Raksha Gopal

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PhD candidate in International Relations and Political Science, with a specialized focus on Migration, Forced Displacements, Gender, Feminist Political Economy and South Asian politics.

EDUCATION

Geneva Graduate Institute PhD in International Relations and Political Science

2022-Present

Geneva, Switzerland

Geneva, Switzerland

New Delhi, India

Specialization in international migration, forced displacements, gender and critical security

Grade for Dissertation Proposal: 5.5/6.0 **Geneva Graduate Institute**

Masters in International Relations and Political Science

Grade 5.53/6.0

University of Delhi

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Political Science with Economics

Grade: First Division

FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Gender Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute

Geneva, Switzerland

2022-Present

Led six months of ethnographic research in refugee settlements, 60 semi-structured individual and group interviews and participant observations in India (April-June 2023; October-December 2023)

Assisted in drafting a successful funding proposal for the Swiss National Science Foundation; awarded CHF 579,332

Lady Shri Ram College for Women

New Delhi, India

Student Researcher

Research Assistant

- Led three months of qualitative field research using comparative methods in New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana (March-May 2019; October-November 2019)
- Organized, conducted, transcribed and analyzed 90+ structured interviews

WORK EXPERIENCE

World Organization Against Torture Research Intern in the Anti-Torture Programme Geneva, Switzerland

October 2021-June 2022

- Supported coordination of CSO activities, interventions, and advocacy ahead of the 72nd and 73rd UN Committee Against Torture sessions
- Authored the widely published OMCT E-Bulletin 2021 and 2022 which reached over 10,000+ individuals and donors
- Single-handedly conducted and authored time-critical baseline and end-line surveys on the status of human rights violations in various countries globally to support the organization's reports to the UN
- Represented the organization at the 50th UN Human Rights Council as the primary spokesperson on migration and refugees in Africa and Asia
- Conducted research and edited OMCT policy papers and the widely distributed "Covid and Detention Guidance Notes" and "Women Break the Silence Gender Based Torture in Asia" 2022 Report
- Facilitated the ideation and creation of a data bank on 200+ jurisprudence reports on asylum-seekers and refugees from the UN Committee Against Torture

Lady Shri Ram College for Women

New Delhi, India

Co-Editor for the Annual Journal of the Department of Political Science

May 2018-May 2019

Led a team of 9 for planning, designing, editing, and publishing Sabab 2019 (the Annual Journal of the Department)

National Service Scheme India

New Delhi, India May 2018-May 2019

Project Head (promoted from volunteer)

- Led and coordinated the activities of a non-profit initiative for the education of underprivileged children in New Delhi benefitting 50+ children
- Key activities included recruitment and management of 40+ volunteers, developing monthly agendas and lesson plans, and fundraising

PUBLICATIONS (IN PROGRESS/UNDER REVIEW)

- "Mothers on the Move: The Politics of Displaced Rohingya Mothers in South Asia", data collected, writing in progress for the International Migration Review
- "Social Reproduction, Violence and Survivability", writing in progress with Prof. Elisabeth Prügl and Luisa Lupo, writing in progress for inclusion in Aida Hozić and Jacqui True's edited volume Gender Circuits of Violence and War Economies
- "Displaced Lives: Rethinking Social Reproduction, Survival and In/Security with Refugees", co-authored with Luisa Lupo, under review at the International Feminist Journal of Politics

PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/ ACADEMIC SERVICES TO THE DISCIPLINE

- Presenter at the CEEISA-ISA International Conference 2024 (forthcoming)
- Presenter at the Gender Centre Workshop 2024
- Presenter at the "Routine Irregularities: The Contested Governance of Irregular and Forced Migration in Asia" Workshop, organized by the University of Sydney and Australia National University, 1 of 12 papers selected globally
- Presenter at the CUSO Feminist Article Writing Workshop, Lausanne, Switzerland, October 2023
- Presenter at the Annual Conference of the International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE) 2023, Madrid, Spain, September 2023
- Discussant at the Annual Colloquium of the International Relations and Political Science Department 2022 for a seminar on "Rethinking control over refugees through and beyond technological disruptions" by Prof. Martina Tazzioli
- Member: European International Studies Association (EISA), Laboratoire Intermigra (Haute école de travail social Gèneve)

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Received the Swiss National Science Foundation Division I Grant for research; Amount Awarded: CHF579,332
- Received the Geneva Graduate Institute Scholarship for PhD Students for CHF22,000
- Admitted into the PhD through the highly competitive Fast-Track Programme reserved for students with high academic achievement
- Rank 1 in B.A. (Hons) Political Science at Lady Shri Ram College for Women among 90+ students
- Received the "Professor Randhir Singh Award for Excellence in Political Science" for an excellent Bachelor's dissertation and valuable contribution to the Department at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi, India
- All-India Rank 1 in All India Senior Secondary Examinations 2017 among 1,000,000 + candidates

SKILLS

- Computer: R Language, Nvivo
- Languages: English (bilingual proficiency), Hindi (bilingual proficiency), French (full working proficiency: c1)
- Certified keyboardist and pianist from Trinity College London, UK