

RANI SINGH

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 - Postdoctoral Fellow in Inter-Asian Engagements and Asian Urbanism Research Cluster
Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

EDUCATION

2024 PhD in Sociology and Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Perth
Thesis: Infrastructuring Culture: Competition between China and India over connected histories.
Defended and passed with minor revisions, November 2024

2017 MPhil in Chinese Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Dissertation: Role of public opinion in China's foreign policy decision making. Defended and passed with no revisions April 2017.

2014 MA in Chinese Language, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

2013 Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Chinese Language, Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing

2011 BA Honours in Chinese Language and Literature, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

GRANTS AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2025-27 Listed Collaborator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
Insight Grant, 'Virtuous Development: Heritage Diplomacy and the Infrastructure of Buddhist Memory in North India', with Dr David Geary (Lead PI), Professor Jessica Main (University of British Columbia) and Dr Jack Meng-Tat Chia (National University of Singapore)

2025-30 Listed Collaborator, Ministry of Education Social Science and Humanities Research Thematic Grant, 'Heritage Diplomacy: Connecting Histories and Futures', Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, with Prof. Tim Winter (Lead PI), Prof Banu Khan, Prof Hamzah Muzaini and Prof Maitrii Aung-Thwin (National University of Singapore)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2026 Workshop funding, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Travel sponsorship, University of British Columbia (Association for Asian Studies 2026)

2023 Higher degree research travel fund, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston

2022-23	Higher degree research fieldwork travel grant, Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, University of Western Australia
2019-24	Ad hoc postgraduate scholarship, University of Western Australia Scholarship for international research fees, Australian Research Council Future Fellowship grant
2019	Travel grant, Belt and Road summer workshop, Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections, Venice Research and travel fund, University of Western Australia Travel sponsorship, Chinese Studies Association of Australia
2018	Research and travel fund, Ministry of Culture People's Republic of China, and Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
2014-16	Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission, Government of India
2012-13	Joint Government of India (MHRD)-Government of China (CSC) scholarship, Beijing Language and Culture University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed journals

2025	Singh, Rani. 2026. "Cultural Infrastructure and Shared Prestige: Rethinking Cultural Aid." <i>International Journal of Cultural Policy</i> , March, Advance Online https://doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2026.2638349 .
2023	Singh, Rani, and Tim Winter. 'From Hinduism to Hindutva: Civilizational Internationalism and UNESCO'. <i>International Affairs</i> 99, no. 2 (2023): 515–30. https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iac320
Ongoing	Singh, Rani. 2026. "Civilisational Geographies of the Indian Ocean: Lothal and India's Maritime Turn" (under review). Singh, Rani. 2026. "The civilizational state and the Global Civilization Initiative: Infrastructures of world ordering" (under review).

Edited volumes

In prep.	Yang, Zezhou, and Rani Singh (eds), <i>Asia through the lens of video games</i> , <i>The Oxford Studies in Culture and Politics</i> series. Winter, Tim, and Rani, Singh. (eds), <i>Heritage Diplomacy: Culture, Geopolitics and Internationalism</i> , Routledge Key Issues in Cultural Heritage series (invited book proposal).
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Public scholarship

2025	'Viral humour and violent borders: Memes as cultural weapons in the Kashmir conflict', <i>ARIScope</i> , Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 26 June, https://ari.nus.edu.sg/ariscopes/viral-humour-violent-borders/
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- 2019 'Sports on the Silk Road', *The Diplomat*, 24 December, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/12/sports-on-the-silk-road/>
 'Xi-Modi: Building geocultural connectivities', *Foreign Policy News*, 16 October
<https://foreignpolicynews.org/2019/10/16/xi-modi-building-geocultural-connectivities/>
 republished by the Asian Studies Association of Australia, 28 October, <https://asaa.asn.au/xi-modi-building-geocultural-connectivities/>

CONFERENCES AND ACADEMIC EVENTS

Panels organised and chaired

- 2026 Convenor and Chair, 'Gaming Asia through the lens of video games workshop', Asia Research Institute, NUS, 29-30 April
 Organiser and Chair, 'Enlivening Buddhist Heritage — Part II: Politics, Diplomacy and Geocultural Power', Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Vancouver, 12-15 March.

 Chair, Heritage and Civilisation Futures session, Global Indo-Pacific Symposium, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 9-12 February.

 Chair, 'Many Lives of Friendship and Violence', India-China in the Long 1950s conference, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 5-6 January.
- 2025 Chair and Discussant, 20th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 25-27 June.

 Chair, 'Regions and Regionalisms in Asia and Europe' roundtable, Asia Research Institute, NUS, April

Papers presented

- 2026 'Gaming as Civilisational Geopolitics, Gaming Asia workshop, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 29-30 April.
 'Afterlives of Return: Buddhist Artefacts and India's Post-2014 Heritage Diplomacy', Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Vancouver, 12-15 March (intended for a special issue of the *International Journal of Heritage Studies*)
 'Ports into Museums: Cultural Infrastructuring and Indo-Pacific Ordering through Maritime Heritage', Global Indo-Pacific Symposium, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 9-12 February.
- 2025 'Competing Civilisations and Connected Histories', 'Connecting Imaginaries 2: Mapping Interconnectedness in a Time of the Rescripting of Nation-States' workshop, Asia Research Institute, NUS, 30-31 July.
- 2023 'Custodian of Buddhism: China's BRI and the Making of Cultural Infrastructure in Sri Lanka and Nepal', Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, 17 March.
- 2021 'Buddhism and Geoculture', 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 12), Kyoto, 24-28 August.
- 2020 'Silk Road Buddhism', 5th Biennial Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies, UCL, London, 26-30 August.

 'Silk Road Geoculturalisms: Building Cultural Corridors of China's Belt and Road Initiative', Anthropology and Sociology seminar series, University of Western Australia, 25 May.

2016 'Public Opinion and Foreign Policy Decision Making in the People's Republic of China: Analysing the Public Discourse on PM Modi's May 2015 Visit', Jawaharlal Nehru University, May.

Workshops and delegations

2019 Ten-day research workshop, 'Uncovering Pathways of Change along the Belt and Road', Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections, Venice, September
Fifth Young Professionals National Meeting, China Matters, Australian National University, Canberra, March
Selected presenter, 16th Chinese Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference, July
Fifth young Professionals National Meeting of China Matter, Australia National University, March
16th Chinese Studies Association of Australia Biennial Conference, July
Research workshop, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Western Australia, December

2018 Young Sinologist, 3rd Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo, China
Visiting Programme for Young Sinologists, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China

2013 Official delegate, Sino-Indian University Students Forum II, Peking University

2011 Delegate and key interpreter, first 500-member India-China Youth Exchange Delegation to China
Hosted and represented the 500-member youth delegation to Premier Wen Jiabao at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing to mark 60th anniversary of India-China diplomatic relations

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Delhi University (Guest Faculty, Department of East Asian Studies)

2017

Chinese language and literature to BA degree course (January-May)

Chinese simultaneous interpretation to MA degree course (January-May)

Indian Naval Academy (Guest Faculty, Kerala)

Intensive language training to naval cadets for foreign language examination (self-designed)

University of Western Australia (Guest lectures)

2021-22

Post graduate social sciences research methods

Jawaharlal Nehru University (Guest Faculty)

2014-16

Chinese language and literature; Translation BA and MA courses.

Research Scholar Teaching Assistance Programme, remedial courses to BA and MA students

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Western Australia — translation and development of the research website silkroadfutures.net, May-December

2019 Research Assistant to ARC Future Fellow, University of Western Australia — assistance in data collection and research translation during fieldwork at UNESCO heritage sites and museums in China, ARC Heritage Diplomacy Project, June-August

2018 Research assistance, 'China's North Korean Conundrum', with Professor Yao Qinhua, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, September-December

2015-16 Full time Chinese Interpreter, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi (Resigned in November 2016)

2013	Research collaboration with Professor Lu Xiaomin, Beijing Language and Culture University — co-published book chapter
2012-14	Freelance translation and interpretation, Winsome Translators Pvt. Ltd, Delhi; simultaneous interpretation for forums including the China Medical Corporation-Andhra Pradesh Government talks (2014), the India China Economic and Cultural Council investment summit (2013), the China Pavilion at the World Auto Expo (2012), and Xinhua Language Consultancy, Delhi
2011-12	Research assistance, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi — Chinese-language media monitoring and translation of research papers for projects on the South China Sea, maritime issues, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with Col. Virendra Sahai
2010-13	Freelance interpreter, Sequel Alloys and Wires Pvt. Ltd, Delhi; India Infrastructure Publishing Pvt. Ltd (2011)

SERVICE

Academic

Peer review

2026	<i>Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications</i>
2025	<i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; Millennium: Journal of International Studies</i>
2024	<i>Global Studies Quarterly</i>
2025-6	Organiser, India-China reading group, Nalanda Endowed Professorship in India-China Studies, Asia Research Institute, NUS Organiser, Inter-Asia Engagements and Asian Urbanisms cluster meetings, Asia Research Institute, NUS Co-organiser, Global Indo-Pacific Symposium, Asia Research Institute, NUS, February 2026
2019-22	Organiser, Critical Heritage and Belt and Road Initiative Reading Group, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Western Australia
2013-14	Student editor and lead designer, inaugural newsletter of the Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, JNU; lead volunteer, first India-Taiwan Research Students Conference; organiser, 'China Perspective' lecture series
2012	Assisted with cataloguing, arranging and translating Chinese material for the Institute of Chinese Studies' first library, New Delhi.

Social

- Volunteer with Australian Red Cross (2018-19)
- Fund raising with Help Age India (2004-2007)

Cultural

- Poetry recitation at Hindi Diwas, Diwali and Independence Day celebrations Embassy of India, Beijing (2012-13)
- Chinese New Year stage performances and celebrations at Embassy of People's Republic of China, New Delhi (2009-11)

PREGNANCY PAUSE

2020-21	Maternity leave, October 2020 – September 2021. Research activity maintained during this period, including a paper presented at ICAS 12 (Kyoto), a co-authored article for <i>International Affairs</i> , and research assistance at the University of Western Australia
2025	Maternity leave, August-November 2025. Research activity maintained during this period, including paper publication.

LANGUAGES

Hindi (native)
English (native)
Mandarin Chinese (advanced)
Urdu (Elementary)
Punjabi (Elementary)
Magahi (Intermediate)
Bhojpuri (near native)

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Association of Asian Studies
Asian Studies Association of Australia
Association of Critical Heritage Studies

REFERENCES

Professor Nigel Westbrook, University of Western Australia
Professor Tim Winter, National University of Singapore
Professor Tim Bunnell, National University of Singapore