

Taran Samarth (they/them)

CONTACT INFORMATION	Rosenkranz Hall Department of Political Science, Yale University New Haven, CT 06510	<i>E-mail:</i> taran.samarth@yale.edu <i>Web:</i> www.taransamarth.com
EDUCATION	Yale University , New Haven, CT Ph.D., Political Science <i>Fields:</i> American Politics, Political Theory, Quantitative Methods <i>Primary research areas:</i> Criminalization, local political economy, social movements	2023-present
	Penn State University , University Park, PA B.A., Sociology (honors), Political Science, and Philosophy; B.S. in Mathematics. <i>Thesis:</i> “Democracy in Diverse Communities: Group Threat, Solidarity, and Political Participation.”	2019-2023
PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Cast Vote Records: A Database of Ballots from the 2020 U.S. Election (with Shiro Kuriwaki, Mason Reece, and 11 others). 2024. <i>Scientific Data</i>.3. Understanding the U.S. Supreme Court’s Legitimacy (with Michael Nelson and Amanda Driscoll). 2024, in <i>Research Handbook on Judicial Politics</i>, eds. Michael Fix and Matthew Montgomery. Edward Elgar. pp. 378-391.2. Evaluating Excuses: How the Public Judges Noncompliance (with Michael Nelson, Amanda Driscoll, and Jay Krehbiel). 2023. <i>Journal of Behavioral Public Administration</i>.1. Judging Prosecutors: Public Punitiveness and Prosecutorial Discretion (with Michael Nelson). 2022. <i>Research & Politics</i>.	
WORKING PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Data for the middle formation: The politics and practices of data gathering in the Palestine solidarity movement (under review, with Nathan Kim, Gena Kim, Francesca Lameiro, Shreya Chowdhary, and Matthew Bui).6. Gerrymandering and geographic polarization have reduced electoral competition (under review, with Ethan Jasny, Christopher Kenny, Cory McCartan, Tyler Simko, Melissa Wu, Michael Zhao, Kosuke Imai, and four others)5. Local governments and symbolic representation (with Tyler Simko, working paper)4. Policing at a distance (revise and resubmit at <i>American Politics Research</i>, with Eric Scheuch).3. Municipal mobilization: local electoral responses to police violence (working paper, draft available upon request)2. Progressive prosecutors and opinion leadership (working paper, draft available upon request)1. The language of democracy: voting rights federalism and minority enfranchisement (work in progress, with John Cho and David Bodovski).	
FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS	Institution for Social and Policy Studies Graduate Policy Fellow NSF Graduate Research Fellow for Law and Social Science RITM Graduate Fellow, Yale University College of the Liberal Arts Student Marshal, Penn State University Rock Ethics Institute Stand Up Award, Penn State University Society for Political Methodology Expansions Initiative Fellow	2026 2023-present 2023 2023 2023 2022

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	Yale	
	Institution for Social and Policy Studies Center for the Study of American Politics Center for the Study of Inequality Center for Applied Research and Democracy Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Initiative (2023-24 fellow) Racial Capitalism and Carceral State Working Group (2024-25 co-convenor)	
	Other	
	American Political Science Association Policing, Policy, and Philosophy Initiative (Penn State) ALARM Redistricting Project (Harvard)	
CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2025
	Penn State Center for American Political Responsiveness Conference	2023
	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2022
	Univ. of Michigan Political Science Emerging Scholars Conference	2022
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Johns Hopkins Summer School on Racial Politics	2025
	ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research	2022
	Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Certification	2022
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS	Dr. Daniel Martinez-HoSang, American Studies + Political Science, Yale University	2024-present
	Dr. Shiro Kuriwaki, Political Science, Yale University	2024
	Dr. Allison Harris, Political Science, Yale University	2022-present
	Dr. Michael Nelson, Political Science, Penn State University	2019-2023
EXPERT REPORTS	<i>Petition of the Central Bucks School District for Approval of Plan For Redistricting Electoral Regions</i> (Court of Common Pleas, Bucks County, PA, Case Nos. 2022-06425 and 2023-00469).	Consultant (with Prof. Kosuke Imai)

Last updated November 2025