

# BIRAJ BISHT

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## Education

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<b>University of California, Irvine</b> PhD in Education, Specialization in Education Policy & Social Context	Expected 2027
<b>Brown University</b> MA, Urban Education Policy	2019
<b>University of Oregon, Clark Honors College</b> BS, Economics; Mathematics Minor	2015

## Research Interests

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Education Policy, Educational and Social Inequality, and Quantitative Methods

## Publications

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### *Journal Articles*

**Bisht, B.**, Bonilla, S., Kim, G., and Penner, E. (2026). Cultural relevance at scale: The effects of an ethnic studies expansion on academic outcomes. *American Educational Research Journal*. (Accepted)

Robinson, C., **Bisht, B.**, and Loeb, S. (2025). The inequity of opt-in educational resources and an intervention to increase equitable access. *Educational Researcher*. DOI:10.3102/0013189X251331518

*Media mentions:* Hechinger Report, Brookings, Education Week

### *Working Papers*

**Bisht, B.**, LeClair, Z., Loeb, S., and Sun, M. (2022). Paraeducators: Growth, diversity, and a dearth of professional supports. *Annenberg Institute EdWorkingPaper: 21-490*. DOI:10.26300/nk1z-c164

*Media mentions:* FutureEd, New America, Education Week

### *Works in Progress*

Racial Congruence and Cultural Relevance

Measuring Ethnic Studies Pedagogical Quality using Course Syllabi

Non-Academic Effects of Ethnic Studies: School Engagement and Belonging

Effects of Providing Tutoring at Scale

## Other Reports and Articles

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Hanson, H., **Bisht, B.**, and Motamedi, G. J. (2017). Advanced course enrollment and performance in Washington state: Comparing Spanish-speaking students with other language minority students and English-only speakers (REL 2017–220). *Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest*. Retrieved from [ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs).

Duessen, T., Hanson, H., and **Bisht, B.** (2017). Are two commonly used early warning indicators accurate predictors of dropout for English learner students? Evidence from six districts in Washington state (REL 2017–261). *Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest*. Retrieved from [ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs).

Stevens, D., Frazelle, S., **Bisht, B.**, and Hamilton, R. (2016). Online credit recovery: Enrollment and passing patterns in Montana Digital Academy courses (REL 2016–139). *Regional Educational Laboratory Northwest*. Retrieved from [ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs).

## Presentations and Conferences

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**Bisht, B.** and Penner, E. (2026). “Race match and cultural relevance: Evidence from ethnic studies.” Educational Opportunity Conference, Stanford University.

**Bisht, B.**, Bonilla, S., Kim, G., and Penner, E. (2025). “Cultural relevance at scale: The effects of an ethnic studies expansion on academic outcomes.” Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness.

**Bisht, B.**, Bonilla, S., Kim, G., and Penner, E. (2025). “Cultural relevance at scale: The effects of an ethnic studies expansion on academic outcomes.” American Educational Research Association.

**Bisht, B.**, LeClair, Z., Loeb, S., and Sun, M. (2022). “Paraeducators: Growth, diversity, and a dearth of professional supports.” Association for Education Finance and Policy.

Robinson, C., **Bisht, B.**, and Loeb, S. (2022). “The inequity of opt-in educational resources and an intervention to increase equitable access.” Annenberg Institute.

## Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

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Association for Education Finance and Policy, Pre-Doctoral Fellow	2021
Clark Honors College Shephard Family Scholarship	2012–15
Clark Honors College Senior Thesis Research Award	2014

## Research Experience

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Research Analyst, Annenberg Institute, Brown University	2019–22
Graduate Fellow, Center for Educational Equity, Teachers College	2018–19
Research Analyst for Prof. John Papay, Brown University	2018–19
Research Data Analyst, Education Northwest, Portland, OR	2015–18
Uganda Field Research Analyst for Prof. Alfredo Burlando, University of Oregon	2013–15

## Professional and Academic Service

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Education Policy & Social Context Lab Coordinator, UC Irvine	2024–25
PhD Admissions Committee (Policy area), School of Education, UC Irvine	2023–24
Board, Associated Doctoral Students in Education, UC Irvine	2022–24
Graduate Student Council, Brown University	2018–19

Reviewer: *Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)*; *Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)*

## Skills and Languages

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**Programming:** Stata, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, Dedoose

**Languages:** English (Fluent), Nepali (Conversational), Hindi (Conversational), Spanish (Beginner)