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Education

University of Toronto

Ph. D. in Political Science (2001-2007)

Title of Doctoral Dissertation: "Religious Minorities, the Postcolonial State and the Politics of Non-Domination"

Committee: Professor Melissa Williams (Adviser), Professor Ayelet Shachar and Professor Ritu Birla

Balliol College, University of Oxford

Politics, M. Phil. (1998-2000)

M. Phil. Thesis: "Neutrality and Internal Reasoning: Some Issues in the Debate on Secularism in India"

Adviser: Dr. Adam Swift

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Political Science, M. Phil. (1996-1998); Political Science, M. A. (1994-1996)

M. Phil. Thesis: "Secularism, Neutrality and Perfectionism: An Examination of the Separation between State and Religion"

Adviser: Professor Rajeev Bhargava

Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

Political Science, B. A. (Hons.) (1991-94)

Fields of Interest

Contemporary Political Theory (including Multiculturalism and Secularism)

History of Western Political Thought

Political Institutions

Modern Indian Social and Political Thought

Subaltern Political Theory

South Asian Politics

Planning and Politics in Third World Cities

Awards

2007 – 2008: Max Weber Fellowship for postdoctoral research at the European University Institute, Florence

2006 – 2007: Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto's Centre for Ethics

2006 – 2007: Doctoral Research Fellowship in Ethnicity and Democratic Governance

2006 – 2007: Provost Seeley Junior Fellow in Arts at Trinity College in the University of Toronto

2005 – 2006: C. B. Macpherson Dissertation Fellowship

2005 – 2006: University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant

2004 – 2006: Beattie Doctoral Fellowship at the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

2004: Award of Excellence from the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin for standing up against religious violence, spreading literacy skills, and for working to prevent environmental damage
2004 – 2005: University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant
2001 – 2006: University of Toronto Fellowship to read for the Ph.D. in Political Science
1998 – 2000: Inlaks Scholarship to read for the M. Phil. in Politics at Balliol College, University of Oxford; full scholarship (fees and maintenance) awarded by the Inlaks Foundation, UK
1994 – 1996: Stood 1st in the M.A. in Political Science at the Centre for Political Studies in the Jawaharlal Nehru University
1996: Qualified the University Grants Commission's *National Eligibility Test for Lectureship* in India
1991 – 1994: Scored the highest marks in the third year of B.A. (Hons.) Political Science
1994: SPICMACAY's *Gurukul Scholarship* for the field of social work
1994: Annual Prize in Lady Shri Ram College for outstanding contribution to the *National Service Scheme*
1994: Certificate of Merit for contribution to the NGO *Child Relief and You* (CRY)
1992 – 1993: Led the Woman and Child Development Project in Lady Shri Ram College

Teaching

2006: Instructor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto

Taught a fourth year undergraduate seminar, POL 485H1S "Topics in Political Thought II – Secularism"
Sole responsibility for design and delivery of the course; the first 8 sessions examined the conceptual and normative issues in contemporary debates about secularism and the last 4 probed the secular practice of India, France, Turkey and Canada

2004 – 2006: Head Teaching Assistant (TA) for POL 2000, a course entitled "Visions of the Good/Just Society"

The course examined the political theories of Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, St. Augustine, Averroes, Maimonides, Thomas Aquinas, Christine de Pizan, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Locke
Duties entailed organizing students into tutorial groups, assisting new TAs in becoming familiar with their work and in coordinating administrative aspects of the course

2001 – 2006: TA in Political Theory, for POL 200 "Visions of the Good/Just Society"
Instructors: Professor Simone Chambers (2005-2006); Professor Rebecca Kingston (2001-2005)

Duties entailed leading tutorial discussions and grading students' assignments

2002 – 2003: Grading TA for "Introduction to Canadian Politics"
Instructor: Professor Nelson Wiseman

Publications and Conference Presentations

Fall 2007 (*forthcoming*): Review in *Pacific Affairs* of Anuradha Dingwaney Needham and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (eds.) *The Crisis of Indian Secularism*, Durham, Duke University Press, 2007

May 2007: Presented a brief overview of my doctoral research at the conference on Deliberative Politics and Institutional Design in Multicultural Democracies, Queen's University, Canada

November 2006: Presented a research paper entitled "*The Debate on Socio-Religious Reform in Nineteenth Century India*" at the Fellows' Seminar of the University of Toronto's Centre for Ethics

January 2006: Presented a research paper entitled "*The Institutional Implications of the Debate over the Age of Consent Bill*" at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

May 2005: Presented a research paper entitled “Does Rawls’s Idea of Public Reason Restrict the Political Accommodation of Religion?” at “EOS II,” the Second Annual University of Toronto – Brown University Collaborative Political Theory Conference

June 2004: Presented a research paper entitled “State Intervention in Religious Reform: An Examination of the Views of Mahadev Govind Ranade” at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Winnipeg

August 2003: Presented a paper on “Minority Rights and Secularism” at the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore

June 2003: Presented a research paper entitled “Religious Diversity and Individual Rights: An Examination of Some Issues Raised by the Indian State’s Reformulation of Hindu Personal Law” at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Halifax

Invited Lectures and Presentations

August 2004: Invited to speak at the 73rd Annual Conference of the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs, Geneva Park, Ontario; made a presentation on “The Distinctiveness of Indian Secularism”

September 2004: Invited to speak at the 14th North-American Annual Convention of the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI USA & Canada); gave a presentation on “The Future Prospects of Democracy and Religious Diversity in India”

December 2004: Invited to speak at the AFMI’s 13th International Convention on Education held in Hamdard University, New Delhi; gave a lecture entitled “Minorities and Education”

July 2005: Guest Lecturer in the third year undergraduate class on South Asian Politics at the University of Toronto

October 2006: Invited to speak to students in the Ethics, Society and Law programme at Trinity College in the University of Toronto; gave a lecture entitled “What is Governmentality?”

Other Work Experience

2001 – 2007

Research Assistant for Prof. Melissa Williams, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Sep. 2006 – April 2007

Academic Don at Trinity College in the University of Toronto; provide academic assistance to Trinity undergraduates in one-on-one tutorials/consultations; enable the College to provide an appropriate standard of care and quality of life in the College’s two residences

Nov. 2003 – March 2005

Graduate Assistant to the Working Group for the establishment of the Centre for Ethics at the University of Toronto

June 2003 – August 2003: Worked with Dr Solomon Benjamin and the Alternative Law Forum (Bangalore) on the political economy of urban planning in Bangalore; examined issues in relation to land tenure and the informal sector

Feb. 2000 – June 2000: Worked as a Research Associate with Prof. Rajeev Bhargava on a project of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (Delhi), relating to the debates of the Constituent Assembly of India

Languages

English and Hindi: Advanced knowledge

Kannada: Functional – can read, write, and speak

Tamil: Competent in speaking

French and Punjabi: Basic knowledge