

DEEPAK NAIR

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- July 2022 -- Australian National University (ANU)
Senior Lecturer, Department of International Relations
Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs
- 2016–June 2022 National University of Singapore (NUS)
Assistant Professor of Political Science (tenure-track)
- 2006–2010 Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore.
Research Associate

EDUCATION

- 2010- 2015 London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.
PhD in International Relations
- 2004-05 London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.
MSc in International Relations (Distinction).
- 2000-2003 St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India
BA Hons. History (First Class).

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2022 Anthony Deos Young Scholar Award
Diplomatic Studies Section, International Studies Association (ISA)
- 2022 ANU Futures Scheme 2.0 Grant
AUD \$200,000 (2023-28)
- 2021 DPLST Best Article Award, Diplomatic Studies Section,
International Studies Association (ISA)
- 2020 Best Article in the European Journal of International Relations (EJIR).
The *EJIR* is the flagship journal of the European International Studies
Association (EISA) and the ECPR Standing Committee on IR.
- 2019 Writing Fellowship, National University of Singapore (NUS).
- 2016 NUS Research Grant (2016-2020).
SGD \$40,000

2010-14 LSE PhD Scholarship, London School of Economics and Political Science
(full scholarship)

2010-14 Cambridge International Scholarship for PhD at St. John's College,
Cambridge University (full scholarship, declined).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International political sociology; International practice theory; International relations of Southeast Asia; Diplomacy studies; Interpretive methods.

PUBLICATIONS (single-author)

Journal Articles

1. Deepak Nair (forthcoming) "A Reckoning with Colonialism for International Practice Theory." In Sondarjee and Thomson ed. *Forum on Gender, Race, Colonialism and International Practice Theory, Cooperation and Conflict*.
2. Deepak Nair (2024) "Using Bourdieu's Habitus in International Relations." *International Studies Quarterly* Volume 68, Issue 2, June 2024, sqae007.
3. Deepak Nair (2023) "Populists in the Shadow of Great Power Competition: Duterte, Sukarno, and Sihanouk in Comparative Perspective." *European Journal of International Relations* 29(3):723-750.
4. Deepak Nair (2021) "Spooks, Goons, 'Intellectuals': The Military-Catholic Network in the Cold War Diplomacy of Suharto's Indonesia," *History and Anthropology* 33(3): 372-390.
5. Deepak Nair (2021) "'Hanging Out' While Studying 'Up': Doing Ethnographic Fieldwork in International Relations" *International Studies Review* 23 (4):1300-1327.
6. Deepak Nair (2020) "Emotional Labour and the Power of International Bureaucrats." *International Studies Quarterly* 64 (3): 573-587.
7. Deepak Nair (2020) "Sociability in International Politics: Golf and ASEAN's Cold War Diplomacy." *International Political Sociology* 14 (2): 196-214. (A journal).
 - Winner of the 2021 Best Article Prize by the Diplomatic Studies Section of the ISA.
8. Deepak Nair (2019) "Saving Face in Diplomacy: A Political Sociology of Face-to-Face Interactions in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations." *European Journal of International Relations* 25(3): 672-697. (A* journal)
 - Winner of the EJIR Best Article Prize 2020.

9. Deepak Nair (2011) "ASEAN's Core Norms in the Context of the 'Global Economic and Financial Crisis': Is the Crisis a Catalyst for Institutional Development?" *Asian Survey* 51(2): 245-267.
10. Deepak Nair (2009) "Regionalism in the Asia-Pacific/East Asia: A Frustrated Regionalism?" *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 31(1):110-142.

Book Chapters

1. Deepak Nair. (2025). "A Diplomatic Image and its Afterlife: Bangkok 1967 and ASEAN's Creation Myth." In Naoko Shimazu and Mathew Philips eds. *Diplomatic Images: A Visual History of Global Diplomacy* (Cambridge University Press).
2. Deepak Nair (2024) "The Military-Catholic Network in the Cold War Diplomacy of Suharto's Indonesia," in Lufti, Mathews and Yolacan eds. *Strongman's Brokers: Old Diasporas and New Networks in the Age of Populism* Routledge, pp. 372-390.
3. Deepak Nair (2023) "International Relations in Southeast Asia" in Patrick James (ed.) *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. (Oxford University Press).

Other Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Deepak Nair (2021) H-Diplo Teaching Roundtable XXII-50: Teaching Roundtable on the Cold War in IR. *H-Diplo/H-Net Humanities & Social Science Online*.
2. Deepak Nair (2016) "Learning Diplomacy: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam Diplomats in ASEAN" *Trends in Southeast Asia Series*, Issue 14 (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies: Singapore).
3. Deepak Nair (2016) "A Strong Secretariat, a Strong ASEAN? A Re-evaluation," *ISEAS Perspectives* (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies: Singapore).

Public Commentary

Deepak Nair (2021) "ASEAN on Myanmar's Coup: Revisiting Cold War Diplomacy on Cambodia," *New Mandala*

Works-in-progress (drafts available)

1. Co-edited with Marcus Holmes. Forum on "Microsociology in IR: A State of the Field Analysis", under review at *International Studies Review*.
2. "Where is Class, Race, and Gender? The Fate of Social Structure in IR Microsociology." ISR Forum Essay on "Microsociology in IR." Under review at ISR.

3. "Beyond the West and Whiteness: The Postcolonial Afterlives of Race in International Relations."

Book (single-author)

Status: Under Review.

Architects of 'Nothing': The Cultural Production of Inaction in ASEAN.

Book Abstract

This book is about how seemingly bogus, banal, and empty activity can have powerful political effects. It intervenes in a long running debate on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – a diplomatic project forged at the height of the Cold War in Southeast Asia that has outlasted Afro-Asian, Socialist, and Black internationalist projects of postcolonial worldmaking in the twentieth century. The debate is as interminable as it has been inconclusive: Does ASEAN do anything that matters? Supporters argue that dialogic encounters in ASEAN's diplomatic meetings foster confidence, transform identities, and bring peace to Southeast Asia. Critics decry ASEAN's record of "inaction" in the face of military coups, civil society crackdowns, human rights abuses, and looming security challenges. This book suggests that neither supporters nor critics get ASEAN quite right. Despite their differences, both camps overlook the burgeoning mass of activity in ASEAN over meetings upon meetings, documents upon documents, and routine bureaucratic performances that constitute the everyday production of this diplomatic project. The book argues that it is the *effect* of this banal activity to produce the impression of "nothing"; to prevent certain outcomes from eventuating; to make nothing – as it were – to happen. ASEAN's "inaction" is an accomplishment that requires a great deal of effort. What is being actively produced, instead, is a leached and depoliticized harmony – one that actors recognize in the language of "comfort levels" – where ASEAN's infrastructure of activity deflects, frustrates, and drains contention from the political. ASEAN's banal activity is a depoliticizing amniotic that partly explains the value of its seemingly bogus yet deeply partisan and conservative reproduction. Drawing on long-term fieldwork in the circuits of ASEAN diplomacy, this book advances an original interpretation of ASEAN and outlines a novel approach to study culture and depoliticization in International Relations.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Courses

1. International Relations in the Asia-Pacific (ANU)
2. A Sociology of Diplomacy (ANU)
3. Southeast Asian Politics (National University of Singapore, NUS)
4. Singapore's Foreign Policy (NUS)
5. Seminar in International Relations of Southeast Asia (NUS)

PhD Supervision

- Primary Supervisor for Dung Phan Xuan (ANU).
- Primary Supervisor for Minh Son To (ANU).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journal Editing

2021- Present: Associate Editor, *The Hague Journal of Diplomacy* (HJD). The HJD is the world's leading specialist journal on diplomacy.

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/hjd>

Commissioning editor for HJD Special Issue on Caste in Indian Diplomacy and International Relations <https://brill.com/view/journals/hjd/20/3/hjd.20.issue-3.xml>

2009-2013: Associate Editor, *Contemporary Southeast Asia* (CSEA). CSEA is one of the oldest and most prominent area studies and IR journals on Southeast Asia based in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

<https://www.jstor.org/journal/contsoutasia>

Elected Office 2019-2023.

Member-at-Large, Diplomatic Studies Section, International Studies Association (ISA).

Journal Reviewer

Asian Journal of Political Science
Cambridge Review of International Affairs
Contemporary Southeast Asia
European Journal of International Relations
European Journal of International Security
Global Constitutionalism
Hague Journal of Diplomacy
International Political Sociology
International Affairs
International Organization
International Studies Quarterly
International Studies Review
International Relations of the Asia-Pacific
Politics & Gender
Review of International Political Economy
Review of International Studies

International Editorial Board

Cooperation and Conflict

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- May 2023 5th New Diplomatic History (NDH) Conference in Turku, Finland.
- Keynote title: “Studying Difference: Avoiding Innocence and Ignorance in Encounters with Diplomatic Culture.”
 - The NDH is a network at the crossroads of diplomatic history and cultural studies. It comprises over 200 historians and political scientists working on diplomacy and publishes the journal *Diplomatica*.

INVITED TALKS (select, in-person)

- Oct 2025 Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.
- Nov 2024 Norwegian Institute of International Affairs,
Oslo, Norway.
- Oct 2022 Copenhagen University, Denmark
Nordic Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (NIAS)
- Nov 2021 McGill University, Canada
Political Science Department, CIPSS Speaker Series
- May 2019 Stanford University, USA
Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Centre
- May 2019 Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)
Hong Kong Department of Government and Public Administration

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- 2024
- American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia. Co-organized panel on “Domestic Politics and Major Power Competition in Asia.”
 - ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco: co-organized Roundtable on “Micro-sociology in IR.”

2022

- Diplomacy Workshop at the Royal Danish Society of Science and Letters, Copenhagen 29-30 August.
- ISA Nashville. Co-organized panels on “Bourdieu in International Relations” and “Interpersonal Contact in Diplomacy.”

2021

- ISA virtual. Organized panel on “International Sociability” & participated in roundtable on Intersectionality in Diplomacy Studies.
- 3rd New Diplomatic History Conference at Aarhus (paper presenter, online).

2019

- EISA, Sofia, September (paper presenter)
- EuroSEAS, Berlin, (presenter and convenor of panel “Rethinking Southeast Asian IR”).
- APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, USA, August (paper presenter)
- ‘Rethinking Asian Diplomacy’ Workshop, ARI-NUS, (co-convenor).
- ISA Asia-Pacific, Singapore, July (paper presenter).
- ISA Annual Convention Toronto, Canada, March (paper presenter).

2018

- ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco, USA, March. Invited to Co-Chair. Critical Methods Café table on ethnography.
- Yale-NUS Diplomatic Images Workshop, Singapore, April (paper presenter).
- Millennium LSE-NUS Theory Workshop, Singapore, July (paper presenter).
- Asia Research Institute (NUS) Informal Diplomats Workshop, December (paper presenter).

2017

- ISA Annual Convention, Presidential Roundtable on “Theorizing Change in Practice Theory,” Baltimore, USA (paper presenter).
- European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR), Oslo (paper presenter).
