Within both developed and developing countries, citizens' abilities to access public goods remain highly uneven, falling across ethnic, religious, and linguistic lines. Conceptualizing solid waste management as a public good with transboundary environmental and public health implications, I look to unpack this variation further through my dissertation, asking, “How is access to municipal waste collection services influenced by economic inequality?” Building on conversations with scholars during pre-dissertation fieldwork, I hypothesize that the relationship between access and inequality is mediated by differing conceptions of citizenship and entitlements. My project takes place in Kolkata, West Bengal. Despite solid waste being a global issue, India demands special attention: waste and wealth are intimately linked, and with a booming economy that has been the fastest growing for the last two years, India brings to the forefront questions of how to continue economic growth in ways that are sustainable and equitable.

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