

A Short Acceptance Speech
ATS Educational Award for Excellence in Humanities and Social Sciences, 2017
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I am honored to be here tonight to receive the Educational Award for Excellence in Humanities and Social Science. Thank you very much the Anglo-Thai Society and the PEARSON Group for giving me this opportunity.

My PhD thesis resides in the domain of India's foreign policy towards South East Asia. It uses qualitative methods; including field research, conversational interviews with the key informants and analysis of related documents to explore India's key norms and its influences on formulation and implementation of Indian Soft Power towards Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and ASEAN for comparative case studies. Findings indicates that the overarching norms; ranges from self-determination, civilizational connectivity, peace and democracy on the voluntary basis, and human-centric development; have over time determine India's ability to attract other states and their people through cultural, ideological, and foreign policy resources.

I trust my findings can contribute in one way or another, towards informed decision-making of stakeholders, authorities and people since the research provides insights to the understanding of India-SEA relations and soft power diplomacy. In addition, the thesis aims to celebrate 70 years of India-Thailand diplomatic relations.

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