



## KPS MENON CHAIR FOR DIPLOMATIC STUDIES



School of International  
Relations and Politics  
Mahatma Gandhi University

International Online Lecture Series  
In Honour of the Founding Pillars of SIRP, MGU

International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Existing and Emerging Issues

From 15 to 24 December, 2020



## **International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Existing and Emerging Issues**

In a complex and changing world order, concerns about national and international security, world peace, multilateralism, regional integration, human rights, environment and sustainable development assume increased significance. We need new approaches, ideas, perspectives, policies and thoughts to keep pace with the dynamism of international systems and power equations. The discussion of existing and emerging issues demands particular attention. Certain issues have received necessary attention at the media and policy levels. These also need to be subjected to careful academic analysis and critical evaluation to make connections and draw logical inferences and conclusions. In this context, the KPS Menon Chair for Diplomatic Studies, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India is organising an International Online Lecture Series on the theme “International Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Existing and Emerging Issues”. The series of talks, scheduled to be held between 15 and 24 December 2020, will discuss and debate existing and emerging issues in contemporary international relations from multi-theoretical perspectives. The papers of the Online Lecture Series will be published in a book in honour of the founding pillars of SIRP, who worked tirelessly and contributed intellectually to establish the School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University as a pioneering institute of Politics and International Relations.

### **Specific issues/ sub-themes include the following, but are not limited to:**

1. Armed Conflicts and Terrorism
2. Climate Change, Political Ecology and Global Environmental Governance
3. Military Intervention, New Military Alliances and the Question of Sovereignty
4. Failed States and the Question of Regional Stability
5. Non-Traditional Security - Energy Security, Cyber Security, Human Security
6. Human Rights Violations and the Role of Humanitarian Agencies
7. Impact of Globalisation and Neoliberalism
8. Increased Budget Allocations for Defence
9. India in a Changing World Order and Troubled Relationship with Neighbours
10. Maritime Security and the Issue of Piracy
11. Media and Civil Society Movements in Global Politics
12. Cross Border Migration and Diaspora
13. Gender Issues and Child Rights
14. Outer space and International Security
15. Political Crisis in West Asia and Poverty in Africa
16. Race, Identity, Ethnic Nationalism and Demand for New States
17. Refugee Crisis, Statelessness and Xenophobia
18. Relevance of International law and Organisations
19. Supranationalism in IR and Superpower Rivalry
20. Urbanisation and Spatial Reconfigurations

## **School Of International Relations and Politics (SIRP)**

The School of International Relations and Politics (SIRP) was established as one of the founding academic departments of the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India on 2 October 1983. It is one of the first and few institutions in the country to offer instruction and engage in research in areas like politics, international relations, human rights as well as public policy and governance. The teaching-learning process at SIRP is shaped by a view of higher education as a process of developing a critical faculty on questions of polity, culture, economy and international society so that the students will become involved learners. The School has also kept in perspective the developments that have taken place in the global political, economic, and strategic landscape.

The School places great emphasis on research in the frontier areas of political science, international relations and human rights. The research culture in the School promotes scholastic engagements in an interdisciplinary matrix. The School keeps in perspective the policy implications of social research and encourages such themes as are relevant to society at large. The priority areas are Indian diaspora studies, intellectual property rights, West Asian studies, cross-national communication in South Asia, trade, development and governance, strategic and security studies. It enjoys considerable freedom in carrying on independent research. Eminent scholars and diplomats regularly visit the School and offer special lectures on critical themes of international relations. The School publishes two international peer-reviewed academic journals: Indian Journal of Politics and International Relations and South Asian Journal of Diplomacy.

## **About the K.P.S. Menon Chair for Diplomatic Studies**

The School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam is privileged to have a Chair in honour of, and to perpetuate the memory of the late K.P.S. Menon Sr, a highly esteemed diplomat-extraordinary of this country. The Chair is a befitting tribute to this legendary diplomat whose contributions to the making of India's foreign policy are profound and enduring. The institution of the Chair in Mahatma Gandhi University has special significance. It was in Kottayam that the late K.P.S. Menon was born and had his early schooling. More importantly, it was in the centennial year of the late K.P.S. Menon (1998) that the School of International Relations and Politics of Mahatma Gandhi University proposed the plan of the Chair and the Academic Council approved it.



### **About the Founding Pillars and Alumni of SIRP**

The faculty members, especially the earliest of them, have contributed in various ways to establish the School and make it one of the premier institutes in India offering MA, MPhil and PhD in Politics, International Relations, Human Rights as well as Public Policy and Governance. Their publications in national and international journals have been held in high esteem in the academic realm and commented upon positively in policy-making circles. Under their guidance the School has developed very effective, transparent and rigorous mechanisms with the participation of teachers to assess the cognitive ability of students and research scholars as well as to ascertain the level of knowledge, intelligence and articulation they have acquired over a period of time. Thus, the founding pillars of SIRP were instrumental in producing quality education, good citizenship, and good statesmanship. They taught many generations to critically understand, analyse and evaluate different aspects of the social sciences especially those related to politics and international relations.

### **Alumni**

The former students of the SIRP can be found in all walks of life, engaged in a variety of professions from teaching to journalism and in NGOs and Embassies. Hundreds of alumni spread across different continents of the world call the SIRP their “second home.” This is no exaggeration because the philosophy of the School over the years has been to assist in the qualitative transformation of the student, by providing individual care and attention. This concern for those who have crossed the portals of the institution persists long after they have left. We maintain a sustained interest in their lives and careers. Former students will testify to the fact that the School played a defining role in their lives and that it made a huge difference. This is the best testimony that we have received.



Dr. C.V. Cheriyan



Dr. G.P. Ramachandra



Dr. K. N. Harilal



Dr. Haresamudram Srikanth



Dr. Raju K. Thadikkaran



Dr. K.M. Seethi



Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan



Dr. A.M. Thomas

**Dr. C.V. Cheriyan** was a specialist in studies on the United States and East Asian affairs. He headed the School from its establishment to September 1989.

**Dr. G.P. Ramachandra** joined the School in January 1988. An expert on South East Asia and political philosophy, he was Professor and Director and retired in March 2007.

**Dr. K. N. Harilal**, an economist, was on the faculty for almost a decade. He is currently Professor in the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, and Member, Kerala State Planning Board, Government of Kerala.

**Dr. Haresamudram Srikanth**, a specialist in political theory as well as indigenous peoples, was on the faculty for a few years. Currently, he is Professor of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

**Dr. Raju K. Thadikkaran** specialises in Russian and Chinese Studies as well as on IPR and technology transfer, joined the School in December 1984. He also officiated as the Chairman, Centre for IPR Studies, Honorary Director, Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies and Honorary Director, University Centre for International Cooperation. He was also Director of the School for several years and retired in March 2016.

**Dr. K. M. Seethi**, an expert on IR Theory and South Asian Studies, joined the School in December 1984. He is currently the Director, Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension, MG University. Dr Seethi served as the Director of the School for several years as well as Dean of Social Sciences, MG University. He also officiated as the Coordinator, K.P.S. Menon Chair for Diplomatic Studies and Honorary Director, KN Raj Study Centre. He retired in March 2020.

**Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan** specialises on West Asia as well as gender issues, joined the School in December 1984. He held the Directorship for some time and also officiated as the Chairman, Centre for West Asian Studies. He is currently Professor of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Dr. A.M. Thomas**, a specialist on American studies and diaspora studies, has been on the faculty since January 1985. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Member of the Syndicate of the MG University. Dr Thomas also officiated as the Chairman, Centre for Indian Diaspora Studies and Coordinator, Nelson Mandela Chair for Afro Asian Studies. He also served as the Director of the School and will retire in 2021.

## Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline: 7 December, 2020

Tentative Schedule of Lecture Series: 15- 24 December, 2020

Deadline for Full Chapter Submission: 15 February, 2021

Book Publication: 2021

## Guidelines for Contributors

- Abstract must NOT exceed 350 words, including chapter title, name(s), affiliation(s) of the author(s) and contact details.
- Abstract and full chapter must be typed in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 spacing.
- Please choose one of the thematic areas mentioned in the call for chapters that are related to the main theme of the Online Lecture Series/ book.
- The word limit of the full paper is 8000 words, including footnotes and references.
- The authors are requested to follow APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition style for citation and reference.
- To submit your abstract and full paper, please email to the Coordinator of the event and editor, Dr. Lirar Pulikkalath at [lirarmgu@gmail.com](mailto:lirarmgu@gmail.com) or [lirar@mgu.ac.in](mailto:lirar@mgu.ac.in)

## Instructions to Participants

- ▶ There will be no Registration fee
- ▶ E certificate will be provided to the participants on successful completion of the programme
- ▶ For any assistance or queries, contact:

### **Dr. Lirar Pulikkalath (Organising Secretary)**

Coordinator, KPS Menon Chair for Diplomatic Studies & Assistant Professor

School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India

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## Usefull Links

To register, click here

**Registration** 

For further communication,  
Join any one WhatsApp Group



Group 1



Group 2