

Ishrat Hossain

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EMPLOYMENT

Electoral Reform Commission, Government of Bangladesh

2024 - 2025

Research Consultant

German Institute for Global and Area Studies

2024

GIGA Anniversary Fellow, Institute of Asian Studies

EDUCATION

University of Oxford

Oxford, United Kingdom

DPhil in International Relations

2024

Thesis Title: *The Rohingya Refugee Crisis and Minority (In)securities in the Bangladesh-Myanmar Borderland*

Supervisors: Prof. Richard Caplan and Dr. Matthew Walton

Maternity leave 2021-2022.

Australian National University

Canberra, Australia

M.A. in International Relations

2013

Thesis Title: *Shifting Ties - Effects of Foreign Policy Restructuring on Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations*

Supervisor: Dr Nicholas Farrelly

First Class Honours' and Department prize for best thesis in the Program

Dhaka University

Dhaka, Bangladesh

M.A. in English Literature

2008

Dhaka University

Dhaka, Bangladesh

B.A. in English Literature

2006

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Hossain, I (2025). "Not that Spirit of 1971". The Ideological Origins of Bangladesh's July Uprising. *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*.27(2) 139–157

Peer-reviewed Chapters in Edited Volumes

Hossain, I (2026). The Promises and Pitfalls of Bengali Nationalism for the Buddhist Minority Groups in Bangladesh in Sudhir Selvaraj and Paul Rowe (Ed.) *Religious Nationalism, Minorities, and Democracy in South Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan. (Forthcoming)

Farrelly, N and Hossain, I (2014). From Bangladesh: Considering Another Side of the Rakhine Conflict in Nick Cheesman and Htoo Kyaw Win (Ed.) *Communal Violence in Myanmar*. MKS Publishing, Yangon.

Peer-reviewed Policy Papers

Ishrat Hossain (2019). Buddhist-Muslim Relations in Southeast Bangladesh in the Shadow of the Rohingya Crisis, Briefing Paper for the X-Border Local Research Network, The Asia Foundation, USA

Policy Briefs

Ishrat Hossain (2025), Bangladesh's Democratic Transition: Revolution and Its Discontents, GIGA Focus Asia, 4, Hamburg: German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), <https://doi.org/10.57671/gfas-25042>

Ishrat Hossain (2023), Bangladesh's Upcoming Election: A Litmus Test for Democracy, GIGA Focus Asia, 7, Hamburg: German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), <https://doi.org/10.57671/gfas-23072>

Ishrat Hossain (2020). After Humanitarianism: Bangladesh's Evolving Rohingya Policy. GIGA Focus Asia Number 06. October 2020 (ISSN 1862-359X)

Book Reviews

Hossain, I. (2018). Myanmar's Mountains and Maritime Borderscapes: Local Practices, Boundary Making and Figured World, by Su-Ann Oh (ed.). Bijdragen tot de taal-, land-en volkenkunde/Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Southeast Asia, 174(1), 118-120.

Hossain, I (2018). Myanmar's Enemy Within: Buddhist Violence and the Making of a Muslim "Other" by Francis Wade. Zed Books, 2017. Tea Circle Forum, Oxford

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

The Production of Electoral Competition in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Bangladesh.

Deflecting the Backlash: Minority Agency and Inter-communal Peace During the 2017 Rohingya Crisis

PROJECTS IN PROGRESSES

Revolutionary Re-institutionalisation: Gen-Z uprisings in the Global South and their Afterlives.

Between Arms and Activism: Political Subjectivities among Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh.

The Saffron Effect?: the Rise of Hindutva Political Activism in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

The Invisible Women: Understanding the Electoral Roles of Bangladesh Jamaat-i-Islami's Female Political Workers.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

GIGA Innovation Grant for Data Collection	2024
Oxford Linacre College Writing up Bursary	2023
Oxford International Seed Fund	2021
Oxford Linacre College Conference Expenses Grant	2020
Oxford Linacre College Mulder Fund for research	2019
Oxford Department of Politics and International Relations Cyril Foster Travel Grant	2019
Oxford-Burma Visiting Fund to conduct field work (both Hilary and Trinity rounds)	2018
Oxford Programme on Modern Burmese Studies Travel Grant	2018
Commonwealth Scholarship Study Travel Grant	2018

Commonwealth PhD Scholarship 2016 (full tuition and subsistence)	2016
London School of Economics PhD Studentship (full tuition and subsistence, Declined)	2016
Australian National University, MAIR Prize, for best thesis in the Programme	2013
Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2012 (full tuition and subsistence)	2012–2013

RESEARCH INTEREST

South Asian Politics, Peace and Security, Political Processes, Qualitative Methods, Forced Migration and Refugees

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant	2022
<i>Course title: Qualitative Methods in Political Science</i>	
Core method course at the Department of Politics and International Relations	
Undergraduate Tutor	2019 - 2023
<i>Course title: Politics in South Asia</i>	
Oxford Colleges: St. Edmund's Hall, Pembroke College, St Hilda's College	

METHODS TRAINING

- **Qualitative:** Advanced Qualitative Methods, AI-Powered Qualitative Analysis in R
- **Quantitative:** Intermediate Statistics for Social Sciences

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

2025: International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting; European Political Science Association Annual Conference, Madrid; Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin-Madison (Panel Organiser.)

2024: Bangladesh Studies Network Conference, Oxford; Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin-Madison (Panel Organiser.)

2023: Workshop on Survey Methods in Migration Research. Peace Research Institute of Oslo.

2021: International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting; British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Conference ; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meetings; European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference (Panel Organiser).

2020: International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting (cancelled); British International Studies Association (BISA) Annual Conference (cancelled); British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Conference (cancelled); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meetings.

2019: Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) Annual Workshop, Oxford.

2018: International Burma Studies Conference, Bangkok.

2017: European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference, Oxford-SOAS Graduate Student Workshop, Oxford.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2026:** Post-election briefing on Bangladesh. South Asia Division. Federal Foreign Office of Germany. *Berlin*.
- 2026:** Bangladesh before the election. The German Asia-Pacific Business Associations. *Hamburg*.
- 2025:** Bangladesh's (re)Democratisation: Revolution and its discontent. The German Asia-Pacific Business Associations. *Hamburg*.
- 2024:** Post-election briefing on Bangladesh. South Asia Division. Federal Foreign Office of Germany. *Berlin*.
- 2024:** The Human Cost of Progress: Rights as Pillars of Sustainable Development. Bay of Bengal Conversations. *Dhaka*.
- 2021:** Muslim Minorities of Myanmar: The Politics of Belonging and Exclusion. Oxford Consortium for Human Rights Workshop. *Oxford*.
- 2020:** Becoming More Authoritarian? Myanmar Ahead of the November 2020 Elections. Panel at GIGA Talk. *Berlin*.
- 2019:** Fragile Borders, Changing Communities: Rohingya Crisis and Buddhist-Muslim Relations in the Bangladesh-Myanmar Borderland. Commonwealth Commission Research Impact Event. The Royal Society. *London*.
- 2019:** Higher Education in the Rohingya refugee camps' at Extending the Welcome: Symposium on Long-term Approaches to Supporting Refugees and at-risk Scholars in Higher Education. *University of Edinburgh*.
- 2019:** Fragile Borders, Changing Communities: Impact of the Rohingya Crisis on the Bangladesh-Myanmar Border. Interactive workshop organised by the Association of Commonwealth Universities. *London Metropolitan University*.
- 2017:** Youth Interfaith Engagement. Panel at the G20 Interfaith Summit. *Potsdam*.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

- 2026:** "The Gen-Z Revolution in Bangladesh and its Fallout". Discussant at *The Nordic Asia Podcast*. 02 April 2026.
- 2026:** "Bangladesh's Upcoming Election". Live radio interview with *The Globalist*. 12 February 2026.
- 2025:** "Sheikh Hasina convicted of crimes against humanity". Expert Opinion for *Al Jazeera*. 17 November 2025.
- 2025:** "Gen Z protests in Asia: Can they spark real change?" Expert opinion for *Deutsche Welle*. 18 September 2025.
- 2024:** "The Gen-Z led student protest in Bangladesh". Live radio interview with *The Globalist*. 05 August 2024.
- 2024:** "Bangladesh's General Election and its aftermath". Live radio interview with *The Globalist*. 08 January 2024.
- 2024:** "Bangladesh's Upcoming election". Live radio interview with *The Globalist*. 04 January 2024.
- 2023:** "Why is Bangladesh in turmoil". BBC News Podcast *The Inquiry*. 26 November 2023.
- 2017:** "India and Bangladesh: At a crossroads on religion?" *Religion and Ethics Report*. ABC Radio. 02 August 2017

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

German Institute for Global and Area Studies. Associate, 2020 -
Oxford Analytica Ltd. Expert Contributor, 2017 -
Centre for Fundamental Rights, the Hertie School. Visiting Fellow, 2022

Cumberland Lodge Fellowship. 2018 - 2019

Research Initiatives, Bangladesh. Visiting Researcher, 2018

United Nations Development Programme, Dhaka. Head of Communications, 2014 - 16

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dhaka. Political Advisor to the Ambassador, 2013 - 14

Australian High Commission, Dhaka. Senior Research Officer, 2010 - 12

FIELDWORK

Dhaka (2012, 2014, 2018-19, 2024); Cox's Bazaar (2010, 2018-19, 2024); Chittagong Hill Tracts (2018-19); London (2017, 2019)

SKILLS AND TRAINING

Language: English (fluent), Bengali (native). Hindi (intermediate), Urdu (limited) and German (beginner)

Language Training: Indian Cultural Centre, Dhaka. Hindi (2012)

Technology: STATA, R, NVivo.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Reviewer: Asian Survey, Journal of Bangladesh Studies, 2025 –

External Assessor: Independent Social Research Foundation, 2021 –

Member: Bangladesh Studies Network, 2024 –

Member: European Association for South Asian Studies, 2024 –

Member: International Studies Association, 2019 –

Member: Midwest Political Science Association, 2019 –

Member: British International Studies Association, 2019 –

Member: British Association for South Asian Studies, 2019 –

Member: American Political Science Association, 2020 –

REFERENCES

Richard Caplan, Professor of International Relations, University of Oxford

Patrick Koellner, Professor and Vice President, German Institute for Global and Area Studies

Kate Sullivan de Estrada, Associate Professor in the International Relations of South Asia, University of Oxford

Matthew Walton, Associate Professor of Comparative Political Theory, University of Toronto