

# Avidit R. Acharya

## Contact Information

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## Positions

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### *Stanford University*

Professor of Political Science, Sept. 2022 – present  
Professor, by courtesy, in the Graduate School of Business, Sept. 2022 – present  
Senior Fellow (courtesy), Hoover Institution, Sept. 2022 – present  
Faculty Associate, Center on Global Poverty & Development, Sept. 2017 – present  
Faculty Associate, Center for South Asia, July 2014 - present  
Associate Professor of Political Science, Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2022  
Associate Professor, by courtesy, in the GSB, Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2022  
Victoria Schuck Faculty Scholar, Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2022  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, July 2014 – Aug. 2019  
Fellow of the Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Sept. 2016 - July 2017

### *University of Rochester*

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Economics, July 2012 - June 2014  
Faculty Associate, Wallis Institute of Political Economy, July 2012 - June 2014

### *Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal*

Distinguished Honorary Fellow, Aug. 2023 – present

## Education

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### *Princeton University*

Ph.D., Political Economy, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (formerly called the Woodrow Wilson School), Sept. 2007-March 2012

### *Yale University*

B.A., Economics and Mathematics, Sept. 2002-May 2006

## Books

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1. Acharya, Avidit and Alexander Lee. *The Cartel System of States: An Economic Theory of International Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2023.
2. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. *Deep Roots: How Slavery Still Shapes Southern Politics*, Princeton University Press, 2018.

## Articles

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### *Published and Forthcoming Papers*

1. Acharya, Avidit, Peter Buisseret, Adam Meirowitz, and Floyd Zhang. “Selective Exposure and Political Competition,” *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.
2. Acharya, Avidit, Elliot Lipnowski and João Ramos. “Political Accountability Under Moral Hazard,” *American Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming.
3. Acharya, Avidit, Edoardo Grillo, Takuo Sugaya and Eray Turkel. “Electoral Campaigns as Dynamic Contests,” *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming.
4. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. (2023). “Historical Persistence” in Jeff Jenkins and Jared Rubin (eds.) *Oxford Handbook on Historical Political Economy*, Oxford University Press.
5. Acharya, Avidit and John Roemer (2022). “Equality of Opportunity as a Measure of Development,” in Swarnim Waglé and Kanni Wignaraja (eds.) *The Great Upheaval: Resetting Development Policy and Institutions for the Decade of Action in Asia and the Pacific*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
6. Acharya, Avidit and Juan Ortner. “Paths to the Frontier,” *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, Vol. 14, February 2022, pp. 30-69.
7. Acharya, Avidit, Kirk Bansak and Jens Hainmueller. “Combining Outcome-Based and Preference-Based Matching: A Constrained Priority Mechanism,” *Political Analysis*, Vol. 30, January 2022, pp. 89-112.
8. Acharya, Avidit, Robin Harding and Andy Harris. “Security in the Absence of a State: Traditional Authority, Livestock Trading and Maritime Piracy in Northern Somalia,” *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, Vol. 32, October 2020, pp. 497-537.
9. Acharya, Avidit and Alexander Lee. “Path Dependence in European Development: Medieval Politics, Conflict and State Building,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 52, December 2019, pp. 2171-2206.

10. Acharya, Avidit and Edoardo Grillo. "A Behavioral Foundation for Audience Costs," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 14, April 2019, pp. 159-90.
11. Acharya, Avidit and Alexander Lee. "Economic Foundations of the Territorial State System," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 62, October 2018, pp. 954-66.
12. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. "Analyzing Causal Mechanisms in Survey Experiments," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 26, October 2018, pp. 357-78.
13. Acharya, Avidit, David D. Laitin and Anna Zhang. "Sons of the Soil: A Model of Assimilation and Population Control," *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, Vol. 30., April 2018, pp. 184-223.
14. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. "Explaining Preferences from Behavior: A Cognitive Dissonance Approach," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 80, April 2018, pp. 400-411.
15. Acharya, Avidit and Juan Ortner. "Progressive Learning," *Econometrica*, Vol. 85, Nov. 2017, pp. 1965-1990.
16. Acharya, Avidit and Adam Meirowitz. "Sincere Voting in Large Elections" *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 101, Jan. 2017, pp. 121-31.
17. Acharya, Avidit. "Information Aggregation Failure in a Model of Social Mobility," (prior working paper version titled "Equilibrium False Consciousness"), *Games and Economic Behavior*, Vol. 100, Nov. 2016, pp. 257-72.
18. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. "Explaining Causal Findings without Bias: Detecting and Assessing Direct Effects," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 100, Aug. 2016, pp. 512-29.
19. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 78, No. 3, July 2016, pp. 621-41 (lead article).
20. Acharya, Avidit, John Roemer and Rohini Somanathan. "Caste, Corruption and Political Competition in India," *Research in Economics*, Vol. 69, Sept. 2015, pp. 336-52.
21. Acharya, Avidit and Edoardo Grillo. "War with Crazy Types," *Political Science Research and Methods*, Vol. 3, May 2015, pp. 281-307.
22. Acharya, Avidit and John Roemer. "Multidimensional Poverty with Missing Attributes," *Economics Letters*, Vol. 130, May 2015, pp. 51-55.
23. Acharya, Avidit and Juan Ortner. "Delays and Partial Agreements in Multi-Issue Bargaining," *Journal of Economic Theory*, Vol. 148, Sept. 2013, pp. 2150-63.
24. Acharya, Avidit and Kristopher Ramsay. "The Calculus of the Security Dilemma," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 8, April 2013, pp. 183-203.

25. Acharya, Avidit. “The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal and the Political Economy of Violence,” in M. Lawoti and A. Pahari (eds.) *The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal: Revolution in 21st Century*, London: Routledge, 2010.

#### *Working Papers*

26. Acharya, Avidit, Edoardo Grillo, and Harry Pei. “Building Trust in Government – The Opportunities and Challenges of Adverse Shocks,” 2021.
27. Lal, Apoorva, Gaurav Sood, Derek Willis, and Avidit Acharya. “Asymmetries in Cricket: The Effects of Winning the Toss on Winning the Match,” 2021.
28. Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. Slavery, Politics, and Causality,” 2023.
29. Acharya, Avidit, Rohan Cherivirala, Robin Truax, and Karsen Wahal. “Ranked Choice Voting, the Primaries System, and Political Extremism; Theory and Simulations,” 2024.
30. Acharya, Avidit, Stephen Haber, and Alex Lee. “Getting to Middle Income: A Theory of Economic Favoritism,” 2024.

#### *Selected Work in Progress*

31. Acharya, Avidit, Alex Lee, and Theo Serlin. “How Polarization Ends,” 2024.
32. Acharya, Avidit, and Juan Ortner. “Learning to Cooperate,” 2024.

#### *Public Engagement*

33. Brief of U.W. Clemson, Fred D. Gray, Henry Sanders, the Alabama Legislative Black Caucus, and Social Science Professors as *Amici Curiae* for the Appellees and Respondents, Merrill et al. vs. Milligan et al., in the Supreme Court of the United States, 2022.

### **Awards and Honors**

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1. Elinor Ostrom Award for best article published in *JTP*, for “Security in the Absence of a State: Traditional Authority, Livestock Trading, and Maritime Piracy in Somalia” (with Robin Harding and Andy Harris), 2022.
2. Gosnell Prize for Excellence in Political Methodology, for “Combining Outcome-Based and Preference-Based Matching: A Constrained Priority Mechanism” (with Kirk Bansak and Jens Hainmueller), 2020.
3. William H. Riker Book Award for the best book in Political Economy, for *Deep Roots: How Slavery Still Shapes Southern Politics* (with Matt Blackwell and Maya Sen), 2019.
4. Joseph L. Bernd Best *JOP* paper award for “The Political Legacy of American Slavery,” (with Matt Blackwell and Maya Sen), 2016.
5. Fellow of the Society of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton, AY 2010-11.
6. Wrexham Prize, Yale College, for “the best senior essay in the social sciences,” 2006.

## Teaching

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### *Stanford University*

PS 440b: Comparative Political Economy (w/Steve Haber, 22W)  
PE 681: Economic Analysis of Politics (20W, 21W, 22W)  
PS 460b: Political Economy II (w/Vicky Fouka, 21W)  
PS 356a: Formal Theory I: Introduction to Game Theory (14F, 17W, 18W, 22F)  
PS 356b: Formal Theory II: Models of Politics (15W, 17Sp, 18Sp, 20Sp, 22Sp, 23W, 24Sp)  
PS 33n: How We Decide: Social Choice in the Age of Algorithms (w/Ashish Goel, 21F)  
PS 153a: Thinking Strategically (14F,16Sp,17W,17Su,17F,18W,20Sp,22Su,22F,23W,24Su)  
PS 247a: Games Developing Nations Play (w/Barry Weingast, 16Sp)  
PS 1: The Science of Politics (w/ Lauren Davenport, 24Sp)

### *University of Rochester*

PSC 565: Comparative Political Economy of Development (2012Sp)  
PSC 582/503: Formal Modeling in Comparative Politics (2013Sp)  
PSC 502: Political and Economic Networks (with Matt Blackwell, 2014Sp)  
PSC/IR 255: Institutions and Underdevelopment (2012Sp, 13Sp)  
PSC/IR 266: South Asian Politics (2014Sp)

## Dissertation Committees

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| <i>Name</i>          | <i>Pb.D.</i>           | <i>Initial / Current Placement</i>       |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Liam Bethlendy       | ongoing                |                                          |
| Benjamin Tremblay    | ongoing                |                                          |
| Theo Serlin          | ongoing                |                                          |
| Denis Tchaouchev     | ongoing                |                                          |
| Matthew Ribar        | ongoing                |                                          |
| Kasey Rhee           | ongoing                |                                          |
| Phedias Theopahanous | ongoing                |                                          |
| Apoorva Lal*         | 2023, Stanford Polisci | Research Scientist, Netflix              |
| Zuhad Hai            | 2023, Stanford Polisci | Postdoc, Princeton/Asst. Prof., NYU      |
| Floyd Zhang*         | 2022, Stanford GSB     | Economist, Instacart                     |
| Valentin Figueroa    | 2022, Stanford Polisci | Asst. Prof., PUC-Chile                   |
| Anna Zhang           | 2021, Stanford Polisci | Postdoc, UPenn/Asst. Prof., Wash U       |
| Eray Turkel          | 2021, Stanford GSB     | Research Scientist, Uber                 |
| Joy Chen             | 2019, Stanford Econ    | Asst. Prof., CKGSB-Beijing               |
| Ramya Parthasarathy  | 2017, Stanford Polisci | Associate, McKinsey                      |
| Michael Gibilisco    | 2017, Rochester        | Asst. Prof., Caltech                     |
| Chitralekha Basu     | 2016, Rochester        | Postdoc, Nottingham/Asst. Prof., Cologne |

\*Chair or co-chair.

## Postdocs

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| <i>Name</i> | <i>Years</i> | <i>Pb.D.</i>    | <i>Initial / Current Placement</i> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Andrew Mack | 2022-23      | 2022, Princeton | Independent Researcher             |

## Departmental & University Service

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### *Stanford University*

Member of the Political Science Department's DEI Committee (2023-24)  
Hoover National Fellowship Selection Committee (2022-23, 23-24)  
Oral Committee Chair for Timur Sobolev, Stanford GSB Finance (2022)  
Advisory Board Member, Center for South Asia (2021-22)  
Organizer of the GSB Political Economy Theory Lunch (2019-2023)  
Oral Committee Chair for Weixin Chen, Stanford Econ (2020)  
Graduate Curriculum Reform Committee (2019, 2020)  
Oral Committee Chair for Nathaniel Thomas, Stanford Physics (2019)  
Oral Committee Chair for Thomas Choate, Stanford GSB (2018)  
Political Methodology Workshop Organizer (AY 2017-18)  
Member of the Senior Search Committee in Political Methodology (AY 2016-17)  
Faculty Convener for Political Methodology (AY 2016-17, 22-23)  
Graduate Admissions Committee (AY 2015-16, 17-18, 19-20, 20-21, 21-22, 22-23)  
Graduate Program Review Committee (AY 2014-15)  
Dissertation Examiner for Dorothy Kronick, Stanford Political Science (2015)  
Oral Committee Chair for Peter Schram, Stanford GSB (2015)

### *University of Rochester*

Comparative Political Economy Faculty Search Committee (2013)  
Wallis Conference Organizing Committee (2013)  
Comparative Politics Workshop Organizer (AY 2012-13 & 13-14)

## Professional Service

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### *Editorial Boards*

Managing Editor, *Social Choice and Welfare*, 2023-present  
Advisory Editor (Associate Editor), *Games and Economic Behavior*, 2021-present  
Member of the Editorial Board, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*, 2023-present  
Editor (Associate Editor), *Social Choice and Welfare*, 2020-2022  
Member of the Editorial Board, *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 2023-25  
Member of the Editorial Board, *Journal of Politics*, 2017-2019

### *Reviewer*

American Political Science Review      American Economic Review  
American Journal of Political Science      Econometrica

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|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Journal of Politics                    | Quarterly Journal of Economics               |
| Quarterly Journal of Political Science | Review of Economic Studies                   |
| British Journal of Political Science   | Journal of Economic Theory                   |
| Journal of Theoretical Politics        | Games and Economic Behavior                  |
| World Politics                         | Journal of the European Economic Association |
| International Studies Quarterly        | American Economic Journal: Microeconomics    |
| Economics & Politics                   | International Economic Review                |
| Social Choice and Welfare              | International Journal of Game Theory         |
| Political Research Quarterly           | Canadian Journal of Economics                |
| Public Choice                          | Mathematical Social Sciences                 |
| Explorations in Economic History       | Economics of Governance                      |
| National Science Foundation            | American Economic Review - Insights          |
| Cambridge University Press             |                                              |

### *Discussant*

- “Romer or Ricardo?” presented by Chang-tai Hsieh at Hoover Conference on Long-run Prosperity (Nov 17-18, 2022).
- “Leadership Targeting and Deterrence” presented by Shuhei Kurizaki at CISAC Revisiting Nuclear Ethics Conference (Feb. 25-26, 2022).
- “Task Allocation and On the Job Training” presented by Leeat Yariv at the Utah Organizational and Political Economics Conference (Feb. 10-12, 2022).
- “Endogenous Experimentation in Organizations” presented by Germán Gieczewski at the Utah Organizational and Political Economics Conference (Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2020).
- “Pledge and Review Bargaining” presented by Bård Harstad, at the Wallis Conference in Political Economy, Univ. of Rochester (Sept. 27, 2019).
- “Electoral Competition with Rationally Inattentive Voters” presented by Filip Matejka at the Utah Winter Business Economics Conference (March 1-3, 2018).
- “Prizes, Groups and Pivotality in a Poisson Voting Game” presented by Alastair Smith at the Wallis Conference in Political Economy, Univ. of Rochester (Sept. 27, 2012).
- “Strategic Mass Killings” presented by Massimo Morelli at the Princeton Conference on the Game Theoretic Analysis of Conflict (Feb. 26-27, 2010).

Discussant at ASSA (2023), MPSA (2012, 2013, 2015) and APSA (2015, 2018).

### *Other*

- Program Committee Member, 7th World Congress of the Game Theory Society (2024).
- Chair of APSA Formal Theory Section Best Junior Article Award Committee (2023).
- Curriculum Advisor for University of Austin Political Science (2022).
- Member of Ad Hoc Panel advising the Government of Nepal on Covid-19 policy (2021).
- Committee Member for the APSA Political Economy Section 2021 Riker Book Award
- Co-organizer of the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics - Political Economic Theory Session (Summers 2020, 2021, 2022).
- Mentoring Faculty in Residence, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer School, Princeton (Summer 2012).

## Conference & Workshop Presentations

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Northwestern University Law School, April 11 2024  
Harvard Kennedy School, April 5, 2024  
University of Rochester Wallis Institute Political Economy Workshop, February 8, 2024  
Institute for Integrated Development Studies, Kathmandu, September 8, 2023  
Martin Chautari, Kathmandu, Nepal, July 2, 2023  
Nepal Rastra Bank, June 30, 2023  
Emory Theory & Models Workshop, April 3, 2023  
Texas A&M Political Science Speaker Series, March 21, 2023  
USCD Political Economy Workshop, Jan. 31, 2023  
University of Chicago Harris School Political Economy Workshop, Dec. 1, 2022  
UNC-Chapel Hill Formal and Quantitative Seminar, Nov. 2, 2022  
Warwick Political Economy Seminar, Oct. 20, 2022  
LSE Political Economy Seminar, Oct. 18, 2022  
Brown University Saxena Center Inaugural Conference, Sept. 10, 2022  
Nepali Academics in America Conference, April 16, 2022  
University of Chicago Econ/Booth Economic Theory Seminar, Nov. 16, 2021  
Online Political Economy Seminar, NUS/HKBU/NTU/CEIB, Sept. 15, 2021  
Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, June 14, 2021  
Rice University, Economics Department, April 20, 2021  
USC Marshall, Applied Economics Seminar, March 26, 2021  
UVA Global Development Seminar, Jan. 27, 2021  
NYU Political Economy Workshop, Oct. 4, 2019  
UBC Political Economy/Development Seminar, May 1, 2019  
Texas A&M Political Science Department Methods Workshop, April 15, 2019  
USC Conference on American Political Development, Jan. 10-11, 2019  
Yale Leitner Political Economy Workshop, Nov. 1, 2018  
Conference in Honor of Tom Romer, Princeton University, Oct. 11, 2018  
Emory/UNC-Asheville Conference, May 5, 2018  
NYU-Abu Dhabi Historical Legacies of Violence Conference, April 6-7, 2018  
USC Political Institutions and Political Economy Conference, March 15-16, 2018  
Wash U in St. Louis Department-wide Workshop, Jan. 25, 2018  
Caltech Political Economy Workshop, Nov. 14, 2017  
UCSD – GPS PIPE Workshop, Nov. 7, 2017  
University of Utah Business School, Oct. 9, 2017  
Stanford Economics Department Theory Workshop, Oct. 4, 2017  
UC Irvine Workshop on Economic Interdependence and War, April 21-22, 2017  
Collegio Carlo Alberto Economics Department Workshop, June 17, 2016  
Pompeu Fabra University Summer Forum, June 13-14, 2016  
Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 16-19, 2016  
Chicago Harris Conference on Conflict, April 14, 2016  
UC Berkeley, BCEP Political Economy Workshop, March 14, 2016  
UCLA Comparative Politics Workshop, Feb. 29, 2016  
University of Rochester, International Relations Workshop, Feb. 26, 2016  
University of Oxford, Nuffield College Political Science Workshop, Feb. 12, 2016

University of Nottingham Political Economy Workshop, Feb. 11, 2016  
LSE Political Economy Workshop, Feb. 9, 2016  
University of Wisconsin, Madison, American Politics Workshop, Jan. 25, 2016  
NYU Political Economy Workshop, Dec. 11, 2015  
Yale Cowles Foundation Political Economy Conference, Dec. 4, 2015  
American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, Sept. 3-6, 2015  
Conference in Honor of John E. Roemer, Queen Mary University, London, June 19-20, 2015  
UC Berkeley Comparative Politics Workshop, Nov. 6, 2014  
Society for Advancement of Economic Theory Conference, Tokyo, Sept. 19-21, 2014  
NYU/LSE Political Economy Conference, London, May 29-30, 2014  
Yale Conference in Political Economy, May 9-10, 2014  
Princeton/Warwick Political Economy Conference in Venice, March 14-15, 2014  
Yale Leitner Political Economy Workshop, Feb. 3, 2014  
Columbia University Political Economy Seminar, Dec. 3, 2013  
University of Warwick Political Economy Workshop, Nov. 4, 2013  
Princeton Political Economy Workshop, Sept. 30, 2013  
World Bank Development Research Group, Washington D.C., June 5, 2013  
Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 11-14, 2013  
Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C., March 1, 2013  
Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society, New Delhi, Dec. 20-22, 2012  
Caltech Political Economy Workshop, Sept. 27, 2011

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