

Shagun Gupta

PhD Student in International Relations

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Education

American University, School of International Service

PhD in International Relations (Year one)

- Coursework in Schools of Thought in IR, Comparative Politics, Advanced IR Theory, Social Theory, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences

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 – April 2020

- 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 21st February 2020.

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

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, 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. "A Bottle of Water in Sittwe." *Initiative for Policy Research and Analysis*, February 24, 2017. Web.
- 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.

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)
- STATA and MS Excel (for statistical analysis)
- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign)

Languages

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