

## **Shagun Gupta**

PhD Student in International Relations/Independent Consultant  
Principally based in Washington, D.C/Currently in India  
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### **Education**

#### **American University, School of International Service**

*PhD in International Relations (Year three)*

- PhD Concentration: Development Studies

#### **University of Oxford, Department of International Development**

*Master of Science, Global Governance and Diplomacy*

- Dissertation: The Role Civil Society in Shaping India's Development Partnerships
- Coursework in Global Governance, Diplomacy and International Law, Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
- Member of Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for the 2014-2015 course cohort

#### **Hindu College, University of Delhi**

*Bachelor of Arts (Honors), Political Science*

- Additional coursework in introductory Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

### **Research Experience**

#### **PhD in International Relations, American University**

##### **August 2019 – May 2021**

- Research assistant for Dr. Adam Auerbach – working on public goods provision in India, specifically building datasets on small town budgets using local administrative and census data.
- Authored a paper on child mortality trends in developing countries using World Bank and FAO data and original analysis on impact of policy commitments in achieving MDG 4.
  - Presented paper at the American University Tri-School Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020.
- Authored a paper on public goods and public trust in subnational governments in India.
  - Presented paper at the American University Tri-School Conference held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
  - Accepted for panel presentation at the annual conference organized by the International Public Policy Association (IPPA) to be held in July 2021.
  - Accepted for panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) to be held in September-October 2021.

##### **May 2020 – August 2020**

- Research Assistant for Dr. Erin Collins, doing literature reviews for a book project focused on urban land claims in post-genocide Cambodia.

##### **June 2020 – August 2020**

- Research Assistant for Dr. Susanna Campbell, under the project titled Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL) funded by the Knowledge Management Fund (KMF).

### **Senior Programme Coordinator, HelpAge International Myanmar**

- Co-authored research paper on *Financial Security of Elderly Women from a Life Course Perspective: Evidence from Myanmar* in 2017 partnering with Tsao Foundation, Singapore. Updated book chapter to be released in November 2018.
  - Paper presented at the Regional Advocacy Workshop organised by the Tsao Foundation in April 2017 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
  - Country findings shared with government representatives and other stakeholders present at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held from 12 – 14 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Programme Analyst (Intern), UNOPS Myanmar**

- Conducted research and desk reviews for working paper on labour migration in Myanmar, with technical backstopping provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The paper has been published by the Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPRG).
- Conducted research and literature reviews for a working paper (<http://www.liftfund.org/news/knowledge-sharing-news/your-feedback-and-input-requested-workingpaper-rakhine-state>) on socio-economic indicators in Rakhine state targeted towards donors, government, and relevant entities interested in the region. The paper directly informs the work of the local government leadership in Rakhine, as well as LIFT donors.

### **Research Intern, Observer Research Foundation Delhi**

- Under the supervision of Dr. C Raja Mohan, authored research briefing titled “The Chagos Archipelago: A Theatre of Opportunity and Challenge in the Indian Ocean” on the issue of maritime security and defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean, and the Diego Garcia sovereignty dispute between UK and Mauritius.

## **Professional Work Experience**

### **Independent Consultant**

**Dec 2020 – Present**

Engaged in concept note/proposal development and research for various organizations in Myanmar including HelpAge International, CARE International, and ACF. Specific expertise on gender and conflict sensitivity and experience writing grants for large donors including LIFT, European Union, ECHO, USAID and START Fund among others.

### **Senior Programme Coordinator**

**Sep 2017 – July 2019**

*HelpAge International Myanmar Country Office*

Managing the development and maintenance of an effective M&E and accountability framework that supports evidence gathering for food security and public health projects implemented by HelpAge International Myanmar.

- Developing and coordinating evidence gathering at village level, particularly older people led community level monitoring activities and public health awareness workshops conducted through rural health centres.
- Writing grant-funding proposals and strengthening high-value donor relationships to support strategic partnerships in country and across Asia Pacific.
- Preparation of inputs for reporting, supervise collation, consolidation and review of quarterly, annual and other reports including donor reporting.

**Programme Officer**

**Nov 2016 – Aug 2017**

*HelpAge International Myanmar Country Office*

Supported Monitoring and Evaluation and Communications teams to publish 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.

- Supported project teams in developing robust gender analyses and gender sensitive M&E frameworks.
- Assisted with project partnerships and development, including proposal writing and strategic support to country team in project planning with stakeholders.
- Research and writing project briefs for an EU-funded intervention targeting public health capacity and NCDs (non-communicable diseases) in Myanmar.
- Supported disaster risk management (DRR) project activities, including coordinating with partners in organising meetings and workshops that engage the government.

**Field Fellow**

**Jul 2016 – Oct 2016**

*Karen Human Rights Group (based in Tak Province, Thailand)*

Responsible for leading the re-design of training curriculum for KHRG 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.

- Assisted with improving monitoring and evaluation, and communication systems for the effective management of KHRG field operations.
- Support in updating and developing new materials for specific field activities.
- Capacity building of field team members and KHRG field researchers.

**Programme Analyst (Intern)**

**Dec 2015 – Jun 2016**

*United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Myanmar*

Overall 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.

- Drafting and designing LIFT policy one-pager on recommendations for Myanmar's nutrition action plan.
- Providing research and editing support to Programme team on lessons learned report on LIFT Delta Programme in Myanmar's Ayeyarwaddy Delta (<http://www.liftfund.org/learning-together-ayeyarwady-delta>)
- Conducted research and interviews for two working papers on the socio-economic status of Rakhine State in western Myanmar, and on labour migration trends and outlook in Myanmar.

## Relevant 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.

## Conferences

- American University Tri-School Conference, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020, Washington D.C.
- International Public Policy Association (IPPA), International Workshops on Public Policy (IWPP2), Quito, Ecuador (scheduled to be held 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, *cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- American University Tri-School Conference, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Washington D.C.
- International Public Policy Association (IPPA), 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), Barcelona, Spain (scheduled to be held 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July)
- International Political Science Association, World Congress 2021 (scheduled to be held virtually 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021)

## Professional Memberships

- International Studies Association (ISA)
- International Political Science Association (IPSA)
- International Public Policy Association (IPPA)
- Women’s Caucus for International Studies (WCIS)
- Burma Studies Group (BSG)

## Training and Certifications

- Basic Security in the Field II (UNDSS)
- Advanced Security in the Field (UNDSS)
- PRINCE2 Foundation Certificate in Project Management (APMG International)
- Leadership Development (Team Thinking Asia)

## **Software Skills**

- Microsoft Office Suite
- NVivo (for qualitative analysis)
- R, STATA and MS Excel (for statistical analysis)
- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign)

## **Languages**

Hindi (Native), English (Fluent), Urdu (Speaking; Advanced), Burmese (Speaking/Reading; Basic)