

# RACHEL E. BRULÉ

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Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies rebrule@bu.edu  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS** **Assistant Professor, Boston University** since 2019  
Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies  
Graduate Faculty, Department of Political Science  
Core Faculty, Global Development Policy Center  
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Economic Development,  
Affiliate Faculty, Center for Antiracist Research,  
Center for Innovation in Social Science, Institute for Global Sustainability

**Assistant Professor, New York University Abu Dhabi** 2013 – 2019  
Political Science Program, Social Science Division  
Global Network (Affiliated) Professor, Politics Department, NYU

**EDUCATION** **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA  
Ph.D. in Political Science 2013  
MA in Political Science  
*Dissertation*: “The Political Economy of Gender-Equalizing Reform in Rural India”

**London School of Economics**, London, UK  
Msc in Development Management, *Distinction on Thesis* 2005

**Oxford University**, Oxford, UK  
MSc in Forced Migration 2004

**Mount Holyoke College**, South Hadley, MA  
BA in International Relations & African Studies, *Summa Cum Laude* 2003

**BOOK** 2020. *Women, Power, and Property: The Paradox of Gender Equality Laws in India*.  
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Studies in Gender and Politics Series.  
**Winner:** Gregory Luebbert Prize for the best book in Comparative Politics,  
*American Political Science Association*, 2021.  
*Featured in:* [The New York Times](#), [Interpreter](#); [New Books Network](#); [Grand Tamasha](#).

**PUBLICATIONS** 2023. “Women and Power in the Developing World.” *The Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 26 (May 2023).

Forthcoming. “Climate Shocks and Gendered Political Transformation: How Crises Alter Women’s Political Representation.” *Politics & Gender*.

2021. “Culture, Capital & the Gender Gap in Political Economy Preferences: Evidence from Meghalaya’s Tribes.” (with Nikhar Gaikwad) *Journal of Politics*, 83(3).  
**Winner:** Pi Sigma Alpha Award for Best Paper Overall, *MPSA*, 2017;  
Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics, *MPSA*, 2017.  
*Featured in:* [The Washington Post](#), [The Monkey Cage](#) and [The Print](#).

2020. "Reform, Representation and Resistance: The Politics of Property Rights' Enforcement." 2020. *Journal of Politics*, 82(4): 1390-1405.

*Featured in: Ms. Magazine, India Development Review, Open Access Government.*

2020. "Women's Inheritance Rights Reform and the Preference for Sons in India" (with Sonia Bhalotra and Sanchari Roy). *Journal of Development Economics*, 146.

*Featured in: TheWire.in, Business Standard, IndiaSpend.com.*

2015. "Accounting for Accountability: Local Government and Social Equity in India." *Asian Survey*, 55(5). Special Edition on State Capacity in India.

## UNDER REVIEW

"Who Actually Governs? Inequalities and Political Representation in Rural India" (with Simon Chauchard and Alyssa Heinze). *R&R, The Journal of Politics*.

-*Pre-Analysis Plan registered with EGAP*: "More Than Just Proxy Power: The Determinants of Decision-making Influence Among India's Local-level Representatives."

## WORKING PAPERS

"Do Quotas In Two Dimensions Improve Social Equality? Intersectional Representation & Group Relations" (with Aliz Tóth). *SSRN Working Paper; GDP Center Human Capital Initiative Working Paper*.

"Why Discussion Rules Matter for Representation: Experimental Evidence from Rural India" (with Simon Chauchard and Alyssa Heinze).

"Droughts & Women's Autonomy in Bangladesh" (with Akshay Dixit).

## IN PROGRESS

"Proxy Politics: Representation and Political Inequality in Rural India" (with Simon Chauchard and Alyssa Heinze). *Book Manuscript*.

"Covid, Climate Shocks, & Women's Political Engagement: Experimental Evidence on Crisis-induced Coordination in Bangladesh" (with Akshay Dixit).

-*Pre-Analysis Plan registered with EGAP*.

"Do Peer Mentorship Groups Increase the Political Agency of First-time Female Politicians?" (with Bhumi Purohit, Simon Chauchard, Alyssa Heinze, and Paro Sen, Self-Employed Women's Association-Bharat).

-*Randomized Control Trial Pilot with ongoing field research*.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

2021. "G-local Women Power: Local Female Representation & Property Rights in India," *Invisible Institutionalisms*. Ballakrishnen & Dezalay, Eds. London: Hart.

202x. "Land Rights Without Law: Property Rights Institutions, Growth & Development in India," *Law & Economy in India*, Heller & Jensen, Eds. OUP India.

## POLICY AND BOOK REVIEWS

2022. *She Rules: A symposium on the political representation of women in India*, (Co-Edited with Simon Chauchard, Alyssa Heinze, and Mekhala Krishnamurthy). *Seminar*, Vol. 752, April.

2022. "Are Husbands the Problem?" (with Simon Chauchard and Alyssa Heinze) *Seminar*, Vol. 752, *She Rules: A symposium on the political representation of women in India*, April.

2022. "State-Society Relations & Global Pandemic Responses: Why Gender Quotas in India Matter." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. 6 April.

2021. “In India’s West Bengal state, backing women’s economic interests helped one party score a historic win: Policy support for financial well-being can remedy women’s inequality in politics” (with Nikhar Gaikwad). [The Monkey Cage](#). 16 June.

2021. “Why do we need inclusive institutions?” [Open Access Government](#), 20 May.

2021. ‘How Recognizing Diversity Improves Equality.’ [Diversity, Violence & Recognition Blog](#), Joint review of Samii & King (2020) *Diversity, Violence & Recognition* and Brulé (2020) *Women, Power, and Property*, 21 January.

2020. “The Art of Building Informal Governance: A review of Adam Michael Auerbach’s *Demanding Development, The Politics of Public Goods Provision in India’s Urban Slums*.” [University of California–Berkeley, South Asia Reading Group Summer Spectacular](#). Summer.

2006. “Audacious Institutions: Negotiating Land Tenure in Pre-conflict Sri Lanka,” *Putting Land First? Exploring the Links Between Land & Poverty*. Conference Proceedings: 6th Annual Symp: Land & Poverty in Sri Lanka. CPA: Colombo.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2021 – Gregory Luebbert Prize for the Best Book in Comparative Politics, APSA.

2020 – Governance Fellow, Truman Foundation, Washington, DC.

2017 – Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the Best Paper Overall, MPSA.

2017 – Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics, MPSA.

2013-14 – Integration Year, New York University Department of Politics.

2010-11 – Doctoral Fellowship, National Council for Applied Economic Research.

2007-08 – Pre-doctoral Fellowship, CDDRL, Stanford University.

2003 – Marshall Scholarship.

2002 – Truman Scholarship (NY).

## **GRANTS**

2021-22 – National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) & Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, “Economic Shocks and Gender” PI, with Akshay Dixit (\$20,000)

2021-23 – BU Global Programs & BU Foundation-India, “Do Peer Mentorship Groups Increase the Political Agency of First-time Female Politicians?” PI, with Paro Sen, Simon Chauchard, Bhumi Purohit & Alyssa Heinze (\$30,000)

2020-23 – Hewlett Foundation, for support of the Program on Women’s Empowerment (POWER) Research, HCI, GDP Center, BU (\$500,000)

2019-21 – CVoter Foundation, Corporate Social Responsibility Grant (\$35,000)

2017-2019 – Research & Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration, “Gendered Differences in the Causes and Consequences of Migration: Experimental Evidence from India and the United Arab Emirates” (with Nikhar Gaikwad). Granted by Columbia University, INCITE. Declined.

2012, 2008 – Center for South Asia, Stanford University, Doctoral Research Grant

2004 – St. Cross College, Oxford University, Research Grant

**OTHER  
AFFILIATIONS**

Co-founder, Alliance for Afghan Women's Economic Empowerment, *BU & U.S. State Department Partnership*, 20 September, 2022-Present.

Editorial Board Member, *Politics & Gender*, July 1, 2022-Present.

Co-Chair, Comparative Politics of Developing Countries Division, *American Political Science Association, 2023 Annual Meeting*, Summer 2022-Fall 2023

Board of Trustees, BU Repr., *American Institute of Bangladesh Studies*, Jan 2022-.

Editorial Board Member, *Signs*, Fall 2020-Present.

Executive Board Member, *Empirical Gender Research Network*, 2019-2021.

Visiting Researcher, *WZB, "Institutions and Political Inequality" Research Unit*, led by Prof. Macartan Humphreys, Summer 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022.

Research Affiliate, *Global TIES for Children*, Spring 2015-Present.

Working Group, *Research & Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration*, 2015-2018.

**TEACHING**

Political Economy of Gender Inequality Seminar, BU (IR591) [U], Fall 2019-22

Global Development Capstone Research Seminar, BU (EC/IR 798) [G],

Fall 2021-22 (with Dilip Mookherjee)

Gender & Global Politics, BU (IR 354) [U], Spring 2020-22

Quantitative Analysis for International Affairs, BU (IR602) [G, Required],  
Spring 2020-22

Introduction to Comparative Politics, NYUAD [U], Spring 2019

Gender Revolutions & the State in India, NYUAD [U], January 2016-17

Comparative Politics of South Asia, NYUAD [U], Fall 2014-15

Justice: Theory and Practice, NYUAD [U], Fall 2015-2016, 2018-19

Politics Senior Honors Research Seminar I-II, NYU NY [U], 2013-14

Graduate Teaching Instructor, The Political Economy of Development in Rural India,  
(Self-designed course), Stanford University [U], Winter 2013

TA, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Stanford University [U], 2009

TA, Theories of Civil Society, Philanthropy & Nonprofit Sector, Stanford [U], 2008

TA, NGOs and Development, Stanford University [U], 2007-08

Workshop Instructor, Evaluating Social Programs, MIT JPAL Lab, Chennai, India,  
Executive Education course for Public and Private Sector Professionals, 2007

**INVITED TALKS** Book Adda: Veeraraghavan *Patching Development*, Watson Inst., Brown University,  
– 2022

Center for Contemporary South Asia

Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Princeton University

Gender & Political Economy Book Panel, SFS, Georgetown University

Gender Equality & Women Empowerment—Breaking the Bias, Valedictory Speaker,  
University College for Women, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India

International Conference on the Role of Law in Diverse Societies, Hebrew University

Institutions & Political Inequality Brownbag Research Seminar, WZB, Berlin

Meghalaya State Women's Conference, Organized by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Politics Colloquium, School of Politics & Global Studies, Arizona State University

Political Science Honor Society (Pi Sigma Alpha), Tufts University

Women's Leadership in South Asia, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC

Seminar, Saïd Business School, Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development,  
and the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

– 2021

Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Comparative Politics Colloquium, Vanderbilt University

Complex Governance Seminar Series, American University

Economic & Social Justice Workshop, Center for Economic Growth, Yale University  
Empirical Studies on Women, Gender & Conflict, Cornell University  
Gender and Politics in India Workshop, CCI, University of California at Berkeley  
Institutions & Political Inequality Brownbag Research Seminar, WZB, Berlin  
Politics of Development, Guest Lecturer for Prof. Nair, Harvard Kennedy School  
Research Workshop in Political Economy, Harvard University

- 2020  
Comparative Politics Workshop, Yale University  
Frontiers in Global Development Seminar Series by the Departments of Politics and Economics & the Batten School of Public Policy, University of Virginia  
Institute for Economic Development Research Seminar, Boston University  
Junior Faculty Workshop, Empirical Gender Research Network (E-GEN), BU  
Political Science Seminar, Northeastern University (Postponed due to COVID-19)  
Politics of Development, Guest Lecturer for Prof. Cammet, Harvard University  
Research in Comparative Politics Seminar, Political Science & Pardee School, BU  
Seminar, Boston-Cambridge South Asia Reading Group, Harvard University  
Us & Them: Group Identity & Politics, Guest Lecture, Prof. Haas, Aarhus University
- 2019  
Harvard-Brown-MIT Seminar on South Asian Politics, Harvard University  
“Invisible Institutionalism” Book Workshop, Onati, Spain  
New Directions in Research on Identity and Governance, Monash University-Prato  
Seminar on the Rise of Authoritarian “Strongmen” Figures, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University
- 2018  
Comparative Politics Workshop, University of California at Berkeley  
Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) Seminar, University of Pennsylvania  
Institutions and Political Inequality Brownbag Research Seminar, WZB  
Junior Faculty Workshop, Empirical Gender Research Network, Vanderbilt University
- 2017  
Comparative Politics Workshop, Columbia University  
Child Development in India: The 1st 4000 Days, CASI, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016  
Comparative Government Coffee, Georgetown University  
Presidential Panel: Gender & Political Economy, Southern Economics Association

**CONFERENCES** Political Economy Workshop, Center for Advanced Study of India, U Penn, 2023  
Gender & Political Economy Book Panel, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 2022  
Empirical Gender Research Network (E-GEN), Graduate Work-in-Progress Conference [Co-organizer], Boston University & Harvard Kennedy School, 2022  
Meghalaya State Women’s Conference, Government of Meghalaya, India, 2022  
The Role of Law in Diverse Societies, Hebrew University, 2022  
American Political Science Association, Annual Conference, 2009-2022  
Annual South Asia Conference, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011,13-14,16, 2021-22  
Gender and Politics in South Asia: The First Annual Indian Politics Workshop, Center on Contemporary India, University of California at Berkeley, 2021  
Workshop on Economic & Social Justice, Yale University, Economics, 2021  
Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Conference, 2015-17, 2020  
DC Political Economy of South Asia Workshop, Johns Hopkins-SAIS & Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC, 2019  
Development Economics and Policy Conference, Heidelberg University, 2016  
European Conference on South Asia Studies, 2016  
Book Workshop, NYU New York, 2015

Workshop on State Capacity in India, University of California, Berkeley, 2013  
Modern South Asia Workshop, Yale University, 2013  
Political Economy & Public Services Conference, CMPO, Bristol University, 2013  
South Asia by the Bay Graduate Student Conference, Stanford University, 2012  
Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet Conference in Public Economics,  
Institute of Public Economics, Université d’Aix-Marseille, 2011

**ACADEMIC  
SERVICE —  
EXTERNAL**

Book reviewer for the *Cambridge University Press*, *Oxford University Press*, and *University of Chicago Press*.

Journal reviewer for the *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *British Journal of Comparative Political Science*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *European Economic Review*; *International Organization*; *Journal of Comparative Politics*; *Journal of Economics & Politics*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Politics & Gender*; *Politics, Groups, & Identities*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *Signs*; and *World Politics*.

Editorial Board Member, *Politics & Gender*, July 1, 2022-.

Editorial Board Member, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 2020-.

Co-founder, Alliance for Afghan Women’s Economic Empowerment, *BU Pardee School & U.S. Department of State Partnership*, 20 September, 2022-Present.

Co-Chair, *Comparative Politics of Developing Countries Division, American Political Science Association, 2023 Annual Meeting*, Summer 2022-Fall 2023

Luebbert Book Prize Committee, *American Political Science Association*, 2022

Advisor, *State Capacity Enhancement Project, Meghalaya State Gov’t, India*, 2022-.

Board of Trustees Member, *American Institute of Bangladesh Studies*, 2022-.

Executive Board Member, *Empirical Gender Research Network (E-GEN)*, 2019-21  
E-GEN 2022 *Graduate Work-in-Progress Conference, Co-Organizer*, with Harvard University, Kennedy School for Government & BU GDP Center, HCI  
E-GEN 2020 *Junior Faculty Workshop Organizer*, with BU GDP Center, HCI  
E-GEN 2020 *Graduate Work-in-Progress Conference, Discussant*, Yale

Host & Organizer of American Political Science Association, 2019 Middle East & North Africa Workshop: “Women & Politics: MENA Experiences,” with Aili Tripp, Hanane Darhour, Liv Tonnessen, and Naima Benlarabi, Summer-Fall 2019

Lecturer, “Hope House” Halfway House for Women, Menlo Park, CA, 2008.

**ACADEMIC  
SERVICE —  
INTERNAL**

Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Founding Member, *Pardee School, BU*, 2021-23.

Graduate Learning Outcomes Assessment, *Pardee School Lead*, 2021-22.

Political Economy of Human Capital (PEHC), Program Leader,  
*Human Capital Initiative, Global Development Policy Center, BU*, 2020-Present.

Program on Women’s Empowerment Research (POWER), Program Co-Leader,  
*Human Capital Initiative, Global Development Policy Center*, 2019-Present.

Technology and International Relations Search Committee, *Pardee School*, 2019-20.

Undergraduate Learning Outcomes Assessment, *Pardee School Lead, with associated development & implementation of School-wide learning surveys*, 2019-2023.

**PHD  
COMMITTEES**

Nicholas Haas, New York University (Assistant Professor at Aarhus University)

Franziska Roscher, New York University (Current Graduate Student)

Si Wu, Boston University (Current Graduate Student)

**PROFESSIONAL** Consultant, Google.org Land Transparency Team, Palo Alto, CA, 2013-14  
Consultant, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad, India, 2010  
Consultant, World Bank Rural Development Group, Andhra Pradesh, India, 2010  
Program Coordinator, MIT Poverty Action Lab, India, 2005-2006  
External Collaborator, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2000

**FIELD RESEARCH** India, 2+ years: June-August 2007, 2008; November 2009–March 2011; January, October, December 2014; January, March 2015; Jan. 2016; March 2017; Jan. 2020  
-North East: Meghalaya (Shillong municipality); Mizoram (Aizawl district)  
-North: Uttar Pradesh (Saharanpur), Haryana (Yamuna Nagar), Delhi  
-South & West: Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur, Khammam, Krishna, Ranga Reddy, Vishakhapatnam, and Vizianangaram), Maharashtra (Solapur district)

Senegal, 1 year, September 2001 – June 2002  
-Dakar (Marché HLM); Kaolack (Society of Development & Textile Fibers)

**LANGUAGES** French (Advanced/Interm.), Hindi (Intermediate), Arabic, German, Wolof (Beginner)

**REFERENCES** **James Alt.** Frank G. Thomson Professor of Government, Emeritus, Department of Government. Harvard University. *james.alt "at" harvard.edu*

**Melani Cammett.** Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Department of Government & Director, The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. Harvard University. *mcammett "at" g.harvard.edu*

**Beatriz Magaloni.** Graham H. Stuart Professor of International Relations, Political Science Department & Director, Poverty, Violence and Governance Lab. Stanford University. *magaloni "at" stanford.edu*