

SOUNDARYA CHIDAMBARAM

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor (From Fall 2017)

Department of Political Science, Bucknell University

Senior Fellowship (January – December 2015), American Institute of Indian Studies

[Supported ethnographic field research in urban slums in three cities in India]

Scharf Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow (July 2012-June 2014)

Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University

Visiting Assistant Professor (August 2011 – May 2012)

Department of Political Science, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Comparative Politics/ India & South Asia/ Global South

Urban Governance & Civil Society, Politics of Public Goods

Religious & Right-Wing Social Movements

Globalization & Development

EDUCATION

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, OH

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2012

- Henry R. Spencer Award for Best Dissertation 2011-12
 - Candidacy Examination (**passed with Distinction**), 2006
- Graduate Minor in Statistical Data Analysis (Dept. of Statistics), 2009

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

New Delhi, India

M. Phil., International Politics, 2004

M.A., International Politics, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI (KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE)

New Delhi, India

B.A. (Honors) Journalism, 2000

PUBLICATIONS

“The “Right” Kind of Welfare: Seva vs. Patronage in South India’s Urban Slums”, *Asian Survey*, 52: 2, April 2012, pp. 298-320

“Play in the States: the Indian Voter’s 2014 Mandate”, *Economic & Political Weekly*, 49:30, July 26, 2014, pp. 22-24

(Book Review) Amrita Basu, *Violent Conjunctures in Democratic India* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015), *Party Politics*, forthcoming.

Commentaries:

“A Key Criticism of the Vogue Ad Stems from a Misunderstanding”, *The Huffington Post India*, April 7, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.in/dr-soundarya-chidambaram/vogue-ad-lets-talk-about-b_7009636.html

“What the Urban Poor Want: Challenges of Governance for Aam Aadmi Party”, *The Huffington Post India*, February 11, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.in/dr-soundarya-chidambaram/what-the-urban-poor-want-b_6657768.html

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Baltimore, MD

Ethnic Politics - Fall 2012, Fall 2013

Politics of South Asia - Spring 2013

Globalization, Development, and Social Conflict – Spring 2014

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS – FAYETTEVILLE

Fayetteville, AR

Introduction to Comparative Politics - Fall 2011, Spring 2011;

Ethnic Politics - Spring 2012

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbus, OH

Independent Graduate Instructor (Summer 2008 – Fall 2011)

Chair’s Recognition for Excellent Teaching, Winter 2009

Teaching Assistant (2006-2007)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Working Papers:

- “Urban Governance and the Limits of Collective Action in New Delhi’s urban slums: the case of water vs. sanitation”, being revised for submission
- “More clientelism, less civil society: The paradox of reforms in Indian slums”, being revised for submission
- “Crackdown or Cooptation? Contrasting Responses to the New Labor Movements across Indian States”, [With R. Agarwala, **Sociology, Johns Hopkins University**], conference paper presented at the 42nd Annual Conference on South Asia, October 2013

In Preparation:

- “Whose City? A critical look at gender, sanitation, and urban planning in India”

GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- Senior Research Fellowship 2014-15, American Institute of Indian Studies 2014
- Henry R. Spencer Best Dissertation Award 2011-12, Dept. of Political Science, Ohio State University 2012
- Alumni Travel Grant, *The Ohio State University* 2010
- Research Travel Grant, *Mershon Center for International Security Studies* 2009
- International Affairs Grant, *Office of International Affairs, The Ohio State University* 2008
- Research Travel Grant, *Mershon Center for International Security Studies* 2007
- Graduate Fellowship, *The Ohio State University* 2004-2005
- Graduated Ranked Third, B.A. (Honors) Journalism, *Delhi University* 2000

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **(Invited Talk)** “Crouching Tiger, (Un)hidden Dragon: Can India and China cooperate in the economic sphere?”, **Faculty Panel on China-India Relations**, organized by The China Institute, Bucknell University, September 28, 2017

- **(Invited Talk)** “Sectarianism in the neoliberal city: Rise of religious right-wing organizations in urban India”, **Social Science Colloquium on Neoliberalism and the Precarity of Labor**, Bucknell University, September 14, 2017
- “More clientelism, less civil society: The paradox of reforms in Indian slums”, **2017 APSA Annual Meeting**
- “Urban Governance and the Limits of Collective Action in New Delhi’s urban slums: the case of water vs. sanitation”, **2017 ISA Annual Convention**
- **(Invited Talk)** “Research in Play - Community participation: Panacea or pipe dream? Comparing collective action in urban slums in New Delhi and Bangalore”, **Fields of View**, Bangalore, India, August 24, 2015
- “Can the urban poor speak? The role of CBOs in institutionalizing citizen participation in urban slums”, **2014 Annual Conference on South Asia**, Madison, WI, October 17, 2014
- **(Invited Talk)** Sectarianism in the neoliberal city: India’s urban poor and the politics of welfare”, **Observer Research Foundation**, New Delhi, India, January 14, 2014
- “Civil society or Clientelistic Politics? Sub-national Evidence from India on Public Service Provision”, **2013 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, April 11-14, 2013
- “Patronage, Welfare Politics, and the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in Urban India”, **2011 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Sept 1-4, Seattle
- “Hindu Welfare in South India’s Urban Slums”, **2011 Yale Modern South Asia Workshop**, April 9-10, Yale University
- “*Stemming the Radical Religious Tide: Populism’s Role in Thwarting the Hindu Right Wing in India*”, **2010 Conference on the Study of Religions of India: Arguments, Oppositions, and Conflicts**, June 17-20, The University of St. Michael’s college, in the University of Toronto

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Field Research in Urban Slums in New Delhi, Chennai, and Bangalore 2015
- Dissertation fieldwork in New Delhi, Chennai, and Bangalore 2009
- Pre-dissertation fieldwork in New Delhi, India (Networked with NGOs, academics, and journalists) 2007
- Research Assistant for Irfan Nooruddin, Dept. of Political Science, The Ohio State University 2006, 2005
- Research Assistant for Dean Lacy, Dept. of Political Science, The Ohio State University 2006
- Compiled “KS: A Select Bibliography”, in (ed.) P.R. Kumaraswamy, *Security Beyond Survival: Essays for Subrahmanyam* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004) 2004
- Research Assistant for Dr. C. Raja Mohan on his book, *Crossing the Rubicon: The Shaping of India’s New Foreign Policy* (New Delhi: Viking, 2003) 2003

SKILLS

QUALITATIVE: Research design, case studies, in-depth interviews, participant observation, and focus groups

QUANTITATIVE: Descriptive & inferential statistics, ANOVA, applied regression, survey sampling methods

COMPUTER: STATA, SPSS, MS Office, Blackboard Learning System

LANGUAGES: English, Hindi (native), Tamil (fluent)

SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, *Sage Open*; Reviewer, *World Development*

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association