RITIKA BHASKER

ritika.s.bhasker@gmail.com   https://github.com/ritikabhasker

Data scientist with 5 years' experience in global democracy and governance. Strong background in research, data management, and writing for a wide audience. Passionate about using technology to foster civic engagement and inclusion of underserved populations.

Skills

Programming languages & tools: Python (Pandas, Scikit-learn, SciPy, StatsModels), HTML, SQL, Tableau, STATA

Methods: regression analysis, classification models, principal component analysis, time series analysis, survey design

Languages spoken: Tamil, Hindi, French, American Sign Language (beginner)

Experience

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DATA SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, February 2017 – June 2017   Washington, DC
- Following completion of GA's data science immersive course, I was offered the opportunity to provide instructional and one-on-one assistance to the upcoming cohort while building on independent projects (including an algorithm that predicts Congressional bill passage based on summary text, redrawing district boundaries geometrically, and predicting state-level voter suppression legislation).

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS
PROGRAM OFFICER, April 2016 – March 2017   Washington, DC
- Manage multi-million USAID-funded programs, providing research, programmatic, financial, and contractual oversight in Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, and Moldova.
- Conduct research and analysis on technology policy, transparency, and open data as part of the IFES ICT Working Group.
- Lead development efforts with a focus on inclusion of underserved groups and technology solutions to improve electoral integrity.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, October 2014 – March 2016   Washington, DC
- Conducted research on electoral issues in Central and Eastern Europe and Asia, as well as analysis of open data use by election management bodies globally and development of methodology to analyze electoral violence.
- Supported operations in HQ and the field, including stakeholder training on election violence and violation tracking software.

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR, January 2014 – May 2014   Malé, Maldives
- Provided financial, contractual, research, reporting, and other forms of operational coordination to strengthen election commission and civil society capacity prior to the March 2014 Parliamentary Elections.

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, July 2012 – December 2013; May 2014 – September 2014   Washington, DC
- Provided financial, contractual, and operational assistance to senior IFES program staff.
- Conducted research on developing political situations, changing electoral laws, and topics relating to electoral integrity.

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
RESEARCH INTERN, January 2012 – June 2012   Washington, DC
- Assisted with projects for the Wadhwani Chair of US-India Policy Studies, including annual report on national defense in India.
- Conducted research and wrote regular reports to aid in policymaking, including on internet censorship in India.

Education

GENERAL ASSEMBLY   Washington, DC
Data Science Immersive, November 2016 – February 2017
Focus: Using data science, statistical analysis, and modeling to explore problems and provide succinct, industry-specific analysis.
Tools mastered include: collecting data using BeautifulSoup, Selenium and APIs, using Natural Language Processing on large datasets, using machine learning algorithms for classification, regression, and clustering.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON   London, UK
MSc. in International Public Policy, 2010 – 2011
Focus: Political participation, post-conflict reconstruction, and policymaking within conflicted states.
Thesis: The provision of social goods by militant groups and their effect on political participation (developing original dataset)

BA (Hons) in Politics with East European Studies, 2007 – 2010
Focus: Russian foreign policy, security and intelligence, democracy and democratization.
Dissertation: Post-conflict state reconstruction, with a specific focus on Iraq and Bosnia.

Select Publications

Estándares de la International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in *Estándares Internacionales de Justicia Electoral* (with coauthor Chad Vickery) — *In Search of an Indian Political Identity* (New Perspectives in Foreign Policy, CSIS) — *India's Troubled Relationship with the Internet* (cogitASIA.com) — Articles for the women-run soccer magazine *Unusual Efforts*