

SIPG, CPS, CMS, CSCSS

Newsletter

JANUARY – JUNE 2024



SIPG



CSCSS



International Conference on ‘Transboundary Rivers of South Asia: Fostering Regional Collaboration for Environmental Sustainability’ (7-8 May 2024)

The International Conference on ‘Transboundary Rivers of South Asia: Fostering Regional Collaboration for Environmental Sustainability’ was held on 7-8 May 2024 at North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was jointly organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University, Bangladesh, and the Department of Geography, University of Manchester (UoM), United Kingdom, the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC), Bangladesh and the associate partner was the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA). A total of 40 papers were presented at the conference by authors from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the United Kingdom, Türkiye and Kenya. There were around 60 participants of which 30 were international, mostly from India. An edited volume will be published from the selected papers of the conference by CRC Press, Routledge-Taylor & Francis Group.



SIPG hosted graduate students to participate in the 2024 NASPAA Simulation Competition. This is the third time NSU hosted the simulation competition. It is a collaboration between SIPG, DMS Academy, and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), connecting students around the world at a virtual site and 12 global host sites, including Bangladesh, Egypt, Brazil, Hungary, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan and more! The participants from Bangladesh were graduate students from North South University (NSU), the University of Chittagong, Jahangirnagar University, the University of Dhaka, and Jagannath University. The simulation competition tackled policy issues associated with forced migration through computer-based simulated gameplay. Created and improved by experts at DMS Academy who utilized extensive real-world data, the simulation placed students in leadership roles within a time-sensitive, fast-paced environment where they worked together to solve complex policy issues.

Editorial Board

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SIPG hosted the NASPAA Student Simulation Competition (24 February 2024)

Academic writing workshop (25-28 March 2024)

Tribhuvan University, University of Nottingham International, and North South University united to launch 'Nurturing Social Justice Network of Academics: A Reflexive Writing Training in South Asia from Excluded Communities.' This program aimed to empower participants with advanced academic writing skills essential for international publishing.



CPS Impromptu Public Speaking Competition (28 February 2024)



CPS organized an intra-university impromptu public speaking competition focusing on peace-related topics. This competition provided a platform for sharing innovative ideas on fostering peace and harmony. The competition saw a high level of participation and enthusiasm from the students. Talented students participated in an inspiring public speaking competition. The speakers presented their unique perspectives and innovative ideas on peace and harmony, engaging the audience with a deep understanding.

Academic Programs

Continuing Joint PhD Program

SIPG is continuing the joint PhD Program with the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. Two students are enrolled in this program: one Bangladeshi student from North South University (NSU) and one Dutch student from the University of Amsterdam, who have already started their PhD. The PhD students are jointly supervised by faculty members of SIPG, NSU, and the University of Amsterdam. The University of Amsterdam will award the PhD degree.

Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG)

MPPG's new batch (11th Batch) started again in the Summer 2023 semester. There are ten students, of which two are from Sri Lanka. The Bangladeshi students are mostly civil servants. A new intake of the MPPG 12th batch will be enrolled in the Spring 2025 semester.



MPPG-11th Batch

Executive Masters in Policy and Governance (EMPG)



Orientation program of EMPG-5th Batch in Spring 2024

SIPG has continued the academic program EMPG, a one-year-long executive program that aims to enhance and strengthen the academic competence and professional skills of professionals from bureaucracy, development organizations, embassies, INGOs, NGOs, private sector officials, and fresh graduates of Bangladesh. The EMPG 5th batch commenced their classes in January 2024. Moreover, the EMPG 6th batch will be enrolled in the Summer 2024 semester.

Training, Workshops & Competition

Training Program for Nepalese Civil Servants on Policy Analysis and Case Study Development (28 April-2 May 2024)

SIPG hosted a Case Study-Based Learning (CBL) Training Session for 11 Nepalese public service officials from Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC) on April 28-May 2. This program, designed and run by SIPG, is building capacity for a more vital public service. It is the second such program SIPG has arranged for Nepal's officials. They joined the CBL training for a dynamic five-day program supported by the Government of Nepal. This collaboration marks another milestone for SIPG, North South University, and promises a rich exchange of knowledge and expertise. Stay tuned for updates on this inspiring initiative.



Ambassador Ghanshyam Bhandari attended the closing ceremony of the training on 'Case Study Based Learning' on 2 May 2024 organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance SIPG, North South University for officials of Nepal Administrative Staff College. In his remarks, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of collaboration between academic institutes and think tanks in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Regional Seminar

Seminar on 'Indian General Election 2024: Voting Pattern and Diplomatic Paths' (21 April 2024)



Two eminent scholars from India Dr. Sanjay K Bhardwaj, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and Professor Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director, Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) were invited as panelists in the seminar. The discussants of this seminar were; Professor Shahidul Haque, SIPG, NSU and Former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, and Dr. M Sakhawat Hussain, Senior Fellow, SIPG, NSU, and Former Election Commissioner of Bangladesh.

CMS National Seminar on “Labour Laws and Challenges in Protecting the Rights of Workers in Bangladesh” (30 April 2024)

The Center of Migration Studies (CMS) and the Department of Law at North South University jointly organised a roundtable on “Labour Laws and Challenges in Protecting the Rights of Workers in Bangladesh” to mark the celebration of the International Labour Day. Eminent representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, employers’ associations, trade unions, labour lawyers, labour rights activists, International Labour Organization (ILO) and other international organisations joined the roundtable as Panelists.



Talks & Seminars

SIPG Dissemination Seminar on "Rethinking Accountability for Digitised Futures in Bangladesh" (March 6, 2024)



SIPG in collaboration with the University of Bath and the University of Westminster, UK, organized a research dissemination seminar on “Rethinking Accountability for Digitised Futures in Bangladesh” at North South University. The presenters were Professor Joe Devine from the University of Bath and Dr. Ipshita Basu from the University of Westminster. The research, which was funded by the Covid-19 Learning, Evidence and Research Programme in Bangladesh (CLEAR) of the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, focused on how during Covid 19 innovations in digitalization of Public Service delivery has changed the organizational culture in government and, some cases, it also posed particular challenges.

CMS Dissemination Seminar on Social Remittances of Returnee Migrants in Bangladesh (27 February 2024)

In collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CMS hosted a dissemination event, unveiling significant findings from a research project titled ‘Examining the Social Remittances of Returnee Migrant Workers in Bangladesh.’ The research investigated social remittances - the flow of ideas, behaviors, identities, and social capital flow via the migration of returnee Bangladeshi migrant workers from the Middle East and the Gulf region. The event's chief guest, Dr. Mallick Anwar Hossain, Managing Director, Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL), expressed commitment to collaborate with academia and other stakeholders to ensure the dignified reintegration of migrant workers.



CSCSS Seminar on ‘The Belt and Road Initiative’ (March 10, 2024)

The keynote speaker for this event was Dr. Anis Rahman, a highly acclaimed faculty member from the Department of Communication at the University of Washington, Seattle. He talked about the discourse on "The Belt and Road Initiative, Communication, and Geopolitics in South Asia."



Ambassadorial Talk Series

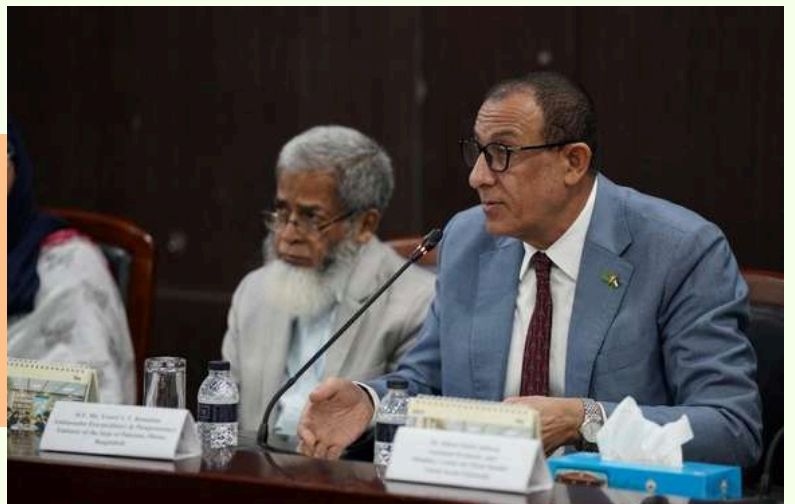
Ambassadorial Talk-Session 4: South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Talked on Modern Korea (12 February 2024)



H.E. Mr. Park Young-Sik, Ambassador, the Republic of Korea to the People's Republic of Bangladesh talked on “Modern Korea: History, Democracy, Economy, Peace and Security”. The VC of NSU chaired the event.

Ambassadorial Talk-Session 5: Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh Talked on ‘Israel's War on Gaza: Palestinians Perspectives of Peace’ (13 May 2024)

H.E. Yousef S. Y. Ramadan, the Ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh, talked on ‘Israel's War on Gaza: Palestinians Perspectives of Peace’. This event was organized by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University. The Treasurer of NSU chaired the event.



Policy Colloquiums

CPS holds a Colloquium on 'The Current Crisis of Myanmar and Its Impact on Neighbouring Region' (31 January 2024)

The event's panelists were Mr. Kyaw Zaw, Spokesperson and Adviser to the President of the National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar; Dr. Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau, Assistant Professor, PSS, NSU; Brig. Gen. (Retd.) M Sakhawat Hussain, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, SIPG, NSU; Dr. Md. Mahbubul Haque, Faculty of Law & International Relations, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia and Professor Shahidul Haque, SIPG, NSU.



Book Launching Ceremony

CPS book Launching ceremony (28 February 2024)



CPS celebrated its 4th anniversary by launching the book "Secularism and Islam in Bangladesh: 50 Years After Independence," a profound work by Dr. Abdul Wohab, Coordinator of CPS.

Webinars

CPS Webinar on Israel-Palestine: Is the Two-State Solution Still Viable? (22 January 2024)

The keynote speaker, Mr. Mouin Rabbani, a non-resident fellow at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS), Doha & Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), USA, addressed the pressing issue.



Research Talks

CPS Research Talk 12 (7 March 2024)

Speaker: Professor Sreeradha Datta, O.P. Jindal Global University, India
Topic: Bangladesh on a New Journey: Moving Beyond the Regional Identity

CPS Research Talk 13 (18 April 2024)

Speaker: Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Dean (IC), School of Humanities & Social Sciences & Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), NSU
Topic: Russian Election 2024

CPS Research Talk 14 (30 May 2024)

Speaker: Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Dean (IC), School of Humanities & Social Sciences & Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), NSU
Topic: Integrating the Marginalized: Strategizing the Rohingya Inclusion for Economic and Humanitarian Development of Bangladesh

CMS Research talk 1 (23 May 2024)

Speaker- Professor Ellen MacEachen, Director of the School of Public Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, Canada.
Topic- The Weakening Social Contract in Canada: Considering the Protection of Workers' Health amidst a Changing Economy

CMS Research Talk 2 (6th May 2024)

Speaker- Dr. Zahir Ahmed, Professor from Jahangirnagar University and a Research Professor at the SUNY - The State University of New York, Buffalo
Topic- Migration, Social Networks, and Re-Development in the USA

Other Events

SIPG Strategic Planning Meeting (22 May 2024)

The SIPG strategic planning meeting for 2024-2025 was held at the Fortis Downtown Resort, Beraid. Senior Fellows, faculty members, and staff of SIPG, CPS, CMS, and CSCSS gathered there to brainstorm and plan the activities and budget for the upcoming year 2024-2025. Firstly, a critical review of the 2023 activities was done and then a strategic planning meeting was held to plan the activities for 2024-2025.



CPS celebrated its 4th Anniversary (27-28 February 2024)

CPS celebrated its 4th anniversary at the NSU Campus for two days through a book launching ceremony and an impromptu public speaking competition. On the first day (February 27, 2024), the unveiling of Dr. Abdul Wohab's thought-provoking book, "Secularism and Islam in Bangladesh: 50 Years After Independence" was held at the Syndicate Hall at NSU. CPS anniversary celebration continued the next day, on February 28, 2024, by organizing an intra-university impromptu public speaking competition focusing on peace-related topics.



Inaugural ceremony of the China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS) (17 January 2024)

An inaugural ceremony of the China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS) during an official visit of a Chinese delegation was held on 17 January 2024 at 11:30 am at the SIPG premises of North South University. The program was jointly organized by the Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), the South Asian Institute of Policy & Governance (SIPG), and the Confucius Institute of North South University (CINSU). CSCSS is officially affiliated with the School of Ethnology and Sociology, Yunnan University, Kunming, China. Professor Hu Jinming, Vice President of Yunnan University, Kunming, China attended the event as a special guest. The Chinese foreign delegation included Mr. Peng Bin, Deputy General of the Publicity Department of the CPC, Yunnan Provincial Party Committee. The Vice Chancellor of North South University, Prof. Atiqul Islam, and the Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh, Mr. Yue Liwen were also present at the event.



Visits



Prof. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Dean (IC) SHSS and Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University, presented a paper on 'Integrating the Marginalized: Strategizing the Rohingya Inclusion for Economic and Humanitarian Development of Bangladesh' in a conference at the University of Oxford, organized by Bangladesh Studies Network on 14 June 2024.



Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque provided an engaging presentation on "Myanmar's Changing Political and Security Context and Rohingya Repatriation" on 18 June 2024 at the Global Development Institute (GDI) of the University of Manchester. The session offered insights into the current dynamics and challenges in Myanmar.



Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Vice President of SANPA and Director of SIPG had a meeting in Kathmandu on 12 February 2024 with Dilip Raj Paudel, General Secretary of PAAN, and Rajendra Adhikari, Founder Member of SANPA & Life Member of PAAN, to initiate collaboration between the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) and PAAN (Public Administration Association of Nepal). They discussed avenues to organize impactful seminars, workshops, and events, engage in research, and pursue joint initiatives for professional development and advocacy, all aligned with a shared vision to increase connectivity among the Global South.



Collaborative Meeting Between CPS and CGS (6 June 2024)



A collaborative meeting took place at the premises of The Center for Genocide Studies (CGS), Dhaka University, bringing together distinguished scholars and experts. The Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of SIPG, NSU, led by Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, and the CGS, under the leadership of Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, engaged in an insightful discussion on fostering research collaboration, forming strategic partnerships, and enhancing knowledge sharing. Faculty members and research associates from both institutions contributed their valuable perspectives, setting the stage for impactful joint initiatives aimed at advancing academic partnership and practical understanding of peace and genocide studies.

CMS members at Saudi Arabia



Center for Migration Studies (CMS) Coordinator Dr. Selim Reza and Ex-Coordinator Dr. Jalal Uddin Sikder attended a two-day workshop (21-22 February 2024) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on "Labor Migration Patterns and Their Role in Economic Diversification and Sustainable Development in Saudi Arabia: Acceptance and the Resistance towards Achieving Saudi Vision 2030" organised by the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS). They have presented a research paper on labour protection issues of Bangladeshi migrant workers working on a "free visa" in Saudi Arabia. Several prominent academics and practitioners attended the workshop and shared constructive feedback on the research paper presented by Dr. Reza and Dr. Sikder. This research paper will be published soon. They also exchanged ideas with the workshop organiser and explored potential opportunities for collaboration between NSU's South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS).



Dr. Abdul Wohab presented a paper at the "Future of Work in the Global South and Global North" conference at the University of Melbourne on 10 May 2024.

CPS coordinator Dr. Abdul Wohab recently discussed future research collaborations with the Initiative for Peacebuilding at the University of Melbourne. The meeting included enriching dialogues with Prof. John Langmore, Director, and Dr. Tania Miletic, Co-Director of the Initiative.



Professor Ruud Ganzevoort, the Rector of the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) at the Erasmus University Rotterdam visited SIPG on 8 May 2024 and discussed potential areas of collaboration with the Center for Migration Studies - CMS, North South University and the Center for Peace Studies-CPS, SIPG, North South University.

Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana presented a paper in Athens, Greece (May 27-29, 2024)

The 2nd International Dialogue on the Governance of Refugee Camps (IDGRC) recognizes the tragedies faced by fellow humans who have been subjected to human-inflicted atrocities for decades. Their names and faces remain unknown but their experiences need to be counted. The organizers of the dialogue think that they can lend our knowledge and expertise to try to ease their hardship. The Dialogue focuses on the governance of refugee camps. Six key areas were identified for exploration: law, policy, and management; camp typologies; camp life cycles; organizational ecosystems; intersectionality and identity; and refugee agency, voice, and mobilization. The venue of the second Dialogue was at Harokopio University on May 27-29, 2024. Out of 27 papers, 3 were on the Rohingya issue presented by 3 Bangladeshi academicians (who work in the UK, Norway, and Bangladesh) and one of them was a member of CPS of NSU Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana. Her paper was on the organizational ecosystem of the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, which is based on her ongoing research jointly with Dr. Hasan Muhammad Baniamin.



CSCSS welcomed delegates from Yunnan University



The China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS) of SIPG extends a warm welcome to the esteemed delegates from Yunnan University, School of Ethnology and Sociology, led by the distinguished Professor He Ming. The delegation visited North South University amidst the spirit of the Spring Festival and shared insights that bridge borders. This will help foster deeper understanding and friendship between China and South Asia!

CMS members in Malaysia



Dr. Selim Reza, Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and Sociology (PSS), North South University (NSU) and Coordinator of the Center for Migration Studies (CMS), along with Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor at PSS, NSU, and CMS member, presented a paper on 'Irregular Migration of the Stateless Rohingya from Bangladesh: Forces, Complexities, and Consequences' at the 'Routine Irregularities: The Contested Governance of Irregular and Forced Migration in Asia' conference, hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. This paper is also co-authored by Dr. Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder, Dr. Hasan Muhammad Baniamin, and Dr. Syed Nurullah Azad of North South University.

Accomplishments



Dr Bulbul Siddiqi, a CPS member, has been awarded a visiting professorship by the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick.



Md Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate at SIPG, won the prestigious British Council IELTS Campus Scholarship 2024 on 15 May 2024.



Saadia Hossain Muna, Research Associate, SIPG, presented the preliminary findings of an insightful paper, "**Navigating Gender and Governance: An Intersectional Examination of South Asian Women in the Bureaucracies**" at the 5th South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance, on 29 March 2024 held at Nepal Administrative staff College, Nepal. This significant work, co-authored by **Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque** and **Prof Syeda Lasna Kabir**, was a part of the thematic discussion on '**Inclusive Governance and Service Delivery at Subnational Level**'.



Mashrur Ayon, Research Associate at SIPG, has been awarded the prestigious Mustafizur Rahman Khan - Saleha Khanom Scholarship on 28 March 2024. This accolade is in recognition of his exceptional academic performance, securing the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) among his peers at Dhaka University.



Md Parvez Hasan Yousuf, Research Associate at SIPG, presented a paper at the International Conference on 'Transboundary Rivers of South Asia: Fostering Regional Collaboration for Environmental Sustainability' at North South University on 8 May 2024.

#SANPA AT UN HEADQUARTERS



#SANPA #SIPG

South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA) is a network of knowledge communities in areas of Public Administration in South Asia and beyond. SIPG hosts the secretariat of the SANPA. Professor Akhlaque Haque, the President of SANPA, attended the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) members' assembly on 16 April 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.



Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, CPS Member and Assistant Professor of NSU presented her paper on the 3rd day of the conference, which took place from June 26 to 28 at Wilfrid Laurier University at Brantford, Ontario, Canada. The conference's title is the 40th Annual Qualitative Analysis Conference "Origin Stories:" Tracing the Origin of Ideas, Selves, and Communities.



The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly organized a consultation on 30 June 2024 on "Prioritization of Sectors for Mainstreaming Migration for Policy Coherence." Representatives from relevant ministries, CSOs, advocacy groups, and research organizations attended the consultation.



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