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SHASHWAT DHAR

Appointments	Swarthmore College <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Global Studies</i>	Swarthmore, USA Fall 2025-Present
Education	Vanderbilt University <i>Ph.D., Political Science</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Dissertation: <i>Exit as ‘Disengagement’: The Political Implications of Economic Migration in Rural India</i>•Committee: Jonathan Hiskey (Chair), Noam Lupu, Nina McMurry, Tariq Thachil, Guillermo Toral	Nashville, USA December 2025 (<i>Expected</i>)
	Tata Institute of Social Sciences <i>M.A., Development Studies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Thesis: <i>Exploring the Rise of Citizen Politics in Contemporary India</i>	Mumbai, India 2013–2015
	University of Delhi <i>B.A. (Hons.), Political Science</i>	Delhi, India 2010–2013

Interests Comparative Political Behavior. Politics of Migration. Ethnic and Identity Politics. Development and Local Governance. Mixed-Methods and Field Research. South Asia.

Publications **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

- Kumar, Ashwani, Souradeep Banerjee, and **Shashwat Dhar**. 2021. “Pathways of Money: Insights from the 2017 Gujarat Assembly Election.” *India Review* 19(5): 448–470.

Book Chapters

- Kumar, Ashwani, and **Shashwat Dhar**. 2024. “The Politics of Interstate Migration in India.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Politics*, eds. Sumit Ganguly and Eswaran Sridharan. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 327–346.
- Kumar, Ashwani, and **Shashwat Dhar**. 2021. “Migration and Inclusive Elections.” In *Migrants, Mobility and Citizenship in India*, eds. Ashwani Kumar and R.B. Bhagat. New York: Routledge: 51–64.

Work in Progress

- Exit as ‘Disengagement’: The Political Implications of Economic Migration in Rural India [Draft]
- Exit Without Voice*: How Migration Undermines Local Governance in India’s Rural Communities [Draft]
- Do Electoral Gender Quotas Improve Public Service Provision?: Evidence from India’s Village Councils (With Priyadarshi Amar, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra, University of Southern California) [Data Analysis]
- Disasters, Citizen Activism, and The State (With Ritwika Basu, University of Bristol) [Data Analysis]

Commentaries and Op-eds

- Verma, Rahul, and **Shashwat Dhar**. 2018. “The Muslims Voting for the BJP are Richer, More Educated and Conservative.” *The Print* (21 September).
- Banerjee, Souradeep, and **Shashwat Dhar**. 2017. “Victory Sans Grandeur: The Gujarat Assembly Election 2017.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 52(51): 12–14.
- **Dhar, Shashwat**. 2017. “Subnationalism: A Double-edged Sword.” *The Hindu* (21 September).
- Gupta, Pranav, **Shashwat Dhar**, and Nitin Mehta. 2016. “In Bengal, BJP Fails to Build on 2014 Foundation.” *The Indian Express* (22 May).
- **Dhar, Shashwat** and Krishanu B. Neog. 2016. “Google Can Inform, But Also Deceive.” *The Hindu* (10 August).
- **Dhar, Shashwat**. 2015. “Academic Freedom in India is Nonexistent.” *Fair Observer* (1 December).

Media Mentions

- “For migrants to Delhi, its welfare schemes, jobs, and lack of nativist politics are the biggest draw.” *The Hindu* (2 May, 2023).
- “Where there’s a bill there’s a way to hide it!” *The Times of India* (15 November, 2022).

Grants	Political Science Summer Research Grant Award, Vanderbilt University (\$1,700)	2025
	Graduate School Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University (\$2,000)	2024
	Political Science Skill Building Fellowship, Vanderbilt University (\$1,000)	2023
	Research Award, University of Pennsylvania Institute for The Advanced Study of India (\$5,000)	2023
	Primary Data Collection Research Grant, <i>SurveyCTO</i> (\$4,376)	2022
	Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies (\$15,000)	2022
	Vina Sanyal Research Award, American Institute of Indian Studies (\$1,000)	2022
	Summer Research Award, Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science (\$5,000)	2022
	Field Research Grant, Latin American Public Opinion Project (\$2,300)	2022
	Summer Centennial Center Grant, American Political Science Association (\$2,500)	2021
	Dissertation Enhancement Grant, Russell G. Hamilton Graduate Leadership Institute, Vanderbilt University (\$2,000)	2021
Graduate Arts & Science Fellowship, Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science	2018–24	

Research Assistance

- Center for Global Democracy, Vanderbilt University** | Nashville, USA Fall 2024
- Project: AmericasBarometer 2025
 - Core responsibilities: Questionnaire design, Cognitive pre-testing, Data auditing and visualization, Data cleaning and analysis
- Tariq Thachil, Vanderbilt University** | Nashville, USA Fall 2018–Spring 2019
- Book Project: “Migrants and Machine Politics: How India’s Urban Poor Seek Representation and Responsiveness”
 - Key responsibilities: Merging datasets, Coding qualitative data from slum leader interviews

- Lokniti–CSDS** | Delhi, India May 2016 - August 2017
- Projects: Mood of the Nation Survey 2017, State Election Studies 2016-17, State of Democracy in South Asia II, Religious Attitudes, Behavior and Practices Survey 2015, National Election Study 2014
 - Key responsibilities: Survey operations, Data quality control, Statistical analysis of public opinion and election data, Report writing, Publication of research findings
- Aaditya Dar, George Washington University** | Mumbai, India Nov–Dec 2015
- Project: “Politicians and Economic Development: Does Political Background Matter?”
 - Key responsibilities: Compiling legislator biographies, analysis of newspaper archives, Semi-structured interviews with journalists and local politicians
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences** | Mumbai, India Sep–Oct 2015
- Project: “Inclusive Elections in India: A Study on Domestic Migrants and Issues in Electoral Participation”
 - Key responsibilities: Literature reviews, Technical writing, Government relations

Teaching Experience

- Introduction to Global Studies**
Instructor of Record Fall 2025
- Migration in a Globalized World**
Instructor of Record Fall 2025
- Identity Politics in the Non-Western World, Teaching Assistant**
Instructor: Nina McMurry Fall 2023
- Guest Lecture: The Politics of Hindu-Muslim Conflict in South Asia
- Justice: An Introduction, Section Instructor**
Instructor: James Booth Spring 2022
- Introduction to Comparative Politics, Teaching Assistant**
Instructor: Keith Weghorst Spring 2021
- Democratization and Political Development, Teaching Assistant**
Instructor: Keith Weghorst Fall 2020
- Guest Lecture: Social Determinants of Democratization
- The Politics of Global Inequality, Teaching Assistant**
Instructor: Jonathan Hiskey Spring 2020
- Middle East Politics, Teaching Assistant**
Instructor: Katherine Carroll Fall 2019

Conferences **Presentations**

- Midwest Political Science Association, *The Effects of Exposure To Slow-Onset Disasters on Political Behavior: Evidence from Two Indian States* 2025
- American Political Science Association, *When Exit Subverts Voice: How Migration Disrupts Political Accountability in Rural India* 2024
- Midwest Political Science Association, *Citizens in Flux: Urban Migration and Shifting Political Allegiances* 2024

Discussant

- Midwest Political Science Association 2025
- Vanderbilt Comparative Politics Workshop 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science III 2019

Invited Talks

- Guest Lecture, *An Overview of Diaspora Politics*, Vanderbilt University 2024
- SurveyCTO Webinar Series: Labor and Migration Research – Insights from India and Zambia 2024
- Pulse for Development Coffee Chat Series, *Support for Migrant Households: Lessons from the Pandemic*, Virtual 2022
- Special Lectures on Quantitative Methods*. Department of Political Science, University of Delhi 2017

Service	Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Mentorship Program	2020–21
	Graduate Student Workshop, <i>Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science</i>	Fall 2023
	Resource Person, Lokniti-CSDS Summer Workshop on Quantitative Methods in Political Science	July 2016
	Research Intern, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF India)	July–Oct 2012
	NREGA Social Audit, National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW)	June 2011

Skills **Languages:** English (Professional), Hindi (Native), Kashmiri (Basic)
Programming: R, Stata, NVivo, LaTeX, SurveyCTO
Fieldwork in India: Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra

Other training ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan July 2023

- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences
- Regression Analysis II: Linear Models

REFERENCES

Jonathan Hiskey
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Professor of Sociology (by courtesy)
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