

# SARA SADHWANI, Ph.D.

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<b>ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>Stanford University</b> Visiting Scholar, The Bill Lane Center for the American West	Fall 2022
	<b>Pomona College</b> ( <i>on leave Fall 2022</i> ) Assistant Professor of Politics and Public Policy (tenure-track)	2020-present
	<b>Cal Lutheran University</b> Assistant Professor, Political Science (tenure-track)	2019-2020
	<b>Glendale Community College</b> Adjunct Professor	2016

<b>OTHER APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>California Citizens Redistricting Commission</b> Commissioner	2020-2030
	<b>AAPI Data</b> Senior Researcher	2020-present
	<b>USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy</b> Faculty Fellow	2019-present

**EDUCATION**

**University of Southern California, Doctor of Philosophy**  
*Department of Political Science (August 2019).*  
Dissertation title: “Representation in a Multiracial America.”  
*Research supported by the **Haynes-Lindley Dissertation Fellowship***  
Fields: American Politics, Racial & Ethnic Politics, Comparative Politics.  
*Dissertation committee:* Jane Junn (chair), Christian Grose, Jody Agius Vallejo, Ricardo Ramírez (University of Norte Dame).

**University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Pittsburgh, PA**  
*Master of International Development, 2005*  
Concentration: NGOs & Civil Society

**University of Pittsburgh Honors College, Pittsburgh, PA**  
*Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics & Philosophy, 2002*

<b>JOURNAL ARTICLES</b>	“Black and Desi: Indian American perceptions of Kamala Harris.” with Danielle Casarez Lemi and Maneesh Arora. <i>Journal of Women, Politics &amp; Policy</i> . May 2022.
	“Social Lobbying” (with Christian Grose, USC; Pamela Lopez; & Antoine Yoshinaka, SUNY Buffalo). <i>Journal of Politics</i> , January 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profiled in <i>Politico</i>, <i>The Washington Post</i>, and <i>KQED-San Francisco</i></li></ul>
	“Asian American Mobilization: The Effect of Co-Ethnic Candidates and Districts on Asian American Voting Behavior.” <i>Political Behavior</i> 44(1): 105–131. 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Profiled in <i>The Washington Post</i>, <i>NBC News</i>, and <i>HuffPost</i></li></ul>

“The Influence of Candidate Race & Ethnicity: The Case of Asian Americans.” *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 2021.

- Profiled in *Vox*

“Unpacking Identity: Opportunities and Constraints for Cross-Racial Collaboration.” (with Maneesh Arora, Wellesley College & Sono Shah, Pew Research Center). *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 2021.

“From Discrimination to Mobilization: The Responsiveness of Community-Based Organizations to Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Southern California.” (with Manjusha Kulkarni) *AAPI Nexus*. 2021.

“The Study of Asian American Politics: Looking Back, Looking Forward” (with Pei-te Lien and Oki Takeda). *PS: Politics and Political Science*, 54(2) 2021.

“The Broader Scholarly Context of Asian American Politics” (with Loan Le). *PS: Politics and Political Science*, 54(2) 2021.

“Are Asian Americans a meaningful political community?” (with Pei-te Lien, Andrew Aoki, Oki Takeda, and Loan Le). *PS: Politics and Political Science*, 54(2) 2021.

“Candidate Ethnicity and Latino Voting in Co-Partisan Elections.” (with Matthew S. Mendez). *California Journal of Politics and Policy*. 10 (2). October 2018.

“Structuring Good Representation: Institutional Design and Elections in California.” (with Jane Junn), *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 51 (2) April 2018.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

“Indian-American Attitudes Towards Politics in India: Internal Divisions.” (with Shubha Kamala-Prasad, European University Institute and Maneesh Arora, Wellesley College). In *Global India: The Pursuit of Influence and Status*. Routledge. **Forthcoming**.

“Asian American Mobilization and Political Identities.” (with Jane Junn) In *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Ed. Sandy Maisel. New York: Oxford University Press. November 2020.

“Student Governance and the Politics of Race.” (with Michele Scott Taylor) in Brown, O., Hinton, K. & Howard-Hamilton, M. (Eds.). *Unleashing Suppressed Voices on College Campuses: Diversity Issues in Higher Education and Student Affairs*. Peter Lang. 2007.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

*Gerrymandering the States: Partisanship, Race, and the Transformation of American Federalism*. By Alex Keena, Michael Latner, Anthony J. McGann, and Charles Anthony Smith. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021. *Political Science Quarterly*. **Forthcoming**.

*Welcoming New Americans? Local Governments and Immigrant Incorporation*. By Abigail Fisher Williamson. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 2018. *The Journal of Race and Ethnic Politics*. 5 (1). March 2020.

#### REPORTS & BRIEFS

“Racial Discrimination, Hate, and the Politics of AAPIs in Los Angeles.” Report for the Pat Brown Institute at Cal State Los Angeles. (with Nathan Chan, Loyola Marymount University.) **Forthcoming May 2022**.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTARY**

“Practical Benefits of Influence Districts.” Lead author on scholar’s amicus brief in the California Supreme Court case *Pico Neighborhood Association v. City of Santa Monica*. 2021.

“Worst and Best Gerrymanders: U.S State Legislatures in 2018.” White paper for the USC Schwarzenegger Institute. (with Christian Grose, Jordan Carr Peterson, and Matthew Nelson.) September 2019.

“California knows how to avoid partisan gerrymandering.” (with Peter Miller and Anna Harris, New York University’s Brennan Center for Justice.) *SCOCABlog*, a joint project of U.C. Berkeley Law’s California Constitution Center and the *Hastings Law Journal*. April 13, 2022.

“Nonpartisan redistricting in California.” American Enterprise Institute’s *AEIdeas Blog*. March 14, 2021.

“When lobbyists and legislators socialize, lobbyists are more likely to get what they want.” (with Pamela Lopez, Antoine Yoshinaka, and Christian Grose) *The Washington Post*. January 12, 2022.

“U.S. census racial categories have shifted over centuries. How will the jump in multiracials affect politics?” (with Danielle Casarez Lemi) *The Washington Post*. September 23, 2021.

“The new census numbers kicked off redistricting. That is even more complicated than you may realize.” (with Pomona College students Deanna Han, Noah Kim, & Rowan McGarry-Williams) *The Washington Post*. August 25, 2021.

“Scholars urge influence districts in city of Santa Monica.” *The Daily Journal*. June 28, 2021.

“How the Forever Foreigner Stereotype Unifies the Asian American Experience.” *Medium*. (with Janelle Wong, Karthick Ramakrishnan, and Jennifer Lee.) May 19, 2021.

“What might happen if Democrats succeed in expanding voting? California has some answers.” *The Washington Post*. March 17, 2021.

“Kamala Harris will be vice president. Expect Indian Americans to get more involved in politics.” (with Maneesh Arora) *The Washington Post*. January 4, 2021.

“Kamala Harris is likely to bring in Indian American Voters.” *The Washington Post*. August 15, 2020.

“Liberals skeptical of Joe Biden should look to the example of Jerry Brown.” (with Manuel Pastor) *Los Angeles Times*. July 21, 2020.

“Does it make sense to have Iowa be the first primary?” *WalletHub*. January 30, 2020

“Looking to the Golden State for electoral innovations to increase political representation.” *London School of Economics U.S. Centre for American Politics and Policy*. July 16, 2018.

“Will Asian Americans make California even bluer in November?” *The Washington Post*. June 5, 2018.

“A California congressional race reveals political divisions in the Asian American community.” *Vox’s Mischiefs of Faction*. Oct. 16, 2017.

**SELECTED MEDIA  
COVERAGE\***

“Stakes are high as 5 leading candidates for L.A. mayor finally meet.” *The Los Angeles Times*. March 22, 2022.

“We are redefining what leadership looks like: Asian Americans show rapid rise in US politics.” *The Guardian*. November 9, 2021.

“How surfing became the key to Orange County’s Political Future.” *Bloomberg Businessweek*. October 22, 2021.

“Restoring Faith in American Institutions.” NPR’s *The Takeaway, Politics with Amy Walters*. February 5, 2021.

“Women Shatter Glass Ceiling on Redistricting Commission.” *Capitol Weekly*. December 16, 2020.

“Democrats Must Not take Indian Americans for Granted.” *HuffPost*. December 22, 2020

“Kamala Harris could boost Asian American turnout.” *NBC News*. October 7, 2020.

“Why Orange County politicians are vying for the Asian American vote.” *KCRW Los Angeles*. October 15, 2018.

*\*For a complete list, please visit [sarasadhwani.com/news](http://sarasadhwani.com/news)*

**WORKING  
PAPERS**

“Who Counts? State Legislators’ Responsiveness to Undocumented Immigrants.” (with Matthew Mendez Garcia, CSU Long Beach) **Revise & Resubmit at *Political Research Quarterly***.

“Independents No More: The Influence of Asian Americans in the 2020 elections in the State of Georgia.” (book chapter with Jessica HyunJeong Lee, UCLA). *Under Review*.

“Namaste USA: Kamala Harris and Indian American Descriptive Representation.” (with Maneesh Arora, Wellesley College).

“The Effect of Co-Partisan Elections on Voter Behavior.” (with Jason Giannaros, University of Southern California).

“Learning from Allies: Interest Group Influence and the Legislative Process.” (with Christian Grose).

**FELLOWSHIPS &  
GRANTS**

**Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER)** 2022  
*APSA Summer Institute Fellowship at Tufts University*

**Pomona College Wig Fund** 2020, 2021  
*Curriculum development grant*

**American Association of Public Opinion Research** 2019, 2020  
*Student-Faculty Diversity Pipeline Award*

**Russell Sage Foundation** 2019  
*Journal of the Social Sciences mini-grant*

**John Randolph & Dora Haynes Foundation** 2017-18  
*Haynes-Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*

**Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium** 2018  
*Travel Grant to present at Michigan State University*

**University of Southern California**

- Ralph O. and Katherine S. Bartling Endowed Fellowship 2018
- Distinguished Scholar, Asian American Alumni Association 2017
- Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, Fellowship 2014-15
- School of International Relations, Summer Fellowship 2014, 2017, 2018
- Merit Fellowship 2013-18

**TEACHING**

**Courses Taught**

*Public Policy Implementation & Evaluation*  
*Politics of Race & Ethnicity*  
*Immigration Politics and Policy*  
*California Politics and Policy*  
*Introduction to American Politics / Theory and Practice in American Government*  
*Scope and Methods in Political Science*  
*Introduction to Public Policy*

**RESEARCH**

**Research Contributor** 2018-Present  
Candidate Characteristics Cooperative. PIs: Eric Gonzalez Juenke (Michigan State University), Bernard Fraga (Emory University), Paru Shah (University of Wisconsin).

**Advisory Board** 2021-Present  
The Kamala Harris Project. Convener: Ange-Marie Hancock-Alfaro, University of Southern California.

**Research Assistant** 2017  
Prof. Jane Junn, USC Associate Chair of the Social Sciences

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

**Executive Council**  
Western Political Science Association, 2020-2024.

**Editorial Board**  
Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, 2021-2026.

**APSA Election Assistance and Policy (EAP) Committee**  
American Political Science Association, 2021-2024.

**APSA President's Taskforce Member Examining Issues of Systemic Inequality in the Discipline**  
Graduate Training and Graduate Student Experiences Working Group, 2020-21

**Newsletter Editor**  
American Political Science Association's Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, 2019-2020

**Executive Council, Graduate Student Representative**  
American Political Science Association's Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, 2017-19.

**Reviewer**, *American Journal of Political Science* (2021); *American Political Science Review* (2020); *Social Science Quarterly* (2020); *Research and Politics* (2020); *Politics, Groups, and Identities* (2020, 2022); *PS: Political Science & Politics* (2019); *Journal*

*of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* (2019); *British Journal of Political Science* (2015)

**ACADEMIC  
LECTURES, &  
PANELS**

**Claremont McKenna College**, Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum  
“*Redistricting California*” April 29, 2022. Lunch Seminar.

**Florida State University, Institute of Politics.**  
“*Race, Elections, and Redistricting.*” April 18, 2022. Guest Lecture.

**UC Berkeley Citrin Center for Public Opinion Research and the California  
Constitution Center**  
“*Redistricting, Gerrymandering and the 2022 Congressional Election,*” March 3, 2022.  
Panel Presentation.

**Claremont Graduate University**  
“*Asian American Political Representation: Candidates, Voters, and the Future of  
AAPI Representation.*” March 22, 2022.

**Occidental College**  
“*Race, Elections, and Redistricting.*” March 30, 2022. Guest Lecture.

**Harvard University, Radcliff Institute**  
“*Redistricting Algorithms, Law, and Policy,*” September 13, 2021. Panel Presentation.

**UC Berkeley Citrin Center for Public Opinion Research and the California  
Constitution Center**  
“*Redistricting California,*” May 2021. Panel Presentation.

**RAND Corporation**, Distinguished Speakers Series  
“*Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: The political power of the nation’s fastest  
growing electorate,*” May 2021. Panel Presentation.

**Claremont McKenna College**, Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum  
“*Election Night 2020 with Zachary Courser, Jack Pitney, Sara Sadhwani, and Andrew  
Sinclair,*” November 2020.

**COMMUNITY  
LECTURES, &  
PANELS**

**Indian American Impact**  
“*Desis Vote: Mobilizing our Communities to Make the Difference,*” May 18, 2022.

**American Association of University Women**, Keynote Address.  
“*All Voices Heard.*” May 14, 2022.

**The Sacramento Seminar**  
“*Redistricting in California,*” May 13, 2022.

**The League of Women Voters**, collaboration with Pomona College Politics Dept.  
“*Redistricting in California,*” February 2022.

**National Conference of State Legislators**  
“*Working with your Commission,*” July 2021 (Salt Lake City).

**Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)**  
“*Impact of the 2020 election on AAPI’s,*” November 2020.

**The League of Women Voters**, Mt. Baldy, CA Chapter  
“*Voting by Race and Ethnicity,*” November 2020.

### **Open Primaries National Roundtable**

“*The Top Two Primary in California: Voting by Race and Ethnicity*,” December 2017.  
In partnership with the Arizona State University Morrison Institute for Public Policy & USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy.

### **The Analyst Group**

“*Learning from Allies: Interest Group Influence and the Legislative Process*,” March 2015 (Denver, CO).

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Woman of Color Leads: Kamala Harris’ First 100 Days Symposium**

The Kamala Harris Project, University of Southern California, *May 2021*.

“*Namaste USA: Kamala Harris and Indian American Descriptive Representation*.”

#### **Western Political Science Association**

*2022, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2016, 2015*

#### **American Political Science Association**

*2020, 2019, 2017, 2016*

#### **Southern Political Science Association**

*2019, 2015*

#### **The Politics of Race, Ethnicity & Immigration Consortium (PRIEC)**

UC Riverside, *November 2018*; UC San Diego, *August 2018*; Michigan State University, *April 2018*; UC Santa Barbara, *May 2017*.

#### **USC Center for Immigrant Integration**

College 2020 Graduate Student Symposium, Los Angeles *October 2014*

“*The Effect of Elite Partisan Cues in the Immigration Reform Debate*.”

### **SERVICE AT CONFERENCES**

#### **Section Chair**

- State, Local, and Urban Politics, Western Political Science Association, March 2022 (Portland).

#### **Panel Discussant**

- “Harris, Obama, and the Politics of Multiracials in America.” American Political Science Association, September 2021 (Seattle).
- “Who is Represented? Race and Personal Characteristics in Legislatures.” Midwestern Political Science Association, April 2021 (virtual).
- “Understanding Perceptions of Asian-ness and Group Membership among Asian Americans” Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series, March 16, 2021 (virtual).
- “Divergent Strategies for Studying Asian American Political Behavior and Attitudes,” Western Political Science Association annual meeting, 2015 (San Diego).
- “Migration, Asian and Asian American Politics. American Political Science Association annual meeting, 2014 (Washington D.C.).

#### **Panel Chair**

- “Institutional, Demographic, and Environmental Forces in Elections” Western Political Science Association, March 2021 (virtual).
- “Politics of the Primary: How Electoral Institutions Affect Voters and Candidates.” American Political Science Association (Washington D.C.), 2019.

- “Evaluating Academic and the Discipline by Gender and Race,” Southern Political Science Association annual meeting (Austin, TX), 2019.

**Panel Participant**

- “Advancing Women of Color in U.S. Politics: Research Through Community Engagement and Empowerment.” UCLA Women of Color in U.S. Politics Research. (Los Angeles), February 10, 2020.
- “20th Anniversary Symposium and Celebration of the Asian Pacific American Caucus.” American Political Science Association (Washington D.C.), 2019.

**Conference Coordinator**

- “Dynamics of Difference: Religion, Race and Gender in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election,” Southern California Political Behavior Conference, 2017 (Conference conveners: Marisa Abrajano (UCSD) and Jane Junn (USC)).

**SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE**

Core Faculty, Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies (IDAAS) of the Claremont Colleges

Member, ITS Advisory Committee. 2021-2022

Participant, South Asian student-faculty/staff mixer. 5C’s South Asian Student Association. April 14, 2021.

Panelist, Black and Brown Women of Color Student Conference, March 20, 2021.

Featured Interview, Pomona College Sage Cast Podcast. March 2021.

**SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Member, Equity and Social Justice Taskforce, University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, 2020.

Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce, La Canada Unified School District, 2020.

Board Member, Liberty Hill Foundation, 2012-2015

**PUBLIC POLICY EXPERIENCE**

**California Immigrant Policy Center** (Los Angeles, CA) 2011-2013  
*Statewide immigrant rights advocacy organization, emphasizing Sacramento-based lobbying and coalition building.*

Strategy Director: Responsible for organizational strategic planning and programming. Supervision of staff members.

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice** (Los Angeles, CA) 2007-2011  
*Nation’s largest civil rights and social justice organization addressing issues impacting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.*

Immigrant Rights Project Director: Senior staff member responsible for directing policy and community engagement in immigration reform, immigrant integration, and access to quality health care and protection of safety net services. Supervised six person team plus volunteers & interns.

**Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)**  
 (Los Angeles, CA)

2006-07

*Community-based Latinx advocacy organization and national leader in immigration reform movement.*

Federal Policy Coordinator: Built organizational capacity to assess and analyze national immigration reform legislation and perform lobbying activities. Regularly conducted legislative advocacy trainings for DREAM students and workers.



**UNIVERSITY  
ADMINISTRATION  
EXPERIENCE**

**Student Life Advisor to Underrepresented Students** (Pittsburgh, PA) 2004-05

*University of Pittsburgh*

Advisor to the *Black Action Society, Asian Student Association & Campus Women's Organization*. Responsible for maintenance of on-campus "safe-space" for underrepresented students, planning university sponsored multi-cultural and inclusive programming, and analysis of retention outcomes.

**Admissions Counselor & Recruiter**

2002

*University of Pittsburgh Office of Admissions & Financial Aid*

**SKILLS**

Training: Statistics, Research Design, Regression Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Experimental Methods, Geographic Information Systems, ICPSR Survey Data Analysis workshop.

Areas of Proficiency:

Experimental methods: survey experiments, field experiments

Voter turnout of diverse groups

Ecological inference of election data, estimating support for candidates by group

Analysis of survey data, specializing in difficult to reach populations

STATA, R, Qualtrics, GIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.