

## Pariroo Rattan

Weinberg College Postdoctoral Fellow  
Northwestern University

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**Weinberg College Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University 2025-27:** Science in Human Culture Program and Department of Sociology, teaching in the Departments of Sociology & Anthropology

### EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D. (Defended and Submitted, Conferral Nov 2025) **Public Policy**, Harvard University  
**Secondary Field:** Music (with a focus on Ethnomusicology)  
**Track:** Science, Technology and Policy Studies (STePS)  
**Title of Dissertation:** A Marketplace for Populism: The Moral Politics of Digitization in India's Informal Economy
- 2018 M.A. Yale University, International and Development Economics, Dept of Economics
- 2017 B.A. Economics (Honours) First Class with Distinction Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi

### COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- |           |                                                                         |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2019-2025 | Fellow, Program on Science, Technology and Society, HKS                 |
| 2019-2025 | Harvard Fellowship for Students from India (in honour of Amartya Sen)   |
| 2024-2025 | Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Dissertation Writing Grant |
| 2024      | Wenner Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant                                |
| 2024-2025 | Fellow, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society                   |
| 2024-2025 | Fellow, HKS Carr Center for Human Rights Policy                         |
| 2023-2024 | Graduate Student Associate, Lakshmi Mittal Family South Asia Institute  |
| 2023      | Dora and YL Yang Fund, Harvard University Asia Center                   |
| 2023      | Finalist, Technology Policy Research, Meta Research PhD Fellowship      |
| 2023      | Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative Research Grant                          |
| 2022-2024 | Research Affiliate, Center for International Development, HKS           |
| 2023      | Harvard Graduate Student Council summer grant                           |
| 2022      | Harvard Lakshmi Mittal Family South Asia Institute summer grant         |
| 2021-2022 | Vicki Norberg-Bohm Fellowship                                           |
| 2021      | Jens Aubrey Westengard Scholarship                                      |
| 2017      | KC Mahindra Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies                        |

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Rattan Pariroo (2025). **Digital Developmentalism and Street Vending: Redefining the Obligations between the State and the Informal Economy**, *Economic and Political Weekly* Vol. 60, Issue No. 29, 19 July 2025. URL: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2025/29/special-articles/digital-developmentalism-and-street-vending.html>

Rattan Pariroo and Nicolas Huppenbauer (2025). **Struggle over Technological Citizenship: Citizen Resistance to Data Governance Regimes in China, India, the EU and the US** (under review).

### **CHAPTER DRAFTS AND WORKING PAPERS**

Rattan Pariroo (chapter) **Governing with Government? Public-Private Boundaries in India's Digital Payments** in: Boenig-Liptsein M & Bassoff N (eds). *Code and Carbon: Digital Technologies, Environmental Science and Global Constitutions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

Rattan Pariroo (working paper for journal *Law and Social Inquiry*) **Pathologies of Liberalism: Dueling Statistics and Discriminating Models in the Harvard Asian-American Discrimination Lawsuit**.

Rattan Pariroo (working paper) **The Visual and Acoustic Politics of the Modernizing Economy: Commodification and the Politics of Attention in Urban India**

### **ONLINE ARTICLES AND OP-EDS**

Rattan Pariroo (Oct 2024) **The Politics of Data-Based Policymaking**, *The Hindu* Indian national daily newspaper. URL: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-politics-of-data-based-policymaking/article68815129.ece>

### **TEACHING**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Institution and Role</b>
Fall 2023	DPI 207 Philosophy of Technology: From Marx and Heidegger to AI, Genome Editing, and Geoengineering	HKS, Head Teaching Fellow ( <i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</i> )
Fall 2022	Environmental Science and Public Policy 78: Environmental Politics	Harvard College, Head Teaching Fellow
Spring 2022	General Education 1173: Numbers in Policy and Society	Harvard College, Teaching Fellow ( <i>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</i> )
Spring 2022	Advanced Science Policy and Bioethics (Nanocourse)	Course developer and co-instructor, Harvard Medical School
Fall 2021	Environmental Science and Public Policy 77: Technology, Environment and Society	Harvard College, Head Teaching Fellow
Spring 2018	Development Strategies for Economic Growth	Course improvement, Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs

### **ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

- Coordinator, **Jurisprudence of Distribution** Network to host and bring together critical legal scholars through workshops and presentations, 2024-present
- Coordinator, **Critical Contemporary Thought workshop**, online series that brings together anthropologists and critical scholars, 2023-present

- Co-founder, **Graduate Research in STS (GRiSTS)** Network to foster a Northeastern community of young STS Scholars, will have its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in October 2025
- Co-authored the **Charter for Knowledge**, an agenda for Universities aiming to create responsible knowledge, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the STS Program, November 2023
- Pioneered **STS@Tea**: A virtual platform for intellectual engagement on questions relating to science, technology, expertise, democracy to bring together scholars during COVID
- **Chair**, Harvard STS Circle (2024) and Harvard STS Fellows (2021-22)
- At-large **Representative of the Social Sciences**, Harvard University's Graduate Student Council 2020-21
- **Committee on Graduate Education (CGE) with the Harvard GSAS Dean** 2020-21
- Resident Advisor, Harvard University Graduate Residence Halls 2021-22 and 2023-24

### POLICY AND ACTIVISM RELATED WORK

- Addressed street vendor leaders from 20 different states of India organized by **National Hawkers Federation** on Danger and Opportunities of Digitization for street vendors, Jan 9, 2024
- Another City is Possible: Street Vendors as Catalyst for Sustainable Urban Development talk given at India Gate organized by **People's Resource Center, New Delhi** June 2023
- Talk on Global Governance and Risk Management, **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**, UN Economic and Social Council, November 2022
- Is Technologizing the Poor Apolitical? Early reflections on the politics of digitizing India's informal economy, talk at **Center for Social and Economic Policy**, New Delhi May 2023

### VISITING RESEARCHER POSITIONS

2022	Center for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi
2019	College De France, Paris
2019	London School of Economics and Political Science
2019	University of Oslo

### INVITED LECTURES

- **University of California Los Angeles, Department of Anthropology** | Culture, Power and Social Change speaker series (upcoming February 2026)
- **University of California Irvine, Global Studies Department** (upcoming, November 2025)
- **WISER Trust Seminar**, The Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa (virtual) | Problematizing Privacy and Surveillance from the Streets of Delhi (April 2025)
- **Tufts University STS Speaker Series, Boston** | Can the poor have privacy? Digitization and the making of moral economic citizens in contemporary India (Nov 2024)
- **Jurisprudence of Distribution (Critical Legal Studies), virtual** | Digital Welfarism in contemporary India: From planning era's bureaucracy to digital era's direct democracy (August 2024)
- **Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion, University of California Irvine** | The Moral Politics of the E-economy: Digitization, Populism and Street Vendors in India (June 2024)

- **Center for Social and Economic Progress** | Tensions of Capital and Expertise: Perspective from India on international developmentalism (March 2024)
- **STS Undergraduate Fellows, Harvard University** | The Digital Self Across Cultural-Political Contexts (October 2022)
- **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Economic and Social Council** | Global Governance (2022)

## **RESEARCH TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- **Science and Democracy Network, Cambridge** | Problematizing Privacy and Surveillance from the Streets of Delhi (September 2025)
- **Berkman Klein Center, Harvard Law School** | The Acoustics of Modernity: Street Cries, Commerce and the Economy of Attention (April 2025)
- **Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School** | Surveillance from the Streets of India (April 2025)
- **HKS STS Fellows Program** | Music as knowledge: Modernizing Hindustani classical music in 20<sup>th</sup> century North India (23 April 2024)
- **Graduate Student Associate Showcase, Lakshmi Mittal Family South Asia Institute** | Digitizing informality: Nation-building in the regime of right-wing populism in India (22 April 2024)
- **Modern Science and Technology Working Group, Departments of History of Science and Anthropology Harvard** | Neo-international Developmentalism: The Tensions of Capital and Expertise in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2 April 2024)
- **HKS STS Fellows Program** | Discerning “the good” empirically: a discussion on fieldwork methods (5 Mar 2024)
- **Bhalisa 5, Amsterdam** | Digital citizenship in India: Disconnecting a nation from its people (12 July 2024)
- **Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Cambridge MA** | Digital Welfare Transfers in Contemporary India: The Personification of the State and the Gift that Never Arrives (Nov 8, 2024)
- **HKS STS Fellows Program** | On Interpretive Writing (21 Nov 2023)
- **Science and Democracy Network, Cambridge** | Citizenship in the Digital Age: Resistances to Data Governance Practices across China, the EU, India and the US (Aug 2023)
- **Society for Social Studies of Science, Cholula Mexico** | Digitizing difference: Digitization and the 21<sup>st</sup> century Techno-nationalism in India (December 2023)
- **Annual Conference on South Asia, UW Madison conference** | Digitizing difference: Digitization and the 21<sup>st</sup> century Techno-nationalism in India (Oct 31, 2023)
- **Center for Social and Economic Progress, New Delhi** | Is technologizing the poor apolitical? Early reflections on the politics of digitizing India’s informal economy (21 Apr 2023)
- **Information Society Project, Yale Law School** | Dueling Economists and Discriminating Models: Establishing causality in 21<sup>st</sup> century American courtrooms
- **Science and Democracy Network 2022, Cambridge** | The Sounds of Resistance: Music in the 2021-21 farmers’ protest in India
- **European Association for the study of Science and Technology, Madrid** | Digitizing difference: negotiating social orders in 21st century india

- **History of Science Society Conference 2021, online** | Dueling Economists and Discriminating Models: Law and Statistics in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America
- **Graduate Research in Science and Technology Studies (GRiSTS) 2021, online** | Still and still moving: Temporal Disjunctures and the 2020 migrant-COVID crisis in India
- **Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Law School STS-SJD Conference 2021, online** | Governing Informality, Informality as Governance: Street Vending in 21<sup>st</sup> Century India
- **Science and Democracy Network 2021, online** | Economic Common Sense: Causality and Coproduction in the social sciences

### **LEAD ORGANIZER, CO-ORGANIZER | WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND PANELS**

- Leading the creation of an **online teaching tool** for the STS concept and method of “Co-production” by Sheila Jasanoff
- **Politics of Dissent and Resistance as India Votes panel** conceptualized and co-organized at Harvard Law School with Prof Jayati Ghosh, Prof Muhammad Junaid and Prof Chandra Mallampalli, Apr 2024
- **The Arts of Being Governed: Reason and Expertise in a Contested World**, *Graduate Research in Science, Technology and Society (GRiSTS) Conference* (Harvard University), Nov 21-23 2024
- Coordinator for HKS STS Summer Working Retreat on **Expertise, Trust and Democracy**, Hewlett Foundation, Lenox Massachusetts, 8-11 May 2024
- **Idols of Progress: Technoscience Between Ethics and Trust**, *Graduate Research in Science, Technology and Society (GRiSTS) Conference* (Harvard University), Oct 12-14 2023
- **Just Computation? Social and Historical Perspectives on Calculation in the Law** with Prof Will Deringer (MIT) and Michael McGovern (Yale Law School) in Sept 2023 at Harvard University
- STS @ Harvard 20th Anniversary: **Science, Technology & the Human Future**, *Program on Science, Technology and Society* (Harvard University), Nov 3-5, 2022
- **Re-centering the Social: Technoscience in Crisis Times**, *Graduate Research in Science, Technology and Society (GRiSTS) Conference* (Harvard University), Oct 13-15, 2022
- **Disrupted Lives: Linking, De-linking and the Infrastructures of Recovery**, *Graduate Research in Science, Technology and Society (GRiSTS) Conference* (Harvard University), Oct 28-30, 2021
- STS-SJD Workshop—**Disciplinary Encounters at the Crossroads of Law & STS**, *Program on STS* (Harvard University), May 5-6, 2021
- **Submerged Futures: Science, Technology and the Politics of Forgetting**, *Graduate Research in Science, Technology and Society (GRiSTS) Conference* (Harvard University), Sept 4-5, 2020

### **PROJECT PARTICIPATION AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE**

**Principal Investigator:** Harvard Kennedy School M-RCBG Grant, Comparative Study of Economic Expertise for Policy in COVID-19 Pandemic

- Research Assistant: Belmont Forum & US National Science Foundation, *Governance of Sociotechnical Transformations (Award No. 1856215)*
- Research Assistant: US National Science Foundation RAPID Collaborative Grant, *Comparative Covid Response: Crisis, Knowledge, Policy (Award no. 2028585)*

**MEMBER** Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Science and Democracy Network (SDN)

**MUSIC** Hindustani Classical vocal music, Western classical piano, Harvard GSAS World Music Collective