

Shagun Gupta

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EDUCATION

American University

August 2019 - Present

PhD Candidate in International Relations

Concentration: Development Studies

Doctoral Advisor(s): Dr. Adam Auerbach; Dr. Austin Hart

Dissertation: An Associational Advantage? Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India

American University

December 2022

Master of Philosophy in International Relations (en passant)

University of Oxford

July 2015

MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy

Dissertation: The Role of Civil Society in Shaping India's Development Partnerships

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Indrajit Roy

Hindu College, University of Delhi

May 2014

BA (Honors) in Political Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Trust, Urban Governance, Democratic Participation, Local Accountability, Citizen Behavior, Democratic Institutional Design, Political Economy of Development, South Asia

SKILLS SUMMARY

- **Languages:** English, Hindi, French, Burmese
- **Programming:** R (advanced), Python (intermediate), LaTeX (intermediate)
- **Software:** Stata, NVivo, MS Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop
- **Fieldwork:** Myanmar (2015-2016; 2016-2019), Thailand (2016), India (2021, 2022, 2023-24)
- **Training:** SIS PhD Colloquium Workshop on Data Visualization Using R (November 2022)

PUBLICATIONS

- *Book Review* **Shagun Gupta**, Colonial origins of democracy and dictatorship, *International Affairs*, Volume 101, Issue 3, May 2025, Pages 1143–1144, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiaf079>

WORKING PAPERS

- An Associational Advantage? Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India (Job Market Paper under review at *World Development*; Click here: pre-analysis plan (OSF))
 - Winner of the 2022-23 **Samuel L. Sharp Memorial Prize** for creative work in international relations at the graduate level.
 - Accepted for presentation at the Midwest Political Science (MPSA) conference, held April 2 - 6 in Chicago, Illinois.
 - Accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), held September 5 - 8 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- What's in an interview? Follow-ups as "moments" of clarity and information in qualitative research design.
 - Accepted for presentation at the Advances in QMMR Workshop, held June 21, 2025 at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.
 - Accepted for presentation at the Midwest Political Science (MPSA) conference, held April 2 - 6, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois.

- Accepted for presentation at the Third GSCIS Author Symposium held as a pre-conference workshop at the ISA Annual Convention, March 2-5, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois.
- Accepted for presentation at the Emerging Methodologists Workshop (EMW) pre-conference program of the APSA Annual Meeting, September 4, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India (Dissertation Chapter)
 - Accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), held September 5 - 8, 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - Accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), held August 31 – September 2, 2023 in Los Angeles, California.
 - Inaugural Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior Conference , March 2-4, 2023, Tallahassee, Florida.
 - Telling It Like It Is 2.0: Descriptive Research Workshop, October 28-29, 2022, Boston, Massachusetts.
 - Presented research design in Lightening Rounds session at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), September 15-18, 2022, Montreal, Canada.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Public Goods and Public Trust in Government: Subnational Evidence from India.
 - Accepted for presentation at the 2nd edition of the International Workshops on Public Policy at La Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLASCO) Ecuador / Quito from 1st – 3rd July 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).
 - American University Tri-School Conference, 5th March 2021 in Washington, D.C.
 - 5th International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5) held July 5th-9th, 2021 in Barcelona, Spain.
 - Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) held September 30th – October 2nd, 2021 in Seattle, Washington, USA.
- Analysis of News Media Coverage Before and After the March 2020 Nationwide Lockdown in India.
 - Selected for presentation at the Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference 2022, to be held at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University from June 16-18, 2022.
 - Selected for presentation at the APSA Pre-Conference in Political Communication, to be held in Montréal, Canada on September 14, 2022.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Gupta, Shagun. “The Coup in Myanmar: Strategic and Political Implications for South Asia.” South Asian Voices, February 17, 2021. Web.
- Gupta, Shagun. “The Coup in Myanmar: A Grim Future for Aid Groups?” The Diplomat, February 8, 2021. Web.
- Gupta, Shagun, and Thomas Opdyke. “Myanmar: An Overview of Financial Security of Older Women.” Financial Security for Older Women: Perspectives from Southeast Asia. Singapore: Tsao Foundation, 2018. Print.
- Gupta, Shagun. “Leveraging Labour Migration for Development.” Migration in Myanmar: Perspectives from current research, edited by Mike Griffiths and Michiko Ito. Yangon: Social Policy and Poverty Research Group, 2016. Print.
- Gupta, Shagun. “How to approach development as a non-native speaker.” tools4dev, August 25, 2016. Web.
- Gupta, Shagun. “Development in Times of Transition: The Socio-Economic Status of Rakhine State, Myanmar.” Working Paper. Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, UNOPS Myanmar, April 2016. Web.
- Kyu, U Htet, Libera Antelmi-Dazio and Shagun Gupta. “Learning Together in the Ayeyarwady Delta.” Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, UNOPS Myanmar, February 2016. Web.
- Gupta, Shagun. “The Role of Civil Society in Shaping India’s Development Partnerships.” E-International Relations, January 2016. Web.
- Gupta, Shagun. “The Chagos Archipelago: A Theatre of Opportunity and Challenge in the Indian Ocean.” Observer Research Foundation, Delhi, December 2015. Web.

RESEARCH AWARDS

- Elinor Ostrom Fellowship (2025-2026; funded by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University)
- Adam Smith Fellowship (2023-2024 and 2024-2025; funded by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University)
- Samuel L. Sharp Memorial Prize for creative work in international relations at the graduate level, American University (2022-2023)
- APSA Summer Centennial Center Research Grant (2022-2023; funded by the Warren E. Miller Fund in Electoral Politics)
- Adel-Ait Ghezala Graduate Research Fellowship, American University (2022-2023)
- SIS Summer Research Award, American University (2024)
- SIS Summer Research Award, American University (2023)
- SIS Summer Research Award, American University (2022)
- SIS Summer Research Award, American University (2021)
- SIS Doctoral Assistantship Award, offered as a stipend over 5 years (2019-2024)

OTHER GRANTS

- Conference Grant, American University (2025)
- Travel Grant, Emerging Methodologists Workshop (2024)
- Travel Grant, APSA Political Communication Section (2024)
- Travel Grant, International Studies Association (2024)
- Travel Grant, Western Political Science Association (2024)
- Conference Grant, American University (2024)
- ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan (2023); participation funded by the Heitowit Scholarship
- Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques, University of Michigan (2023); participation funded by American University
- Travel Grant, Florida State University (for the Inaugural EPOVB Conference 2023)
- Travel Grant, University of Massachusetts, Boston (for the Descriptive Research Workshop 2022)
- Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (2022)
- Travel Grant, APSA Political Communication Section (2022)
- Conference Grant, American University (2022)
- ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan (2022); participation funded by American University
- Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (2021)
- Conference Grant, American University (2021)
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University (2021); participation funded by American University

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2025

- Advances in Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, held June 21, 2025 at Syracuse University
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled What's in an interview? Follow-ups as moments of clarity and information in qualitative research.
- Midwest Political Science Association, held April 3-6, 2025, Chicago, Illinois.
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled An Associational Advantage? Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled What's in an interview? Follow-ups as moments of clarity and information in qualitative research.
 - *Panel Chair* Lightning Talk: East Asian and South Asian Politics.
- International Studies Association (ISA), held March 2-5, 2025, Chicago, Illinois.
 - *Pre-conference workshop* GSC Third Author Symposium, presenting paper titled What's in an Interview? Follow-ups as Moments of Clarity and Information in Qualitative Research.

- *Roundtable Chair* Navigating the Field: Reflections from South Asia
- *Roundtable Participant* Performance of Academia: Professionalism, Culture and Contestation within International Relations Conferences

2024

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, held September 5 - 8, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - *Pre-conference workshop* Emerging Methodologists Workshop 2024: Paper titled What's in an interview? Follow-ups as "moments" of clarity and information in qualitative design (mentored by Prof. Michelle Jurkovich, UMass Boston)
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled An Associational Advantage? Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.
- International Studies Association (ISA), April 3-6, 2024, San Francisco, California.
 - *Pre-conference workshop* GSC Second Author Symposium.
 - *Roundtable presentation* A Renaissance of the "What": Descriptive Research in Social Science.
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA), March 28-30, 2024, Vancouver, Canada.
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.
- CÉCD Graduate Student Conference, March 8-9, 2024, Quebec City, Canada.
 - *Paper presentation* Paper titled Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.

2023

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, August 31-September 3, 2023, Los Angeles, California.
 - Paper titled Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India selected for panel presentation.
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA), April 6 - 9, 2023, San Francisco, California.
 - Panel Chair and Discussant for panel titled Explaining, Correcting, and Responding to Elite Rhetoric.
- Inaugural Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior Conference, March 2-4, 2023, Tallahassee, Florida.
 - Presented paper titled Public Trust and Urban Governance in Delhi, India.

2022

- Telling It Like It Is 2.0: Descriptive Research Workshop, October 28-29, 2022, Boston, Massachusetts.
 - Presented research memo titled Conceptualizing Public Trust Through Descriptive Research.
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 15-18, 2022, Montreal, Canada.
 - Presented paper titled Trust and Legitimacy in the National Capital Region of India (Lightening Rounds: Research Design)
- Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference 2022, June 16-18, 2022, Boston, Massachusetts.
 - Presented paper titled Analysis of News Media Coverage Before and After the March 2020 Nationwide Lockdown in India (*Virtual*)

2021

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 30 – October 3, 2021, Seattle, Washington.
 - Presented paper titled Public Goods and Public Trust in Government: Subnational Evidence from India.
- International Public Policy Association (IPPA), 5th International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), July 5-9, 2021, Barcelona, Spain.
 - Presented paper titled Public Goods and Public Trust in Government: Subnational Evidence from India (*Virtual*)
- American University Tri-School Conference, March 5, 2021, Washington D.C.
 - Presented paper titled Public Goods and Public Trust in Government: Subnational Evidence from India (*Virtual*)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL)** December 2025 - Present
Program Manager (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Susanna Campbell)
- **Responsibilities:** Supporting the management of the following grant-funded projects: the RIPIL-LPI Research Policy-Practice Partnership and RIPIL's new security programs project funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York; and RIPIL's Translating Research into Action Center (TRAC) project funded by NSF.
- American University, School of International Service** January 2024 - April 2024
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. C. Austin Davis)
- **Project:** Supporting various projects related to displacement in Burma and development of survey modules to measure entrepreneurship education and economic outcomes.
- Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL)** June 2023 - August 2023
Research Fellow (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Susanna Campbell)
- **Project Title:** Receiving or Rejecting Aid: Populist Rhetoric in Aid-Recipient Countries
 - **Coding:** Conducted qualitative analysis through coding of 10k+ tweets to identify populist rhetoric among actors in Ghana.
- American University, School of International Service** May 2023 - August 2023
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. James H. Mittelman)
- **Project:** Research paper on anti-precarity resistance in India to support a book project on runaway capitalism.
- American University, School of International Service** August 2022 - April 2023
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Adam Auerbach)
- **Project:** Assisting Prof Auerbach, Prof Tariq Thachil (UPenn) and Dr. Shikhar Singh (UPenn) with interviews for a manuscript on procedural knowledge and small town governance in Rajasthan, India
 - **Remote fieldwork support:** Conducting remote interviews with municipal councillors, will support transcription and translation.
- Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL)** June 2022 - Jan 2023
Research Fellow (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Susanna Campbell)
- **Project Title:** Networks of Influence and Support in Peace Operations
 - **Data Mapping:** Built a dataset that maps sources for UN cluster membership across 20 countries and drafted mapping codebook.
 - **Coding:** Coded UN cluster membership in four case study countries and drafted codebook.
- American University, School of International Service** August 2019 - April 2021
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Adam Auerbach)
- **Project:** Worked on public goods provision in India, specifically building datasets on small town budgets using local administrative from Rajasthan and national census data.
 - **Translation Support:** Translated interview questionnaires from English to Hindi.
 - **Remote fieldwork support:** Conducted remote interviews with community leaders in India, translated and transcribed interviews.
- American University, School of International Service** May 2020 - August 2020
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Erin Collins)
- **Project:** Drafted literature reviews for a book project focused on urban land claims in post-genocide Cambodia.
- Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL)** June 2020 - August 2020
Research Assistant (Part-time; Supervisor: Dr. Susanna Campbell)
- **Project Title:** Networks of Influence and Support in Peace Operations
 - **Data Mapping:** Built a dataset of organizations and UN cluster coordination relationships in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University, School of International Service

July 2021 - Present

Various positions, part-time

- **Adjunct Instructor (January 2025 - May 2025):** SISU-106: Democracy and Development, for undergraduates at the School of International Service.
- **Adjunct Instructor (August 2024 - December 2024):** SISU-206: Introduction to International Studies Research, for undergraduates at the School of International Service.
- **Adjunct Instructor (June 2022 - Present):** SISU-102/109: Global Public Health (under the AU High School Summer Scholars (HSSS) and National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) Program.)
- **Teaching Assistant (August 2021 - April 2022):** SISU-105: Introduction to International Studies (Instructor: Dr. Michael Schroeder)
- **Adjunct Instructor (July 2021 - August 2021):** SISU-102: Global Public Health (under the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) Program.)
- **Greenberg PhD and MFA Seminars for Effective Teaching:** organized by The Center for Teaching, Research Learning (CTRL) at American University.

Thabyay Education Foundation (TEF))

June 2023 - Present

Instructor, part-time

- **Courses:** Summer course on Graduate Research and Communication Skills for students enrolled in the USAID-funded Lincoln Scholars Program managed by TEF in Myanmar.

Spring University Myanmar (SUM)

April - June 2022

Guest Lecturer, part-time

- **Courses:** Women in the Peace Process (Mediation) and Academic Writing for students enrolled in the Diploma Program on Federalism and Peace Studies at the Institute of Human Rights and Democratic Governance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant

December 2020 - Present

Expertise in DRR, Conflict Sensitivity, Gender, Food Security, Livelihoods, Social Protection

- **Past projects:** Concept note/proposal development and research for various organizations in Myanmar including the Finnish Refugee Council, HelpAge International, CARE International, and ACF. Experience writing grants for large donors including LIFT, European Union, ECHO, USAID and START Fund among others.

HelpAge International in Myanmar

September 2017 - July 2019

Senior Programme Coordinator (based in Yangon, Myanmar)

- **Responsibilities:** Managed the development and maintenance of an effective monitoring, evaluation and accountability framework that supports evidence gathering for disaster risk reduction, food security and public health projects funded by the LIFT Fund, European Union and other donors.

HelpAge International in Myanmar

November 2016 - August 2017

Programme Officer (based in Yangon, Myanmar)

- **Responsibilities:** Supported monitoring, evaluation and communications teams with case studies and high quality internal and external reports on five different development projects focusing on community development, social protection, public health, and self-help groups for older people in Myanmar.

Karen Human Rights Group

July 2016 - October 2016

Field Fellow (based in Tak, Thailand)

- **Responsibilities:** Responsible for leading the re-design of a training curriculum for village agency workshops conducted among Karen villages in Myanmar. The training focused on building the capacity of local communities to document and monitor human rights abuses committed against them by armed actors.

United Nations Office for Project Services

December 2015 - June 2016

Programme Analyst (based in Yangon, Myanmar)

- **Responsibilities:** Programme support for the Rakhine programme under the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT) Fund, managed by UNOPS. In addition, communications support, especially social media engagement, for LIFT outreach to partners and donors. Published a working paper on the socio-economic situation in Rakhine State and a chapter in edited volume on migration in Myanmar.

- **Responsibilities:** E-IR is a leading open access publisher for students and scholars of international relations. As an Associate Editor with the Articles team, responsible for reviewing and publishing submissions made to E-IR by scholars from around the world.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society
- American Political Science Association (APSA)
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA)
- International Public Policy Association (IPPA)
- International Studies Association (ISA)
- Women's Caucus for International Studies (WCIS)

SERVICE

- Reviewer for APSA Centennial Center Summer Grants (2024)
- PhD Student Representative for the SIS PhD Program, American University (2024-2025)
- Member of Student Advisory Board for the SIS PhD Program, American University (2023-2024)

INVITED TALKS AND SPEAKING EVENTS

- Emerging Methodologists Workshop Pre-Conference at the APSA Annual Meeting (September 4, 2024)
- GSC Second Author Symposium at the ISA Annual Convention (April 2, 2024)
- Indian Women in International Relations (IWIR): Informative and Mentorship Session (July 27, 2021; Online)
- Nikore Associates High School Fellowship 2022: Careers Day Talk for Fellows (July 16, 2022; Online)
- Indian Women in International Relations (IWIR): Informative and Mentorship Session (July 27, 2021; Online)
- DC Student Consortium on Women, Peace and Security: NGO CSW/NY Panel (March 19, 2021; Online)
- DC Student Consortium on Women, Peace and Security: Launch Event (March 9, 2021; Online)

METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

- Doctoral Coursework (American University)
 - Core courses in Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
- Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques 2023 (University of Michigan)
 - Courses on Introduction to Survey Methodology, Introduction to Questionnaire Design and Writing Questions for Surveys
- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program 2023 (University of Michigan)
 - Courses on Advanced Network Analysis, Categorical Data Analysis, Data Science and Text Analysis, with additional lectures on Matrix Algebra, Probability and Calculus
- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program 2022 (University of Michigan)
 - Courses on Network Analysis, Data Visualization, Advanced Empirical Modeling, Introduction to Python
- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) 2021 (Syracuse University)
 - Courses on Field Research, Multi-Method Research, Within-Case and Small-N Analysis, Social Network Analysis