
DR. MARUFA AKTER

Assistant Professor, Department of Global Studies & Governance (GSG), School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (SLASS), Independent University, Bangladesh.
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EDUCATION

- 2014-2019 PhD in Political Science (Passed with no revisions on 20th May 2019)
Bremen International Graduate School of Social Science (BIGSSS)
University of Bremen, Germany.
Thesis Title: Women's Political Participation in Bangladesh Parliament: A Case Study Analysis of Women's Substantive Representation
Supervisors: Prof. Margrit Schreier; Dr. Mandy Boehnke; and Prof. Matthijs Bogaards
- 2012-2013 Graduate Certificate Program on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation
SIT Graduate Institute, Vermont, USA.
Specialization: Peace building and Development, Conflict Transformation across Culture and Leadership.
- 2010-2012 Master of Arts in Public Policy (with dissertation)
Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany.
Dissertation: Environmental Cooperation in South Asia: The Case Study of River Water Sharing between India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- 2005-2006 Master of Social Sciences in International Relations
Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 2001-2005 Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Relations
Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

AWARDS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022 Fellowship for Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship Programme, Beyond Borders, Scotland.
- 2020 Fellowship Grant for the research on Women and Work in South Asia: Rights and Innovations, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Dhaka
- 2017 Dissertation Completion Grant, International Center of Bremen University, Germany.
- 2017 DAAD Mirror Stipend for research stay abroad, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany.
- 2015 Bremen IDEA-OUT Grant for field research, Bremen University, Germany.
- 2014 Doctoral Fellowship (2014-2015 to 2016-2017), Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany.
- 2013 Graduate School Certificate Course Grant, SIT Graduate Institute, Vermont, USA.
- 2012 US State Department Fund sponsorship for three weeks International Conference in Nepal and Bangladesh.
- 2012 'Commitment Award 2012' First prize winner; awarded by Willy Brandt School of Public Policy and the Engagementpreis Foundation for an outstanding social project. The project dubbed "Open Sky Class for the Street Children of Dhaka City" received a first prize cash amount of 2,500 Euros for the implementation in Bangladesh.
- 2010 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship for Masters in Public Policy and Good Governance (2010-2012).
- 2005 University Merit Scholarship awarded by the University of Dhaka for the year 2004-2005 on Master's result: full tuition fees waiver.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor from September 2019- till date
Faculty of Global Studies & Governance (GSG), School of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, Independent University of Bangladesh

Senior Lecturer from July 2018- August 2019
Faculty Bangladesh Studies, BILS Residential Semester, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Teaching Assistant from 15 September 2017- April 2018
BIGSSS Methods Center, Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, Bremen, Germany
Co-organized and instructed regular seminars on research methods for post-graduate and young PhD students

Visiting Lecturer Summer and Fall Semester, 2016
Department of Political Science, University of Bremen, Germany
Organized and co-taught a Post-Graduate Seminar: International Security and Human Rights (course shared with Professor Peter Mayer, University of Bremen)

Visiting Lecturer Fall Semester, 2016
Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany
Taught an undergraduate level course titled 'Academic AND Professional Skills' (APS) for the first-year students of the Department of Political Science

CONSULTANCY AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Gender and Social Transformation Cluster, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University

Co-Principal Investigator September 2020- May 2021

- The project titles 'Access to Justice during Covid-19 for Survivors of Domestic Violence', funded by GIZ, Bangladesh

World Bank, Dhaka Office, Bangladesh

GBV Consultant January 2019- till 2020

- Worked for South Asia GBV Team and Gender Platform

South Asia Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University, Dhaka.

Research and Program Officer September 2012-August 2014

- Researched women's political empowerment and its impact on society.
- Organized conferences and regional consultations in Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and Pakistan.
- Published policy briefs and conducted relevant research for the work plan identified by sitting MPs.
- Coordinated and maintained the regional networks with women parliamentarians in South Asia.

Germanwatch, Kaiserstr, Bonn, Germany

Consultant August-September 2011

- Reviewed secondary literature for the research project titled "Advancing Climate Compatible Development for Food Security through the Implementation of National Climate Change Strategies."
- The area of research centered on finding out the existing practices of integrated adaptation and mitigation strategies in the agricultural sector, and to prepare a synergy paper on the integrated mitigation and adaptation policies of Bangladesh, Honduras and Kenya.

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Dhaka, Bangladesh, House: 136, Road: 13/A, Gulshan 1, Dhaka, Bangladesh April 2008- April 2010

Project Associate and Media Focal Person

Assigned on the project ‘Comprehensive Information Campaign to Enhance Public Awareness on Safe Migration in Bangladesh,’ funded by the Government of Greece and Counter-Trafficking Initiative (CTI) project funded by USAID. Major responsibilities:

- Developed project proposals and concept notes for securing funds from donors.
- Organized advocacy meeting, national seminars, workshops, trainings and dialogues.
- Liaised with relevant government ministries, officials, and local NGO’s.
- Built liaison with the media personnel, coordinating with them and preparing press release for media coverage.
- Developed guidelines on Ethical recruitment policies for labour migration recruitment processes.
- Supported the supervisor in monitoring project related daily activities.

Pathways for Women Empowerment, South Asia, BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University, 65 Mohakhali, Dhaka, Bangladesh **May 2007- March 2008**

Research Officer

Worked in the “Changing Narratives of Sexuality” sub-theme of the project ‘Pathways of Women’s Empowerment’. This was an International Research Project Consortium based on five research institutions located in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia and the UK, and the International Agency for women UNIFEM and financed by DFID.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Research Assistant

Sep 2005 –May 2006

Worked in the project ‘Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalization and Poverty’. The project was funded by the DFID.

RESAERCH PROJECTS (on-going)

Name of the Project: Women and Work in South Asia: Rights and Innovations, from Centre for Genocide Studies, Dhaka University and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangladesh

Title of the research paper: Women in Work: Legal Regimes in Bangladesh

Name of the Project: Globalization and Cultural Transformations among the Youth: A Study of Public and Private Universities in Bangladesh, funded by Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangladesh.

Title of the research paper: “Social Media in Understanding Cultural Transformation: Experiences of Students from Selective Private Universities in Dhaka”

Name of the Project: “Women as a Transformative Agents: Trajectories of Women Empowerment”, an IUB 2021 Sponsored Research project, whose manuscript will be deposited one year from receiving the formal notification (likely end of 2021-22 fiscal year)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Akter, M. (2021). Bangladesh: Hope in the Midst of Uncertainties. In N. Adler & S. Sackmann, The grand challenge none of us chose: Succeeding (and failing) against the global pandemic. In J. S. Osland, S. B. Reiche, B. Szkudlarek, & M. E. Mendenhall (Eds.). *Advances in Global Leadership* (Vol. 14). Bingley, UK: Emerald.

Akter, Marufa, “When Women and Men Legislators Talk About Women’s Issues, Do They Talk About The Same Things? Evidence From The Bangladesh Parliament” *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, Vol 22. Num 2. 2020.

Akter, Marufa, “Pathways to Women’s Substantive Representation: An Assessment of Enactment of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 in the Bangladesh Parliament”, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Humanities)*, 64: 1, (June 2019).

Akter, Marufa, “Conceptualizing Environmental Governance on the GBM Basin”, *Bandung: Journal of the Global South* 3: 25, (30 June 2016).

Akter, Marufa and Ashequa Irshad, “The Role of the World Bank in Combating Corruption: Achievements and Challenges”. *Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) Journal*, Vol. 34, NO. 4, (October 2013). http://www.biiss.org/biiss_journal/october2013_issue.html

Akter, Marufa and Niloy R. Biswas, “Coercive State Intervention in Conflict Resolution: The Case of Sri Lanka”, *Social Science Review (Dhaka University Studies, Part D)*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (December 2012).

Book/Book Chapter

(Accepted by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022). “Sexual/Gender Camp Violence & Institutional Response Limits: Rohingyas in Bangladesh”, in *Rohingya Camp Narratives: Tales from the ‘Lesser roads’ Traveled*. Edited volume.

(Accepted by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022) “Bangladesh Women Varsity Students Face COVID-19: Online Education & Intersectionality Insights”, in *Pandemic Intrusion, Platforming Substitution, & Classroom Consequences: Pendulating Pedagogy’ Traveled*. Edited volume by Imtiaz A. Hussain.

(Under Review) “Social Media in Understanding Cultural Transformation: Experiences of Students from Selective Private Universities in Dhaka”, (in the book *Globalization and Cultural Transformations among the Youth*, edited by Professor Amena Mohsin

Sultan, M., Akter, M. et al, “In search of justice: Untold tales of domestic violence survivors.” BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University & Rule of Law Programme, GIZ Bangladesh (March 2022).

Akter, Marufa, “Women in Work: A Review of Formal Regimes in Bangladesh”, in *Women and Work in South Asia: Rights and Innovations*, edited by Amena Mohsin et al. University Press Limited: Dhaka (February 2022)

Akter, Marufa, “Women’s Political Participation in Bangladesh Parliament: A Case Study Analysis of Women’s Substantive Representation”, A doctoral thesis Monograph published by University of Bremen, Germany (August 2019). <https://elib.suub.uni-bremen.de/edocs/00107558-1.pdf>

Akter, Marufa and Nazneen, Sohela, “Engendering Democracy: Women, Political Parties and Inclusion in Bangladesh”, *The State of Governance Bangladesh 2013: Democracy Party Politics*, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University (November 2014).

Policy Brief/Technical Briefs/Working Papers

Akter, Marufa (2022). “Securing the Bay of Bengal? Regional Security Perspective in the Era of Climate Change”, a paper presented in the International Conference “ Moving Forward in the Indo-Pacific Bangladesh’s Role in Fostering An Open, Resilient, and Interconnected Bay of Bengal and Beyond’ CoBBS, IUB.

Sultan, M., Akter, M., Pragyna, M., Pabony, N. & Tasnim, F. Access to Justice During COVID-19 for Survivors of Domestic Violence, BIGD, BRAC University (2021). available at <https://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/publications/access-to-justice-during-covid-19-for-survivors-of-domestic-violence/>

Akter, Marufa. “Slum Talk: Water Management, & Equitable & Sustainable Distribution” in Bangladesh Across 50 years: Volume 2, published by Global Studies & Governance Department, Independent University (2021).

Akter, Marufa, ‘Women in Politics in South Asia’, Technical Background Paper Issue 1, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute, University (February 2013). The paper is available on, <http://sarswp.weebly.com/womens-political-participation-in-south-asia.html>

Akter, Marufa, ‘UN Security Council Resolution 1325 And its Implementation, Technical Background Paper Issue 4, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University (February 2013). The paper is available on, <http://sarswp.weebly.com/unscr-1325.html>

Akter, Marufa, ‘Situational Analysis of Women’s Representation in National Politics of Bangladesh’, Technical Background Paper Issue 5, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University (February 2014).

Akter, Marufa, ‘Women in Bangladesh Politics: Existing Challenges and Future opportunities’, Technical Background Paper Issue 6, Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University (April 2014).

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

- 2022 “Moving Forward in the Indo-Pacific Bangladesh’s Role in Fostering An Open, Resilient, and Interconnected Bay of Bengal and Beyond’, an International Conference Organized by CoBBS, IUB
- 2021 “Women in Work: A Review of Formal Regimes in Bangladesh’, presented in a regional webinar on Women and Work in South Asia: Rights and Innovations (14-15 July 2021), organized by Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka and Centre for Genocide, DU.
- 2021 “Influence of direct and indirect cost on accessing justice for survivors of domestic violence: Evidence from Bangladesh”, presented in an international conference titled 29TH IAFFE Annual Conference, June 21 to 25 2021, Ecuador.
- 2020 ‘Dealing with the Pandemic: Bangladesh’, presented in a panel title Dealing with the Pandemic: Learning across Nations from Culturally Informed Leadership in European International Business Academy Conference, December 11, Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
- 2020 “Glocalization of Women’s Movement: Making Differences in Political Representation of Women in Bangladesh”, presented in an international conference titled “Revisiting International Relations: Critical Reflections on 100 years (1919-2019), January 20, 2020, organized by the department of International Relations, Dhaka University, Bangladesh.
- 2019 “Water Management and Hidden Gender Cost: The Case of Dhaka”, presented in an international conference titled ‘New Megacity: for whom?, November 2019, organized by Global Studies and Governance (GSG) Program, Independent University, Bangladesh.
- 2019 ‘Pathways to Women’s Substantive Representation: learning from Gender Equity Legislation in the Bangladesh Parliament’, presented in a panel titled *Gender, Power and Politics: Challenges in Bangladesh* in Quadrangulated Quandary, 4 July 2019, Independent University of Bangladesh.

- 2017 ‘Women in Bangladesh Parliament: Power, Politics and Substantive Representation’, presented in a panel titled *Unexplored Aspects of Women’s Substantive Representation: Considering New Settings, Actors, Institutions and Interventions* in 5th European Conference on Politics and Gender, 8-10 June, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 2016 ‘Representation of Women in Bangladesh Parliament- Does the Presence of Women Reflect their Substantive Representation?’, presented in a panel titled *Explaining the Representation of Women and Minorities in Parliament* in 10th ECPR General Conference, from 7-10 September, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2016 Oxford Spring School Course in Advanced Research Methods, from 11 – 15 April, organized by University of Oxford, UK.
- 2015 ‘Women’s Substantive Representation at the Parliament of Bangladesh’, presented PhD project in *Contested Narratives: International Workshop with PhD Course*, from 23-24 April, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2013 Women Delegate from Bangladesh in *Reconstructing Societies in the Wake of Conflict: Transitional Justice and Economic Development*, at the Institute of the Women in Public Service Project (WPSP), a two-week program of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. The program is co-hosted by Mount Holyoke, Simmons, and Smith colleges, from May 25 to June 6, 2014 in South Hadley, Boston, and Northampton, Massachusetts in the Northeast of the United States.
- 2012 *CONTACT South Asia Education and Peace Building Program for Emerging Leaders*. Organized by SIT Graduate Institute, USA, from 1-16 December.
Course Instructor: Tatsushi Arai, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Peace Building and Conflict Transformation, SIT Graduate Institute, USA.
- 2007 *Training Course on Research Methodology for Social Science Research*, from June 30- July 06, organized by BRAC University.
Course Director: Professor Naila Kabeer (Institute of Development Studies, UK).

VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

Member of Career Development Team BIGSSS, from 2014-2016.

Responsible for organizing several workshops, lecture sessions for the PhD Fellows, at University of Bremen.

General Member and Activist of EKMATTRA, A young people’s initiative to work for the underprivileged children of Bangladesh (www.ekmattra.org)

RESEARCH SKILLS

- **Statistical Tools**-NVivo (Advanced) • MAXQDA (data analysis tool) • SPSS (Basic)

REFEREES

Prof. Dr. Margrit Schreier

Professor of Empirical Methods in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Psychology & Methods

University of Bremen and Jacobs University

Campus Ring 1, Bremen, Germany

Email: m.schreier@jacobs-university.de

Professor Dr. Imtiaz A. Hussain

Professor and Head
Global Studies & Governance (GSG) Program
Independent University, Bangladesh

Dr. Paula Green

Founder of Founder of the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding
And
Program Director of CONTACT
SIT Graduate Institute
Vermont, Boston
Email: paula@karunacenter.org



Marufa Akter
As of June 2021