

RUMELA SEN
Lecturer in the Discipline of International and
Public Affairs, SIPA, Columbia University

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APPOINTMENTS

2020 Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs,
School of International and Public Affairs,
Columbia University

2019- Associate Research Scholar,
Saltzman Institute of War and Peace,
Columbia University

2017-2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Department of Political Science,
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

2003 Master of Arts (International Relations) (With Distinction)
Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

BOOK

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

RESEARCH AREAS

Contentious Politics, Rebel Governance/Wartime Institutions, Postconflict State building, Comparative Political Economy of Developing Countries, Social Science Research Methods, Contemporary South Asia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020- School of International and Public Affairs,
Columbia University

2017-20 Columbia University
State-Making in South Asia (Introductory Lecture, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019)
Comparative Political Economy of India and China (Upper Level Seminar,
Spring 2018, 2019, 2020)

2016-17 Soka University of America
Introduction to Conflict and Peace Studies (Introductory Lecture, Fall 2016)
Why Violence? (Upper Level Seminar, Spring 2017)

2010-12 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)
2005-6 Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, India
International Relations Theory (Upper Level Seminar, Fall 2005)
Introduction to Modern India (Introductory Course, Spring 2006)

ADVISING

Sumya P Akkas, Empowerment of Artisan Women through Nonprofit Organizations and Social Enterprises in Bangladesh and Morocco (Senior Thesis, Columbia University, 2019)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Sen, Rumela, “The Aftermath of Civil Conflict: Recent Advances and Future Directions” (Revise and Resubmit, Comparative Politics)

Sen, Rumela. “When Rebels turn into State: Impact of Rebel Governance on Statebuilding in Nepal”

Sen, Rumela and Richard Bownas, “Caste, Class and Indigeneity: Comparing Saliency of Wartime Rebel Social Interventions in Postconflict India and Nepal”

Sen, Rumela and Andrew Mertha, “Farewell to Arms: Lessons from Rebel Defection in India and Cambodia”

Sen, Rumela, Divya Guru Rajan, and Emmanuel Teitelbaum. “Low Profile Resources and Insurgent Violence: Evidence from India.” (Draft available)

Sen, Rumela, and Emmanuel Teitelbaum. “Mass Mobilization and the Success of India’s Maoists.” (Draft available)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Rumela Sen (2020) Governance and development in India: A comparative study on Andhra Pradesh and Bihar after liberalisation, *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 58:4, 534-536,

Sen, Rumela. “Competing Mobilization of Class and Ethnic Identity: Internal Migration in North India.” Book chapter submitted to edited volume by a joint working group on cross-regional research on governance and internal migration sponsored by the East West Center.

Sen, Rumela. “Rebel Women: Combat Experience as Gender Empowerment in Nepal” Book chapter submitted to *Contemporary Gender Movements in India: Space, Conformity, Dissent* edited by Nandini Dhar and Raouf Peerzada, Bloomsbury Press.

Sen, Rumela. Electoral Confrontation of Right v Leftwing Populism: Evidence from the Indian State of West Bengal, Invited book chapter in Michael Weiner ed, *Routledge Handbook of Race and Ethnicity in Asia*.

Sen, Rumela. 2013. *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. 2006. "Theorizing the Hyphen: Nation, State and the Nation-State in India." *West Bengal Political Science Review* 9(1-2): 270-307.

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.

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 COMMENTARY

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

Sen, Rumela. "[Nepal Shifts Rightward After Revolution](#)", East Asia Forum.

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

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

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

Rumela Sen and Niloy Sengupta, "[Rumor to Riots in Bengal: Who Do We Blame and What Do We Do?](#)", *Mainstream Weekly* 55(32) (published July 29, 2017)

Niloy Sengupta and **Rumela Sen,** "[Grassroots Democracy is Kashmir's Only Hope Against Militancy](#)," WionNews South Asia (published July 14, 2017)

Rumela Sen and Niloy Sengupta, "[Why Rumour-Mongering or Minority Appeasement Fail to Explain the Basirhat Riots in Bengal](#)", *Daily O* (published July 3, 2017)

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 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

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
- 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

OTHER AWARDS

- 2018 AAS in Asia Conference International Travel Subsidy
- 2010-2013 Graduate Community Advisor Fellowship, Cornell University (Competitive Fellowship across all disciplines)
- 2010, 2013 Supplemental Departmental Fellowship for Methods Training at IQMR & ICPSR Summer Program, Cornell University
- 2009-15 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2009 Certificate & Membership, Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society (For distinction in the MA program at Villanova University, GPA: 4.0/4.0)
- 2007-2009 Competitive Graduate Assistantship & Full Tuition, Villanova University
- 2005 First rank in both West Bengal College Service Commission and Public Service Commission (Political Science) Examination for Lectureship
- 2003 Second Prize from Forum for Faith & Fraternity, Kochi, India (Cash award of 50,000 INR in Annual Essay Competition for excellence in Islamic Studies by a non-Islamic scholar)
- 2001, 2003 University Medals for Distinction in BA and MA Degree Examination, Jadavpur University, India
- 1999 President of India Gold Medal from Indian Council for Cultural Relations for Best Essay titled “What Does the Freedom of my Country Mean to Me”

INVITED TALKS

Invited Book Talk, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, May 3, 2021

Invited Book Talk, Brown-Harvard-MIT South Asia Seminar Series, January 2020

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

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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

“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 AIIIS 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

OTHER CONFERENCE PANELS AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“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.

“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

Association for Asian Studies

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer for Studies in Comparative International Development, European Journal of Political Economy, Jadavpur Journal of International Relations

RELATED SKILLS

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

Methods: 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.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

1. Prof Ronald J. Herring, Cornell University
2. Prof Jack L Snyder, Columbia University
3. Prof Andrew Mertha, Johns Hopkins University
4. Prof Thomas B. Pepinsky, Cornell University