

Simeon Charaka Nichter

Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Encina Hall, Stanford University
616 Serra St
Stanford, CA 94305-6055
Tel: (415) 347-0005
nichter@stanford.edu

Academic Positions

- 2010-2011 **Stanford University**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
- 2010-2011 **Center for Global Development**
Postdoctoral Fellow (Non-Resident)

Education

- 2004-2010 **University of California, Berkeley**
Ph.D. in Political Science (2010); M.A. in Political Science (2006)
Fields: Comparative Politics; Latin America; Methodology
Dissertation Title: *Politics and Poverty: Electoral Clientelism in Latin America*
Dissertation Committee: David Collier (Chair), Ruth Berins Collier,
Henry Brady, and Frederico Finan
Distinction, Comprehensive Examination in Comparative Politics (2006)
Awarded National Science Foundation and Jacob K. Javits Fellowships
- 2002-2004 **Harvard University**
M.P.A. in International Development, John F. Kennedy School of Government
Ph.D.-level coursework in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics
Course Assistant, “Economic Development” and “Advanced Econometric Methods”
Received Harvard Merit Scholarship for academic achievement
Awarded Caballo Prize for best paper on poverty at Harvard Kennedy School
- 1994-1998 **Carleton College**
B.A. in Economics, *Magna Cum Laude*
Phi Beta Kappa and Dean’s List
Studied abroad in China (political economy) and Russia (culture and language)

Additional Training

- Summer 2010 **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**
Short course by Donald Green on designing, conducting, and analyzing
field experiments

- Winter 2007 **Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)**
A project of the Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods designed to improve qualitative and multi-method research in political science
- Summer 2005 **Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)**
An NSF-funded project designed to improve the integration of theoretical models and empirical research in political science

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Economic Determinants of Land Invasions” (with F. Daniel Hidalgo, Suresh Naidu and Neal Richardson). *Review of Economics and Statistics* 92 (August 2010): 505-523.
- “Small Firm Growth in Developing Countries” (with Lara Goldmark). *World Development* 37 (September 2009): 1453–1464.
- “Economic Reforms and Democracy: Evidence of a J-Curve in Latin America” (with Jordan Gans-Morse). *Comparative Political Studies* 41 (October 2008): 1398–1426.
- “Vote Buying or Turnout Buying? Machine Politics and the Secret Ballot.” *American Political Science Review* 102 (February 2008): 19–31.

Working Papers

- “Varieties of Clientelism: Machine Politics During Elections” (with Jordan Gans-Morse and Sebastian Mazzuca). Paper prepared for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington, D.C., September 3, 2010.
- “Declared Choice: Citizen Strategies and Dual Commitment Problems in Clientelism.” Paper prepared for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Toronto, Canada, September 5, 2009.
- “Political Cash Transfers? Redistribution, Elections and Bolsa Familia in Brazil” (with Claudio Ferraz). Paper prepared for presentation at the Annual National Congress of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, April 4, 2009.
- “Conceptualizing Vote Buying.” Thesis for M.A. in Political Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Other Professional Papers

- “Understanding Micro and Small Enterprise Growth” (with Lara Goldmark). Published by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), November 2005.
- “Enhancing Productive Opportunities in Rural Pernambuco: Community-Driven Development in Brazil.” Thesis for M.P.A. in International Development, Harvard University (HKS), February 2004. *Awarded Carballo Prize for best paper on poverty at Harvard Kennedy School.*

“Understanding Microfinance in the Brazilian Context” (with Lara Goldmark and Anita Fiori).
Published by the National Economic and Social Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES) and
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), July 2002.

“Entendendo as Microfinanças no Contexto Brasileiro” (with Lara Goldmark and Anita Fiori).
Published by the National Economic and Social Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES) and
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), July 2002.

Fellowships and Awards

2010-2011	Princeton University <i>Postdoctoral Fellowship</i> (declined), Center for the Study of Democratic Politics
2009-2010	University of California, Berkeley <i>Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award</i> Awarded to fewer than ten percent of Graduate Student Instructors at UC Berkeley
2008-2009	National Science Foundation <i>Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant</i>
2007-2010	National Science Foundation <i>Graduate Research Fellowship</i>
2005-2007	U.S. Department of Education <i>Jacob K. Javits Fellowship</i>
2006	University of California, Berkeley <i>Distinction</i> , Comprehensive Examination in Comparative Politics
2005	National Science Foundation <i>Grant, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)</i>
2005	University of California, Berkeley <i>Graduate Fellowship and Power Fellowship</i>
2004	Harvard University <i>Manuel Carballo Prize</i> Awarded annually for best paper on poverty at Harvard Kennedy School
2004	Harvard University <i>Master's Thesis Award</i> Selected as one of best MA theses on development (presented by President of University)
2004	Harvard University <i>International Summit of Achievement Delegate</i> Selected by Harvard Kennedy School deans and faculty

- 2003 **Harvard University**
Research Fellowship
 Awarded by Center for International Development for qualitative research in Brazil
- 2002-2004 **Harvard University**
Merit Scholarship
- 1998 **Carleton College**
Certificate of Advanced Study in Foreign Language / Area Studies
 Awarded for studies in Russian language and culture

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2009 **University of California, Berkeley**
Graduate Student Instructor
 “Latin American Politics” (Upper-level undergraduate course)
 Professor Ruth Berins Collier
 Taught two sections, corrected papers / exams, and held office hours
 Received “Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award”
- Spring 2005 **University of California, Berkeley**
Mentor, Undergraduate-Graduate Mentorship Program
- Spring 2004 **Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government)**
Course Assistant
 “Advanced Quantitative Methods II: Econometrics” (Graduate course)
 Professor Robert Jensen
 Taught special sections, graded exams, and held office hours
- Fall 2003 **Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government)**
Course Assistant
 “Economic Development: Theory, Policy and Evidence” (Graduate course)
 Professors Dani Rodrik and Mark Rosenzweig
 Taught special sections, graded exams, and held office hours
- Spring 1998 **Carleton College**
Tutor, Economics Skills Center
- Fall 1997 **Carleton College**
Tutor, Math Skills Center

Work Experience

- 2004-2005 **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**
Consultant
 Worked on Accelerated Microenterprise Advancement Project
 Conducted research on small firms in developing countries
 Presented findings to USAID officials

- Summer 2003 **World Bank** (Brasilia and Recife, Brazil)
Graduate Researcher
 Analyzed private sector development in rural Brazil
 Conducted econometric analyses to examine project performance
 Interviewed 30 rural communities and 20 officials (in Portuguese)
 Presented findings to Brazilian government and World Bank officials
- Spring 2002 **Development Alternatives, Inc** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
Consultant
 Worked on joint microfinance project of the National Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
 Interviewed 60 microentrepreneurs and 15 loan officers (in Portuguese)
 Lead author of article on microfinance in Brazil
- 1998-2001 **Monitor Group** (U.S., India, Greece)
Consultant
 Worked for global strategy consulting firm advising large corporations
 Collaborated with case teams to develop and present strategies for 11 client projects
 Conducted hundreds of interviews of business elites and customers
 Gained international managerial experience in Mumbai, India and Athens, Greece
- Summer 1996 **3M Worldwide**
Intern
 Worked on environmental affairs in 3M headquarters

Academic Presentations

“Varieties of Clientelism: Machine Politics During Elections” (with Jordan Gans-Morse and Sebastian Mazzuca), paper prepared for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington, D.C., September 3, 2010.

“Declared Choice: Citizen Strategies and Dual Commitment Problems in Clientelism,” paper prepared for presentation at the 68th Annual National Congress of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, April 23, 2010.

“The Politics of Poverty: Political Targeting and Poverty Alleviation in Latin America,” Center for Global Development, Washington, DC, February 19, 2010.

“Declared Choice: Citizen Strategies and Dual Commitment Problems in Clientelism,” paper prepared for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Toronto, Canada, September 5, 2009.

“Who Gets Bought? Vote Buying, Turnout Buying and Other Strategies” (with Jordan Gans-Morse and Sebastian Mazzuca), paper prepared for presentation at the Berkeley-Stanford Comparative Politics Conference, Berkeley, California, April 17, 2009.

“Who Gets Bought? Vote Buying, Turnout Buying and Other Strategies” (with Jordan Gans-Morse and Sebastian Mazzuca), paper prepared for presentation at the 67th Annual National Congress of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, April 5, 2009.

“Political Cash Transfers? Redistribution, Elections and Bolsa Familia in Brazil” (with Claudio Ferraz), paper prepared for presentation at the 67th Annual National Congress of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, April 4, 2009.

“Economic Determinants of Land Invasions” (with F. Daniel Hidalgo, Suresh Naidu and Neal Richardson), paper prepared for presentation at the Berkeley-Stanford Comparative Politics Conference, Stanford University, April 2006.

“Economic Reforms and Democracy: Evidence of a J-Curve in Latin America” (with Jordan Gans-Morse), paper prepared for presentation at the XXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15, 2006.

“Enhancing Productive Opportunities in Rural Pernambuco: Community-Driven Development in Brazil,” paper prepared for poster at the 101st Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington, D.C., September 2, 2005.

“Enhancing Productive Opportunities in Rural Pernambuco: Community-Driven Development in Brazil,” selected to present MA thesis to 200 students and faculty, Harvard University, May 2004.

Professional Service

Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, and *World Development*

Language Skills

English (native)
Portuguese (fluent)
Spanish (fluent)
Russian (fair)