Pratik Mahajan

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Education

McGill University *Montréal, QC*
MA Political Science (Development Studies Option) *2022 - 2024*
- Fields: Comparative Politics (Primary), Methods (Secondary)
- Thesis: "Ideological Transformation After Patron Co-optation? The Resilience of Ethno-Clietenlism Amid Hindu Nationalism in a Scheduled Tribe Constituency in India"
- Committee: Dr. Narendra Subramanian, Dr. Aaron Erlich, and Dr. Dietlind Stolle
- Affiliations: Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC), Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID)
- CGPA: 3.95/4.0

McGill University *Montréal, QC*
BA First-Class Honours *2019 - 2022*
- Honours Political Science, Minor Concentration Philosophy
- CGPA: 3.9/4.0, Honours GPA 3.97/4.0

UWC Mahindra College *Paud, India*
International Baccalaureate *2017 - 2019*
- 2-year Residential Program
- IB points: 43/45, 30 advanced credits equivalent to Undergrad Freshmen Year

Additional Training

McGill University *Montréal, QC*
Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision Making (CAnD3) *2023 - 2024*
- 10-month-long training program in data analytics and application to population dynamics.

University of Michigan *Ann Arbor, MI*
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Political and Social Research *2023*

Working Papers

Ideological Transformation After Patron Co-optation? The Resilience of Ethno-Clientelism Amid Hindu Nationalism in a Scheduled Tribe Constituency in India
Under Review

- Explores the electoral shift of Bhil Scheduled Tribes (ST) in western India towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) through capture of local Bhil patrons. Argues that ethnic and material interests remain salient despite increasing Hindu nationalist mobilization, and loyalty to local patron trumps party affiliation amongst BJP voting Bhils.
- Mixed-Method Research Design: Visual Conjoint Survey *(n=678 in 40 villages)* and Interviews *(n=80 voters in 10 villages, 20 elites)*

Changing Emic Idea of Group Identity Amongst the Bhils and Its Politics Across Generations (With Vikramaditya Thakur)
Under development with Asian Ethnicity for an approved special-issue

- Explores the post-colonial and contemporary evolution of Bhil tribal identity. Against the misplaced conception that increased education amongst Bhils would lead to absorption into mainstream Hindu identity, this paper argues that Bhil tribal identity is seeing a revival amongst the educated and young Bhils due to electoral and social policy factors.
- Multi-Method Research Design: Elite Interviews and Survey Data Analysis *(by Mahajan)* and Ethnography and Historiography *(by Thakur)*

Ongoing Projects

Non-Partisan Grassroots Organizations as Electoral Actors in India (With Feyaad Allie)

- This project combines two papers. The first examines how non-partisan grassroots organizations (GOs) engage voters during elections using shadowing, a vignette experiment with 720 organizational workers, and a conjoint experiment with 2340 voters. It explores whether GOs are selective or expansive in partisan voter outreach, and whether this perceived advantage holds up on the voter side.
- The second paper studies under what conditions GOs and political parties perceive their collaboration to be useful, and how they navigate differences during their collaboration using shadowing and a vignette experiment with 720 GO and 720 party workers.
- *Pre-registration for **GO-Voter Engagement (OSF)***
- *Pre-registration for **GO-Party Collaboration (OSF)***

Vacant Local Bodies and Democracy in India (With Alyssa Heinze)

- A planned research note uses data from the Maharashtra State Election Commission to investigate determinants of vacant village council positions across all 34 districts. Observational analyses of governance data are underway.
- We also analyze the impact of bureaucratic rule on perceptions of service delivery and democracy amid delays in local body elections in Maharashtra. This study uses surveys of 2300 voters and 1400 organizational and party workers across four districts.
- ***Pre-registration with OSF***

Who Favors Dynasts in India? (With Rahul Verma)

- Explores perceptions of dynasts versus non-dynasts on political metrics using surveys of 1400 party workers and 2000 voters.
- Initial findings suggest voter preference for dynasts is mediated by their own ambition for higher office.

Ambition Amongst Party Workers in India (With Feyaad Allie and Rahul Verma)

- Investigates how rank-and-file workers in hierarchical party systems like India balance political ambition and upward mobility. Initial analysis suggests electoral ambition is mediated by mobility within the party's governing body.

Published Dataset

Subdistricts of India by Scheduled Status: An Original Dataset, Development Data Lab (2024)

- 5969 Indian subdistrict (tehsil/mandal/block) level spatial dataset with information on Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas of India.
- Coded with SHRUG subdistrict spatial indicators for ease of merging with other datasets at the Development Data Lab.

Select Public Writing

"Ladki, bahin…but ethnic groups, caste too." The Times of India, 2024.

"Democracy's Slow March" *with Alyssa Heinze*. The Times of India, 2024.

"Maha Questions From Opposition's Small Allies." The Times of India, 2024.

"The Maha Gondhal: Maharashtra LS polls have never been muddier." *with Vikramaditya Thakur*. The Times of India, 2024.

"The Politics Behind Love Jihad in India: Understanding the Spread of the Conspiracy Theory in 2014." *A Contemporary Review of Genocide and Political Violence, 2023.*. McGill University.

"Why India's Plan for A New Parliament May Spell A Challenging Future For Its Democracy." *The McGill International Review, May 2021.*.

"Education in India: A Duty Forsaken During COVID-19." *The McGill International Review, July 2021.*

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2023-2024	**CSDC Academic Travel Grant**, CAD 1,000
2023-2024	**CAnD3-CSDC Fellowship for Training in Data Science and Population Dynamics**, CAD 10,750
2023	**CSDC Methods Training Grant for ICPSR Summer School at UMichigan**, CAD 3,000
2023	**McGill Faculty of Arts Graduate Mobility Award for Fieldwork in India**, CAD 3,000
2022-2023	**ISID Entrance Fellowship, McGill University**, CAD 1,650
2022-2023	**Faculty of Arts Graduate Entrance Fellowship, McGill University**, CAD 8,350
2022	**Allen Oliver Fellowship**, *Highest departmental GPA (3.97) in Political Science* CAD 3,000
2021-2022	**Dow-Hickson Scholarship by McGill's Department of Philosophy**, CAD 2,000
2021-2022	**Alexander McKenzie Scholarship by McGill's Department of Political Science**, CAD 1,000
2021	**Arts Research Internship Award (ARIA)**, CAD 5,000
2019-2020	**James McGill Entrance Scholarship**, CAD 3,000
2017-2019	**Scholarship for residential IB program at UWC Mahindra College**, INR 3,400,000

Non-Monetary Awards

2019-2022	**CAnD3 Data Visualization Dragon's Den Competition**, *Third Prize with Bertram Melix and Megan Skowronski*
2019-2022	**McGill University Faculty of Arts Dean's Honour's List**, *3 consecutive academic years*
2018-2019	**Davis-Mahindra Scholar at UWC Mahindra College**, *Outstanding Student Leadership*

Presentations

CONFERENCES

June 2024. Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA), Montréal, QC

March 2024. Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship (CSDC) Graduate Conference, Québec City, QC

INTERNAL

March 2023. Finalist at McGill's 3-Minute-Thesis Competition.

October 2021. Arts Research Internship Awards (ARIA) Project Presentations at McGill, Montréal, QC.

Teaching Experience

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

Conjoint Analysis: Visual and Interview Approach (CSDC Winter Methods School, Université de Montréal, Jan 2024)

- Introduction and a critical discussion of using graphics to conduct conjoint analyses and incorporating interviews as a robustness check while administering conjoint surveys in developing contexts where literacy levels and digital infrastructure are poor and outsider skepticism is high.

TA FOR MCGILL COURSES

POLI 311 Introduction to Quantitative Methods (Prof. Aaron Erlich, Jan-Apr 2024)

- Organized instruction material and facilitated weekly labs for R programming and quantitative political methodology for 50 students and managed assignment grading. Evaluation 4.5/5

POLI 210 Political Science Research Methods (Profs. Dietlind Stolle and Aaron Erlich, Sep-Dec 2023)

- Organized instruction material and facilitated weekly labs for 90 students for R programming and evaluated quantitative and qualitative assignments. Evaluation: 4.4/5

POLI 435 Identity and Inequality (Prof. Narendra Subramanian, Jan–Apr 2023)

- Facilitated weekly conference sections for 40 students, graded assignments and term papers.
  Evaluation: 4.7/5.

POLI 349 Foreign Policy of Asia (Dr. Jaeyoung Kim, Sep-Dec 2022)

- Facilitated weekly conference sections for over 70 students and managed assignment evaluations.
  Evaluation: 4.6/5.

TA for Short Courses

Spatial Data Visualization in R (Dr. Sakeef Karim, Nov 2023 and Nov 2024, Florida State University)

- Supported a 3-day workshop on advanced spatial data visualization techniques in R, organized by CAnD3-FSU

R Programming Summer Camp (Prof. Tim Elrick, Aug 2023, CSDS-McGill)

- Assisted in lab sessions, and provided coding support and debugging for McGill's week-long R summer camp.

Grader for McGill Courses

POLI 431 Nationalism and Nation States (Prof. Elissa Berwick, Feb–Apr 2024)

- Grading of 77 upper-year undergraduate exams and final papers.

POLI 522 Politics of Identity (Prof. Narendra Subramanian, Apr 2023)

- Grading of 10 final-year undergraduate honours seminar papers.

Research Assistance

May – Jul 2021 & May- Jun 2022: Prof. Hasana Sharp (Dept. of Philosophy, McGill)

- Annotated bibliography for Prof. Sharp's book project titled "Spinoza and Servitude."

May - Jul 2020: Tammy Molina (Interior Health of British Columbia)

- Created a repository of legal and ethical guidelines on ten bioethical issues.

Service and Public Engagement

2024-2025 **Bharat Jodo Abhiyan Member and Campaign Advisor**

- Worked with North Maharashtra division of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, an alliance of grassroots organizations supporting opposition parties in India. Engaged in volunteer training, booth management, and inter-organizational consolidation.

Fall 2022 ISID Talk Series **"Adivasi Agency and Environmental Jurisprudence in India"** interview with Dr. Geetanjoy Sahu.

2021-2022 Co-Lead of Planning Committee for **"Solidarity Against Authoritarianism in Asia"**.

- Organized and facilitated a public-oriented multi-day hybrid conference addressing issues of authoritarianism across Asia. Participants included international academics, activists (notably Yogendra Yadav), politicians (notably Mu Sochua), journalists and filmmakers.

Research Training

QUANTITATIVE
- Multiple Linear Regression (ICPSR, Grade A)
- Categorical, Ordinal and Count Outcomes Analysis (ICPSR, Grade A+)
- Causal Inference: DiD, IV, RDD (POLI 666, Grade A-)
- Conjoint Survey Experiments
- Spatial regression and mapping

QUALITATIVE
- TCPS-2 Canadian Research Ethics Certificate
- Voter and Elite interviews
- Shadowing and Participant Observation
- Discourse Analysis
- Ordinary Language Analysis

Skills

SOFTWARE
- R and R Markdown
- LaTeX and Overleaf
- GitHub
- Qualtrics
- GIS

LANGUAGES
- English (Fluent)
- Marathi (Fluent)
- Hindi (Fluent)
- French (Reading and Oral Comprehension)

Fieldwork

September 2024: Haryana, India

- Observing collaboration between grassroots organizations and party workers during Haryana's state elections.

July 2024-ongoing: Across Maharashtra, India

- Participant observation, shadowing, and managing survey data collection for project on non-partisan grassroots organizations.
- Interviews and collection of governance data for project on local government election delays.

May-July 2023: Nandurbar and Dhule Districts, Maharashtra, India

- Conjoint surveys and voter interviews in 40 villages as Principal Investigator, managing a team of 4 Research Assistants and translators.

May-June 2018: Jalgaon and Nandurbar Districts, Maharashtra, India

- Conducted fieldwork in 5 villages in the Fifth Scheduled Area to study the implementation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act.
- Evaluating the sustainability of drip irrigation for cotton cultivation in 2 agricultural communities

References

Dr. Narendra Subramanian
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Professor of Political Science (McGill)
MA Thesis Supervisor, TA for POLI 435

Dr. Feyaad Allie
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Assistant Professor of Government (Harvard)
Research Collaborator on Multiple Projects

Dr. Dietlind Stolle
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Professor of Political Science (McGill)
MA Thesis Examiner, TA for POLI 210