

# RAHUL SAGAR

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## Appointments

NYU Abu Dhabi Global Network Associate Professor of Political Science (with tenure)	2015 –
NYU Shanghai Global Network Associate Professor of Political Science	2021- 2022
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Associate Professor of Political Science (with tenure)	2013 - 2015
Yale-NUS College Associate Professor of Political Science (with tenure)	2013 - 2015
Princeton University Assistant Professor, Department of Politics	2008 - 2013
Singapore Management University Assistant Professor of Political Science	2007-2008

## Education

Harvard University MA and PhD in Government	2002-07
Balliol College, University of Oxford BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)	1997-2000

## Books

*The Progressive Maharaja: Sir Madhava Rao's Hints on the Art and Science of Government*,  
Oxford University Press, Hurst, and HarperCollins (September 2022)

Best Books of the Year, Grand Tamasha/Carnegie Endowment  
Best Books of the Year, OPEN  
#2 in Movers & Shakers (Amazon India)

Reviewed in Business Standard, Indian Express, Grand Tamasha, The Tribune, Hindustan Times, New Review of Books

*To Raise a Fallen People: The Nineteenth Century Origins of India's View of the World*,  
Columbia University Press and Juggernaut (July 2022)

#1 in Movers & Shakers (Amazon India), #3 Bestseller in Non-Fiction (Asian Age)  
Best Books of the Year, OPEN

Reviewed in Financial Times, Grand Tamasha, The Print, Business Standard, India Today,  
The Hindu, OPEN, Hindustan Times, Asian Review of Books, Australian Institute of  
International Affairs, E-IR, H-Diplo

*Secrets and Leaks: The Dilemma of State Secrecy*, Princeton University Press (2013, 2016)

2014 Louis Brownlow Book Award (National Academy of Public Administration)  
2015 Myres S. McDougal Prize (Society of Policy Sciences)  
CHOICE Outstanding Title 2014

Reviewed in The New Republic, New York Review of Books, Foreign Affairs, Political  
Science Quarterly, Perspectives on Politics, Choice, Boston Review, Lawfare, Claremont  
Review of Books, New Statesman, Inside Story, Australian Review of Public Affairs, Der  
Stat, Tulsa Law Review, Contemporary Political Theory

Cited by NPR, BBC, CNN, Atlantic Monthly, The Guardian, The Australian, Reuters, ABC, Slate, Que Pasa, Sydney Morning Herald, Christian Science Monitor, Deutsche Welle, Balkinization, Business Insider, The London Review of Books, The L.A. Review of Books, WIRED, NBC News

### Work in Progress

*English Subba Rao: The Man Who Saw India* (an intellectual biography of the first English-educated statesman in India, traces the emergence of national ideals in 19th century India, complete draft)

*Krishna Kumari: An Indian Tragedy* (recovers and restores the first English-language play in modern India, which addresses the colonization of Indian principalities, 85% complete)

*The Dewan: Sir Madhava Rao and the Making of Modern India* (an intellectual biography of the first British-educated statesman in India, traces the emergence of liberal ideals, 50% complete)

### Original Database

*Ideas of India* [ideasofindia.org](http://ideasofindia.org) published November 2019, last updated November 2022

Indexes 325,000 entries from 405 English-language periodicals published in India between 1830-1950. The website has received 126,000+ views (up to Feb 2023)

Cited in The National, Foreign Policy, Indian Express, Hindustan Times, Monocle, The Print, Firstpost, Wilson Center, India Today, The Diplomat, Outlook, Huffington Post, Khaleej Times

### Digital

*The Travels of Pran Puri* [pranpuri.com](http://pranpuri.com) published February 8, 2023 (with Nidhi Shukla and Khushi Singh Rathore)

An ARCGIS Story Map that utilizes AI tools and archival materials to depict the travels of Pran Puri, a monk who explored Asia in the 18th century. The website has had 2,000+ views (up to Feb 14, 2023)

### Edited Volumes

*Realism in Political Theory*, Routledge (2018) (co-edited with Andrew Sabl)

*The Big Ideas of Lee Kuan Yew*, Straits Times Press (2014) (co-edited with Shashi Jayakumar)

### Articles (Political Theory)

"Introduction" *Critical Review of Social and Political Philosophy*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2017 (co-authored with Andrew Sabl)

"Are Charter Cities Legitimate?" *Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 24, No. 4, 2016

"Against Moral Absolutism: Surveillance and Disclosure After Snowden" *Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2015

"Creaky Leviathan: A Comment on David Pozen's Leaky Leviathan" *Harvard Law Review Forum*, December 20, 2013

"Is Ideal Theory Practical?" *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 4, 2011

"Presaging the Moderns?: Demosthenes' Critique of Popular Government" *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 71, No. 4, 2009

"Who Holds the Balance?: A Missing Detail in the Debate over Balancing Security and Liberty," *Polity*, Vol. 41, No. 2, 2009

"On Combating the Abuse of State Secrecy," *Journal of Political Philosophy*, Vol. 15, No. 4, 2007

Articles  
(India)

"Pragmatism in Indian Strategic Thought," *India Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2018 (co-authored with Rohan Mukherjee)

"Pledges and Pious Wishes: The Constituent Assembly Debates and the Myth of a 'Nehruvian Consensus,'" *India Review*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2015 (co-authored with Ankit Panda)

"State of Mind: What Kind of Power Will India Become?," *International Affairs*, Vol. 85, No. 4, 2009

"What's in a Name?: India and America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," *Survival*, Vol. 46, No. 3, 2004

Book Chapters  
(Political Theory)

"Executive Privilege" in Abazi Vigjilenca and Guri Rosen, eds., *Foreign Policy Secrecy in the Age of Transparency*, New York: Oxford University Press (forthcoming)

"Democracy's Limit: A Realist Response to the Quest for Transparency" in Matt Sleat, ed., *Politics Recovered: Essays on Realist Political Thought*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2017

"Executive Privilege" and "State Secrecy" in David Coates, ed., *Oxford Companion to American Politics*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012

"Wikileaks and Democracy," in Heinrich Geiselberger, ed., *Wikileaks and the Consequences: Internet, Media, Politics*, Frankfurt: Suhrkamp, 2010

Book Chapters  
(India)

"Leading Ideas" in Ashley J. Tellis, C. Raja Mohan, and Bibek Debroy, eds., *Grasping Greatness: Making India a Leading Power*, New York: Penguin, 2023

"Hindu Nationalism and the Cold War" in Manu Bhagavan, ed., *India and the Cold War*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019

"Emergency Provisions" in Sujit Choudhry, Madhav Khosla, and Pratap Bhanu Mehta, eds., *Oxford Handbook on the Indian Constitution*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016

"Before Midnight: Views on International Relations, 1857-1947" in David Malone, C. Raja Mohan, and Srinath Raghavan, eds., *Oxford Handbook on Indian Foreign Policy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015

"The Hindu Nationalist View of International Politics" in Kanti Bajpai, ed., *India's Grand Strategy: History, Theory, Cases*, New Delhi: Routledge, 2014

## Awards

Myres S. McDougal Book Prize, Society of Policy Sciences, 2015

Louis Brownlow Book Award, National Academy of Public Administration, 2014

Stanley Kelley Jr. Teaching Award, Princeton University, 2012

Derek Bok Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2006-07

Congratulatory First (University Valedictorian), University of Oxford, 2000

Gibbs Prize, Jenkyns Prize, and College Prize, University of Oxford, 2000

## Fellowships

Laurence Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University, 2024-25

Washington Square Fellowship, NYU, 2015-16

Humanities and Social Sciences Fellowship, National University of Singapore, 2015-16 (declined)

Global Ethics Fellow, Carnegie Council, New York, 2014-17

Visiting Research Fellowship, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 2011

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Political Theory Project, Brown University, 2008-09 (declined)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for Ethics, Stanford University, 2007-08 (declined)  
 Graduate Fellowship, Project on Justice, Welfare and Economics, Harvard University, 2006-07  
 Graduate Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, 2005-06  
 C. Douglas Dillon Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University, 2002-04  
 Michael von Clemm Fellowship, Harvard University, 2001-02

#### Grants (External)

Database Grant, Institute for South Asian Studies, NUS, 2014  
 Book Grant, Smith Richardson Foundation, 2011  
 Kohler Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, 2005

#### Grants (Internal)

Research Enhancement Fund 2018-2020, NYU Abu Dhabi  
 Start Up Grant 2016-19, NYU Abu Dhabi  
 SRSS Grant 2015-16, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS  
 AcRF Grant 2014-15, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS  
 Start Up Grant 2014-17, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS  
 PIIRS Research Conference Grant, Princeton University, 2013  
 Anonymous Research Fund Award, UCRHSS, Princeton University, 2013  
 Research Grant, Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University, 2010  
 Tuck Research Fund Award, UCRHSS, Princeton University, 2010

#### Teaching

NYU Abu Dhabi / NYU Shanghai

CORES-AD 78, Why Is It So Hard to Do Good?  
 POLSC-AD 52, Introduction to Political Theory  
 POLSC-AD-47, Modern Indian Political Thought

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

MPP 5111, Ethics and Global Governance  
 MPP 5103, Politics and Public Policy

Yale-NUS College

YSS 2202, International Ethics

Princeton University

Politics 210, Introduction to Political Theory  
 Politics 301, Ethics and Public Policy  
 Politics 410, Executive Power  
 Politics 511, Graduate Theory Field Seminar (Theme: Moderation)  
 Politics 515, Graduate Seminar on Indian Political Thought  
 Politics 981, Junior Seminar on Civil Liberties in a Time of Crisis

Singapore Management University

POSC 003, Introduction to Politics and Policy Studies  
POSC 305, Politics and Society of India

### University Service

NYU Abu Dhabi

Political Science Search Committee, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022  
Social Science Tenure Review Committee 2018  
Political Science External Review 2015-16

NYU Shanghai

Tenure Review Committee, 2021  
Political Science Search Committee 2019, 2020, 2021  
Reappointment Review Committee 2018, 2019

Yale-NUS College

Head of Study for Global Affairs 2014-15  
Coordinator for BA-MPP Double Degree Program 2014-15  
Research Enhancement Committee 2014-15  
Political Science Search Committee 2014, 2015  
Global Affairs Search Committee 2013, 2014  
JY Pillay Search Committee 2014, 2015

### Professional Service

Editorial Board, *Governance*, 2016-19

Editorial Board, *European Journal of Political Theory*, 2018-

Reviewer for *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Theory*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Security*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Governance*, *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Sociological Theory*, *Polity*, *CRISPP*, Oxford University Press (UK), Oxford University Press (USA), Polity Press (UK), University Press of Kansas, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), *Res Publica*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *American Journal of Political Science*

### Invited Talks (Selected)

"How India Sees the World", Observer Research Foundation, November 30, 2022

"The Misinformation Revolution", University of Pennsylvania, March 25, 2021

"Hidden Liberalism: A Response", IU-Bloomington, March 19, 2021

"Singapore: A Decent Regime", UCHV, Princeton April 18, 2020

"The New India", Abu Dhabi Executive Authority, February 12, 2019

"The Future of Hindu Nationalism", Ahmedabad University, March 19, 2018

"Singapore: A Defense", Yale University, January 26, 2018

Public  
Engagement

- "The Curious Case of Pran Puri", *Scroll*, February 7, 2023
- "How Machiavelli Came to Baroda", *Hindustan Times*, September 25, 2022
- "7 Habits of Highly Effective Maharajas", *Hindustan Times*, September 14, 2022
- "What China Does Not Know About India", *Hindustan Times*, June 19, 2022
- "What the West Does Not Know About India", *Times of India*, May 22, 2022
- "Never Desist", *Scroll*, June 3, 2022
- "The First Constitution in Modern India", *Scroll*, Jan 19, 2020
- "Discovering India's Intellectual Past", *Hindustan Times*, December 2, 2019
- "Rediscovering Indian Thought", *Scroll*, November 24, 2019
- "What is Integral Humanism?", *OPEN*, June 14, 2019
- "What Will China Gain from Humiliating India?" *Mint*, May 1, 2018
- "Must Liberals Oppose Hindu Nationalism?" *Indian Express*, April 23, 2018
- "A Malnourished Bismarck," *Mint*, April 5, 2018
- "The Real Issue with Secrets and Leaks," *Washington Post*, February 27, 2017
- "Critical Comments on Jack Goldsmith on Michael Kinsley," *Lawfare*, June 2, 2014
- "It's Sometimes Okay for Democracies to Pretend That Leaks Do Not Happen," *Washington Post*, May 14, 2014
- "Is Edward Snowden Engaged in Civil Disobedience?—A Response to Glennon," *Just Security*, June 5, 2014
- "Who Watches the Watchers?—A Rejoinder to Steve Vladeck," *Just Security*, March 3, 2014
- "Democratic Platitudes: A Response to Steve Vladeck," *Just Security*, Feb 21, 2014
- "Why We Should Watch Out for the Watchmen of Government Secrecy," *CNN*, December 2, 2013
- "Whistle-blowers and Democracy: A Reply to Archon Fung," *Boston Review*, July 15, 2013
- "Who Decides What is Secret—Obama or Snowden?," *CNN*, June 15, 2013

## References

Stephen Macedo  
 Laurence S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics  
 Princeton University

Corey Brettschneider  
 Professor of Political Science  
 Brown University

Pratap B. Mehta  
 Laurence S. Rockefeller Professor  
 Princeton University

