

# Natasja Haug Rupesinghe

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## EDUCATION

### London School of Economics and Political Science, 2014- 2015

MSc in Conflict Studies, Distinction

- Comparative Conflict Analysis; Nationalist Conflict, Political Violence and Terrorism; Conflict and Peacebuilding; Managing Humanitarianism; Genocide; Qualitative Research Methods
- Dissertation: Civilian Victimisation in Sri Lanka's Uncivil War 2006-2009, Distinction, 75%

### University College London, 2009-2013

BA in European Social and Political Studies (ESPS), specialising in International Relations with French (2:1, Upper Division)

- International Relations Theory; Intrastate Conflict and Political Violence; International Development and Public Policy; International Political Economy; Human Rights and World Politics; International Organisations
- Dissertation: Why is there still violence in the 'post-conflict' Democratic Republic of Congo, despite the presence of the largest UN peacekeeping mission in the 21st century? 1st Class

### Oslo International School, International Baccalaureate, 2007-2008, 40 out of 45 points

- 2008: Oslo International School Scholarship for Gap Year, NOK 15 000
- 2008: Elected Valedictorian Speaker for High School Graduation

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

### Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo, January 2016 – current

*Research Fellow Peace, Conflict and Development Research Group*

#### Projects and Research

- 2016-2019: Junior Research Fellow (January 2016-August 2018), Research Fellow (August 2018-current): Research and project assistance to Training for Peace Programme (TfP), funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - TfP conducts applied research, provides policy support and capacity-building to the African Union (AU)
  - Thematic focus areas: peace support operations (PSOs), protection of civilians, insurgencies in Africa
  - Write policy briefs, reports, academic peer-reviewed articles
  - Organise conferences, workshops, and seminars in Oslo and internationally
- 2017: Awarded grant under the UNDP "Regional and Multi-Country Programme on Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa", to examine local drivers of violent extremism in central Mali with Morten Boås, Research Professor at NUPI.
  - Led proposal writing, conducted fieldwork in Bamako (November 2017) and co-authored UNDP policy brief
- 2018: Part of Review Team for the Independent and External Review of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections.
  - Led field research in Mali which included high-level interviews with MINUSMA, UN agencies and national actors
  - Wrote case study analysis on Mali and contributed to the final report
- 2018: Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON)
  - Assisted project coordination and support for three pilot case studies: AMISOM in Somalia (June 2018), MINUSMA in Mali (July and September 2018), MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo (July 2018)
  - Participated as NUPI representative in teams undertaking fieldwork for AMISOM and MINUSMA studies

#### Editing and Review

*Forum for Development Studies, Book Review Editor*

- February 2017-September 2018: Solicit and edit contributions of reviews in the broad areas of peace, conflict and development

### African Union Commission, Peace Support Operations Division, Policy Development Unit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2017 – November 2017

*Policy Officer (seconded through Training for Peace Programme)*

- Developed, reviewed and standardised guidance documents (including policies, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures etc.) for AU Peace Support Operations (AU PSOs), including for example producing Guidelines on conducting Lessons Learned Exercises in AU PSOs
- Coordinated the development of the new African Union Peace Support Operations Doctrine, which included organising consultations with divisions and departments within the AU Commission and external stakeholders
- Supported the AU Task Force Team to operationalise the AU framework on Compliance to Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Conduct and Discipline for AU PSOs

- Wrote analytical documents including concept and position papers, such as on ‘Ad-Hoc Security Initiatives’ in Africa and on civilian personnel in AU PSOs that operate in ‘high-intensity’ contexts
- Organised international conferences in Addis Ababa
- Ad-hoc tasks such as reporting, peer-review, administration, and communication

### **Human Rights Watch, London, January 2014-April 2014**

#### *Development and Outreach Intern*

- Assisted the organisation of ‘Voices for Justice, Oslo Annual Dinner 2014’ which included guest prospect research, use of Raiser’s Edge software, pre-and post-event outreach, and recruitment of volunteers

### **Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) Oslo, October-November 2013**

#### *Research Assistant (part-time)*

- Research assistance on a project about conditions for ‘Women’s inclusive and effective political participation in South Asia’ and provided input for development of fieldwork survey

### **Six Oranges, London, August 2012**

#### *Research Intern*

- Created a research database for a documentary about human trafficking in southern Libya
- Conducted and transcribed interviews, translated from French to English, wrote summaries of academic reports and articles

### **Relief International, Sri Lanka, April-June 2009**

#### *Research and External Relations Intern*

- Represented RI at INGO emergency response planning meetings, reported directly to Country Director during the IDP crisis
- Researched for project proposals to the UN/UNHCR/UNICEF, Save the Children etc.
- Devised presentations for the Country Director

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Peer-reviewed journals**

- Rupesinghe, N. (2018) ‘The Joint Force of the G5 Sahel: An Appropriate Response to Combat Terrorism?’ *Conflict Trends*, 2, pp.11-18. Available at: <http://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/the-joint-force-of-the-g5-sahel/>
- Rupesinghe, N. (2016) ‘Strengthening Community Engagement in United Nations Peace Operations: Opportunities and Challenges’. *Conflict Trends*, 3, pp.21-26. Available at: <http://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/strengthening-community-engagement-united-nations-peace-operations/>

### **Book Chapters**

- Rupesinghe, N., Stamnes, E and Karlsrud, J. (Forthcoming 2018) ‘Women, Peace, Security and Female Peacekeeping Personnel’ in *Oxford Handbook on Women, Peace and Security*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Karlsrud, J., Rupesinghe N and Tull, D. (Forthcoming 2018) ‘Tangled up in Glue: Multilateral Crisis Response in Mali,’ in Karlsrud, J. and Reykers, Y. (eds.) *Rapid Response Mechanisms: High Investments, Low Dividends?* Abingdon, Oxford: Routledge.
- Rupesinghe, N. (2018) ‘Operationalising Protection in Peace Enforcement Operations: The Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell in the African Union Mission to Somalia’ in *Annual Review of African Union Peace Support Operations*, Koffee Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, KAIPTC: Accra, pp.101-112.

### **Policy Briefs**

- Rupesinghe, N and Bøås, M. (Forthcoming 2018) ‘Local Drivers of Violent Extremism in Central Mali,’ UNDP Policy Brief. Addis Ababa: UNDP.
- Rupesinghe, N (Forthcoming 2018) ‘The Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell: an emerging best practice for AU Peace Support Operations?’ NUPI Policy Brief (XX). NUPI: Oslo.
- Rupesinghe, N (2016), ‘How can peacekeepers strengthen their engagement with local communities? Opportunities and challenges in the field,’ NUPI Policy Brief (30). NUPI: Oslo. Available at: <http://www.nupi.no/en/Publications/CRISIn-Pub/How-can-peacekeepers-strengthen-their-engagement-with-local-communities-Opportunities-and-challenges-in-the-field>

### **Conference Papers**

- Bøås, M. Rupesinghe N. (2018), ‘Masters of the land – the Katiba Macina, an evolving insurgency in Central Mali? Paper presented by co-author in 12th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, Prague, Czech Republic, 12-15 September 2018.
- Rupesinghe, N. (April 2018), ‘Mitigating Harm to Civilians in Stabilisation Operations,’ paper presented at International Studies Association, San Francisco, USA, 4-7 April 2018.
- Rupesinghe N. and Okeke, J. (April 2018), ‘Protecting Civilians while fighting terrorism: the double-edged sword dilemma in African Stabilisation Operations,’ paper presented at International Studies Association, San Francisco, USA, 4-7 April 2018.
- Rupesinghe, N. (2017), ‘AU Peace Operations and the Protection of Civilians: norm localisation in the African Union Mission in Somalia,’ paper selected for Junior Symposium Panel at International Studies Association, Baltimore, USA, 22-26 February 2017.

- Rupesinghe, N. (2016), 'The Securitisation of Mali and the militarisation of peace operations,' paper presented at International Studies Association Regional Conference 'May You Live in Interesting Times', Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, 4-6 November 2016.
- Rupesinghe, N. (2016), 'Community Engagement: Softening the Hard Edge of Stabilisation,' paper presented at Academic Council on the United Nations System, New York, USA, 14-16 June 2016.

#### **EVENTS AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED**

- Annual Meeting of the Civilian Strategic Support Group (CSSG), 'Civilians in AU Peace Support Operations: Operating in High-Intensity Contexts', 19-20 September 2017, Addis Ababa. The CSSG is a platform that provides advice to the PSOD on how to enhance the civilian component in PSOs
- 'The Syria Conflict: Great Power Politics and Humanitarian Consequences', 9 January 2017, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo, Norway. Included two expert panels with keynote from the Special Advisor to the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria
- 'Workshop on funding options for African-led peace support operations' and 'High-Level Seminar on the Operationalisation of the AU Peace Fund', 25-26 May 2016, New York, USA
- 'Workshop on Lessons Learned Methodologies for African Union Peace Support Operations', 10-11 February 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#### **SPEAKING AND CHAIRING ROLES**

- Chair: panel on 'Conflict Prevention in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and 'Protecting civilians in armed conflict: mapping practices on the ground', at ISA, San Francisco, 4-8 April 2018

#### **COURSES**

- Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oslo, August 22-26, 2016, includes Basic First Aid course
- Gender, Peace and Security, Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Oslo, 21-23 November 2016

#### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

##### **LSE Amnesty International Society, 2014-2015**

###### *Contributor*

- Article entitled 'Will Sri Lanka turn over a new leaf for Human Rights?' in the LSE Amnesty Journal

##### **New Turn Magazine at University College London, 2012-2013**

###### *Politics Editor*

- Managed, coordinated and advised a team of writers
- Edited articles, selected photos, and found high-profile guest contributors
- Contributed article on 'Myths, Narratives and Realities of Rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo'

##### **InSight Documentary Master class Course, 2011**

- Filmed, produced and edited 10-minute documentary about the role of street artists in east London

#### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Raiser's Edge (fundraising software and donor management database)
- Final Cut: experience in editing
- Social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

#### **LANGUAGES**

- **English** – Spoken: Mother Tongue; written: Mother Tongue
- **French** – Research Proficiency; spoken: near to fluent; written: good
- **Norwegian** – Spoken: Mother Tongue; written: good