

Pratik Mahajan

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Research Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy of Development

Research Focus: Forests and Land Governance, Political Representation and Linkage, South Asia

Education

Yale University

PHD POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods

New Haven, CT

2025-current

McGill University

MA POLITICAL SCIENCE (DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OPTION)

- Fields: Comparative Politics (Primary), Methods (Secondary)
- Committee: Dr. Narendra Subramanian, Dr. Aaron Erlich, and Dr. Dietlind Stolle

Montréal, QC

2022 - 2024

McGill University

BA FIRST-CLASS HONOURS

- Honours Political Science, Minor Concentration Philosophy

Montréal, QC

2019 - 2022

Research

FORESTS AND LAND GOVERNANCE

Property, Power, and Participation: How Land and Political Rights Transform Forest Governance in Tribal India

Dissertation in Progress

The Long-Run Impacts of Indigenous Land Alienation Laws: Evidence from India

(With Patrick Agte and Arielle Bernhardt) Work in Progress

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND LINKAGE

Formal Positions and the Intra-Party Organizational Hierarchy

(With Feyaad Allie and Rahul Verma) Working Paper

How Internal Constraints Shape Electoral Collaboration Between Interest Organizations and Political Parties

(With Feyaad Allie) Working Paper

Decentralizing Democratic Erosion: Local Election Delays in the World's Largest Democracy

(With Alyssa Heinze) Working Paper

When Coalitions Overreach: Voter Limits on Coalition-Based Electoral Mobilization by Interest Organizations

(With Feyaad Allie) Working Paper

The Politics of Indigenous-Reserved Seat Vacancies in India's Village Councils

(With Alyssa Heinze) Work in Progress

Published Datasets

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

Harvard Dataverse Link

All India SHRUG Shrid (Villages and Towns) Matched to Corresponding Local Governance Bodies Using LGD Codes (2025)

Harvard Dataverse Link

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

YALE

Sterling Prize Fellowship (Yale) *USD 7,000 (2025-2027)*

MCGILL

CSDC Academic Travel Grant, *CAD 1,000 (2023-2024)*

CAnD3-CSDC Fellowship for Training in Data Science and Population Dynamics, *CAD 10,750 (2023-2024)*

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 (2023)*

ISID Entrance Fellowship, McGill University, *CAD 1,650 (2022-2023)*

Faculty of Arts Graduate Entrance Fellowship, McGill University, *CAD 8,350 (2022-2023)*

Allen Oliver Fellowship, *Highest departmental GPA (3.97) in Political Science, CAD 3,000 (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 (2021-2022)*

Arts Research Internship Award (ARIA), *CAD 5,000 (2021)*

James McGill Entrance Scholarship, *CAD 3,000 (2019-2020)*

NON-MONETARY AWARDS

CAnD3 Data Visualization Dragon's Den Competition, *Third Prize with Bertram Melix and Megan Skowronski (2024)*

McGill University Faculty of Arts Dean's Honour's List, *3 consecutive academic years (2019-2022)*

Presentations

CONFERENCES

April 2026. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago *Scheduled*

September 2025. American Political Science Association (APSA), Vancouver, BC

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

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

WORKSHOPS

April 2026. American Politics Graduate Student Workshop, Yale University

Teaching Experience

TA FOR MCGILL COURSES

POLI 311 Introduction to Quantitative Methods (*Prof. Aaron Erlich, Jan-Apr 2024*) **4.5/5.0**

POLI 210 Political Science Research Methods (*Profs. Dietlind Stolle and Aaron Erlich, Sep-Dec 2023*) **4.4/5.0**

POLI 435 Identity and Inequality (*Prof. Narendra Subramanian, Jan-Apr 2023*) **4.7/5.0**

POLI 349 Foreign Policy of Asia (*Dr. Jaeyoung Kim, Sep-Dec 2022*) **4.6/5.0**

Service

REVIEWER Ethnopolitics (1)

Select Media Contributions

"Review or Retention." The Times of India, *Dec 2024*.

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

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

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

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

"Adivasi Agency and Environmental Jurisprudence in India" - interview with Dr. Geetanjoy Sahu. *ISID Talk Series, May 2023*.

"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*.

Research Skills

SOFTWARE

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

LANGUAGES

- English (Fluent)
- Marathi (Fluent)
- Hindi (Fluent)
- *Bhil language family* (Intermediate Proficiency)
- French (Elementary Proficiency)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

McGill University

CONSORTIUM ON ANALYTICS FOR DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING (CAND3)

- 10-month-long training program in data analytics and application to population dynamics.

Montréal, QC

2023 - 2024

University of Michigan

ICPSR SUMMER PROGRAM IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

Ann Arbor, MI

2023

Fieldwork

May–July 2025: Maharashtra & Gujarat, India

- Interviews, gram sabha observation, and surveys on Tribal Forest Governance across 5 districts.

July 2024–April 2025: Maharashtra, India

- Participant observation, shadowing, interviews, administrative data collection, and management of 5 surveys with 30+ enumerators on democratic backsliding and representation.

September 2024: Haryana, India

- Observed collaboration between grassroots organizations and party workers during state elections.

May–July 2023: Nandurbar & Dhule, Maharashtra

- Conjoint survey experiment and interviews in 40 villages; managed a team of 4 enumerators.

References

Adam Auerbach

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Associate Professor of Political Science
Yale University

Steven I. Wilkinson

steven.wilkinson@yale.edu

Nilekani Professor of Political Science
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Yale University

Katharine Baldwin

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Associate Professor of Political Science
Yale University