

Varun Karekurve Ramachandra

Phone: +1 (585) 490 6468
Email: varun.rama@usc.edu
Homepage: <https://varunkr.com>

Employment

07/2023 - present	Assistant Professor, Political Science & International Relations <i>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA</i>
09/2022 - 06/2023	Inaugural Gerhard Casper Postdoctoral Fellow in Rule of Law <i>Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law</i>
09/2018 - 09/2022	PhD Researcher <i>University of Rochester New York Rochester, NY</i>

Education

2022	Ph.D. Political Science, <i>University of Rochester, Rochester, NY</i> Primary fields: <i>Political Methodology, and Comparative Politics</i>
2014	Post-Graduate Diploma, Complex Systems Modelling <i>King's College London, London, UK</i>
2008	B.E. Mechanical Engineering, <i>National Institute of Engineering, Mysore, India</i>

Research

Research Interests

• Comparative Politics • Causal Inference • Political Economy of Development • Bias & Discrimination

Papers

3. “Gender Quotas and Politician Performance in Indian Local Government”(with [Alexander Lee](#)) (Accepted for Publication at the Comparative Political Studies).
Winner of Best Paper in Urban or Regional Politics – 2021 American Political Science Association Conference.
2. “Gender Quotas and Upward Political Mobility in India” (Revision requested, Quarterly Journal of Political Science)
1. “Do gender quotas hurt less privileged groups? Evidence from India” (with [Alexander Lee](#)), American Journal of Political Science 64 (4): 757-772, 2020.

Working Papers

1. “The Limits of Electoral Gender Quotas” (with [Gaurav Sood](#)), *Draft available on request*
2. “Are Women Better Politicians? Discrimination, Gender Quotas, and Electoral Accountability ” (with [Zuheir Desai](#) and [Sergio Montero](#))
3. “Political Exit: The Unintended Effects of Electoral Rules in India” (with [Drew Stommes](#) and [Sudhir K Singh](#)), *Draft available on request*

Works in Progress

1. (Book Project) “Who Wins? Political Gender Quotas in India”, *Draft available on request*
2. “Skewed Scales of Justice: Labor Disputes in The Indian Supreme Court”
3. “Missing Women on the Streets of Indian Cities” (with [Gaurav Sood](#))
4. “Give or Take: Legislator Trade-off in India” (with [Zuheir Desai](#))
5. “Disruptions in the Indian Parliament” (with [Zuheir Desai](#) and [Alexander Lee](#))

Awards, Honors, and Grants

8. Center for International Studies Research Assistantships Grant, \$40,000, 2023-2024
7. Center for International Studies Conference Grant, \$15,000, 2023
6. Spanish Ministry of Science Grant (joint with Nikitas Konstantinidis, Zuheir Desai, Andrew Bertoli, Laura Jakli, Emmy Lindstam, Henry Pascoe, Francisco Villamil, and Elsa Voytas), 120,000, 2023
5. Center for International Studies Conference Grant, \$12,000, 2022
4. Winner of Best Paper in Urban or Regional Politics – 2021 American Political Science Association Conference
3. Dean's Post-Field Research Dissertation Completion Fellowship, \$25,000, 2021-22,
2. Beck Research Grant, 2019-20
1. Wallis Institute of Political Economy PEPR Grant (*with* Alexander Lee), 2018-19

Research Talks, Conferences, and Seminars

2024	Brown-MIT-Harvard South Asia Seminar (<i>scheduled</i>) APSA 2024 (<i>scheduled</i>) Price School of Public Policy, Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Collaborative Workshop (<i>scheduled</i>) Polmeth 2024, <i>poster presentation</i> PIPE, SoCal Political Economy Workshop at Caltech (<i>discussant</i>) Election Science, Research, and Administration Conference 2024 (<i>panel chair</i>) USC Price School of Public Policy, Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Collaborative Workshop (<i>discussant</i>) University of Southern California, Center for International Studies Seminar Series University of Pennsylvania, Center for Advanced Study of India Political Economy Conference
2023	Annual Conference on South Asia, Center for South Asia at UW-Madison (<i>chair and discussant</i>) APSA 2023 Annual Conference (<i>presenter</i>) Tuesday Talks @ Claremont Graduate University (<i>presenter</i>) SoCal Political Economy Workshop at Caltech (<i>presenter</i>) APSA South Asia Mini Conference (<i>cancelled</i>) University of Southern California, POIR Group (<i>presenter</i>)
2022	Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law Seminar Series (<i>presenter</i>) Indian School of Business, Organisational Behaviour Group Seminar (<i>presenter</i>) University of Rochester Conference in Applied Methods for Political Science (<i>discussant</i>) APSA (<i>skipped, visa constraint</i>)
2021	Harvard Business School, Business, Government, and International Economy Unit (<i>presenter</i>) Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference (<i>presenter</i>) King's India Institute Graduate Conference (<i>presenter</i>) APSA (<i>presenter</i>) MPSA (<i>presenter</i>)
2020	EGEN Graduate Student Conference (<i>presenter</i>) APSA (<i>presenter</i>)
2019	APSA (<i>presenter</i>)

Research Initiatives

2. Co-Convener (*with* Zuheir Desai, Ohio State University), Annual Conference on the New Perspectives on the Political Economy of Development (2024, scheduled)
1. Co-Convener (*with* Zuheir Desai, Ohio State University), Annual Conference on the New Perspectives on the Political Economy of Development (2023)

Teaching

Fall 2023	POIR 610 (G): Graduate Research Design , Course Design, Instruction & Evaluation POSC 442 (UG): The Politics of Human Differences: Diversity and Discrimination , Course Design, Instruction & Evaluation
Spring 2020	Graduate Causal Inference , Teaching Assistant, Recitation Design
Fall 2019	Undergraduate: Discrimination , Teaching Assistant
Spring 2019	Graduate Linear Models , Teaching Assistant, Recitation Design
Fall 2018	Graduate Probability and Inference , Teaching Assistant, Recitation Design

Service

2024	Member, ad-hoc faculty search committee POIR 2023-24 Co-Organizer, CIS comparative politics workshop series, 2024-25
Reviewer	Oxford University Press American Political Science Review American Journal of Political Science World Development Journal of Politics Journal of Law and Courts Politics and Gender Economic Development and Cultural Change
Students & Research Assistants	Bijean Ghafouri (PhD, University of Southern California) Raveena Dosanjh (Undergraduate, University of Southern California) Nikka Makhani (Undergraduate, University of Southern California) Rohit Iyengar (Law Student, NALSAR University of Law, India) Ronit Shah (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)

Policy Writing

2. “Karnataka’s Changing Fiscal Landscape” (*with Pranay Kotasthane*) Economic & Political Weekly 51 (33), 21, 2015
1. “Impact of Fourteenth Finance Commission: Karnataka Budget 2015 - 2016” (*with Pranay Kotasthane*) Economic and Political Weekly, vol. 50 (no. 46-47), pp.16-20, 2015.

Pre-Graduate School Employment

12/2014 - 06/2016	Public Policy Analyst Takshashila Institution , Bangalore, India
08/2013 - 12/2014	Strategy Analyst Accenture , Bangalore, India
11/2011 - 12/2012	Global Consumer Insights Analyst InMobi Technologies , Bangalore, India

Other Activities

12/2020 - present	Co-Founder India Wants to Know (@IWTKQuiz) (Instagram)
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