

# Aparna Kher

---

## Contact Information

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

✉ 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 is funded by the National Science Foundation Dissertation (NSF) 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)*

**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

Binghamton University, Award for Excellence in Research, 2009

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009 (Award ID 0921149)

Department of Political Science, Binghamton University Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2009

GSEU Professional Development Award, *Binghamton University*, 2007

Graduate Scholars Fellowship, *Binghamton University*, 2005-2006

UGC-NET undergraduate teaching accreditation, University Grants Commission of India

## 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

<b>Conference Presentations</b>	<p>“Delegation &amp; Crisis Decision-making: Testing a Formal Model of Crisis Bargaining using New Data on Domestic Agencies,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society, Chapel Hill, NC, 2009</p> <p>“Exit Costs, Repression &amp; Internal Cohesiveness of Resistance Movements,” with Lucie Spanihelova, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2009</p> <p>“Delegation, Agency Loss &amp; Domestic Informational Asymmetries: Decision Making within Crisis Bargaining,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2009</p> <p>“Delegation, Domestic Informational Asymmetries &amp; 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</p> <p>“Know Then Thyself: Delegation and Bargaining under Complete Information”, Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society, Claremont, CA, 2008</p> <p>“Getting the Message: Media in the Audience Cost Puzzle” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2007</p> <p>“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</p> <p>“Signaling Credible Commitment: Transitions and Conflict Reciprocation” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2007</p> <p>“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</p>
<b>Working Papers</b>	<p>Dissertation: “Know Then Thyself. Domestic Delegation, Information, Leadership Uncertainty and Foreign Policy Decisions during Crisis Bargaining”</p> <p>“Interstate Conflict Involvement and its Effect on Governmental Repression”</p> <p>“Getting the Message: Media in the Audience Cost Puzzle”</p> <p>“Costs of Exit: Screening Strategies and Resistance Group Durability (with Lucie Spanihelova)”</p>
<b>Research and Teaching Interests</b>	<p>International relations and foreign policy analysis</p> <p>Bargaining and strategic models of conflict and cooperation</p> <p>Human rights, civil conflict, domestic political violence and repression</p> <p>Democratic transitions and democratic institutions</p>
<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<p>Instructor on Record, Binghamton University</p> <p>PLSC 380M - Strategy of War and Peace (Distance Learning), Summer 2009, Winter 2010</p> <p>PLSC 380E - Strategy in International Politics, Fall 2008</p> <p>PLSC 476C - International Politics through Film, Summer 2008</p> <p>PLSC 486R - International Relations in a Changing World, Spring 2007</p> <p>Graduate Teaching Assistant, Binghamton University</p> <p>PLSC 117 - Introduction to World Politics, Spring 2008</p> <p>PLSC 113 - Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2007</p> <p>PLSC 111 - Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2005 and 2006</p>

**Research Experience**      Research Assistant to Prof. David Clark on the Experimental Analysis of Alternative Models of Conflict Bargaining Project, (Collaborative Research, funded by National Science Foundation), Fall 2009, Spring 2010

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<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QuarkXpress, Z-tree

**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](mailto:dclark@binghamton.edu)

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

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

Katri Sieberg      The Erkko Chair in North American Studies  
Department of History and Philosophy  
University of Tampere, Finland  
✉ [katri.sieberg@uta.fi](mailto:katri.sieberg@uta.fi)