



**O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL**  
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*A Private University Promoting Public Service*



**Jindal School of Government  
and Public Policy**  
*India's First Public Policy School*

## JINDAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY (JSGP)

invites you to a

# VIRTUAL OPEN LECTURE

## TRAFFICKING BORDERS: REFLECTIONS FROM A PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN A 'HOT-SPOT' OF 'TRAFFICKING' IN NEPAL

### SPEAKER



### DR. AYUSHMAN BHAGAT

Postdoctoral Researcher at Tel Aviv University, Israel

Ayushman Bhagat is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in TraffLab project at Tel-Aviv University, Israel. He holds PhD in Human Geography at Durham University, UK, and MBA in Rural Development at Xavier Institute of Social Service, India. Ayushman has experience in implementing and evaluating a range of social development programmes on human trafficking, forced labour, and migration at the policy level (the United Nations-ILO, social sector consultancies, and Government departments), and community development programmes in and around wildlife

sanctuaries at the grassroots level (NGOs). With more than nine years of social issue-based engagement across multiple geographic locations (India, Nepal, UK, and Israel), Ayushman positions himself as an action-oriented research scholar.

*Research Interests: Trafficking/Forced Labour/Slavery, Transit Migration, Borders and borderings, Laws and Policies, Participatory Action Research.*

#### ABSTRACT:

“Human Trafficking” is one of the most politically charged categories of the 21st century. While the dominant paradigm of human trafficking mobilizes the rhetoric of trafficking and demands more anti-trafficking measures to pre-emptively protect migrant workers, the critical paradigm questions the very assumptions of their demand and highlights the lack of empirical evidence to justify the popular claims of trafficking. Pushing the debate forward, I argue that in an attempt to pre-emptively protect migrant workers, anti-trafficking interventions produce a variety of borders that control, dominate, and shape human mobility of many. Drawing on a recently completed Participatory Action Research, in a 'post-disaster' and 'human trafficking' prone region of Nepal, I push the critical debate of (anti-) trafficking by offering the concept of 'trafficking borders'. In this presentation, I unpack the unique participatory action research that was used in a village of Himalayan Nepal, border ethnography that was used along the national highways of Nepal, four Indo-Nepal border checkpoints, and 4 International Airports – Kathmandu, Delhi, Colombo, and Kuwait. Synthesizing the empirical materials collected during the field work, I provide a conceptualisation of 'trafficking broders'.

WED | 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE | 2021  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Join us on  
**zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/92168702377>  
Password:- JGU