

Dr. NISHANT KUMAR

Educational qualification:

- Ph. D. from King's India Institute, King's College London as Commonwealth Scholar. Title of dissertation: *Religious offense and the censorship of publications in India: Law, legal process and the role of judiciary*.
- M. Phil. from Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. Title of dissertation *Theorizing the Indian Concept of 'Freedom': A Thematic Revisit to the Political Philosophy of Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Gandhi*.
- M.A, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, Delhi, 2007.
- B.A (Honors), Political Science, Hindu College, University of Delhi, 2005.

Subject specializations

- Political theory and Indian political thought, Intellectual history, Constitutional law in South Asia.

Teaching experience

- Teaching as Assistant Professor in Department of Political Science, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, since July 16, 2009.

Research Projects

- Completed a major research project sponsored by ICSSR (Indian Council for Social Sciences Research) titled "Pedaling their way to Empowerment: The changing contours of girl child education in Bihar" in December, 2018.
- Currently working on a minor project sponsored by ICSSR (Indian Council for Social Sciences Research) titled "Analyzing the implementation of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (G): A Study of West Champaran District of Bihar".

Academic achievements

- Awarded Commonwealth Scholarship for pursuing PhD at King's College London in 2012.
- Cleared Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) exam conducted by UGC in December, 2006.

Membership of Academic bodies

- Member of BASAS (British Association for South Asian Studies).
- Member of EASAS (European Association for South Asian Studies).
- Fellow, ILLL, University of Delhi.

Publications:

Book:

- 'Theorizing the Idea of Freedom in India: A Thematic Revisit to the Political Philosophy of Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Gandhi' (Lambert Academic Publishing, (Saarbrücken/Germany), 2012) (ISBN No. 978-3-8473-7842-6).

Published Articles:

- 'Gandhi, Aurobindo and the idea of Swaraj as inclusive Freedom', in Ananta Kumar Giri (ed.) *Gandhi and Aurobindo* (Routledge, 2021) (forthcoming).
- 'स्वच्छ भारत अभियान (ग्रामीण): ग्राम स्वच्छता पर महात्मा गाँधी के विचारों का यथार्थीकरण', *Shodh Drishti*, vol. 12, no. 3, March 2021 (ISSN No.: 0976-6650)
- 'Understanding Jotirao Phule: Ghulamgiri as a Critique of Caste Hierarchies', *Think India Journal*, vol. 22, issue 10, November 2019 (ISSN No. 0971-1260).
- 'Affirmative Action in India: The Cases of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes', in Abhay Prasad Singh and Krishna Murari (ed.) *Political Process in Contemporary India* (Pearson, 2019).
- 'Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi', 'Swami Vivekananda', and 'Jyotirao Phule', chapters published in Dev N. Pathak and Sanjeev Kumar H.M. (ed.) *Modern South Asian Thinkers* (Sage, 2018).
- 'Law and Colonial Subjects: The subject-citizen riddle and the making of section 295 (A)', in Gunnel Caderlof and Sanjukta Das Gupta (ed.), *Subjects, Citizens, and Law: Colonial and Independent India* (Routledge, 2017, ISBN No. 978-1-138-22844-3, pp. 78-10
- 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015: A Review' (co-authored with Smita Agarwal), *Space and Culture, India* (published by ACCB Publishing, England), vol. 3, no. 3, March 2016 (ISSN No. 2052-8396).

- ‘Swami Vivekanand and the idea of Development as an Inclusive Process’, in *Dimensions of Higher Education*, published by CPDHE, DU (New Delhi Publishers, 2016, ISBN No. 978-93-85503-19-1, pp. 123-8).
- ‘Internet Freedom’, social media and Indian democracy: Prospects and challenges’, *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. LXXVI, No. 1, January-March, 2015 (ISSN No. 0019-5510).
- ‘Reimagining the concept of Liberty: Swami Vivekanand’s idea of inclusive freedom’, *Indian Journal of Research*, vol. 4, No. 6, June 2015 (ISSN No. 2250-1991).
- ‘Cultural Identity and Cosmopolitanism: Locating the ‘individual’ in the Complex Debate’, *International Journal of English Language, Literature and Humanities*, vol. 3, No. 3, May 2015 (ISSN No. 2321-7065).
- ‘Internet in the age of Mass-surveillance: The Domestic Dimension’, (co-authored), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 47, November 23, 2013 (ISSN No. 0012-9976).
- Review article on ‘Modernity in Contemporary Perspectives’ (co-authored), *Anasakti Darshan*, vol. 6.2, July- December, 2011 (ISSN No. 2277-9590).

Book Review

- Review of Kancha Ilaiah’s book ‘The Post-Hindu India’ (co-authored) published in *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (JICPR)*, vol. 26. No.3, 2009 (ISSN No. 0970-7794).

Papers Presented in National and International conferences:

- ‘The Challenges for Sanitation Programs in India: A Study of Implementation of Phase I of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan’ paper presented in online international conference on *Future Challenges and Sustainable Development Goals: Science to Policy Framework* organized by International Coordination and Development Programme, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi from April 16-18, 2021.
- ‘Women in Indian Politics: Analyzing the Means to Bridge the Gap between Representation and Participation’, paper presented at the International Conference on *Political Science as a Discipline & Relevance of Social Sciences in the New World Order* organized jointly by Karnataka Political Science Association (KAPSA) & Maharani’s Arts College for Women on February 25-26, 2020.
- ‘Moral action in everyday life’: Analyzing the role of *Bhagwad Gita* in developing Gandhi’s Deontological Framework’, paper presented in *Mapping the Global Legacy of the Mahatma: Reflections on Politics, Religion and Culture*, an International Conference organized by Zakir Husain College (Morning), University of Delhi, New Delhi on January 24-25, 2020.
- ‘Quality-Quantity Conundrum and other challenges in Bihar Government’s Education Policy for Girl Child Education’, paper presented in 2nd International Conference of the India Public Policy Network (IPPN) in collaboration with Department of Political Science, University of Delhi titled *Politics and Public Policy* on February 5-6, 2019.
- ‘More Participation, Less Representation: Analyzing the case of Women’s Representation Bill in Indian Democracy’, paper presented in ICSSR sponsored National Seminar *Electoral Process and Dynamics of Democracy in India* organized by Shahid Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi on April 4-5, 2018.
- ‘Transgressing Binaries: The Idea of Universal Religion and Humanism in Swami Vivekananda’, paper presented in UGC-CAS/SAP sponsored National Seminar *Beyond Identities: Reflections from South Asian Imaginaries of Nation and Universe* organized by Department of Political Science, University of Delhi on March 13-14, 2018. He was also the Co-convenor of the Seminar.
- ‘Interpreting self-restraint as moral currency: The centrality of ‘courage’ in Gandhi’s Satyagraha’, paper presented in Gandhi Jayanti National Conference 2017 on *Revisiting Champaran : Challenges of Satyagraha in 21st Century* organized by Zakir Husain College (Morning and Evening), Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti and Indialogue Foundation, New Delhi on October 16-17, 2017.
- Presented papers on ‘Gandhi’, ‘Vivekanand’ and ‘JyotiraoPhule’, in the two day national seminar organized by Department of Political Science, University of Delhi titled *Reimagining South Asia: An exploration into the history of ideas* on February 17-18, 2017.
- ‘Breaking the Barriers: East and West in the imagination of Swami Vivekanand’, paper presented in One day National Seminar organized by Zakir Hussain College, University of Delhi titled *Ways of Seeing: Critical Questions on Indian Political Thought* on March 8, 2016.

- ‘Law, legal practice and the colonial subject: Rangila Rasul and the making of section 295 (A) I.P.C.’, Paper presented at the European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) at University of Zurich, Switzerland (23-26 July, 2014).
- ‘Freedom of Expression and the State: Constitutional Complexity in Postcolonial India’, Paper presented at the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) Conference at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom (3-5 April, 2013).
- ‘Swami Vivekananda and the Idea of Inclusive Development’, Paper presented in National Seminar for Young Scholars organized by Centre for Swami Vivekananda Studies (10-12 January, 2011) at Punjab University, Chandigarh.
- ‘Cultural Identity and Cosmopolitanism: Locating the Individual in the Complex Debate’, Paper presented at international seminar organized by the *Centre for Comparative European Union Studies (CCEUS)* IIT Madras (13 - 15 December, 2010), held at IIT Madras, Chennai.
- ‘The concept of ‘Liberty’ in Modern Indian Philosophical Thought: Redefining the Ideals of *Advaita*’, Paper presented in First Asian Philosophy Congress organized by Indian Council of Philosophy Research (6-9 March, 2010) at J.N.U, Delhi.
- ‘Development, Participation and Minorities: The Plight of Muslims in India’, Paper presented in Indian Social Science Congress (17-19 December, 2008) held at Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi.

Invited lectures:

- ‘Proscribing Publications in the Colonial Context: The Position of the Colonial State and the Nationalist Response’, invited lecture delivered as part of IoE Project Lecture Series: 03 organized by Department of Hindi, University of Hyderabad in collaboration with CSDS, New Delhi on May 28.
- ‘Looking Beyond the Obvious: The Contours of Ambedkar’s Democratic Imagination’, invited lecture delivered at short term course on Dialogue with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Critical Reflection for Social Science Discourse sponsored by UGC and organized by UGC-HRDC Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaa, Sagar on January 20, 2021.
- ‘Vaccine Nationalism & the Question of Ethics in the time of Crisis: Reflections from Gandhian Perspective’, invited lecture delivered National Webinar on *COVID-19 Vaccine Internationalism: Challenges and Opportunities* organized P.E.S College of Science, Arts and Commerce, Mandya along with Karnataka Political Science Association (KAPSA) on November 4, 2020.
- ‘Gandhi and Science: The Love-Hate Relationship and its implications for India in the Context of Corona Pandemic’, invited lecture delivered in National Webinar on *Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the Post Covid19 World* organized by Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, Assam on July 13-14, 2020.
- ‘Doctoral degrees across the Globe’, and ‘Navigating the Bureaucratic Procedures to Pursue a Research Degree Abroad (Special session for faculty members)’, delivered Two invited lectures at S. P. Dnyanasadhana College, Mumbai University in a workshop titled ‘Academic Life, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Degrees Across the Globe’ organized jointly by S. P. Dnyanasadhana College, Mumbai University and University of Leicester, UK on January 5, 2019.

Courses and Workshops attended:

- Successfully completed ‘Researching the Contemporary’ course offered by Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) during July-August, 2012.
- Attended and participated in the Second London Summer School in Intellectual History at University College of London (9-12 September, 2013) convened jointly by University College London (UCL) and Queen Mary, University of London.

Other academic interests:

- Coordinator of Intellectual History Research Group (IHRG), an international network of researchers and scholars who work on history of ideas in India.
- Have been actively involved in developing course content and preparing question papers for various papers at the University level.