#### WORK

#### Current

Associate Professor (July 2018 onwards) Department of International Relations and Governance Studies Shiv Nadar University

#### Past

Assistant Professor (July 2017-July 2018) Department of International Relations and Governance Studies Shiv Nadar University

Assistant Professor (August 2010-July 2017) Centre for International Politics Central University of Gujarat

#### **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

- International theory
- Contemporary geopolitics
- Indian foreign policy
- International thought
- Historical international relations of South Asia

### EDUCATION

# Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), 2013

School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

#### Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.), 2008

School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**Master of Arts (M.A.)** in Politics with Specialisation in International Relations, 2006 Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

#### **Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)** in Political Science, 2004 Mumbai University, Mumbai

#### SERVICE

- Head, Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, India (January 2024 onwards).
- Member, Board of Studies, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, RV University, Bengaluru, India (2021-22; 23-present).
- Member, Board of Studies, School of Internal Security and Defence and Strategic Studies, Rashtriya Rakshashakti University, Gujarat, India (2023-2024).

- Member, Advisory Committee, Cambridge Review of International Affairs (2022-2024).
- Contributing Editor, India's World.
- Columnist, The Hindustan Times and India's World.

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- The Sovereign Lives of India and Pakistan: Post-Partition Statehood in South Asia. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Co-authored with Rajesh Rajagopalan. *Nuclear South Asia: Keywords and Concepts,* New Delhi and Oxford: Routledge, 2014.

# **Journal Articles**

- "Political deadness': Raj intellectuals, geographical imagination, and the denial of Indian sovereignty', *Global Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming (September 2025).
- 'The World Delhi Wants: Official Indian Conceptions of International Order, c. 1998-2023', International Affairs, vol. 99, no. 4, 2023, pp. 1401-1419.
- 'Locusts vs. the gigantic octopus: the Hindutva international and "Akhand Bharat" in V.D. Savarkar's history of India', *India Review*, vol. 21, no.4-5, 2022, pp. 512-545. https://doi.org/10.1080/14736489.2022.2131121
- 'How to decentre Aberystwyth and tell a critical, multilocational IR story', *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, vol. 34, no. 6, 2021, pp. 882-887. https://doi.org/10.1080/09557571.2021.1994321
- 'What Does the International Mean? IR's Deep Ontology and the Promise it Holds', Studies in Indian Politics, vol.4, no.2, 2016, pp.233-240. https://doi.org/10.1177/2321023016665534
- 'Indigenism in Contemporary IR Discourses in India: A Critique', Studies in Indian Politics, vol. 2, no.2, 2014, pp.119-135.
- 'Emulated or National? Contemporary India's 'Great Power' Discourse', Jadavpur Journal of International Relations, vol.17, no.1, 2013, pp.69-102.
- 'India's Non-Liberal Democracy and the Discourse of Democracy Promotion', South Asian Survey, vol.19, no.1, 2012, pp.33-59.
- 'Necessary Oppositions: Domestic Debates on Iran', *Strategic Analysis*, vol. 36, no.6, 2012, pp.882-898.
- 'Theorising State Sovereignty in South Asia', *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. XLIII, no. 40, October 4, 2008, pp.65-72.
- 'Boundaries and Territoriality in South Asia: From Historical Comparisons to Theoretical Considerations', *International Studies*, vol.45, no.2, 2008, pp.105-132.

# **Book Chapters**

- 'Perils of Ideological Maximalism', in P.R. Kumaraswamy (ed.) *Facets of India's* Security: Essays for C. Uday Bhaskar, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 34-50.
- 'Nouveau Claims on Traditional Visions of Indian Democracy', in M.N. Thakur and Dhananjay Rai (eds.) *Democracy on the Move? Reflections on Moments, Promises and Contradictions*, New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2013, pp.126-142.

• 'Politics, the State and the Tragedy of Fear: Connected Fragments from Europe to South Asia', in Monica Narula, Shuddhabrata Sengupta and Jeebesh Bagchi (eds.) *Sarai Reader 08: Fear*, New Delhi: Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2010, pp.20-26.

### **Review Essays**

- Untitled review essay of *The Lost History of Liberalism* by Helena Rosenblatt, *Strategic Analysis*, vol. 44, no. 6, 2020, pp. 603-608.
- 'Contested World Orders', Strategic Analysis, vol.33, no.2, 2009, pp. 300-307.
- 'Ideas and Great Powers', review essay of Great Powers and the Quest for Hegemony: The World Order Since 1500 by Jeremy Black and Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance – and Why They Fall by Amy Chua, Indian Journal of Politics and International Relations, vol.1, no.2, 2008, pp. 348-357.

# **Policy Pieces**

- Co-authored with Jason Miklian. 'The Evolving Domestic Drivers of India's Foreign Policy', NOREF Report, Oslo: Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre, January 2016.
- 'Pakistan's Long and Ordinary Crisis', IDSA Issue Brief, New Delhi: Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, 9 February 2012.

# **Book Reviews**

- Review of The Four Ages of American Foreign Policy by Michael Mandelbaum, The Book Review, vol. xlviii, no. 10, October 2024, pp. 4-5.
- Review of The Internationalist Moment: South Asia, Worlds, and World Views by Ali Reza et al (eds.), Social Change, vol.47, no. 1, 2017, pp. 151-154.
- Review of Shaping the Emerging World: India and the Multilateral Order by W.P.S. Sidhu et al (eds.), The Book Review, vol. 39, no. 2, 2015, pp. 51-52.
- Review of The Relevance of the Ideas of Swami Vivekananda for International Relations by Sarup Prasad Ghosh, The Book Review, vol. 38, no. 7, 2014, pp. 5-6.
- Review of Dead reckoning: memories of the 1971 Bangladesh war by Sarmila Bose, Contemporary South Asia, vol. 21, no.1, 2013, pp. 76-77.
- Review of Tinderbox: The Past and Future of Pakistan by M.J. Akbar, Contemporary South Asia, vol.20, no.1, 2012, pp. 151-152.
- Review of India's Israel Policy by P.R. Kumaraswamy for the IDSA National Strategy Project, Book Discussion Forum, New Delhi: February 2011.
- Review of South Asia's Cold War by Rajesh M. Basrur, Indian Foreign Affairs Journal, vol.4, no.2, 2009, pp. 150-153.
- Review of The Twilight of the Nation State: Globalisation, Chaos and War by Prem Shankar Jha, India Quarterly, vol.65, no.1, 2009, pp. 101-103.
- Review of Sovereignties: Contemporary Theory and Practice by Raia Prokhovnik, Cooperation and Conflict, vol. 43, no. 4, 2008, pp. 487–489.
- Review of Contested Lands by Sumantra Bose, International Studies, vol.45, no.1, 2008, pp. 75-78.

- Review of The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts by Smita Tewari-Jassal and Eyal Ben-Ari, South Asian Survey, vol.14, no.2, 2007, pp. 349–373.
- 'Drawing the line of distrust', review of *India* & *Pakistan: Pathways Ahead* by Amitabh Mattoo et al. (eds.), *Pioneer*, October 28, 2007.
- 'Not a colonial apologist', review of Liberalism, Modernity, and the Nation by Peter Robb, Himal Southasian, July 2007.
- 'The sniffer that caught cold', review of Who Owns CBI, by BR Lall, Pioneer, June 17, 2007.
- 'An engaging war diary', review of Reporting Armed Conflict, Pioneer, April 29, 2007.

# Columns

- 'Is IR theory useful for policy?', India's World, 1(3), May-June 2025, 53-55.
- 'The Many Imaginations of Partition', India's World, 1(2), March-April 2025, pp. 12-14.
- 'From Backyard to Expanse: Theorising India's Approaches to South Asia', *India's* World, 1(2), March-April 2025, pp. 49-51.
- 'Aggressor's peace with windfall for mediator', The Hindustan Times, 21 March 2025.
- 'Joys of theory', India's World, 1(1), Jan-Feb 2025, pp. 61-64.
- 'How the West's world order lost wider trust', *The Hindustan Times*, 30 December 2024.
- 'A state of play defined by excesses, paradoxes', *The Hindustan Times*, 15 October 2024.
- 'Putin's power playbook has parallels elsewhere', The Hindustan Times, 3 April 2024.
- 'Ukraine's war of sorrow is West's strategic failure', *The Hindustan Times*, 26 February 2024.
- 'America in West Asia again is return of folly', The Hindustan Times, 7 February 2024.
- 'In Gaza, the production of unequal humanity', *The Hindustan Times*, 27 December 2023.
- 'The West must revisit policy on Israel's war', *The Hindustan Times*, 20 November 2023.
- 'War in Gaza in Israel's moment of reckoning', The Hindustan Times, 13 October 2023.
- 'Beyond euphoria, G20 lessons for India', The Hindustan Times, 20 September 2023.
- 'What a warlord's death illustrates about Russia', *The Hindustan Times*, 31 August 2023.
- 'What Kyiv must do to win over Global South', The Hindustan Times, 15 August 2023.
- 'Revolt loosens Putin's Russian stranglehold', The Hindustan Times, 27 June 2023.
- 'The concept of the Global South is slowly fraying', The Hindustan Times, 18 May 2023.
- 'Taking stock of India's policy on Ukraine war', The Hindustan Times, 11 April 2023.
- 'The churn in Europe is the big story of the Ukraine war', *The Hindustan Times*, 1 March 2023.
- 'India must navigate a world in churn at G20', *The Hindustan Times*, 28 December 2022.
- 'Reclaiming our past and our present from the West', *The Hindustan Times*, 21 September 2022.
- 'Lessons for India from Pelosi's Taiwan Visit', The Hindustan Times, 9 August 2022.

- 'Domestic issues: India must handle on its own', The Hindustan Times, 9 June 2022.
- 'Ukraine: the state of play after invasion', The Hindustan Times, 28 February 2022.
- 'Ukraine: the West's power has its limits', *The Hindustan Times*, 1 February 2022.
- '75 years later, the quest to understand partition', *The Hindustan Times*, 5 December 2021.
- 'In South Asia, the politics of religious extremism', *The Hindustan Times*, 4 November 2021.
- 'AUKUS won't derail either Quad or Western unity', *The Hindustan Times*, 29 September 2021.
- 'Kabul may signal the revival of the West', The Hindustan Times, 27 August 2021.
- 'Liberal democracies must stand up', The Hindustan Times, 28 July 2021.
- 'India's PACK challenge needs a political response', *The Hindustan Times*, 11 June 2021.

# Other Essays and Articles – online/print

- 'As the US joins Israel's bombing of Iran, what is the endgame?', Scroll, 22 June 2025.
- 'The Trumpian 'counter-revolution", 360info, 11 February 2025.
- 'India's Policy For a Rules-Based Order: Inconsistency and Incoherence', India in Transition series, Centre for the Advanced Study of India, 19 August 2024.
- 'Trump or Harris: the race to the White House from India's view', *The Wire*, 27 August 2024.
- 'Why India's ruling coalition must stop using foreign policy to score political points at home', *Scroll*, 9 July 2024.
- 'Gaza war no failure of international law', 360info, 14 June 2024.
- 'How the Modi-Biden dynamics could play out', NDTV, 24 June 2023, https://www.ndtv.com/opinion/opinion-how-the-modi-biden-dynamics-could-play-out-4143913
- 'Korona sankatatoon saamaaji parivartan shakya aahe ka?', *The Wire Marathi*, 3 June 2021.
- 'Kya Covid mahamaari ko samaajik badlaav laaney ke mauqe ke taur pe dekha ja sakta hai', The Wire Hindi, 23 May 2021.
- 'India's real foreign policy challenge is domestic', *The Hindustan Times*, 12 May 2021.
- 'Assessing India's counter to 'diminishing democracy', The Hindu, 25 March 2021.
- 'Dangers of hard sovereignty', The Hindu, 10 February 2021.
- 'Only through the prism of science', *The Hindu*, 4 April 2020.
- 'The lessons from Brexit', The Indian Express, 22 January 2019.
- 'When the military fights with democracy', thREAD (*The Hindu* blog), 17 September 2018.
- 'Sir Syed's Old World', *Café Dissensus*, 4 November 2017.
- 'Concrete boxes that won't cave', thREAD (The Hindu blog), 20 January 2016.
- 'A nation in a chrysalis', thREAD (*The Hindu* blog), 26 October 2015.
- 'India's underdeveloped republicanism', (*The Dawn* blog), 27 January 2012.
- 'Kolaveri di and other words that make sense', (*The Dawn* blog), 26 November 2011.
- 'India, governed only in cities', (*The Dawn* blog), 26 August 2011.
- 'That obscure object of desire', (*The Dawn* blog), 27 May 2011.

- 'Lost in the Frenzy', (*The Dawn* blog), 3 May 2011.
- 'A Season of Scams', (The Dawn blog), 24 March 2011.
- 'K. Subrahmanyam', MEI Remembers # 3 (Obituary), Middle East Institute, New Delhi, 4 February 2011.
- 'Nations out of fantasy', Himal Southasian, August 2007.
- 'Bal, Raj and Uddhav', Himal Southasian, January 2007.

### **PRESENTATIONS/TALKS**

- 'De-bordering and re-ordering: reconceptualizing the Northeast', invited talk delivered at the conference titled 'Border Dynamics in Northeast India: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Imperatives', Baptist College, Kohima, India, 12 June 2025.
- 'IR theory for policy makers', four-part lecture delivered to Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 3 June 2025.
- 'What on Earth! Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, and the Unmaking of International Order' a disintiguished lecture delivered to the 72nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), the flagship programme of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, 19 May 2025.
- 'Ordering the world: the place of rules in contemporary Indian international thought', paper for a symposium titled 'Rules for a lawless world? The international legal order in an age of great-power struggle for normative primacy', Leiden University, 8 May 2025.
- Chair, session on 'Indian Foreign Policy and Changing Geopolitics', Doctoral Scholars Conference, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, 11 March 2025.
- Invited expert, Second NASP Academic Conference, Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru, 28 February to 2 March 2025.
- 'Global Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Landscapes', lecture delivered for Combined Special Course for GCC Diplomats, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 17 February 2025.
- Speaker on a panel 'Ukraine and Gaza Wars: Crisis of Liberal International Order', Indian Council on World Affairs, New Delhi, 19 November 2024.
- 'The Global Landscape and India's Foreign Policy', lecture delivered for a special for foreign diplomats, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 14 October 2024.
- 'The Global Landscape and India's Foreign Policy', lecture delivered for a special course for Sri Lankan diplomats, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 5 August 2024.
- 'India's Foreign Policy: Contemporary Dimensions and Challenges', lecture delivered in a special course for foreign diplomats, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 18 June 2024.
- "'Anarchical Autonomy': How Raj Intellectuals Constructed India's Historical Geopolitics", paper presented at the RUG-NUPI workshop Global Histories of International Thought and Geopolitical Concepts, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands, 23 May 2024.

- 'India's Foreign Policy: Contemporary Dimensions and Challenges', lecture delivered in the 71<sup>st</sup> Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 22 April 2024.
- 'The Law-Politics Interface in International Relations: Insights from the Israel-Gaza War', Remembering Prof. S.P. Sathe 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference, ILS Law College, Pune, 15 March 2024.
- 'The Global Geopolitical Landscape and India's Approach', lecture delivered to Officer Trainees of the Indian Revenue Services, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 11 March 2024.
- 'The Global Political Landscape and India's Approach', lecture delivered at the Fourth Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 29 January 2024.
- 'International Relations Theories for Policy Making', lecture delivered to incoming batch of IFS officers, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 29 November 2023.
- Discussant on a panel titled 'Indian School of IR: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?', Symbiosis International Deemed University, Pune, 26 November 2023.
- The Global Geopolitical Landscape and India's Approach', lecture delivered at the first Global South Young Diplomats' Forum, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, 20 November 2023.
- Panellist at a roundtable titled 'Reimagining the Indo-Pacific: Using an Inclusive Lens', Federal Foreign office, Germany and Kubernein Initiative, New Delhi, 27 October 2023.
- 'Ukraine War, International Order, and Indian Foreign Policy', workshop on transitional order, Leeds University and Delhi University, New Delhi, 26 September 2023.
- Panellist, 'What do Asian countries want in the international order?', Chatham House, UK, online, 30 August 2023.
- 'The Legwork of Building IR Theory', Department of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, 26 July 2023.
- 'Should Liberal Democracy Have a Future?', distinguished lecture, Mumbai Dialogue of World Affairs, Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Mumbai, 25 July 2023.
- Panellist, 'The Sovereignty Paradox: Domestic Concerns in Global Politics', Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 27 April 2023.
- Panellist, 'Does 'South Asia' have a future?', Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi, 24 February 2023.
- 'IR theories for policy making', lecture delivered to the officers of the Indian Foreign Service, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi, 14 and 16 December 2022.
- 'India and Pakistan: Policy, posture, programme', Jai Hind College, Mumbai, 17 September 2022. Online mode.
- 'Of Locusts vs. the gigantic octopus: reading international relations in V.D. Savarkar's history of India', Department of International Relations, Ashoka University, Sonepat, 22 September 2022.

- 'From Liberal to Rules-based: Indian Conceptions of International Order, c. 1998-2022', paper presented at the second author's workshop on a project titled Asian Conceptions and Practices of International Order, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 15 July 2022.
- 'Indian Conceptions of International Order, c. 2001-2022'. Presentation made at the first author's workshop on a project titled Asian Conceptions and Practices of International Order, National University of Singapore, 29 April 2022. Online mode. Invited.
- 'IR Theories for Policy Making', two invited lectures delivered to officers of the Indian Foreign Service, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi, 4 April 2022.
- 'The "Great Anarchy of Hindustan": late-colonial life of an international idea, 1880s-1940s', International Studies Convention, Nashville, TN, 31 March 2022. Withdrawn.
- Panellist on a special Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR event titled 'Reflections on the Russia-Ukraine Crisis', 25 March 2022, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- 'The Sovereign Lives of India and Pakistan', book talk, Carnegie India, New Delhi, 25 February 2022.
- 'Culture, Strategy, Democracy and Leadership: Four Themes in Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy', Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. 6 December 2021. Online mode.
- 'Democratization in the Global Order', Amity Institute of International Studies, Noida, India. 20 September 2021. Online mode.
- 'Negotiating Uncertainty: A Profile of India's Regional Political Challenges', Department of Political Science, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Evening College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India. 16 September 2021. Online mode.
- Participant in a Roundtable on 'South Asia: Imposed Categories and Imposing Powers', NIICE International Studies Convention, 28 August 2021. Online mode.
- 'The Difficulty of Dialogue in International Relations', invited talk delivered to participants of the Certificate Course in Dialogue Studies, Indialogue Foundation and Gandhi Smriti Darshan Samiti', 28 November 2020. Online mode.
- 'Nation and Nationalism in the Contemporary Period', Prof. A.B. Shah Memorial Lecture delivered for the Muslim Satyashodhak Mandal, Pune. 19 September 2020. Online mode.
- "'United States of India': The Regionalist Alternatives to South Asia's Partition", paper presented at an international conference on 'Institutional Legacies of India's Internationalist Thought and Practice, 1919-2019', Ashoka University, 31 January 2020.
- 'Of Locusts vs. the Gigantic Octopus: The Hindutva International in V.D. Savarkar's 'Historical' Thought', paper presented at the Research Colloquium of the Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar University, 22 November 2019.
- 'Taking Historical Consciousness Seriously', paper presented at an international workshop titled 'Postcolonial IR: Engaging With Public History in South Asia and Beyond', Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi, 18 March 2019.

- 'The Federation Proposals of Late-Colonial South Asia: Notes from a Preliminary Survey', talk delivered at the Department of International Relations, Ashoka University, Sonepat, 16 November 2018.
- 'Essentials of Academic Writing in the Social Sciences', talk delivered at the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 24 November 2018.
- 'Understanding Power in Contemporary International Relations', presentation made at SNU-CENJOWS joint seminar on Comprehensive National Power, New Delhi, 12 November 2018.
- 'Federal Alternatives to Interstate Relations: The Question of Political Form in Late-Colonial South Asia', paper presented at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi, 28 September 2017.
- 'India's Realistic Regionalisms in its Asian Ambitions', at a seminar titled 'Regionalism in International Relations: Contours and Trends', Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 14 March 2017.
- 'From 'Nonalignment' to the 'Modi Doctrine': The Indian Worldview in Transformation', FLAME University, Pune, 14 October 2016.
- 'Soft Power: A Critical Constructivist Exposition', at a conference titled 'The Many Forms of Soft Power: India and the World', IIAS, Simla, 14 September 2015.
- 'Nuclearization and Indian IR Debates', at the Author's Workshop of an ICSSR-funded project titled 'Nuclearization of South Asia: Implications for India's National Security', JNU, New Delhi, 27 March 2015.
- 'Indigenism and the Re-imagining of IR in India', at the Annual International Studies Convention, JNU, New Delhi, 11 December 2013.

### **INTERVIEWS AND PODCASTS**

- 'Is Europe a garden and most of the world a jungle?', conversation with Amit Baruah, The Hindu In Focus Podcast, 17 October 2022.
- 'Interview: Atul Mishra on the "sovereignty trap" and Nehru's civilisational reading of India's past', conversation with Rohan Venkataramakrishnan, *Scroll*, 26 February 2023.
- 'The long shadow of partition on India-Pakistan relations', Puliyabaazi podcast, conversation with Khyati Pathak and Pranay Kotasthane, 15 May 2025.

# **RESEARCH PROJECT**

• Co-director, ICSSR-funded multi-university major research project, 'India's Regional Relations in a Transitioning World: Policies, Priorities, and Practices' (2013-2016). Final report submitted in November 2018; positive review received in February 2019.