

ANKIT BHATIA

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), International Studies (Aug'20 – Present)

School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, U.S.A.

- *Specialization*: International Economics, International Development, South Asia Studies
- *Dissertation Committee*: Professor Devesh Kapur (Faculty Advisor), Professor Shoumitro Chatterjee, Professor Filipe Campante, Professor Ritam Chaurey, Dr. Arvind Subramanian
- *Dissertation*: Essays on Infrastructure & Economic Development: A Theory and Evidence on Land Markets
- *Research Focus*: Economic Geography, Public Infrastructure, Urban Development, Land & Property Governance, State Capacity, India
- *Current CGPA*: 3.91/4.0

Integrated Master of Science (M.Sc.) & Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Honors in Economics (Jul'09 – May'14)

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, India

- *Specialization*: Development Economics, Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics
- *Faculty Advisors*: Professor Pulak Mishra and Professor NC Nayak
- *Thesis Title*: Modelling the Effects of Patent Grant Lag on Firm's Innovation Behavior
- *UG Project*: Economics of Creation of New States: Evidence from bifurcation of three Indian states
- *CGPA*: 3.89/4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

Academic Research

- *Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Devesh Kapur, Johns Hopkins SAIS (Mar'22 – Present)*
 - Assisting Professor Kapur on his upcoming book project titled "The Knitting and Fraying of Modern India" (with Dr. Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India).
 - Using quantitative research and geospatial data analysis methods to build new datasets on India's public infrastructure and state capacity.
- *Graduate Research Assistant, Professor Pravin Krishna, Johns Hopkins SAIS (May'22 – Present)*
 - Assisting Professor Krishna on big data trade projects including 1) CMIE Consumer Pyramids Households Survey, 2) Indian Customs Data, and 3) Firm-level GST input tax credit
 - Using big data analytics (N = 500 million) and R and Python programming econometric modeling techniques to clean, analyze, and geocode trade datasets.

Teaching Experience

- *Graduate Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins SAIS (Jan'22 – Dec'23)*
 - Advanced Quantitative Methods (Professor Shoumitro Chatterjee, Fall 23).
 - Applied Econometrics (Professor Shoumitro Chatterjee, Spring 23).
 - Economic Development (Professor Shoumitro Chatterjee, Fall 22).
 - Econometrics (Professor Ritam Chaurey, Spring 22).

- *Co-Founder & Faculty, Moolya Foundation (May'20 – Sep'21)*
 - Taught “Certificate Course on Public Policy 101” to a cohort of 100 students from India and Nepal.
 - Hosted “Introduction to Public Policy” webinars in 25+ premier colleges in India and Nepal.
 - Interacted with 1,000+ students to discuss career paths and skill development in public policy.

Policy Research

- *Research Associate, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, India (Feb'15 – Mar'20)*
 - Co-authored following projects at the intersection of law and the political economy of land and property rights development in India (with Dr. Namita Wahi, Director, CPR Land Rights Initiative):
 - Land Rights, Development, and the Constitution: Mapping Land Legislation in India,
 - Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights in the Scheduled Areas of India,
 - Legal Database of Disputes over Land Acquisition in India: A Systematic Review of Litigation under the Supreme Court and the High Courts in India.
 - Assisted Dr. Wahi with data collection, quantitative analysis, project management, and stakeholder engagement on the following projects:
 - Understanding Atrocities against Indigenous Communities in India using NCRB data,
 - Elevating Water Rights to Human Rights: Has it Strengthened the Claim of Marginalized Communities over Drinking Water?
 - Reviewing the Checkered History of the Constitutional Right to Property in India.
- *Consultant, Political Economy Program, Carnegie India, New Delhi, India (Aug'19 – Jul'20)*
 - Authored a policy report tracking policy innovations in land governance in the Indian states of Gujarat and Karnataka.
 - Used qualitative research methods including process tracing, case study analysis, and unstructured key stakeholder interviews to collect policy innovation data.
- *Research Assistant, Brookings Institution India Centre, New Delhi, India (Sep'15 – Jul'16)*
 - Co-authored a policy report to lay out a blueprint for smart city development in India (with Dr. Shamika Ravi, Former Member of the Prime Minister Economic Advisory Council).
 - Used statistical data analysis, field research, and case study analysis to investigate the economic opportunities and implementation challenges in the Government of India's Smart Cities Mission for the three Indian cities: Allahabad, Ajmer, and Visakhapatnam.
- *Consultant, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, India (Jul'14 – Jan'15)*
 - Assisted Professor Ajay Shah and Professor Ila Patnaik (former Principal Economic Advisors to the Government of India) on a project titled, “Effect of Global Volatility on Indian Debt & Equity Markets: Lessons from Major Emerging Economies”.
 - Used R-programming to clean and analyze high-frequency financial datasets.
- *Research Intern, Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog), Government of India (Jun'13 – Jul'13)*
 - Authored a research report titled, “Cost Benefit Analysis of Mining Industry on Local Economy: Lessons from tribal states of Jharkhand” and presented the analysis to Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia (former Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission).
 - Attended high-level meetings with Chief Ministers and state cabinet on Annual State plans.
- *Research Intern, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi (May'13 – Aug'13)*
 - Assisted Professor Ram Singh with economic modeling for a paper titled, “Litigation and Bargaining over Compensation under Eminent Domain”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Papers

- 'Mapping Indian Land Laws: A review of right Indian states', CPR, 2022 →
- 'Tracking Reforms in Land Leasing and Change in Land Use: Insights from Gujarat and Karnataka', Carnegie India, 2021 →
- 'The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights in the Scheduled Areas of India', CPR, 2018 →
- 'Land Acquisition in India: A review of Supreme Court cases from 1950 to 2016', CPR, 2017 →
- 'Building Smart Cities in India: Allahabad, Ajmer, and Visakhapatnam', Brookings India, 2016 →

Research in Progress

- 'Land Markets and Economic Development: Evaluating the Long-term Persistent Effects of Scheduled Areas in India' using geographic Regressions Discontinuity Design.
- 'Bridges and Cities: Measuring the impact of road bridges on urban economic geography' using market access approach.
- 'NIMBYism and Energy Transition: A new approach to estimating human displacement costs of big infrastructure projects' using NLP and high-resolution satellite imagery.

Selected Term Papers

- 'Temples of Modern India: Estimating cost and time overruns in large irrigation projects in India', Term Paper for India's Political Economy Challenges course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2022
- 'Flying Dragon v. Hoping Elephant: Comparing the political economy of land in China and India', Term Paper for China's Political Economy in Transition course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2022
- 'Why Delhi must build tall?', Term Presentation for Urban Economics in Emerging Markets course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2022
- 'Curse of Aid: Evidence from NATO-led road development in Afghanistan', Term Paper for Development Strategies course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2021
- 'Blueprint of Digital Ecosystem: Country-level assessment report of Morocco', Term Paper for Digital Development course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2021
- 'Origins of Democracy: Tracing waves of democratization', Term Paper for Qualitative Research Methods course, Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2020
- 'An Institutional Perspective on Parliamentary v. Presidential forms of Government: A case study analysis of India', Term Paper for Institutional Economics course, IIT Kharagpur, 2013

Op-Eds/ Podcasts

- 'Policy Winds, Land Rights, And Wrongs', LongShorts, Season 3, Episode 40, Transfin, 2019 →
- 'Municipal Bond Market Could Be the Answer to Financing Woes of Smart Cities', The Wire, 2016 →
- 'For Smart Cities to Succeed, Strengthening Local Governance Is a Must', The Wire, 2016 →
- 'A Governance-first Approach to India's Smart Cities', Brookings Institution, 2016 →

HONOURS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships/ Grants

- '\$15,000 IHS Sabbatical Grant', Institute of Humane Studies, George Mason University, 2024
- 'ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research', University of Michigan, 2022
- 'Summer Research Grant', Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2021-22
- 'Graduate Fellowship', Johns Hopkins University, 2020-24
- 'Grant-in-Aid to participate in pre-doctoral program', Centre on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen, Norway, 2017

Policy Impact

- Recommendations on Scheduled Areas development accepted by the 'Annual Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)' on behalf of the President of India, 2018
- Recommendations on Land Acquisition conflict resolution accepted by the 'Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015' on behalf of the Government of India, 2017
- Recommendations on the Smart Cities Mission accepted by the 'Union Minister of Urban Development' on behalf of the Government of India, 2016

Awards

- 'Ideal Research Project' for Policy and Donor Engagement, Indian Norwegian Research Council, 2017
- 'Outstanding Research Project', Oxford Consulting Group (independent evaluation) on behalf of the Indian Norwegian Research Council, 2016
- 'Director's Award of Proficiency' for the Best Master's Thesis in Economics, IIT Kharagpur, 2014
- 'Certificate of Excellence' for Best Policy Paper, Planning Commission, Government of India, 2013
- 'Best UG Research Project', Department of Humanities & Social Science, IIT Kharagpur, 2012

Academic Achievements

- Admitted to the Ph.D. program at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University on full scholarship, 2020.
- Admitted to Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Toronto on full scholarship, 2020.
- Admitted to master's program at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and NYU, 2019.
- Admitted to master's programs at LSE, Toulouse School of Economics, and GSE Barcelona, 2015.
- Graduated from IIT with a 95 percentile Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), 2014.
- Qualified Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) with an all-India 99 percentile, 2009.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Invited Presentations

- Seventh Annual South Asia Conference, Dublin, April 2024
- Seventh India and Land Development Conference (ILDC), New Delhi, November 2023
- Fourth India and Land Development Conference (ILDC), New Delhi, April 2020
- Samvaad: A Tribal Conclave, Tata Steel, Jamshedpur, November 2019
- Third India and Land Development Conference (ILDC), New Delhi, April 2019
- CPR-Land Rights Initiative's Fourth Annual Conference, New Delhi, March 2018
- Second India and Land Development Conference (ILDC), New Delhi, February 2018
- Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen, Bergen (Norway), 2017
- CPR-Land Rights Initiative's Third Annual Conference, New Delhi, March 2017
- World Bank Brown Bag Lunch Series, New Delhi, February 2017
- Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, January 2017
- Centre for Policy Research Seminar Series, New Delhi, January 2017
- CPR-Land Rights Initiative's Second Annual Conference, New Delhi, May 2016
- Symposium on the Financing of Education, Journal of Education Finance, Oxford Union, 2014
- Annual Seminar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur, May 2014
- Sixteenth Indian Political Economy Association Conference, IIT Roorkee, October 2012

Invited Workshops/ Seminars

- National Seminar on Displacement of Scheduled Tribes in India, New Delhi, September 2018
- National Consultation on Documenting Land Conflicts in India, Raipur, May 2018
- National Dialogue on Governance in the Scheduled Areas of India, New Delhi, April 2018
- National Workshop on Land Records Digitization, School of Democracy, Jaipur, March 2018

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATIONS

- ‘Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Geospatial Technology’, Johns Hopkins AAP, May 2023
- ‘BigData Analytics (Data Mining)’, Johns Hopkins SAIS, May 2023
- ‘Natural Language Processing with PyTorch’, LinkedIn Learning, April 2022
- ‘NLP with Python for Machine Learning Essential Training’, LinkedIn Learning, March 2022
- ‘Advanced GIS’, Johns Hopkins SAIS, March 2022
- ‘Introduction to GIS’, Johns Hopkins SAIS, February 2022
- ‘Anubhav Lecture Series’, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, Delhi Centre, New Delhi, September 2019
- ‘International R-GIS School: Geospatial Data and Research’, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, April 2019
- ‘Effects of Law Fare: Courts and Law as Battleground for Social Change’, Centre on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway, August 2017

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Programming: R, STATA, Python, QGIS, SQL, C, HTML, Advanced Excel, LaTeX
- Writing: Academic Papers, Policy Briefs/ Memos, Newspaper Editorial/ Columns, Grant Proposals

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Nationality: Indian
- Languages: English, Hindi, Punjabi (basic)
- Date of Birth: July 26, 1991
- Visa Status: F-1 (valid through Dec 31, 2026)

REFERENCES

- Professor Devesh Kapur, Johns Hopkins SAIS. Email: dkapur1@jh.edu
- Professor Shoumitro Chatterjee, Johns Hopkins SAIS. Email: shoumitroc@jhu.edu
- Professor Filipe Campante, Johns Hopkins SAIS. Email: fcampan2@jhu.edu
- Professor Somik Lall, Lead Economist, World Bank. Email: slall1@worldbank.org
- Professor Pravin Krishna, Johns Hopkins SAIS. Email: pravin.krishna@jhu.edu