

SUMONA DASGUPTA

Political Scientist, Independent Researcher, Senior Visiting Fellow with Participatory Research in Asia and Member, Calcutta Research Group

Contact Details:

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Education:

- University of Hyderabad, India
PhD in Political Science, 2001
Dissertation title: Rethinking Militarization: the Indian Experience since the 1980s.
- University of Hyderabad, India
M.Phil in Political Science (focus on South Asia and international Relations), 1995.
- Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India
M.A in International Relations, 1990.

Primary Research Interests:

- Peace, conflict and critical security studies.
- Governance and Politics in South Asia with a special focus on Jammu and Kashmir.
- Deepening Democracy, Political Parties and electoral politics.
- Gender as a crosscutting issue.

Work Experience:

Senior Visiting Fellow, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi, January 2015 till date

Visiting Fellow, Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, January 2, 2014 - April 2, 2014.

Senior Research Consultant, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi, 2010- December 2013 and Lead Researcher for the EU research Project on Cultures of Governance and Conflict Resolution in Europe and India, January 2011- December 2013.

Senior Programme Officer - Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), Foundation for Universal Responsibility, New Delhi , 2001-2005 and Assistant Director– 2005-2009.

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Loreto College, (Calcutta University, India) – 1990-1992.

Research Networks/Consortiums/ Advisory Board:

- Chair, International Advisory Group (IAG) at International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE), University of Ulster, Derry, Northern Ireland, an international Centre of Excellence for the study of peace and conflict.
- Member, Calcutta Research Group (CRG), Kolkata, an association of scholar-activists engaged in policy studies on issues of justice, forms of democracy, forced migration, peace and conflict in the Indian subcontinent.
- Editorial Board, International Feminist Journal of Politics.
- Member, Expert Committee to design the Masters Curriculum on *Peace and Conflict Studies* at Sikkim University, Gangtok, India, 2009.
- Member, Reconciliation Resource Network (RRN) - an initiative hosted by international IDEA, Sweden - for the global community of practitioners, analysts and policy makers.
- Corresponding Member, International Peace Commission, The Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace, Warrington, UK.
- Member, Research Steering Committee on the IDRC-INCORE project on Trauma, Development and Peacebuilding, UK (2009-2012).
- Member of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

Training and Evaluation Work:

- Part of a two member Joint India-Pakistan review team for co-writing a reflection paper on the *Peacebuilding in Kashmir* Programme, implemented by Conciliation Resources, London, November –December 2016.
- Evaluation of Women In Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP) project on Education for Peace in Delhi and Srinagar, March 2015
- Resource person for on-site mentoring workshop on *Participatory Research Methodologies* for Save the Children, Bangladesh in Delhi and Dhaka for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), November-December 2014.

- Part of a two member Joint India-Pakistan review team to evaluate the *Peacebuilding in Kashmir* Programme, implemented by Conciliation Resources, London (May - July 2014)
- Part of a three member team to evaluate a project on *Strengthening Civil Society Conflict Transformation Capacities in Jammu and Kashmir*, 2011, coordinated by INTRAC, UK.
- Designed training modules on *Understanding the Kashmir Problem* for students of Conflict transformation and Peacebuilding, Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, Loreto College, Calcutta University, Indian and European students from the Norwegian organization *Kulturstudier* (Culture Studies) in cooperation with Oslo University College as part of a course on peace and conflict studies : 2009-2013
- *Gender and Non traditional Formulations of Security*, a training module designed and conducted with lecturers, doctors, members of the police academy and NGO leaders at RSIS, Singapore, August 2007.
- *Gender and Security : Exploring The Problematique* and *Gender and Armed Conflict : the Kashmir Case*, two presentations conducted as Faculty Member, 6th RCSS Winter Workshop on *Terrorism, Human Security Issues, Governance, Gender and Security*, Kathmandu, Nepal, October 2004

Selected Projects Facilitated and Managed from 2001:

- *Women building constituencies of Peace*, a WISCOMP (Women in Security, conflict Management and Peace) action research project co facilitated from 2001-2009
- Managed the Gender and non-traditional formulations of Security, A WISCOMP project funded by Ford Foundation, 2002 -2005.
- Project-in-charge and Principal Researcher for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) on Indo-European collaborative research project *Cultures of Governance and Conflict Resolution in India and Europe*, an EU research project funded under the 7th research framework, from January 2011-December 2013.

Select Research and Writing Assignments:

- Co-writer for a reflection paper on Peacebuilding in Jammu and Kashmir, commissioned by Conciliation Resources, London, 2016.
- Regional researcher and analyst for International IDEA's project on regional overview of gender equality in political parties systems in 5 countries in Asia-Pacific (Nepal, Phillipines, Indonesia, Timor Leste and Fiji), 2016

- International Consultant for Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) to write the chapter and facilitate discussion on *Women in Local Politics* for the Christiansborg Seminar, Copenhagen, September 11-12, 2012.
- India consultant for paper on *Analysis of Political Parties from a Gender Perspective*, commissioned by International IDEA, Sweden, 2011.
- India consultant in a multi-national evaluation team for a conflict transformation project in Jammu and Kashmir conducted by INTRAC, UK, 2011.
- Consulting Editor, "Gender, Peace and Conflict," 3 (1), 2010 and "Identities in Conflict" 3(2), 2010 in *Peace Prints* (A South Asian Journal of Peacebuilding).
- Synthesis Paper on "Citizen Initiatives in local election awareness campaigns" for PRIA as part of SDC's project on Democratic Accountability in Local Governance: Experiences from South Asia.
- Guest Editor, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Special Issue on Gender and Security; Perspectives from South Asia, 11(4), 2004.
- Research Project "*Crossing Lines with a Gender Lens: Interrogating Dominant Narratives on Causes of Conflict in Kashmir*" (with Sudha Ramachandran and Meenakshi Gopinath), funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Washington D.C, in 2002-03.

Select Publications:

- Single authored book:
 - *Citizen Initiatives and Democratic Engagements: Experiences from India*, New Delhi: Routledge, 2010.
- Series co-editor:
 - Re-visioning and Engendering Security Series, Rupa 2010

This consisted of a series of 5 monographs produced under the project, *Transcending Conflict: Gender and Non Traditional security in South Asia* (a WISCOMP project supported by Ford Foundation).

- Chapters in books:
 - "Agency, Autonomy and Complicity in Conflict Situations: Perspectives from Jammu and Kashmir, Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina" (co-authored piece) in Oliver Richmond and Ranabir Samaddar (edited), *Culture of Governance and Peace: A Comparison of EU and Indian Theoretical and Policy Approaches*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016.

- “Towards Contextual Psychosocial Practice,” (with Brandon Hamber et al) in Brandon Hamber *et al Psychosocial Perspectives on Peacebuilding*, Springer, 2014.
- “Security, Gender and Conflict Prevention: Perceptions from South Asia” in Paula Banerjee (edited), *Women in Peace Politics*, New Delhi: Sage, 2008.
- “Re-creating Spaces for Dialogue: The Role of Civil Society in Jammu and Kashmir” in V.R. Raghavan (edited), *Civil Society in Conflict Situations*, Chennai: Centre for Security Analysis, 2008.
- “Structural Challenges, Enabling Spaces: Gender and Non-Traditional Formulations of Security in South Asia” (with Meenakshi Gopinath) in Ralf Emmers *et al* (edited), *Studying Non Traditional Security in Asia: Trends and Issues*, Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academy, 2006.
- “Women Breaking the Silence: The Athwaas Initiative in Kashmir,” (with Meenakshi Gopinath) in Paul Tongeren et al, *People Building Peace II*, Boulder/London: Lynne Rienner, 2005.
- “Gender and Conflict Resolution in South Asia” (with Meenakshi Gopinath) in Moonis Ahmar (edited), *Paradigms of Conflict Resolution in South Asia*, Dhaka: The University Press, 2003.
- “From Conflict to Transformation: The Road Less Travelled” (with Meenakshi Gopinath) in Jasjit Singh (edited), *State Sovereignty in the 21st Century: Concept, Relevance and Limits*, New Delhi: IDSA, July 2001.
- “Militarization of the Indian State in the 1980s” in *International Studies*, 35 (4), Sage, 1998, also published in Maroof Raza (edited), *Generals and Governments in India and Pakistan*, New Delhi: Har Anand (reprinted with permission from Sage publications).

➤ Select Articles and Reports:

- “Kashmir and the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue Process”, RSIS working Paper 291, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore, May 2015.
- “Stormy Waters Ahead,” UP Front, India Today, March 28, 2014.
- Implementation of governance initiatives in conflict settings in India (with Rajesh Tandon and Amit Prakash), research paper submitted for the CORE project to Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), 2013
- “Village Council Elections in Jammu and Kashmir: A Lost Opportunity for Conflict Sensitive Governance,” *CORE Policy Brief*, 2013.

- “Borderlands and Borderlines: Re-negotiating Boundaries in Jammu and Kashmir,” *Journal of Borderland Studies*, 27(1), 2012.
- “Pacification is not Peacebuilding: Why Special Economic Packages and Special Legislations do not Work” in Janel B. Galvanek, Hans J. Giessman and Mir Mubashir (edited), *Norms and Premises of Peace Governance*, Berghof Occasional paper 32, 2012.
- “Time and a Place: Survivorhood in Dardpora,” *Himal Southasia*, January 2008.
- *Dialogic Explorations: Texts and Contexts*, A WISCOMP Report, 2008.
- *Gender, Violence and Rights: Exploring Responses from Jammu and Kashmir*, Building Constituencies of Peace: Stakeholders in Dialogue XII (with Navanita Sinha), New Delhi: WISCOMP, 2008.
- *Transforming Conflict in Jammu and Kashmir: Alternative Frameworks, New Metaphors*, CT Working Paper VII (with Manjrika Sewak), New Delhi: WISCOMP, 2007.
- *Regional Conference on Non-Traditional Security Discourse: Gender and South Asia – A Report* (with Meenakshi Gopinath), New Delhi: WISCOMP, 2006.
- *Samanbal: Spaces for Reconciliation*, Building Constituencies of Peace: Stakeholders in Dialogue III, New Delhi: WISCOMP, 2004.
- “They Have a Different View” (with Sudha Ramachandran and Meenakshi Gopinath) in *The Hindu*, October 7, 2003.
- *Conflict Resolution: Trends and Prospects* (with Meenakshi Gopinath), WISCOMP Report, New Delhi: WISCOMP, 2002.
- *Breaking the Silence: Women and Kashmir* - A WISCOMP Report, 2001.

Writing Work in progress/forthcoming publications:

“Environmental Security in India” in Sumit Ganguly, Nicolas Blarel and Manjeet Pardesi (edited), *The Oxford Handbook of India’s National Security*, Oxford University Press, 2018 (forthcoming).