

DONA ROY
PHD CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC
EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION: MAY 2009

International Relations: Conflict and peace processes, human rights and state repression, rivalry behaviour among states.

International Political Economy: Economic liberalization, sanctions, development, financial relations, globalization

Other: Comparative courts and legal institutions

Research Methods Training: Linear regression, maximum likelihood estimation, longitudinal data analysis (time series, panel data, duration models), simultaneous equations.

Dona Roy is a PhD candidate in political science at the University of South Carolina. In 2003 she received her BA, Magna Cum Laude, in politics from Converse College and in 2001 she received her BA, with distinction, in History from the Womens Christian College, Chennai, India. She has served as both a research and teaching assistant at the Department of political science and also helped in organizing the 41st Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society. She has presented papers at numerous regional and national level conferences, and also served as Chair and Discussant on panels. She has also co-authored an article with Prof. Donald Songer titled, Does the Attitudinal Model Explain Unanimous Decisions? which is currently under review for publication. She has been a recipient of travel awards from conferences and also the Chairs Award for Excellence in Graduate Study from the University of South Carolina for the year 2005-2006.

Ms. Roy's research interests bridge the sub-fields of human rights, conflict and international political economy. She is interested in exploring the nexus between international and domestic politics. To do so, in her doctoral dissertation, she is studying the impact of economic participation and liberalization policies on states repressive tendencies. This dissertation tests whether the assumption that economic liberalization and political liberalization reinforce each other holds true and under what conditions. Economic liberalization has been promoted as the panacea to most of the worlds problems. However, increased integration into the international system can lead to a variety of consequences. Despite the liberal normative bias against repression and for the preservation of the rights of the individuals, some states repress their citizens and some do not. She asks the question, how does economic liberalization influence the rights of the citizens? In her conceptualization of economic liberalization, she refers to both the normative superstructure that has emerged in the post Cold War period and the state level policies made by governments to integrate into the economic system. She probes if there is any reason to believe that the degree of civil and political liberties available to the citizens may also have an impact on the economic reforms and the general trend of liberalization?

In this dissertation, Ms. Roy acknowledges that economic liberalization is a complicated and multifaceted process that has various components such as trade openness, financial openness, deregulation of labour markets and openness in capital accounts transactions. Furthermore, she theorizes about how each of these components has a separate and distinct impact on domestic political policies. She also makes a distinction between economic liberalization taking place as

a result of a governments willingness to accept the liberal normative values and liberalization that occurs due external coercion such as when governments accept structural adjustment loans from the IMF or the World Bank.

Previous empirical literature dealing with human rights predominantly focuses on examining the combination of domestic attributes that increase the probability of human violations. To the extent that external actors have been considered, it is when they have posed a direct threat in initiating or affecting violence within the state. In this dissertation, she studies human rights as government responses to a variety of stimuli. Following the framework of political survival, she assumes that governments repress when it is politically beneficial to them. Therefore, by focussing on economic policies and their domestic consequences, she specifies the conditions when human rights violations are more likely, thus bringing the research closer to finding causal pathways that lead to repressive policies.

Ms. Roy uses a combination of different modeling procedures to tease out the relationships between economic processes and repressive policies of state governments. Since she theorizes about non-recursive relationships, simultaneous equations are used extensively along with bivariate probit models, path analysis and latent variable models. She also takes into account that some of the variables may be intervening variables interacting with the institutional variables. Measurement error is also taken into consideration.

Ms. Roy's teaching responsibilities at the University of South Carolina have included undergraduate courses on International Relations theory and U.S. Foreign Policy. She has also team taught a course on International Political Economy and served as a teaching assistant on a variety of courses such as Introduction to International Relations, Gender and Politics, Issues in Global Security and Theories of War. In keeping with the spirit of a liberal arts education, she is strongly committed to engaging students in the classroom to develop their analytical skills and their capacity to think independently.