KUMAR RAMANATHAN

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Appointments

University of Illinois Chicago

- Assistant Professor of Political Science — 2026-
- Bridge-to-Faculty Postdoctoral Scholar — 2024-26

University of Chicago

- Postdoctoral Scholar, GenForward Survey — 2023-24

American Bar Foundation

- ABF/NU Doctoral Fellow in Law and Social Science — 2020-22

Education

Northwestern University

- Ph.D. in Political Science — 2023
  - Dissertation: *Building a Civil Rights Agenda: The Democratic Party and the Origins of Racial Liberalism*
  - Committee: Reuel Rogers (chair), Chloe Thurston, Anthony Chen
- M.A. in Political Science — 2018

Tufts University

- B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy — 2015

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Snead, Warren, and Kumar Ramanathan. "The Countermajoritarian Difficulty Revisited: Theorizing Court-Party Relations in the United States." *Perspectives on Politics*, FirstView. — 2026

Bayes, Robin, Kumar Ramanathan, and Warren Snead. "Responsibility Attribution for Supreme Court Decisionmaking: Politicization, Partisanship, and *Dobbs*." *Journal of Law and Courts* 14, no. 1: 277-305. — 2026

Ramanathan, Kumar, and Warren Snead. "The Major Questions Doctrine: Judicial Power and the Prevalence of Policy Drift in the United States." *The Forum* 22, no. 4: 467–504. — 2025

Nelsen, Matthew D., Kumar Ramanathan, and Thomas K. Ogorzalek. "Experiences of Policing in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: Evidence from Chicago." *Urban Affairs Review* 60, no. 3: 1062-1093. — 2024

Ramanathan, Kumar, and Nathan Kalmoe. "Partisanship and Racial Attitudes in U.S. Civil War Enlistment." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 7, no. 3: 460-483. — 2022

Ramanathan, Kumar. "From Civil Rights to Social Policy: The Political Development of Family and Medical Leave Policy." *Studies in American Political Development* 35, no. 2: 173-193. 2021

Masuoka, Natalie, Kumar Ramanathan, and Jane Junn. "New Asian American Voters: Political Incorporation and Participation in 2016." *Political Research Quarterly* 72, no. 4: 991-1003. 2019

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

Ramanathan, Kumar, and Matthew D. Nelsen. "The Dignitary Harms of Racism in Public Education: Expanding the Lens of *Brown* Beyond Segregation." *Cleveland State Law Review* 73, no. 1: 85–99. 2024

SPECIAL ISSUE ARTICLES

Ramanathan, Kumar. "Reinvigorating American Political Development Scholarship through Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction*." *Studies in American Political Development* 36, no. 2: 144–47. 2022

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ramanathan, Kumar, and Zack Taylor. "Control and Conflict in the Chicago City Council." In *21st Century Chicago* (4th edition), edited by Dick Simpson, Marco Rosaire Rossi, Constance A. Mixon, Melissa Mouritsen (Cognella), forthcoming. 2026

Ramanathan, Kumar, Cathy Cohen, and Matthew D. Nelsen. "Data for Liberation: The Role of Surveys in Social Movement Infrastructure." In *Liberation Stories: Building Narrative Power for 21st-Century Social Movements*, edited by Shanelle Matthews and Marzena Zukowska (The New Press). 2025

BOOK REVIEWS

"The Civil Rights Lobby: The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Second Reconstruction" by Shamira Gelbman. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 7, no. 3: 589-591. 2022

Ongoing Research

BOOK PROJECT

"Building a Civil Rights Agenda: The Democratic Party and the Origins of Racial Liberalism"

WORKING PAPERS

"Rethinking Racial Resentment: Structural Racism Denial and Racist Individualism Among Young Whites" (with Matthew Nelsen and Cathy Cohen)

"'The Decision Has Been Made by the Man with All the Votes': Lyndon Johnson and the Unexpected Campaign for the Fair Housing Act"

"The Re-Emergence of Factional Conflict on the Chicago City Council"

Public Writing

RESEARCH WRITE-UPS

"Changing American Politics Have Given the Supreme Court Unprecedented Power to Support One Party's Agenda Over Another" (with Warren Snead), *LSE United States Politics and Policy blog*. 2023

"Experiences of Policing in Gentrifying Neighborhoods" (with Matthew Nelsen and Tom Ogorzalek), *Urban Affairs Review blog*. 2023

"Can Young People Help Democrats Hold Congress?" (with Matthew Nelsen), *The Washington Post*. 2022

"The Anti-Discrimination Roots of 'Family and Medical Leave'," *The Gender Policy Report*. 2021

"The Civil Rights Origins of 'Family and Medical Leave'," *3Streams*. 2021

"Immigrants are far more engaged in politics than what you may expect" (with Natalie Masuoka and Jane Junn), *LSE United States Politics and Policy blog*. 2020

Summaries of *American Political Science Review* articles for lay audiences, *Political Science Now*. 2020-21

REPORTS

"IOP x GenForward Youth Poll: Key Takeaways" (with Cathy Cohen and Institute of Politics student team), *UChicago Institute of Politics*. 2024

"Young Adults Think America's Political System Isn't Working" (with Tabitha Decker, Cathy Cohen, and Chantal Hinds), *Next100*. 2024

COMMENTARY ON LOCAL POLITICS

"What's the Matter with Illinois? The Fair Tax Fails" (with Tom Ogorzalek and Jacob Wu), *Chicago Democracy Project* (*CDP*). 2021

"A View from Downballot: Fractures in Cook County's Democratic Coalition" (with Tom Ogorzalek and Bianca Varlesi), *CDP*. 2021

"The Racial Divide in Chicagoland's Experiences of Policing" (with Matthew Nelsen and Tom Ogorzalek), *CDP*. 2020

"Breaking Down Kim Foxx's Win in the 2020 Primary" (with Tom Ogorzalek), *CDP*. 2020

"How Did Chicago's Segregated Neighborhoods Vote in the Mayoral Election?", *CDP*. 2019

"Toni Preckwinkle and Lori Lightfoot's Overlapping Bases" (with Tom Ogorzalek), *CDP*. 2019

MISCELLANEOUS WRITING

"Playing Politics: Using Games to Help Students Prepare for Final Assessments" (with Justin Zimmerman), *APSA Educate*. 2021

Presentations & Talks

INVITED TALKS

"TBD", American Bar Foundation Speaker Series 2027

"Constructing Racial Liberalism: The Divergent Paths of Fair Employment and Fair Housing on the Congressional Agenda", American Politics Workshop, University of Chicago 2024

"Constructing Racial Liberalism: The Divergent Paths of Fair Employment and Fair Housing Legislation, 1941-68", Research Workshop in American Politics, UC Berkeley 2023

"Building a Civil Rights Agenda: The Democratic Party and the Origins of Racial Liberalism," American Bar Foundation Speaker Series 2018

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS: PRESENTATIONS

"'The Decision Has Been Made by the Man with All the Votes': Lyndon Johnson and the Unexpected Campaign for the Fair Housing Act"

American Political Science Association (Boston, MA) 2025

Northeastern Political Science Association Conference (Philadelphia, PA); *Toronto Political Development Workshop* (Toronto, ON) 2025

Social Science History Association (Toronto, ON); *American Political Science Association* (Philadelphia, PA) 2024

"Partisan Dynamics, the Counter-majoritarian Difficulty, and Administrative Law"

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2026

"Conditioning the Counter-Majoritarian Difficulty: Parties and Judicial Power" (with Warren Snead)

Law & Society Association (San Francisco, CA) 2026

Northeastern Political Science Association (Boston, MA); *American Political Science Association* (Philadelphia, PA); *Midwest Political Science Association* (Chicago, IL) 2024

"The Re-Emergence of Factional Conflict in Chicago City Council"

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2025

"Remarks on the 90th Anniversary of Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction in America*"

Organization of American Historians (Chicago, IL) 2025

"Constructing Racial Liberalism: The Divergent Trajectories of Fair Employment and Fair Housing on the Congressional Agenda"

Policy History Workshop: The State of the Field (ASU Center for American Institutions) 2024

Social Science History Association (Washington, DC) 2023

Class and Race Online Seminar Series (virtual); *Junior Americanist Workshop Series* (virtual); *American Political Science Association* (Montreal, QC); *Toronto Political Development Workshop* (Toronto, ON); *Midwest Political Science Association* (Chicago, IL) 2022

"Beyond Black Robes: Assigning Responsibility for Supreme Court Decisions" (with Warren Snead)

Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans, LA) 2024

"Good Neighbors? Gentrification, Community Identity, and Political Choice in Chicago" (with Matthew D. Nelsen and Tom Ogorzalek)

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2024

American Political Science Association (Los Angeles, CA) 2023

"Doing the Dirty Work in the Courts: How the Republican Party Uses Judicial Action to Narrow the Scope of Partisan Conflict" (with Warren Snead)

Southern Political Science Association (St. Pete Beach, FL) 2023

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2022

"Political Preferences and Participation in Gentrifying Neighborhoods" (with Matthew D. Nelsen and Tom Ogorzalek)

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2022

"Building a Civil Rights Agenda: The Democratic Party and the Origins of Racial Liberalism"

Social Science History Association (Philadelphia, PA); *American Political Science Association* (Seattle, OR); *Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop* (Northwestern University); *Law and Society Association* (virtual); *Advanced Quantitative Methods Workshop* (Northwestern 2021

University); *New England Political Science Association* (virtual); *Midwest Political Science Association* (virtual); *Southern Political Science Association* (virtual)

"Pursuing Social Policy Expansion through Civil Rights"

Law and Society Association (virtual) 2020

American Political Development & Social Policy Workshop (Northwestern University) 2019

"From Civil Rights to Social Policy: The Political Development of Family and Medical Leave"

Toronto Political Development Workshop (Toronto, ON) 2019

Law and Society Association (Toronto, ON); *Policy History Conference* (Tempe, AZ); *American Political Development & Social Policy Workshop* (Northwestern University) 2018

Social Science History Association (Montreal, QC) 2017

"Justifying the Carceral State: Advocacy Frames and White Opposition to Criminal Justice Reform" (with Brianna White and Denzel Avant)

American Political Science Association (Boston, MA); *Law and Society Association* (Toronto, ON); Canada; *Midwest Political Science Association* (Chicago, IL) 2018

"City Trenches in a Digital World: Neighborhood-Level Social Media as a Site of Civil Society" (with Tom Ogorzalek)

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2018

PANELIST, CONFERENCE PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

"Author Meets Critics: 'Through the Roof: Housing, Capitalism, and the State in America and Germany' by Alexander Reisenbichler", *American Political Science Association* 2026

"Author-Meets-Critics: 'Punish Treason, Reward Loyalty: The Forgotten Fourteenth Amendment I' by Mark A. Graber", *American Political Science Association* 2023

"Author-Meets-Critics: 'Race, Rights, and Rifles: Racial Prejudice and White Gun Policy Preferences' by Alexandra Filindra", *American Political Science Association* 2023

DISCUSSANT, CONFERENCE PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

"Democracy, Representation, and American Political Development", *American Political Science Association* 2026

"Historical Development, Identity, and Political Beliefs", *American Political Science Association* 2026

"Historical Approaches to Contemporary American Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2026

"Housing Policy and Politics in the U.S.", *Social Science History Association* 2025

"Chicago Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2025

"Big City Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2025

"Communities, Housing, Migration, and Criminal Justice", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2025

"The Development of Welfare States and Social Policy", *American Political Science Association* 2024

"The U.S. Supreme Court in Contemporary Democratic Politics", *American Political Science Association* 2024

"Challenges and Solutions in Housing Policy", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2024

"The American Struggle for Civil Rights: Persistence, Resistance, and Retrenchment", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2024

"Mid Century Policymaking in the United States", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2024

"Historical and Contemporary Issues in the US Party System", *American Political Science Association* 2023

"Financial Policy, Congress, & the American Political Economy", *Consortium on American Political Economy—Junior Working Group* 2023

"Enforcing Boundaries of Belonging in the (Post)Colonial State", *Social Science History Association* 2023

"Racializing Political Power", *Social Science History Association* 2023

"Lightning Round: Research in Five: Graduate Students II", *American Political Science Association* 2021

"Political Identity", *New England Political Science Association* 2021

"The American State's Retreat from Civil Rights", *Social Science History Association* 2019

CHAIR, CONFERENCE PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

"Chicago Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2025

"Big City Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2025

"Historical Development of Political Economies", *American Political Science Association* 2024

"Race, Inequality, and Qualitative Methods in Urban Politics", *Midwest Political Science Association* 2024

"Race and Urban Politics", *American Political Science Association* 2023

"Governing through Finance", *Social Science History Association* 2023

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR, UNDERGRADUATE-LEVEL

University of Illinois Chicago

- Politics of Housing 2027
- Internships in Political Science 2026
- Power and Politics in Chicago 2026
- Chicago's Future 2025-27 (2x)

Northwestern University

- Engage Chicago 2025-26 (2x)
- Brady Scholars Program: The Civically Engaged Life 2020
- Field Studies in Social Justice 2020

INSTRUCTOR, GRADUATE-LEVEL

University of Illinois Chicago

- Urban Political Development 2026

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Northwestern University

Congress and the Legislative Process 2020

Institutions, Rules, & Models in Social Science 2019

Urban Politics 2018

Studying Public Opinion 2018

Tufts University

Introduction to Comparative Politics 2016

Introduction to American Politics 2015

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

Northwestern University, Department of Political Science

"Teaching R" (grad-level) 2021

"Introduction to data visualization" (grad- and undergrad-level) 2020

"Introduction to R" (undergrad research assistant training) 2018-19 (2x)

"Introduction to R" and "Intermediate R for social scientists" (grad-level) 2018

Northwestern University, Master of Science in Analytics Program

"R boot camp" (core instructor for 3-day program) 2018-21 (3x)

Northwestern University, Searle Center for Teaching & Learning

"Encouraging Student Writing through Constructive Feedback" 2019

"Establishing the TA-Professor Relationship" 2019

Center for Civic Engagement, Northwestern University

"What's on your ballot?", pre-election event for graduate students 2020

"Orientation to Rogers Park", Jumpstart Corps training program 2020

"Introduction to Chicago", New Student Orientation for graduate students 2020

Northwestern University BRIDGE Program

"Using a Citation Manager for Research and Writing" 2019

GUEST LECTURES

"American Political Development," *American Politics Proseminar*, Northwestern University 2024

"The Politics and Policy of Racial Segregation and Housing Inequality in Chicago," *Engage Chicago*, Northwestern University Center for Civic Engagement 2024

"Racial Segregation and Housing Inequality in Chicago," *Engage Chicago*, Northwestern University Center for Civic Engagement 2023

"Chicago Politics: The Emergence of New Coalitions and the Aftermath of the 2023 Elections," *Urban Politics*, Northwestern University 2023

"Social Policy and Inequality," *Introduction to American Politics*, Northwestern University 2018

Public Engagement

Research presentations and briefings

"Reviving Local Democracy: New Conflicts in the Chicago City Council", *Zona Abierta* Speaker Series, hosted by the Latino Cultural Center at the University of Illinois Chicago — 2025

"Building a Community Safety Agenda: What Are Communities Asking For?", briefing organized by the Congressional Tri-Caucus — 2024

"Perspectives on Community Safety", public webinar hosted by Movement for Black Lives — 2024

"Midwest Democracy Convening", event for advocacy organizations hosted by Joyce Foundation — 2023

"The Overlooked Power of the Other Swing Voter", public webinar co-hosted by GenForward — 2022

Panels and roundtables

"The People: Sovereignty, Land, Revolution", panel at *Declarations of Independence: Who Are The People*, LAS Faculty Research Symposium, hosted by University of Illinois Chicago — 2026

"How Did We Get Here?", panel at *Virtual National Roundtable: From Poverty to Prosperity: What Philanthropy Must Face*, hosted by Good Nation — 2025

"Roundtable on the Consequences of the 2024 Election", Conference on the 2024 Presidential Election and the Future of American Politics, hosted by the University of Chicago — 2024

Presentations for advocacy and non-profit organizations

"How to Follow the News Without Losing Your Mind", presentation for Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago — 2025

"Chicago's city budget", presentation for Chicago Asian Americans for Environmental Justice — 2024

"Chicago's city budget, 2023", presentation for Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago — 2023

"Debriefing the Chicago municipal elections", presentation for Asian American Midwest Progressives and Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago — 2023

"Chicago's city budget, 2022", presentation for Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago — 2022

Media interviews

Interviewed for article about Chicago City Council in *The Chicago Tribune* — 2025

Interviewed for articles about 2022 elections with WBEZ, ABC 7 Chicago/WLS, and CNBC — 2022

Interviewed for podcast about 2020 elections by Daily Northwestern — 2020

Awards & Honors

Fellowships

American Bar Foundation/Northwestern University Doctoral Fellowship — 2020-22

American Political Science Association Public Scholarship Program — 2020-21

Awards

Honorable Mention, Walter Dean Burnham Award for Best Dissertation, Politics and History Section, American Political Science Association — 2024

Robert O. Hetlage Prize (outstanding article by a doctoral fellow), American Bar Foundation 2022

Graduate Research Award, Political Organizations and Parties Section, American Political Science Association 2021

Minar Prize (outstanding graduate paper), Political Science, Northwestern University 2018

Belfer Award (best undergraduate paper), Political Science, Tufts University 2015

Eliot Award (excellence in academics and civic affairs), Political Science, Tufts University 2015

GRANTS

Moody Research Grant, Lyndon B. Johnson Library Foundation 2023

Schlesinger Fellowship, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation 2021

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University Graduate School 2020

Minar Memorial Summer Award, Northwestern University 2019

American Politics Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University 2019; 17

SCHOLARSHIPS

Howard Penniman Scholarship for Graduate Study 2016

Davis United World Scholarship 2011-15

Service

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Professional Associations—American Political Science Association

- Politics and History Section, Executive Council Member 2025-27
- Politics and History Section, Walter Dean Burnham Award Committee Member 2025
- Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, Executive Committee Member 2023-24

Professional Associations—Social Science History Association

- States, Politics, and Society Network, Co-Chair 2025
- Politics Network, Chair 2024

Journals—Editorial Roles

- *Law & Social Inquiry*, Editorial Committee Member 2021-22

Journals—Peer Reviewer

- *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*
- *Law & Policy*
- *Law & Social Inquiry*
- *Perspectives on Politics*
- *Political Behavior*
- *Politics, Groups, and Identities*
- *Political Psychology*

Political Research Quarterly

Studies in American Political Development

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

University of Illinois Chicago

- Political Science Advisory Committee, *Member* (elected) 2026-27
- American Politics Qualifying Exam Committee, *Member* 2026-28

Northwestern University

- Center for Civic Engagement, *Graduate Student Advisor* 2020-23
- Northwestern University Public Interest Program, *Mentor* 2022-23
- Graduate Leadership and Advocacy Council, *Survey Coordinator* (elected) 2017-18

Northwestern University Department of Political Science

- Teaching Committee, *Member* 2019-20
- Graduate Student Association, *Co-Chair* (elected) 2018-19
- Ralph Bunche Summer Institute recruitment fair, *Department Representative* 2017

American Bar Foundation

- Branding Enhancement Committee, *Member* 2021

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS—ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES

Northwestern APD & Social Policy Workshop, *Organizer* 2019, 18

Chicago area Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop, *Lead Organizer* 2019, 18

Chicago area Social and Political Behavior Workshop, *Organizer* 2018

Affiliations

Chicago United for Equity, *Fellow* 2025-26

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois Chicago, *Faculty Fellow* 2025-26

Comparative Historical Social Sciences Workshop, Northwestern University, *Affiliate* 2016-23

Center for Legal Studies, Northwestern University, *Graduate Fellow* 2017-23

Chicago Democracy Project, Northwestern University, *Graduate Affiliate* 2017-21

Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life, Northwestern University, *Graduate Fellow* 2018-21

Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, *Graduate Assistant* 2017-19

Training

American Political Economy Summer School 2021

Center on Democracy and Organizing Summer Institute 2019

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research 2019

Eighth Annual Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference 2017

Skills

Languages	English (native), Tamil (fluent), French (basic)
Software	R, NVivo, MAXQDA, Canvas LMS

References

Reuel Rogers	r-rogers@northwestern.edu	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Chloe Thurston	thurston@northwestern.edu	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Anthony S. Chen	anthony-chen@northwestern.edu	Associate Professor, Departments of Sociology and Political Science, Northwestern University
Ann Orloff	a-orloff@northwestern.edu	Professor, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
Cathy Cohen	cjcohen@uchicago.edu	D. Gale Johnson Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago