

# 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 School of Business](#), University of Chicago

*Evaluation of Right to Public Service Schemes*

- Travelled to Karnataka to understand the design and implementation of the Right to Public Services Act. Interacted with all the government level stakeholders and visited various government offices.
- Developed and piloted a survey questionnaire which captured the experience and perception of citizens who availed the services that are covered under the Act.
- 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.
- 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.

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.*

- Using combined fixed effects at the senator level and at the congress level, 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.

Graduate Research Assistant to A. Rupa Datta, Vice President and Senior Fellow    OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 2012  
[National Opinion Research Centre](#) at the University of Chicago  
*National Survey of Early Care and Education*

- Managed the IRB approval process for all the school districts from which the survey intended to interview early care providers.
- Did quality control of the survey responses received from the field.

## WRITING

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- *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.

- *Research Design as part of course-work*: “Indian Politics: The Criminals beget Criminals Effect”, May 2012.

*Summary*: I create a research design that uses regression discontinuity design to prove that when the incumbent in Indian elections is a criminal, and the opposition party thinks that there is a high probability of the election being close, the opposition party also tends to nominate a criminal.

*Link*: [http://shekhar.me/papers/pe\\_researchdesign.pdf](http://shekhar.me/papers/pe_researchdesign.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

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**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**, [Prajaa](#), 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

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2010    *Co-Lead*, [Bangalore Water Index](#), Bangalore, India

2009-2010    *Mentor*, [Drupal Technology](#), [Step2](#)

2008-2010    *Founder*, [Soapbox](#), Bangalore, India

2008    *Co-Lead*, [Clean Nandi Green Nandi](#), Bangalore, India

2006-2007    *Chairman*, IEEE Student Branch, Delhi College of Engineering

## SKILLS

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**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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- **Dan Black, Professor**  
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- **B. Pablo Montagnes, Assistant Professor**  
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- **Paul Niehaus, Assistant Professor**  
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