

# Tanu Kumar

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Research Areas	Comparative politics, political behavior, urban politics, development	
Appointments	<b>Claremont Graduate University</b> Assistant Professor, Division of Politics and Economics	2022-
	<b>William &amp; Mary</b> Postdoctoral Researcher, Global Research Institute	2020-2022
Affiliations	Governance and Local Development Fellow, University of Gothenburg	2023
	Center for Effective Global Action Affiliate, University of California, Berkeley	2022-
	Government Department Faculty Affiliate, William & Mary	2020-2022
Education	Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley	2020
	M.A., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley	2014
	B.A., Government and Economics, Bowdoin College	2012
Peer- reviewed Articles	<b>Kumar, T.</b> , “Home-price subsidies increase local-level political participation in urban India.” <i>Journal of Politics</i> , 2022. –Coverage: <i>The Washington Post</i> , and <i>Phenomenal World</i> by the Jain Family Institute	
	<b>Kumar, T.</b> and Stenberg, M. “Why political scientists should study smaller cities.” <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> , 2022.	
	<b>Kumar, T.</b> , Post, A., Ray, I., Otsuka, M., and Pardo-Bosch, F. “From public service access to service quality: The distributive politics of piped water in Bangalore.” <i>World Development</i> , 2022.	
	<b>Kumar, T.</b> , “The housing quality, income, and human capital effects of subsidized homes in urban India.” <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , 2021. –Coverage: <i>Ideas for India</i> (English and Hindi), <i>ThePrint</i> , <i>The Hindustan Times</i> , <i>India Housing Report</i> , <i>The Times of India</i> , and <i>VoxDev</i>	
	<b>Kumar, T.</b> , Post, A., and Ray, I. “Flows, leaks, and blockages in informational interventions: A field experimental study of Bangalore’s water sector.” <i>World Development</i> , 2018. –Coverage: USAID Impact blog	
Research in Progress	Book manuscript: <i>Building social mobility: how subsidized homeownership creates wealth, dignity, and voice in India</i> . In progress, workshop scheduled for Spring 2023. Chapters available upon request.	
	“The content of complaints shapes government responsiveness: theory and evidence from Mumbai.” Working paper. –Coverage: India Housing Report	

	<p>“Politics in the Urban Periphery: Citizen-Led Expansion and Informality at the Edges of India’s Cities.” w/ A. Auerbach. GLD Working paper.</p> <p>“When do local governments improve transparency? Special districts outpace cities and counties in California transit” w/ I. Ratan, A. Post, and M. Sheth. Working paper, available upon request.</p> <p>“An experimental analysis of the impact of smartphones and household property rights on the uptake of digital financial services.” w/ P. Roessler, P. Carroll, B. Dulani, and D. Nielson. Midline data collected.</p> <p>“Ad-supported smartphones to bridge the digital gender gap: spillover design” w/ P. Roessler and E. Agasha. Seed funding acquired, initial piloting complete.</p> <p>“Voice and response: What motivates bureaucratic responsiveness to citizen voice?” w/ G. Kruks-Wisner. Qualitative data collection and design in progress.</p>
Book Chapter	<p>Hyun, C., <b>Kumar, T.</b>, Post, A. and Ray, I. “Engineering Predictable Water Supply: The Humans Behind the Tech.” in <i>An Introduction to Development Engineering</i>, eds. Madon, T., and Gadgil, A. Springer, 2022.</p>
Other Academic Writing	<p>Haas, N., Haenschen K., <b>Kumar, T.</b>, Panagopoulos, C., Peyton, K., Ravanilla, N., and Sierra-Arévalo, M. “Organizational identity and positionality in randomized control trials: considerations and advice for collaborative research teams.” <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>, 2022.</p> <p><b>Kumar, T.</b> Review of <i>Governing Locally: Institutions, Policies, and Implementation in Indian Cities</i> by B. Jacob and S. Jacob (2021, Cambridge University Press). <i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>, 2022.</p> <p><b>Kumar, T.</b> “Subsidizing homeownership builds wealth, changes attitudes, and generates urban civic participation.” in <i>Newsletter of the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association</i> eds. Finkel, E., A. Lawrence and A. Mertha, 2020.</p> <p><b>Kumar, T.</b> Review of <i>Contesting the Indian City: Global Visions and the Politics of the Local</i>, ed. G. Shatkin (2014, Wiley-Blackwell). <i>Governance</i>, 2016.</p>
Policy Writing	<p>“Why Political Scientists Should Study Smaller Cities” w/ M. Stenberg. <i>Urban Affairs Forum</i>, 2022.</p> <p>“Smartphone Ownership and Women’s Financial Inclusion: Preliminary Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Malawi” w/ P. Roessler, P. Carroll, B. Dulani, and D. Nielson. BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, 2022.</p> <p>“Household-level effects of subsidized housing: Evidence from urban India.” <i>VoxDev</i>, 2022.</p>

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.

“Housing is a welfare weapon. It can help people escape poverty.” *The Hindustan Times*, 2021. Syndicated in *India Housing Report*.

“How does subsidizing housing shape political behavior?” *Ideas of India* (podcast), 2020.

“Mumbai residents win govt housing lottery and spend more on kids’ education, jobs: Study.” *ThePrint*, 2019.

“Household-level effects of affordable housing: Evidence from Mumbai.” *Ideas for India*, 2019. Also translated to Hindi.

“Here’s what Gavin Newsom, Elizabeth Warren, and Microsoft should know if they want to end the affordable housing crisis.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage*, 2019.

#### Honors

Susan Clarke Young Scholar – APSA Urban and Local Politics Section, 2021  
Best Dissertation (Honorable Mention) – APSA Urban and Local Politics Section, 2021  
DeAlva Stanwood Alexander First Prize – Bowdoin College, 2012

#### Research Grants

##### External

Accountable Institutions & Behavior, NSF (w/ A. Post and N. Kuipers), 2023	\$350,000
Edward Artinian Fund for Publishing, APSA, 2022	\$2,400
Open Philanthropy, Good Ventures Fund (w/ P. Roessler), 2022	\$100,000
WEE-DiFine, BRAC (w/ P. Carroll, B. Dulani, P. Roessler, D. Nielson), 2021	\$46,337
GLD, University of Gothenburg (w/ A. Auerbach), 2021	29,619 kr
Alma Ostrom and Leah Hopkins Awan Civic Education Fund, APSA, 2019	\$2,300
American Political Science Association Conference Travel Grant, 2018	\$500
Weiss Family Fund for Development Economics, Harvard University, 2017	\$21,577
Weiss Family Fund for Development Economics, Harvard University, 2016	\$6,900
Governance Initiative, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, MIT, 2016	\$8,700

##### Internal

Bhattacharya Graduate Travel Grant, University of California, Berkeley, 2018	\$500
Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2017	\$15,000
Letters and Science Summer Award, University of California, Berkeley, 2014	\$5,000

#### Invited Presentations

##### 2023

CASI India Political Economy Workshop, University of Pennsylvania  
Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame (rescheduled from Fall ’22)

##### 2022

Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar in South Asian Politics, Harvard University  
Thinking Globally, Foreign Service Institute  
Urban Workshop Series, Centre for Policy Research India  
Housing Politics and Policy Conference, Princeton University  
Global Politics Series, University of Virginia  
Complex Governance Seminar, American University

**2021**

The Politics Forum, The College of New Jersey  
Inequality and Policy Research Center, Claremont Graduate University

**2020**

Economics of Cities and Development, Johns Hopkins University  
Comparative Politics and Political Economy Seminar, UC Santa Barbara

Teaching

**Claremont Graduate University**

International Development: Institutions, Households, & Policy, Spring 2023  
Political Behavior in Developing Democracies, Spring 2023  
Nature of Inquiry (Introduction to Data and Research Design in Social Science), Fall 2022

**William & Mary**

Political Behavior in Developing Democracies, Fall 2021

**University of California, Berkeley**

Quantitative Analysis (PhD level) - GSI for Professor Joel Middleton, Fall 2018

Mentorship

**Claremont Graduate University**

Lama Shaiekh, Dissertation committee  
Mona Shadia, Dissertation committee  
Rooppreet Sohal, Dissertation committee

**William & Mary**

Leah Damelin, Honors thesis committee

Service

**William & Mary**

Search committee member, DIGLab, 2022-2023

**Discipline-wide**

Peer Review: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development Grants, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Local Government Studies*, Oxford University Press, *PLOS ONE*, *PS: Political Science*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *World Politics*, *Social Policy & Administration*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*

Co-organizer for Virtual Workshop on Urban Politics in the Global South, 2022  
Excellence in Mentoring Award Committee, APSA Public Policy Section, 2022