

Gilles Verniers

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Appointments

2025 – 2027	Research Fellow, CERI, Sciences Po
2022 – 2025	Karl Loewenstein Fellow and Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, Amherst College
2023 –	Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
2020 – 2023	Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
2015 – 2023	Founder and Co-Director, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University
2014 – 2023	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ashoka University
2012 – 2022	Faculty, Young India Fellowship, Ashoka University, New Delhi
2007 – 2014	Sciences Po Paris' Representative in India
2007 – 2012	Affiliated PhD candidate, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi
2005 – 2006	French lecturer at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Current affiliations

2023 – 2025	Affiliated Scholar, Saxena Centre for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University
2021 – 2025	Non-Resident Visiting Scholar, Centre for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania
2019 –	Senior Visiting Fellow, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, New Delhi
2018 –	Associate Researcher, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi

Education

2016	PhD in Political Science, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)
2005	M.Phil. in Comparative Politics and Societies, specialisation «Asia», Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).
2004	M.A. in Political and Social Sciences, specialisation «International Relations», Catholic University of Louvain.
2003	Graduate Diploma in Economic and Social Ethics (Hoover Chair), Catholic University of Louvain.
2000	B.A. in Economics, Social and Political Sciences, University of St-Louis, Brussels.

Research and teaching interests

Political representation and participation in India, Indian elections, State politics, Democratisation in South Asia, women's participation in politics, controversies and problems in India's democracy, caste and politics, minority politics, political parties, Indian political data.

Teaching

Undergraduate teaching

- Histories of the Far Right (with Adi Gordon)	2024, 2025
- Political Violence	2023, 2024
- Democratic Erosion in India	2022, 2025
- Introductions aux Relations Internationales (Montréal)	2025

- The Politics of Uttar Pradesh 2022
- Introduction to Indian Politics 2018, 2019, 2020
- Qualitative Approaches to Political Violence 2021, 2022
- Political Journalism (with Maya Mirchandani) 2019
- Social and Political Formations 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020
- Critical Themes in Politics: Parties and Elections 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021
- Data-driven Electoral Analysis (with Sudheendra Hangal) 2019
- Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Dynamics of State Formation 2016
- Qualitative Research Methods in Political Science 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Critical Thinking Seminar in Political Science and Sociology 2015

Average teaching evaluation in India (27 courses): 4.5/5.0

Young India Fellowship

- Who Governs India? 2022
- Making Sense of Indian Elections 2014-2021
- The BRICS Course 2013
with Christophe Jaffrelot, Jérôme Sgard, Sergei Guriev and
Stéphanie Balme
- Governing the Large Indian Metropolis 2013
with Christophe Jaffrelot, Tommaso Vitale and Patrick Le Galès

Average teaching evaluation (11 courses): 81/100

Academic service

2021 – 2022	Coordinator, Political Science Graduate Seminar
2020 - 2023	Member of the Ashoka University Data Centre Steering Committee
2020 - 2023	Member, Young India Fellowship Academic Advisory Board
2019 - 2022	Chair, Academic Integrity Violation Committee
2019 - 2020	Member, IT Committee
2017 - 2020	Director, Master's in Liberal Studies, Ashoka University
2016 - 2020	Head of the Political Science Department, Ashoka University
2016 - 2020	Member of the Academic Council, Ashoka University
2016 - 2020	Member of the Institutional Review Board, Ashoka University

Research projects

2022 – 2025	Institutional Exclusion Cluster Head, Muslims in India Project (founded by Luce Foundation, Princeton and Sciences Po)
2023 -	Co-PI, The Urban and Rural Divide in Indian Politics, Amherst College, with Ashutosh Varshney (Brown University)
2021 -	Co-PI, Urban Local Bodies Election Repository, TCPD, with Tariq Thachil (UPenn) and Adam Auerbach (American University)
2020 -	Cluster Coordinator, Institutional Exclusion of Muslims in India, project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation
2020 -	Coordinator, Profiling State Cabinets in India
2017 -	Coordinator, Women Participation in Politics, TCPD
2017 -	Coordinator, Indian Individual Incumbency Project, TCPD
2017 - 2022	Co-Coordinator, SPINPER Project (Study of Provincial and National Political Elected Representatives) – funded by the CNRS/Sciences Po. With Christophe Jaffrelot
2015 - 2017	Participant, <i>Facets of Conservatism in India</i> [funded by the Alliance Program, Columbia University]
2012- 2016	Participant, <i>EECURI</i> (Explaining Electoral Change in Urban and Rural India).
2014 - 2016	Participant, <i>The Visuality of Democracy in India</i> [funded by the Alliance Program, Columbia University]
2014 - 2017	Co-Coordinator, Research Programme on the Social Profiling of India's MPs and MLAs, with Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences Po) and Sanjay Kumar (CSDS)
2009 - 2011	Participant, <i>"Democracy and Governance in India and South Africa"</i> , CSH
2009 - 2010	Participant, "Muslims in Indian Cities", Sciences Po, CSH and CSDS

2006 - 2007 Participant, "India's Democratic Renewal in Question", Centre de Sciences Humaines

Awards, Grants and Funding

2023 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Data Set Award, American Political Science Association (prize shared with Dr. Francesca R. Jensenius)
 2023 Grant of 34.000 USD from the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, to work on India's 18th general election.
 2021 - 2022 Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania/UPIASI (10,000 USD)
 2017 - 2019 Facebook (90,000 USD)
 2016 - 2021 Laboratoire International Associé (LIA), CNRS (75,000 Euros over five years)
 2016- 2019 Sciences Po's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (50,000 Euros)
 2015 Helped secure a 650,000 USD funding to establish the Trivedi Centre for Political Data
 2012- 2016 EECURI MP/MLA project funded for three years by ANR, UK Council for Social Science Research and ICSSR
 2007 - 2011 Research and fieldwork funding granted by the Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi.
 2005- 2006 French Embassy to India Lectureship

Publications

Articles

2025 "Caste, Social Justice, and the Politics of Inclusion in the 2024 Indian General Election", Indian Journal of Politics and Policy, Vol.5, 1, p. 87-110.
 2024 "Why India's Incumbent Candidates Struggle to Win Elections", in How Indian Voters Decide (Ed., Milan Vaishnav), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, p. 71-80.
 2020 "A new party system or a new political system?", Contemporary South Asia, 28:2, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 "The reconfiguration of India's political elite: profiling the 17th Lok Sabha", Contemporary South Asia, 28:2, 242-254, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 "The BJP's 2019 election campaign: not business as usual", Contemporary South Asia, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 2018 "The Transformation of Backward Class Politics in Uttar Pradesh", Economic and Political Weekly, 68-73.
 "Conservative in Practice: The Transformation of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh", Studies in Indian Politics 6(1): 1-16.
 2017 "Studying Indian Politics with Large-scale Data: Indian Election Data 1961-Today", Studies in Indian Politics 5(2): 269-275, with Francesca R. Jensenius.
 2015 "Do Muslim voters prefer Muslim candidates? Co-religiosity and voting behaviour in India" Electoral Studies 38: 10-18, with Oliver Heath and Sanjay Kumar.
 2013 "The India-US Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in Indian Domestic Politics", Asian Survey, Vol. 54, number 3, 2013, with Karthika Sasikumar.
 2012 "Castes, Communities and Parties in Uttar Pradesh", Economics & Political Weekly, Vol. 47, 32, pp.89-93, 2012, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 "Re-nationalization of India's Political Party System or Continued Prevalence of Regionalism and Ethnicity?", Asian Survey, Vol. 51, number 6, pp. 1090-1112, 2012, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 « India's 2009 Elections: The Resilience of Regionalism and Ethnicity », South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal, vol.3, 2009, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
 2009 "L'Inde aux urnes: la prégnance du régional et du vote ethnique", Commentaires, Paris, 32: 127, Fall 2009, with Christophe Jaffrelot.

Book Chapters

2019 "The Indian Election Commission as Producer of Political Data", in S.Y. Quraishi (ed.), "The Great March of Democracy. Seven Decades of India's Elections", New Delhi, Penguin, p.122-134.
 2016 "The Challenges of India's Democracy", in Jean-Marie Bouissou (ed.), "La démocratie en Asie", Paris, Picquier Edition, 2016.

- 2015 *"The Resistance of Regionalism: BJP's Limitations and the Resilience of State Parties"*, in *"India's 2014 Elections: Modi-led Sweep: A New Political Landscape?"*, edited by Paul Wallace, New Delhi, Sage, with Christophe Jaffrelot.
- 2012 *"The Shias of Lucknow, a Minority within a Minority"*, in Christophe Jaffrelot, Laurent Gayer (eds.) *"Muslims in Indian Cities, trajectories of Marginalization"*, London, Hurst, 2012.

Book reviews

- 2019 *"How India Became Democratic: Citizenship and the Making of the Universal Franchise"*. By Ornit Shani", *Pacific Affairs* 92(2): 380.
- 2018 *"When Crime Pays. Money and Muscle in Indian Politics"*, by Milan Vaishnav, *Studies in Indian Politics*, 6(1), 1-2.
- 2015 *"Why India Votes?"*, by Mukulika Banerjee, in *Studies in Indian Politics*, 3 (1), pp. 139-140
- 2013 *"Degrees without Freedom? Education, Masculinities and Unemployment in North India"*, by Craig Jeffrey, Patricia Jeffery and Roger Jeffery, *Contribution to Indian Sociology*, Vol. 47, Issue 4, October 2013, pp. 458-461.

Dictionary entries

- "Ambedkar", "Nationalism", and "Parliamentarism", in *"Dictionnaire de l'Inde Contemporaine"*, Frédéric Landy (dir.), Paris, Armand Colin, 2010.

Book manuscript

- "Enduring elitism: the formation of India's political class". Requested by Hurst Publishers and OUP, New York.

Working papers & chapters

- *"The Making of Uttar Pradesh's New Politicians: The Elite Roots of Inclusion"*, submitted for publication
- *"Caste, social justice, and the politics of inclusion in the 2024 Indian General Election"*, under review.
- *"Where Women's Political Ambition Meets the Road: Gender and Political Engagement in India"* (with Susan Osterman), under review.
- *"From marginalization to exclusion: Muslims in Indian elected assemblies"* (with Maleeha Fatima), book chapter.
- *"Absent from the bench: the exclusion of Muslims in the Indian judiciary"* (with Maleeha Fatima), book chapter.

Academic Magazines

- 2022 *"Women's Participation in National Elections"*, *Seminar* (752), p.12-19. With Ishika Sharan and Aishwarya Sunaad.
- 2019 *"The resilience of dynasticism"*, *Seminar* (720). With Sofia Ammassari.

Data

TCPD-IED (1950S), 2023
TCPD-PPI (Political Parties of India), 2021
TCPD-CMID (Chief Ministers of India), 2021
TCPD-GID (Governors of India), 2021
TCPD-IASD (Indian Administrative Service Dataset), 2021
TCPD-IPSD (Indian Police Service Dataset), 2021
TCPD-IJD (Indian Judiciary Dataset), 2021
TCPD-ICoM (Indian Council of Ministers), 2020
TCPD-IED (Indian Elections Dataset), 2019
TCPD-IID (Indian Individual Incumbency Dataset), 2019
TCPD-ICLED (Indian Candidates and Legislators Dataset), 2019
Sociological Profile of the Uttar Pradesh State Assembly (1962-present), 2016

Referee service : Oxford University Press, India, Cambridge University Press, Asian Survey, Pacific Affairs, India Review, Contemporary South Asia, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science

Review, Comparative Politics, Party Politics, The Journal of Politics, Government & Opposition, Swiss Political Science Review, European Political Science Review.

Public and Media participation

- Regular columns and opinion editorials in the Hindustan Times, The Indian Express, Scroll.in, Times of India, The Economics Time, The Hindu, India Today, The Wire, Mojostory.com
- Frequent by-lines and quotes in newspapers, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Financial Times, The Guardian, CNN, Le Monde, Le Temps, etc.
- Television and web panel/podcast appearances on NDTV, The Mojo Story, The Wire, The Hindu
- Coordinator since 2020 of the CPR-TCPD Dialogues in Indian Politics, a lecture series