

Pratik Mahajan

MA STUDENT · DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Education

McGill University

Montréal, QC

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OPTION)

2022 - 2024 (expected)

- Fields: Comparative Politics (Primary), Methods (Secondary)
- Thesis: "Religious Parties, Minority Voters, and Turncoat Patrons: Evidence from India"
- Committee: Dr. Aaron Erlich (Quantitative), Dr. Narendra Subramanian (Qualitative), Dr. Dietlind Stolle (Secondary Examiner)
- Affiliations: Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC), Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID)

McGill University

Montréal, QC

BA FIRST-CLASS HONOURS

2019 - 2022

- Honours Political Science, Minor Concentration Philosophy
- CGPA: 3.9/4.0, Honours GPA 3.97/4.0

UWC Mahindra College

Paud, India

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

2017 - 2019

- 2-year Residential Program
- IB points: 43/45, 30 advanced credits

Additional Training

McGill University

Montréal, QC

CONSORTIUM ON ANALYTICS FOR DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING (CAND3)

2023 - 2024

- 10-month-long training program in data analytics and application to population dynamics.

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

2023

Working Papers

Religious Parties, Minority Voters, and Turncoat Patrons: Evidence from India

Under preparation for submission

- Explores the electoral shift of Bhil Scheduled Tribes (ST) in western India towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) through capture of local Bhil patrons. Argues that ethnic and material interests remain salient despite increasing Hindu nationalist mobilization, and loyalty to local patron trumps party affiliation amongst BJP voting Bhils.
- Mixed-Method Research Design: Visual Conjoint Survey ($n=678$ in 40 villages) and Interviews ($n=80$ in 10 villages)

Changing Emic Idea of Group Identity Amongst the Bhils and Its Politics Across Generations (With Vikramaditya Thakur)

Under development for special-issue

- Explores the post-colonial and contemporary evolution of Bhil tribal identity. Against the misplaced conception that increased education amongst Bhils would lead to absorption into mainstream Hindu identity, this paper argues that Bhil tribal identity is seeing a revival amongst the educated and young Bhils due to electoral and social policy factors.
- Multi-Method Research Design: Elite Interviews and Survey Data Analysis (by Mahajan) and Ethnography and Historiography (by Thakur)

Triangulating Conjoint Findings Amongst Low Literacy and Remote Populations: A Visual and Interview Approach

Under development as a research note

- Critical discussion of the interpretive power of using designed graphics to conduct conjoint analyses, and incorporating subsequent interviews as a robustness check of findings while administering conjoint surveys in contexts where literacy and digital infrastructure are low and outsider skepticism is high.

Turning Right After Protesting? Measuring the Impact of the Save Narmada Movement on Scheduled Tribes Voting for the Bharatiya Janata Party

Preliminary Analysis

- Utilizing a Difference-in-Differences (DiD) approach, the study explores whether dissatisfaction with the failure of the Save Narmada Movement, particularly after the Supreme Court's ruling in favour of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, led to a populist backlash resulting in increased support for the BJP among the Bhil tribes in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Comparison of BJP vote share in Bhil-dominated assembly constituencies inside and outside the Narmada Basin before and after the Supreme Court's decision, to determine if the movement's failure influenced the electoral rise of the BJP in the Bhil tribal belt. Preliminary analysis points to a null result.

Student Reviewed Publications

Mahajan, Pratik. 2023. "The Politics Behind Love Jihad in India: Understanding the Spread of the Conspiracy Theory in 2014." *A Contemporary Review of Genocide and Political Violence*. McGill University.

Mahajan, Pratik. 2021. "Action As Addition – A Rejection of Consequentialising." *Fragments*. McGill Philosophy Journal.

Mahajan, Pratik. May 2021. "Guardians, Citizens and The Prohibition of Private Possessions in Plato's Republic." *Liberalis Magazine*. Liberal Project.

Mahajan, Pratik. May 2021. "Why India's Plan for A New Parliament May Spell A Challenging Future For Its Democracy." *The McGill International Review*.

Mahajan, Pratik. July 2021. "Education in India: A Duty Forsaken During COVID-19." *The McGill International Review*.

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2023-2024 CSDC Conference Travel Grant, CAD 1,000

2023-2024 CAnd3-CSDC Fellowship for Training in Data Science and Population Dynamics, CAD 10,000 + CAD 750

2023 CSDC Methods Training Grant for ICPSR Summer School at UMichigan, CAD 3,000

2023 McGill Faculty of Arts Graduate Mobility Award for Fieldwork in India, CAD 3,000

2022-2023 ISID Entrance Fellowship, McGill University, CAD 1,650

2022-2023 Faculty of Arts Graduate Entrance Fellowship, McGill University, CAD 8,350

2022 Allen Oliver Fellowship, Highest departmental GPA (3.97) in Political Science CAD 3,000

2021-2022 Dow-Hickson Scholarship by McGill's Department of Philosophy, CAD 2,000

2021-2022 Alexander McKenzie Scholarship by McGill's Department of Political Science, CAD 1,000

2021 Arts Research Internship Award (ARIA), CAD 5,000

2019-2020 James McGill Entrance Scholarship, CAD 3,000

2017-2019 Scholarship for residential IB program at UWC Mahindra College, INR 3,400,000

Non-Monetary Awards

2019-2022 McGill University Faculty of Arts Dean's Honour's List, 3 consecutive academic years

2018-2019 Davis-Mahindra Scholar at UWC Mahindra College, Outstanding Student Leadership

Presentations

CONFERENCES

June 2024. Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), Montréal, QC (Accepted)

March 2024. Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC) Graduate Conference, Québec City, QC (Accepted)

INTERNAL

March 2023. Finalist at McGill's 3-Minute-Thesis Competition.

October 2021. Arts Research Internship Awards (ARIA) Project Presentations at McGill, Montréal, QC.

Teaching Experience

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

Conjoint Analysis: Visual and Interview Approach (CSDC Winter Methods School, Université de Montréal, Jan 2024)

- Introduction and a critical discussion of using graphics to conduct conjoint analyses and incorporating interviews as a robustness check while administering conjoint surveys in developing contexts where literacy levels and digital infrastructure are poor and outsider skepticism is high.

TA FOR MCGILL COURSES

POLI 311 Introduction to Quantitative Methods (Prof. Aaron Erlich, Jan-Apr 2024)

- Organized instruction material and facilitated weekly labs for R programming and quantitative political methodology for 50 students and managed assignment grading.

POLI 210 Political Science Research Methods (Profs. Dietlind Stolle and Aaron Erlich, Sep-Dec 2023)

- Organized instruction material and facilitated weekly labs for 90 students for R programming and evaluated quantitative and qualitative assignments. Evaluation: 4.4/5

POLI 435 Identity and Inequality (Prof. Narendra Subramanian, Jan-Apr 2023)

- Facilitated weekly conference sections for 40 students, graded assignments and term papers. Evaluation: 4.7/5.

POLI 349 Foreign Policy of Asia (Jaeyoung Kim, Sep-Dec 2022)

- Facilitated weekly conference sections for over 70 students and managed assignment evaluations. Evaluation: 4.6/5.

TA FOR SHORT COURSES

Data Visualization in R (Dr. Sakeef Karim, Nov 2023, Florida State University)

- Supported a 3-day workshop on data visualization techniques in R, organized by CAnD3-FSU

R Programming Summer Camp (Prof. Tim Elrick, Aug 2023, CSDS-McGill)

- Assisted in lab sessions, and provided coding support and debugging for McGill's week-long R summer camp.

GRADER FOR MCGILL COURSES

POLI 431 Nationalism and Nation States (Prof. Elissa Berwick, Feb-Apr 2024)

- Grading of 77 upper-year undergraduate exams and final papers.

POLI 522 Politics of Identity (Prof. Narendra Subramanian, Apr 2023)

- Grading of 10 final-year undergraduate honours seminar papers.

Research Assistance

May – Jul 2021 & May- Jun 2022: Prof. Hasana Sharp (Dept. of Philosophy, McGill)

- Annotated bibliography for Prof. Sharp's book project titled "Spinoza and Servitude."

May - Jul 2020: Tammy Molina (Interior Health of British Columbia)

- Created a repository of legal and ethical guidelines on ten bioethical issues.

Service and Public Engagement

2023-2024 McGill Philosophy Film Nights Curator.

- Curating biweekly film events open to the public and facilitating discussions on philosophical themes drawn from the films.

Fall 2022 ISID Talk Series "Adivasi Agency and Environmental Jurisprudence in India" interview with Dr. Geetanjoy Sahu.

2021-2022 Co-Lead of Planning Committee for "Solidarity Against Authoritarianism in Asia".

- Organized and facilitated a public-oriented multi-day hybrid conference addressing issues of authoritarianism across Asia. Participants included international academics, activists (notably Yogendra Yadav), politicians (notably Mu Sochua), journalists and filmmakers.

2020 – 2021 Shift Operator at McGill Students' Nightline.

- Provided confidential phone and chat support to students. Trained in active listening and non-professional guidance for crises.

Research Training

QUANTITATIVE

- Multiple Linear Regression (ICPSR, Grade A)
- Categorical, Ordinal and Count Outcomes Analysis (ICPSR, Grade A+)
- Causal Inference: DiD, IV, RDD (POLI 666, Grade A-)
- Conjoint Survey Experiments

QUALITATIVE [noitemsep]

- TCPS-2 Canadian Research Ethics Certificate
- Field Interviews
- Elite Interviews
- Discourse Analysis
- Ordinary Language Analysis

Fieldwork

May-July 2023: Nandurbar and Dhule Districts, Maharashtra, India

- Conjoint surveys and voter interviews in 40 villages as Principal Investigator, managing a team of 4 Research Assistants and translators.

May-June 2018: Jalgaon and Nandurbar Districts, Maharashtra, India

- Evaluating the sustainability of drip irrigation for cotton cultivation in 2 agricultural communities
- Conducted fieldwork in 5 villages in the Fifth Scheduled Area to study the implementation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act.

Skills

SOFTWARE

- R and R Studios
- RMarkdown
- LaTeX
- GitHub

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Marathi (Native)
- Hindi (Native)
- French (Reading and Oral Comprehension)

References

Dr. Narendra Subramanian

narendra.subramanian@mcgill.ca

Professor of Political Science

MA Thesis Co-Supervisor (Qual.)

Dr. Tania Islas-Weinstein

tania.islasweinstein@mcgill.ca

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Fieldwork and Interpretive Methods Coursework

Dr. Aaron Erlich

aaron.erlich@mcgill.ca

Associate Professor of Political Science

MA Thesis Co-Supervisor (Quant.)

Dr. Elissa Berwick

elissa.berwick@mcgill.ca

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Quantitative Methods and Nationalism Coursework

Dr. Dietlind Stolle

dietlind.stolle@mcgill.ca

Professor of Political Science

MA Thesis Secondary Examiner