

# Tara VARMA

[@tara\\_varma](https://twitter.com/tara_varma)



## WORK EXPERIENCE

01.2023 - present

### Brookings Institution

Visiting fellow, Center for the United States and Europe, Washington D.C, United States

07.2019 - 12.2022

### European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

Head of office and Senior Policy Fellow, Paris, France

**Strategy:** Serve ECFR's Pan-European strategy and goals in France; Develop and implement the annual strategy and work-plan for the Paris office; Support ECFR programme teams, in all the fundraising activities in France to make the office self-sufficient and contribute to the core resources of ECFR at large; To be active through the traditional and social media channels to strengthen ECFR's visibility in the French media and bring a Pan-European perspective in the French policy debate.

**Member of the advisory committee implemented by the French MFA on the French EU council presidency.**

Media interventions and interviews in English and French: France Culture, France Inter, Le Monde, Le JDD, The Economist, The New Statesman, Arte, France 24, le HuffPost, Libération, Politico.

**Research:** Disseminate and advocate ECFR publications and their policy recommendations in the French foreign policy community; Monitor debates and discussions in France on European and foreign policy; Publications on European strategic autonomy, European approaches to nuclear deterrence, European sovereignty amid the pandemic; Security in the Indopacific and in the Indian subcontinent.

Since 2022

Member of the board of Sciences Po Lille

Since 2020

Visiting professor at Sciences Po Paris, Sciences Po Aix & Sciences Po Lille

10.2018 - 06.2019

Deputy Head of Office and Policy Fellow, Paris, France

**Strategy:** Serve ECFR's Pan-European strategy and goals in France; Together with the Head of Office, develop and implement the annual strategy and work-plan for the Paris office; Support the Head of Office,

and ECFR programme teams, in all the fundraising activities in France to make the office self-sufficient and contribute to the core resources of ECFR at large; Coordinate the administrative, finance, advocacy and communications activities of the office; To be active through the traditional and social media channels to strengthen ECFR's visibility in the French media and bring a Pan-European perspective in the French policy debate.

To represent ECFR in external meetings as appropriate.

Co-founder of Women in International Security (WIIS) France

**Research:** Support ECFR research projects in writing, researching and advocacy, as appropriate; Disseminate and advocate ECFR publications and their policy recommendations in the French foreign policy community.

01.2015 - 10.2018

Programme Coordinator and Policy Fellow, Paris, France

**Research and analysis:** Monitoring of relevant debates and discussions in France about EU developments and French foreign policy so as to present policy recommendations on European foreign and security policy to French decision-makers (Elysée, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence); Participation in publications (see below); Participation in international conferences: Asian Forum on Global Governance, Raisina Dialogues.

**Strategy and advocacy:** Elaboration of office's strategy and workplan, ensuring its effective implementation with the head of the office; Organisation of public and private advocacy events; Coordination of the office's media work and dissemination of ECFR Paris' publications and message; Management and coordination of the content of the Paris office webpage as well as social media outlets: Facebook, Twitter & Soundcloud; Management of 3 people in the office.

**Project management:** Identification and liaison with funders and partners - Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Economy - partners and Council members; Strengthening ECFR Paris' network and contact base; Identification of objectives of ECFR Paris for ECFR as a whole as well as for the Paris stage (drafting proposals and budgets); Definition and implementation of an advocacy strategy: coordination of a fundraising strategy for the office and contribution to preparing relevant material and approaches to prospective donors.

**Fundraising:** Co-development of a fundraising strategy; Budget management for the office (700.000€ in 2016); Reporting to funders.

12.2012 - 12.2014

French General Consulate, Shanghai, China

Policy Officer on Higher Education and Environment

Organisation of conferences on Humanities and Social sciences for the French community in Shanghai; Implementation, development and management of a network on French-speaking scholars in Humanities and Social sciences in Shanghai and its region; Development of contacts and engagement within the Chinese civil society and NGOs;

Identification of NGOs as potential partners for the French Foreign Ministry in China; Monitoring of the COP 21.

**06.2011 - 12.2012**  
11.2011-12.2012

**Compagnie Européenne d'Intelligence Stratégique (CEIS)**

Geopolitical Analyst on Asia

Daily monitoring of geopolitics, policy and government affairs in South Asia, with a focus on India and Pakistan, on Southeast Asia, with a focus on Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar & Singapore, as well as on China; Drafting of daily reports on the diplomatic relations and defence cooperation in the region for the French Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs; Drafting of analyses and memos on strategic issues for major European defence corporate actors.

06.2011-09.2011

Project officer

Organisation of the 2010 and 2011 editions of the Summer Defence Conference with 200 high-level participants: European MPs and Presidents of Defence Committees across Europe.

## EDUCATION

**01.2018**

**Asian Forum on Global Governance, ORF**

2018 Fellow

Annual workshop jointly organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) as well as by the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. The forum takes a close look at the Asian region and at the challenges facing the global community. Its primary objective is to provide an instructional and networking platform for young professional leaders to discuss, debate and challenge conventional interpretations of complex contemporary realities. It provides a unique opportunity for them to confer with high-ranking figures from the political, business and academic communities from around the globe.

**09.2010 - 09.2011**

**School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, UK**

Double Master's degree in International Politics

Focus on Indian and Chinese foreign policies; International theory and politics; China and International Politics; Governments and Politics in Modern South Asia; Security Governance.

Dissertation: *The Indo-US nuclear deal and its implications for the global non-proliferation regime*. This paper analyses Indo-US nuclear relations since the Cold War and how the deal fits with the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. It lays out several options in integrating India into global non-proliferation regimes.

**09.2006 - 09.2011**

**Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po), Lille, France**

5-year course sanctioned with an M.A. in International Relations

Focus on International Law; International Theory; Foreign policy analysis; Political economy; Constitutional Law; Security and

Development; Multilateral diplomacy and International Organisations;  
Decision-making process in the European Union.

*Dissertation: What kind of response is the government of India bringing to the Naxalite issue today.* This paper examined the situation in the region called “Red Corridor” in India and especially the condition of the Adivasi tribes (Aborigines) “trapped” between private militia and the Maoist guerrilla still intent on overthrowing the government.

## LANGUAGES

French, English (Native speaker), Spanish (fluent), Hindi (high-intermediate)

## PUBLICATIONS (Selection)

[“A certain idea of Europe: How the next French president can lead”](#), co-authored with Susi Dennison, ECFR, 9 March 2022

[“After AUKUS: The uncertain future of American and European cooperation in the Indo-Pacific”](#), ECFR, September 2021

[“The fall of the Afghan government and what it means for Europe”](#), co-authored with Julien Barnes-Dacey, Asli Aydintaşbaş, Esfandyar Batmanghelidj, Susanne Baumann, Andrew Lebovich, Kadri Liik, Jana Puglierin, Jeremy Shapiro & Andrew Small, ECFR, August 2021

[“Cooperation on Global Health - the view from Europe”](#), German Marshall Fund of the US, February 2021

[“The lonely leader: The origins of France’s strategy for EU foreign policy”](#), co-authored with Mathilde Ciulla, ECFR, January 2021

[“Protecting Europe from economic coercion: Strategy after the 2020 US election”](#), co-authored with Jonathan Hackenbroich, ECFR, December 2020

[“A new transatlantic bargain: An action plan for transformation, not restoration”](#), co-authored with Julien Barnes-Dacey, Susi Dennison, Anthony Dworkin, Ellie Geranmayeh, Mark Leonard, Theodore Murphy, Janka Oertel, Nicu Popescu, ECFR, November 2020

[“The European offers America cannot refuse”](#), co-authored with Jeremy Shapiro, War on the Rocks, November 2020

[“Health sovereignty: How to build a resilient European response to pandemics”](#), co-authored with Jonathan Hackenbroich and Jeremy Shapiro, ECFR, June 2020

[“Macron, Merkel, and Europe’s “moment of truth””](#), co-authored with Jonathan Hackenbroich, ECFR, April 2020

[“Rocking the boat: The Macron method”](#), ECFR, November 2019

[“Independence play: Europe’s pursuit of strategic autonomy”](#), co-authored with Ulrike Franke, ECFR, July 2019

[“The WhatsApp election: The fake news challenge to democracy”](#), ECFR, April 2019

[“Eyes tight shut: European attitudes towards nuclear deterrence”](#), co-authored with Manuel Lafont Rapnouil & Nick Witney, ECFR, December 2018