

Curriculum Vitae
Nikhit Kumar Agrawal
(Updated March 2023)

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Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) PhD, Sociocultural Anthropology (<i>candidacy in March 2022</i>)	Los Angeles, CA, USA Expected May, 2025
University of Delhi MA, Sociology	New Delhi, India 2018
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) B.Tech, Computer Science & Engineering	New Delhi, India 2015

Work Experience

Graduate Student Researcher Center for the Study of Women, UCLA	April 2022- July 2022 Los Angeles, CA, USA
Teaching Associate Department of Anthropology, UCLA Course: Anthropology of Social Systems	October 2021- March 2022 Los Angeles, CA, USA
Teaching Assistant Department of Anthropology, UCLA Courses: Culture and Society, Anthropology of Food	October 2020- June 2021 Los Angeles, CA, USA
Chief Minister's Good Governance Associate Ashoka University and Government of Haryana	August 2018- July 2019 Kurukshetra, Haryana, India

- The program runs in collaboration between Ashoka University and the Government of Haryana where an associate is posted in each of the twenty-two districts of the state.
- Selected as one of the 25 associates from a candidate pool of more than 3000 applicants.
- Worked as an associate to the Chief Minister, the highest elected leader of the state of Haryana.
- Implemented government programs in the Kurukshetra district of Haryana touching the lives of more than a million population.
- Carried out mixed-method research to understand the economics of cultivation and production risks faced by farmers in industrial agriculture.

Research Associate

Department of Science & Technology-Center for Policy Research
IIT Delhi

September 2015- May 2016
New Delhi, India

- Carried out analysis of industrial agriculture and deep-dived into its social, economic, and environmental effects.
- Conducted interviews with agricultural scientists at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, and with farmers in the state of Bihar in India.
- Collected evidence for suggesting course correction policy measures.

Peer-Reviewed Publication/ Report

2021. “State of Rural and Agrarian India Report 2020: Rethinking Productivity and Populism through Alternative Approaches,” (co-authored with Richa Kumar, PS Vijayshankar, and AR Vasavi) Chennai: *Notion Press*. (translated and published in multiple Indian languages). <http://www.ruralagrarianstudies.org/state-of-rural-and-agrarian-india-report-2020/>

2017. “Mobilization in Vidarbha: A Comparative Study.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 52(39): 46-53. <http://www.epw.in/journal/2017/39/special-articles/mobilisation-vidarbha.html>

Selected Media Publications

2021. “As agribusinesses proliferate, who is talking about sustainability of Indian agriculture?,” *India in Transition*, Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania, December 20. <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/nikhithkumaragrawal>

2021. “Reform for farmers needs to look at more than mere efficiency of agriculture markets,” (co-authored with Richa Kumar) *The Indian Express*, January 5. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/farm-laws-controversy-narendra-modi-farmers-protest-7132953/> (translated in Hindi and published in *Trolley Times*, a farmers’ protest publication, March 31, 2021. <https://trolleytimes.com/2021/03/31/कृषि-सुधार-कानून-कैसे-हो/>)

2020. “Why experts believe the new agricultural laws are beneficial – but farmers don’t,” *Scroll.in*, December 22. <https://scroll.in/article/981944/why-experts-believe-the-new-agricultural-laws-are-beneficial-but-farmers-dont>

2020. “Neither Govt nor protesting farmers recognize challenge of depleting natural resources and climate crisis,” (co-authored with Richa Kumar, PS Vijayshankar, AR Vasavi) *The Indian Express*, December 7. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/in-farm-debate-a-green-reality-check-7094384/>

2020. “India hopes digital tech will save its floundering farm sector – but it’s working without evidence,” *Scroll.in*, September 20. <https://scroll.in/article/973544/india-hopes-digital-tech-will-save-its-floundering-farm-sector-but-is-working-without-evidence>

2020. “Some Key Questions That Need to Be Answered About the Three Agriculture Ordinances,” *The Wire*, June 24. <https://thewire.in/agriculture/agriculture-ordinances-key-questions>

2018. “India Should Recognize That Manual Scavenging is Akin to Slavery,” *The Wire*, July 18. <https://thewire.in/caste/india-should-recognise-that-manual-scavenging-is-akin-to-slavery>

2018. “India's Future Growth Track Hinges on Supreme Court's Aadhaar Ruling,” *The Wire*, June 1. <https://thewire.in/tech/indias-future-growth-track-hinges-on-supreme-courts-aadhaar-ruling>

2018. “Why India's Oppressed Lack a United Voice,” *The Wire*, January 3. <https://thewire.in/agriculture/indias-subjugated-lack-united-voice>

Awards & Activities

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program UCLA Graduate Division	July 2022-September 2022
International Institute Fieldwork Fellowship UCLA International Institute	March 2022-August 2022
Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program UCLA Graduate Division	July 2021- September 2021
Sambhi Summer Research Fellowship Center for India and South Asia, UCLA	July 2020 - September 2020
Organizer Fifth Annual Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference on South Asia Center for India and South Asia, UCLA	April 2020
Student Representative Admissions Committee, Department of Anthropology, UCLA	2019-2020
Junior Research Fellowship Award University Grants Commission, Government of India	July 2018

Coordinator September 2014 - May 2015
Public Lecture Series titled “Democracy, Development, and Justice”
IIT Delhi

Best Fresher Award 2012
The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth
Board for Recreational and Creative Activities, IIT Delhi

Merit cum Means Scholarship 2011-12
IIT Delhi

Guest Lectures and Presentations

Analyzing the impact of agri-tech start-ups in Indian agriculture November 2022
Graduate Course titled “Agricultural Economics,” Christ University, Bengaluru

India’s rural and agrarian economy today June 2021
Panel discussion, Center for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Agri-tech in India: Technology, Start-ups, and Development December 2020
Undergraduate Course titled “Technology and Society,” IIT Delhi

Professional Association

Member, American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Core Member, Network of Rural & Agrarian Studies (NRAS), India