

Shantanu Kulshreshth

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kulshreshtha.shantanu@gmail.com

Education

2021 - 2025 University of Melbourne. PhD, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

- Funded under ARC Project: Youth and the Politics of Liberalism in India. Supervisors: Prof. Craig Jeffrey (Principal Supervisor) and Prof. Jane Dyson (Co-Supervisor)

2020 - 2021 Ashoka University. M.A (Hons.) by Research, Department of Political Science

- Thesis title: The Revolution Will Be Tweeted: Bhim Army and Social Media Mobilisation. CGPA: 3.82/4

2019 - 2020 Young India Fellowship, Ashoka University. PGD in Liberal Arts

- Recipient of Rosey Blue Foundation Scholarship. CGPA of 3.68/4

2016 - 2019 University of Delhi, Kirori Mal College. Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Department of Political Science

Research Outputs

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles →

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. (Under Review). 'Love, Sex, and Other Drugs: Youth, Islam, and the everyday poetics of Infrastructures in North India'. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. (Under Review). 'Becoming serious young men: Joblessness, platform enterprising, and the contradictory production of Amazon reselling in North India'. *Geoforum*

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2024. 'Kaam: Youth, Religiosity, and the cultural production of good work in a North Indian Madrasa'. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* (Online first).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758241302198>

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2023. "'Social Media Is the Second Ambedkar': Bhim Army and Social Media Mobilisation in North India'. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46 (5): 934–55.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2023.2216514>.

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2023. "'The State Is the Biggest Goonda': Civic Masculinity, Radical Victimhood, and Power in Bhim Army Discourse'. *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, no. 31.

<https://doi.org/10.4000/kjzb>.

Reports and Policy Briefs →

Verma, Rahul, and **Shantanu Kulshreshth**. 2022. 'Democratizing the Digital Space: Harnessing Technology to Amplify Participation in Governance Processes in the Global South'. Tech4Change Policy Briefs. United Nations Development Programme. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18535.42404>

Politics Initiative, Centre for Policy Research. 2022. 'Regional Party Systems in India'. Report and brief for Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) South Asia

Book chapters →

Jaffrelot, Christophe, and **Shantanu Kulshreshth**. (Forthcoming, 2026). Who Rules Madhya Pradesh?, in *Resilient elitism. The changing profile of India's regional assemblies* ed.s. Christophe Jaffrelot & Gilles Verniers. Routledge India

Media and other writings →

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2024. 'In Chandrashekhar Azad's win in Nagina, Mayawati and the BSP's tale of decline'. *The Indian Express*, June 7 2024, sec. Opinion (Online).

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/chandrashekhar-azad-nagina-lok-sabha-election-results-9377649/>

Kulshreshtha, Shantanu. 2021. 'Dalit Resistances to "Indian Political Modernity"'. *Final Draft: A Journal of the YIF Critical Writing Programme*, no. 4 (August).

Thesis →

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2025 (expected). 'Neoliberalism, Islam, and marginalised young people's cultural production of work in North India' (tentatively titled). Doctoral Thesis. University of Melbourne.

Kulshreshth, Shantanu. 2021. 'The Revolution Will Be Tweeted: Bhim Army and Social Media Mobilisation in North India'. Masters thesis. Ashoka University.

Datasets →

Verniers, Gilles, TCPD, and **Shantanu Kulshreshth.** 2023. "TCPD Indian Elections Data v2.0" –Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections Caste Profile' (Available on Request)

Academic Meetings (Conferences, Talks, Seminars)

Conferences →

2024 *Ajeeb sa (Strange-ish): inter-gender sociality and the awkward production of youth masculinities in North India*. Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) 2024 Conference, University of Adelaide. (July 2024)

2023 *B.A. fir Biya? Education Policy and Young Muslim Women's Contested Mobilities in North India*. Workshop on "Unequal Graduate Outcomes: International perspectives over the Long-Term", Centre for Global Higher Education, London. (September 2023)

2023 *"Why To Be Scared When We Only Loved": Love Marriage, Gender, and Citizenship in an Indian Muslim Neighbourhood*. European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) General Meeting, Charles University, Prague. (September 2023)

2023 *Thinking Through Kaam: Work, Leisure, and youth mobilities in a North Indian neighbourhood Madrasa*. Summer School on Modern History and Anthropology of Work, Jagiellonian School of History and Culture, Jagiellonian University, Cracow. (August 2023)

2022 *Azad Samaj Party: Inter-bloc Dalit reconfiguration and micro-party formation*. CPR Conference on India's Political Parties, India International Centre, New Delhi. (December 2022)

2022 *The CAA-NRC Protests: Analyzing New Ecologies of Youth Protest in India*. 50th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Co-presented with Avishek Jha (October 2022)

2021 *The Revolution will be Tweeted: Anti-Caste Mobilisation and the Dalit Cybersphere in India*. Sixth International Conference on Communication and Media Studies, University of Toronto. (October 2021)

2021 *Immunity from Bloc Fragmentation: Madhya Pradesh's Dalit legislators*. 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Co-presented with Christophe Jaffrelot. (October 2021)

2020 *Working Paper - Caste in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections*. Social Profile of India's National and Provincial Elected Representatives (SPINPER) Conference, Sciences Po, Paris. (November 2020)

Invited Talks and Workshops →

2022 *"Social Media is the Second Ambedkar": Bhim Army and Social media mobilisation in North India*. Geography India Group (GIG), University of Melbourne.

2021 *Digital Methods for Political Research*. Politics Initiative, Centre for Policy Research.

Academic Events Convened →

2024 Queer(ing) South Asia in Australia Seminar Series. Monthly talks delivered by Queer South Asian artists and performers based in Australia

2024 UoM South Asia Forum Conference. Participation from 40+ international speakers across 7 panels.

2022- South Asia Forum Fortnightly Seminars. Forum bringing together 200+ international ECRs and GR scholars.

2021 Two SouthernVoice-UNDP-CPR Expert Roundtables on Digitisation in the Global South. Supported by Government of Denmark's Tech for Democracy Conference

2021 Understanding Uttar Pradesh. Monthly talk series bringing together scholars and practitioners working on the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Politics Initiative, Centre for Policy Research.

2021 India's State Elections. Monthly roundtable sessions in the run-up to 2022 Assembly elections in India. Politics Initiative, Centre for Policy Research

Scholarships, Grants, and Awards

Educational Scholarships →

2021 - 2025 Melbourne Research Scholarship, University of Melbourne

- Awarded to pursue Doctor of Philosophy - Science at the University of Melbourne
- Inclusive of tuition costs, stipend, healthcare, and moving allowance.

2019 - 2020 Rosey Blue Foundation Scholarship

- Merit scholarship awarded as a fee offset during the Young India Fellowship

Non-remunerative awards →

2019 Excellence in Debating. Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi

2016 International Award for Young People–Gold Standard. Duke of Edinburgh Foundation

Selected Grants (More than AUD\$2,000) →

Year	Title/Purpose	Total Value (in AUD): AUD\$53,722
2024	Chancellery Global, Culture and Engagement & School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences University of Melbourne. Event Support Grant. <i>South Asia Forum Conference</i> . Nishtha Tewari, Shantanu Kulshreshth , and Avishek Jha.	AUD\$5250
2024	Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Selection Panel, University of Melbourne. <i>South Asia Graduate Researchers' Collective 2024-2025 Support</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth , Avishek Jha, and Nishtha Tewari.	AUD\$5000
2024	Caldwell Trust and Queen's College Melbourne. <i>Caldwell Graduate Humanities/Social Sciences Scholarship</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$5,200
2023	Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne. <i>Riady Scholarship to support exceptional fieldwork in Asia</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$2,000
2023	Norman Macgeorge Bequest Committee of Management, University of Melbourne. <i>Norman Macgeorge Scholarship to support travel to prestigious international research institutions</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$5,000
2023	Research Development Unit, University of Melbourne. <i>RDU Initiative Grant to support the creation of UoM South Asia Graduate Researchers' Collective</i> . Nishtha Tewari, Avishek Jha, and Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$9,000
2022	Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne. <i>Science Abroad Travelling Scholarship (SATS) to support fieldwork</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$2,000
2022	Russel and Mab Grimwade Miegunyah Fund, University of Melbourne. <i>Miegunyah International Scholarship to support international conference presentations</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth .	AUD\$10,000
2020	Campus France-French Embassy of India. <i>Charpak Scholarship to pursue research at CNRS-Sciences Po</i> . Shantanu Kulshreshth	EUR€4,500

Research Employment

2021-2024 Sparx Centre for Livelihood Research. *Research Associate* (Remote)

- Prepared a handbook on Indian Politics and Governance
- Prepared reports and briefs on unemployment, labour, youth, and agricultural incomes in India

2021-2022 Centre for Policy Research. *Research Associate* (New Delhi)

- Managing the Uttar Pradesh taskforce to coordinate interdepartmental research before the 2022 elections
- Undertaking independent fieldwork based research on political families and local political economy

2021 Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy. *Research Affiliate* (Geneva)

- Working with Professor Shalini Randeria on the 'Everyday State in India' at the Graduate Institute, Geneva

2020-2021 Trivedi Centre for Political Data. *Research Assistant* (Sonipat)

- Compiling caste data for MLA Candidates in Madhya Pradesh from 1962-2018
- Working on enhancing parameters for publicly available electoral data with the Lokdhaba project

Service

To the profession →

2024 Co-convenor and organiser, South Asia Forum Graduate Research Conference, University of Melbourne

2024-Ongoing Elected At-large Board Member, Geographies of Religion and Belief Systems Group, American Association of Geographers (AAG)

2023-Ongoing Co-Convenor, University of Melbourne South Asia Forum

Peer Reviewer for SAMAJ and Journal of South Asian Development

To the community →

2024-2025 Academic Committee Member, Queen's College Graduate Students Club, Melbourne

2019 Academic Committee Member, Young India Fellowship, New Delhi

2019-2021 Co-founder (along with Centre for Studies in Gender and Sexuality, Ashoka University), Queer Infoline, India

Teaching Portfolio (University Level)

University of Melbourne →

Year	Subject	Level	# Students	Contact Hours	Position	Teaching	Course Co-ord
2024	Local Sites, Global Connections <i>Tutoring for small group seminars, supervising research projects, and grading assignments</i>	3	~20	18	Sessional Tutor	100% (Tutoring)	0%
2024	Human Geography (at-large) <i>Employed by Queen's College Melbourne</i>	1-3			Casual Tutor	100% (Tutoring)	100%
2024-ongoing	Fertility, Mortality, and Social Change <i>Tutored, graded assignments, and independently supervised research projects for ~60 students across three tutorial sections.</i>	2	~100	72	Sessional Senior Tutor	100% (Tutoring)	10%

Year	Subject	Level	# Students	Contact Hours	Position	Teaching	Course Co-ord
2021	Party Politics in India <i>Graded assignments, Provided individual feedback to students on research projects. Independently conceptualised, designed, and delivered workshops on Data Visualisation and Digital Ethnography.</i>	Postgrad	~100	30	Teaching Assistant	25% (Demonstrating and Lecturing)	25%
2021	Electoral and Party Politics in India <i>Delivered two lectures: "Beyond Dalit Parties: Bhim Army Mobilisation", and "Internet and New Forms of Electoral Mobilisation". Graded assignments, Provided individual feedback to students on research projects.</i>	3	~60	40	Graduate Teaching Assistant	25% (Lecturing)	25%

References

Professor Craig Jeffrey

Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(International) and Senior Vice-President
Monash University
Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)
Chancellery
27 Chancellors Walk
Clayton VIC 3800 Australia
E: craig.jeffrey@monash.edu
Relationship: Principal Supervisor

Professor Jane Dyson

Professor in Social Geography & Development Geography and Chair,
Higher Degrees By Research Committee (HDRC), Academic Board
School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3052
E: jane.dyson@unimelb.edu.au
Relationship: Co-supervisor

Professor David Bissell

Professor of Human Geography
School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3052
E: david.bissell@unimelb.edu.au
Relationship: Previous Employer
(for course *Local Sites, Global Connections*)

Personal

Languages: Hindi (Fluent), English (Fluent), French (A2 French Standard), Urdu (Intermediate)
Certifications: Key Concepts and Critical Thought (Awarded by St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi),
Memberships: American Association of Geographers (AAG), South Asian Studies Association of Australia (SASAA),
Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG), Graduate Researchers' Collective - South Asia Forum
Website: <http://shantanukul.phd.sh>