scholarships awarded across India in 2011)

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India
B.A. (Honours), History (First Division) 2008 — 2011


PUBLICATIONS


[Partisan Selectivity in Blame Attribution: Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic,](#)

with Matt Graham (*American Political Science Review*, 2023). 

[Candidate Caste Effects in Uttar Pradesh Elections](#) (*Studies in Indian Politics*, 2015). 

WORKING PAPERS

[Who Knows How to Govern? Procedural Knowledge in India's Small Town Councils](#), with Adam Auerbach and Tariq Thachil (Revise and Resubmit, *American Political Science Review*) 

[In-Group Anger or Out-Group Ambivalence? How Voters Perceive Rule-Based Direct Transfers in India](#) (Under Review). 

[Why Citizens Don't Hold Politicians Accountable For Air Pollution](#), with Tariq Thachil (Under Review). 

[House v. Cooking Gas Cylinder: Assessing the Political Impact of Two Benefits](#). 

[Do Voters Reward Programmatic Distribution? Evidence from Survey Experiments in India](#). 

PRESENTATIONS

External: The World Bank (May 2023), Annual Indian Political Economy Workshop (May 2023), American Political Science Association Conference (2023, 2021, 2019), Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS, Fall 2022), NYU-CESS Conference on Experimental Political Science (2021, Poster Session), Midwest Political Science Association Conference (2022, 2021, 2019), Chicago Area Political and Social Behavior Workshop (2021).

Internal: Comparative Politics Workshop (2022, 2021), ISPS Experiments Workshop (2019), South Asian Studies Council Brown Bag Colloquium (2018), Leitner Political Economy Seminar (2017)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Prize Teaching Fellowship for 2020-21 (recognizes "outstanding talent" for teaching and is "one of the highest honors that a graduate student can attain at Yale", \$3,000)

MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2018-20 (up to \$18,000)

South Asian Studies Summer Research Awards, 2021 (\$3000), 2019 (\$2500), 2018 (\$2800), 2017 (\$2000)

Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Fellowship, 2017 (\$5000), 2019 (\$5000)

Inlaks Scholarship, 2011-13 (£56,140 or ≈ \$91,500)

TEACHING

The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Spring 2022, Student Evaluation: 4.8/5)

Visualization of Political and Social Data (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Fall 2021, Student Evaluation: 4.7/5)

Advanced Quantitative Methods (Graduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Fall 2019, Student Evaluation: 5/5)

Challenges of Young Democracies (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Ana de la O, Spring 2019, Student Evaluation: 4.2/5)

The Design and Analysis of Randomized Field Experiments (Graduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Spring 2018, Student Evaluation: 5/5)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: David Simon, Fall 2017, Student Evaluation: 4/5)

EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE

Editorial Assistant to the Co-Editor of the *American Political Science Review* (Elisabeth Wood) (June 2021 - January 2022)

Research Assistant, E-Gap Metaketa II Steering Committee (Donald Green, Ana de la O, Peter John) (2018-20)

Reviewer for *American Political Science Review* (2022, 2021)

Graduate Student Coordinator/Organizer, Leitner Political Economy Seminar (Fall 2018), ISPS Experiments Workshop (2018, 2019)

Research Assistant, Deborah Beim (2016) and Alexander Coppock (2018)

Electoral Analyst, Indian National Congress (August 2013 - April 2015)

FIELDWORK

India: Guntur, Belgaum, Calcutta, Kheda, Madurai, Lucknow, Delhi (18 Weeks, 65 Interviews, Multiple visits between June 2017 and February 2020)

I studied how voters form political preferences and parties mobilize support. I focused on the role of brokers, ethnicity, material benefits, and government programs in elections. I also studied party organizations and functioning. I am creating a qualitative time series, comparing my interviews and field notes with those of Myron Weiner and Atul Kohli. Weiner conducted fieldwork in Guntur, Belgaum, Calcutta, Kheda, and Madurai in the 1960s, Kohli revisited them in the late 1980s.

India: Lucknow and New Delhi (August-September 2012)

I identified the caste of candidates from four major parties in three state elections.

SKILLS

Fluent in English and Hindi

Proficient in R, R Studio, Qualtrics, STATA, revealJS, and \LaTeX

REFERENCES

Steven Wilkinson, Yale University
Nilekani Professor of Political Science,
Director of MacMillan Center for In-
ternational and Area Studies
✉ steven.wilkinson@yale.edu

Gregory Huber, Yale University
Forst Family Professor of Political Sci-
ence, Chair of the Department of Po-
litical Science
✉ gregory.huber@yale.edu

Tariq Thachil, Univ. of Pennsylvania
Madan Lal Sobti Professor of Political
Science, and the Study of Contempo-
rary India
✉ thachil@upenn.edu

Susan Stokes, University of Chicago
Tiffany & Margaret Blake Distin-
guished Service Professor of Political
Science
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