October 2026

SHYAMI NILUSHA JAYAWICKRAMA

Ph.D. Student in Political Science, University of North Texas
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

U.S. presidency and presidential agenda-setting; Interest groups; American political institutions; Policy feedback; Political parties and polarization; Public opinion and political behavior; Voting behavior; Gender and racial politics; Comparative politics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science (in progress) 2024–Present
University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, USA
Focus: the presidency, presidential agenda-setting, policy feedback, voting behavior, and American government.

M.A. in International Relations February 2019–August 2021
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Dissertation: "Donald Trump's Foreign Policy toward the Middle East."

Postgraduate Diploma in Diplomacy and World Affairs May 2016–January 2017
Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Diploma in Diplomacy and World Affairs March 2015–April 2016
Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka

B.Sc. (Hons) in Management of Information Technology September 2012–September 2015
University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Higher National Diploma in Computing (Software Development) March 2010 – May 2012
IDM Affiliated University College (Sri Lanka)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Most Outstanding Research Assistant 2024–2025
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas

C. Neal and Carol Tate Fund Scholarship 2024–2025
For Outstanding Overall Performance in Political Science, University of North Texas

Charldean Newell Tuition Scholarship 2025–2026
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Fall 2024–Present
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas | Supervisor: Dr. Natasha Altema McNeely

- Collaborate on a research project examining gender and urban politics.
- Conduct qualitative text analysis in NVivo, coding and comparing themes of identity, policy priorities, and rhetoric in State of the City addresses delivered by women mayors.
- Conduct quantitative data analysis and create data visualizations in R.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant 2024–Present
PSCI 2306: U.S. and Texas Constitutions and Institutions, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
PSCI 2305: U.S. Political Behavior and Policy, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

- Support undergraduate political science instruction and course activities.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"American Foreign Policy under the Trump Administration: Has the United States Changed Its Role?"
INCOIRe Conference, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka 2022

"American Foreign Policy toward NATO under the Trump Administration."
INCOIRe Conference, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka 2023

METHODS AND SKILLS

Quantitative: statistical analysis, machine learning, and data visualization in R

Qualitative: qualitative text analysis in NVivo

Research: research design and literature review; APSA citation style

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Social Secretary February 2021–September 2023
Bangladesh High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Prepared political reports and coordinated official meetings between the High Commissioner and representatives of government agencies and local and international organizations.

Consular Affairs Specialist February 2019–September 2020
Embassy of Afghanistan, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- Supported administrative and consular operations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Political Science Graduate Student Association, University of North Texas

LANGUAGES

English; German; Sinhala (native)

REFERENCES

Dr. Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas

Dr. Natasha Altema McNeely
Department of Political Science, University of North Texas