

Research Associate Opportunity for Bihar Law and Governance Study

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We are looking for one full-time Research Associate (RA) to help a research team at Tata Institute of Social Sciences design and execute a study that aims to understand the micro-foundations of political economy of reform and shed light on the politician-contractor-criminal relationship. This research is part of a larger agenda that seeks to theorize and empirically explore the cause and consequences of this nexus that is often spoken of but hasn't been studied rigorously in the academic literature.

Description: The RA will participate in making important contributions to the research studies and adhere to the goals of the assigned research program. Responsibilities include (but not limited to) the following:

- Development of research tools, translation and pilot testing
- Conduct fieldwork by traveling to various districts in Bihar, interviewing bureaucrats, journalists, contractors and politicians (RAs are required to be based out of district headquarters for at least 3 week every month)
- Analyze data for the survey
- Provide regular updates and reports to the research team
- Assist with the preparation of proposals, presentations, briefing notes and other reports for internal and external use

Qualifications: Master degree in Economics, Political Science, or other relevant discipline in the arts or social sciences, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Students planning to apply to graduate school or those transitioning between jobs may

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also apply for this position.

The successful applicant would have the following skills:

- Resourceful, detail oriented and capable of taking ownership of the study
- Excellent interpersonal skills including tact and diplomacy and the ability to work with a diverse group of people. Proven ability to work independently and cooperatively.
- Excellent organizational skills with demonstrated ability to prioritize assignments, maintain workflow, and work productively in meeting critical deadlines
- Capacity to multi-taskworking on a variety of tasks simultaneously, independently adjusting to priorities and achieving results with agreed objectives
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work independently, i.e. to fully comprehend tasks, to develop a strategy for implementing those tasks and drawing up on a variety of resources to ensure completion
- Advanced computer application skills: MS Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc., to produce high-impact visual depictions of research findings and conclusions for a diverse range of audiences and project stakeholders
- Able to work remotely and travel to the field
- Applicants with work experience (conducting randomized control trails or conventional survey research) will be preferred

Benefits and timeline: This is a paid position and compensation will be commensurate with experience. You will work in close collaboration with an experienced research team and co-investigators include Aaditya Dar (PhD Candidate, George Washington University). This is a long term assignment: the timeline is 12 months, with a flexible start date. This study is part of a part of a larger proposed project and thus, RAs will also be considered for future project requirements, depending on quality of work and performance.

How to apply? Interested candidates should complete this application form (click here or copy paste this link in your browser's address bar: <http://bit.ly/indianpoliticeconomy>), email their CV and a cover letter to aadityadar+poleco@gmail.com with "RA position – Bihar Political Economy study" in the subject line. CVs should be emailed as PDF and the filename should be in the following format: lastname.cv.pdf (everything in lower case). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.