

Simran Singh

PhD Candidate in Political Science

Department of Political Science
Columbia University
420 W 118th Street, New York 10027

simran.singh@columbia.edu
<https://simranmsingh.com/>

Education

- Columbia University**, New York (US) 2022 – Present
PhD Candidate, Political Science (International Relations, IPE)
Committee: Jeffry Frieden, Nikhar Gaikwad, Calvin Thrall, Gemma Dipoppa, and Suresh Naidu
- Swarthmore College**, Swarthmore, PA (US) 2015 – 2019
B.A. in Honors Political Science and Economics
Recipient of McCabe Scholarship, full tuition scholarship in recognition of academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

Working Papers

Greener Pastures? A Labor Market Theory of Climate Governance *With Calvin Thrall & Noah Zucker*

Abstract: Climate governance requires access to climate experts: individuals with specialized knowledge of decarbonization and climate science. Here we model climate governance as the function of a competition between the state and private sector for a scarce pool of climate experts. Governments seek experts to develop and implement climate policies. Firms seek experts to affect policy choice, skirt enforcement, and measure climate risks to commercial interests. As firm interest in climate grows, the government's ability to attract experts declines, making it more reliant on the private sector for climate governance. To support this argument, we measure private sector demand for experts with unique data on U.S. job postings, paired with administrative data on government bureaucrats and procurement. Our findings offer a novel labor-based account of climate politics, contributing to the study of labor markets in political science, the sources of bureaucratic expertise, and the net effects of corporate social responsibility.

Grounds for Change: Gendered Asset Ownership and Climate Adaptation

Abstract: How do gendered economic rights shape adaptation to climate change? This project examines whether strengthening women's formal claims to assets changes how households respond to environmental risk. I study a major inheritance reform in India that expanded women's claims over family property and use variation in exposure to the reform to estimate its effects on household adaptation behavior. I complement the household analysis with spatial evidence on agricultural change over time. The project suggests that the gendered distribution of economic power shapes household adaptation and, more broadly, societal resilience to climate change.

Private Pocketbooks for Public Goods: Advancing the State's Social Aims through Mandated CSR

Abstract: Do firms act as complements or substitutes for the state's social development efforts? In this project, I leverage data on firms' mandated CSR spending in India from 2016-2023, and test if foreign multinationals and domestic Indian firms make efforts to advance government development priorities through their CSR expenditures. I examine the extent to which firms align their CSR spending patterns with state governments, with the Indian central government, and with their home country governments to examine the extent to which firms may be acting as agents of the state, on behalf of both their home and host countries. I find that mandated firm CSR can support the state in its public good provision efforts, but

that firms rise to the occasion differentially based on their respective potential reputational, instrumental, and compliance-related gains. My project surfaces a channel through which developing states can expand their policy toolkit to achieve social outcomes that the state may be unable to achieve on its own, but highlights the principal-agent challenge that may arise when delegating social policy implementation to private non-state actors.

Publications

Baraldi, Derek, Sayli Chitre, John Colas, Manuela Fulga, Ilya Khaykin & **Simran Singh**. (2021). “Financing the Transition to a Net-Zero Future.” *World Economic Forum*.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Business and Politics , Professor Calvin Thrall	Spring 2026
Teaching Assistant, Rise of the Modern World Economy , Professor Jeffrey Frieden	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant, Business and Politics , Professor Calvin Thrall	Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant, Politics of International Economic Relations , Professor Jeffrey Frieden	Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Relations , Professor Jayme Schlesinger	Spring 2024
Co-Instructor, Inside the Situation Room , Hillary Clinton and Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo	Fall 2023

Professional Research Experience

Research Assistant, Professor Nikhar Gaikwad, Columbia University	2022 – 2024
Research Assistant, Professor Allison Carnegie, Columbia University	2022 – 2024
Research Assistant, Brookings Institute, Economic Studies	Summer 2016
Research Assistant, Professor Ayse Kaya, Swarthmore College	2014 – 2015

Other Professional Experience

Senior Consultant, Finance, Risk and Public Policy Practice, Oliver Wyman	2019 – 2022
---	-------------

Service

Lead Teaching Fellow, Columbia University Department of Political Science	Current
Student Coordinator, Columbia University International Politics Seminar	Fall 2023 – Spring 2025
Founding Member, Columbia University Women in Political Science Student Group	Spring 2025
Student Coordinator, Columbia University International Economics and Geopolitics Seminar	Spring 2025
Member, Swarthmore Board of Managers’ Social Responsibility Committee	2017 – 2019
Democracy Fellow, Campus Voter Project, Swarthmore College	2018 – 2019

Skills

Languages: English (native), Punjabi (native), Hindi (native), French (intermediate)
Software: R, Stata, LaTeX