

International Politics and Development

OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (I.D.E.A.S.)



IDEAS Office of Interdisciplinary Studies serves as a university-wide incubator for interdisciplinary research by providing an interdomain institutional space for cross-pedagogical learning, while entrenching its core principles, ethos in core application of interdisciplinary thought and praxis across social sciences. Through sustained engagement with scholars interested in working beyond the narrow contours of their own disciplines, IDEAS facilitates collaborations across JGU Schools and Institutes to create a novel research ecosystem and thought architecture within each multidisciplinary research constellation.

IDEAS hosts interdisciplinary research constellations that produce working papers, reports and scholarly publications, builds partnerships with civil society stakeholders and think-tanks, holds research outreach events for scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and others, and delivers cutting-edge training programmes for government, scholars, and third-sector organizations.

International Politics and Development

At IDEAS, our hopes for International Politics and Development are to facilitate a space where scholarship on IR maybe fostered, with a view to support critical, peripheral and innovative scholarship. The imagined goals for the cluster are fairly simple – to curate a space where leading conversations on IR may find room; to create room to include established as well as junior scholars to present and discuss their work; to promote teaching collaborations and discussions on pedagogy among IR teachers with a view to build collaborative learning spaces for our student community; to support scholarship and projects of the IPD-IDEAS team by facilitating opportunities to network and collaborate with relevant scholars, wherever they may be located; finally, to encourage building a culture of research workshops and dialogic symposiums not just among faculty but also students at JGU.

IPD-IDEAS acknowledges the diverse and evolving contours of IR scholarship and articulates the following sub-verticals to foster debates in IR under its aegis:

Sub-verticals for IPD-IDEAS

1. Theory
2. Regionalism & International Organisations
3. Security, Intelligence and Strategy
4. Global Governance & Multilateralism
5. Methodology
6. Global South Studies
7. Queer and Gender Studies
8. Popular Culture, Media & Visual IR
9. Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

TEAM MEMBER

LEAD



PROF. (DR.) CHISOM UBABUKOH

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Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh obtained his bachelors from the Federal University of Technology Nigeria, an MSc in Development Economics and Policy with distinction and a PhD in Economics from the University of Manchester, UK. Prior to teaching at JGU, he lectured for several years in the economics departments of the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, as well as at the Global Development Institute (GDI), UK. He also has broad industry experience including stints with Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the National Electoral Commission, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He has also consulted for several development organisations including the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) London and the African Development Bank (AfDB). In 2019 he started the company AgroDoc, which has launched a mobile app designed to help small farmers make automated diagnoses of crop diseases.

His research includes, but is not limited to, law and economics, poverty reduction, stages of national growth, the economics of agricultural development, agricultural productivity, international trade, structural change and the analyses of food security.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Animashaun, Jubril and Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna (2026) [Economic and institutional determinants of India–Africa merchandise trade](#)
- Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna (2023) [Maintaining the river of global Economic Resilience: The Great clean-up via energy transitions](#). India Foundation.
- Chuku, Chuku and Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna (2023) [Consumption risk-sharing under terror shocks: Evidence from value-chain network rosters in Nigeria](#). Review of Development Economics. ISSN 1467-9361 (In Press)
- Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna and Tampubolon, Gindo (2023) [Covid-19 impact on food insecurity in Uganda: a dynamic analysis](#). [Preprint] (Submitted)
- Emediegwu, Lotanna E and Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna (2023) [Re-examining the impact of annual weather fluctuations on global livestock production](#). Ecological Economics, 204: 107662. ISSN 0921-8009
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- Animashaun, Jubril and Ubabukoh, Chisom Lotanna (2021) [Is human rights protections good for trade in Africa : Evidence from proximity to democratically "Good" and "Bad" neighbouring countries](#). Managing Global Transitions, 19 (4). pp. 285-305. ISSN 1854-6935

CO-LEAD



PROF. (DR.) DEVIKA MISRA

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Dr Devika Misra is an Assistant Professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs at OP Jindal Global University. She holds a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies, an MPhil in Latin American Studies and a M.A in Politics from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has a B.A. (Hons) in English from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi.

Her Ph.D. thesis titled Pathways to Regional Integration: Theoretical Insights from ALBA, UNASUR and CELAC looks at the competing regional leadership projects of Lula Da Silva-led Brazil and Hugo Chávez-led Venezuela during the postliberal integration regime in Latin America and explores the discontinuities in theorizations on regionalism especially drawing on insights from Latin American regional endeavours. It informs her first book project, slated for publication in 2027 with Palgrave Macmillan. Her other research interests include comparative regionalism, comparative populisms, South-South cooperation, India-Latin America relations and working on themes of soft power and cultural analyses.

Devika has been a Visiting Scholar at the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) as well as at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). She was an invited professor at the Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) where she offered courses on Indian foreign policy and Asian perspectives on IR. She has also spent time and lectured at the

Levermore Global Scholars programme at Adelphi University as well at the Department of International Relations at Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México. Previously, she has also taught at Department of Global Affairs, Bhimrao Ambedkar University in New Delhi, School for Life, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun and at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru. Her pedagogical approach is strongly interdisciplinary with an emphasis on academic mentoring.

She is currently, a Visiting Professor at the Institute of International Relations at the University of Sao Paulo, the Constellation Lead for the Cluster on International Politics and Research Fellow at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), OP Jindal Global University, Associate Researcher at the Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES) in Buenos Aires, Argentina and a Fellow for Comparative Regionalism at the Centre for Regional Integration, United Kingdom. She has presented her research across the globe, participated in research workshops and authored several conference papers, book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles that have been published in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Jardim Amorim, Camilla & Misra, Devika. (2024), Cash transfers, the pandemic and Bolsonaro: analysing polarizing paradoxes in Brazilian governance. In Magdalena Lisińska & Monika Sawicka (eds.) Progress in Latin America (in the post-Covid reality) / Progreso en América Latina (en una realidad post-Covid) (pp. 141-154), Jageillonian University Press. <https://wuj.pl/en/book/progress-in-latin-america-in-the-post-covid-reality>
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OTHER PUBLISHED WORK

- Misra, Devika (2022, November 16). Lesson for Brazil in the Context of the Malaysian Elections <https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-insight/lesson-for-brazil-in-the-context-of-the-malaysian-elections101668578634022.html>
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L. N. Venkataraman (Laksh) is an Associate Professor at the International Institute for Higher Education Research and Capacity Building (IIHed), JGU.

Previously, Dr. Venkataraman worked at TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS), New Delhi. He is the author of *The Social Construction of Capabilities in a Tamil Village*. His academic works can be accessed at the *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Development in Practice*, and *Indian Journal of Human Development*, among others.

Before joining TERI SAS, he had a stint as an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Universität Bielefeld, Germany, and later at the Centre for Development Support in the University of the Free State, South Africa. As a university professional, he has been closely associated with many scholars; public intellectuals, India as well as abroad.

He was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research on Higher Education and Development (CRHED) in South Africa, and at the Research School on Education and Capabilities (EduCap) in Germany. As an active member of the Human Development and Capabilities Association (HDCA), USA since 2008; he worked as one of its Coordinators of Education Thematic Group (2021-23). Prior to this, he was coordinating the HDCA's Thematic Group activities of Participatory Methods (2014-2020) and Emerging Researchers' Group (ERG)[2012-13] European Educational Research Association (EERA), Germany.

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Dr. Swetasree Ghosh Roy is a Professor of Political Science at Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, India and was previously Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Zayed University, UAE. Born in India, Dr. Roy was educated at University of Calcutta, India and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science. After completing master's degree in international relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, Dr. Roy joined Louisiana State University to pursue doctoral degree. She completed her graduate studies and was awarded Doctor of Philosophy in Politics and Government in 2009. Since then Dr. Roy has continued in academic career teaching undergraduate and post-graduate students. Dr. Roy's research interests include international and domestic conflict processes, international institutions, political economy and comparative politics.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh and Pransukha, Madhav (2026) [Why India must assert itself more visibly and not stay silent as the Iran war continues.](#) The Wire.
- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh (2026) [How a new America threatens states' territorial sovereignty.](#) Info360.

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- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh and Verma, Adhiraj (2025) [Subscriber Writes: When law becomes a cage.](#) The Print.
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- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh (2025) [While India Debates Alphabets, Its Youth Learn the Language of Unemployment.](#) The Wire.
- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh and Singh, Ankur (2025) [Subscriber Writes: Caste to Gender—New battlefield of Indian politics.](#) The Print.
- Roy, Swetasree Ghosh, Mukkar, Sachin and Sanyal, Animesh (2024) [Why West Bengal in 2026 Is an Uncertain Dream for the BJP.](#) The Wire.
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Oleksandr Svitych is an Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, School of International Affairs. His research interests lie at the intersection of international relations, political economy, and critical social theory. He is the author of the monograph on populism, “The Rise of the Capital-state and Neo-nationalism: A New Polanyian Moment,” published by Brill. His research also appeared in *Millennium*, *Critical Policy Studies*, *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, *Review of International Political Economy*, and *Globalizations*, among others.

Currently, Dr. Svitych is developing a critical research agenda on algorithmic governance. In particular, he is working on his second book for the Routledge “Frontiers of Political Economy” series. The project’s novelty lies in combining the Frankfurt School of critical theory with the cutting-edge “quantum turn” in International Relations.

Dr. Svitych is committed to critical and engaged pedagogy by emphasizing the liberating function of education. At JSIA, he has taught courses on populism, critical political economy, political philosophy, algorithmic governance, and the Russo-Ukrainian war. In addition to social sciences, he finds meaning in his family, development work, and martial arts.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Svitych, Oleksandr (2026) [Blind transparency: A critical discourse analysis of the EU AI Act.](#) Critical Policy Studies, 20 (1). pp. 127-143. ISSN 1946-0171 (In Press)
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2025) [Economic Resilience and Women's Empowerment in India A Post-Polanyian Perspective.](#) In: Deindustrialization and Economic Restructuring in Post-Reform India. 1st ed. Taylor and Francis, pp. 230- 250. ISBN 9781003594918
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2025) [Algorithms and IR : towards a critical quantum theory.](#) Millennium: Journal of International Studies. pp. 1-27. ISSN 0305-8298
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2023) [Amartya Sen, Karl Polanyi, and universal basic income.](#) Journal of Human Development and Capabilities. ISSN 1945-2837 (In Press)
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2023) [Beyond the pandemic: The promise of degrowth in the global south.](#) In: Political Economy of Development in the Global South Post-COVID-19 Pandemic. Springer, Singapore, pp. 3-28. ISBN 9789819940745
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2023) [Development for whom? The case of USAID in Ukraine's Donbas.](#) Review of International Political Economy. ISSN 1466-4526
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2023) [A Ukrainian professor lists ten flawed ideas about the war in his country.](#) Scroll.in.
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- Svitych, Oleksandr (2022) [The rise of the capital-state and neo-nationalism: A new polanyian moment.](#) Global Populisms, 3 . Brill, Leiden, pp. 22-43. ISBN 978900451622-9
- Svitych, Oleksandr (2022) [Why India should support Ukraine: Marrying realism and morality.](#) Scroll.in.
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Ms. Elizabeth Roche joined the Jindal School of International Affairs, (Jindal Global University) as Associate Professor after working as a journalist for almost three decades. She holds a Masters Degree in English from Delhi University. She has worked as a television, print, radio and multi-media journalist in Indian and foreign media organisations. She has contributed to two international news agencies – Reuters TV and the French news agency Agence France Presse, AFP. In AFP, as a South Asia correspondent for a decade – she contributed to AFP's coverage of news events in India, besides reporting extensively on the Sri Lankan civil war and contributing articles on India's relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bhutan. She also covered parliament proceedings and Indian politics including state and national elections. Prof Roche then joined Mint, the financial paper of Hindustan Times Media Limited and as National Writer and then Editor-Foreign Affairs, she helmed coverage of Indian foreign and defence policy for more than a decade. Her work has been widely cited by scholars in books and research articles produced by think tanks across the world. At Mint, she continued reporting on politics – ie elections in states like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram besides the 2014 and 2019 national polls. At JSIA, Prof Roche teaches courses on Indian Foreign Policy, Public Diplomacy and News Media, Global News from Multiple Perspectives and News Media and Politics. She is a keen follower of developments in the Indo-Pacific region.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [India's neighbourhood woes: Friends on the fence?](#) Deccan Herald.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [Opinion | Sunak To Biden, No Incumbent Has It Easy This Year - Thanks To Economy.](#) NDTV.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [Opinion | US Presidential Polls: Trump or Biden, India's Stakes Are Higher Than Ever.](#) NDTV.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [Opinion: Narasimha Rao recast not just India's economy, but foreign policy too.](#) NDTV.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [Mint Explainer : The significance of Bangladesh's election for India.](#) Mint.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2024) [Mint Explainer: The significance of Bangladesh's election for India.](#) Mint.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2026) [Mark Carney's visit is about a vital reset in India-Canada ties.](#) The Indian Express.
- Roche, Elizabeth (2026) [A Year After Operation Sindoor, Pakistan Is in Trouble at Home, Basks in Glory Abroad.](#) The Diplomat.

CONSTELLATION MEMBER



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Dr. Harleen Kaur is currently an Assistant Professor at the Jindal School of Psychology and Counselling, O. P. Jindal Global University. A recipient of multiple prestigious international fellowships and awards, she brings rich interdisciplinary experience that includes research, teaching, training, policy advocacy, and cross-cultural psychological practice. Her scholarly and professional journey bridges academia, grassroots engagement, and global dialogues in psychology and human rights. She is serving as a co-chair for the 19th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations. She was an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Doctoral Fellow by the Ministry of Education. She holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from Banaras Hindu University, where her research focused on the intersectionality and lived experiences of Indian transgender persons. Her academic background includes postgraduate qualifications in community mental health (NIMHANS), counselling, and psychological interventions. Her research lens is informed by her strong commitment to social justice, particularly in areas concerning gender and sexual minorities, mental health equity, and culturally inclusive public health. Her major areas of interest are global public health, cross-cultural psychology, vulnerable population and human rights with a strong focus on inclusivity and diversity.

Dr. Kaur has over 6 years of research experience, complemented by a few years of teaching and administration in Indian higher education institutions. She is a 'Visiting Fellow' at the Herbert Simon Research Institute (The Netherlands), and has participated in multiple global conferences, such as the International Political Science Association (Republic of Korea), European Congress of Psychology (United Kingdom), ICPS

ICPS (Belgium & France), IAIR (Switzerland), and the International Association of Applied Psychology (United Kingdom). She was also a “Rising Star” at ICPS Paris and an “Emerging Psychologist” by the International Union of Psychological Sciences. She has been the Young Indian Ambassador by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. Her scholarship has been published extensively in reputed SCOPUS and ABDC-indexed journals, alongside book chapters and edited volumes by global publishers like Springer, Routledge, and Palgrave Macmillan. She is the sole author of a forthcoming Springer Nature book on psychological research among transgender individuals in India. She is editing a book on Global Queerness published by Palgrave Macmillan. She also serves as a peer reviewer for various indexed journals.

Dr. Kaur’s expertise has been acknowledged by policy-level engagements, including invitations as an expert for consultations by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and AIIMS on transgender healthcare. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of several global forums. Her training portfolio includes over 30 national and international workshops and capacity-building programs across India, Europe, and neighboring countries, focusing on qualitative research, mental health, and cross-cultural psychology. She is presently involved in multiple multi-country and interdisciplinary research projects funded by organizations such as the Economic and Social Research Council (United Kingdom). Dr. Kaur’s passion for inclusive health, cross-cultural understanding, and arches of social justice continues to shape her contributions to academia, global policy, and community-based advocacy.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Kaur, Harleen (2026) [Psychological Research Among Transgender Individuals: An Indian Case Study](#). Springer Nature, Cham. ISBN 9783032120519
- Narula, Namita, Singh, Tushar and Kaur, Harleen (2025) [Bio-psycho-social Effects of Street Harassment: A Systematic Literature Review](#). Psychology Hub, 42 (3). pp. 69-80. ISSN 2724-2943
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- Kaur, H (2026). A Foucauldian Analysis of “Alternative Family” Among Indian Trans Women. Gend. Issues 43, 38. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12147-026-09426-7>

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Ravinder Kumar Verma is an Assistant Professor at OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, India. He holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and an M.Phil. from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). His research interests lie at the intersection of technology and society, with a focus on Information Systems, digital platforms, Artificial Intelligence, and Information Technology for Development (ICT4D). His work critically examines the societal implications of digital technologies, exploring themes such as mobility platforms, platform ecosystems, digital policy, social media, and e-governance. His research has been published in leading outlets across the domains of Information Systems and public policy.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Verma, Ravinder Kumar and Sharma, Sachin Kumar (2026) [Why it is Difficult for Users to Adopt Smart Home Technologies: Some Insights](#). In: Digital Adoption, Diffusion and Innovation in the Augmented and Digital Society. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology . Springer Nature, Cham, pp. 185-196. ISBN 9783032167743
- Tyagi, Gaurav, Verma, Ravinder Kumar and Sharma, Anuj (2025) [SMEs and artificial intelligence in oman : a case of the insurance sector](#). Issues in Information Systems, 26 (3). pp. 472-483. ISSN 1529-7314
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- Joy, Justin, Srinath, S., Verma, Ravinder Kumar and Shrivastava, Manish Kumar (2023) [Barriers to smart home technologies in India.](#) In: Transfer, diffusion and adoption of next-generation digital technologies: IFIP WG 8.6 International working conference on transfer and diffusion of IT, TDIT 2023, Nagpur, India, December 15–16, 2023, Proceedings, Part II. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology, 698 . Springer, Cham, pp. 207-219. ISBN 978-3-031-50192-0
- Verma, Ravinder Kumar, Sengupta, Sujoy, Ilavarasan, P. Vigneswara and Kar, Arpan Kumar (2023) [Understanding the usage and opinion formation on LinkedIn: Uses and gratifications theory.](#) In: Transfer, diffusion and adoption of next-generation digital technologies: IFIP WG 8.6 International working conference on transfer and diffusion of IT, TDIT 2023, Nagpur, India, December 15–16, 2023, Proceedings, Part I. IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology . Springer, Cham, pp. 195-206. ISBN 978-3-031-50188-3

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Ms. Geetanjali brings diverse expertise spanning law, education, and social development. Currently a faculty member at the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences, she teaches specialized courses in leadership, inclusion, and peace studies.

Previously, her extensive collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice in India and the United Nations Development Program has focused on critical access to justice challenges, including:

- Addressing sustainable livelihood and natural resource management issues
- Tackling systemic problems of delayed justice
- Improving accessibility of legal systems for vulnerable populations, with special emphasis on women and children
- Developing legal infrastructure in underserved areas

Her professional strengths focus on policy research, program design, and managing development initiatives for both governmental bodies and international organizations.

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW



MR. JYOT SHIKHAR SINGH

Doctoral Research Fellow at Jindal School of international affairs

MEMBER ASSOCIATES



SIDHYENDRA SISODIA

Doctoral Candidate (UGC-SRF),
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding,
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research,
Banaras Hindu University, India.

Sidhyendra Sisodia is a Senior Research Fellow at the UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding, Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University. His research focuses on International Relations, Security Studies, Indian foreign policy, maritime security, and the geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region. His doctoral thesis, titled "India-China Security Dilemma in the Indian Ocean Region: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles", examines Sino-Indian strategic competition, and small-state responses, and evolving security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region. He has published peer-reviewed and SCOPUS-indexed research in reputed journals, including India Review, Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies, Journal of Strategic Security, and International Journal of Asian Studies. His wider academic and policy writings engage with the Indo-Pacific, health diplomacy, and ocean governance.



JULIO CÉSAR DÍAZ CALDERÓN

trans/feminist activist-scholar, poet, data scientist, and street educator, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Security For All



ISHA SHARMA

PhD candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament in Jawaharlal Nehru University



PUSHPAK KUMAR ROY

PhD candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament (CIPOD)



DR. ARIEL GONZÁLEZ LEVAGGI

Associate Professor in the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina



DR. MARIA L. LAGUTINA

Professor at the World Politics Department at St. Petersburg State University, Russia.



DR RAFAEL BITTENCOURT RODRIGUES LOPESH

Assistant Professor at the School of Social Sciences, Federal University of Goiás.



DR. GIOVANNI BARBIERI

Research Fellow at Research Center in Economic Analysis and International Economic Development (CRANEC), Italy



DR JOSÉ AUGUSTO RIBAS MIRANDA

Assistant Professor of Contemporary History at the Universidad Austral de Chile

PROJECTS

Writing Stories As/For/Against IR: Forgetting Theories, Undoing Epistemic/Bodily/Harmful) Practices, Retrieving Our Many Worlds

How might writing stories help IR scholars to forget theories and undo (epistemic/bodily/harmful) practices that sustain interlocking systems of oppression in and beyond the IR classroom? Can writing stories retrieve many worlds of life and existence otherwise that IR scholars are already embedded in and help them to imagine less violent theories and practices? How might our stories disrupt the hegemony of understanding “the international” as separate from embodied knowledges experienced in, through, and across our many worlds? What can narrative and embodied methodologies offer to discussions on ethics and violence in both theory and practice within IR? This special issue explores those questions with IR scholars’ stories and embodied methodologies, as well as with forums of senior scholars who have done this work for more than two decades in the field. Building on an extensive legacy of special issues and books inviting IR scholars to write and not just analyze stories, autobiographies, autoethnographies, ethnographies, fictions, narratives, tales, and poems, this special issue cultivates new editing, reading, and writing opportunities for the study and practice of the international and its relations.

Collaborators: Devika Misra, Ambreen Agha, Julio César Díaz Calderón

Putting Solidarity Projects in Context: Analyzing Cohesion in Pandemic Policies in CELAC and SAARC

There is no dearth of cases to be evaluated when comparisons of regionalisms in South Asia and Latin America are conceptualized. However, while the overarching flagship regional organisation of South Asia, namely the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has often suffered severe stalemates due to regional tensions, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Nations, has presented itself on the opposite spectrum of active, if at times ineffectual, declaratory regionalism. Where regional integration in Latin America is both policy and project (Tussie 2009), in South Asia, regional rivalries, international interference and fraught identity driven nationalisms have precluded discussions of cohesion, even in the face of

conjoined histories. The presence of rival regional powers, starkly in the case of South Asia and more obliquely in Latin America has enabled interesting solidarity patterns to emerge in the regional formations. Yet, SAARC and CELAC both continue to exist, both are evoked in times of crisis and both continue to represent different versions of regional solidarities that are enunciated variously by these regional rivals where different trajectories of development and different political ideologies have acted as intervening variables.

The context of the pandemic only served to exacerbate the need for neighbourly support systems in an increasingly introverted international system which had been marked by rising protectionism and hypernationalism. This paper attempts to understand how these regional solidarity projects fared by evaluating the pandemic regional policies of two regional powers in the regions, namely India and Brazil in the regional institutions of SAARC and CELAC. Both countries have made claims for not just regional leadership but also leadership at the international stage. Both, have had these claims contested by other regional powers in their respective regions. Both have been governed by increasingly nationalist regimes and both countries have suffered gravely under the pandemic. However, while the Modi-government in India has eked out its own internationalist path towards supporting multilateralism, the Bolsonaro government in its policy of negation of the pandemic, has increasingly introverted itself from the region. What are the ways in which the region was utilized by these countries to forge domestic policies of legitimacy? In what ways did their individual behavior stack against the existence of these two all-encompassing regional organisations? What are the hopes for regional solidarity post-pandemic in South Asia and Latin America?

This paper aims to unearth nuances of pandemic behaviour of these two regional giants by firstly, evaluating the histories of regional solidarity in South Asia and Latin America. Secondly, it hopes to situate regional cooperation projects in both regions in context through an evaluation of SAARC and CELAC. Finally, it hopes to disentangle the vagaries of pandemic support and containment policies by these two regional giants with their regional partners.

Collaborator: Devika Misra, Prof. Thomas Legler

Performative Right-Wing Populism and Cultural Studies

This paper examines the significance of populism as a performative and culturally constructed phenomenon, highlighting its ability to reconfigure social identities and power relations through discursive tools. By theorizing populism as a “floating signifier” shaped by cultural anxieties and historical contingencies, it offers a critical framework to understand how populism challenges existing paradigms in political and cultural studies. This analysis advances the discourse on populism by bridging cultural studies and political theory, providing new insights into its enduring impact on contemporary political culture and its implications for identity formation and power dynamics

Collaborator: Jyot Shikhar Singh (PhD Scholar, Jindal School of International Affairs)

Algorithms and Critical Theory: Domination, Resistance, Entanglement" (book contract with Routledge, “Frontiers of Political Economy” series)

As human lives are increasingly enmeshed with big data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, several key questions emerge. What is the nature of algorithmic governance? Is there space for resistance against the growing influence of algorithms in regulating and controlling humans? Are algorithmic infrastructures inherently oppressive, or do they harbor emancipatory potentials? What does this mean for critical social science and the discipline of International Relations (IR)? In seeking answers to these questions, this project brings together critical theory and quantum social science. It develops a “critical quantum” account of algorithmic power through a close engagement with the early Frankfurt School of critical theory (“Critical Theory”) and quantum IR. While critical literature on algorithms tends to focus on either their totalizing power over humans or human agency to resist them, this project highlights the intricate, intertwined relationship between humans and algorithms. Drawing on quantum social theory, it emphasizes their mutual shaping and constitution. Conversely, it cautions against the pitfalls of quantum ontology and epistemology, which Critical Theory can address by exposing relations of power and privilege rooted in capital, race, or gender. This project argues that future research on algorithmic governance should position itself at the intersection of quantum and critical social science.

Collaborator:

Prof. (Dr.) Oleksandr Svitych

The Role of International Development Aid in Poverty Reduction

International development aid remains a critical tool in global efforts to reduce poverty, yet its effectiveness is widely debated. This study evaluates the impact of aid programs on poverty reduction, exploring the conditions that enhance or limit their success. We employ a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative analysis of aid flows and poverty metrics across 50 developing countries with qualitative case studies from sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Our findings indicate that aid significantly reduces poverty when delivered in contexts with strong governance, low donor fragmentation, and alignment with national development priorities. Conversely, in settings marked by weak institutions or misaligned objectives, aid's impact diminishes, occasionally exacerbating dependency. The case studies highlight successful programs that emphasize local ownership and institutional capacity-building, contrasting with less effective top-down initiatives. These results suggest that optimising aid effectiveness requires a shift toward tailored, context-specific strategies that prioritise governance reforms, donor coordination, and recipient-led planning, offering actionable insights for policymakers and development practitioners.

Collaborator: Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh

Exploring the Economic and Institutional Determinants of India-Africa Trade Relations

This study investigates the dynamics and determinants of bilateral trade between India and Africa, leveraging data from 1996 to 2024. Unlike multilateral trade agreements, bilateral arrangements are often easier to negotiate and can mitigate imbalances in competition and terms of trade. Using the structural gravity model, we analyse the evolving trade relationship between India and Africa, highlighting key trends and projecting future developments. The analysis incorporates institutional variables to assess the impact of governance effectiveness, corruption, and institutional strength on trade volumes. Our findings reveal a consistent growth in Indo-African trade, with a notable recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic size and institutional quality of African countries, particularly governance effectiveness and regulatory capacity, are found to be significant positive determinants of trade. However, we obtain a counterintuitive finding: that higher levels of corruption are positively associated with trade in the short term, possibly reflecting informal mechanisms that facilitate transactions in weak institutional environments. These findings provide nuanced insights for policymakers seeking to strengthen Indo-Africa trade relations, emphasizing the importance of institutional reforms, transparency, and targeted bilateral cooperation for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Collaborators: Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh, Dr. Jubril Animashaun

Book Chapter: India-Africa – the civilizational connect across oceans and time

India's ties with Africa are millennia old. Many scholars and studies have noted how the Indian subcontinent was a major corridor of migration from Africa to other parts of the world.

Most prominently available readings and articles on India-Africa relations seem focussed on recent developments in India-Africa ties ie India's role in Africa's freedom struggles, support for decolonisation and anti-racial movements and shared development priorities. Essentially these are conversations are framed in the political, geo-political and geo-economic contexts.

These narratives though important don't touch upon Africa's interactions with India centuries earlier ie from approximately the 9th centuries to early 17th centuries for instance. Migrants from the African continent have been an integral part of Indian society and played many interesting roles in this period. Indeed, the living proof of this are the Siddi communities who today live in many pockets of India – in settlements in Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa and Andhra Pradesh to name a few. Some went onto occupy prominent roles the courts of Indian rulers and other to rule parts of India.

The aim of this chapter is to put into perspective India's centuries old connect with Africa through the lens of cultural and people to people exchanges. Before the era of modern diplomacy, it was traders, poets, travellers who introduced people to different cultures. It was no different in the case of India and Africa.

Palestinian-American scholar Edward Said notes that “all cultures are involved in one another; none is single and pure, all are hybrid, heterogenous, extraordinarily differentiated, and unmonolithic.” He also added that “Culture is never just a matter of ownership, of borrowing and lending with absolute debtors and creditors, but rather of appropriations, common experiences, and interdependencies of all kinds among different cultures.”

In other words, culture is a two way street. If people from the shores of India braved inclement weather and temperamental seas, so did Africans who made the same journey to opposite shores. In this, the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea acted as bridges, bringing together cultures. This chapter will aim to illustrate the above-mentioned proposition using Said's theory.

Collaborator: Prof Elizabeth Roche

Book Projects: Trajectories of Regional Integration: Theoretical Insights from ALBA, UNASUR and CELAC. Palgrave Macmillan.

Devika Misra

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Epistemic Populism and the Quest for Common Ground: Navigating Hegemony in Polarised Democracies

Description: This paper addresses the research question: How does epistemic populism redefine common grounds and challenge democratic hegemony in polarized societies? It argues that epistemic populism, by selectively framing knowledge and truth, undermines traditional sources of authority and consensus while fostering new spaces of collective identification. Drawing on Laclau and Mouffe's theory of hegemony, the study employs a qualitative methodology to critically analyze discursive strategies used by populist movements to construct alternative epistemologies. This epistemological contribution reveals how such strategies disrupt democratic stability, amplify antagonisms, and foster competing truths. While destabilizing hegemonic norms, these movements paradoxically create pathways for alternative solidarities. The paper advances the understanding of epistemic populism's role in reshaping political landscapes and emphasises its implications for democratic resilience in an era of deepening polarisation.

Link: <https://helda.helsinki.fi/items/c4190481-63f3-454e-bed9-f7b08b67821d>

Collaborator: Jyot Shikhar Singh (PhD Scholar, Jindal School of International Affairs)

EVENTS ARCHIVE

“World in Transition: What are the major drivers of geopolitics in 2024?”

26th May, 2024

This event marked the commencement of a series of initiatives aimed at fostering nuanced insights into global politics.

Distinguished speakers were invited to share their insights and expertise on the topic. Notable among them were Madhu Bhalla, an esteemed academic with a deep understanding of international relations; Nalin Surie, a seasoned diplomat with extensive experience in foreign policy; Ashok Kantha, a distinguished career diplomat specialising in India's neighbourhood and Asian affairs; and Avinash Godbole, who moderated the discussion. Their participation enriched the conversation and offered valuable perspectives on the evolving geopolitical dynamics.



Watch Here:

https://www.youtube.com/live/uL2qhOzpp2U?si=q69yWlMy0Wk_y7Vk

Annual young scholars workshop on 24th April. 2025

On 24th April 2025, the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University successfully hosted its flagship event—the Annual Young Scholars Workshop at the Campus. The day-long workshop brought together early-career researchers, undergraduate scholars, and faculty members for an engaging exchange of ideas across disciplines. Participants presented original research, work-in-progress papers, and interdisciplinary inquiries, receiving constructive feedback in a supportive academic environment. Sessions focused on research methodology, critical theory, fieldwork reflections, and academic writing strategies, fostering a culture of inquiry, dialogue, and collaboration. The event created a platform for emerging scholars to share knowledge, refine their research trajectories, and build networks for future scholarly work. With active participation and mentorship from faculty members, the workshop exemplified IDEAS' commitment to nurturing intellectual curiosity and academic rigor at the undergraduate level.

Events Guide April 2025



The poster for the Annual Young Scholars Workshop 2025, held on Thursday, 24 April 2025, at the Catalyst T3 Ground Floor. It details three sessions with their respective topics, times, and participants. Each session includes a constellation of speakers and a discussant. The poster also provides contact information for further queries.

IDEAS OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana, India

ANNUAL YOUNG SCHOLARS WORKSHOP
24 APRIL 2025, THURSDAY

VENUE: CATALYST, T3, GROUND FLOOR

SESSION I: 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM
IDENTITY, COOPERATION, & CONFLICT

Constellation: International Politics

Participants:

- Torunika Roy, PhD Scholar, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Syed Hammad Mehraj, PhD Scholar, Department of IR, South Asian University
- Sidhant Kumar, PhD Scholar, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Pushpak Kumar Roy, Consultant, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) & Member Associate, IDEAS

Discussant:

Constellation: Politics, Society, and History

SESSION II: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
CONFLICT, COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Participants:

- Dr. Tarang Mahajan, Independent Researcher
- Priyanka Sharma, Sourcing Specialist, Randstad Enterprise
- Waqar Amin Lone, PhD Scholar, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia University
- Dr. Kaushalya Bajpayee, IDEAS Fellow & Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Discussant:

Constellation: Understanding Indian Economy

SESSION III: 2 TO 3:30 PM
IDENTITY & ACCESS IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Participants:

- Ankita Singh, PhD Scholar, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration
- Prudhvi Rayala, PhD Scholar, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration
- Bisma Manzoor, PhD Scholar, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration
- Dr. Manika Bora, IDEAS Fellow & Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Discussant:

For further queries, contact: ideas@jgu.edu.in

Nazariya: A Critical Dialogue Series

“Mapping Feminist International Relations in South Asia: Past and Present”

27th Feb, 2025

In this session, Dr Shweta Singh discussed her recent book "Mapping Feminist International Relations in South Asia: Past and Present". The conversation was moderated by Dr Devika Misra, Senior Research Fellow with IDEAS and Assistant Professor at Jindal School of International Affairs. Joining the vibrant discussion were Dr Ambreen Agha, Associate Professor at Jindal School of International Affairs, Ms Kiran Chauhan, Research scholar at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Palak Maheshwari, a Teaching Assistant at Ashoka University, all of whom added their valuable perspectives.

International Politics (INP)

Book Discussion: Mapping Feminist International Relations in South Asia: Past and Present

Shweta Singh
Associate Professor
South Asian University

Ambreen Agha
Associate Professor
Jindal School of International Affairs

Kiran Chauhan
PhD Scholar, CIPOD
JNU

Palak Maheshwari
Teaching Assistant
Ashoka University

Moderator
Devika Misra
Research Fellow(Lead), IDEAS
Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs

Register here:

27th February'2025, Thursday
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM IST
Catalyst Conference Room| T3 Ground Floor

www.jgu.edu.in/ideas | ideas@jgu.edu.in | +91 8930111290

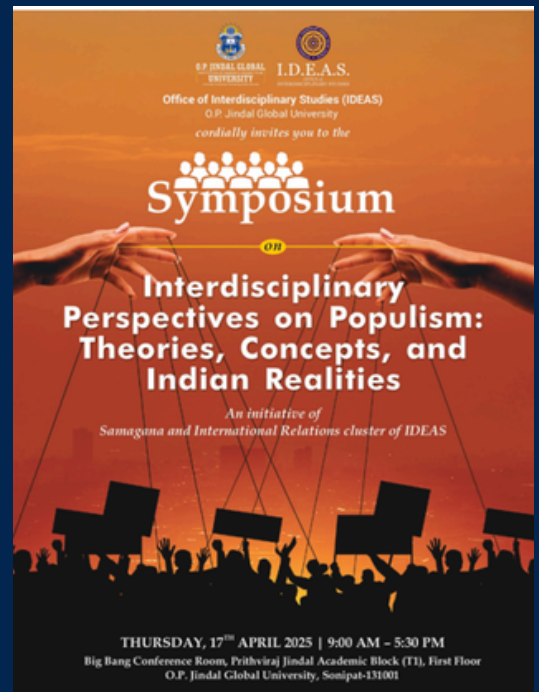
Watch Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPUA0k4uz0s>

Symposium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Populism: Theories, Concepts & Indian Realities

17th April, 2025

Organized as an initiative of the Samagana and International Relations cluster of IDEAS, the symposium brought together scholars, students, and practitioners to explore the multifaceted phenomenon of populism through diverse disciplinary lenses. With rising populist movements having shaped global and domestic politics, the symposium aimed to interrogate how populism was theorized, operationalized, and experienced within the Indian context.



NAZARIYA: A Critical Dialogue Series

Algorithms & AI: Critical Perspectives

27th March, 2025

The session brought together Dr. Oleksandr Svitych, Associate Professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs, and Nico Putz, a researcher from Potsdam, to unpack the intersection of artificial intelligence, power, and politics in the context of international affairs. Their discussion focused on how algorithms are not neutral tools, but deeply embedded within socio-political structures that shape global realities. The session was moderated by Dr. Devika Misra, Assistant Professor and Research Fellow, IDEAS



NAZARIYA: A Critical Dialogue Series

“Beyond the Breadline: Actionable Steps to End Poverty Now”

17th October, 2025

On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (World Poverty Day) on 17th October Constellation Fellow of International Politics and Development Prof. (Dr.) Chisom Ubabukoh, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School organised an online lecture titled “Beyond the Breadline: Actionable Steps to End Poverty Now.”

Watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JF-4ObKFrWA&t=2517s>

The poster is for the Nazariya event titled "Beyond the Breadline: Actionable Steps to End Poverty Now" on 17th October 2025. It features logos for O.P. Jindal Global University and I.D.E.A.S. The text describes the event as a discussion in commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, bringing together experts from economics, policy, and business to explore practical strategies for ending poverty. The speakers listed are Prof. (Dr.) Prachi Bansal, Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean, Placement and Internships; and Prof. (Dr.) Akaansh Khandelwal, Assistant Professor, JGBS. The moderator is Prof. (Dr.) Chisom Ubabukoh, Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS and Associate Professor of Economics, JGLS. A QR code is provided for scanning to join the event. The date and time are 17th October 2025, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

NAZARIYA: A Critical Dialogue Series

“The Ukrainian Satyagraha – What it means for the future of Europe.”

20th April, 2026

The session featured insightful reflections by Dr. Mridula Ghosh, who unpacked the evolving geopolitical realities surrounding Ukraine and their wider implications for Europe’s political and democratic future. The discussion was thoughtfully moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Oleksandr Svitych, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor, JSIA.

Watch here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c8FIv9e-6o&t=443s

The poster is for the Nazariya event titled "The Ukrainian Satyagraha – What it means for the future of Europe." on 20th April 2026. It features logos for O.P. Jindal Global University and I.D.E.A.S. The text describes the session as a discussion on the evolving geopolitical realities surrounding Ukraine and their wider implications for Europe’s political and democratic future. The speaker listed is Dr. Mridula Ghosh, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Board Chair, East European Development Institute. The moderator is Prof. (Dr.) Oleksandr Svitych, Senior Research Fellow, Constellation Fellow International Politics and Development I.D.E.A.S., Associate Professor, JSIA. The introductory remarks will be given by Prof. (Dr.) Chisom Ubabukoh, Senior Research Fellow, Constellation Lead International Politics and Development I.D.E.A.S., Associate Professor, JGLS. A QR code is provided for scanning to join the event. The date and time are 20th April 2026, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM IST. The mode is online.

Special Lecture

“War in the Middle East, Economic Implications for the Global Economy & Legitimate Prospects for Peace.”

04th April, 2026

The Centre for Middle East Studies (CMES) in collaboration with the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), organised an Online Special Guest Lecture titled “War in the Middle East, Economic Implications for the Global Economy & Legitimate Prospects for Peace.” The session featured Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador to Jordan and Libya and Former High Commissioner to Malta, as the distinguished guest speaker. Drawing upon his extensive diplomatic experience and expertise in West Asian affairs, Ambassador Trigunayat reflected on the far-reaching political and economic consequences of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. His lecture particularly focused on disruptions in global energy dynamics, the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz, and the broader implications of the conflict for international trade, regional stability, and global peace. The session was moderated by Prof. Elizabeth Roche, Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS, and Faculty Core Coordinator, Centre for Middle East Studies, who facilitated a rich and engaging discussion throughout the event.

The poster is for an online special guest lecture. At the top, it features logos for O.P. Jindal Global University, I.D.E.A.S. (Office of Interdisciplinary Studies), Jindal School of International Affairs, and CMES. The text invites participation in an online special guest lecture on the theme: “WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL ECONOMY & LEGITIMATE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE”. A paragraph explains that recent developments in the Middle East have upset the delicate equilibrium in the region, with the Strait of Hormuz largely closed, affecting global energy dynamics. The lecture is organized by the Centre for Middle East Studies and the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.), O.P. Jindal Global University. The event is scheduled for 4th April 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:20 PM IST. The poster lists the speaker, Mr. Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, and the moderator, Prof. Elizabeth Roche. It also includes a meeting link, a QR code, and a password.

Speakers
MR. AMBASSADOR ANIL TRIGUNAYAT
FORMER AMB TO JORDAN, LIBYA AND HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA

Introductory Remarks
PROF. ABDOUL FATTAH AMMOURAH
PROFESSOR OF POLITICS OF MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA, THEORY & PRACTICE OF DIPLOMACY, VICE DEAN - JSIA, DIRECTOR CENTRE FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Introductory Remarks
PROF. (DR.) CHISOM UBABUKOH
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, CONSTELLATION LEAD INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT I.D.E.A.S., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, JILS

Moderator
PROF. ELIZABETH ROCHE
SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT I.D.E.A.S., FACULTY CORE COORDINATOR, CENTRE FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

MEETING LINK:
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/94280839350?pwd=JWSZXDGTODN3STAU7OQZYYXVHPUHB.1](https://zoom.us/j/94280839350?pwd=JWSZXDGTODN3STAU7OQZYYXVHPUHB.1)
PASSWORD: JGU

MODE: ONLINE
SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN

Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNhCms_Dp1E&t=4250s

I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

IDEAS OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



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Council



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and Publications



31+

Research
Fellow



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Institutional
Partnership



9

Initiatives



7+

Core
Faculty



6+

Research
Constellations



6+

Member
Associates

ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship.