

Paromita Sen

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER. EVALUATION AND LEARNING. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT.

Education

PhD, Foreign Affairs. 2018.

Dissertation: "When Protest Made the State: Global Co-optation of the Anti-Rape Movement"

M.A. Foreign Affairs, 2014.

Thesis: "Why India Fights Violence Against Women: Feminist Movements, Political Co-optation and Societal Norms"

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics.

B.A., Political Science, Anthropology. 2012.

Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa

DePauw University, Greencastle, IN.

Research and Evaluation Experience

- **Mahila Owned Viable Enterprises: Increasing Women's Economic Empowerment Through Social Enterprises**
Research Manager *SEWA Bharat (April 2019-Present)*
 - Established the Learning Hub at SEWA Bharat, a research vertical to support the work of the SEWA Movement
 - Designed and monitored research on 149 social enterprises within the SEWA Ecosystem, supervising a team of 16 people, across 11 Indian states
 - Compile and disseminate research findings to support SEWA's work in the world, and improve cross-learning
- **The Backlash Project: Backlash Against Women's Participation in the Global South**
Evaluation Analyst *Charlottesville (May 2017-April 2019)*
 - Conducted a meta analysis of the existing research to analyse trends internationally
 - Evaluated development trends and gender-focused interventions for the potential of backlash
 - Conceptualised and categorised "backlash" as a new theoretical intervention into the study of global developmental consequences
- **When Protest Made the State: Global Co-optation of the Anti-Rape Movement**
Lead Investigator *South Asia (June 2014-August 2018)*
 - Interviewed government officials, activists, and citizens on state policies aimed at eradicating gender-based violence, challenges to implementing policies and ways to mitigate risks for vulnerable women
 - Crafted and implemented an original survey of 300 households in 2 local languages, recruited and ran 15 focus groups, trained and supervised a 7-person research team
 - Designed best practices for governments regarding anti - gender-based violence policy
 - Supervised archival research on political documents and newspaper archives to create a temporal analysis of gender policies (focusing on gender-based violence, economic empowerment, and development interventions) in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
- **Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man? Female Leaders in Crisis Bargaining**
Co-Principal Investigator *Charlottesville, VA (January 2015-Present)*
 - Collected new data & ran statistical analyses on factors affecting the likelihood of women leaders entering war
 - Recipient of American Political Science Association (APSA) Women and Politics Research Best Paper Award (Honorable Mention), & the Zora Neale Hurston Award for Best Graduate Essay, University of Virginia (2016)
 - Published: Abigail S. Post & Paromita Sen (2019). "Why can't a woman be more like a man? Female leaders in crisis bargaining" *International Interactions*.

- **Policy Communication Fellows Program, Population Reference Bureau**

Policy Communications Fellow

Washington, DC & Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (February 2017-December 2017)

- Trained to communicate research to policy makers, academics, general audiences and other stakeholders with a primary focus on practitioners and politicians in the developing world
- Wrote policy briefs on mitigating the risk of gender-based violence in India and disseminated to relevant policy officials in India

- **Surveillance and the Student: Government Policing of Young Women's Politics**

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Fellow

India (August 2015-May 2017)

- Interviewed student activists, government officials and university administrators on the challenges to student organising in Indian higher education; Engaged in ethnographic research of protests to collect data on mobilisation tactics and strategies
- Monitored the movement's interventions across 6 cities and evaluated them on their efficacy and reach
- Published study in Maria Grasso and Judith Bessant, eds., *Governing Youth Politics in the Age of Surveillance* (Routledge Press, 2018)

- **Increasing Civic & Political Participation of Women: Understanding the Risk of Strong Resistance**

Evaluation and Learning Analyst

USAID (May 2016-January 2017)

- Commissioned by USAID Democracy Fellows and Grants Program, by IIE to evaluate risks to increasing women's political and civic participation in developing contexts
- Compiled research on the challenges to women's increased political and civic participation under USAID programs in developing countries
- Recommended means to mitigate risks to women in developmental contexts where interventions are met with strong resistance

- **Gendered Legality: Women's Rights Under Dual Legal Systems**

Principal Investigator

Jordan & Egypt (July 2010-December 2010)

- Conducted qualitative research (semi structured interviews with legal scholars, tribal leaders, civil leaders and women) in rural and urban centers in Jordan (Amman, Salt, Irbid) and Egypt (Cairo, Alexandria) investigating the impacts of dual legal systems (Tribal and Shari'a) on women and women's rights
- Submitted findings about the repercussions of living under multiple legal systems to the Jordanian Parliamentary Group working on expanding women's rights

- **Food of the Streets: The City's Beat**

Singapore (2010)

Principal Investigator

- Ethnographic research on the processes by which immigrants relate to the national community through the food economy: production and market
- Conducted interviews with street vendors, immigrants, government officials and expatriates

Leadership and Organizational Experience

- **University of Virginia**

Teaching Instructor

Charlottesville, VA (August 2012-Present)

- Taught Foreign Affairs, Gender Studies, Development Studies and Area Studies to 600+ students
- Designed, implemented and taught new course at the University of Virginia, *The Politics of Protest*
- Received funding to experiment with technology and active learning methods in the classroom
- Received the *Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award for Social Sciences*, and the *Alison J. Meloy Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award*, University of Virginia (2017)

- **Women's Caucus for Political Science**

Graduate Student Representative

Washington DC (August 2017-Present)

- Liaise between graduate students and the women's caucus, communicate the interests and needs of women graduate students to the women's caucus in political science as the Graduate Student Representative to the *Women's Caucus For Political Science*

- **Gendering Political Science (NSF)**

Graduate Research Assistant

Washington, DC (May 2014- September 2017)

- Conducted research on the challenges to women and people of colour within political science
- Organised conferences at NSF Headquarters (Washington DC) and the American Political Science Conference
- Designed and ran the project website, *Gendering Political Science*, and associated Facebook page for 3 years
- Designed website for Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, *American Political Science Association*
- Helped get the first all-women board of editors elected at the flagship journal in American Political Science

- **Journal of Politics**

Editorial Assistant Book Review Section

Charlottesville, VA (January 2015-December 2015)

- Solicited journal submissions, ensured timeliness of submissions to keep publication deadlines flowing, re-viewed and edited submissions and assisted in the administrative responsibilities of the journal

Awards and Fellowships

- *Power, Violence and Inequality Collective*, University of Virginia, 2017-2018
- *Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award for Social Sciences*, University of Virginia, 2017
- *Empirical Study of Gender Research Network (EGEN) Conference*, Yale University, 2017
- *Dumas Malone Research Fellowship*, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2015-2016
- *William Quandt Travel Fund*, University of Virginia, 2015
- *Mentor, Jefferson Public Citizens Grant [2nd Place]*, University of Virginia, 2015

Skills

Software Expertise

Proficient in: STATA, Dedoose, Microsoft Office, LaTeX
Experience with: NVivo, R

Language Expertise

Native: English, Hindi, Bengali
Beginner: Arabic, Spanish