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Navin Bapat is currently an Associate Professor in Political Science and the Curriculum of Peace, War, and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1998, an M.A. from Rice in 2001 and a Ph.D. from Rice in 2004, all in political science.

His research utilizes mathematical modeling to develop theoretical explanations of political conflicts, including issues related to terrorism, insurgency, and economic sanctions. He then test explanations from these models by conducting statistical analyses of real world data.

Navin has received two grants from the National Science Foundation, one to examine the effectiveness of economic sanctions, and another to examine the growth of insurgent movements from small cells to large-scale rebellions. These grants have led to publications in the American Journal of Political Science, International Organization, the British Journal of Political Science, Public Choice, and the Journal of Peace Research.

His current work examines American foreign policy and transnational terrorism, the rise of extremism within insurgencies, the link between internal conflict and neoliberal reform in Africa, and the causes of conflict throughout the African state system.