

JULIEN LEVESQUE

Head Researcher, Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH), New Delhi
Associated post-doc researcher, Centre for South Asian Studies (CEIAS), EHESS, Paris

2, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi 110011 India
julien.levesque@csch-delhi.com // +91 98215 51014 // +33 6 83 25 06 69

ORCID : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5446-7840>

HAL-SHS : <https://cv.archives-ouvertes.fr/julien-levesque>

Socio-history of South Asian Islam and Muslim societies

interplay between politics, culture, and religion
nationalism and processes of identity formation
trajectories of public engagement and their social determinants, life course analysis

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Head Researcher, Politics and Society Division // CSH, New Delhi

2017-

Research projects:

- **A political and social history of Muslim elites in South Asia**
 - The social and political role of a Muslim elite, the *sayyids*, in South Asia: caste, religious custodians or political representatives?
 - Prosopography of Muslim Leadership in India (with Laurence Gautier, OP Jindal G. University)
- Member of the project **Muslims in India in a Time of Hindu Majoritarianism: Marginalization and the Risks of Political Radicalization** (cluster 8: The quest for political spokespersons), coordinated by Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences Po) and Bernard Haykel (Princeton), funded by the Luce Foundation (2020-2023)
- Member of the project **Muslim Discourses Surrounding the Prophet Muhammad's Kinfolk**, coordinated by Kazuo Morimoto (Tokyo U.), funded by JSPS (2019-2023)
- Member of the project **CHALLINEQ (Challenging Inequalities: An Indo-European Perspective)**, coordinated by Nicolas Gravel (CSH & Aix-Marseille U.), funded by ANR EQUIP (2018-2021)
- Joint coordinator of the project **Intermediary Actors of Politics in India**, with Jean-Thomas Martelli (CSH), funded by Fonds d'Alembert (one-year project, 2019)

Lecturer & Researcher (ATER), South and East Asia // EHESS, Paris

2015-2017

Courses taught: multidisciplinary course on Asia (grad. core course); bi-weekly research seminar on elites in South-East Asia (grad. seminar)

Adjunct // INALCO, Paris

Spring 2015

Courses taught: "Islam in South Asia" (1st yr undergrad.), "Sociology of Pakistan" (adv. undergrad.)

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Political Studies // EHESS, Paris

2010-2016

Centre for South Asian Studies (CEIAS)

Doctoral dissertation: *Being Sindhi in Pakistan: nationalism, identity discourse and political mobilization (1930-2016)*

Second dissertation prize 2018 of the Institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslim World (IISMM, EHESS, Paris)

Dual Master in International Affairs // Columbia University (SIPA) & Sciences Po

2008-2010

Concentrations: International Security Policy; South Asia

ADMINISTRATION

Editorial responsibilities

- Member, editorial committee, peer-reviewed journal *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (<http://samaj.eu>) 2012-
- Occasional reviewer for various journals (*Journal of Asian Studies*, *Social Compass*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Interventions*)

Event organizing

- Workshop *From Caste Patriotism to Caste Activism: Caste Associations as Political Intermediaries in India*, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi, co-organizer with S. Jodhka (JNU) and J.-T. Martelli (CSH) 3-4 Oct. 2019
- Panel *The Sayyids in South Asia: the social and political role of a Muslim elite*, European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, co-convener with Laurence Gautier (JGU) 24-27 July 2018
- Young researchers workshop *Negotiating Technologies*, Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA), Trinity College, University of Cambridge, co-organizer 14-15 Oct. 2016
- International workshop *The Vernacularization of Muslim and Hindu Traditions: The Case of Sindhiyyat*, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 31 May & 1st June 2016
- International workshop *Islam and Regional Cultures in Pakistan*, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 6 June 2014
- Doctoral workshop, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 26 June 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

European Association of South Asian Studies (EASAS)	2017
Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA)	2016
International Political Science Association (IPSA)	2016
Association française de science politique (AFSP)	2013
Centre for Social Sciences Karachi (CSSK)	2011

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Under review

- Julien Levesque, "Between anxious masculinities and patriarchal dominance: gendered nationalism and political participation in Sindh, Pakistan", *Modern Asian Studies*
- Julien Levesque, "Se désengager sans trahir la cause : formes de défection loyale parmi les nationalistes sindhis au Pakistan", *Politix*

Monograph

- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, *Être sindhi au Pakistan: nationalisme, discours identitaire et mobilisation politique (1930-2016)*, Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes 2021

Edited volumes and special issues

- Laurence Gautier & Julien Levesque (eds), special issue "Historicizing Sayyidness: Social Status and Muslim Identity in South Asia", *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 30(3), July 2020 2020
- Michel Boivin, Matthew Cook and Julien Levesque (eds.), *Discovering Sindh's Past: Selections from the Journal of the Sindh Historical Society, 1934-1948*, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2017, ISBN: [9780199407804](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780199407804) 2017

Articles and chapters

- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, "Sindhology and the Definition of Sindhi Identity: Folklorization, Historiography, and Cultural Policy in Sindh, Pakistan", in Mustafa Khan & Edward Simpson (eds), *The Familiar Stranger: Disconnections in the Southern Pakistan-India Borderlands*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2020
- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, "Caste among Muslims in North India and Pakistan", in Jules Naudet & Surinder S. Jodhka (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Caste*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press 2020
- Laurence Gautier & Julien Levesque, "Introduction. Historicizing Sayyid-ness: Social Status and Muslim Identity in South Asia", *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 30(3), July 2020, pp. 383-393, DOI: [10.1017/S1356186320000139](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186320000139) 2020
- Julien Levesque, "From Student Organizations to Ethnic Parties: Sindhi nationalism during One Unit", in Jürgen Schaflechner, Christina Österheld & Ayesha Asif (eds), *Pakistan: Alternative Imag(in)ings of the Nation-State*, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 246-285, ISBN: [9780190701314](https://www.oxfordup.com/9780190701314) 2020
- Julien Levesque, "'Sindhis are Sufi by nature': Sufism as a marker of identity in Sindh", in Deepra Dandekar & Torsten Tschacher (eds), *Islam, Sufism and Everyday Politics of Belonging in South Asia*, London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 212-227, ISBN: [9781138910683](https://www.routledge.com/9781138910683) 2016
- Julien Levesque & Camille Bui, "Umar Marvi and the Representation of Sindh: Cinema and Modernity in the Margins", *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies*, 5(2), July 2014, pp. 119-128, DOI: [10.1177/0974927614547990](https://doi.org/10.1177/0974927614547990) 2014
 - reprinted in Ali Khan & Ali Nobil Ahmad (eds), *Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan: Beyond Life and Death*, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2020, ISBN: [9780190701321](https://www.oxfordup.com/9780190701321)
- Julien Levesque & Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman, "Tension in the Rolling Hills: Burmese Population and Border Trade in Mizoram", *IPCS Research Paper n°14*, New Delhi, April 2008 2008
 - http://www.ipcs.org/pdf_file/issue/1636771605IPCS-ResearchPaper14.pdf
 - Reprinted in a modified version in Dilip Gogoi (ed.), *Beyond Borders: Look-East Policy and Northeast India*, Guwahati/Delhi: DVS Publishers, 2010, pp. 189-209, ISBN: [9788186307366](https://www.dvspublishers.com/9788186307366)
 - Reprinted D. Suba Chandran, Harnit Kaur Kang, Tuli Sinha (eds), *An Alternative Strategy for Southeast Asia: Looking Through India's Northeast*, New Delhi: Samskriti, 2011, ISBN: [9788187374688](https://www.samskriti.org/9788187374688)

Book reviews and review essays

- Review of: Simon W. Fuchs, *In a Pure Muslim Land: Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East* (U. of South Carolina Press, 2019), *The Book Review*, 44(6), June 2020, pp. 7-8, <https://thebookreviewindia.org/the-story-of-transnational-islam/> 2020
- Review of: Venkat Dhulipala, *Creating a New Medina* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), *La Vie des Idées*, 23 Oct. 2017 2017
 - <http://www.laviedesidees.fr/L-idee-de-Pakistan.html>
- Review of: Laurent Gayer, *Karachi. Ordered Disorder and the Struggle for the City* (Hurst, 2014), *Books & Ideas*, 12 March 2015 2015
 - <http://www.booksandideas.net/Karachi-A-History-of-Violence.html>
- Review of: Alix Philippon, *Soufisme et politique au Pakistan: le mouvement barelwi à l'heure de la "guerre contre le terrorisme"* (Karthala, 2010), *South Asia Research*, vol. 35, n°1, Feb. 2015, pp. 140-142, DOI: [10.1177/0262728014561078](https://doi.org/10.1177/0262728014561078)
- Review essay: "Managing Diversity in Pakistan: Nationalism, Ethnic Politics and Cultural Resistance", *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, Book Reviews, 11 June 2013, <http://samaj.eu/3551> 2013

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Muslim Personal Law, Muslim leadership, and social stratification in India", conference *Making sense of Muslim Personal Laws in Post-independent India*, Institute for Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, 20-21 September 2019 2019

- "Understanding Muslim Representation: Preliminary results of a prosopographical study of Muslim elites in India" (co-presenter), workshop on *Muslim Middle Class and Globalisation*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 25-26 March 2019 2019
- "'Anxious masculinities' and women activists in Sindhi nationalist and left politics", international conference *The Familiar Stranger: Exploring Sindh-Gujarat: (Dis)connections*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 18-19 January 2019
- "Social Dominance, Religious Leadership and Power Networks: A Prosopographical Study of Sayyids in India" (co-presenter), panel *The Sayyids in South Asia: the social and political role of a Muslim elite*, European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, 25 July 2018 2018
- "Nationalism as a performative discourse", panel *The State of Nationalism*, convened by Eric Woods, 24th Congress of the International Political Science Association (AISP/IPSA), Poznan, 23-28 July 2016 2016
- "Engaging Sindhiyyat from abroad: the case of the World Sindhi Congress", international workshop *Comparing the Vernacular in the Muslim and Hindu Traditions: The Case of Sindhiyyat*, EHESS, Paris, 1st June 2016
- "G. M. Sayed's personae: politician, sayed, dynast and founding father", international workshop *Pakistan. Parallel Narratives of the Nation-State*, South Asia Institute, Universität Heidelberg, 1-3 December 2014 2014
- "'Sindhis are Sufi by nature': Sufism as a marker of identity in Sindh", international workshop *Sufi Islam and the Politics of Belonging in South Asia*, Universität Heidelberg, 6 November 2014
- "Ethnicized Sufism in Sindh : whose identity marker ?", international workshop *Islam and Regional Cultures in Pakistan*, EHESS, Paris, 6 June 2014
- "The strength of the dynastic model in Pakistan: a study of three political parties of Sindh", panel on *Heredity and political competition: the paradox of family transmission of political power in competitive political systems*, 2013 Biannual Congress of the French Association of Political Science, Paris, 11 July 2013 2013
- "Claiming Sufism as a marker of ethnicity: identity politics and religion in Sindh", workshop on *Pilgrims and Politics in Pakistan: Sufism in an Age of Transition*, Institute for Advanced Studies, Paris, 21 May 2013
- "Restoring the dignity of a non-martial race: masculinity and femininity in Sindhi nationalism, from symbols to individual trajectories", young scholars workshop on *Gender, Mobilization and Social Dynamics in South Asia*, organized by Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes (AJEI), Paris, 8 November 2012 2012
- "Being Sindhi in Pakistan : competing identity discourses, folklorization and political culture", *Sixth European PhD Workshop on South Asia*, Lund University, Sweden, 17-19 September 2012

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Fonds d'Alembert, for the project *Intermediary Actors of Politics in India*, managed with Jean-Thomas Martelli 2018
- Second dissertation prize 2018 of the [Institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslims World](#) (IISMM, EHESS, Paris) 2018
- Dissertation completion award, Près Hésam 2014
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2013
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2012
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2011
- Field research grant, Pierre Ledoux – Jeunesse Internationale foundation 2011

LANGUAGES & OTHER SKILLS

Languages	French (native), English (fluent), Hindi/Urdu (advanced), German (intermediate), Sindhi (basics)
Computer	Windows/macOS/Linux, MS Office/LibreOffice, Adobe Suite & open-source equivalents, MaxQDA, Pajek