VIDHU PRIYA MUKUNDAN

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EDUCATION	**Ph.D. in Political Science** Boston University, USA Fields: Comparative Politics, Methodology	2023 – Present
	MA in International Affairs (Global Economic Affairs) Boston University, USA Dissertation: *Expressions of Agency: How Self-Help Groups in Urban India impact Women's Political Participation* (*Nominated for the Eilts Thesis Award, Pardee School*)	2020 – 2022
	MSc in Political Economy of Development, SOAS University of London, United Kingdom Dissertation: *A Study on the Plight of Women Migrants in the Rural-Urban Stream in India*	2018 – 2019
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Women, Political Participation, Clientelism, Urban Politics, Social Networks, South Asia	
WORKING PAPER	*Contesting Leadership and Legitimacy at the Grassroots: Women's Self-Help Groups and Political Intermediaries in Urban India*	
UNDER REVIEW	*Gender and Politics in the Informal City: Toward an Agenda on Women's Everyday Engagement in Urban Slums* (with Emily Rains)	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	**Teaching Fellow – Boston University**	
	Politics and Gender in the US (PO309) *Guest lecture: Does the state work with and for the US? A comparative perspective*	Spring 2026
	Media and Politics in the US (PO306)	Spring 2026
	Data Science for Politics (PO399)	Fall 2025
	Graduate Skills Bootcamp (Pardee School of Global Studies)	Fall 2025
	Introduction to Comparative Politics (PO151/IR251) *Guest lecture: Social Movements*	Spring 2025
	International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa (PO378/IR352) *Guest lecture: International Women's Rights*	Fall 2024
TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS	European Conference on Politics and Gender	2026
	Midwest Political Science Association	2026

	Urban Politics in the Global South virtual conference (*Lightning talk*)	2025
	Symposium on the Politics of Race, Identity, Solidarity and Marginalization (PRISM), Yale University	2025
	Topics in Political Science, Department of Political Science Boston University (*Discussant*)	2025
GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS	BU South Asia Group for Emerging Research (BU SAGER) – Founder and Organizer	Fall 2026
	BU Center for Innovation in Social Sciences – Graduate Student Affiliate	Fall 2026
	BU Center for Innovation in Social Sciences Summer Mini-Grant ($1500)	Summer 2026
	Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, Boston University ($700)	Winter 2025-26
	Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, Boston University ($500)	Winter 2024-25
	Department of Political Science, Boston University - Research Stipend ($1500)	Winter 2024-25
	BU Global Development Policy Center - Research Support ($1500)	Summer 2024
	Summer in the Field Fellowship, BU Global Development Policy Center ($6000)	2024
	Dean's Fellowship, BU GRS	2020
	Dean's Scholarship, Pardee School	
OTHER WRITING	"*Summer in the Field: Understanding Gender Politics in the Context of Clientelism and Social Networks in Hyderabad, India*", BU Global Development Policy Center	2024
	"*Event Summary: 'A Woman's Work is Never Done' – How Gender Norms Enable Labor Coercion, Inside and Outside the Home*", BU Global Development Policy Center	2024
	"*Mothers-in-Law, Friends and Husbands: Leveraging Social Connections to Improve Women's Reproductive Autonomy in India*", BU Global Development Policy Center	2022
	"*The Politics of Foreign Aid in India", Hindustan Times, (with Dr. Manjari Chatterjee Miller*)	2021
DEPARTMENT SERVICE	**Department Steward,** BU Graduate Workers Union (BUGWU), Boston University	2025-2026
	Liaison to the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, Boston University	2024-2025
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	**Project Coordinator,** Human Capital Initiative, BU Global Development Policy Center, Boston University	2022 – 2023

	Social Affairs Intern, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations	2021
OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant, BU Global Development Policy Center	2021
	Graduate Assistant, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University	2020
	Research Assistant, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore	2017
SKILLS	STATA, R, Qualtrics Languages: English (Fluent), Tamil (Native), Telugu (Native), Hindi (Native)	
FIELDWORK	Hyderabad (2021, 2024, 2025, 2026)	