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Academic Positions

Stanford University

Research Fellow, Hoover Institution's Huntington Program on Strengthening U.S.-India Relations, 2021-Present
Lecturer at Stanford Law School and Affiliated Scholar with the Neukom Center for the Rule of Law, 2022-Present
Research Fellow and Lecturer, Rule of Law Program, Stanford Law School, 2016-22
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, 2015-16

Education

Princeton University

Ph.D., Department of Politics, 2015
A.M., Department of Politics, 2011

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

Visiting Scholar, Ravi J. Matthai Centre for Educational Innovation, 2011-12

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

S.M., Department of Political Science, 2006
S.B., Department of Political Science, 2005

Publications

Edited Volumes

The U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, Edited with Šumit Ganguly, under review.

The Troubling State of India's Democracy, Edited with Larry Diamond and Šumit Ganguly, University of Michigan Press, 2024.

The Covid-19 Crisis in South Asia: Coping with the Pandemic, Edited with Šumit Ganguly, Routledge Press, July 2022. Apart from the Introduction, I also contributed the following chapter:

- "Comparing Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic"

States in the Developing World, Edited by Miguel Angel Centeno, Atul Kohli, and Deborah Yashar, with Dinsha Mistree, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Mapping Sustainability, Edited with Nazli Choucri, Toufic Mezher, Farnaz Haghesta, Wallace Baker, and Carlos Ortiz, Springer Press, 2007. Apart from the Introduction, I also contributed the following three chapters:

- "Electronic Governance: Salience, Trends, and Challenges"
- Globalization and International Trade – Insights from Graph Theory," with Behram Mistree

- “Global Agenda! Version 1.0,” with Christi Electris

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“[Job Training, English Language Skills, and Employability: Evidence from an Experiment in Urban India](#),” with Prashant Loyalka, Robert Fairlie, and Saurabh Khanna, Forthcoming at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

“[Comparing Advantages in India’s Computer Hardware and Software Sectors](#),” with Rehana Mohammed, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2025.

“[Experts in Estrangement: India’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#),” with Rehana Mohammed and Naman Shah, *Indian Politics and Policy*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2024: 13-38.

“[Evidence of Turmeric Adulteration with Lead Chromate across South Asia](#),” with Jenna Forsyth, Emily Nash, Manyu Angrish, and Steve Luby, *Science of the Total Environment*, vol. 949, 2024: 175003.

“[Food Safety Policy Enforcement and Associated Actions Reduce Turmeric Lead Chromate Adulteration Across Bangladesh](#),” with Jenna Forsyth, Musa Baker, Syeda Nurunnahar, Shaiful Islam, M. Saiful Silam, Tauhidul Islam, Erica Plambeck, Peter Winch, Stephen Luby, and Mahbubur Rahman, *Environmental Research*, vol. 232, 2023: 116328.

- Article covered widely in the media, including a comprehensive feature in *The Economist* (Nov. 2, 2023).

“[The Global Survey of Public Servants: Evidence from 1,300,000 Public Servants in 1,300 Government Institutions in 23 Countries](#),” with Christian Schuster, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Daniel Rogger, Francis Fukuyama, Zahid Hasnain, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Katherine Bersch, and Kerenssa Kay, *Public Administration Review*, vol. 83, 2023: 982-993.

“[Polycentric Versus State-Led Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#),” in *The Routledge Handbook of International Relations in South Asia*, Sumit Ganguly and Frank O’Donnell (eds.), 2022: 425-438.

“[The Bribery Double Standard: Leveraging the Foreign-Domestic Divide](#),” with Anna Mance, *Stanford Law Review*, vol. 74(1), 2022: 163-222.

“[In Need of a Big Bang: Toward a Merit-Based System for Government-Sponsored Research in India](#),” in *Drivers of Innovation: Entrepreneurship, Education, and Finance in Asia*, Yong Suk Lee and Fei Yan (eds.), Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center Series with Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2022.

“[Instructional Interventions for Improving COVID-19 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors: Evidence from a Large-Scale RCT in India](#),” with Prashant Loyalka, Robert Fairlie, Ashutosh Bhuradia, Manyu Angrish, Jason Lin, Amar Karoshi, Sara Yen, Jamsheed Mistri, and Vafa Bayat, *Social Science and Medicine* 276, 2021. [1st author, shared with Prashant Loyalka.]

“From Produce and Protect to Promoting Private Industry: The Indian State’s Role in Creating a Domestic Software Industry,” in *Shifting Gears in Innovation Policy: Strategies from Asia*, Yong Suk Lee, Takeo Hoshi, and Gi-Wook Shin (eds.), Stanford Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and Brookings Institution Press, 2020.

“[Responding to COVID-19 through Surveys of Public Servants](#),” with Christian Schuster, Lauren Weitzman, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Katherine Bersch, Francis Fukuyama, Patricia Paskov, Daniel Rogger, and Kerenssa Kay, *Public Administration Review*, 80(5): 792-796, 2020.

“A Friendly Neighborhood Hindu: Tempering Populist Rhetoric for the Online Brand of Narendra Modi,” with Joyojeet Pal and Tanya Madhani, *Conference for eDemocracy and Open Government - Asia*, Yokohama, Japan, 2018. [Peer-reviewed conference proceeding.] Article featured in *The Guardian* (Dec. 17, 2018).

“[Party-Directed Corruption in the Developing World](#),” *Comparative Politics*, 47(3): 354-374, 2015.

“The House of Security: Stakeholder Perceptions of Security Assessment and Performance,” with Stuart Madnick, Wee Horng Ang, Yang Lee, Michael Siegel, Diane Strong, and Richard Wang, *FSTC Innovator: The Journal for Financial Services Technology Leaders*, 1(1): 19-24, 2007.

“Using System Dynamics to Model and Better Understand State Stability,” with Nazli Choucri, Daniel Goldsmith, Stuart Madnick, Bradley Morrison, Michael Siegel, *Proceedings of the International Conference of the System Dynamics Society*, 2007. [Peer-reviewed conference proceeding.]

“Understanding and Modeling State Stability: Exploiting System Dynamics,” with Nazli Choucri, Christi Electricis, Daniel Goldsmith, Stuart Madnick, Bradley Morrison, Michael Siegel, and Margaret Sweitzer-Hamilton, *Proceedings of the 2006 IEEE Aerospace Conference*, Big Sky, Montana, March 5-12, 2006. [Peer-reviewed conference proceeding.]

Work in Progress

“Managing Multiple Goals: Research and Teaching in Colleges,” with Prashant Loyalka, Yong Suk Lee, Tara Beteille, and Rob Fairlie, submitted.

“Collective Abdication: Analyzing Variations in Starting Autonomy across India’s Higher Education Sector.”

“Building Capacity for Unity in Diversity: A Large-Scale Intervention Among Youth in India,” with May Farid, Prashant Loyalka, and Christina Felfe.

Indian Rules: The Values Powering America’s Most Successful Migrants, Book-length project with Vinay Sitapati. Targeting an early 2026 publication date.

Other Publications

[The Hoover Institution’s Survey of India](#), edited with Šumit Ganguly, *Hoover Institution Press*, 2025.

“[Modi’s Third-Term Foreign Policy Looks the Same](#),” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Policy*, July 1, 2024.

“[Taking Stock of India’s Democracy](#),” with Šumit Ganguly and Larry Diamond, *APSA-Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter*, vol. 21(2): 4-8, November 2023.

“Governance in the Indo-Pacific Region: Opportunities for U.S.-India Cooperation,” in [*Strategic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific: US and Indian Perspectives*](#), a joint publication of the Hoover Institution and the Observer Research Foundation, September 20, 2023.

“[The Folly of India’s Neutrality](#),” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Affairs*, June 20, 2023.

“[The US-India Relationship: Of Acquiescence and Activism](#)” with Šumit Ganguly and Larry Diamond, *The Carter Center-India Policy Commentary*, February 20, 2023.

“Modi is Rewriting India’s National Narrative,” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Policy*, August 19, 2022.

“India’s Official COVID-19 Death Toll Is Still an Undercount,” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Policy*, May 3, 2022.

“Sri Lanka’s Rajapaksa Leadership Won’t Step Down,” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Policy*, April 20, 2022.

“How Sri Lanka’s Economic Crisis Has Been Decades in the Making, with Šumit Ganguly, *South China Morning Post*, April 6, 2022.

“Engaging India Through the Middle East,” *The Caravan (Hoover)*, March 8, 2022.

“Why Some Indian States Handled COVID-19 Better Than Others,” with Šumit Ganguly, *Foreign Policy*, May 28, 2021.

“Who is a Zoroastrian?” *The Indian Express*, December 22, 2017.

“Go or No-Go? Voting on the World Bank’s Proposed Legal and Judicial Reform Project in Bangladesh,” with Arjuna Dibley and Erik Jensen, *Teaching Case Study*, Rule of Law Program, Stanford Law School, 2017.

“Remembering Abdul Kalam: A Student’s Perspective,” for a volume on the former President of India, 2015.

“Review of *The Role of Elites in Economic Development*, edited by Alice H. Amsden, Alicia H. DiCaprio, and James A. Robinson,” *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 48(35): 30-32, August 31, 2013.

“What Makes IITs Tick,” *The Hindu (Business Line)*, July 1, 2013.

“More Corrupt, More Accountable,” *The Indian Express*, January 2, 2012.

“Globalization, Migration, and New Challenges to Governance,” with Nazli Choucri, *Current History*, 108(717): 173-79, 2009.

Teaching

Poverty and Prosperity (Fall Quarters 2020-2024, Previously titled *The Comparative Political Economy of Development*), Stanford’s Master’s in International Policy Program.

Global Poverty and the Law (Winter Quarters 2018-2020; 2022-2024), Stanford Law School, with Erik Jensen. Periodically includes an India Field Study trip focusing on how India has pulled so many out of poverty and how India's legal system operates (Spring Breaks 2018-2020; 2023; 2025).

State-Building and the Rule of Law (Fall Quarters 2017-2020; Spring Quarters 2022, 2024), Stanford Law School, with Erik Jensen.

Talks and Conferences

2025: CDDRL-Stanford, Hoover Institution (Stanford), Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (Delhi-scheduled).

2024: Government of India's Capacity Building Commission, Stanford Law School Workshop (co-host), South Asian Literary Association, Alexander von Humboldt Colloquium, India Dialog (Stanford), Carnegie-India.

2023: U.S. Energy Diplomacy Workshop (Hoover-Dallas), Carter Center, SCANCOR (Stanford GSE), Hudson Institute, University of Michigan, American Political Science Association (APSA).

2022: Bowling Green, ISA, World Affairs Council, CDDRL-Stanford, Luby Lab (Stanford), Hoover Institution (Stanford), APSA, International Studies Association (ISA).

Prior To 2022: World Affairs Council (Palo Alto), CDDRL-Stanford (x2), Hoover Institution (Stanford), ISA, South Asia Colloquium (Stanford), Asia Foundation, Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference (Tsinghua and Stanford), Indian School of Business, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Government of India), Northwestern University, O.P. Jindal University, University of British Columbia, IIT-Bay Area Leadership Conference, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation, Tinker Conference on the Rule of Law in South America (Stanford), South Asia Colloquium (Stanford), Indiana University, University of New Hampshire, MIT-Sloan School of Management, South Asia Colloquium (Princeton), APSA (x6).

Service

I helped start and manage the Huntington Program on US-India Relations at the Hoover Institution. I am a research affiliate and part of the leadership for the Neukom Center for the Rule of Law at Stanford Law School. I am an affiliate with Stanford's Center for Human and Planetary Health. I am also a research affiliate with Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. I serve on the admissions committee for the Master's in International Policy Program.

Awards & Research Funding

King Center for Global Development Research Grant (with Prashant Loyalka and Jacob Goldin; \$79,920), 2020.

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Graduate Writing Fellowship, 2014-15.

Princeton University Graduate Fellowship, 2008-13.

The Vakhshoori Scholarship, 2013.

Mehraban and Morvorid Kheradi Endowment Scholarship for Academic Excellence, 2012.

Center for the Study of Social Organization Graduate Student Research Award (Princeton), 2010.

Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance Award (Princeton), 2008-10.

FEZANA Outstanding Young Zarathushti Award, presented every three years to one young Zoroastrian in North America for excellence in school, career, and Zoroastrian community affairs, 2007.

MIT Graduate Research Fellowship, 2005.

John Ely Burchard Scholar (MIT), 2004.

Eagle Scout, 1999.

Last updated March 18, 2025.