

**Delhi Workshop on Applied Social Science Research Methods  
Co-organised by the Universities of Delhi and Leeds,  
at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi  
31 March – 3 April 2025**

Between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 the University of Delhi Department of Political Science and the University of Leeds School of Politics and International Studies jointly delivered an innovative workshop on applied social science research methods for 35 Delhi University doctoral students and early career researchers. This was the first major collaboration to be undertaken following the establishment of an MOU between the two universities earlier in 2025, and it built upon successful joint conference and research exchange activities in 2023. The workshop was taught on Delhi University's main campus and was a unique experience for Leeds and Delhi staff and research students to exchange ideas from different disciplinary and cultural perspectives, and to make lasting friendships and academic links which will pave the way for future cooperation.



*"This workshop was highly engaging, productive and enriching in many ways" - Virender*

A substantial part of the workshop agenda involved staff members presenting core social science methods and illustrating their use with reference to a wide range of research topics, such as rural education challenges, social inequalities, fossil fuel energy price policy, agricultural practices, and migration. Research methods were explored as techniques through which aspects of the world are recorded or captured, offering different approaches to gathering and interpreting data. As such, an understanding of different methodologies – such as statistical analysis, ethnography, qualitative secondary analysis, discourse analysis, and comparative methods in political science – is an essential component of research training for postgraduate research students and early career academics (see workshop agenda below).

*"The workshop has been great. It made me revisit, challenge and re-assess my knowledge. I contemplated, learnt, and I understood what it means to be a researcher" - Akanksha*



Workshop participants also explored critical ideas in relation to research methods. From this perspective, research methods are arguably not ‘neutral’ or value-free: they shape the world and define how we understand important societal challenges. As a consequence, sometimes the very approaches we take to see the world blind us to certain aspects of it, and so workshop participants considered the importance of exploring ontology and epistemology, alongside methodologies.

*"Interesting, stimulating, thought-provoking and refreshingly insightful!" - Pingakschya*



Workshop participants explored these and other debates by engaging with a range of social science methodologies, from different cultural, theoretical and applied approaches and traditions. The event was underpinned by two core themes: methodological rigour and research inclusion, supported by a shared commitment to equal intellectual partnership and to engaging with methodological approaches that encourage us to look beyond narrow disciplinary boundaries.

*"This workshop was really insightful for me to understand the multi-disciplinary and comparative approach of my ethnography" - Baby*

*"If you come across something unexpected, it is not a failure. It's an opportunity to unravel something new" - Insha*



Workshop sessions used a lecture/seminar format and involved active participation by students, through group tasks, presentations, and problem-solving exercises. Project-focused ‘masterclass’ demonstrations were used to encourage exchanges between student participants, as well as between Delhi-based and Leeds-based academic staff.



In this way, the workshop deepened links between academic staff at both universities, serving the strategic objectives of promoting research collaboration and intellectual exchange.

Left to right: Prof. Rajesh Dev, Prof. Navnita Behera, Prof. Edward Newman, Prof. Sanjeev Kumar, Dr. Marius Merhl, Prof. Caroline Dyer, Prof. Nasreen Chowdhory, and Prof. Kahryn Hughes.

*“The workshop was full of loaded debate, reflection, unlearning and learning. It was a great immersive experience” – Ankush*

*“Exploring the art and science of research - Where theory meets practice and inquiry sparks discovery!” – Aiman*



*“This workshop was enchanting, engaging and productive. It helped me in refining my research problem” – Mohit*

*“The workshop helped me to unpack all the ambitions I had for my thesis and to focus on getting more clarity on my research design” - Indira*

### Workshop agenda and teaching staff

**Sunday, 30 March.** Afternoon inaugural session: welcome, introductions and High Tea.

#### **Monday 31 March. Day 1.**

09:30 Arrival and registration

10:00 Session 1. ‘Rethinking Research Methods’ - Kahryn Hughes (University of Leeds)

11:30 Session 2. ‘Ontology, Epistemology and Meta-Theory in IR’ - Sanjeev Kumar (Delhi University)

14:00 Session 3. ‘Doing research: A Comparative Lens in Political Science’ - Nasreen Chowdhory (Delhi University)

16:00 Session 4. ‘The value of interdisciplinarity in the study of the politics of knowledge’ – Madhulika Banerjee (Delhi University)

## Tuesday 1 April. Day 2.

- 10:00 Session 5. 'Qualitative approaches to researching policy implementation and educational inequalities' - Caroline Dyer (University of Leeds)
- 11:30 Session 6. 'Quantitative Social Science Methods' - Marius Mehrl (University of Leeds)
- 14:00 Session 7. 'Doing Ethnography: Unpacking the Tools' - Rajesh Dev (Delhi University)
- 16:00 Session 8. 'Brainstorming methodologies to understand the 'Polycrisis'' - Edward Newman (University of Leeds).

## Wednesday 2 April. Day 3 - Parallel Sessions: Applying Social Science Research Methods

- 09.30 Session 9
- i. 'Getting Personal with Existing Data: an introduction to Qualitative Secondary Analysis' - Kahryn Hughes
  - ii. 'Methodologies in Political Economy for the Politics of Knowledge' - Madhulika Banerjee
- 11:30 Session 10
- i. 'Framing Migration: Field and Beyond' - Nasreen Chowdhory
  - ii. 'Exploring mobile pastoralists' worlds using qualitative and participatory methods' - Caroline Dyer
- 14:00 Session 11
- i. 'Ethnographic Immersion: Moving Beyond Participant- Observation' - Rajesh Dev
  - ii. 'Applying Quantitative Social Science Methods: Getting started' - Marius Mehrl
- 16:00 Session 12:
- i. 'The Contentious Politics of the Green Transition – Exploring Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform' - Edward Newman
  - ii. 'Applying Textual Analysis for Research in IR' - Sanjeev Kumar

## Thursday 3 April: Day 4

- 9.30 Session 13: Group Presentations by Students and Faculty Feedback
- 11:30 Session 14: Group Presentations by Students and Faculty Feedback
- 14:00 Session 15: Group Presentations by Students and Faculty Feedback
- 16:00 Session 16: Group Presentations by Students and Faculty Feedback
- 17.00 Close

### Workshop teaching staff

**Madhulika Banerjee (workshop co-director)** is Professor of Public Policy at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Her research has been mainly in that of the politics of knowledge, and she has offered an analytical framework to understand knowledges in transition to modernity and as contemporary responses to the climate crisis, especially in societies of the Global South. This framework requires study of this transition in spheres of public policy, political economy, epistemology, civil society, and the global economy. Hence, different kinds of methodologies for each of these are deployed, ranging from textual and discourse analysis, to field research and data for critical political economy analyses. She has studied the transformation of Ayurveda as part of larger health system changes in great detail, as also the knowledge systems of water management, handlooms and agricultural practices. Her research has been published in the *Sage journal Studies in Indian Politics, Economic and Political Weekly, Contributions to Indian Sociology* and the Brill journal *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*.

**Nasreen Chowdhory** is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. She is a Comparativist by training and teaches courses on Comparative Politics, Politics of South Asia and Religious

Nationalism and Political Violence at Master's level and Citizenship, Borders, and Belonging at PhD level. Her research interests are Forced Migration, Citizenship, State Formation and Politics of Belonging. She has engaged with refugees and displaced communities in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on questions of mobility and citizenship. Her works draws from various disciplines Anthropology, Sociology and Geography and has a strong interdisciplinary focus with methodology such as ethnography and life histories especially in the context of women refugees in camps. Presently she is the Section Editor of Oxford University Press, Intersection on Belonging, Citizenship and Exclusion. She has been the Guest Editor of Special Issue on "Displacement: A 'state of exception'" in the *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*, 2016 and Dispossession, Rights and 'Exception' in Forced Migration: Insights from South Asia in the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 2023. Some of her significant publications include *Refugees, Citizenship and Belonging: A Contested Terrains* (Springer 2018) and an edited volumes on *Deterritorialised Identities and Transborder Movement in South Asia* with Nasir Uddin with Springer 2019; *Citizenship, Nationalism and Refugeehood of Rohingyas in Southern Asia* co-edited with Biswajit Mohanty, Springer 2020; and *Gender, Identity and Migration in India* with Paula Banerjee, Palgrave 2022 and in Citizenship Studies and Refugee Watch.

**Rajesh Dev** teaches political science at the University of Delhi. His research is focused on the Anthropology of State and Policy and Politics of Ethnic Identity, primarily in the tribal areas of India. His research uses qualitative methods, mostly ethnography, conceptual history, and discourse analysis. He has published in National and International Journals and edited books.

**Caroline Dyer** is Professor of Education and International Development in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds. Her research focuses on the intersections of education, social inclusion and social justice, and on education policy development and implementation. She has investigated learning and livelihoods among mobile pastoralists in India, Afghanistan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Mongolia, and collaborated with national and international policy communities to promote evidence-informed policies. She has also led research on accountability for learning in the Indian school education system. She has led qualitative methods training in academic and civil society organisation contexts, and has innovated methodologically by drawing participatory and action research methods into research projects with pastoralists and with teacher educators in India and Bangladesh. Caroline is a Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences and past Chair of the British Association for International and Comparative Education.

**Kahryn Hughes** is Professor of Sociology in the School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds. She is a Senior Fellow of the National Centre for Research Methods and internationally recognised for consolidating and advancing methods of Qualitative Secondary Analysis (QSA). She has formulated and led the brand-new field of international Qualitative Secondary Analysis (iQSA) with an international team from Denmark. She is first author of *Men, Families and Poverty* (Palgrave Macmillan), a ground-breaking text based entirely on the Qualitative Secondary Analysis of archived research data, and lead editor of *Qualitative Secondary Analysis* (SAGE), the first edited book introducing this methodological language. As Director of the Timescapes Archive she has been active in developing infrastructures to support qualitative data re-use. She has published critical work on the use of qualitative interviews, methods of qualitative secondary analysis, access methods and casing approaches to data analysis. Kahryn has an enduring interest in questions concerning time and temporality and is Co-Lead of the Horizons Network for Time.

**Sanjeev Kumar H.M** is currently a Professor of International Relations and Global Politics at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, India. He also holds the position of the Director, Centre for Canadian Studies, at Delhi University. Besides, he has also been nominated by the honourable Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, at the governing body of three prestigious constituent colleges of the university. Prof. Kumar has previously taught at the South Asian University (SAARC University), the University of Allahabad, and the Karnatak University, Dharwad. His areas of interest include International Relations Theory, International Political Theory, Democratisation and Security in South Asia, the history of ideas in South Asia and Islamic thought and International Relations. He has authored/edited 9 books and 70 articles/book chapters in his areas of expertise. Prof. Kumar has presented 85 papers in national/international seminars and conferences, and has delivered more than 75 special lectures across India related to his areas of interest. His recent books include *Orientalism, Liberalism and Colonial Governmentality: Deconstructing an Imperialised Historiography of Modern South Asia*, published by Bloomsbury Publishing India, New Delhi; *Decolonising Grand Theories: Postcolonial Ontology, Historical Sociology and Mid-Level Theories in International Relations*, that is published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2023; *Deconstructing India-Pakistan Relations: Postcolonial Ontology and the Problematique of State Security in South Asia*, which is published by Routledge in 2023; and *The India Pakistan Sub-Conventional War: Democracy and Peace in South Asia*, published by Sage in 2022. Besides, he is also the coeditor of an encyclopedic volume entitled *Modern South Asian Thinkers* that has been published by Sage Texts.

**Marius Mehrl** is a Lecturer in Quantitative International Relations in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds. He obtained a PhD in Government from the University of Essex in 2020 and uses quantitative methods to study questions related to International Relations and Comparative Politics. His research applying methods for, among others, survival analysis, panel data, and time-series is forthcoming or has been published in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and the *Journal of Politics*, among others. His research applying and developing inferential network analysis methods is forthcoming or has been published, for instance, in *Political Analysis*, the *Review of International Organizations*, and the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*. Since 2024, he has served as an Editor of *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.

**Edward Newman (workshop co-director)** is Professor of International Security, and Co-Director of the Centre for Global Security Challenges, in the School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds. His work explores international order, intrastate armed conflict, theoretical security debates and international state recognition, and has appeared in journals including the *British Journal of Criminology*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Energy Policy*, *Energy Research and Social Science*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Geopolitics*, *International Affairs*, *International Politics*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Review of International Studies*, *Security Dialogue*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, and *Third World Quarterly*, amongst others. He is a founding Executive Editor of the *International Relations of the Asia Pacific*, a journal of the Japan Association of International Relations published by Oxford University Press; and founder and co-editor of the *Routledge Studies in Civil Wars and Intra-State Conflict* book series. He is also a former co-editor of the *European Journal of International Security*, a journal of the British International Studies Association published by Cambridge University Press. His latest (forthcoming, 2025) co-authored book is *Civil War and Intrastate Armed Conflict: Changing Dynamics in International Perspective* (Cambridge University Press).