Stanford

Avidit Acharya

Professor of Political Science, by courtesy, of Political Economy at the Graduate School of Business and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Avi Acharya is a professor of political science at Stanford University; a professor, by courtesy, of political economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; and senior fellow, by courtesy, at the Hoover Institution. He works in the fields of political economy and formal political theory.

His first book, Deep Roots: How Slavery Still Shapes Southern Politics (Princeton University Press, 2018) explores the lasting impact of slavery as an institution on political attitudes in the American South. His second book, The Cartel System of States: An Economic Theory of International Politics (Oxford University Press, 2023), provides a new understanding of the territorial state system as it developed through time and exists today.

His papers have been published in both economics and political science journals and have received awards such as the Elinor Ostrom best paper award, the Gosnell Prize in political methodology, and the Joseph Bernd best paper award. He is an editor at the journal Social Choice and Welfare and an advisory editor at Games and Economic Behavior.

He earned a PhD in political economy from Princeton University in 2012 and a BA in economics and mathematics from Yale University in 2006. Before joining the Stanford faculty, he taught in the economics and political science departments of the University of Rochester.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Political Science
- Professor (By courtesy), Political Economy
- Hoover Senior Fellow (By courtesy), Hoover Institution

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Princeton University , Political Economy (2012)
- BA, Yale University , Economics and Mathematics (2006)

LINKS

- Personal Site: https://aviditacharya.humsci.stanford.edu/

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Designing Your Dissertation II: POLISCI 482 (Win)
- Formal Theory I: POLISCI 356A (Win)
- Strategy: Introduction to Game Theory: POLISCI 153 (Win)

2025-26

- Formal Theory I: POLISCI 356A (Win)
- The Science of Politics: POLISCI 1 (Win)
- Workshop in Political Methodology: POLISCI 353B (Win)
- Workshop in Political Methodology: POLISCI 353C (Spr)

2024-25

- Formal Theory I: POLISCI 356A (Aut)
- Formal Theory II: POLISCI 356B (Win)
- The Science of Politics: POLISCI 1 (Win)

2023-24

- Formal Theory II: POLISCI 356B (Spr)
- Strategy: Introduction to Game Theory: POLISCI 153, POLISCI 354 (Sum)
- The Science of Politics: POLISCI 1 (Spr)
- Workshop in Political Methodology: POLISCI 353C (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Chris Dann, Abhinav Ramaswamy

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Liam Bethlendy, Phedias Theophanous

Doctoral (Program)

Aleksandre Sharashenidze, Simon Siskel, Phedias Theophanous, Tomer Zaidman

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Political accountability under moral hazard** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Acharya, A., Lipnowski, E., Ramos, J.
  2024
- **Electoral Campaigns as Dynamic Contests** *JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION*
  Acharya, A., Grillo, E., Sugaya, T., Turkel, E.
  2024
- **Paths to the Frontier** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL-MICROECONOMICS*
  Acharya, A., Ortner, J.
  2022; 14 (1): 39-69
- **Combining Outcome-Based and Preference-Based Matching: A Constrained Priority Mechanism** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Acharya, A., Bansak, K., Hainmueller, J.
  2022; 30 (1): 89-112

- **Security in the absence of a state: Traditional authority, livestock trading, and maritime piracy in northern Somalia** *JOURNAL OF THEORETICAL POLITICS*
  Acharya, A., Harding, R., Harris, J.
  2020
- **Path Dependence in European Development: Medieval Politics, Conflict, and State Building** *COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES*
  Acharya, A., Lee, A.
  2019; 52 (13-14): 2171–2206
- **A Behavioral Foundation for Audience Costs** *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Acharya, A., Grillo, E.
  2019; 14 (2): 159–90
- **Analyzing Causal Mechanisms in Survey Experiments** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Acharya, A., Blackwell, M., Sen, M.
  2018; 26 (4): 357–78
- **Economic Foundations of the Territorial State System** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Acharya, A., Lee, A.
  2018; 62 (4): 954–66
- **Explaining Preferences from Behavior: A Cognitive Dissonance Approach** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Acharya, A., Blackwell, M., Sen, M.
  2018; 80 (2): 400–411
- **"Sons of the soil': A model of assimilation and population control** *JOURNAL OF THEORETICAL POLITICS*
  Acharya, A., Laitin, D. D., Zhang, A.
  2018; 30 (2): 184–223
- **Progressive Learning** *ECONOMETRICA*
  Acharya, A., Ortner, J.
  2017; 85 (6): 1965–90
- **Sincere voting in large elections** *GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR*
  Acharya, A., Meirowitz, A.
  2017; 101: 121-131
- **Information aggregation failure in a model of social mobility** *GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR*
  Acharya, A.
  2016; 100: 257-272
- **Explaining Causal Findings Without Bias: Detecting and Assessing Direct Effects** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Acharya, A., Blackwell, M., Sen, M.
  2016; 110 (3): 512-529
- **The Political Legacy of American Slavery** *JOURNAL OF POLITICS*
  Acharya, A., Blackwell, M., Sen, M.
  2016; 78 (3): 621-641
- **Caste, corruption and political competition in India** *RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS*
  Acharya, A., Roemer, J. E., Somanathan, R.
  2015; 69 (3): 336–52
- **Multidimensional poverty with missing attributes** *ECONOMICS LETTERS*
  Acharya, A., Roemer, J. E.
  2015; 130: 51-55
- **War with Crazy Types** *POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND METHODS*
  Acharya, A., Grillo, E.
  2015; 3 (2): 281–307

- **Delays and partial agreements in multi-issue bargaining** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC THEORY*
  Acharya, A., Ortner, J.
  2013; 148 (5): 2150-2163
- **The Calculus of the Security Dilemma** *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Acharya, A., Ramsay, K. W.
  2013; 8 (2): 183-203
- **The Maoist Insurgency and Political Economy of Violence Acharya** *The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal: Revolution in the twenty-first century*
  Acharya, A., Pahari, A.
  edited by Lawoti, M.
  Routledge.2009; 1