

Ajay Verghese

Updated: June 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Middlebury College

Associate Professor of Political Science
Assistant Professor of Political Science

2023-Present
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, Religion, Hinduism, Qualitative and Mixed Methods, Historical Legacies, Ethnic Conflict

AWARDS

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

Ted Jelen Award (best article 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. 2026. “The Qualitative Metamorphosis.” *Comparative Politics* 58(3): 339-357. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.5129/001041525X17607275497485>

Miller, Claudia S., Ajay Verghese, and Paul M. Sommers. 2025. “Can Landlocked Countries Live Happily

Ever After?” *Atlantic Economic Journal* 53: 245-247. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11293-025-09832-4>

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

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1561/115.00000078>

Verghese, Ajay. 2023. “The Problem of Infinite Regress: A Stopping Rules Approach.” *Sociological Theory*

41(1): 27-55. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/07352751221142929>

Carreras, Miguel, and Ajay Verghese. 2020. "Violence, Insecurity, and Religiosity: A Multilevel Analysis of 71 Countries." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 32(6): 1310-1328. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2018.1466704>

Verghese, Ajay. 2020. "Taking Other Religions Seriously: A Comparative Survey of Hindus in India." *Politics and Religion* 13(3): 604-638. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048320000280>

Verghese, Ajay, and Emmanuel Teitelbaum. 2019. "Conquest and Conflict: The Colonial Roots of Maoist Violence in India." *Politics & Society* 47(1): 55-86. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032329218823120>

Verghese, Ajay. 2018. "Colonialism, Landlords, and Public Goods Provision in India: A Controlled Comparative Analysis." *Journal of Development Studies* 55(7): 1345-1363. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2018.1487057>

Verghese, Ajay. 2016. "British Rule and Tribal Revolts in India: The Curious Case of Bastar." *Modern Asian Studies* 50(5): 1619-1644. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026749X14000687>

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
Shorenstein Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Stanford University	2012-13
Summer Dissertation Fellowship (GWU)	2012
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

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 Measure of Hindu Religiosity" (*Conditionally Accepted*)

"Religion is a Supernaturalism" (*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)

"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

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

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

Vergheese, 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

Department of Political Science, SUNY Albany 2026

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 Chapman University	<u>2018</u>
Pew Research Center International Centre Goa, India	
Legacies of Political Violence, New York University-Abu Dhabi	
Comparative Politics Colloquium, Temple University	<u>2017</u>
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	<u>2016</u>
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	<u>2012</u>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Political Science Association – 2026
 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

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	2019-2023
Foreign Service Institute, State Department (recurring speaker)	2020-Present