Apurva Bamezai

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Political Science — Delhi NCR, India
Ashoka University — 2026–

Postdoctoral Fellow — Notre Dame, USA
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame — 2025–26

Education

University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, USA
Ph.D. in Political Science — 2019–25

- Committee: Tariq Thachil (chair), Guy Grossman, Marc Meredith
- Dissertation title: *Essays on Political Selection and Local Governance in Rural India*
- Distinction in Comparative Politics comprehensive field exam

University of Cambridge — Cambridge, UK
M.Phil. in Development Studies — 2011–12

Tata Institute of Social Sciences — Mumbai, India
M.A. in Development Studies — 2008–10

University of Delhi, St. Stephen's College — Delhi, India
B.A. (Honours) Economics — 2005–08

Research Fields

Political economy, Governance, Decentralization, Political selection, Bureaucracy, Gender and politics, India

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. Bamezai, Apurva, Siddharth George, Siddharth Hari, and M. R. Sharan. Learning to Govern: The Impact of Politicians' Peer Networks. *Journal of Development Economics*, accepted in the pre-results review track. Available at SSRN: `https://ssrn.com/abstract=4664964`.

2. Menon, Purnima, Apurva Bamezai, Ali Subandoro, Mohamed A. Ayoya, and Victor M. Aguayo. Age-appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices Are Associated with Child Nutrition in India: Insights from Nationally Representative Data. *Maternal & Child Nutrition* 11(1):73–87, 2015.

Works in Progress / Under Review

1. Bamezai, Apurva. Public Sector Employment as a Pathway to Local Electoral Politics? Evidence from Rural India. Dissertation paper.

2. Amar, Priyadarshi, Apurva Bamezai, and Rithika Kumar. Missing from the Middle: Patriarchal Constraints and the Invisibilization of Women in Everyday Governance. *Revise & Resubmit*.
   - GAPSA-Provost Fellowship Award, University of Pennsylvania

3. Bamezai, Apurva, Siddharth George, M. R. Sharan, and Borui Sun. Who Becomes a Local Politician? Evidence from Rural India. Working paper.

4. Baidya, Ankita, Apurva Bamezai, Siddharth George, Siddharth Hari, and M. R. Sharan. Safe Spaces or Elite Networks? The Effects of Peer Composition on Political Effectiveness. Working paper.

5. Bamezai, Apurva, Murad Banaji, Aashish Gupta, Shivani Pandey, M. R. Sharan, Kanika Sharma, and Chanchal Kumar Singh. Survey Evidence of Excess Mortality in Bihar in the Second COVID-19 Surge. *SocArXiv*, 2021.

Awards, Grants & Funding

- Fostering Peer Learning Among Local Elected Representatives:
  - The Weiss Fund ($93,427) 2022–23
  - J-PAL Governance Initiative ($169,510) 2022–23
  - International Growth Centre ($82,000) 2023–24
- Understanding COVID-19-Induced Excess Mortality in Bihar:
  - University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India & Penn Global ($46,000) 2021
- SAS Dissertation Research Award, University of Pennsylvania ($5,000) 2024
- Judith Rodin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania ($5,000) 2023
- Turner Schulman Graduate Fellowship, Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Immigration, University of Pennsylvania ($2,000) 2022
- Penn Development Research Institute Graduate Student Research Grant ($2,000) 2022
- Browne Center for International Politics Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania ($1,500) 2022
- Political Science Department Graduate Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania ($1,500) 2022
- GAPSA-Provost Fellowship Award, University of Pennsylvania ($6,000) 2022
- Presidential Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania 2020–21
- Sobti Family Fellowship, Center for the Advanced Study of India ($12,500) 2020–21
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania 2019–24
- Cambridge Commonwealth Shared Scholarship 2011–12
- ETS TOEFL Scholarship (India) 2011–12
- J. N. Tata Scholarship (India) 2011–12
- Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Post-Graduate Studies (Govt. of India) 2008–10
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Scholarship (Govt. of India) 2005–08

Professional Positions

Short-Term Consultant 2023, 2025
The World Bank

Senior Researcher 2018–19
Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania

Consultant 2013–18
Oxford Policy Management, New Delhi

Associate 2012–13
IDinsight, Patna

Research Analyst 2010–11
International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi

Research Assistant 2010
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Teaching

Ashoka University

- Introduction to Indian Politics — Monsoon 2026
- Democracy: Origins, Crises, and Resilience — Monsoon 2026

University of Pennsylvania (Teaching Assistant)

- The Public Policy Process — Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- Comparative Politics of Developing Areas — Fall 2021
- International Political Economy — Fall 2020

Training in Structured Active In-Class Learning (SAIL), University of Pennsylvania — Spring 2022

Invited Talks

Panelist, "The Benefits of Women in Leadership," 1st Annual CGD Women in Leadership Conference: *From Pipeline to Power*, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC, May 2026 [Video]

Presenter, "Research on Three Decades of India's Gender Quotas," Conference-within-a-Conference (invitation only), MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, 2026

Conferences & Workshops

Pre-APSA Workshop on the Political Economy of Development in South Asia, Harvard University, September 2026

MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, 2026

Indian Statistical Institute Annual Conference on Economic Growth & Development, New Delhi, 2024

APSA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, 2024

MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, 2024

MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, 2022

Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2024

PDRI-DevLab Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2023, Fall 2024

Service

Reviewer: *Comparative Politics*; *Studies in Comparative International Development*

MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago (Panel Chair; Discussant, two panels), 2026

PDRI-DevLab Political Economy of Development Conference (Discussant), Spring 2024

NEWEPS-22, Princeton University (Participant), Spring 2024

NEWEPS-18, New York University (Participant), Spring 2022

Select Policy Writing

1. Bamezai, Apurva and M. R. Sharan. The Particulars of Social Policy in India: Evidence, State Capacity, and Policy Design. *Ideas for India*, 12 September 2018.
2. Bamezai, Apurva, M. Jagmag, N. Kumar, P. V. Singh, P. Joshi, S. Joshi, S. Viswanathan, T. Newton-Lewis, and V. Grover. *Bihar Child Support Programme Midline Impact Evaluation Report*. New Delhi: Oxford Policy Management, 2016. Report submitted to DFID India in March 2016.
3. Ali, D., M. Tedla, A. Subandoro, Apurva Bamezai, R. Rawat, and P. Menon. *Alive & Thrive Baseline Survey Report: Ethiopia*. Washington, D.C.: Alive & Thrive, 2011.

Internships & Volunteer Work

CURE: COVID-19 Urgent Response Effort, Team Co-Lead, India (remotely from the U.S.), Summer 2020

Sahpathi Programme, Jharkhand, May–July 2016; June–July 2017

Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, May–June 2009

Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, May 2007

Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, New Delhi, May 2006

Skills

Technical: Stata, R, ODK, SurveyCTO, LaTeX

Languages: Hindi (Native); English (Native); Urdu (Working); Kashmiri (Elementary)

Courses: MUSA 2020 Summer Spatial Analysis Bootcamp (Penn Institute for Urban Research); Problem-Driven Iterative Adaptation (Building State Capability program, Center for International Development, Harvard Kennedy School)

Fieldwork

India: Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha

Outside India: Bangladesh, Mongolia