



Bandaranaike Centre  
for  
International Studies



BCIS Emerging Scholars Symposium  
*'Empowering Thinkers of Tomorrow'*

# Rethinking the Future of International Relations

## Emerging Scholars' Symposium 2025

August 28, 2025  
Colombo, Sri Lanka



Bandaranaike Centre  
for  
International Studies



## Inauguration Ceremony (BCIS Auditorium)

8:30 a.m. – 08:45 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Opening Remarks by <b>Ms. Priyanthi Fernando</b> , Executive Director, Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies
9:10 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Keynote Speech by <b>Mr. Shiran Illanperuma</b> , Researcher at Tricontinental
9:30 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.	Launch of the BCIS ESS - 2025 Online Publication
09:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Refreshments

# Morning Session (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) - Sri Lankan Time/IST

<b>Panel 01 : Regional Cooperation &amp; Power Dynamics (I)</b>  Academic Reviewer : Dr. Athulasiri Samarakoon  Moderator : Dr. Bhagya Senaratne  <b>Room - 101</b>	<b>Panel 02 : BRICS &amp; the New Multipolarity</b>  Academic Reviewer : Dr. Asantha Senevirathna  Moderator : Ms. Isuri Siriwardane  <b>Room -104</b>	<b>Panel 03 : Global Norms &amp; Domestic Implementation</b>  Academic Reviewer : Ms. Thilini Galappaththige  Moderator : Dr. Nishara Mendis  <b>Room - 102</b>	<b>Panel 04 :Migration &amp; Displacement</b>  Academic Reviewer : Dr. Niruka Sanjeewani  Moderator : Ms. Maheshi Jayawardane  <b>Room -105</b>	<b>Panel 05 : International Relations &amp; Security</b>  Academic Reviewer : Mr. Asif Fuard  Moderator : Ms. Sinduja Jayaratne  <b>Room - 106</b>
Comparative Analysis of European Union and NATO Strategies in Mitigating the Russia-Ukraine War <b>M.U.Imesh Silva</b>	Reimagining Global Power: The Renewed Relevance of BRICS in an Unstable World Order <b>H.K.G.Kaushalya Narangala</b>	The Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict: A Critical Analysis of the Legal Framework and Persistent Challenges <b>T.M.Weligamage</b>	Securitization Dynamics of the Displacement of Afghan Women A. <b>M. G. Samada Adikari</b>	The China - India rivalry, its Impact on Sri Lanka's Sovereignty and National Security- A Special Study with a Focus on the Indian Ocean Region <b>Santhikumar Lakshana</b>
Disaster Management in the Indo-Pacific Region: Comparing ASEAN and BIMSTEC Approaches and Frameworks, Responses <b>Chaitanya Deshpande</b>	BRICS and the Push for De-dollarization: Implications on The U.S.-Led Financial Order <b>A.L.S.S. Ambegoda</b>	The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age: International Framework and the Challenges of Government Surveillance <b>S. Jayasundara</b>	Strategic Leverage or Silent Compliance: A Comparative Study on Migration Diplomacy of Sri Lanka and Philippines <b>K. Nethmini Perera</b>	Information Warfare and Narrative Power: Rethinking Security Through the Lens of Media and Propaganda <b>J. H. V. Y. Indrajith Jayaratne</b>
Arctic-Antarctic Gambit: New Frontiers for a Triangular Great Power Competition <b>Md. Himel Rahman</b>	BRICS and the Politics of Dedollarization: A South-South Strategy for Reshaping Global Finance <b>S.M.V. Amarasekara Senavirathna</b>	The Role of International Human Rights Law in Addressing Systemic Discrimination Against HIV-Positive Communities <b>U.G.S. Udara Chandrasena</b>	The Climate Refugee Nexus: Analyzing Pakistan Regional Role in South Asia environmental Security <b>Muhammad Islam</b>	
Nash Equilibrium and the Dynamics of Deep-Sea Mining Governance <b>C. B. Kumari Ranasinghe</b>	BRICS Expansion in the World Economic Power Structure and its Implications for Multi-polar World Order <b>H.A.Sulochana Lakshani</b>			
Remarks by Academic Reviewer	Remarks by Academic Reviewer	Remarks by Academic Reviewer	Remarks by Academic Reviewer	Remarks by Academic Reviewer
Q & A Session	Q & A Session	Q & A Session	Q & A Session	Q & A Session

**Morning Session: Certificate Awarding Ceremony (12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.)**

# LUNCH BREAK (12:00 p.m. - 01:00 p.m. at the BCIS Auditorium)

## Afternoon Session (01:00 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.) Sri Lankan Time/IST

<p><b>Panel 01 : Regional Cooperation &amp; Power Dynamics (II)</b></p> <p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Dulanaka Jayasinghe</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tharishi H.</p> <p><b>Room -102</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 02 : South-South Cooperation</b></p> <p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Shiran Illanperuma</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Amali Wedagedara</p> <p><b>Room - 101</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 03 : Gender &amp; the Politics of Marginalization</b></p> <p>Academic Reviewer : Dr. Gayathri Lokuge</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Priyanthi Fernando</p> <p><b>Room - 104</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 04 : Global Diplomacy</b></p> <p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Shakthi De Silva</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Maheshi Jayawardane</p> <p><b>Room - 106</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 05 : Militarization, Armed Conflict &amp; The Global Order</b></p> <p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Asif Fuard</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Sinduja Jayaratne</p> <p><b>Room - 105</b></p>
<p>BIMSTEC and Non-Traditional Maritime Security in the Bay of Bengal: India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral <b>K. A.H. Nimthara Lakmini</b></p>	<p>Climate Change Adaptation in Small Island Developing States: Promise and Pitfalls of South-South Cooperation <b>Navodita Kumari</b></p>	<p>Marginalization of the LGBTQIA+ Community in Sri Lanka: Examining the Gap Between International Human Rights Norms and Domestic Policy Responses <b>S. S. Jayasinghe Bandara</b></p>	<p>Education as a Tool of Russian Public Diplomacy: A Case Study on Sri Lankan Medical Students <b>M. B. Wickramasingha Weerakkody</b></p>	<p>Rethinking War in the 21st Century: Decision-Making and the Future of International Order <b>P. P. K. Kaushalya Pathirana</b></p>
<p>Foreign Policy Tension Between the European Union and its Member-states: A Case Study on Hungary <b>P. A. Sandaruwan De Silva</b></p>	<p>South-South Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative: Cooperation or Dependency? A Case Study of Sri Lanka <b>S.U. Mohotti</b></p>	<p>A Feminist International Relations Perspective on the Systematic Marginalization of Women in Sri Lankan Politics: A Critical Comparison with Nepal's Gender-Inclusive Constitutional Reforms <b>W. S. Sandupama Vidupathi</b></p>	<p>As a Strategy of Soft Power, Use of Covid-19 vaccine Diplomacy in World Affairs; Special reference with China <b>N. V. N. Nawodani Samarasingha</b></p>	<p>The Militarization of Artificial Intelligence: Strategic Stability and Global Security Risks in the 21st Century <b>S. T. D. Sandanayaka</b></p>
<p>Nationalism, Protectionism, and the USMCA: A Neoclassical Realist Analysis of Trade Politics <b>A. A. V. D. P. Weerasinghe</b></p>	<p>China's South-South Cooperation: A Comparative Analysis of Its Impact and Implementation in Kenya and Argentina (2021-2023) <b>K. Malshani Kumarasinghe</b></p>	<p>Silenced Survivors: Tamil Women and UN Inaction in Post-War Sri Lanka <b>M. Kavithma Jayasekara</b></p>	<p>Successes and Failures of Global Environmental Governance in Addressing Transboundary Environmental Challenges <b>N. P. A. Sandeepanie Janashantha</b></p>	<p>The Israel-Gaza Conflict: Impact on the Enforcement of International Humanitarian Law Regarding Civilian Protection <b>Shakya Karunarathne</b></p>
<p>Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Sri Lanka's Membership <b>A. S. Kodikara</b></p>				<p>Accountability in Shadows: Evaluating Initiatives of International Humanitarian Law Responding to Hybrid Warfare by Russia and the United States. <b>V. S. Atapattu</b></p>
				<p>Unheard Cries: Understanding Unequal Global Responses to Human Right Violations During Armed Insurgencies <b>R.H.M.L. Ravishanee Herath</b></p>
<p><b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b></p>
<p><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>	<p><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>	<p><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>	<p><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>	<p><b>Q &amp; A Session</b></p>

# Evening Session (03:15 p.m. - 05:15 p.m.) Sri Lankan Time/IST

<b>Panel 01 : The Future of the UN System</b>	<b>Panel 02: Trade Wars &amp; the Global Economy</b>	<b>Panel 03: Diplomacy &amp; IR in the Digital Age</b>	<b>Panel 04 : Sri Lankan Foreign Policy &amp; Diplomacy</b>	<b>Panel 05 : International Relations &amp; Cyber-Security</b>
<p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Dulanaka Jayasinghe</p> <p>Moderator : Ms. Isuri Siriwardane</p> <p><b>Room - 106</b></p>	<p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Umesh Moramudali</p> <p>Moderator : Dr. Amali Wedagedara</p> <p><b>Room - 101</b></p>	<p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Pradeep Ranaweera</p> <p>Moderator : Ms. Maheshi Jayawardane</p> <p><b>Room - 105</b></p>	<p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Shakthi De Silva</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tharishi H.</p> <p><b>Room - 102</b></p>	<p>Academic Reviewer : Mr. Sehan Soyza</p> <p>Moderator : Ms. Sinduja Jayaratne</p> <p><b>Room - 104</b></p>
<p>Reevaluating Multilateralism: UN Crisis Legitimacy Through the BRICS-South Lens of India, Brazil, and South Africa <b>N. Tharuka Kumarasiri</b></p>	<p>How Cryptocurrency impacts National Security through Economic security in Sri Lanka <b>H.W. Thisuri Jayathma</b></p>	<p>Rethinking International Relations in the Digital Age <b>Farhana Sultana</b></p>	<p>The Balancing Act: Sri Lanka's Diplomatic Relations with Japan and China in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Free Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) <b>U. G.W. Rajinda Jayathilleka</b></p>	<p>The Cyber Footprint of Women: A Global Challenge for Privacy, Security and Digital Governance in International Relations <b>U. Nikolya Fernando</b></p>
<p>Evaluating The Efficacy Of Universal Periodic Review Under Charter Based Mechanism Of United Nations <b>K. Kaushalya Witharama</b></p>	<p>The Future of International Trade in a Fragmented World: Governance, Power Shifts, and Political Economy <b>K. Sewwandi Gurusinghe</b></p>	<p>Examining the integration of Interactive Learning Tools in expanding International Relations Education in Sri Lanka. <b>M. R. Samadith Perera</b></p>	<p>Sri Lanka's position in Contemporary International Relations: Navigating Geopolitical Tension and Economic Diplomacy. <b>S.R.C.Jayathri Rathnayaka</b></p>	<p>Surveillance Diplomacy: The Rise of Commercial Spyware in Global Power and Governance <b>S. Hansi Munasinghe</b></p>
<p>The UN's Central Role in Global AI Governance: Ethics Pact Possible Despite U.S.-China Rivalry? <b>W. M. M. Mintharani Karunarathne</b></p>	<p>Strategic Repercussions of the US-China Trade War on Sri Lanka's Economic Relations, Foreign Policy, and Regional Autonomy. <b>W. R. A. P. Dewmini Amarasiri</b></p>	<p>The Future of Digital Trade: A Comparative Analysis of Quantum Computing and AI Policy in the Trade Competitiveness of the United States and China <b>S. Steffy Haashini</b></p>	<p>Bridging the Digitalization Gap in Sri Lankan Diplomacy: Designing a Strategic Framework Based on Lessons from Rwanda's Digital Transformation <b>Aarabi Jayakanthan</b></p>	<p>Comparative Approaches to Cybersecurity as National Security: Strategies of Russia and the European Union in Countering Digital Warfare <b>Nishaapthi Sridharan</b></p>
<p>Ethical and Standard Framework for AI weaponry and Artillery: A Blueprint of a UN AI agency <b>K. A. D. I. S. Kuruwita</b></p>	<p>Reciprocal Tariffs and the Rise of Trade Wars: Analyzing the Impact of Trump's Administration on the Global Economic Sector <b>K. A. Yenuri Nethmini</b></p>	<p>Digital Diplomacy and its Influence on the U.S. Foreign Policy in the Last Decade (2015-2025) <b>H. H. L. Chamodara Hettiarachchi</b></p>	<p>Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy Decision-Making Challenge by Regional Power Rivalries: A Case Study of Colombo Port <b>M.W. A. Chaminda De Silva</b></p>	<p>Weaponizing the Unknown: Zero-Day Exploits as Tools of Cyberwarfare and Their Impact on Global Security <b>A. M. M. Lasanya Alahakoon</b></p>
<p>The role of Multilateral and Bilateral Cooperation for Justice Mechanisms in Post-Genocide Rwanda <b>K. Prasadini Somarathna</b></p>	<p>Adapting Norway's maritime cluster strategies to Sri Lanka's blue economy to enhance international trade integration and global economic participation. <b>D. A. Madara Hapuarachchi</b></p>	<p>Sri Lanka's Digital Identity at a Crossroads: Navigating Development, Dependence, and Data Sovereignty in Sri Lanka <b>Yoshan Jayasinghe</b></p>		<p>Redefining Power in the Digital Age: The Role of Formal Cybersecurity Alliances in Global Geopolitics. <b>D.V. Shehan Manjula</b></p>
		<p>Rethinking Power Politics in Digital Battle Grounds: China's use of digital infrastructure as a geopolitical tool in Latin America <b>Asel Pothupitiya</b></p>		
<b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b>	<b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b>	<b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b>	<b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b>	<b>Remarks by Academic Reviewer</b>
<b>Q &amp; A Session</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Session</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Session</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Session</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Session</b>

**Afternoon & Evening Session: Certificate Awarding Ceremony (05:15 p.m. – 05:45 p.m.) Closing Ceremony & Refreshments**