

# Department of International Relations

## Doctoral Candidates

**Anil Kumar** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2022). His doctoral thesis is on “*Theorizing Challenges and Opportunities in Cooperation: A Case Study of SAARC*”.

Anil is interested in political theory, the theory of international politics and foreign policies of the South Asian states. Anil has previously worked with, *Srimat Vivekananda Forum* which worked for education and social development of the people in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Anil can be reached at ANILSAGOTRA001@gmail.com.



**Ankur Sharma** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2022). His dissertation title is “*South Asian Border Towns: Interaction & Trajectories*”.

He has qualified UGC-NET for Junior Research Fellow in International & Area Studies and has also qualified UGC-NET in Political Science. His interest areas are Border Studies, South Asian regionalism and Indian foreign policy. With respect to his Ph.D. project, Ankur presented his papers 'Analysis of an Informal Exchange Rate System in Indo-Bhutanese Border Towns' and 'Border Studies in India: Impact of the International Studies Programme' respectively at an international conference on *Borders and Border Studies: The South Asian Perspective* and a workshop on *Borders and Regionalism in South Asia*, both held at South Asian University, New Delhi.

Ankur can be reached at ACE292@gmail.com



**Bipin Ghimire** was a doctoral candidate (2016-2024). His doctoral thesis is on “*Geopolitics and Its Impact on the Foreign Policy of Landlocked Nepal (1955-2017)*”.

Bipin is interested in different research issues that include Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Human Trafficking, Open Borders between Nepal and India. He holds two Master degrees - Master of Arts in Conflict, Peace and Development Studies from Tribhuvan University Nepal, and Master of Arts in International Relations from University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has worked with United Nations High Commission for Refugee, where he focused on the issue of Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal. Bipin has also taught in Siddhartha Multiple College, and was a Consultant for Saferworld. He also worked as a Project Coordinator in Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organisation based in Colombo.



Bipin can be reached at [bipinghimire14@gmail.com](mailto:bipinghimire14@gmail.com).

**Dipyaman Chakrabarti** was a Research Scholar (2018-2021)

Dipyaman completed Bachelor of Arts from Presidency University, Kolkata in History and went on to complete my Masters in Conflict Analysis and Peace Building from Nelson Mandela Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi. He is particularly interested in the politics of the South Asian region with a particular focus on how states formulate their strategic thought and in turn how that affects their foreign policy.



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**Johny Arokiaraj P** was a doctoral candidate (2016-2022) . His doctoral thesis is on “*Populism and the Liberal International Order*”.

Johny was a UGC Junior Research Fellow in International and Area Studies. He has presented his research in International Feminist Journal of Politics Annual Conference in New Delhi (2017), IPSA-NUS Methods School at National University of Singapore (2018) and Workshop on Populism and IR organized by Review of International Studies Journal at Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2018). He has been awarded travel grants from The International Political Science Association and Review of International Studies (Journal published by Cambridge Core). Johny is also interested in Comparative Politics, Domestic Politics in International Relations and Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods.



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**Masih Ullah Khan** was a doctoral candidate (2014-2021). His Doctoral thesis is on “*The Surprising Endurance of Unipolarity: A Theoretical Explanation*”.

Masih has special interest in modern European history and various Realist theories of International Politics. He has published in international journals like the *World Affairs*, national dailies like *The Statesman*. Before enrolling for the PhD programme, he taught French at the Amity University (Noida, NCR). Masih has done his Master’s in European Studies with mention ‘Very Good’ from the University of Geneva. He was awarded the Excellence Scholarship by the Swiss Government for his Master’s degree.

Masih can be reached at [masih.uk@gmail.com](mailto:masih.uk@gmail.com).



**Monica Verma** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2020). Her doctoral thesis is on “*Understanding the Political Economy of South Asian Regional Integration*”.



Monica is interested in issues related to International Political Economy, Political Economy of South Asia, theories of International Relations and power transitions in International System. She has number of publications that includes contribution to the edited volume *Revisiting Nepal's Foreign Policy in Contemporary Global Power* and a book review in *Journal of Borderlands Studies*. Monica has also contributed in the forthcoming publication titled “*Emerging Conflicts and Regional Security in South Asia*”. She has also presented papers in national conference at Indraprastha University, New Delhi, BBAU, Lucknow. Recently, Monica presented her work at the workshop on borders and regionalism in South Asian organised by the South Asian University.

Monica can be reached at GREENYELLOWORANGE.18@gmail.com.

**Md Ziaul Haque Sheikh** was a doctoral candidate (2014-2020). His doctoral thesis is on, “*Assessing the Impact of Religious and Secular Constitutional Identities on Foreign Policy: Comparative Perspectives from South Asia.*”

Ziaul is interested in the areas of comparative religion and politics of South and West Asia, religion and foreign policy and identity politics and societal security issues of South and West Asia. He also has been working as an Assistant Professor of Jagannath University, Dhaka since 2011 and is currently under study leave. Earlier, Ziaul worked with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and WAVE Foundation’s Local Governance project funded by DANIDA. Mr Sheikh has presented several papers such as “Thinking About the Role of Constitutional Identity on Foreign Policy: A Framework for Analysis at the 25<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Political Science 2018 held in Brisbane, Australia, “Reviewing the Great Power Attributes and the Status of the Ottoman Empire and Mughal India as Great power” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Uludag Conference on International Relations 2015 held at the Uludag University, Turkey.

Ziaul has published one book titled ‘*BitarkaRiti*’ (*Debate Rules*) in 2009 and multiple research articles in *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies* and *Bangladesh International Institute of Strategic Studies’* Journal amongst others.

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**Md. Shariful Islam** was Research Scholar (2018-2022).

Shariful’s interest areas are Disciplinary history of IR, IR Theories, foreign policy of Bangladesh, and foreign policy of India amongst others. Shariful has contributed articles to *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal*



of *Bangladesh Studies*, *Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Asian Politics and Policy*, *IBS Journal*, *Social Science Journal*, *India Quarterly* and *Journal of International Affairs*. He is one of the founding faculty members in International Relations at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Shariful can be reached at shariful.shuvo.duir@gmail.com.

**P. S Ramya** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2020). She is working on “*From Military Organizations to Military Institutions? A Study of Myanmar's Tatmadaw*”.

Ramya is interested in South Asia with specific focus on Myanmar and Pakistan, civil-military relations and theoretical & conceptual frameworks of International Relations. She was also a Research Fellow in the International Strategic and Security Studies Programme (ISSSP), National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore. Ramya has published articles, commentaries and analytical papers in various journals and web-based platforms.



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**Sankalp Gurjar** was a doctoral candidate (2014-2019). His doctoral thesis is on, “*India's Quest for Energy Security in Nigeria and Sudan (1991-2015)*”.

Sankalp is interested in India's Foreign and Security Policies, Energy Politics, African Affairs, Geopolitics of Indian Ocean Region. Sankalp has contributed articles to, *India Quarterly*, *African Affairs*, *Seminar*, *The Diplomat* and *South Asian Voices*. He was a Commissioning Editor with E-IR (2017-18). His paper on ‘Chinese Maritime Activities in the Indian Ocean Maritime Africa’ won Mira Sinha Bhattacharjea Award for the Best Paper at the 10th All India Conference of China Studies held at the University of Goa, December 2017.



Sankalp can be reached at sankalp.gurjar@gmail.com.

**Shubham Sharma** completed his M.Phil (2016-2018) on, “*Anarchy and Structural Realism- A Dialectical Reconsideration of Concept and Epistemology*”. Shubham's areas of interests are Marxism, Political Theory, International Theory and Nuclear Weapons. He has contributed opinion pieces to *The Statesman*. Shubham can be reached at com.shubham10@gmail.com

**Syed Eesar Mehdi** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2023). His doctoral thesis is on, “*Narrating Quotidian Kashmir: Beyond India-Pakistan Nationalist Discourses*”.

Eesar is interested in the Philosophy of Science, International Relations Theory, particularly Non-Western epistemologies. Eesar has contributed articles, op-eds *Afghan Zariza*, *Greater Kashmir*, *Kashmir Images* and others.

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**Syed Murtaza Mushtaq** was a doctoral candidate (2015-2022). His doctoral thesis is on “*Political Islam and the ideas of State, War and Inter-state Relations: An Analysis through the Writings of Maulana Maududi, Tahirul Qadri, Javed Ahmad Ghamidi and Murtadha Muttahari*”.

Murtaza takes keen interest in Political Islam and is able to read original texts from Urdu and Arabic. His research interests include Islam and International Relations, Political Theory and Philosophy of Religion, Non-Western IR Theory, Terrorism and West Asian Politics.

Murtaza can be reached at [SYEDMURTAZAAMU@gmail.com](mailto:SYEDMURTAZAAMU@gmail.com).



**S. Chaminda Padmakumara** was a doctoral candidate (2014-2020). His doctoral thesis is on “*Southeast Asia as a Region: a Conceptual Study on ‘Mandala’ and ASEAN*”.

Chaminda’s research interests include Regional Integration, Regional Organizations and Environmental Governance. Chaminda has served as a resource person in various Sri Lankan academic institutions which consist of Faculty of Graduate Studies of University of Colombo, Bandaranaike Center for International Studies (BCIS), Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) and The Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC). He has presented research papers by particularly focusing on the concept of region and the Southeast Asian regionalism at various international conferences held in Japan (2015), India (2015), Bangladesh (2016), Singapore (2017) and Malaysia (2017). Chaminda has authored a number of articles and book chapters on the themes of Regional Cooperation, Environmental Governance, Disciplinary Identity of International Relations and International System. He has recently contributed two Chapters on *Modern South Asian Thinkers*, a forthcoming to be published by SAGE, 2018.

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**Vaishali Raghuvanshi** was a doctoral candidate (2013-2018). Her doctoral thesis is on, “*Images of the other: Pakistan in the Narratives of India's Popular Culture*”.

Vaishali’s research interests are India-Pakistan Relations and Cinema, South Asian Politics and Popular Culture, Using Creative space in International Relations and Mental Borders. Vaishali is a recipient of Doctoral fellowship from Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). She has also received International Travel Grant from ICSSR to attend 58th Annual International Studies Association Convention. Vaishali has participated in several International and National conferences including International Studies Association Annual Convention from 2015-2018. She has authored various journal articles and book chapters for national and international publications. She is also a member of editorial board of an International journal, *World Research of Political Science Journal*. Presently, Vaishali is working as an Assistant Professor at School of Business studies and Social Sciences, Christ University, Bangalore.



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