

WEDIKKARA BHAGYA SENARATNE, PH.D.

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CURRENT POSITION

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

Senior Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies

September 2020 to Present

New York University, Shanghai, China (NYU Shanghai)

Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Asia, Center for Global Asia

September 2022 onwards

ON-GOING RESEARCH

1. "Maritime Connections between New Zealand-Sri Lanka Relations" jointly with Germana Nicklin, Senior Lecturer, Massey University, New Zealand "New Zealand-Sri Lanka Relations" jointly with Germana Nicklin, Senior Lecturer, Massey University, New Zealand
2. "The Covid-19 pandemic in South Asia: An Analysis of China's Medical Diplomacy" jointly with Chameesha Ekanayake

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD	University of Colombo, International Relations Thesis Title: "An Analysis of Sri Lanka-China Bilateral Relations from 1994 to 2015" Supervisor: Senior Professor Nayani Melegoda	September 2020
MA	University of Colombo, International Relations Thesis title: "An Analysis of the Application of Area Studies in South Asia and its Relevance" Supervisor: Dr. Maneesha Wanasinghe-Pasqual	February 2013
BA	University of Colombo Second Class – Lower Division International Relations; English; Communication and Media Studies	May 2010

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Foreign Policy Studies (Sri Lanka, China, United States)

Area Studies
Diplomacy
Strategic Communication

Maritime Security
International Relations
Strategic Studies

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

New York University, Shanghai, China (NYU Shanghai)

Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Asia, Center for Global Asia

September 2022 onwards

- Publish a book or prepare for publication two articles by August 2023
- Contribute to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project
- Collaborate with Professor Maria Adele Carrai on the mapping of BRI projects
- Help the Center for Global Asia organize events (including the BRI summer schools)
- Contribute to the BRI database and story-maps initiatives
- Participate in other related activities

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

Senior Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies

September 2020 to Present

- Teaching 100 undergraduates, courses: Sri Lanka in World Affairs and Maritime Security (1st year), Diplomacy as an Instrument of State Power, Research Methodology, Strategic Studies, Strategic Communication (2nd year), Protocol and Soft Diplomacy and Military-Media Relations (3rd year)
- Teaching 200 postgraduates, courses on Diplomacy & Strategic Communications, Sri Lankan Studies, International Relations, Strategic Studies, Research Methodology
- Providing pastoral advice for 06 International Relations undergraduates, 12 MA and 02 MPhil/PhD candidates.
- Conducting lectures for affiliated military training establishments.
- Revised the curricula of the two-year MSc in Security and Strategic Studies programme.
- Teaching postgraduate courses for the Defence Services Command & Staff College (DSCSC) and the National Defence College (NDC), Sri Lanka.

Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies

June 2015 to September 2020

- Developed the three-year BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations (BSc SS&IR) syllabus according to Sri Lanka Qualification Framework standards.
- Taught 200 undergraduates, courses on: Written Comprehension and Maritime Security (1st year), International Relations and Strategic Studies (2nd year), and Conflict Resolution (3rd year course)
- Taught 175 postgraduates, courses on: Diplomacy and Strategic Communications, International Relations, Strategic Studies.
- Providing pastoral advice for International Relations undergraduates and postgraduates.
- Conducting lectures for affiliated military training establishments

Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS), Sri Lanka

2018 to Present

Visiting Lecturer

- Teaching a postgraduate course on Politics in the Indian Ocean since 1945.
- Teaching diploma courses on Area Studies and International Relations.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Faculty Public Relations Coordinator (2020-2022)
- Coordinator – Sri Lanka’s post-Independence Defence Policy Seminar (2021)
- Coordinator – KDU-Shanghai Institutes of International Studies
- Faculty representative – University Library Repository (IR@KDU)
- Faculty representative – MPhil/PhD programmes
- Set and marked undergraduate and postgraduate examinations
- Supervised marking of undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations
- Planned and organised the 11th edition of the University’s annual International Research Conference (KDU- IRC 2018) as its Conference Secretary (2018)
- Providing pastoral advice for International Relations undergraduates.

CONCURRENT APPOINTMENTS / PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Chief Editor

Defence & Security Journal, 6 - Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), Sri Lanka, 2021

Editorial Committee

Journal on Defence & Policy Analysis (DPA), General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, 2021-2022

Public Relations Coordinator

Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies, Public Relations, 2015 onwards

Coordinator

KDU-Shanghai Institute for International Studies, International Cooperation, 2020 onwards
KDU-Sichuan University, China, International Cooperation, 2021 onwards

Coordinator – Seminar on Sri Lanka’s Defence Policy since Independence

Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies, Conference, 2021

Copyeditor

Student Research Forum (SRF), 2021

Co-Editor

Defence & Security Journal, Editorial, 2016 to 2020

Co-Editor

KDU Newsletter, Editorial, 2019 to present

Conference Secretary

11th International Research Conference, Conference, 2018

Coordinator

3rd KDU-CNA Track 1.5 Dialogue, Seminar, 2018

Faculty Coordinator10th International Research Conference, Conference, 2017**Peer-Reviewer:**

- Defence and Security Journal
- Defence Review
- International Research Conference (IRC) – General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

HONOURS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Asia at NYU Shanghai, China 2022
- Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF), U.S. State Department, U.S.A. 2020
- Best Presenter Award in the Social Sciences Track, Rajarata University, Sri Lanka 2019
- International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), U.S. State Department, U.S.A. 2019
- Visiting Scholar, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing, China 2017
- Scholar, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland 2017
- Scholarship, Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Government of India 2010
- Assistant National Leader of the Sri Lankan delegation
22nd Ship for World Youth Program, Government of Japan 2010
- Training for Trusteeship,
Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research 2009

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters/Books

1. Senaratne, B. (In press). "U.S. relations with Sri Lanka: A Case of Impulsiveness, Missed Opportunities and Strategic Competition". In O. Turner, W. Aslam, & N. Nymalm (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of US policy in the Indo-Pacific*. London: Routledge.
2. Senaratne, B. (2021). 21st Century Maritime Silk Route: Preventive Diplomacy as a Mechanism to Mitigate Future Security Implications. In H. Ni, S. Abeyratne, L. Siriwardena and G. Zhoui (Eds.), *Lion Dragon Dance: Practice and Reflection on the People-to-People Dialogues in China and Sri Lanka* (pp. 112-128). Hangzhou: Zhejiang University Press.
3. Senaratne, B. (2017). Economic Relations: A Sri Lankan Perspective. *Pakistan-Sri Lanka Relations: A Story of Friendship*. Ed. Muhammad Imran and Bhagya Senaratne. Islamabad: National Defence University.
4. Senaratne, B. (2016). Maritime Safety and Security: A Sri Lankan Perspective. *Maritime Safety & Security in Indian Ocean*. Ed. Vijay Sakhuja & Kapil Narula. New Delhi: Vij Books India.
5. Senaratne, B. (2009). Stepping into a Healthier Tomorrow. *ICPD - "15 Years On" Sri Lanka: A Review of Progress by 12 Sri Lankan Scholars and Practitioners*. Ed. Bradman Weerakoon. Colombo: Family Planning Association.

Journal Publications

1. **Senaratne, B.** and Nicklin, G. (In Press). "Maritime Connections between New Zealand-Sri Lanka Relations: Connected by Empire, Separated by Distance". *National Security Journal*, 4 (1).
2. **Senaratne, B.** and Melegoda, N. (2022). "China's Engagement with Maritime Nations: A Case Study". *Colombo Journal of Multi-Disciplinary Research*, 6 (2), 101-125.
3. Senaratne, B. (2020). Maritime Security Cooperation: From Mistrust to Trust in the Indian Ocean Region. *POLARIS: Journal of Maritime Research*, 3 (1), 43-49.
4. Senaratne, B. (2020). Sri Lanka and BIMSTEC: Past, Present and Prospects for the Future. *National Security*, 4 (1), 77-90.
5. Senaratne, B. (2019). China's Future Relations in the South Asian Region: A Study from a Neoclassical Realist Approach. *Defence & Security Journal*, 4, 44-62.
6. Senaratne, B. (2018). Diplomats' Role in Strengthening China's Overseas Image: A Case Study of Sri Lanka. *China International Studies* 71, 166-180.
7. Senaratne, B. (2017). National Security of Sri Lanka: Importance of Mass Media and Communication. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* 4 (2), 55-63.
8. Senaratne, B. (2017). Elements of Sri Lanka's Geopolitics: Impact on United States' Foreign Policy. *Maritime Affairs: Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India*, 13 (1), 48-54.
9. Senaratne, B. (2016). The Importance of Public Diplomacy in formulating a Maritime Policy for the Indian Ocean Region. *Maritime Affairs: Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India* 12 (1), 79-87.

Conference Papers

(Full Paper-Reviewed)

1. Rajapakshe, W. and **Senaratne B.** (2020). The Indo-Pacific: An Examination of Regional Instruments for Improved Coordination. *Proceedings of the 13th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
2. Senaratne, B. (2017). Dynamics in Cyber Security: Challenges to Sri Lanka's National Security. *10th International Research Conference* (pp. 90-95). Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
3. Senaratne, B. (2017). Determinants of Sri Lanka's Geopolitical Significance to the United State' Foreign Policy. *4th International Research Conference*. Batticaloa: Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
4. Senaratne, B. (2017). Advancing Human Security-centric Policies in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Opportunities. *Strategic Forum on "Meeting the Challenges of Extremism by Advancing Human Security Centred Policies"*. Colombo: Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL).
5. Senaratne, B. (2017). Strengthening connectivity through Media in a culturally diverse Region. *10th South Asia Conference*. New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis.
6. Senaratne, B. (2016). "The Role of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in Public Diplomacy in the Post Conflict Scenario". *Proceedings of the 9th International Research Conference* (pp. 51-56). Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

7. Senaratne, B. (2015). "Sri Lanka's Strategic Relevance in the South Asian Region: An Analysis of India's Indian Ocean Strategy and China's Maritime Silk Route Initiative". *Proceedings of the 8th International Research Conference* (pp. 94-99). Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

(Abstract-Reviewed)

1. **Senaratne, B.** and Ekanayake, C. (2021). The Covid-19 pandemic in South Asia: An Analysis of China's Medical Assistance. *Abstract of the 14th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
2. **Senaratne, B.** and Dinethri, N.R. (2021). Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Challenges Encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Abstract of the 14th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
3. **Senaratne, B.** and Melegoda, N. (2020). China's Engagement with Maritime Nations: A Case Study. *INCOIRe 2020*. Colombo: University of Colombo.
4. Rajapakshe, W. and **Senaratne B.** (2020). The Indo-Pacific: An Examination of Regional Instruments for Improved Coordination. *Abstract of the 13th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
5. Senaratne B. (2019). A Neoclassical Realist Approach to China's Future Relations in the South Asian Region. *Annual Research Symposium*. Colombo: University of Colombo.
6. **Senaratne B.** and Melegoda, N. (2019). Geopolitical Importance of Sri Lanka in the 21st Century: The Case of the Belt & Road Initiative. *Rajarata International Research Conference*. Mihintale: Rajarata University.
7. Senaratne B. (2019). Sri Lanka's Relations with China from 1948 to 1995: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis. *Abstract of the 12th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
8. Senaratne B. (2019). 21st Century Maritime Silk Route: Preventive Diplomacy as a Mechanism to Mitigate Future Security Implications. *Abstracts of the 12th Annual Research Conference – 2019*. Colombo: Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka.
9. Senaratne B. (2019). Maritime Security Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region: From Trust to Mistrust. *Proceedings of the 8th International Maritime Conference*. Karachi: Bahria University.
10. Senaratne, B. (2018). Maritime Domain Awareness: Possibilities for Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region. *Annual Research Conference 2018*. Colombo: University of Colombo.
11. Senaratne, B. (2017). Dynamics in Cyber Security: Challenges to Sri Lanka's National Security. *Abstract of the 10th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
12. Senaratne, B. (2017). Strengthening connectivity through Media in a culturally diverse Region. *10th South Asia Conference*. New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, New Delhi.
13. **Senaratne, B.** and Senaratne, N. (2016). Requirement of a Media and a Social Networking Policy for Sri Lanka for a successful foreign policy. *5th International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS-2016)*. Nugegoda: University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

14. Senaratne, B. (2016). The Importance of Sri Lanka's 'Image' for Economic Diplomacy. *1st International Research Conference - Trincomalee International Conference (TRInCo-2016)*. Trincomalee: Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University of Sri Lanka.
15. Senaratne, B. (2016). The Role of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in Public Diplomacy *Abstract of the 9th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
16. Senaratne, N. and **Senaratne B.** (2016). Buddhaghosha's Communication System: Lessons for the Modern World. *6th International Buddhist Academic Conference*. Homagama: Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka.
17. Senaratne, B. (2016). Determinants of Sri Lanka's Geopolitical significance to the United States' Foreign Policy. *4th International Research Conference*. Batticaloa: Eastern University of Sri Lanka.
18. Senaratne, B. (2015). Importance of Mass Media and Communication for Diplomacy in Ensuring Sri Lanka's National Security. *International Postgraduate Research Conference 2015*. Kelaniya: University of Kelaniya.
19. Senaratne, B. (2015). Sri Lanka's Strategic Relevance in the South Asian Region: An Analysis of India's Indian Ocean Strategy and China's Maritime Silk Route Initiative. *Abstracts of the 8th International Research Conference*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

Edited Publications

1. Jayawardane, A. and **Senaratne, B.** (eds.) (*forthcoming*). *Sri Lanka's Defence Policy since Independence*. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
2. *Journal of Defence and Policy Analysis*. (2021) Volume 1, Issue 1. Ratmalana: General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.
3. *Defence and Security Journal*. (2017-2021) Volumes 2-6. Colombo: Defence Services Command & Staff College.
4. Imran, M. and **Senaratne, B.** (eds.) (2017). *Pakistan-Sri Lanka Relations: A Story of Friendship*. Islamabad: National Defence University.
5. *ECHO 55*. (2010). New Delhi: Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Newspapers, Magazine & Online Reviewed Articles (Selected)

1. Senaratne, B. (2021, October 12). Tamil Nadu's Effect on India-Sri Lanka Subnational diplomacy. *South Asian Voices*. Retrieved from <https://southasianvoices.org/tamil-nadus-effect-on-india-sri-lanka-subnational-diplomacy/>
2. Senaratne, B. (2021, January 21). Chinese Financing in South Asia: The Story of Sri Lanka. *South Asian Voices*. Retrieved from <https://southasianvoices.org/chinese-financing-in-south-asia-the-story-of-sri-lanka/>
3. Senaratne, B. (2020, December 19). The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Power Rivalry in South Asia. *The National Bureau of Asian Research*. Retrieved from <https://www.nbr.org/publication/the-covid-19-pandemic-and-the-power-rivalry-in-south-asia/>

4. Senaratne, B. (2020, November 04). The Eagle has Landed in the Lion's Den. *Groundviews*. Retrieved from <https://groundviews.org/2020/11/04/The-Eagle-Has-Landed-In-The-Lions-Den/>
5. Senaratne, B. (2020, March 14). Sri Lanka: The centre of the Indo-Pacific for France. *Daily News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dailynews.lk/2020/03/14/FEATURES/214360/SRI-LANKA-CENTRE-INDO-PACIFIC-FRANCE>
6. Senaratne, B. (2015). Future of the United States Interactions in the South Asian Region. *Groundviews*. Retrieved from <https://groundviews.org/2015/12/26/future-of-the-united-states-interactions-in-the-south-asian-region/>
7. Senaratne, B. (2015). Sri Lanka's Geopolitical Importance to the United States. *Groundviews*. Retrieved from <https://groundviews.org/2015/02/09/sri-lankas-geopolitical-importance-to-the-united-states/>
8. Senaratne, B. (2010). Small and Medium Enterprises for a Healthier Economy in Sri Lanka. *ECHO 55*. New Delhi: Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Podcasts

Senaratne, B. (2021, April 2). Power Rivalry in South Asia amid the Pandemic. *The National Bureau of Asian Research*. Retrieved from <https://www.nbr.org/publication/power-rivalry-in-south-asia-amid-the-pandemic/>