

# Ajay Verghese

Updated: June 2025

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

Middlebury College

Associate Professor of Political Science

2023-Present

Assistant Professor of Political Science

2020-2023

University of California, Riverside

Assistant Professor of Political Science

2015-2020

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Assistant Professor of Politics

2013-15

Stanford University, Shorenstein APARC

Post-Doctoral Fellow in Contemporary Asia

2012-13

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., The George Washington University

2013

Dissertation: *Colonialism and Patterns of Ethnic Conflict in Contemporary India*

Committee: Emmanuel Teitelbaum (chair), Henry E. Hale, Henry Farrell, Dane

Kennedy, Kanchan Chandra, Irfan Nooruddin

B.A., Temple University

2005

Majors: Political Science, French

*Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors Program

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Indian Politics, Ethnic Conflict, Historical Legacies, Religion, Hinduism, Qualitative and Mixed Methods

## **AWARDS**

For “Taking Other Religions Seriously: A Comparative Survey of Hindus in India”:

Ted Jelen Award (best article published in *Politics and Religion* in 2020) – APSA Religion and Politics Section

Honorable Mention, Award for Concept Analysis in Political Science – IPSA

## **BOOK**

Verghese, Ajay. 2016. *The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Violence in India*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

## **REFEREED ARTICLES**

Verghese, Ajay. 2024. “Randomized Controlled History?” *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 4(3): 361-389.

Verghese, Ajay. 2023. “The Problem of Infinite Regress: A Stopping Rules Approach.” *Sociological Theory* 41(1): 27-55.

Carreras, Miguel, and Ajay Verghese. 2020. “Violence, Insecurity, and Religiosity: A Multilevel Analysis of 71 Countries.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 32(6): 1310-1328.

Verghese, Ajay. 2020. “Taking Other Religions Seriously: A Comparative Survey of Hindus in India.” *Politics and Religion* 13(3): 604-638.

Verghese, Ajay, and Emmanuel Teitelbaum. 2019. "Conquest and Conflict: The Colonial Roots of Maoist Violence in India." *Politics & Society* 47(1): 55-86.

Verghese, Ajay. 2018. "Colonialism, Landlords, and Public Goods Provision in India: A Controlled Comparative Analysis." *Journal of Development Studies* 55(7): 1345-1363.

Verghese, Ajay. 2016. "British Rule and Tribal Revolts in India: The Curious Case of Bastar." *Modern Asian Studies* 50(5): 1619-1644.

### **CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES**

Verghese, Ajay. 2021. "Ethnic Violence in India." In: Weiner, Michael (ed), *Routledge Handbook of Race and Ethnicity in Asia*. New York: Routledge, pp. 31-45.

### **IN-PROGRESS**

*The Kingdom of Ram: Hinduism and Politics in India* [book manuscript]

"A New Survey of Hindu Religiosity" (under review)

"The Qualitative Metamorphosis" (under review)

"Religiosity in the World's Largest Country: Religious Dimensions in a Diverse India" (with Samuel Stroope, Nathaniel Porter, Jeremy Uecker, and Ruiqian (Richie) Li)

"Religion, Politics, and the Case of Hinduism"

"Precolonial Ethnic Violence: The Roots of Hindu-Muslim Conflict in India" (with Roberto Foa)

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

*We God's People: Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism in the World of Nations*, by Jocelyne Cesari. 2022. *Journal of Church and State* 65(4): 467-468.

*Colonial Institutions and Civil War: Indirect Rule and Maoist Insurgency in India*, by Shivaji Mukherjee. 2022. *Perspectives on Politics* 20(1): 348-349.

*Modi's India: Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy*, by Christophe Jaffrelot, for *SARG* 2021

*Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy's Turning Point*, by Gyan Prakash, for *SARG* 2019

*How India Became Democratic: Citizenship and the Making of the Universal Franchise*, by Ornit Shani, for *South Asia Reading Group (SARG)* 2018

*Rival Claims: Ethnic Violence and Territorial Autonomy Under Indian Federalism*, by Bethany Lacina. 2018. *Journal of Asian Studies* 77(3): 827-828.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Verghese, Ajay. 2017. "A Political Scientist Among the Anthropologists." *Modern Asian Studies* 51(4): 1223-1228.

Verghese, Ajay. 2012. "Multi-Method Fieldwork in Practice: Colonial Legacies and Ethnic Conflict in India." *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research* 10(2): 41-44.

Verghese, Ajay. 2011. "Retrospectives from Attendees." *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research* 9(2): 12.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- “India’s citizenship law: what’s the controversy?” (with Aditi Malik and Shivaji Mukherjee) 2019  
– Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post*  
“Is India becoming a 'Hindu state'?” 2019  
– Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post*  
“India’s History of Hate Needs Retelling” (with Roberto Foa) 2019  
– *Firstpost*  
“British Rule and Hindu-Muslim Riots in India: A Reassessment” 2018  
– *Berkeley Forum*  
“Hindu-Muslim Conflict in India: A ‘Pre-Colonial’ View” 2018  
– *The Quint*  
“The Historiography of Medieval India Needs a Middle Way” (with Roberto Foa) 2016  
– *The Wire*  
“Secularism Is Not Weakened By Acknowledging Tipu and Aurangzeb Also Did Bad Things” (with Roberto Foa) 2015  
– *The Wire*

## **INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

- OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, India 2022  
Scripps College (canceled due to COVID-19) 2020  
University of California, Irvine (canceled due to COVID-19)  
Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2019  
Department of English, Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam, India  
Department of Political Science, Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam, India  
Centre for Public Policy Research, Kochi, India  
Department of Political Science, Middlebury College  
Scott Symposium, Middlebury College  
Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley  
APARC/Center for South Asia, Stanford University  
CURA, Boston University 2018  
Chapman University  
Pew Research Center  
International Centre Goa, India  
Legacies of Political Violence, New York University-Abu Dhabi  
Comparative Politics Colloquium, Temple University 2017  
CASI, University of Pennsylvania  
South Asian Studies, Middlebury College  
Colonial Violence Workshop Programme, University of Cambridge  
Pacific Basin Research Center, Soka University of America  
India Political Economy Workshop, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 2016  
Shades of Sovereignty Workshop, Stanford University  
Center for Ideas and Society, UC Riverside  
Colloquium Series, UCLA Center for India and South Asia  
Indian Politics Workshop, University of Pennsylvania  
Ethno-Politics Workshop IV, Arizona State University 2012

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- American Political Science Association – 2007, 11, 13, 18, 21, 22  
Annual Conference on South Asia – 2011, 13-16, 18  
Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture – 2016-17, 19  
Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research – 2018, 19

## **GRANTS**

Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (Flex)	2025-2027
Woodrow Wilson Center Fellowship	2024
Conflict Transformation Research Grant (Middlebury)	2023-24
Senior Short-term Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies	2019
Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award	2017-18
Second Project Fellowship, Center for Ideas and Society (UCR)	2016
Summer Dissertation Fellowship (GWU)	2012
Shorenstein Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Stanford University	2012-13
Loughran Endowment Dissertation Research Grant (GWU)	2011
CLS Alumni Development Award, CAORC	2011
Fieldwork Grant, The Sigur Center for Asian Studies (GWU)	2011, 2009
Fieldwork Grant, Konosuke Matsushita Memorial Foundation	2010
Young Scholar's Award, The Cosmos Club Foundation	2009

## **SERVICE**

<i>Middlebury:</i>	2021-Present
Faculty Fellow, Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs	
Language Schools Faculty Advisory Board	
IRB	
Faculty Affiliate for International Politics & Economics Program	
Faculty Affiliate for South Asian Studies Program	
Study Abroad in India Faculty Advisory Board	
<i>External:</i>	
Committee member, Article Award for Concept Analysis in Political Science, IPSA	2024
Committee member, Kendra Koivu Award, APSA	2022
Committee member, Ted Jelen Award, APSA	2022
American Philosophical Society Lewis and Clark Fund Reviewer	2019
Fulbright-Nehru Selection Committee	2018

## **TEACHING**

*Undergraduate:* Introduction to Comparative Politics, Politics of India, Ethnic Conflict, Politics and Religion, Qualitative Methods, Terrorism & Political Violence  
*Graduate:* Ethnic Conflict, Politics and Religion, Qualitative Methods

## **STUDENTS**

Middlebury Senior Theses: Maria Espinola Moreno  
UCR Graduate Students: Christina Gregory, Ricardo Crespo, Andrew Ivey  
Non-UCR Graduate Students: External dissertation reader for Diogo Lemos (The George Washington University), external dissertation committee member for Fahad Sajid (University of Chicago)  
UCR Senior Theses: Jay Hotrum, Madeleine Prothero, Kaitlynn Garner  
USF Senior Theses: Heather Lee, Placido Martinez

## **LANGUAGES**

Hindi (Advanced), French (Intermediate), Malayalam (Basic)

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Advanced Hindi Language Program, American Institute of Indian Studies	2009-10
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University	2009
Critical Language Scholarship (Hindi), U.S. Department of State	2009, 2008

**CONSULTING**

Pew Research Center

Foreign Service Institute, State Department (recurring speaker)

2019-2023

2020-Present