

PROFILE I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania, working with Tariq Thachil and Adam Auerbach. I completed a PhD in political science from Yale University. I study democratic accountability and the political economy of development, with a regional focus on South Asia. One line of my research looks at variation in how developing democracies deliver welfare to their citizens, and why governments do not entirely shift to more efficient delivery strategies. A second strand seeks to explain why decentralization often fails to deliver expected improvements in public goods provisioning, local state capacity and political responsiveness. I employ a mixed-methods approach to study these questions, using experiments, observational analyses, and extensive fieldwork. I have work forthcoming in the *American Political Science Review*. I have taught a wide range of quantitative methods and comparative politics courses. In 2020, I received a university-wide award, the Prize Teaching Fellowship, for excellence in teaching. I have been closely involved with the Metaketa II project as a research assistant to the steering committee. Prior to the PhD, I fielded and analyzed surveys for India's Congress party in its election war-room.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS Postdoctoral Research Fellow July 2022 — Present
Center for the Advanced Study of India
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

EDUCATION Yale University, New Haven, CT
Ph.D, Political Science Aug 2015 — May 2022
M.Phil., M.A., Political Science 2018

Dissertation: [Three Essays on Distributive Politics in India](#) 

Committee: Steven Wilkinson (Chair), Susan Stokes, Gregory Huber

Fields: Comparative Politics (with Distinction), Quantitative Methods, American Politics

Balliol College, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K.

B.A., History and Politics (First Class)






2011 — 2013

On an Inlaks Scholarship (10 merit scholarships awarded across India in 2011)

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India

B.A. (Honours), History (First Division)

2008 — 2011

PUBLICATIONS	<p>Partisan Selectivity in Blame Attribution: Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic, with Matthew Graham (Forthcoming, <i>American Political Science Review</i>) </p> <p>Candidate Caste Effects in Uttar Pradesh Elections, <i>Studies in Indian Politics</i>, Vol. 3, Issue 2. (179-197), 2015 </p>
WORKING PAPERS	<p>Do Voters Reward Programmatic Distribution? Evidence from Survey Experiments in India </p> <p>Winning Support by Distributing Houses? Evidence from India </p> <p>House v. Cooking Gas Cylinder: Assessing the Political Impact of Two Benefits </p>
PRESENTING WORK	<p>External: Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS, Fall 2022), NYU-CESS Conference on Experimental Political Science (2021, Poster Session), American Political Science Association Conference (2021, 2019), Midwest Political Science Association Conference (2022, 2021, 2019), Chicago Area Political and Social Behavior Workshop (2021).</p> <p>Internal: Comparative Politics Workshop (2022, 2021), ISPS Experiments Workshop (2019), South Asian Studies Council Brown Bag Colloquium (2018), Leitner Political Economy Seminar (2017)</p>
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	<p>Prize Teaching Fellowship for 2020-21 (recognizes “outstanding talent” for teaching and is “one of the highest honors that a graduate student can attain at Yale”, \$3,000)</p> <p>MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2018-20 (up to \$18,000)</p> <p>South Asian Studies Summer Research Awards, 2021 (\$3000), 2019 (\$2500), 2018 (\$2800), 2017 (\$2000)</p> <p>Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Fellowship, 2017 (\$5000), 2019 (\$5000)</p> <p>Inlaks Scholarship, 2011-13 (£56,140 or ≈ \$91,500)</p>
TEACHING	<p>The Logic of Randomized Experiments in Political Science (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Spring 2022, Student Evaluation: 4.8/5)</p> <p>Visualization of Political and Social Data (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Fall 2021, Student Evaluation: 4.7/5)</p> <p>Advanced Quantitative Methods (Graduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Fall 2019, Student Evaluation: 5/5)</p> <p>Challenges of Young Democracies (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: Ana de la O, Spring 2019, Student Evaluation: 4.2/5)</p> <p>The Design and Analysis of Randomized Field Experiments (Graduate Course, Instructor: Alex Coppock, Spring 2018, Student Evaluation: 5/5)</p>

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate Course, Instructor: David Simon, Fall 2017, Student Evaluation: 4/5)

EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE

Editorial Assistant to the Co-Editor of the *American Political Science Review* (Elisabeth Wood) (June 2021 - January 2022)

Research Assistant, E-Gap Metaketa II Steering Committee (Donald Green, Ana de la O, Peter John) (2018-20)

Reviewer for *American Political Science Review* (2021)

Graduate Student Coordinator/Organizer, Leitner Political Economy Seminar (Fall 2018), ISPS Experiments Workshop (2018, 2019)

Research Assistant, Deborah Beim (2016) and Alexander Coppock (2018)

Electoral Analyst, Indian National Congress (August 2013 - April 2015)

FIELDWORK

India: Guntur, Belgaum, Calcutta, Kheda, Madurai, Lucknow, Delhi (18 Weeks, 65 Interviews, Multiple visits between June 2017 and February 2020)

I studied how voters form political preferences and parties mobilize support. I focused on the role of brokers, ethnicity, material benefits, and government programs in elections. I also studied party organizations and functioning. I am creating a qualitative time series, comparing my interviews and field notes with those of Myron Weiner and Atul Kohli. Weiner conducted fieldwork in Guntur, Belgaum, Calcutta, Kheda, and Madurai in the 1960s, Kohli revisited them in the late 1980s.

India: Lucknow and New Delhi (August-September 2012)

I identified the caste of candidates from four major parties in three state elections.

SKILLS

Fluent in English and Hindi

Proficient in R, R Studio, STATA, revealJS, and L^AT_EX

REFERENCES

Steven Wilkinson, Yale University
*Nilekani Professor of Political Science,
Director of MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies.*

✉ steven.wilkinson@yale.edu

Susan Stokes, University of Chicago
Tiffany & Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science.

✉ sstokes@uchicago.edu

Gregory Huber, Yale University
*Forst Family Professor of Political Science,
Chair of the Department of Political Science*

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Tariq Thachil, Univ. of Pennsylvania
*Madan Lal Sobti Professor of Political Science,
and the Study of Contemporary India*

✉ thachil@upenn.edu