

# Apoorva Lal

Phone: +1 (413) 337 1797  
Zoom: <https://stanford.zoom.us/my/apoorvalal>  
Email: [apoorval@stanford.edu](mailto:apoorval@stanford.edu); [lal.apoorva@gmail.com](mailto:lal.apoorva@gmail.com)  
Homepage: <https://apoorvalal.github.io/>  
Github: [apoorvalal](https://github.com/apoorvalal)  
Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3697-614X>

## Education

2018-	<b>Ph.D. Political Science,</b> <a href="#">Stanford University, Stanford, CA</a> Primary field: <i>Statistical Methodology</i> Secondary field: <i>Comparative Politics</i>
2017-2018	<b>M.A. Economics,</b> <a href="#">Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC</a>
2011-2015	<b>B.A. Economics, Political Science,</b> <a href="#">Williams College, Williamstown, MA</a>

## Research

### Research Interests

Political Economy • Political Methodology • Applied Econometrics • Economic Development • Reinforcement Learning

### Working Papers

5. Lal, Apoorva, [Saad Gulzar](#) and Ben Pasquale. *Local Representation And Forest Conservation: Evidence From India's Scheduled Areas*, Revise and Resubmit at **American Political Science Review**, 2021  
Paul A. Sabatier Best Conference Paper Award from the Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy section of APSA, 2020
4. Lal, Apoorva. *Political Consequences of Youth Franchise Extension: Evidence from India's 61st Amendment*, Under Review, 2021
3. Lal, Apoorva. *Land Tenure and Missing Women: Evidence from North India*, Under Review, 2021
2. Lal, Apoorva, [Yiqing Xu](#), [Mac Lockhart](#), and Ziwen Zu. *Instrumental variables in Political Science: Pitfalls and Solutions*, Working Paper, 2021
1. Lal, Apoorva. *Regularized Regression for covariate adjustment with complex functional forms*, Working Paper, 2021

### Work in Progress

6. Lal, Apoorva. *Bandit Algorithms for Data Collection*
5. Lal, Apoorva, [Derek Willis](#), [Gaurav Sood](#), and [Avidit Acharya](#), *Asymmetries in Cricket*, Working Paper, 2021.
4. *Semiparametric Regression for covariate adjustment with spatial data*
3. *Schoolbuilding and National identity: Evidence from Nepal's mobile schools*, with Vinish Shrestha and Rashesh Shrestha

2. *Communication technology and Ethnic Voting* with [Guy Grossman](#), [Katrina Kosec](#), and [Benjamin Laughlin](#)
1. *Social Emotional Learning in legal education: evidence from a field experiment in the Peru*, with World Bank DE JURE team

## Software

5. Author / Maintainer of [ivDiag](#), an R package for Instrumental Variables Sensitivity Analysis
4. Author / Maintainer of personal utilities package [LaLRUtils](#) for various econometrics / data management tasks
3. Contributor to [fixest](#), a fast fixed-effects regression library in R
2. Contributor to [georasters](#), a raster data analysis library in python
1. Other projects listed at [my website](#)

## Policy Papers

2. Nagavarapu S., N. Panikashvili, **A. Lal**, B. Luo, M. Cozen. “*Access to Durable Medical Equipment for Medicare and Medicaid Dual Enrollees*”, prepared for Medicare and Medicaid Coordination Office, Center for Medicare and Medicaid, Department of Health & Human Services, October 2016
1. **Lal, A.**, M. Samson, R. Nodoro. “*A Feasibility Assessment of Options to Strengthen the Developmental Impact of the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Social Grants Payment System*” - Submitted to the South African Social Security Agency, EPRI Working Paper, July 2014

## Employment

06/2021-	<b>Research Consultant</b> <a href="#">World Bank Development and Impact Evaluation (DIME)</a> , DE JURE Group
09/2018 - 03/2021	<b>Research Assistant</b> <a href="#">Jonathan Rodden</a> , <a href="#">Justin Grimmer</a> , <a href="#">Avi Acharya</a> , Stanford
06/2019 - 09/2019	<b>Graduate Research Fellow</b> <a href="#">Immigration Policy Lab</a> , Stanford, CA
06/2019 - 08/2019	<b>Data Science Intern</b> <a href="#">Atlas AI</a> , Palo Alto, CA
09/2017 - 08/2018	<b>Research Consultant</b> <a href="#">Seto Lab</a> , Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
10/2017- 03/2019	<b>Research Assistant</b> <a href="#">Joshua Gottlieb</a> , UBC, Vancouver, BC
07/2015 - 07/2017	<b>Statistical Programmer</b> <a href="#">Acumen, LLC</a> / <a href="#">The Sphere Institute</a> , Burlingame, CA
01/2015 - 01/2016	<b>Research Assistant</b> Professor <a href="#">Anand Swamy</a> , Williams College, Williamstown, MA

## Skills

Programming	Python, Julia, Matlab, C++, JavaScript
Statistical Packages	R, Stata, SAS, Stan
Markup / Visualization	LaTeX, Markdown, Pandoc, D3, Shiny
Geo-spatial Languages	ArcGIS, QGIS, GDAL, Python spatial stack (geopandas, pysal) , Google Earth Engine
	English, Nepali, Hindi, Maithili, Bhojpuri

## Awards, Honours, and Grants

Stanford Impact Labs Fellowship (2021)

Stanford Data Science Scholars Programme, Finalist (2020)

**Stanford King Center on Global Development** Data for Development Seed Grant (\$ 46k), with **Saad Gulzar** (2019)

GOES Conference Grant, FSI, Stanford (2019)

Kleinheinz Family Graduate Fellowship (2018-2023), Stanford University

Highest Honours, Williams College (2015)

Class of 1960 Scholar, Economics Department, Williams College (2013-2015)

Williams College Dean's List (2012-2015)

Robert G. Wilmers Memorial Research Fellowship (2013)

James R. & Harriet W. Dunbar Scholarship at Williams College (2011-2015)

## Talks / Conferences

2021

APSA, *Seattle, WA*

Polmeth, (V)

Polmeth Asia, (V)

2020

APSA, *San Francisco, CA (V)*

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PACDEV) , *Berkeley, CA (V)*

2019

Political Economy Brown Bag , *Stanford GSB, CA*

Text as Data Conference Poster Session , *Stanford, CA*

pre-APSA Politics of South Asia Conference , *World Bank, Washington DC*

IUSSP Population, Poverty and Inequality Research Conference , *Ann Arbor, MI*

UCLA Compass Conference , *Los Angeles, CA*

(V) denotes virtual conferences

## Teaching

Spring 2021, 2022	<b>POLISCI 450C: PhD Model-based Inference</b> , TA for Prof Justin Grimmer
Winter 2021, 2022	<b>POLISCI 450B: PhD Causal Inference</b> , TA for Prof Jens Hainmueller
Summer 2020	<b>POLISCI 153Z: Game Theory</b> ( <i>Cancelled due to COVID19</i> ), TA for Prof Avi Acharya
Fall 2019	<b>POLISCI 150A/355A (Data Science for Politics), Stanford</b> , TA for Prof Yiqing Xu
Spring 2018	<b>ECON 102 (Introductory Macroeconomics), UBC</b> , TA for Prof Cheryl Fu
Fall 2017	<b>ECON 101 (Introductory Microeconomics), UBC</b> , TA for Prof Nisha Malhotra
Spring 2015	<b>ECON 516 (International Trade), Williams College</b> , TA for Prof Will Olney

## Service

**Reviewer:** Science Advances (x2)

## References

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<p><b>Jens Hainmueller</b>          Professor of Political Science and Political Economy          Stanford  <a href="mailto:jhain@stanford.edu">jhain@stanford.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Avidit Acharya</b>          Associate Professor of Political Science and Political Economy          Stanford  <a href="mailto:avidit@stanford.edu">avidit@stanford.edu</a></p>
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<p><b>Justin Grimmer</b>          Professor of Political Science          Stanford  <a href="mailto:jgrimmer@stanford.edu">jgrimmer@stanford.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Stefan Wager</b>          Assistant Professor of OIT and Statistics          Stanford GSB  <a href="mailto:swager@stanford.edu">swager@stanford.edu</a></p>
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Last updated: September 9, 2021

<https://apoorvalal.github.io/>