***Tell me about your research or tell me about your job market paper***

My research centers on how institutions shape political representation. In my job market paper, I focus on the electoral quotas designed to increase the representation of historically marginalized groups. More than 80 countries have some sort of quotas, but most quotas target either gender or ethnicity, whereas people have multiple, overlapping identities. This raises important questions: Do efforts to improve representation along one dimension—like ethnicity—impact representation along another, such as gender? For instance, does increasing representation of ethnic minorities inadvertently reduce female representation?

This is crucial because women from ethnic minorities often face intersecting forms of disadvantage. To answers these questions, my paper examines how quotas for marginalized caste groups impact women’s representation, particularly in village governments in Maharashtra, India. I argue that caste quotas can affect women’s representation if gender norms vary by social status and if voter discrimination against women candidates depends on the status of their male opponents.

To test this, I compare single-member electoral districts with and without caste quotas. I find that caste quotas not only increase women's representation on the ballot but also in elected office. I find that evidence to support that this is mainly driven by two factors, first, because gender norms are more favorable for women from marginalized groups, and second, because voter discrimination against marginalized caste women is lower in seats with caste quotas.

This paper shows how social norms and voter discrimination can mediate the effects of institutional design on representation. My other work extends these themes to explore the spillover effects of institutional rules on political entry in the second paper and the impact of how executives are elected on the political entry as well as exit of non-executives. Happy to discuss them more in detail.

Maybe for another question -- Outside my dissertation, I have two sets of projects one on misinformation, and the other on political effects of extreme climate events. These are all collaborative work with multiple co-authors.

**Divide it into sections:**

* **Introduction to research theme**: "My research centers on how institutions shape political representation..."
* **Problem statement**: "More than 80 countries have some sort of quotas, but most quotas target either gender or ethnicity..."
* **Key research question**: "Do efforts to improve representation along one dimension...?"
* **Significance**: "This is crucial because women from ethnic minorities often face intersecting forms of disadvantage."
* **Method and findings**: "To answer these questions, my paper examines how quotas for marginalized caste groups..."
* **Broader contributions**: "This paper shows how social norms and voter discrimination can mediate..."
* **Additional research**: "My other work extends these themes... one on misinformation and the other on political effects of extreme climate events."

**Tell me about your teaching philosophy (inclusive)**

As someone who is a international student, I would like to really like to ensure that classes are inclusive, everyone who likes to participate gets equal opportunities, since substantive political science may involve discussing– I would like to encourage a culture that encourages discussion without

**How would you teach on undergrad comparative politics course**

I have not assisted in undergrad courses but I have thought about it a lot. I really like the syllabus for the intro to comparative politics course here –

It introduces students theories from seminal work on

**How would you teach on undergrad methods course**

In grad school, I have had the opportunity to assist with undergrad methods course- one on research design – which broadly introduced idea of causal inference, how experiments help in isolating the causal effects. It really did not have enough but provided them good intuition.

And then I also taught course

**Grad courses (syllabus)**

Mostly same but with different difficulty level. One activity that I would like the graduate students is to make them design their own syllabus. I think it will allow them to situate themselves in the multiple strands of literature and think more broadly about their research and its implications.

***Tell me about your 5-10 year plans***

***(publish dissertation, build and publish for research agendas outside my dissertation, elective courses, research lab)***

I have 3 paper dissertation, I would like to have published my dissertation.

Although, my dissertation is three paper, I plan to borrow from these to develop a book project political spillovers of institutions.

Outside my dissertation, I have two research agenda, one is on misinformation and the other on political effects of extreme effects- I would like to have these developed this little more, with peer-reviewed article publication.

Apart from the research, I plan to develop an elective course for undergraduates and graduates on democratic imperfections, that studies spillovers of institutions, as well as incorporates recent work on misinformation and political effect of climate change

Lastly, I would really like to set up a research lab that brings together researchers from electoral democracies in global south studying democratic imperfections, supports postdocs as well as predocs. Something like the election research center. I know this is not as common in our discipline as much as science but I think getting more common.

**Do you have any questions?**

***(curious about mentoring program, to junior scholars – striking a good balance between teaching and research)***

Yes, I was curious what mentoring programs does the department have junior scholars.

Also, In general, what are your thoughts on striking the balance teaching and research for junior scholar.

**What are thoughts on mentoring grad students?**

***(Luck to have mentors, balance between being hands off, not have one strategy, open to all potential trajectories)***

I have been very lucky to have great mentors, not only in grad schools but even before when I was working as research assistant.

I really liked the how my mentors were able to strike a good balance between hands off at times and being more hands on at other times. Usually, being more hands on critical junctures of the PhD and but giving then space to develop their own identity as a scholar.

That said, I also think there should be one strategy that might work for mentees and its important to be flexible and try to gauge that. Some benefit more hands on advising and some with hands off advising. I really like to gauge what work in the first few months but also update it after every month.

I think another thing here is to be open to all potential career trajectories after PhD.

**Fieldwork experience**

(Satara, Maharashtra…Bihar, India)