

## Amal Kumar

Department of Public Policy & Administration  
California State University, Sacramento  
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### EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. Harvard University, 2021**

Education

Dissertation: *Organizational Identity and Higher Education Governance: Historical Case Studies from California, 1960-2011*

**Ed.M. Harvard University, 2018**

**A.B. Georgetown University, 2011**

Economics & Spanish, *magna cum laude*

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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#### Appointments

**California State University, Sacramento**

2022— Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy & Administration

2024— Core Faculty, Doctorate in Education Leadership (Ed.D.)

**Harvard Graduate School of Education**

2021-2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education

#### Affiliations

**Center for Studies in Higher Education, UC Berkeley**

2021— Research Associate

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Refereed

2024 **Kumar, A.** & Higgins, M.C. (De)Constructing the disruption: enacted sensemaking and sensegiving in institutionally plural fields. *Journal of Organizational Sociology*, 2(3), 253-273.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/joso-2023-0021>

2023 **Kumar, A.** The origins and evolution of academic drift at the California State University, 1960-2005. *Higher Education*, 85(2), 265-281. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00832-w>

2022 Christopher, T., **Kumar, A.**, & Benson, R. T. Fine wine at discount prices? A review of the research on the part-time faculty workforce. *CSHE Research & Occasional Papers Series*, 7.22, 1–14. [Stable Link](#).

#### Invited (Editorial Review)

2025 **Kumar, A.** (in-press). Productizing pedagogy: Educational television, wicked problems, and the study of social innovation. In S. Dorado, R. Hamman, H. Haugh, & R.D. Wadhwani (Eds.), *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, 96, 51-70. Emerald Publishing.

2015 Howell, J., Pender, M., and **Kumar, A.** Academic match and fit: What can we learn from stated preferences, student actions, and collegiate outcomes? In A. Kelley, J. Howell, & C. Sattin-Bajaj (Eds.), *Matching Students to Opportunity: Expanding College Choice, Access, and Quality* (33-52). Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

**Book Reviews and Research Briefs**

- 2025 **Kumar, A.** (forthcoming) [Review of the book *Higher Education for All: Racial Inequality, Cold War Liberalism, and the California Master Plan* by Andrew Stone Higgins]. *Southern California Quarterly*, XX(x), XX-XX.
- 2022 **Kumar, A.**, & Benson, R.T. From the old normal to the next normal: Inequities in faculty hiring, promotion, tenure, and advancement. Washington, DC: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. [Stable Link](#).
- 2015 **Kumar, A.**, & Hurwitz, M. Supply and demand in the higher education market: College enrollment. New York: The College Board. [Stable Link](#).
- 2015 Hurwitz, M., & **Kumar, A.** Supply and demand in the higher education market: College admission and college choice. New York: The College Board. [Stable Link](#).
- 2012 Kienzl, G. S., Wesaw, A. J., and **Kumar, A.** Understanding the transfer process: A report by the Institute for Higher Education Policy for the Initiative on Transfer Policy and Practice. Washington, DC: The College Board. [Stable Link](#).

**PRESENTATIONS [SELECTED]**

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**Invited Talks**

- 2024 "What's possible in higher education" [panel moderator], Hornets Politics and Policy Alumni, California State University, July 29.
- 2023 "Policy implications of organizational identity ambiguity in higher education coordination," ASHE Graduate Student Policy Seminar, March 9.
- 2021 "Promotion, tenure, and advancement through the lens of 2020: The next normal," (with R. Todd Benson), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, September 23-27.
- 2021 "The origins and evolution of academic drift at the California State University, 1960-2005" Centre for Global Higher Education, University of Oxford, June 17.  
David P. Gardner Graduate Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, March 30.
- 2021 "Designed to be Ineffective? Higher Education Coordination in California After the Master Plan," University of California Office of the President, August 26.  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), March 19.

**Conferences**

- 2025 History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Providence, RI.
- 2025 American Education Research Association Annual Meeting [*discussant*].
- 2025 Pacific Sociological Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- 2024 History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2024 Public Management Research Conference, Seattle, WA,
- 2023 Conference of Research in Entrepreneurship, Education, and Technology, Ottawa, Canada.
- 2022 The Business History Conference, Virtual.
- 2021 American Educational Research Association, Virtual.
- 2021 The Business History Conference, Virtual.
- 2020 The 16<sup>th</sup> New Institutionalism Workshop, Odense, Denmark.
- 2019 European Group of Organizational Studies, Edinburgh, UK.

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

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### **California State University, Sacramento**

#### *Instructor of Record*

Introduction to Public Policy & Administration (Masters | Fall 22, 23, 24, 25)

Public Administration & Management II (Masters | Spring 23, 24 25)

Education Policy I (Doctoral | Fall 25)

#### *Advising*

2025-26 Alicia Barlow, Ed.D. Candidate (Chair)

2024-25 Kate Forman, Ed.D. (Committee)

2022— MPPA culminating project supervision (11 students)

### **Harvard Graduate School of Education**

#### *Teaching Fellow*

Driving Change: Leadership Seminar (Doctoral | Fall 21)

Doctor of Education Leadership Capstone (Doctoral | AY 18, 19, 20)

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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| 2025 | CSU Sacramento Incentive for Developing External Awards                            | \$2,500  |
| 2021 | National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (with R. Todd Benson)    | \$8,000  |
| 2020 | Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University                             | \$39,000 |
| 2020 | Best Reviewer Award, Management History Division, Academy of Management Conference |          |
| 2020 | Harvard Graduate School of Education Research Grant                                | \$1,200  |
| 2019 | Jens Aubrey Westengard Summer Award, Harvard University                            | \$1,400  |
| 2016 | Phi Delta Kappa Research and Innovation in Education Grant                         | \$500    |
| 2016 | Presidential Scholarship, Harvard University                                       | \$4,000  |

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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### **Editorial Leadership**

#### *California Journal of Politics and Policy*

2025— Editor

#### *Research & Occasional Paper Series (ROPS), UC Berkeley*

2024 Editor

2021-2023 Associate Editor

### **Reviews**

*Higher Education, Higher Education Policy, Southern California Quarterly, California Journal of Politics and Policy, Management & Organizational History, Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference (ASHE), American Education Research Association Conference (AERA), Academy of Management Conference (AOM)*

### **Committees**

#### *Department of Public Policy & Administration*

Faculty Search Committee

DEI Scholarship Evaluation Committee

Admissions Committee

#### *College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies*

SSIS Scholarship Committee

*College of Education*

Ed.D. Steering Committee

Ed.D. Outstanding Dissertation Committee

*CSU Sacramento*

Senator, CSU Sacramento Faculty Senate

Search Equity Advocate

**Memberships**

2024— History of Education Society

2024— Public Management Research Association

2024— Pacific Sociological Association

2021— American Educational Research Association

***Updated: June 2025***