

# GAUTAM NAIR

---

John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States

gnair@hks.harvard.edu  
+1-617-495-2133 (US)  
+91 9582670500 (India)  
<http://gautamnair.org>

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

<b>Harvard Kennedy School</b>	Cambridge, MA
Assistant Professor of Public Policy	2020 - Present
Faculty Affiliate, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation	
Faculty Affiliate, Center for International Development	
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science	

---

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Comparative and International Political Economy; Distributive Politics; Business-Government Relations; South Asia

---

## EDUCATION

<b>Yale University</b>	New Haven, CT, US
Ph.D. in Political Science	2020
<b>University of Chicago</b>	Chicago, IL, US
M.A., Social Sciences Division	2011
<b>Colby College</b>	Waterville, ME, US
B.A., Economics	2008

---

## RESEARCH

### Publications

Gautam Nair and Nicholas Sambanis. "Violence Exposure and Ethnic Identification: Evidence from Kashmir." *International Organization* 73 (2) 2019, 329-363.

Gautam Nair. "Misperceptions of Relative Affluence and Support for International Redistribution." *The Journal of Politics* 80 (3) 2018, 815-830.

Dan Slater, Benjamin Smith, and Gautam Nair. "Economic Origins of Democratic Breakdown? The Redistributive Model and the Postcolonial State." *Perspectives on Politics* 12 (2), 2014, 353-374.

Edwin Adkins, Sandy Eapen, Flora Kaluwile, Gautam Nair, and Vijay Modi. "Off-grid Energy Services for the Poor: Introducing LED Lighting in the Millennium Villages Project in Malawi." *Energy Policy* 38 (2), 2010, 1087-1097.

### Selected Work-in-Progress

Gautam Nair. "Business, Voters, and Distributive Politics in Developing Democracies" (book project).

Gautam Nair. "The Rise of the Right in Modernizing India."

---

## OTHER WRITING

Book review of *A Business History of India* by Tirthankar Roy. *Pacific Affairs*, forthcoming.

“Most Americans Vastly Underestimate how Rich they are Compared to the Rest of the World. Does it Matter?” *Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog*, August 23, 2018.

“Why the Poor Don’t Soak the Rich: They Don’t Know How Poor (or Rich) They Really Are.” *Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies Blog*, January 27, 2016.

---

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	Philadelphia, PA, US
Visiting Dissertation Fellow, Center for the Advanced Study of India	2019 - 20
<b>Brookings Institution India Center</b>	New Delhi, India
Visiting Scholar	2016 - 17
<b>Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)</b>	New Haven, CT, US
Initiative Associate, US Finance Initiative	2011 - 13
<b>Sustainable Engineering Lab, Earth Institute at Columbia University</b>	New York, NY, US
Research Analyst, Energy Group	2008 - 09

---

## PRESENTATIONS

2020: Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asia Workshop (planned), American Political Science Association Annual Meetings (APSA) Annual Meeting

2019: Princeton University, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, University of Southern California, Yale-NUS College, UCLA-COMPASS Conference, Midwest Political Science Association Conference

2018: Harvard Experimental Political Science Conference, Harvard-MIT-Tufts-Yale Political Violence Conference, Columbia University, Conference on Patronage Democracies, APSA Annual Meetings, Yale Comparative Politics Workshop, Yale South Asia Studies Council Workshop

2017: Harvard Business School, Brookings Institution India Center, South Asia University-WISCOMP Dialogue on Kashmir, APSA Annual Meetings, Yale South Asia Studies Council Workshop

2016: APSA Annual Meetings, Yale Comparative Politics Workshop, Extractive Resources and Global Governance Conference

2015: APSA Annual Meetings, Falling Walls Lab, Conference on Grand & Petty Corruption in Developing States (discussant), Yale Global Justice Workshop

---

## TEACHING

“State and Business in India under Socialism and Reform,” (Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2019 and Yale School of Management, with Prof. Ian Shapiro, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020)

Faculty lead, Wharton School Global Immersion Program to India (2019)

Senior Thesis Fellow, Yale Ethics, Politics, & Economics major (2018, 2019)

Teaching Fellow for *Capitalism and its Critics* (Yale School of Management, Prof. Douglas Rae), *Comparative Politics* (Political Science, Prof. Adria Lawrence), and *Globalized World* (Political Science, Prof. Frances Rosenbluth)

---

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

Yale University PhD received with Distinction	2020
National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Grant SES 1747451	2018
NSF Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS)	2015
NSF TESS Real Stakes Competition Winning Proposal	2015
Yale John Hay Whitney Fellow	2017 - 18
Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies Field Experiments Grant	2017
Yale MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Fellowship	2016 - 17
Yale Leitner Program in Political Economy Grant	2015 - 18
Yale South Asia Studies Council Grant	2015 - 17
Yale Institution for Social and Policy Studies Policy Fellow	2015 - 16
Yale Overbrook Fellow	2014 - 15
University of Chicago M.A. Honors	2011
University of Chicago Committee on International Relations Thesis Honors	2011
University of Chicago Second Year Specialization Fellowship	2010 - 11
University of Chicago University Scholarship (full scholarship)	2009 - 11
Colby College Davis Scholarship (full scholarship)	2004 - 08

---

## CONFERENCES CO-ORGANIZED

Yale Political and Economic Development Conference, New Haven, CT, US	2019
Research and Innovation in Governance in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya	2015

---

## SOFTWARE AND LANGUAGE

Software: R, Stata, Python, and ArcGIS

Language: English, Hindi, and French (beginner)

---

## SERVICE

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Democratization*, *Experimental Economics*, *International Organization*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Social Forces*, *Review of International Political Economy*

Coordinator: Penn CASI Seminar and Podcast Series (2019-2020), Yale Leitner Political Economy Seminar (2015-2016) and MacMillan Comparative Politics Workshop (2014-2015)

---

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.

October 1, 2020