

Tanu Kumar

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Academic Positions

Claremont Graduate University

Assistant Professor, Division of Politics and Economics, July 2022-

William & Mary

Postdoctoral Fellow, Global Research Institute, July 2020-2022

Faculty Affiliate, Department of Government, September 2020-2022

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2020

– Susan Clarke Young Scholar Award – APSA Urban and Local Politics Section

– Best Dissertation Award (Honorable Mention) – APSA Urban and Local Politics Section

M.A., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2014

B.A., Government and Economics, Bowdoin College, 2012

Research

Peer-reviewed Publications

Kumar, T., “[Home-price subsidies increase local-level political participation in urban India](#)” Forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*.

– Featured in [The Washington Post](#), *Ideas for India* ([English](#) and [Hindi](#)), *ThePrint*, *Ideas of India Podcast*, and the Jain Family Institute Newsletter

Kumar, T., Post, A., and Ray, I. “[Flows, leaks, and blockages in informational interventions: A field experimental study of Bangalore’s water sector](#).” *World Development* 106: 149-160, 2018.

– Featured in the [USAID Impact blog](#)

Under Review

“The human capital effects of subsidized government-constructed homes in urban India” (revision invited, *Journal of Development Economics*)

“From public service access to service quality: The distributive politics of piped water in Bangalore” with Alison Post, Megan Otsuka, Francesc Pardo-Bosch, and Isha Ray (revision submitted, *World Development*)

“Organizational identity and positionality in randomized control trials: considerations and advice for collaborative research teams” with Nicholas Haas, Katherine Haenschen, Costas Panagopoulos, Kyle Peyton, Nico Ravanilla, and Michael Sierra-Arévalo (revision invited for a special edition of *PS: Political Science and Politics*, eds. Justine Davis and Kristen Michelitch)

In Progress

“How the content of claims shapes government responsiveness: theory and evidence from Mumbai.” *Draft in preparation for APSA 2021.*

“Why we should study small cities” (with Matthew Stenberg). *Draft in preparation for APSA 2021.*

“Citizenship practice in India’s middle-class unauthorized colonies” (with Adam Auerbach). *Funding acquired, data collection in progress.*

“An experimental analysis of the impact of smartphones and household property rights on the uptake of digital financial services in Blantyre, Malawi” (Peter Carroll, Boniface Dulani, Daniel Nielson, and Philip Roessler). *Intervention in field.*

“The impact of political efficacy trainings on women political actors in Sri Lanka” (with Kyong Maz-zaro and the International Republican Institute). *Survey in field.*

“Bias in responsiveness to complaints about public services in Mumbai” (with Sam Asher and Paul Novosad). *Data collected.*

Invited Pieces

Hyun, C., **Kumar, T.**, Post, A. and Ray, I. “Engineering predictable water? How to understand the humans that make tech innovations work.” In *An Introduction to Development Engineering*, eds. Madon, T., and Gadgil, A. Springer. Forthcoming.

Kumar, T. “Subsidizing homeownership builds wealth and motivates participation in urban politics: evidence from India.” In “Cities and Urban Politics,” eds. Finkel, E., Lawrence, A., and Mertha, A. *Newsletter of the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association*, 30 (1). 2020.

Other Writing

Trapenberg Frick, K., **Kumar, T.**, Mendonça Abreu, G., and Post, A. “Benchmarking ‘Smart City’ adoption in California: Developing and piloting a data collection approach.” University of California. 2021.

Kumar, T. Review of *India Moving: A History of Migration* by Chinmay Tumbe (2018, Penguin Viking). UC Berkeley Institute for South Asia Studies. July 28, 2020.

Trapenberg Frick, K., **Kumar, T.**, Li, R., Patil, A., and Post, A. “The general transit feed specification makes trip-planning easier – especially during a pandemic – yet its use by California agencies is uneven.” University of California. 2020. ([Policy Brief](#), [Paper](#))

Kumar, T. Review of *Contesting the Indian City: Global Visions and the Politics of the Local*, ed. Gavin Shatkin (2014, Wiley-Blackwell). *Governance* 29 (4): 589-590, 2016.

Research Grants

Program on Governance and Local Development, University of Gothenburg – 29,619 SEK, 2021 (with Adam Auerbach)

Alma Ostrom and Leah Hopkins Awan Civic Education Fund, APSA – 2,300 USD, 2019

Weiss Family Fund for Development Economics, Harvard University – 21,577 USD, 2017

Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley – 15,000 USD, 2017
Weiss Family Fund for Development Economics, Harvard University – 6,500 USD, 2016
Governance Initiative, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT – 8,700 USD, 2016

Teaching

William & Mary

Political Behavior in Developing Democracies, Fall 2021

University of California, Berkeley

Quantitative Analysis in Political Research (PhD level) - GSI for Professor Joel Middleton, Fall 2018
Writing and Research in South Asian Politics - TA for Professor Pradeep Chhibber, Spring 2016, 2019
Political Developments in India - GSI for Professor Pradeep Chhibber, Summer 2017, 2018
Introduction to Empirical Analysis in Political Science - GSI for Professor Laura Stoker, Fall 2014

Workshops and Invited Presentations

2021: Urban Studies guest lecture (Claremont Graduate University)

2020: Pacific Conference for Development Economics (UC Berkeley), Economics of Cities and Development (Johns Hopkins University), Cities and Urban Life guest lecture (UNC Chapel Hill), Comparative Politics and Political Economy Seminar (UC Santa Barbara), Tuesday Talks (Claremont Graduate University)

2019: Comparative Urban Politics Workshop (UC Berkeley), Experimental Political Science Graduate Student Conference (Harvard), Development and Political Economics Graduate Student Conference (Stanford), Visions in Methodology Conference (University of Georgia), Graduate Student Conference in Comparative Politics (UCLA), Conference on South Asian Politics (World Bank)

2018: California Workshop in Empirical Political Science

Professional Activities

Journal referee service: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *PS: Political Science*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *World Politics*

Affiliations: Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences, American Political Science Association, American Economics Association, European Economics Association

Updated July 27, 2021