

# Himanshu Jha

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Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute  
Heidelberg University  
Im Neuenheimer Feld 330 D  
Heidelberg 69120, Germany  
Tel: +49 6221 54-4915  
Email: jha@uni-heidelberg.de  
Home page: <http://www.himanshujha.net/>

## Employment

July 2016- Present- Lecturer and Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany  
(Also member of Admissions committee for the Masters Programme, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany)

January 2016 –May 2016- Graduate Teaching Assistant, South Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

January 2012- December 2015- Teaching and Tutoring, South Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

August 2012-December 2013- Graduate Assistant  
Project on Asian Cities as Centres of Global Modernity, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore

June 2004 –December 2011- National Coordinator, National Social Watch Coalition, New Delhi and Coordinating Committee Member, Social Watch International

August 2003 –June 2004- Research Associate, University of Wisconsin- Madison  
Project entitled “Weapons of the strong Business and Politics in post 1991 India”.

May 2003 - August 2003 - Research Associate, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

September 2002 - March 2003 - Program Visitor, Graduate Program in Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

February 2002 - August 2002- Research Associate, International Division, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi

1999-2001 Technical Support Person - Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

August 2000-August 2001 - Member, Student Committee Graduate House, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

## **Education**

2016 PhD, South Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore

**Thesis:** Capturing Institutional Change: Right to Information Act in India.

**President Graduate Fellow** from 2015 to 2016

2001 M. Phil., Public Policy, Graduate Program in Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra

**Thesis:** Liberalization in the Federal Context: Institutional Arrangements for Policy-making in Australia and India in the 1990s

1998 M.A., Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

1996 B.A. (Honors), History, University of Delhi

Optional subjects: Political Science, Hindi and English

## **Publications**

### **Book Project**

“Capturing Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India”, (Under Review with the **Oxford University Press**)

This proposed book seeks to examine the process of institutional change through the lenses of transformation in the ‘information regime’ in India by tracing the passage of the Right to Information Act (RTIA) 2005. The book captures the why and how of institutional change by examining three central questions, 1. What explains the institutional change? 2. How did the institutional change occur? And 3. What is the extent and reach of institutional change? It contributes conceptually to the emerging literature on institutional change by presenting a nuanced perspective on the evolution of the RTIA narrative by highlighting the socio-political processes contributing towards both theory and the policy (RTIA).

### **Journal Articles (Peer Reviewed)**

“State Processes, Ideas, and Institutional Change: The Case of the Right to Information Act in India”, *Pacific Affairs* Volume 91 (2) (June 2018)

“Institutional Progression of the Right to Information Act: Emerging Politics of Accountability” (Special Article), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 53, Issue 10, (March 2018)

“Untangling Global-Local Linkages: The Case of the Right to Information Act in India”, *India Review* (Forthcoming). Co-editing this Special Issue of *India Review* on “Globalisation and Institutional Change in India”

“Bureaucratic Rationality, Political Will and State Capacity: MGNREGS in Undivided Andhra Pradesh” (Special Article with Rahul Mukherji), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume LII (49) (December 2017)

“Institutions of Intergovernmental Relations in the Federal Framework of Australia and India”, *Indian Journal of Federal Studies* 8 (2) (2003).

“Policy Impact on Institutions of Federal Financial Transfers in Australia and India”, *Indian Journal of Public Administration* Volume 50 (3), Special Number on “Management of Central and State Finances: Present Status and Future Prospects”, July – October 2004.

### **Books Chapters**

“Emerging Politics of Accountability: Sub-national reflections from Bihar”, In, Madhushree Sekher (ed.) , *Including the Excluded in South Asia? Power, Politics and Policies*, **Springer** (Forthcoming)

“The State, Ideas and Welfare in India: Reflections on Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal” (With Rahul Mukherji), In, Vidu Verma (ed.), *State in India: Reflections on Contemporary Politics*, **Orient Blackswan** (Forthcoming)

“India and Bangladesh in Climate Change Finance: From Structural Conflict to Embedded Liberalism” (With Rahul Mukherji), In, *Global Governance*, Tim Büthe (ed.), **Oxford University Press** (Forthcoming)

“Policy As Instrument for Reconciling Diversity: Experience of the Indian federal System”, Chapter in *Policy Issues in Federalism: International Perspectives*. Editors: John Kinciad and Rupak Chattopadhyay. **Forum of Federations, Canada, Viva Books** 2008.

Contributed in *Global Civil Society Yearbook 2009*, “National Social Watch Coalition in India: A tool for governance Accountability”, Published jointly by London School of Economics and Political Science; Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Centre for Social Investment, **Heidelberg University. Sage**. May 2009.

“Privatization in Federal Systems: Electricity Sector in Australia and India”, in an edited Volume *Public Governance And Decentralization*, edited by S.N.Mishra and S. Mishra (New Delhi: Mittal Publications 2003).

## **Book Reviews**

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty by Acemoglu Daron and James.A.Robinson . New York, Crown Business 2012. In **ASEAN Economic Bulletin** 29(2). August 2012.

Corbridge Stuart, Harris John, and Jeffery Craig (eds.) (2013) India Today: Economy, Politics and Society. Cambridge, UK. Polity Press. In **Asian Journal of Social Science** 41 (2013)

Markets and Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Lessons from Development Projects. By Dev Nathan, Ganesh Thapa, Govind Kelkar with Antonella Cordone. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012. In **Journal of Southeast Asian Economies** 31(1) April 2014.

Sahoo, Sarbeswar (2013). Civil Society and Democratization in India: Institutions, Ideologies and Interests. Abingdon, Oxon. Routledge. In **Asian Journal of Social Science** 42, 2014.

## **Teaching**

### *Areas of Teaching*

Comparative Politics  
Public Policy  
Qualitative Methods  
Indian Politics  
Institutions and Institutional change  
Local and Global Governance

## **Courses Taught**

### *Undergraduate*

B.A Honors module on *Social, Political and Economic Change in India* at the National University of Singapore in 2016

B.A. Seminar on *Politics in India* at the Heidelberg University, Germany

B.A Seminar on *Introduction to Qualitative Methods* at the Heidelberg University, Germany

### *Masters*

M.A seminar on *Governance and Politics of Welfare in South Asia* at Heidelberg University, Germany.

M.A seminar on *Politics and Governance in India* at Heidelberg University, Germany.

M.A seminar on *Transparency, Accountability and Corruption in South Asia* at Heidelberg University, Germany

MA seminar on *Public Policies and Institutions: Persistent and Change in South Asia* at Heidelberg University, Germany

MA/BA seminar on *Politics of Climate Change in South Asia* at Heidelberg University, Germany

### ***Tutoring***

B.A module on *South Asia: People, Culture and Development* at the National University of Singapore 2012-2015

B.A module on *South Asians in Singapore* at the National University of Singapore 2013-2015

### **Fellowships, Grants and Awards:**

2017 German Academic Exchange Funding (DAAD) ‘Kongress’ Funding, Germany.

2017 SICCI Prize (Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Best Thesis in the South Asian Programme, National University of Singapore for Academic Year 2016 – 2017.

2015-2016 President Graduate Fellowship, National University of Singapore

2013 – 2014 Overseas Fieldwork Funding, National University of Singapore

2012-2014 Research Scholarship, National University of Singapore

2015 - Conference Funding, National University of Singapore

2015 - Overseas Educational Programmes Grant Fund, National University of Singapore

2013-2014 World Bank Grant

Conducted research on “The roots of citizen concern and welfare in India: The Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Andhra Pradesh” (Principal investigator Prof. Rahul Mukherji).

2012-13 Graduate Teaching Award, Best Teacher, for teaching Undertaken in Semester I 2012-13

2012-13 Graduate Teaching Award, Best Teacher, for teaching undertaken in Semester II 2012-13.

### **Public Talks and Lectures**

Talk on Emerging Politics of Accountability at Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, India 5-6 September 2017.

Talk on State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change at Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P.Jindal Global University, India , August 30,2017

Talk on Untangling the Global –Local Linkages at the Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland 21 June 2017

Public Lecture on Right to Information Act from a Federal Perspective Accountability at the State and Local Levels at Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Special Lecture Series, New Delhi, India, March 21 2017

Talk on Right to Information a Viable Institution? The case of Bihar, India at the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany, January 9 2017

Talk on Capturing Institutional Change: The Case of the Right to Information Act in India at the South Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore April 13 2016.

### **Paper Presentations, Seminars and Conferences**

Organised a panel on “State Capacity and Bureaucratic Rationality in India” in 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin –Madison, USA, 11-14 October 2018. Also Presented a paper in the same panel on “Ideas, Tipping Point and State Capacity in India: Comparing Welfare Politics of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal”.

The sixth annual Monash Business and Sustainability network workshop on sustainable development, Monash University, Prato Centre, Italy, 25-26 June 2018. Presented paper on "State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change: Case of the Right to Information Act in India"

The 59th International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, April 4-7, 2018, San Francisco, USA. Presented papers on

- State Capacity, Ideas, and Welfare in India
- India and Bangladesh in Climate Change Negotiations: From Structural Conflict

to Embedded Liberalism (With Rahul Mukherji)

Global Conference on Transparency Research, University of Limerick, Ireland 19-21 June 2017. Presented a paper on “Capturing Institutional Change: Case of the Right to Information Act in India”.

China-India Workshop on Development and Governance, Fudan University, Shanghai, China June 3, 2017. Presented on “State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India”

Workshop on 'Social Exclusion/ Inclusion in South Asia, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India 22-23 March 2017. Presented a paper entitled “Right to Information: A Viable case of Institutional change?”

Rethinking Stakeholder Participation in Global Governance (Organised by Technical University Munich), Burgahusen, 2-3 March 2017. Presented a co-authored paper on “India and Bangladesh in Climate Change Negotiations: From Structural Conflict to Embedded Liberalism”

International Political Science Association, Poznan, Poland 23- 28 July 2016. Presented a paper entitled “Untangling Global-Local Linkages: case of Right to Information in India”.

Sixth Annual Conference organized by Consortium for African and Asian Studies, 27-28 October 2015, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea. Presented a paper titled “Do Global Norms Matter? Case of Right to Information Act in India”.

Presented a paper titled “Do Global Norms Matter? Case of Right to Information Act in India” (Reworked version of the paper presented at ISA Conference, New Orleans, U.S.A). Sixth Annual Conference organized by Consortium for African and Asian Studies, 27-28 October 2015, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea.

Presented a paper titled “Capturing Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India” (dealing with Primary arguments of my doctoral thesis). Annual PhD lab organized by International Sociological Association, 20-24 July, 2015, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

Presented a paper titled “Do Global Norms Matter? Case of Right to Information Act in India”. Annual Conference of International Studies Association, 18-21 February 2015, New Orleans, U.S.A. This paper is accepted for publication in the special issue of India Review (Forthcoming).

Presented a paper titled “State Processes, Ideas and Institutional Change: Case of Right to Information Act in India”. Conference on South Asian Development, Hosted by South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, 21-22 July 2014, Singapore. To be published as a chapter in an unpublished volume by Stanford University

Press (Forthcoming).

Key note speaker in the European Parliament Public hearing on the “Green Paper, the DCI and China”, 17 November 2010, European Parliament, Brussels.

Presented a paper “India and the Financial Crisis”. Seminar on “Raiding the Public till: The Financial Crises and the MDGs” organized by CIDSE, Heinrich Boell Foundation, UN-NGLS and Social Watch, September 2010, New York.

Presented a paper on ‘Social Watch Process in India: Establishing an alternate governance discourse’ at International Conference on “Eradicating Chronic Poverty in India: Policy Issues and Challenges” organized by Chronic Poverty Research Centre, University of Manchester; Indian Institute of Public Administration and Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS), Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008.

Presented a paper entitled “Financing for Development (FFD) through Foreign Direct Investment: Mechanism for Growth and Equity” at Asia Regional Consultation for the follow up of Monterrey Conference on FFD, Manila, Philippines, May 7-9 2008.

Presented a paper entitled “Unity and Diversity: can it be reconciled?” at 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Federalism organized by Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI and Forum of Federations, Canada. November 6-8 2008, New Delhi.

Appeared in an hour long discussion as a part of the panel on Lok Sabha Television in the program entitled “Public Forum- High Decibel Parliament” on 6 September 2007.

Gave a lecture on “Public Policy and Human Development” in Raipur, Chattisgrah to the officials of Government of Chattisgrah in a training workshop jointly organized by the Government of Chattisgrah and Debate on 5 September 2007.

Presented two Seminars related to my M.Phil. Thesis at Graduate Program in Public Policy, Australian National University

Presented my thesis proposal "Liberalization in the Federal Context: Institutional Arrangements for Policy-making in Australia and India in the 1990s" at Graduate Program in Public Policy, Australian National University. September 1999.

Presented a pre-submission seminar of the thesis at Graduate Program in Public Policy, Australian National University. July 2001.

### **Articles in Newspapers and Magazines**

“Restive Voices For Change” (An opinion Piece of outcome of Assembly Elections of Delhi 2015), Op-Ed, New Indian Express, 11 February 2015.

“Challenge After New Narrative” (An analysis of Indian Elections 2014), Op-Ed, New Indian Express, 19 May 2014.



“Redefining Policy Directions”, Op-ed, New Indian Express, 1 July 2011.

“Create More Sun Belts” (An analysis of the G8 Summit) , Op-ed, New Indian Express, 14 June 2011.

“For Some Action Beyond Party Lines”, Op-Ed, Governance Now, Vol.2, Issue 8, May 16-31, 2011.

“No Bang for that Extra Buck, MP’s?”, Op-Ed, Governance Now, September 2, 2010.

“Unveiling MDGs”, SaharaTime (Weekly Newspaper), 30 October 2004.

### **Policy Reports**

“Targeting Gender Inequality: Women and Poverty”, Roars and Whispers, International Social Watch Report, Uruguay, 2005.

“Balancing the Goals, the Commitments and the Means: Dilemma of the Indian State”, Impossible Architecture, International Social Watch Report 2006.

“Right to Social Security: Commitment, Delivery and Realities”, In Dignity and Rights, International Social Watch Report 2007.

“Rights, Commitments and Delivery: Who gets What, when and How?”, Rights is the Answer, International Social Watch Report 2008 .

“Financial Crisis: Breaks in the Road and Missed Milestones”, Making Finances Work: People First, International Social Watch Report 2009

“Emerging Trends in Financing for Development”, After the fall, International Social Watch Report 2010

### **Media**

Quoted in the Washington Post, October 3, 2010 in the news story entitled “India wants to be a great power. So why are its Commonwealth Games such a mess?”

Quoted in Reuters, April 29, 2009 in the news story entitled “Bullets and Ballots in India’s General Elections”

Quoted in the leading French Daily La Tribune, April 27 2009 in the news story entitled “La criminalité au cœur a de la « démocratie indienne”, by Patrick Jacquilot

Quoted in The Australian, Australia, April 16 2009 in the news story entitled “ Caste in a Fresh Role” , by Amanda Hodge

Quoted in Times, London , April 3, 2009, in the news story entitled “World agenda: Pappu Raj satire illustrates corruption of Indian politics” by Jeremy Page; Rhys Blakely

Quoted in Times, London, April 2 2009 in the news story entitled “BJP leader Jaswant Singh claims election payouts 'were charity, not bribes' by Rhys Blakely

Quoted in Newsweek, March 7 2009 in the news story entitled “The House in Ill Repute”, by Jason Overdorf.

Quoted in the International Herald Tribune, 28 February 2006 in the news story entitled “India’s War on Poverty: Easy Victory Unlikely” by Amelia Gentleman.

Quoted in Financial Times, London, May 3 2007 in the news story entitled “Engaging India: Crime and Politics” by Jo Johnson.

Quoted in the International Herald Tribune, 26 April 2007 in the news story entitled “A Cancerous Growth in India’s Body Politic” by Amelia Gentleman.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

2004- December 2013 - Social Work

Part of the founding team which launched a national level public campaign in India called *Wada Na Todo Abhiyan* (Keep your promises) around Millennium Development Goals.

August 1996-July1998 - Member, JNU Student's Cultural Cell, New Delhi, Organized numerous seminars and conferences in this capacity

**References available on request**