

# ABHIT BHANDARI

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### Vanderbilt University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2023–present

### Temple University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2021–2023

### Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2020–2021

## EDUCATION

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### Columbia University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2020

M.Phil., Political Science, 2016

M.A., Political Science, 2015

### Northwestern University

B.A., Political Science and African Studies, 2012

## RESEARCH

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### BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

Political Property Rights: Inequality and Growth Under Selective Rule of Law.

### PUBLICATIONS

“Able and Mostly Willing: An Empirical Anatomy of Information’s Effect on Voter-Driven Accountability in Senegal,” with Horacio Larreguy and John Marshall. 2023. *American Journal of Political Science* 67(4):1040–1066.

“Social, Formal, and Political Determinants of Trade Under Weak Rule of Law: Experimental Evidence from Senegalese Firms.” 2023. *Comparative Political Studies* 56(2):163–192.

“Political Determinants of Economic Exchange: Evidence from a Business Experiment in Senegal.” 2022. *American Journal of Political Science* 66(4):835–852.

**Michael Wallerstein Award** for Best Article in Political Economy, APSA, 2023

“Nation-State or Nation-Family? Nationalism in Marginalized African Societies,” with Lisa Mueller. 2019. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 57(2):297–322.

## WORKING PAPERS

“Substituting For Rule of Law: Bilateral Investment Treaties and U.S. Firms’ Investment in Developing Countries,” with Joonseok Yang. Revise and resubmit, *Business and Politics*.

“Political Connections, Patronage, and Consumer Attitudes: Evidence from Morocco,” with Erin York.

“Connections, Gender, and Access to State-Facilitated Private-Sector Development: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Senegal.”

“The Political Nature of Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries: Experimental Evidence from Tunisia and Senegal,” with Robert Kubinec, Sekou Jabateh, and Hamza Mighri.

“Firm Strategies, Weak Rule of Law: Property Rights, Forum Shopping, and Contract Enforcement in Developing Countries.”

“Private-Sector Support for Programmatic Candidates: Evidence from Senegal,” with Jessica Gottlieb.

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“The Economic Costs of Favoritism,” with Horacio Larreguy.

“Economics, Politics, and the Rule of Law: An Experiment in Formalization,” with Jessica Gottlieb.

“Who Controls Private-Sector Development? Bureaucratic Origins and Preferential Access to Economic Growth.”

## OTHER WRITING

“African Countries Are Opening Their Borders. What Does This Mean for Security, Identity and Trade?” with Lisa Mueller. *The Washington Post*. August 13, 2019.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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### EXTERNAL

Michael Wallerstein Award for best article in political economy published in previous year, APSA Political Economy Section, 2023

Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) - Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL), 2019, £38,371.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP), 2015-18, \$138,000.

Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) - Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL), 2017, £29,944.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG), 2017, \$18,900.

Spencer Foundation (with Horacio Larreguy and John Marshall), 2017, \$50,000.

J-PAL Governance Initiative Seed Grant, 2016, \$5,036.

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, 2015, \$5,000.

## INTERNAL

Summer Research Award, Temple University, 2022.

Grant-in-Aid for Research/Creative Activity, Temple University, 2022.

College of Liberal Arts Research Award (CLARA), Temple University, 2021.

Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Award (LAURA), Temple University, 2021.

Katerina Alevizaki Dracopoulos Summer Fellowship, Columbia University, 2017.

Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University, 2016.

Schiff Fellowship, Columbia University, 2015.

Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University, 2013.

African Research Leadership Award, Northwestern University, 2011.

Provost's Undergraduate Research Grant, Northwestern University, 2011.

National Merit Scholarship, Northwestern University, 2008-12.

## TEACHING

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### COURSES TAUGHT

African Politics (undergraduate lecture).

Comparative Politics of Developing Countries (undergraduate lecture).

Business and Politics in the Global South (undergraduate seminar).

States and Markets (Ph.D. seminar).

Political Economy of Development (Ph.D. seminar).

### OTHER TEACHING

Spatial Econometrics Graduate Workshop, African School of Economics. 2015.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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2024: Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference; London School of Economics (scheduled); University of California, Berkeley (scheduled); MIT (scheduled)

2023: Washington University in St. Louis; NYU, Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science; University of Connecticut, Business and Human Rights Initiative; Columbia University, Seminar for the Study of Development Strategies; Copenhagen Business School Money in Politics Conference; European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

2022: Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Copenhagen Business School Money in Politics Conference; European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference; Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse; Enda Espace de coproduction et des offres populaires pour l'environnement et le développement, Senegal

2021: American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Enda Espace de coproduction et des offres populaires pour l'environnement et le développement, Senegal

2020: American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Office of Evaluation Sciences, Washington, D.C.; Toulouse School of Economics

2019: Yale University, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Experiments Workshop; NYU-Columbia Political Economy of Informal Institutions Workshop; Harvard University, Department of African and African American Studies; Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), NYU Abu Dhabi; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

2018: Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS), UPenn; Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), NYU; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference; African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference

2017: WZB, Berlin, Germany; PEDL, Oxford University; Harvard Experiments Working Group; Macalester College; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference; African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference

2016: Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), NYU Abu Dhabi; American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference; African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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Reviewer for: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Business and Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*

APSA Mentor, 2020–present.

Temple Political Science Undergraduate Committee. 2021–2023.

Temple Fulbright Campus Committee. 2021–2023.

Columbia Political Science Undergraduate Advisor. 2016–17.

Coordinator, Columbia Political Economy Seminar. 2015–16.

Coordinator, Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS). 2013–14.

## POLICY EXPERIENCE

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Research collaborator, World Bank DIME Governance Program. 2021.

Consultant, DRG Impact Evaluation, USAID Senegal (contracted by NORC). 2015–17.

Fellow, UN World Food Programme (WFP), West Africa Regional Bureau, Dakar, Senegal. 2012–13.

## SKILLS

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LANGUAGES: French (fluent), Wolof (basic)

COMPUTING: R, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, ArcGIS/QGIS, Open Data Kit/SurveyCTO/Qualtrics

FIELDWORK: Senegal, Niger, Mozambique, Gambia

*Last updated January 2024*