# Alexander Lee

University of Rochester
Department of Political Science
Harkness Hall 313
Rochester, NY 14627

Phone: (585) 275-4291
Email: alexander.mark.lee@rochester.edu
Homepage: http://www.rochester.edu/college/faculty/alexander_lee/

## Education

**Stanford University,** Stanford CA

Ph.D. Political Science, September 2013.

**Yale University,** New Haven CT

B.A. History and Political Science, June 2006. *(Cum Laude)*

## Employment

**University of Rochester,** Rochester NY

Professor of Political Science, 2025-

Associate Professor of Political Science, 2020-2025

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2014-2020

**Stanford University,** Stanford CA

Post-Doctoral Fellow, CDDRL, 2013-2014

## Publications

*Books*

5. **Lee, Alexander.** *Democracy and Impunity: The Politics of Policing in Modern India*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2025.
4. **Lee, Alexander** and Jack Paine. *Colonial Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023. [Honorable Mention, Luebbert Award for best book in comparative politics, 2025]
3. Acharya, Avidit and **Alexander Lee.** *The Cartel System of States: An Economic Theory of International Politics.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.
2. **Lee, Alexander.** *Development in Multiple Dimensions: Social Power and Regional Policy in India.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2019.
1. **Lee, Alexander.** *From Hierarchy to Ethnicity: The Politics of Caste in 20th Century India.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

## *Journal Articles*

22. **Lee, Alexander**, Weihong Qi and Dehua Sun. "State Mobilization and Political Attitudes: The Legacy of Maoist Rural Resettlement in Contemporary China" *Political Science Research and Methods* Online Pre-Print.

21. Karekurve-Ramachandra, Varun and **Alexander Lee**. "Can Gender Quotas Improve Public Service Provision? Evidence from Indian Local Government." *Comparative Political Studies*. Online Pre-Print. [Award for Best Paper in Urban or Regional Politics presented at the 2022 American Political Science Association conference]

20. **Lee, Alexander** and Weihong Qi. "Election symbols and vote choice: evidence from India." *Political Science Research and Methods* 2024. 12:2, 879 - 887.

19. **Lee, Alexander.** "Historical Inequality at the Grassroots: Local Public Goods in an Indian District, 1905-2011." *Comparative Political Studies* 2023. 56:12, 1824-57

18. **Lee, Alexander** and Jack Paine. "The Great Revenue Divergence" *International Organization* 2023. 77:2, 363-404.

17. **Lee, Alexander.** "The Library of Babel: How (and How Not) to Use Archival Sources in Political Science" *Journal of Historical Political Economy.* 2022. 2: No. 3, pp 499-526.

16. **Lee, Alexander.** "Does Affirmative Action Work? Evaluating India's Quota System." *Comparative Political Studies*. 2021. 54:9, 1534-64

15. Bhavnani, Rikhil and **Alexander Lee.** "Does Affirmative Action Worsen Bureaucratic Performance? Evidence from the Indian Administrative Service" *American Journal of Political Science* 2021, 65.1: 5-20.

14. Desai, Zuheir and **Alexander Lee**. "Technology, Choice, and Fragmentation: The Political Effects of Electronic Voting in India." *Political Science Research and Methods.* 2021, 9:2, 398-413.

13. Karekurve-Ramachandra, Varun and **Alexander Lee**. "Do gender quotas hurt less privileged groups? Evidence from India." *American Journal of Political Science.* 2020, 64:4 757-72.

12. Acharya, Avidit and **Alexander Lee.** "Path Dependence in European Development: Medieval Politics, Conflict and State Building" *Comparative Political Studies* 2019, 52 (13-14), 2171-2206.

11. **Lee, Alexander** and Jack Paine. "British Colonialism and Democracy: Divergent Inheritances and Diminishing Legacies" *Journal of Comparative Economics.* 2019, 47(3), 487-503.

10. **Lee, Alexander.** "Incumbency, Parties and Legislatures: Theory and Evidence from India" *Comparative Politics*. 2019, 52(2), January, 1-21.

9. **Lee, Alexander.** "Land, State Capacity and Colonialism: Evidence from India" *Comparative Political Studies*, 2019, 52(3), 412-444

8. **Lee, Alexander.** "The Origins of Ethnic Activism: Caste Politics in Colonial India." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*, 2019, 4(1), 148-79.

7. Acharya, Avidit and **Alexander Lee.** "Economic Foundations of the Territorial State System." *American Journal of Political Science*, 2018, 62(4), 954-66.

6. **Lee, Alexander** and Jack Paine. "What were the Consequences of Decolonization?" *International Studies Quarterly*. 2019, 63(2), 406-16.

5. **Lee, Alexander.** "Ethnic Diversity and Ethnic Discrimination: Explaining Local Public Goods Provision" *Comparative Political Studies*. 2018. 51(10), 1351-83.

4. Bhavnani, Rikhil and **Alexander Lee.** "Local Embeddedness and Bureaucratic Performance: Evidence from India" *The Journal of Politics*, 2018, 80.1, 71-87.

3. **Lee, Alexander.** "Redistributive Colonialism: The Long Term Legacy of International Conflict in India." *Politics and Society*, 2017, 45.2, 173-224.

2. **Lee, Alexander** and Kenneth Schultz. "Comparing British and French Colonial Legacies: A Discontinuity Analysis of Cameroon." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2012, 7: 1–46

1. **Lee, Alexander.** "Who Becomes a Terrorist?: Poverty, Education, and the Origins of Political Violence." *World Politics*, 2011, 63: 203-245.

### *Other Publications*

4. **Alexander Lee.** "What the Kashmir decision means for Indian federalism—and democracy." *Washington Post.* August 8th, 2019.

3. **Alexander Lee.** Book Review of: Bennett, Andrew, and Jeffrey T. Checkel, eds. *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool.* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). *Perspectives on Politics.* December 2016 vol. 14: 4, p. 2-5.

2. **Alexander Lee.** Book Review of: Kohli, Atul. Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India. (Cambridge UP, 2012.) *Comparative Political Studies*. July 2013 vol. 46: 7, p. 883-886.

1. **Alexander Lee.** "Chronology" (With Courtney J. Martin) and "Ten Views in the Island of Antigua" (with Tim Barringer). In Tim Barringer, Gillian Forrester and Barbaro Martinez-Ruiz (eds.) *Art and Emancipation in Colonial Jamaica: Issac Mendes Belisario and his Worlds.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

## Research in Progress

### *Under Review*

5. "Identity and Red Tape: The Political Economy of Politician-Bureaucrat Cooperation in India" (With Rikhil Bhavnani and Soledad Prillaman) [Accepted pending replication, *Comparative Political Studies*]

4. "The Political Economy of the Middle Income Trap: A Theory of Selective Property Rights" (With Avidit Acharya and Steve Haber)

3. "Public Debt and Political Behavior in Post-Revolutionary England" (with Xintian Wang)

2. "How Polarization Ends" (With Avidit Acharya and Theo Serlin)

1. "Rude Good Health: Democratic Resilience and Institutional Decline in Twenty-First Century America" [Book Manuscript]

### *Selected Working Papers and Work in Progress*

8. "South Asia's Rotten Core: Geography, State Capacity, and Statebuilding"

7. "Agrarian Inequality and Long-Run Development: Evidence from Pakistan" (With Noaman Ali)

6. "Disruptions in Legislatures" (With Varun Ramachandra and Zuheir Desai)

5. "The Political Economy of Artistic Creativity" (With Per Andersen and Francisco Forcher)

4. "Depolarization and Realignment" (With Avidit Acharya and Theo Serlin)
3. "War, Politics, and the Birth of Modern Bureaucracy" (With Matteo Bertoli and Anil Menon)
2. "Competitive Rent-Seeking" (With Rikhil Bhavnani and Jayana Bedi)
1. "The Technological Origins of Consultation" (with Casey Petroff)

# Teaching and Service

## *University of Rochester Courses*

PSC 565: Political Economy of Development [Graduate] (Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018)

PSC 564: Development and Political Economy [Graduate] (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

PSC 563: Causal Inference: Applications and Interpretation [Graduate] (Spring 2016)

PSC 559: Historical Political Economy [Graduate] (Spring 2023, Spring 2025)

PSC 555: Democratic Political Processes [Graduate] (Fall 2016)

PSC 501: Writing and Research in Political Science [Graduate] (Spring 2020)

PSC 277: Caste, Class and Race (Spring 2022)

PSC/IR 273: The Politics of Terrorism (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2022)

PSC/IR 266: The Politics of India and Pakistan (Fall 2015, Spring 2021, Fall 2024)

PSC/IR 257: The Origins of the Modern World (Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2026)

## *PhD Advisees*

Justin Nicholson (Booz Allen Hamilton, Committee Member)

Olga Gasparyan (Florida State University [TT,] Committee Member)

Zuheir Desai (Ohio State University [TT], Committee Member)

Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra (University of Southern California [TT], Co-Chair)

Jae Eun Kim (Fors Marsh, Chair)

Dehua Sun (University of Chicago [ITT], Chair)

Jong-Heum Chung (University of Geneva [VAP], Committee Member)

Weihong Qi (Informatics PhD Indiana University, Committee Member)

Hongyi She (Princeton University [Post Doc], Committee Member)

Matteo Bertoli (*Current*, Chair)

Jefferson Leal (*Current*, Committee Member)

Tse-Luen Wu (*Current*, Committee Member)

Xingyu Zhou (*Current*, Committee Member)

### *Selected Recent Professional Service*

Division Chair, Comparative Politics, American Political Science Association (2026)

Editorial board member, *American Political Science Review* (2024-)

American Political Science Association, South Asian Politics Section Organizer and President (2022-2025)

Midwest Political Science Association Program Committee, South Asian Politics Section Chair (2020)

### *Refereeing*

Oxford University Press, Routledge, National Science Foundation, *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, World Politics, Comparative Politics, International Organization, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, British Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research and Methods, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Peace Research, World Development, Studies in Comparative and International Development, Party Politics, Electoral Studies Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Public Choice, Review of International Organizations, International Interactions, Religion and Politics, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Social Choice and Welfare and Terrorism and Political Violence*

## Presentations

### *Invited Talks*

Syracuse University Maxwell School (2024)

Stockholm University Department of Political Science (2024)

Gothenburg University Department of Political Science (2024)

Lund University SASNET research group (2024)

Australian Catholic University Department of Political Science Workshop (2023)

Oslo University Department of Political Science (2023)

Brown-Harvard-MIT, Joint Seminar in South Asian Politics (2023)

George Mason University, Department of Economics (2023)

University of Southern California, Comparative Politics Workshop (2021)

University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Advanced Study of South Asia (2019)

UC Riverside, Political Science Department (2019)

University of Connecticut, Political Economy Workshop (2018)

Columbia University, Comparative Politics Workshop (2016)

Juan March Institute, Seminar (2015, 2016)

Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop (2015)

## *Selected Recent Conference Presentations*

"Agrarian Inequality and Long-Run Development: Evidence from Pakistan" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (Vancouver 2024)

"War, Politics, and the Birth of Modern Bureaucracy" European Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (Madrid 2025)

"How Polarization Ends" Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (San Juan 2025)

"War, Politics, and the Birth of Modern Bureaucracy" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (Philadelphia 2024)

"War, Politics, and the Birth of Modern Bureaucracy" Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (New Orleans 2024)

"Agrarian Inequality and Long-Run Development: Evidence from Pakistan" Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (New Orleans 2024)

"State Mobilization and Political Attitudes: The Legacy of Maoist Resettlement" American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. (Los Angeles 2023)

Current as of September 21, 2026