**Bio:** Poulomi Chakrabarti is a graduate student in political science at Brown University. Her research interests include political economy of development, identity politics, public service delivery and local governance with a regional focus on South Asia. Her dissertation project explores the determinants of sub-national variation in development in India. Towards this end, she will study how different political-economic regimes came to be constructed in post-independent India and the role that social coalitions played in this process. Poulomi has a masters degree in international development from MIT and undergraduate degree in urban planning from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi. Before coming to Brown, she worked on issues related to decentralization and local governance at the World Bank in Washington DC.

**Project Title:** One Nation, Many Worlds: What explains the variation in political-economic regimes in India?
**Abstract:**The variation in the development experience across states has puzzled scholars of political economy of development in India for decades. While the North Indian Hindi-belt does worse than sub-Saharan Africa, states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have literacy and infant mortality levels comparable to Western Europe. Though still lagging in social development, Gujarat outpaces other states with its double-digit growth figures. My research aims at explaining the divergence in political-economic regimes, as defined by a regime’s preference and capacity for redistribution or pro-business growth, across Indian states. I focus primarily on the role of social coalitions in determining the predisposition of a state towards a particular regime type. I hypothesize that greater overlap between the political and economic elite is more likely to result in neo-liberal regime, while divergence between the two generates the conditions for social democratic regimes. This is based on the assumption that the presence of non-elite in the State generates greater demands for redistribution, which would get reflected in more progressive social policy and/or greater concerns for symbolic goods. I propose a multi-method research design and employ a comparative historical framework by examining of patterns in public expenditure, social policy and social bases of political and economic elite in four states (Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Bihar). In this process, I will combine statistical analysis with extensive archival research, elite-level interviews and data from other secondary resources. In addition to the policy significance of this project, this work hopes to contribute to the literature on welfare in multiethnic democracies in the global south by bringing insights of identity politics into democratization theory.  **Expected Completion Date:** 2016