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SHASHWAT DHAR

Appointments **Swarthmore College** Swarthmore, USA
Visiting Assistant Professor of Global Studies Fall 2025-Present

Education **Vanderbilt University** Nashville, USA
Ph.D., Political Science December 2025

- Dissertation: *Exit as 'Disengagement': The Political Implications of Economic Migration in Rural India*
- Committee: Jonathan Hiskey (Chair), Nina McMurry, Noam Lupu, Tariq Thachil, Guillermo Toral
- Primary subfield: Comparative Politics

Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, India
M.A., Development Studies 2015

- Thesis: *Exploring the Rise of Citizen Politics in Contemporary India*

University of Delhi Delhi, India
B.A. (Hons.), Political Science 2013

Interests Comparative Political Behavior. Political Economy of Migration. Political Representation and Governance. Ethnic and Identity Politics. Mixed-Methods and Field Research. Politics of 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.
- Dhar, Shashwat. 2019. "[Job Preferences and Career Priorities](#)." In *Youth in India: Aspirations, Attitudes, Anxieties*, eds. Sanjay Kumar. London: Routledge: 13–25.

Work in Progress

- Exit as 'Disengagement': The Political Implications of Economic Migration in Rural India [Working Paper]
- The Price of Exit: Internal Migration, Public Goods, and Democratic Accountability in Rural India [Manuscript in Preparation]
- Environmental Shocks, Electoral Quotas, and Distributive Conflict (With Priyadarshi Amar, University Carlos III - Madrid, and Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra, University of Southern California) [Data Analysis]
- Disasters and Political Mobilization: Evidence from India (With Ritwika Basu, Indian Institute of Human Settlements) [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	Faculty Research Grant, Swarthmore College (\$4,000)	2025
	Graduate School Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University (\$1,000)	2024
	Political Science Skill Building Fellowship, Vanderbilt University (\$1,000)	2023
	Research Award, University of Pennsylvania Center 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, interviews with journalists and elected officials
- 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

Instructor of Record

- Global Migration: A Critical Survey** Spring 2026, Fall 2026
- South Asia in Global Perspective: From Democracy to Conflict** Spring 2026
- Introduction to Global Studies** Fall 2025, Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant

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

Conferences

Presentations

- Annual Conference on South Asia, UW-Madison Forthcoming 2026
- Midwest Political Science Association 2024, 2025, 2026
- American Political Science Association 2024

Discussant/Chair

- Midwest Political Science Association 2025, 2026
- 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
- Graduate Student Workshop, *Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science* Fall 2023

Service	Member, Faculty Steering Committee, Peace and Conflict Studies, Swarthmore	Fall 2026-27
	Co-coordinator, <i>Global Conversation Lecture Series</i> , Swarthmore	Fall 2025
	Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Mentorship Program	2020–21
	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, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh

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
 Professor of Political Science
 Professor of Sociology (by courtesy)
 Vanderbilt University
 Email: j.hiskey@vanderbilt.edu

Tariq Thachil
 Professor of Political Science
 University of Pennsylvania
 Email: thachil@sas.upenn.edu

Nina McMurry
 Assistant Professor of Political Science
 Vanderbilt University
 Email: nina.mcmurry@vanderbilt.edu