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Ashik J. Bonofer

A researcher with a focus on International Relations and passionate about Peace Studies. An Indian by birth, I grew up listening to daily news of conflicts in the nation and the surrounding countries. A native of Tamil Nadu, I am particularly interested in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. I have invested the past few years in research and teaching of Foreign Policy, International Relations, Human Rights, Peace Studies, South and Southeast Asian Studies. Over the last few years I have been deeply involved in issues relating to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar and forced migration.

Professional Experience:

- Working as **Assistant Professor – Aided** (Since June 2016) at the **Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College**, Tambaram, Chennai.
 - Maintenance of the College Website and Email systems
 - Assisting the Department of Political Science on E-Content
 - Assisting the IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) on preparing the document for National Institutional Ranking Framework. Also helped in creating online forms for Student Feedback on Faculty and Course.
 - Assisting the Dr. Devanesen Centre for Human Resource Development in project preparation and also involved in teaching Personality Development and Personality Enrichment Courses in both Aided and Self- Financed Course
 - Supported the Dean of Students Affairs in completing the Best College of 2017 by the Week and India Today.
 - Supporting the Dean of International Programme in registering foreign students with the Foreigner Regional Registration Offices
- Worked as **Assistant Professor – Management** (June 2014 – May 2016) at the **Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College**, Tambaram, Chennai. In addition to teaching, I am also involved in following tasks:
- **Teaching – Research Fellow (2012 – 2014)** at the, **Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Madras**, Chennai.

- **Research Fellow** at the **Centre for Asia Studies**, (2008 – 2012) a policy think tank founded by Dr. S Narayan (former Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of India), which is involved in the study of political, strategy, security and economic activities in the Indian Ocean Countries.
- **Visiting Faculty** at the **Centre for South Asian Studies**, (2008 – 2009) School of Social Sciences and International Relations, Pondicherry Central University, Pondicherry
- **Research Assistant (2004 -2008)** Worked as a Researcher on Maldives and Sri Lanka at the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**, Chennai Chapter, a policy think tank involved in the study of political activities in the Indian Ocean Countries.
- Worked as a **Temporary Research Assistant** (2002 – 2004) in Tribal Education and Development Society (TRENDS) a Non - Governmental Organization involved in awareness building and developmental activities of the tribals of Coimbatore and Erode districts.

Others:

- Co-organizer for the “**Workshop on Forced Migration**”, organized by **Loyola Institute for Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR)** with the support of **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, 17th August 2016 to 28th August 2016.
- **Member, Core Group on India’s relations with Sri Lanka and Maldives – Indian Council for World Affairs**, a New Delhi based think-tank funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
- **Contributing Analyst** on the South Asia Desk, **Wikistrat**. An Online International Analytic Community involved in studying strategic planning, geo-political and economic analysis, forecasting and risk management solutions
- **Country Expert on Maldives** for a **Project on Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)**. V-Dem is a joint work of University of Gothenburg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden and the European Union.
- **Coder for the Electoral Integrity Project** on the Parliamentary election in Maldives. This project was sponsored by the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney.
- **Political Commentator and Subject Expert, Thanthi Tv**, a popular Tamil news channel.
- **Subject Expert**, Board of Studies for B.A Public Service (Civil Service), **Mother Teresa Women’s University**, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu
- **Expert on ethnicity in Maldives**, for a Project on **Regimes of Ethnicity: A Global Database of Ethnic Demography and Survey of State Policies on Ethnicity**. This project was jointly sponsored by Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey and European Commission through a Marie Curie International Reintegration Grant.

- **Coordinator, Tamil Nadu Programme** for the survey on “**Evaluation of Untouchability and Social Discrimination: Current Status and Future Trends**”
This survey was conducted in two districts Dindigul and Kancheepuram. This project was initiated by Indian Institute of Economics, Hyderabad
- **Coordinator** for a survey on **the Youth Aspiration on Social and Political Issues**.
This survey was conducted in three states in India, namely Tamil Nadu, New Delhi and Bihar. This project was jointly initiated by the Institute of South Asian Studies: National University Singapore, Jawarhalal Nehru University, Asian Development Research Institute: Patna and the Madras Institute of Development Studies: Chennai.
- **Typeset and Designed** the Book on “**Sri Lanka: Hiding the Elephant – Documenting Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity**”. This book was published by the Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Madras.
- Joint Coordinator, “**GOP – TIPA 2014**”, A fund raising programme for the Garden of Peace, a school which is involved in the education of the underprivileged children.
- Visited United States from August 4 to August 28, 2008, as a part of **International Visitors Leadership Program**, invited and hosted by the Department of State, Government of the United States of America.
- Visited Germany in 1994 as a part of Youth Exchange program hosted by Heider BackoffenGruppe, Heide Germany.

Education:

- Ph. D in Political Science, Thesis entitled “*Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka – The Role of Internal and External Actors in Conflict Resolution*”, at the Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai.
- M. Phil in International Relation, Centre for South and South East Asian Studies, University of Madras, Chennai.
- P.G. Diploma in Human Rights, 2003 – 2004, Center for Human Rights, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry.
- M.A. Politics and International Relations, 2002 – 2004, School of International Studies, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry.
- B. A. Political Science, 1999 – 2002, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai.

Additional Qualifications:

- Cleared the **National Eligibility Test** conducted by the **University Grants Commission in June 2014**
- Studying Web and Book Designing at the Zee Institute of Creative Art (ZICA)
- Passed an International Exam in German called “*Zukunft Deutch*” conducted by The Goethe Institute.

Projects Done:

- Project on **“Evolving a Holistic Learning Method for Human Resource Development”** supported by **United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia**. This project is the joint work of Dr. Shirmila, Dr. V.Vijay Devanesan, Dr. G.F.Alban Nishant Lalu and I. The overall cost of the project is \$25,046.54, spread over three years.
- Project done on the **“Problems Faced by the Women and Children in the Villages of Thiruvallur Districts”** as a commitment and a requirement for the NSS camp.
- Project done on **“Ethnographic Study on Sholagas”** as a partial fulfillment of Bachelors Degree.
- Project done on **“The Role of Third Party Mediation, A Case Study of Ethnic Crisis in Sri Lanka”** as a partial fulfillment of Masters Degree.
- Project done on **“Public Health Policy in Sri Lanka”** as a partial fulfillment of M.Phil degree.
- Contributed a Chapter on **“India’s policy towards Sri Lanka”** for the book **“India’s Neighbourhood Policy”**. – To be published by Observer Research Foundation.
- Contributed a Chapter on **“Maritime Terrorism from South of India, - LTTE’s Sea Tigers”** for the book on **“Future Terrorism.”** – To be published by Observer Research Foundation.

Books

- **‘Haksar on India’s Sri Lanka Policy Paperback’**, Published by Bookventure, Chennai, 2020 **ISBN: 978-8185987194**

Books Edited:

- **‘Recent Developments in Myanmar; Implications for India’**. Published by Ganesh and Co, Chennai. **ISBN: 978-81-85988-23-8**
- **‘Refugee situation in India Today’** – Project sponsored by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Chennai. Published by Center for Asia Studies, Chennai, 2011. **ISBN: 978-81-921287-0-2**
- **‘Rise of China: Implications for Asian Neighbours’**. Jointly published by Indian Centre for South Asian Studies, Chennai Centre for China Studies and Center for Asia Studies, Chennai, 2012. **ISBN: 978-81-921287-2-6**
- **‘Re - Evaluating US Foreign Policy towards Asia’**. Published by **Knowledge World Publishers Private Limited**, New Delhi, 2013, **ISBN: 978-93-81904-70-1**

Papers Published:

In International Journal

- “No Fire Zone: Sri Lanka Since Eelam War IV” in *Religion and Society*, December 2014, Vol. 59, No.4, ISSN 0034 - 3951
- “The Challenges of Democracy in Maldives” in *the International Journal of South Asian Studies*, July – December 2010, Vol. 3(2), pp.433-449. ISSN 0974 - 2514

In Books

- **Maritime Threats from South of India** in C. Vinodan, *Defense and National Security of India: Concepts and Strategies*, New Century Publication, New Delhi, 2017
- **India – Sri Lanka – Maldives: The Problem of Asymmetry in the Sub-regional Cooperation**, in Venugopal B. Menon, and Joshy M Paul, *Sub-regional Cooperation in South Asia: India, Sri Lanka and Maldives*, Vij Books India Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, 2017
- **Sri Lanka 2015: Benchmark or Landmark for Change** in Pentagon’s Yearbook on *South Asia Defence and Strategic Perspective*, Pentagon Press, New Delhi, 2016
- **Rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons** in eds, V Suryanarayan and Sukumar Nambiar, *Ethnic Reconciliation and Nation Building in Sri Lanka; Indian Perspective*, TR Publications, Chennai, 2010
- **India-Sri Lanka Relations: Impact of Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka** in eds, Mohanan B Pillai and L Premashekhara, *Foreign Policy of India; Continuity and Change*, New Century Publications, New Delhi, 2010.
- **How does the International Community View Developments in Myanmar?** in eds, Cmde R S Vasan and Jacob Ashik Bonofer, *Recent Developments in Myanmar: Implications for India*, Ganesh & Co. Publishers, Chennai, 2009.
- **The Refugee Phenomenon** in eds, V. Suryanarayan and Jacob Ashik Bonofer, *Refugee Situation in India Today*, Center for Asia Studies, Chennai, August 2011

In the Center for Asia Studies Website

- New Delhi’s Sri Lanka Policy: Need for Proactive Policy
- Sri Lanka: Quo Vadis – Support for US Sponsored Resolution
- Sri Lanka – Need of the Hour -India should make Fresh Initiatives
- Sri Lanka Goes Back on its Assurances
- Indian Assistance to Sri Lanka for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction – Few Reflections
- Sri Lanka: India Should Revise its Stance on Human Rights Violations
- Sri Lanka: Elections to Local Bodies – An Indian Perspective

- Sri Lanka: Emerging Trends - Perspective from Tamil Nadu
- Sri Lanka: Myths and Realities: Reflections on the Report of the UN Advisory Panel and Colombo's Response
- Plight of Sri Lankan Indian Tamils in India: Indian Media Should Display Greater Sensitivity and Responsibility
- Telecast of Channel 4 Documentary in India – A Review
- Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka– A Continuing Debate
- The Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan State
- Sri Lankan President's Visit to New Delhi: Economic and Political Dimensions
- Sri Lanka: Plea for a Change in New Delhi's Neighbourhood Policy
- Democratic Experiments in Maldives
- Eelam War IV: Use of Sophisticated Means of Destruction and Impact on Trapped Civilians.
- Growing Security Challenge in Maldives

In ORF Website

- "Withdrawal of US troops from Sri Lanka"
<http://www.observerindia.com/strategic/st050214.htm#1>
- "The Sri Lankan Elections: Minority's Response"
<http://www.observerindia.com/strategic/st051114.htm#2>
- "President Mahinda Rajapakse's Visit to India"
<http://www.observerindia.com/strategic/st060102.htm#2>
- "Democratic reform in Maldives"
<http://www.observerindia.com/strategic/st050523.htm#2>
- "The Geneva talks and after"
<http://www.orfonline.org/strategic/st060313.htm#2>

Articles Published in ORF Maritime Terrorism Monitor. (An online journal of ORF – Chennai Chapter)

- Eelam war IV inevitable??,
- Black Tigers
- Origin of Sea Tigers
- Attack on MV Limburg; An Analysis of related issues.

Others

- **Strive to Preserve Secularism**, in *People's Reporter*, February 10- 25, 2015, Vol. 28, Issue. 3
- **Sri Lankan Presidential Election - January 2010 – an analysis**, in *People's Reporter*, February 10- 25, 2010, Vol. 23, Issue. 3
- **SRI LANKA: Emerging Trends - Perspective from Tamil Nadu** – Joint article published in South Asia Analysis Group (<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/papers46/paper4532.html>)
- **SRI LANKA: Myths and Realities: Reflections on the Report of the UN Advisory Panel and Colombo's Response** – Joint article published in South Asia Analysis Group (www.southasiaanalysis.org/papers46/paper4506.html)
- **Plight of Sri Lankan Indian Tamils in India: Indian Media Should Display Greater Sensitivity and Responsibility** - Joint article published in South Asia Analysis Group (<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/papers44/paper4378.html>)
- **"It's all a Political Drama" on Democracy in Maldives** – Published in Sahara Times, one of the largest circulated English daily at New Delhi. The Hindi version of the same was published in Sahara Samay, one of the largest circulated Hindi daily at New Delhi.
- **"Badagas of Nilgiris"** – Published in 'Punchline' a private circulation Magazine by the Students of the Print Media, Department of English, Pondicherry University.
- **"Election Scene: Sri Lanka 2005"** - Published in SAAG website (www.saag.org) <http://www.saag.org/papers16/paper1599.html>
- **"After Kadirgamar's Assassination: Options for LTTE, Sri Lanka and India,"** Published in IPCS Website. <http://www.ipcs.org>

Forthcoming Publications:

Books

- Book on **"Understanding Human Rights"**, jointly authored by Haans J. Freddy, Ashik J Bonofer and Guna Sekaran. This book is published by Bookwell Publications.
- Book on **"Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka – The Role of Internal and External Actors in Conflict Resolution"**. Manuscript has been sent for review to CAS Publisher.

Monographs:

- Monograph on **"Eastern Province in Sri Lanka"**.
- Working on a Monograph on **"Democratic reforms in Maldives"**

Articles:

- **“India-Sri Lanka-Maldives: The Problem of Asymmetry in the Sub-regional Cooperation”** – Christ University Bangalore
- **“Sri Lanka Refugees – Need for Voluntary Repatriation”** - Annamalai University
- **“China in Sri Lanka – Prospects or Challenges”** - Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
- **”Maritime Threats from South of India –Addressing Asymmetrical Security Concerns”** - Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

Papers presented:

- Presented a paper on **“Perils of Reverse Migration: Impact of Covid - 19 on the Guest Workers in Chennai”** at the International Webinar on “MIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS AMID COVID-19: Issues, Challenges and Policy Options”, organized by Centre for Indian Diaspora Studies (CIDS), School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala in collaboration with Department of Social Sciences, FLAME University, Pune & Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT), New Delhi from 15 to 17 October, 2020.
- Paper on **“Local Integration-Problems and Prospects”** at a one day Consultation on Local Integration as a Durable Solution for Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees on February 14, 2020 organized by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) South Asia, Centre for Refugees and Statelessness (TISS) Mumbai, Department of Political Science, MCC, Chennai, Department of Sociology, Loyola College and Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR) of Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai.
- Paper on **“Think Tanks and the New Security and Economic Architecture”** at a one-day conference on the theme ‘The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice’ on January 30, 2020 organized by Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S), Think tanks Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) University of Pennsylvania, the Press Institute of India (PII) and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF).
- Paper on **“China’s Strategic Overtures in South Asia: Time for India to become Proactive”**, at an International Conference on “Tibet: A Global Common or a Bone of Contention” organised by Tibetan Policy Institute (TPI) and Chennai Centre for China Studies at Dharamsala on 23rd and 24th October 2017.
- Paper on **”Maritime Threats from South of India –Addressing Asymmetrical Security Concerns”** at the International Conference on “Understanding Contemporary India” on January 14– 15, 2016 organized by Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Public Policy Studies, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University
- Paper on **“Education for Refugee Children”** at the International Conference on **“Education”** on December 18, 2015 organized by Garden of Peace, Vellore.
- Paper on **“India-Sri Lanka-Maldives: The Problem of Asymmetry in the Sub-regional Cooperation”** at the National Seminar on **“Sub-regional Cooperation in**

- South Asia: India, Sri Lanka and Maldives** on August 31 & September 1, 2015 organized by Department of International Studies, School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore
- Paper on **“Need for Paradigm Shift in Southern Asian States”** at the National Conference on **“Muslims United Against Terror (MUTA – 2015)”** on August 23, 2015 organized by Ahlus Sunnath Wal Jamaath’s Federation, Chennai
 - Paper on **“Sri Lanka Refugees – Need for Voluntary Repatriation”** at the two days National Seminar on **“Third Generation Human Rights: Trends, Challenges and Possibilities”** held on March 19 and 20, 2015 organized by the Department. of Political Science & Public Administration at Annamalai University, Annamalainagar.
 - Paper on **“China in Sri Lanka – Prospects or Challenges”** at the National Seminar on **“Understanding China: Indian Perspectives”** Jointly organised by Nelson Mandela Chair for Afro-Asian Studies, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Chennai Centre for China Studies & Institute for Contemporary China Studies, Mahatma Gandhi at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam on February 27-28 2015
 - Paper on **“Refugees and Forced Migration: South Asian Perspective”** at the one day Symposium on **“UN Convention on Statelessness (Refugees and Migration)”** on Tuesday, 24 February 2015 organised by Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR), Chennai.
 - Paper on **“India – Sri Lanka Relations: Way Ahead”** at the seminar on **“RAY OF HOPE: Emerging Trends in Sri Lanka and India Relations”**, on Sunday, December 7, 2014 organized by Center for Asia Studies, Chennai
 - Paper on **“Functioning of Democracy in Maldives”** at the **National Seminar on Human Rights and Democracy in South Asia** on, March 24th & 25th, 2011, organised by Department of Politics & Public Administration, University of Madras, and the Center for Asia Studies, Chennai.
 - Presented a paper on **“Aung San Suu Kyi and the Non-violent Struggle for Restoration of Democracy in Myanmar”**, at the National Seminar on **Conflict Resolution on South Asia** being organised by the Centre for Gandhian Studies, Alphonsa College, Pala, Kerala on 1 and 2 February 2011
 - Paper on **“Rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons”** at the National Seminar on **“Ethnic Reconciliation, Economic Reconstruction and Nation Building in Sri Lanka”**, on 12 -13 of April, 2010 organised by Center for Asia Studies in association with Indian Centre for South Asian Studies, Chennai
 - Paper on **“How does the International Community View Developments in Myanmar?”** at the one day seminar on **“Recent Developments in Myanmar: Implications for India”** organised by Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Madras, Chennai in association with Center for Asia Studies on October 29, 2009,
 - Paper on **“Implication of the protracted Sri Lankan Ethnic War on the Socio, Economic, Political and Military fabric of Sri Lanka”** at the **Third Australasian**

Conference on The Economics and Politics of War and Peace on 26th and 27th June 2009, University of Sydney, Australia.

- Paper on “**Regional Cooperation and the future of Democracy in Maldives**” on 15th and 16th April in a two day **National Seminar on Emerging Challenges in South Asian Regional Cooperation** organized by Centre for South Asian Studies, School of Social Sciences and International Studies, University of Pondicherry.
- “**Sri Lankan Ethnic Crisis; an Indian Perspective**” on 27th October 2007 in an orientation course for the Journalists from Sri Lanka at the Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter.
- “**India and Regional Conflict**” on 25th July 07, in an orientation course for students of Michigan State University, USA, at the Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter.
- “**Indo-Maldivian Relations in the Emerging Era**” on 9th June 2007 in a weekly interaction at the Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter.
- “**Sri Lankan Refugees In India: Challenges and Responses**” on 7 April 2007 in a weekly interaction at the Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter.
- “**Eastern Dilemma in Sri Lanka**”, on 2 September 2006 in a one day seminar organised by Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter. The proceedings of the seminar were published in ORF Discourse on “The Way Ahead in Sri Lanka”. Online version is available at www.orfonline.org

Languages Known:

Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English	Good	Good	Good
German	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Tamil	Good	Good	Satisfactory
Badaga	Good		
Kannada	Satisfactory		

Personal Details:

Age and Date of Birth : 38, 16th November 1980

Nationality : Indian

Religion : Christian

Personal Interests : Reading, Music, Traveling, Debating, Chess and Driving

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References:

Dr. S. Narayan
(Former, Economic Advisor to the Prime
Minister of India)
Founder, Athena Infonomics,
No 15, Arcot Street, T. Nagar,
Chennai – 600 017
Email: snarayan43@gmail.com

Dr. A. Subramanian
(Former – Head, Department of Political
Science, Madras Christian College)
Dean, SRM University, Bharathi Salai,
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Commodore R.S. Vasan IN (Retd)
(Former Commander – Region East, Indian Coast Guard)
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