

APPOINTMENTS

2021-	Faculty Affiliate South Asia Institute and Saltzman Institute, Columbia University
2020-	Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
2017-2020	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, Columbia University Associate Research Scholar, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace, Columbia University
2016-17	John D Montgomery Postdoctoral Fellow (Peace Studies), Soka University of America

EDUCATION

2017	PhD (Comparative Politics and International Relations) Cornell University
2009	Master of Arts (Political Science) Villanova University

BOOK

Oxford University Press, *Modern South Asia* Series, April 2021
Title: *Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire without Getting Killed*
(Nominated for 2022 CPSA Prize in Comparative Politics competition)

Select Reviews of the Book

Tyagi, J. (2022). Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire Without Getting Killed, 117-118.

Duyvesteyn, I. (2022). Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire Without Getting Killed. By Rumela Sen. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. 224p. 22.61 paper. *Perspectives on Politics*, 20(2), 665-668.

Mukherjee, Shivaji. (2022) Review of Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire Without Getting Killed. *South Asia Reading Group (SARG)*, Summer 2021, The Center for Contemporary India, University of California, Berkeley; at <https://indiacenter.berkeley.edu/sarg/sarg-2021>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-25	Columbia University Politics of Policymaking (Fall 2020-2025) Persistent Problems in the Global South (Spring 2021-2025) State-Making in South Asia (Fall 2017-18 and Spring 2020-2024) Comparative Political Economy of India and China (Spring 2018-2019)
2016-17	Soka University of America Introduction to Conflict and Peace Studies (Fall 2016)

2010-12 Why Violence? (Spring 2017)
Cornell University
China Under Revolution and Reform (TA, Fall 2010, Spring 2012)
Middle Eastern Politics (TA, Spring 2011)
American Prisons: Responsibility, Rights & Race (TA, Fall 2011)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Sen, Rumela (with Srinjoy Bose and Keshab Giri). Conceptualizing the ‘Intimate Leviathan’: Gender, Race, and Coloniality in Governing Armed Conflicts in South Asia (Presented at ISA Roundtable on Civil Wars, 2024; APSA, Philadelphia, September 2024)

Sen, Rumela. Educating for Control: The Strategic Role of Intimate Governance in Rebel Territorial Dominance (Presented at Folke Bernadotte Academy, Stockholm, November 2024; ISA Chicago 2025)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Director of MIA, Admissions Committee, Generative AI Committee, Core Politics Curriculum Committee, Faculty Adviser for South Asia Association

REVIEWER

Journal of Comparative Politics, Civil War, East Asia Forum

PUBLICATIONS

Sen, R and Farooq, N (2024). Evolving Landscape of Digital Transnational Repression: Policy Responses and Future Directions in Arild E Rudd and Mubashar Hasan, eds. *The Long Reach of the Strong Arm: The Transnational Repression of Dissidents in Exile*. Forthcoming.

Sen, R. and Farooq, N (2022). [Hate in the Times of Covid-19: Can We Blame the Print Media in India?](#). In *Covid-19 in India, Disease, Health and Culture* (pp. 98-116). Routledge.

Sen, R. (2022). Rebels and Conflict Escalation: Explaining the Rise and Decline in Violence. By Isabelle Duyvesteyn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 200p. \$99.99 cloth. *Perspectives on Politics*, 20(2), 664-665.

Sen, R., & Farooq, N. (2022). Hate in the Times of Covid-19. *Covid-19 in India, Disease, Health and Culture: Can Wellness be Far Behind?*, 78-114.

Sen, R. (2021). *Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire Without Getting Killed*. Oxford University Press.

(Book Review) Sen, Rumela, (2020). Governance and development in India: A comparative study on Andhra Pradesh and Bihar after liberalization: by Seyed Hossein Zarhani, Abingdon, Routledge, 2018, 250 pp., £ 120.00 (hardback), ISBN 9780815368311.¹

¹ Please see GovernancedevelopmentIndiaAcomparativestudy.pdf in the Documentation folder.

(Book Chapter) Sen, Rumela, (2019). “Competing Mobilization of Class and Ethnic Identity: Internal Migration in North India.” In Shane J Barter, ed. *Internal Migration: Challenges in Governance and Integration*.²

(Book Review) Sen, Rumela. 2013. Invited book review of *More than Maoism: Politics, Policies and Insurgencies in South Asia*, eds. Robin Jeffrey, Ronojoy Sen, and Pratima Singh. *Studies in Indian Politics* 1(2): 250-251.

Sen, Rumela, and Emmanuel Teitelbaum. 2019. [“Mass Mobilization and the Success of India’s Maoists.”](#)

Sen, Rumela. 2006. “Theorizing the Hyphen: Nation, State and the Nation-State in India.” *West Bengal Political Science Review* 9(1-2): 270-307.

(Book Chapter) Sen, Rumela, and Shibashis Chatterjee. 2004. [“Communalism, Internal Security and the Indian State.”](#) Invited chapter in *Anatomy of Fear, Essays on Indian Internal Security*, eds. Purusottam Bhattacharya, Tridib Chakraborti, and Shibashis Chatterjee. New Delhi: Lancer Books, 179-205.

(Book Chapter) Sen, Rumela, and Shibashis Chatterjee. 2004. “Security and IR Theory: Realist and Post-Positivist Trends.” Invited chapter in *Understanding Global Politics: Issues and Trends*, eds. Anindyo J. Mjumdar and Shibashis Chatterjee. New Delhi: Lancer Books, 25-56.

SELECT COMMENTARIES

Sen, Rumela and N Tuladhar. [Nepal’s Gen Z protests are a call for democratic renewal](#), East Asia Forum, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, October, 2025

Sen, Rumela. [The Invisible Hand of AI in Transnational Repression](#), Tech Policy Press, October 2, 2024

Sen, Rumela. [A Tough Year for Democracy in Nepal](#). East Asia Forum, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, February, 2023

Sen, Rumela. [Bidding Adieu to Arms in India: How do Rebels Retire without Getting Killed](#), Inkstick Media, July, 2021

Sen, Rumela. [Healthcare is a Public Good: If Everyone Doesn’t Win, Nobody Does](#), The Edition, May 2020

Sen, Rumela, [Eye for an Eye, Tooth for a Tooth, Murder for Rape](#). GroundXero Media, December 2020

Sen, Rumela. [“Rebel Retirement through Informal Networks: Evidence from India”](#), Center for Advanced Study in India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania.

² Please see [CompetingMobilization.pdf](#) in the Documentation folder.

Sen, Rumela and Richard Bownas, [Nepal Walks a Social and Political Tightrope](#), East Asia Forum, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.

Sen, Rumela. “[Nepal Shifts Rightward After Revolution](#)”, East Asia Forum, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.

Sen, Rumela. [India in 2018: The Best of Time, The Worst of Times](#), IAPS Dialogue, University of Nottingham.

Rumela Sen, [“Picking up their Weapons”](#), Jacobin.

Rumela Sen, [Rebel Retirement: The Ground Reality](#), The Hindu Business Line.

Rumela Sen, [“Rumor to Riots in Bengal: Who Do We Blame and What Do We Do?”](#), *Mainstream Weekly* 55(32)

Rumela Sen, [“Grassroots Democracy is Kashmir’s Only Hope Against Militancy.”](#) WionNews South Asia

Rumela Sen, [“Why Rumor-Mongering or Minority Appeasement Fail to Explain the Basirhat Riots in Bengal”](#), *Daily O*

Rumela Sen, “Islam as I Know: Essays on Islam from a Non-Muslim Perspective,” *Al Harmony*, magazine of Forum for Faith and Fraternity, Kochi, 1999, 28-45.

Rumela Sen, “Reservation: For How Long,” Essay on affirmative action in India, *Competition Success Review*, New Delhi, August 1998, 21-25.

SELECT INVITED TALKS

2024

APSA Panel on Gender and Violence in South Asia (Organized by Drew Stommes, Accepted for APSA Conference, 2024)

2023

Sen, Rumela. Consent without Coercion: Rebel Control in Maoist Nepal. Workshop on Control in Asymmetric Conflicts (Closed Event), Brussels, April 18-21, 2023.

2021

Sen, Rumela. The Gray Zone of Democracy-Insurgency Interface. New Author Showcase. Conference on Global Political Violence (Kanchan Chandra and Omar García Ponce, Supported by: NYUAD Institute), September 26-28, 2021.³

2020

³ Invitation to participate in this workshop (NewAuthorShowcaseNYU) is in the Documentation Folder.

Sen, Rumela. Role of Representative Bureaucracy in Coronavirus Strategy: The Case of Kerala, Picker Center, [Food for Thought Lecture Series](#), October 7, 2020.

[CAA and its Aftermath in India](#). CAFA (Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Association), Columbia University, February 17, 2020

Invited Book Talk, [Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asia Seminar Series](#), February 7, 2020.

2018

“Rebel Retirement through Informal Exit Networks: Evidence from India”, April 25, 2018 at the Comparative Politics Seminar, Columbia University, New York.

“Rebel Retirement through Informal Exit Networks: Evidence from India”, March 8, 2018 at the Empirical Study of Conflict (ESOC), Princeton University, New Jersey.

“Rebel Retirement through Informal Exit Networks: Evidence from South India”, February 2, 2018 at Center for Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

2017

“Empowerment through Resistance.” Public Lecture, November 7, 2017 at St. Elizabeth Lecture Series on Breaking Barriers, College of St. Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

“Informal Exit Networks for Rebels: Evidence from Leftwing Insurgency in India.” Public Lecture, October 2, 2017 at India-China Institute at The New School, NYC

“Bullets to Ballots: Maoists and the Lure of Democracy in India” at Keck Center for International Strategic Studies, CA, April 2017. Conference theme: *India at 70: Balancing Governance and Democratic Challenges*.

“Competing Mobilization of Tribal and Class Identity: Evolution of the Politics of Internal Migration in North India.” Presentation at East West Center, Honolulu, HI, March 2017

“The Process of Rebel Retirement: Evidence from India.” Presentation at Keck Faculty Research Seminar, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA, March 2017

2011- 2016

“Bullets to Ballots: Evidence of Grassroots Peacebuilding in South India.” Presentation at the Third Annual Dialogue on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, CA, October 2016

“Corruption and Violence in the Rural Hinterlands of India.” at the AIIS Showcase on New Research at Association for Asian Studies Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2015

“Spread of Maoist Movement in India.” Presentation at the Workshop on Maoism in India, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, February 2014

“Farewell to Arms: Maoists and the Lure of Democracy in India.” Paper presented at the International Conference on Understanding Maoist Politics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, February 2014

“An Endless Crisis and a Protracted War: Agrarian Crisis and Violent Uprisings in India.” Presentation at the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium Conference, Ithaca, NY, April 2013

“The Question of Land and India’s Maoist Insurgency.” Presented with Emmanuel Teitelbaum at the Conference on Maoism and the State of Indian Left, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 2011

SELECT GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022	SIPA Faculty Grants (2022-23) for Rebel Governance and Post-Conflict State Building: Lessons from Nepal.
2019	Inspiring South Asian American Women (ISAAW) Ready to Run Scholarship
2018	2019 for Rutgers University Center for American Women in Politics Campaign. AAS in Asia Conference International Travel Subsidy
2012	Junior Research Fellowship for dissertation fieldwork in India, American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) (30,000 USD)
2012- 2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, US Department of Education (Full tuition and Fellowship)
2011	Summer Doctoral Fellowship, GW- CIBER, George Washington University (10,000 USD)
2010-2014	Supplemental Summer Research Fellowship, Cornell University
2010-2013	Graduate Community Advisor Fellowship, Cornell University (Competitive Fellowship across all disciplines)
2009-15	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2007-2009	Competitive Graduate Assistantship & Full Tuition, Villanova University
2009	Certificate & Membership, Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society (For distinction in the MA program at Villanova University, GPA: 4.0/4.0)
2006	First rank in College Service Commission and Public Service Commission Examination for University Teachers in India
2004	One Year Research Fellowship, School of International Relations & Strategic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
2003	Junior Research Fellowship and National Eligibility Test for Lectureship, University Grants Commission, India

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2003 | Award Winning Essay in Islamic Studies by a non-Islamic scholar (Cash award of 50,000 INR in Annual Essay Competition for excellence) |
| 2005 | University Medals for Distinction in Degree Examination, Jadavpur University, India |
| 1999 | President of India Gold Medal from Indian Council for Cultural Relations for Award Winning Essay titled “What Does the Freedom of my Country Mean to Me” |
| 1998 | Highest Ranking Student with highest overall score and subject awards in Board level High School Exam in India |

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Outcomes of Violent v Nonviolent Campaigns: Lessons from India”, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2022.

“Failure of minority-led Nonviolent Protest: Lessons from Shaheen Bagh in India”, Annual South Asia Conference, Madison, October 2021

“State Capacity in India: Need for Theorizing Informal Processes and Mechanisms”. Paper Presented at 26th World Congress of International Political Science Association, 10-15 July, 2021

(With Richard Bownas) “Caste, Class and Indigeneity: Comparing Salience of Crosscutting Identity and Allegiance in Postconflict India and Nepal”, Annual South Asia Conference, Madison, October 19 2019

“The Purveyors of Violence: Studying Armed Combatants in South Asia”. Paper presented at the 47th Annual South Asia Conference, Madison, October 11-14, 2019.

“Insurgent Mobilization and Democratic Deepening: Evidence from India.” **Panel Organizer** and paper presentation at the AAS in Asia conference July 6, 2018. Panel Title: Struggles for Justice and Inclusion: Global Experience in Local Struggles in South Asia.

“Peoples’ Struggles: Brining Global Experience to Local Resistance” at **Panel Organizer** and paper presentation at the Global South Asia Conference, 23-24 February 2018, New York University, NYC.

“Conflict-induced Internal Migration: Evidence from India.” Paper presentation at the Annual Conference of the International Studies Association (ISA), San Francisco, CA, April 7, 2018

“Competing Mobilization of Class and Ethnic Identity: The Case of Jharkhand.” **Panel organizer** and presentation at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 27, 2017. Panel title: *Whatever Happened to Class? Evidence from South Asia.*

“Farewell to Arms: Rebel Retirement in India.” Presentation at the Annual Conference of American Political Science Association (APSA), San Francisco, CA, August 2017

“Democratic Deepening via Popular Rebellion: Political Economy of Conflict in India.” **Panel organizer** and presentation at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2016. Panel title: *Between Brutal and Benign: Political Violence and Democratic Resilience in India*.

“Rebel Retirement Networks: Evidence from India.” Presentation at ISA West Conference, Pasadena, CA, September 2016

“Bullets to Ballots: Corruption Complex in Jharkhand.” Session chair and presentation at the Annual Conference of APSA, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016. Panel title: *Elections & Violence*.

“Bullets to Ballots: Rebel Retirement in Telangana.” Presentation at the Annual Conference of APSA, San Francisco, CA, September 2015

“Rebel Retirement in Telangana: Maoists and the Lure of Democracy.” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2014

“Economic Sources of Maoist Violence in India.” Presented with Emmanuel Teitelbaum and Divya Guru Rajan at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2012

“Bullets to Ballots: Maoists and the Lure of Democracy in India.” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2012

“Mass Mobilization by the Maoists: Continuities and Challenges in the Response of the Indian State.” Presented with Emmanuel Teitelbaum at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 2011

“Accommodation and Repression of Insurgency in Democracy: The Case of Maoists in India.” Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2011

“Transformation of International Humanitarian Organizations: Role of Information and Communication Technology.” Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2010

“Impact of ICT on Social Justice Advocacy Networks: Good, Bad or Both.” Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2009

“Globalization Promotes Asymmetrical Growth: A Case Study of India.” Presented at the Pennsylvania Political Science Association Annual Conference, Harrisburg, PA, April 2008

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

International Political Science Association

Association for Asian Studies

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Frequent Peer Reviewer for Studies in Comparative International Development, European Journal of Political Economy, East Asia Forum, Jadavpur Journal of International Relations, Forum for Global Studies (New Delhi).

RELATED SKILLS

Languages: Bengali (mother tongue), Hindi (proficient), Nepali (professional proficiency), French (intermediate)

Methods: Machine Learning and NLP;
Certificate of Accomplishment with Distinction from Johns Hopkins University & Coursera.org for course on R Programming in 2015
Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in 2013
Institute of Qualitative & Multi Method Research (IQMR) Summer Program at Syracuse, NY in 2012.