

Aparna Kher

Contact Information

Department of Political Science
Binghamton University (SUNY)
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

☎+1(713) 568 7960
✉akher1@binghamton.edu
www.aparnakher.com

Education

Ph.D., Political Science **Expected, 2010**
Department of Political Science, *Binghamton University (SUNY)*

Subfields: World Politics, Comparative Politics

Dissertation Title: “*Know Then Thyself. Domestic Delegation, Information, Leadership Uncertainty and Foreign Policy Decisions during Crisis Bargaining*”

Dissertation Abstract: The dissertation examines how delegation of tasks related to crisis decision-making affects an executive’s information regarding her state’s costs of war, and thus the executive’s crisis decisions. I develop a formal model of crisis bargaining, that demonstrates that domestic informational asymmetries brought upon by domestic delegation can lead executives to make severe foreign policy mistakes during a crisis. The empirical implications of the formal model are then tested using newly collected cross sectional data on foreign policy and defense bureaucracies and advisory systems, as well as data gathered through a controlled laboratory experiment. Part of the research for the project will be funded by the National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009.

Dissertation Committee: David Clark, Benjamin Fordham, Olga Shvetsova, Katri Sieberg

M.A., Political Science **June 2008**
Department of Political Science, *Binghamton University (SUNY)*

Subfields: World Politics, Comparative Politics

M.A., Politics with specialization in International Relations **June 2003**
School of International Studies, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*, New Delhi, India

B.A., Journalism **May 2001**
University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Awards and Scholarships

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009

National Science Foundation fellowship for the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) summer institute, *University of Michigan*, 2009

GSEU Professional Development Award, *Binghamton University*, 2007

Graduate Scholars Fellowship, *Binghamton University* Political Science Department, 2005-2006

UGC-NET Accreditation for eligibility to teach undergraduates at Indian universities granted by the University Grants Commission, India

First in class, Journalism Program, *University of Delhi* for academic year 1998-1999

Methods Training

Research Design, Statistics, Extensions of Linear Models, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Basic and Advanced Game Theory, Formal Theory, Spatial Models, Experimental Methods

Participant, NSF's Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer Institute, *University of Michigan*, 2009.

Participant, International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics, 14th Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics, *Chapman University*, January 2009

Participant, Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR) summer program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI, 2007

Conference Presentations

"Exit Costs, Repression and Internal Cohesiveness of Resistance Movements," with Lucie Spanihelova, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2009.

"Delegation, Agency Loss and Domestic Informational Asymmetries: Decision Making within Crisis Bargaining," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2009.

"Delegation, Domestic Informational Asymmetries and Leader Beliefs about Costs of War in Crisis Bargaining: A Formal Model of Crisis Bargaining," presented at the International Studies Association's Annual Convention, New York, NY, 2009.

"Know Then Thyself: Delegation and Bargaining under Complete Information", Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society, Claremont, CA, 2008.

"Getting the Message: Media in the Audience Cost Puzzle" presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2007.

"Costs of Exit, Strategies of Collective Action and Resistance Group Durability", with Lucie Spanihelova and Brandon Zicha. Presented at the Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2007.

"Signaling Credible Commitment: Transitions and Conflict Reciprocation" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2007.

"More Conflict in the Middle: Anocratic Regimes and Transitions through Anocracy and the Prospects for Civil War" with Patrick Regan and Sam Bell. Presented at the Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2006.

Working Papers

Dissertation: "Know Then Thyself. Domestic Delegation, Information, Leadership Uncertainty and Foreign Policy Decisions during Crisis Bargaining"

"Interstate Conflict Involvement and its Effect on Governmental Repression"

"Getting the Message: Media in the Audience Cost Puzzle"

"Costs of Exit: Screening strategies and Resistance Group Durability (with Lucie Spanihelova)"

Research and Teaching Interests

International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis
Bargaining and Strategic models of Conflict and Cooperation
Human Rights and Civil Conflict

Democratic Transitions and Democratic Institutions
Domestic Political Violence and Repression

**Teaching
Experience**

Instructor on Record, Binghamton University
PLSC 380M - Strategy of War and Peace (Distance Learning), Summer 2009
PLSC 380E - Strategy in International Politics, Fall 2008
PLSC 476C - International Politics through Film, Summer 2008
PLSC 486R - International Relations in a Changing World, Spring 2007

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Binghamton University
PLSC 117 - Introduction to World Politics, Spring 2008
PLSC 113 - Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2007
PLSC 111 - Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2005 and 2006

**Research
Experience**

Research Assistant, The Institutions and Elections Project Dataset, *Binghamton University*, Spring 2006, Summer 2006, Summer 2007

Research Assistant, The Human Rights and Cultural Relativism Project, School of International Studies, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*, New Delhi, India. Summer and Fall 2003

**Other
Professional
Activities**

Participant, Journeys in World Politics Workshop, *University Of Iowa*, October 2008

Participant, World Politics Workshop, *Binghamton University*

Participant, Comparative and American Politics Workshop, *Binghamton University*

Relevant skills

Languages: Fluent in Hindi and English

Computing: STATA, L^AT_EX, QuarkXpress

**Professional
Memberships**

American Political Science Association

Peace Science Society

International Studies Association

**Other
Professional
Experience**

Copy Editor and Reporter, *The Pioneer*, New Delhi, India, May 2000 - May 2001

Freelance Reporter, *OneWorld South Asia*, New Delhi, India, January 2001 - May 2001

Intern, *The Pioneer*, New Delhi, India, August 1999 - May 2000

Intern, *Down to Earth*, New Delhi, India, May 1999 - August 1999

Freelance Reporter, *ONGCReports*, New Delhi, India

References

David Clark
Department of Political Science
Binghamton University (SUNY)
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000, USA
✉ dclark@binghamton.edu

Benjamin Fordham
Department of Political Science
Binghamton University (SUNY)
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000, USA
✉ bfordham@binghamton.edu

Olga Shvetsova
Department of Political Science
Binghamton University (SUNY)
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000, USA
✉ shvetso@binghamton.edu

Katri Sieberg
The Erkkko Chair in North American Studies
Department of History and Philosophy
University of Tampere, Finland
✉ katri.sieberg@uta.fi