

Pratik Mahajan

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Education

McGill University

Montréal, QC

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OPTION)

2022 - 2024

- Fields: Comparative Politics (Primary), Methods (Secondary)
- Thesis: "Religious Parties, Minority Voters, and Turncoat Patrons: Evidence from India"
- Committee: Dr. Narendra Subramanian, Dr. Dietlind Stolle, and Dr. Aaron Erlich
- Affiliations: Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC), Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID)
- CGPA: 3.95/4.0

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

Research

Working Papers

Ideological Transformation After Patron Co-optation? The Resilience of Ethno-Clientelism Amid Hindu Nationalism in a Scheduled Tribe Constituency in India

Under Review

- 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)

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.

Ongoing Projects

Non-Partisan Grassroots Organizations as Electoral Actors: Evidence from Inside an Organizational Campaign in India (With Feyaad Allie)

- Ongoing research on the dynamics of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan in Maharashtra, a front of grassroots organizations participating in electoral mobilization.
- We seek to develop a theory and provide evidence for why grassroots organizations enter electoral politics, and what they perceive their comparative advantage to be vis-a-vis political parties.

Ambition and Ability amongst Party Workers in India (With Feyaad Allie and Rahul Verma)

- Project in its nascent stage.
- We seek to theorize how rank-and-file party workers in hierarchical party systems such as India balance ambition for political power and upward mobility and the ability to realize that ambition.

Subdistricts of India by Scheduled Status: An Original Dataset *Under Development to be Linked to SHRUG*

- Subdistrict (tehsil/mandal/block) level spatial dataset with information on Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas of India.
- Coded with SHRUG location indicators for ease of merging with other datasets.

Mapping the Intersection: Average Wait Time for Housing Vouchers in Relation to Minority Household Percentage (With Bertram Melix and Megan Skowronski) *Under Development as Spatial Data Visualization*

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

Under development with Asian Ethnicity 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*)

Public Writing

"The Maha Gondhal: Maharashtra LS polls have never been muddier." *with Vikramaditya Thakur*. The Times of India, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

- 2023-2024 CSDC Academic 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 CAnd3 Data Visualization Dragon's Den Competition, *Third Prize with Bertram Melix and Megan Skowronski*
- 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

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

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. Evaluation 4.5/5

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 (Dr. 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 Markdown
- LaTeX
- GitHub
- Qualtrics
- GIS

LANGUAGES

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

References

Dr. Narendra Subramanian

narendra.subramanian@mcgill.ca
Professor of Political Science (McGill)
MA Thesis Supervisor, TA for POLI 435

Dr. Feyaad Allie

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Assistant Professor of Government (Harvard)
Research Collaborator on Multiple Projects

Dr. Dietlind Stolle

dietlind.stolle@mcgill.ca
Professor of Political Science (McGill)
MA Thesis Examiner, TA for POLI 210

Dr. Elissa Berwick

elissa.berwick@mcgill.ca
Assistant Professor of Political Science (McGill)
Quantitative Methods and Nationalism Coursework