

JULIEN LEVESQUE

Head Researcher, Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH), New Delhi
Associated post-doc researcher, Centre for South Asian Studies (CEIAS), EHESS, Paris

2, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi 110011 India
julien.levesque@csch-delhi.com // +91 98215 51014 // +33 6 83 25 06 69

Political sociologist

Main research interest: political sociology of Islam and Muslims in South Asia

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Head Researcher, Politics and Society Division // CSH, New Delhi 2017-

Ongoing research projects:

- **Political sociology of Muslim elites in South Asia**
 - The social and political role of a Muslim elite, the *sayyids*, in South Asia: caste, religious custodians or political representatives?
 - Prosopography of Muslim Leadership in India (with Laurence Gautier, Jindal G. University)
- **Intermediary Actors of Politics in India**, coordinated with Jean-Thomas Martelli (CSH), funded by Fonds d'Alembert
- Member of the project **CHALLINEQ (Challenging Inequalities: An Indo-European Perspective)**, coordinated by Nicolas Gravel (CSH & Aix-Marseille U.), funded by ANR EQUIP
- Member of the project **Muslim Discourses Surrounding the Prophet Muhammad's Kinfolk**, coordinated by Kazuo Morimoto (Tokyo U.), funded by JSPS

Lecturer & Researcher (ATER), South and East Asia // EHESS, Paris 2015-2017

Courses taught: multidisciplinary course on Asia (grad. core course); bi-weekly research seminar on elites in South-East Asia (grad. seminar)

Adjunct // INALCO, Paris Spring 2015

Courses taught: "Islam in South Asia" (1st yr undergrad.), "Sociology of Pakistan" (adv. undergrad.)

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PhD in Political Science // EHESS, Paris 2010-2016

Centre for South Asian Studies (CEIAS)

Doctoral dissertation: *Being Sindhi in Pakistan: nationalism, identity discourse and political mobilization (1930-2016)*

Second dissertation prize 2018 of the [Institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslims World](#) (IISMM, EHESS, Paris)

Dual Master in International Affairs // Columbia University (SIPA) & Sciences Po 2008-2010

Concentrations: International Security Policy; South Asia

ADMINISTRATION

Editorial responsibilities

- Member, editorial committee, peer-reviewed journal *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* (<http://samaj.eu>) 2012-
- Occasional reviewer for various journals (*Journal of Asian Studies*, *Social Compass*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Interventions*)

Event organizing

- Workshop *From Caste Patriotism to Caste Activism: Caste Associations as Political Intermediaries in India*, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi, co-organizer with S. Jodhka (JNU) and J.-T. Martelli (CSH) 3-4 Oct. 2019
- Panel *The sayyids in South Asia: the social and political role of a Muslim elite*, European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, co-convener with Laurence Gautier (JGU) 24-27 July 2018
- Young researchers workshop *Negotiating Technologies*, Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA), Trinity College, University of Cambridge, co-organizer 14-15 Oct. 2016
- International workshop *The Vernacularization of Muslim and Hindu Traditions: The Case of Sindhiyyat*, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 31 May & 1st June 2016
- International workshop *Islam and Regional Cultures in Pakistan*, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 6 June 2014
- Doctoral workshop, CEIAS-EHESS, Paris, co-organizer 26 June 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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| European Association of South Asian Studies (EASAS) | 2017 |
| Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) | 2016 |
| International Political Science Association (IPSA) | 2016 |
| Association française de science politique (AFSP) | 2013 |
| Centre for Social Sciences Karachi (CSSK) | 2011 |

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Edited volumes and special issues

- (forthcoming) Laurence Gautier & Julien Levesque (eds), special issue "Historicizing Sayyid-ness: Social Status and Muslim Identity in South Asia", *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 2020
- Michel Boivin, Matthew Cook and Julien Levesque (eds.), *Discovering Sindh's Past : Selections from the Journal of the Sindh Historical Society, 1934-1948*, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2017, ISBN : [9780199407804](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780199407804) 2017

Articles and chapters

- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, « Sindhology and the Definition of Sindhi Identity: Folklorization, Historiography, and Cultural Policy in Sindh, Pakistan », in Mustafa Khan & Edward Simpson (eds), *The Familiar Stranger: Disconnections in the Southern Pakistan-India Borderlands*, New Delhi : Oxford University Press 2020
- (forthcoming) Laurence Gautier & Julien Levesque (eds), "Introduction. Historicizing Sayyid-ness: Social Status and Muslim Identity in South Asia", *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 2020
- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, « Caste among Muslims in North India and Pakistan », in Jules Naudet & Surinder S. Jodhka (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Caste*, New Delhi : Oxford University Press 2020
- (forthcoming) Julien Levesque, "From Student Organizations to Ethnic Parties: the consolidation of Sindhi nationalism during One Unit", in Jürgen Schaflechner & Christina Österheld (eds.), *Pakistan: Alternative Imaginings of the Nation-State*, Karachi: Oxford University Press 2019
- Julien Levesque, "'Sindhis are Sufi by nature": Sufism as a marker of identity in Sindh", in Deepra Dandekar & Torsten Tschacher (eds), *Islam, Sufism and Everyday Politics of Belonging in South Asia*, London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 212-227, ISBN: [9781138910683](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781138910683) 2016

- Julien Levesque & Camille Bui, “Umar Marvi and the Representation of Sindh: Cinema and Modernity in the Margins”, *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies*, vol. 5, n°2, July 2014, pp. 119-128, DOI: [10.1177/0974927614547990](https://doi.org/10.1177/0974927614547990) 2014
 - (forthcoming) reprinted in Ali Khan & Ali Nobil Ahmad (eds), *Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan : Beyond Life and Death*, Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2019
- Julien Levesque & Mirza Zulfiqur Rahman, “Tension in the Rolling Hills: Burmese Population and Border Trade in Mizoram”, *IPCS Research Paper n°14*, New Delhi, April 2008 2008
 - Reprinted in a modified version in Dilip Gogoi (ed.), *Beyond Borders: Look-East Policy and Northeast India*, Guwahati/Delhi: DVS Publishers, 2010, pp. 189-209, ISBN: [9788186307366](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9788186307366)
 - Reprinted D. Suba Chandran, Harnit Kaur Kang, Tuli Sinha (eds), *An Alternative Strategy for Southeast Asia: Looking Through India’s Northeast*, New Delhi : Samskriti, 2011, ISBN : [9788187374688](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9788187374688)

Book reviews and review essays

- Review of: Venkat Dhulipala, *Creating a New Medina* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), *La Vie des Idées*, 23 Oct. 2017 2017
 - <http://www.laviedesidees.fr/L-idee-de-Pakistan.html>
- Review of: Laurent Gayer, *Karachi. Ordered Disorder and the Struggle for the City* (Hurst, 2014), *Books & Ideas*, 12 March 2015 2015
 - <http://www.booksandideas.net/Karachi-A-History-of-Violence.html>
- Review of: Alix Philippon, *Soufisme et politique au Pakistan: le mouvement barelwi à l'heure de la “guerre contre le terrorisme”* (Karthala, 2010), *South Asia Research*, vol. 35, n°1, Feb. 2015, pp. 140-142, DOI: [10.1177/0262728014561078](https://doi.org/10.1177/0262728014561078)
- Review essay: “Managing Diversity in Pakistan: Nationalism, Ethnic Politics and Cultural Resistance”, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, Book Reviews, 11 June 2013, <http://samaj.eu/3551> 2013

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- « Muslim Personal Law, Muslim leadership, and social stratification in India », conference *Making sense of Muslim Personal Laws in Post-independent India*, Institute for Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, 20-21 September 2019 2019
- « Understanding Muslim Representation: Preliminary results of a prosopographical study of Muslim elites in India » (co-presenter), workshop on *Muslim Middle Class and Globalisation*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 25-26 March 2019
- « “Anxious masculinities” and women activists in Sindhi nationalist and left politics », international conference *The Familiar Stranger: Exploring Sindh-Gujarat: (Dis)connections*, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 18-19 January 2019
- “Social Dominance, Religious Leadership and Power Networks: A Prosopographical Study of Sayyids in India” (co-presenter), panel *The Sayyids in South Asia: the social and political role of a Muslim elite*, European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, 25 July 2018 2018
- “Nationalism as a performative discourse”, panel *The State of Nationalism*, convened by Eric Woods, 24th Congress of the International Political Science Association (AISP/IPSA), Poznan, 23-28 July 2016 2016
- “Engaging Sindhiyyat from abroad: the case of the World Sindhi Congress”, international workshop *Comparing the Vernacular in the Muslim and Hindu Traditions: The Case of Sindhiyyat*, EHESS, Paris, 1st June 2016
- “G. M. Sayed's personae: politician, sayed, dynast and founding father”, international workshop *Pakistan. Parallel Narratives of the Nation-State*, South Asia Institute, Universität Heidelberg, 1-3 December 2014 2014

- ““Sindhis are Sufi by nature”: Sufism as a marker of identity in Sindh”, international workshop *Sufi Islam and the Politics of Belonging in South Asia*, Universität Heidelberg, 6 November 2014
- “Ethnicized Sufism in Sindh : whose identity marker ?”, international workshop *Islam and Regional Cultures in Pakistan*, EHESS, Paris, 6 June 2014
- “The strength of the dynastic model in Pakistan: a study of three political parties of Sindh”, panel on *Heredity and political competition: the paradox of family transmission of political power in competitive political systems*, 2013 Biannual Congress of the French Association of Political Science, Paris, 11 July 2013 2013
- “Claiming Sufism as a marker of ethnicity: identity politics and religion in Sindh”, workshop on *Pilgrims and Politics in Pakistan: Sufism in an Age of Transition*, Institute for Advanced Studies, Paris, 21 May 2013
- “Sindhi nationalism in Pakistan: failure of a political mobilization, success of an identity”, talk at the working group *Gujarati and Sindhi Studies: Societies, Languages and Cultures*, Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient, Paris, 9 January 2013
- “Restoring the dignity of a non-martial race: masculinity and femininity in Sindhi nationalism, from symbols to individual trajectories”, young scholars workshop on *Gender, Mobilization and Social Dynamics in South Asia*, organized by Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes (AJEI), Paris, 8 November 2012 2012
- “Being Sindhi in Pakistan : competing identity discourses, folklorization and political culture”, *Sixth European PhD Workshop on South Asia*, Lund University, Sweden, 17-19 September 2012

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Fonds d’Alembert, for the project *Intermediary Actors of Politics in India*, managed with Jean-Thomas Martelli 2018
- Dissertation completion award, Près Hésam 2014
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2013
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2012
- CEIAS field research doctoral grant 2011
- Field research grant, Pierre Ledoux – Jeunesse Internationale foundation 2011

LANGUAGES & OTHER SKILLS

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| Languages | French (native), English (fluent), Hindi/Urdu (advanced), German (intermediate), Sindhi (basics) |
| Computer | Windows/MacOS/Linux, MS Office/LibreOffice, Adobe Suite & open-source equivalents, MaxQDA, Pajek |