

# Tanu Kumar

tkumaro8@gmail.com  
www.tanukumar.com

Research Areas	Comparative politics, South Asia, behavior, bureaucracy, local governance	
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	Center for Effective Global Action Affiliate, University of California, Berkeley	2022-
	Governance and Local Development Fellow, University of Gothenburg	2023
	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
Book	<i>Building social mobility: how subsidized homeownership creates wealth, dignity, and voice in India.</i> Under review. –Shortlisted for the American Institute of Indian Studies Joseph W. Elder Prize, 2024.	
Articles	<b>Kumar, T.</b> , “How the content of digital complaints shapes bureaucratic responsiveness in Mumbai.” <i>Governance</i> , 2024 –Coverage: India Housing Report	
	<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.	
	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.	
	<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>	

	<p><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.</p> <p>–Coverage: USAID Impact blog</p>
Working Papers	<p>“Voice and responsiveness: citizen strategies for engaging bureaucrats” w/ G. Kruks-Wisner. <i>Submitted</i>.</p> <p>“Politics in the urban periphery: Citizen-led expansion and informality at the edges of India’s cities.” w/ A. Auerbach. <i>Submitted</i>.</p> <p>“When do local governments improve transparency? Bureaucratic champions for open transit data in California” w/ I. Ratan, A. Post, and M. Sheth. <i>Revise &amp; resubmit</i>.</p> <p>–Paul Sabatier Award for the best paper on science, technology, and environmental politics, APSA 2022</p> <p>“Institutional capacity for development: An analytical framework” w/ G. Kim, R. Ramalho, and Stuart Russell. Part of the flagship series of the Public Institutions Unit in the World Bank’s Institutions Global Practice.</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><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>“Political scientists should study smaller cities.” w/ M. Stenberg. <i>Urban Affairs Forum</i>, 2022.</p> <p>“Household-level effects of subsidized housing: Evidence from urban India.” <i>VoxDev</i>, 2022.</p> <p>“Benchmarking ‘smart city’ adoption in California: Developing and piloting a data collection approach.” w/ K. Trapenberg Frick, G. Mendonça Abreu, and A. Post. University of California. 2021.</p> <p>“Housing is a welfare weapon. It can help people escape poverty.” <i>The Hindustan Times</i>, 2021. Syndicated in <i>India Housing Report</i>.</p> <p>“How does subsidizing housing shape political behavior?” <i>Ideas of India</i> (podcast), 2020.</p>

“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**

Paul Sabatier Award – APSA Science, Technology & Environmental Politics Section, 2023  
 Susan Clarke Young Scholar – APSA Urban & Local Politics Section, 2021  
 Best Dissertation (Honorable Mention) – APSA Urban & Local Politics Section, 2021  
 DeAlva Stanwood Alexander First Prize – Bowdoin College, 2012

**Research Grants**

**External**

BRAC (w/ S. Bhattacharya, P. Carroll, B. Dulani, P. Roessler, D. Nielson), 2023	\$228,012
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
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
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**

Lincoln Family Foundation, Claremont Graduate University, 2023	\$5,000
Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2017	\$15,000
Letters and Sciences Summer Award, University of California, Berkeley, 2014	\$5,000

**Selected Presentations**

**Invited Talks**

Global Governance Practice, The World Bank, 2024  
 McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, 2024  
 The India Center, University of Central Florida, 2024  
 Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame, 2023  
 Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar in South Asian Politics, Harvard University, 2022  
 Thinking Globally, Foreign Service Institute, 2022  
 Urban Workshop Series, Centre for Policy Research India, 2022  
 Global Politics Series, University of Virginia, 2022  
 Complex Governance Seminar, American University, 2022  
 The Politics Forum, The College of New Jersey, 2021  
 Inequality and Policy Research Center, Claremont Graduate University, 2020  
 Comparative Politics and Political Economy Seminar, UC Santa Barbara, 2020

**Workshops**

What Works, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, 2024  
 SoCal Public Institutions and Political Economy, 2024  
 CASI India Political Economy Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, 2023

SoCal Political Economy Workshop (discussant), CalTech, 2023  
 Program on Governance and Local Development, University of Gothenburg, 2023  
 Housing Politics and Policy Conference, Princeton University, 2022  
 Workshop on the Political Economy of South Asia (discussant), 2022  
 Visions in Methodology, Claremont Graduate University, 2021  
 Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Emory University, 2021  
 Economics of Cities and Development, Johns Hopkins University, 2020  
 Pacific Conference for Development Economics, UC Berkeley, 2020

## Teaching

### **Claremont Graduate University**

Comparative Public Policy, Fall 2023  
 International Development: Institutions, Households, & Policy, Spring 2023, 2024  
 Political Behavior in Developing Democracies, Spring 2023, Fall 2024  
 Nature of Inquiry (Introduction to Data and Research Design), Fall 2022, 2023, 2024

### **William & Mary**

Political Behavior in Developing Democracies, Fall 2021

## Dissertation committees

### **Claremont Graduate University**

Lama Shaiekh, Mona Shadia, Rooppreet Sohal, Ibrahim Alsuhaibani, Jennifer Verdier, Nazif Sali, Lale Pakradounian, Ani Apyan, Chisanga Chanda, Annie Chu

## Consulting

World Bank, Public Institutions Unit (Institutions Global Practice), 2024-

## Service

### **Claremont Graduate University**

Information Technology Committee, 2024  
 Co-founder of the Political Behavior Lab, Claremont Graduate University 2022-

### **Discipline-wide**

Peer Review: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development Grants, CEGA Grant Competitions, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Housing & Society*, *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*

Nominations Committee, APSA Urban & Local Politics Section, 2024  
 Co-organizer for Virtual Workshop on Urban Politics in the Global South, 2022, 2023, 2024  
 Excellence in Mentoring Award Committee, APSA Public Policy Section, 2022