

# Shekhar Mittal

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## EDUCATION

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University of Chicago, **Harris School of Public Policy** August 2011 – June 2013 (Expected)

Master of Public Policy, 3.9/4.0

Areas of Interest: Political Economy, Development

Courses Taken: PhD level sequence in Econometrics, Micro-economics and Game Theory. Cost Benefit Analysis.

GRE Score: Q169/V166/A4.0

Awards: Dean's Scholarship (2011-2013), J.N. Tata Scholar (2011), K.C. Mahindra Scholar (2011)

Delhi University, **Delhi College of Engineering**, New Delhi, India

August 2003 – June 2007

Bachelor of Engineering in *Computer Engineering, First Division*

Courses Taken: Mathematics I/II/III, Discrete Mathematics and Design of Algorithms, Theory of Automata and Formal Language.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Marianne Bertrand

APRIL 2012 – PRESENT

[Booth Graduate School of Business](#), University of Chicago

*Measuring performance and analysing time-use of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.*

- Undertook a field trip to Bihar, India to understand the time-use of district magistrates and to understand the bureaucratic setup at the district level.
- Developed time-use tracking forms and survey questionnaires for the district magistrates.
- Formulated questionnaires under the Right to Information Act to get data which could help measure the performance of district level IAS officers as part of their statutory & regulatory responsibilities.
- Reviewed government documents to understand the statutory and developmental responsibilities of IAS officers and narrowed the research problem.
- Wrote perl scripts to get election data for national and state level elections (1980 onwards) in India.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes

APRIL 2012 – PRESENT

[Harris School of Public Policy](#), University of Chicago

*Effect of name order in senate roll call voting pattern.*

- Evaluated the impact of alphabetical order of the senators' last names on Senate roll call.
- Wrote Perl scripts to extract senate and house roll-call data starting from 1940 into a analysable data set.

Graduate Research Assistant to Professor Pablo Montagnes

JANUARY 2012 – MARCH 2012

[Harris School of Public Policy](#), University of Chicago

*Understanding voting patterns for simultaneous elections in a given year at the precinct level*

- Designed a Stata program that extracts information from the Cook County precinct level election results into a user-friendly data set.
- Wrote Stata programs to clean and analyze data.

## WRITING

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- *Working Paper*: "What's in a name? Effect of name order in Senate roll call" with Dan Magleby and Pablo Montagnes, September 2012.

*Summary*: The paper shows that the alphabetical order of Senator's last names has an impact on the way they cast their votes. Using senator fixed effects, we find that senators who vote last are more likely to agree with their party.

*Link*: <http://shekhar.me/papers/nameorder.pdf>

- *Short Paper*: “Distance as an instrument for measuring centralized control in government schools”, December 2012.  
*Summary*: The paper shows that the quality and outcomes of a government school deteriorate as the distance of a government school from district headquarters increases. This effect is absent in private schools which tend to be decentralized.  
*Link*: <http://shekhar.me/papers/distance.pdf>
- *Policy Memo*: “Reservation in Private Schools under the Right to Education Act: Model for Implementation”, Shekhar Mittal and Parth J Shah, December 2010.  
*Summary*: The memo suggests a model for effective implementation of a specific provision under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.  
*Link*: <http://shekhar.me/papers/viewpoint10.pdf>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Senior Campaign Associate**, *Centre for Civil Society*, New Delhi, India JULY 2010 – JUNE 2011  
 Co-ordinated the School Voucher for Girls project that piloted school choice in India. Did advocacy and research on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, a law that aims to implement elementary education as a fundamental right. Worked on development and expansion of the [Right to Education Portal](#), which tracked all the happenings in India related to the Right to Education Act.

**Program Manager and Platform Engineer**, *Praja*, Bangalore, India AUGUST 2009 – JUNE 2010  
 Spearheaded MobiliCity, a citizen-driven initiative to understand problems and discuss solutions for sustainable transportation in Bangalore. Formulated associations with various organisations, including Loksatta - a local political party and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation - the local public transport authority, to use Praja as the platform to run their campaigns. Led development efforts for Praja’s web-portal by exploiting social media, open source technologies, and mobile platforms.

**Software Engineer**, *Cisco Systems*, Bangalore, India JULY 2007 – JULY 2009  
 Conducted training sessions for 15-member Systems-Test team on upcoming technologies to be deployed across Japan and the USA. Handled development and quality control of cutting-edge IPv6 technology for leading US based clients that helped them meet stringent federal mandate.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

2010	<i>Co-Lead</i> , <a href="#">Bangalore Water Index</a> , Bangalore, India
2009-2010	<i>Mentor</i> , <i>Drupal Technology</i> , <a href="#">Step2</a>
2008-2010	<i>Founder</i> , <a href="#">Soapbox</a> , Bangalore, India
2008	<i>Co-Lead</i> , <a href="#">Clean Nandi Green Nandi</a> , Bangalore, India
2006-2007	<i>Chairman</i> , IEEE Student Branch, Delhi College of Engineering

## SKILLS

**Highly Proficient**: Stata, Drupal, C/C++, MySQL, Emacs, Linux (Ubuntu)  
**Proficient**: R, Perl  
**Experienced**: Matlab, Latex, Python, HTML, CSS

## REFERENCES

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- **Marianne Bertrand, Chris P. Dialynas Professor of Economics**  
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