

Priyadarshi Amar

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APPOINTMENT

• Polarization, Identity and Misinformation Lab

2024-25

Pre-Doctoral Fellow for POLARCHATS ERC Project

Instituto Carlos 3 Juan March (IC3JM), Madrid

EDUCATION

• University of Wisconsin–Madison

Expected 2025

PhD Candidate, Political Science and Agricultural & Applied Economics

Fields: Comparative Politics, Development Economics, Political Methodology

• University of Wisconsin–Madison

2018

MS Economics

• King's College London

2013

MSc Financial Mathematics

• University of Delhi

2012

BSc, Statistics (Hons.)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Institutions, Political Representation, Misinformation, Climate Change, Local Politics, Gender, Politics of South Asia

DISSERTATION

Do Electoral Quotas for Marginalized Ethnic Groups Improve Women's Representation? Evidence from India

Abstract: How do electoral quotas focused on a single dimension of identity affect the representation of other disadvantaged identities? In this paper, I examine the impact of quotas for marginalized ethnic groups on women's representation and argue that, when gender norms are correlated with social status, quotas for marginalized ethnic groups may influence women's representation. To empirically test this, I use a novel design that leverages quasi-random variation in the assignment of caste quotas for council member seats in rural Maharashtra. I find that, for seats with quotas for marginalized caste groups, the likelihood of women running for and winning political office is higher than for seats without quotas. Consistent with the theory, I find evidence suggesting that these findings are driven by differential gender norms across groups. This paper highlights how norms matter for understanding the effects of electoral quotas on representation.

How Electoral Laws Worsen the Candidacy of Minorities in Rural India

Abstract: Governments around the world regulate political candidacy. This paper studies the impact of electoral laws in India that disqualify citizens with more than two children from contesting local government offices. Since political officeholders significantly influence the communities they govern, these laws were designed to shape social norms around family size. I leverage variation in the law's adoption across states within a difference-in-differences framework to examine how it affects political candidacy among Muslims, India's largest religious minority and one of its most marginalized groups. I find that fertility limits reduce Muslim candidacy. I argue that this is due to the dilemma potential candidates face between complying with the law or adhering to social norms regarding family size. Drawing on an original survey of 500 village politicians, I find evidence consistent with my theory. This paper underscores that states' efforts to shape social norms through electoral laws may come at the cost of marginalized groups' political representation.

How Voting Systems Affect Political Entry and Exit? Evidence from Village Elections in India

Abstract: In recent years, many countries, particularly in the global south, have undergone decentralization, transferring power to local bodies. This study focuses on exploring the consequences of a crucial aspect of decentralized government: the voting systems used to elect executives, whether directly or indirectly. While existing scholarship has extensively examined the incentives and performance of the head of government under different voting systems, little attention has been given to legislators (non-executive politicians). I argue that if shifts in the voting system affect the de-facto power of a seat, they also influence who enters and who stays in the race. In particular, I examine how these shifts affect candidate nomination (who enters), withdrawal (who exits), and candidacy (who stays) for non-executive political offices, with a focus on consequences for historically marginalized groups. This research seeks to contribute to our understanding of how changes in the value of a seat shapes political dynamics.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Countering Misinformation Early: A Grassroots Media Literacy Intervention for Rural Populations in India," with Sumitra Badrinathan, Simon Chauchard, and Florian Sichart

"Sharing Falsehoods in an Information-poor Environment: An Experiment with Indian Teenagers," with Sumitra Badrinathan, Simon Chauchard, and Florian Sichart

"Heat on Democracy: Does Polling Day Temperature Affect Elections?" with Shweta Bhogale and Ting Liu

"Mere Proxies or Genuine Leaders? Female Candidates in Village Council Elections in India," with Apurva Bamezai and Rithika Kumar

EXTERNAL CONFERENCES

Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development at ISI Delhi

2024, 2023

KDIS-World Bank Development Impact Conference

2024

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

2024, 2023

European Conference on Politics and Gender

2024

European Political Science Association Annual Meeting

2024

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

2024, 2023

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference

2024

Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science (MWEPS)

2023

FIELDWORK

Bihar, India

9/2024, 11–12/2024

Maharashtra, India

6–8/2019, 1/2022–4/2022

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Rikhil Bhavnani, UW–Madison

2023–24, 2016–18

Nina Varsava, UW–Madison

2022–23

Sisir Debnath, Indian School of Business

2014–16

Rohini Somanathan, Centre for Development Economics

2013–14

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Introduction to Public Policy, Reader/Grader, UW–Madison

2021

Understanding Political Numbers, Teaching Assistant, UW–Madison

2021

Research Design for Undergraduates, Teaching Assistant, UW–Madison

2019

Undergraduate research supervision

Undergraduate Research Program Mentor (3 students)

2024, 2023, 2022

Graduate

Introduction to Python, Teaching Assistant, ICPSR

2023

Mathematics for Social Scientists, Teaching Assistant, ICPSR

2023

Game Theory for Graduate Students, Teaching Assistant, UW–Madison

2020

Managerial Economics, Teaching Assistant, Indian School of Business

2016, 2015

SERVICE

Department:

Discussant, Comparative Politics Colloquium

2023, 2022, 2021, 2019

Discussant, Models, Experiments, and Data Workshop

2023

Student Coordinator, Comparative Politics Colloquium

2019, 2020

Discipline:

Discussant & Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

2024

Chair, Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference

2024

Discussant, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

2023

Referee:

Economic Modeling, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

RESEARCH GRANTS

Ronald Rapoport Summer Research Collaborative Program Award

2024

Summer Initiative Research Grant, UW–Madison

2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019

Conference Travel Grant, Elections Research Center, UW–Madison

2023

Social Science Research Council Mercury Project Award, Co–PI

2023

Graduate Research Travel Grant, UW–Madison

2023, 2020, 2019

Summer Research Scholarship, Department of Political Science, UW–Madison

2022

Research Funding Competition, Elections Research Center, UW–Madison

2021

Graduate School Grant, UW–Madison

2018

Economics Master's Program Research Scholarship, UW–Madison

2017

AWARDS

Faculty–Student Collaborative Summer Research Fellowship, UW–Madison

2023, 2022

University Fellowship, UW–Madison

2022, 2018–2019

Research Paper Award (Honorable mention), Economics Dept., UW–Madison

2018

SKILLS

- **Programming:** R, Python, Matlab
- **Software:** Stata, QGIS, git
- **Languages:** English, Hindi, Bhojpuri

AFFILIATIONS

Election Research Center, Graduate Affiliate

2021–

Centre for South Asia, Graduate Affiliate

2018–

IDFC Institute, Visiting Researcher

2019

REFERENCES

Rikhil Bhavnani

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