

## **Matias Castrén**

PhD candidate

Heidelberg University

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### **EDUCATION**

**PhD in Political Science** Oct 2021 –  
Heidelberg University – South Asia Institute

- Dissertation: State Agency and Structural Conflict – India in the Age of Transnational Capitalism

**M.A. in Political Science** Sep 2017 – June 2019  
Malmö University, Sweden

- Program: Political Science: Global Politics (Overall: 4/5)
- Master's Thesis: Construction of legitimacy through contestation of norms and ideas - Legitimacy of the European Central Bank's crisis governance (grade: Very Good/B)

**BSc. in Social Science** Sep 2013 – May 2016  
University of Helsinki, Finland

- Major: Political History (Overall: 4/5)  
Bachelor thesis: Finnish Foreign Policy during the Cold War (Grade: 4/5)
- Minors: Middle Eastern studies & Economics

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **International Relations and South Asia: Tutorial**

- Heidelberg University, South Asia Institute, Department of Political Science
- Summer semester 2024

#### **Qualitative Research Methods in Political Science: Tutorial**

- Heidelberg University, South Asia Institute, Department of Political Science
- Winter semester 2023-24

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Member** April 2023 -  
Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities & Social Sciences  
Heidelberg University – Heidelberg, Germany

- Taking part on an interdisciplinary core programme
- Organising seminars, lectures, workshops, and conferences
- Participating and presenting on the HGGG colloquium

**Research Assistant** Sep 2018 – Jan 2019  
Malmö University – Malmö, Sweden

- Project: Precision Health and Everyday Democracy
- Conducting literature review for the research project

## **ORGANIZED CONFERENCES**

### **ECSAS 2025**

Heidelberg University

- Member of the Academic Committee
- Reviewing Panel Proposals

### **The Conference on the Future of Indian Democracy (CFID) 28-29 June 2024**

Heidelberg University, South Asia Institute

- Participant of the organising committee
- Looking after the logistic operations during the conference

### **HGGS Summer Forum 14 June 2024**

Heidelberg University, Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities & Social Sciences

- Participant of the organising committee
- Editing and designing a conference Zine
- Hosting the Forum

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

Antti & Jenny Wihuri Foundation Research Grant 2023 – PhD studies 2023-24

Antti & Jenny Wihuri Foundation Research Grant 2022 – PhD studies 2022-23

Antti & Jenny Wihuri Foundation Research Grant 2021 – PhD studies 2021-22

Heidocs Travel Grant 2024 – Conference trip 2024

Heidocs Travel Grant 2024 – Fieldwork 2024

Heidocs Travel Grant 2023 – Conference trip 2023

Heidocs Travel Grant 2023 – Conference trip 2023

EISA x RIPE Mobility Grants for Early Career IPE Scholars 2024 – Conference trip

EISA Dissertation Fieldwork Support Grant 2024 – Field trip 2025

AUE-Stiftung Grant – German language studies in Germany 2021-2022

## **LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Castrén, Matias (2020) ‘The legitimacy of the common currency – justification of the supranational monetary regime in the European periphery’, *Carnival - Journal of the International Students of History Association*, (20), pp. 59-90.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Castrén, Matias (2021) Brand New Nation: Capitalist Dreams and Nationalist Designs in Twenty-First-Century India, by Kaur, Ravinder (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2020, ISBN 9781503612594); 360 pp., \$28. *India Quarterly*, (77:2), pp. 309-312.

Castrén, Matias (2020) *After Austerity: Welfare State Transformation in Europe after the Great Recession*, edited by P. Taylor-Gooby, B. Leruth and H. Chung (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, ISBN 9780198790266); xiii+229pp., £65.00 pb. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, (58:1), pp. 209– 210.

Castrén, Matias (2020) *India's Strategic Culture: The Making of National Security Policy 2nd edition*, by Paranjpe, Shrikant (New Delhi: Routledge India, 2020), 180 pp, 36,99£. *International Studies*, (57:4), pp. 412-414.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Castrén, Matias (2024) *From Embedded Liberalism to Hindu-nationalist Protectionism: Evolution of India's Trade Policies*, *EISAPEC 2024*, 27-31 August 2024 (Catholic University of Lille. Lille France).

Castrén, Matias (2024) *Civilisational Nationalism and the Probability of Conflict – Reclaiming Civilisationalism in International Relations*, *EISAPEC 2024: Early Career Workshop*, 27 August 2024 (Catholic University of Lille. Lille France).

Castrén, Matias (2024) *India's Integration to the Global Value Chains*, *WISC Conference 2024*, 24-26. July 2024 (University of Warsaw: Warsaw, Poland).

Castrén, Matias (2024) *Sovereignty and Seduction: India's Flirtation with Global Economic Power Structures*, *EWIS 2024*, 3-5. July 2024 (Kadir Has University: Istanbul, Turkey).

Castrén, Matias (2023) *State Agency and Structural Conflict in the Contemporary Global Economy: The Case of India in the Age of Global Value Chains*, *EISAPEC 2023*, 5-9. September 2023 (University of Potsdam: Potsdam, Germany)

Castrén, Matias (2023) *The Second Cold War: US-China rivalry for global network hegemony*, *EISAPEC: Early Career Workshop, 2023*, 4. September 2023 (University of Potsdam: Potsdam, Germany)

Castrén, Matias (2023) *The Political Economy of India's Grand Strategy*, *Ireland India Institute: Annual South Asia Conference*, 19-21. April 2023 (Dublin City University: Dublin, Ireland).

## POPULAR MEDIA

Castrén, Matias (16/6/2024) 'Intian vaalit katkaisivat apatian valtakauden' (The Indian elections ended the era of apathy)', *The Ulkopolitist*.

Castrén, Matias (2024) 'Intia kappittaa omaa nousuaan talousmahdiksi' (India is compromising its rise into an economic power)', *Ulkopolitiikka*, (1/2024).

Castrén, Matias (27/11/2023) 'Narendra Modi ja Intian demokratian mahalasku (Narendra Modi and the backslide of India's democracy)', *The Ulkopolitist*.

Castrén, Matias (2022) 'Varjoja paratiisissa – turismi, demokratia ja radikalismi Malediiveilla (Shadows in the paradise – tourism, democracy and radicalism in the Maldives)', *Sotilasaiikakauslehti*, (1/2022), pp. 53-55.

Castrén, Matias (2021) ‘Suurvaltapelin polttopisteessä – Intia etsii vaihtoehtoja kaksinaisuusudelle (In the focal point of great power games – India looking for alternatives to bipolarity)’, *Ulkopolitiikka*, (4/2021), pp. 50-55.

Castrén, Matias (27/09/2020) ‘Intian ja Kiinan käsirysy läntisellä Himalajalla kuvastaa maailmanpolitiikan dynamiikkaa myös laajemmin (The brawl between India and China in the Western Himalayas also reflects the greater dynamics of global politics)’, *The Ulkopolitist*.

## **WORKING EXPERIENCE**

**Trainee** March 2021 – May 2021

Embassy of Finland in New Delhi

- Writing political and economic analyses about the developments in the region

**Trainee** Oct 2020 – Jan 2021

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

- Preparing the background materials for the Foreign Minister ahead the Council meetings

**Junior Advisor** Feb 2020 – *interrupted due COVID-19*

Business Finland – New Delhi, India

- Preparing market analysis about the commercial possibilities in India for Finnish companies

**Communications Officer** Oct 2016 – Jan 2020

Bank of Finland – Helsinki, Finland

- Taking care of stakeholder relations
- Conducting media monitoring and analysis for bi-monthly reports
- Preparing the official outcome of the central bank

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Finnish: Native
- English: C2
- Swedish: C1
- German: C1
- Hindi: Elementary