Chitralekha Basu

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Current Position

University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2019-
Chair for Empirical Democratic Theory, 2019-
Associated Member, ECONtribute: Markets & Public Policy, 2020-

Education

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Ph.D., Political Science, May 2017
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Philosophy, Quantitative Methods

M.A., Political Science, March 2014

Queens' College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

M.Phil., Political Thought & Intellectual History, July 2010

Keble College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

B.A. (Hons), History, June 2009

Past Positions

2025-2026	Parental leave (100% from Jun 2025-Jan 2026)
2020-2022	Parental leave (100% from Dec 2020-Jul 2021, 50% from Aug 2021-Jan 2022)
2017-2019	**University of Barcelona**, Barcelona, Spain Postdoctoral Researcher, Institutions & Political Economy Research Group
2017	**Princeton University,** Princeton, NJ Visiting Researcher, Department of Politics (3 months)
2016	**University of Nottingham**, Nottingham, UK Visiting Fellow, NICEP (4 months)

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

5. Basu, Chitralekha. "Communicative Power and the Pursuit of Political Equality." Forthcoming in the *British Journal of Political Science*.
4. Basu, Chitralekha, Carles Boix, Sonia Giurumescu and Paulo Serôdio. "Democratizing from Within: British Elites and the Expansion of the Franchise." Forthcoming in *World Politics*.
    - Awarded the 2019 James B. Christoph Prize for best conference paper presented by a junior faculty member at the British Politics Group
3. Basu, Chitralekha and Matthew Knowles. 2025. "The Revelation Incentive for Issue Engagement in Campaigns". *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 37(4): 261-289.
    - Awarded the 2026 Elinor Ostrom prize for best published in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics* in the preceding calendar year.

2. Basu, Chitralekha. 2024. “How the Media Matters for the Economic Vote: Evidence from Britain.” *Electoral Studies* 87: 102735.

1. Basu, Chitralekha. 2020. ”Bridging Spatial and Saliency Theory: Party Size and Issue Selection in Campaigns.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 8(3): 444-458.

Contributions to Edited Volumes

1. Basu, Chitralekha and Lennart Schürmann. 2025. “Media Effects on Political Elites”, in the *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*, eds. Alessandro Nai, Max Grömping and Dominique Wirz.

Working Papers

6. “TITLE BLINDED FOR REVIEW” with Helena Heberer (R&R at the *European Journal of Political Research*, resubmitted).
5. “TITLE BLINDED FOR REVIEW” with Lea Kaftan and Jens Wäckerle.
4. “The Theory and Measurement of Issue Yield: A Reappraisal”, with Matthew Knowles.
3. “Deconstructing Valence: Variation in the Importance of Non-Policy Attributes to Voters”.
2. “Work, Turn to the Left? Female Employment and the Political Gender Gap”.
1. “The Communicative Presence of Women”, with Helena Heberer.

Awards and Honors

2026	Elinor Ostrom Prize (for best paper published in the *Journal of Theoretical Politics* in the preceding calendar year).
2019	James B. Christoph Prize (for best conference paper presented by a junior faculty member in the British Politics Group, a Related Group of the *American Political Science Association*).
2015	Dean’s Post-Field Research Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Rochester
2014-15	The Star Lab Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Rochester.
2014	The Star Lab Conference Presentation Award, University of Rochester.
2010-2015	Graduate Fellowship and Tuition Scholarship, University of Rochester.
2007, 2008	Keble College Scholarship, University of Oxford
2004, 2005	Ministry of Education (Singapore), Humanities Scholarship

Research and Workshop Grants (* = external)

2026	ECONtribute Equity and Diversity Grant (€8,260), to hire a research assistant.
2024	Selten Seeding Grant, ECONtribute & Reinhard Selten Institute (€5,000). - Project: “Candidate Selection in the 2024 UK General Election” - Co-applicants: Lea Elsässer
2024	ECONtribute Grant, for the Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series (€5,600). - Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Sven-Oliver Proksch
2024	ECONtribute Grant, for the Cologne-GESIS Workshop on Democracy (€9,820). - Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Alexia Katsanidou and Sebastian Ziaja
2023	ECONtribute Grant, for the Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series (€5,600). - Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Sven-Oliver Proksch
2023	Selten Seeding Grant, ECONtribute & Reinhard Selten Institute (€2,500). - Project: “How Voters Prioritize Identities for Descriptive Representation”

- Co-applicants: Lea Kaftan and Jens Wäckerle.

2023 ECONtribute Grant, for the Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series (€6,215).
- Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Sven-Oliver Proksch

2022 ECONtribute Grant, for the Political Institutions and Political Behavior Workshop (€5,100).
- Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Sven-Oliver Proksch

2022 ECONtribute Grant, for the Cologne Political Science Workshop (€2,300)
- Co-applicants: Michael Bechtel, Sven-Oliver Proksch

2021 Female Professors Programme III "Kopf Frei" Grant, University of Cologne (€1,800).

2021 Selten Seeding Grant, ECONtribute & Reinhard Selten Institute (€5,000).
- Project: "Communicative Power, Inequality and Representation"

2020 ECONtribute Grant, for the CCCP International Workshop (€11,050)
- Co-applicants: André Kaiser, Sven-Oliver Proksch, Ingo Rohlfing, Christine Trampusch

2018 *Durham International Junior Research Fellowship (declined, £44,070)
- Project: "The Long-Run Determinants of Party Strategy"
- Co-funded by Durham University and the European Union

2016 Summer Seed Grant for International Field Research (USD 2,500)

2014 *Donald E. Stokes Dissertation Research Fellowship, APSA British Politics Group (USD 1000)

2014 Summer Seed Grant for International Field Research (USD 2,500)

Travel Grants (* = external)

2016 *Graduate Student Travel Grant, EPOVB Section of the American Political Science Association (USD 250).

2016 *Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (USD 150).

2016 Conference Travel Grant, University of Rochester Graduate Student Association (USD 300).

2015 *Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association (USD 250).

2015 *Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (USD 150).

2015 Conference Travel Grant, University of Rochester Graduate Student Association (USD 300).

2014 Conference Travel Grant, University of Rochester Graduate Student Association (USD 300).

Invited Talks and Workshops (* if scheduled)

2026 *ECONtribute Women's Research Seminar Series, University of Cologne

2025 Department of Government Seminar Series, University of Vienna

2024 "Transformations of Democracy" Seminar Series, WZB Berlin

2023 "Future of Democracy" Workshop, University of Stuttgart
Department of Government Speaker Series, University of Essex
"Democratic Citizens and Political Elites" Workshop, University of Mainz
"Representation and Behavior" Workshop, University of Cologne
Research Colloquium, University of Stuttgart

2022 Keynote Lecture, IMPRS-SPCE Doctoral Conference
Political Theory Colloquium, University of Hamburg
Historical Political Economy Workshop, University of Zurich
"Promises of Democracy" Workshop, Villa Vigoni
ECONtribute Workshop on Political Economy, University of Cologne

	Comparative Politics & Political Economy Research Colloquium, University of Konstanz
2021	Politics Seminar Series, Humboldt University of Berlin
2020	Inaugural Lecture, University of Cologne Democracy and Elections Seminar Series, University of Manchester MZES Seminar Series, University of Mannheim Comparative Politics Seminar Series, Kings College London Guest Lecture, LMU Munich
2019	Politics Seminar Series, University of Barcelona
2018	"Causes and Consequences of Challenger Party Success" Workshop, University of Zurich
2016	NICEP Seminar Series, University of Nottingham Department Colloquium, University of Strathclyde

Conferences and Workshops (P = presenter, Po = poster, O = organiser, D = discussant, * = scheduled)

2025	MPSA Annual Conference (P, D)
2024	Cologne-GESIS Workshop: Multi-Data Perspectives on Democracy (O, D) EPSA Annual Conference (P, D)
2023	EPSA Annual Conference (P)
2022	DVPW Working Group on Analytical Political Theory Workshop (P) Cologne Political Science Workshop (P, O) CES International Conference of Europeanists (P) EPSA Annual Conference (P, D)
2021	EPOP Annual Conference (P) British Politics Group Online Conference (D)
2020	ECPR General Conference (P, O, D) CES International Conference of Europeanists (P, cancelled)
2019	Historical Political Economy Virtual Workshop (D) ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Workshop (P) APSA Annual Conference (P) EPSA Annual Conference (P) NYUAD Workshop on Historical Political Economy (P)
2018	APSA Annual Conference (P) Bergen-Gothenburg-Barcelona Workshop on Experimental Political Science (D) EPSA Annual Conference (P, D) NICEP Annual Conference (P) Politics and History Network Annual Conference (P) MPSA Annual Conference (P, D)
2017	IPErG Historical Political Economy & Gender Politics Workshop (P) CES International Conference of Europeanists (P) CES Mini-Conference: Women in Society from a Historical Perspective (P) Party Congress Research Group Workshop: Perspectives on Intra-Party Politics (P) EPSA Annual Conference (P, D) NICEP Annual Conference (P)
2016	EPOP Annual Conference (P) APSA Annual Conference (P, D) MPSA Annual Conference (P)
2015	APSA Annual Conference (P) UCLA COMPASS Graduate Student Conference (P) MPSA Annual Conference (P) Toronto Political Behaviour Workshop (Po)

SPSA Annual Conference (P)

2014 EPSA Annual Conference (P)

2013 MPSA Annual Conference (P)

Teaching

University of Cologne

Courses designed and taught as sole instructor:

Strategic Models of Democratic Politics, MA Seminar, 2019-present
- WS 2019/20 evaluations: 1.8/5 (1=best)
- WS 2020/21: not evaluated
- SS 2022 evaluations: 4.6/5 (5=best)
- SS 2023 evaluations: 4.2/5 (5=best)
- SS 2024 evaluations: 4.5/5 (5=best)
- SS 2026: not evaluated

Elections as Instruments of Democracy, MA Seminar, 2020-present
- WS 2020/21 evaluations: 1.7/5 (1=best)
- SS 2023 evaluations: 4.6/5 (5=best)
- SS 2024: not evaluated
- SS 2026: not evaluated

Democracy in the Twenty-First Century, MA Seminar, 2022-present
- WS 2022/23 evaluations: 4.1/5 (5=best)
- WS 2023/24: not evaluated
- WS 2024/25 evaluations: 4.6/5 (5=best)

Democratic Theory and Practice, MA Lecture, 2020-present
- SS 2020 evaluations: 1.3/5 (1=best)
- WS 2021/22 evaluations: 4.5/5 (5=best)
- WS 2022/23 evaluations: 4.4/5 (5=best)
- WS 2023/24 evaluations: 4.1/5 (5=best)
- WS 2024/25 evaluations: 3.7/5 (5=best)

Parties and Elections in Comparative Perspective, MA Seminar, 2020
- WS 2019/20: not evaluated

University of Rochester

Courses designed and taught as sole instructor:

Campaigns and Elections: A Global Perspective, BA Seminar, 2015-2016

Supervision

PhD supervision

As primary supervisor:

Helena Heberer, University of Cologne, 2020-present

As co-supervisor:

Danielle Pullan, University of Cologne, 2021-2024
- First placement: Assistant Professor, Georgia College & State University

PhD examination

As second/external reader:

Thorsten Giertz, University of Cologne, 2026
Pau-Vall Prat, University of Barcelona, 2022

Other supervision

16 MA theses supervised to completion, University of Cologne
9 MA thesis supervisions in progress, University of Cologne

3 BA theses co-supervised to completion, University of Cologne
1 BA thesis co-supervision in progress, University of Cologne

Professional Service and Administrative Experience

Disciplinary Service

APSA Division Co-Chair, Comparative Politics – Advanced Industrialised Democracies, 2025-2026
APSA Related Group Chair, British Politics Group, 2022-2023
SGAPPC Section Co-Chair, ECPR General Conference, 2020

University and Department Service

University of Cologne

Member, Gender and Diversity Taskforce, 2023-present
Organizer, Department Research Colloquium, 2022-present
Organizer, Cologne-GESIS Workshop: Multi-Data Perspectives on Democracy, 2024
Organizer, Political Science and Political Economy Lecture Series, 2023-2024
Organizer, Workshop on Political Institutions and Political Behavior, 2023
Organizer, Cologne Political Science Workshop, 2022
Co-organizer, CCCP International Workshop, 2020

University of Rochester

Student Representative, Board of Academic Honesty, 2015-2016
Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, 2013-2016
Graduate Assistant, Internships in Europe Programme, 2010-2016

Referee Service

Journals: *American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; British Politics; Comparative Political Studies; Democratization; Electoral Studies*; *European Journal of Political Research; Journal of European Integration; Journal of Politics; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties; Party Politics; Political Science Research and Methods*; *Swiss Political Science Review*.

Funding bodies: German National Merit Foundation (*Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*), German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst), European Research Council.

Miscellaneous

Technical skills: Microsoft Office software, advanced R and LaTeX, basic Stata and Python.

Languages: Bilingual in English and Bengali; German (intermediate reading, writing and speaking).