

Research programme: Politician identity, policy implementation and human development outcomes

**IGC Project number 2010-03-011**

**Current project: Muslim legislators and Hindu-Muslim violence**

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This project is part of a wider research agenda on the religious identity of political leaders and a range of religion-differentiated outcomes. It will contribute to a recent literature on identity politics, providing some of the early evidence on religious identity. We will focus on Hindu v Muslim identity in India, a vibrant and topical political issue. We are currently updating a unique dataset on Hindu-Muslim violence put together by Ashutosh Varshney and Steve Wilkinson using newspaper archives. Their data base ends in 1995 and we are updating it to 2010. We are at the same time working to identify the religion of every elected leader in Independent India based upon their names. Our research will involve merging the electoral data with data on violence, turnout, voter satisfaction and public goods.