

# Curriculum Vitae

## Sanjana Yajitha Hattotuwa

**Date of Birth:** 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1977

**Nationality:** Sri Lankan

**Sex:** Male

**Occupation:** Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
[www.cpalanka.org](http://www.cpalanka.org)

Head, ICT for Peacebuilding, InfoShare, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
[www.info-share.org](http://www.info-share.org) / [www.peacelibrary.org](http://www.peacelibrary.org) / [ict4peace.wordpress.com](http://ict4peace.wordpress.com)

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<http://sanjanah.wordpress.com>

**Primary Education:** S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka. (1983-1997)

**Academic Qualifications:** **B.A. (Hons) English (Upper Second Class)**  
University of Delhi, India (July 1997 - July 2000)

**Advanced Masters in International Studies (MiS Adv)**  
University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia (2004 - 2005)

- Deans Commendation List for High Academic Achievement from 2004 - 2005 (all semesters)
- GPA 6.46 (out of 7)

**Cross-cutting Experience** Conflict Transformation; Human Rights and Human Rights Based Approaches for media reform; Dialogue Facilitation; Civil society communications strategies design and implementation, project management, monitoring and evaluation, new media, public service journalism, conflict sensitive journalism, information and communications technology for peacebuilding (ICT4Peace) and Citizen Journalism during violent conflict in aid of peace processes.

**Work Experience:**     **Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) - 2001 to 2003**  
                              **Coordinator, Media Unit, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) - 2002 to 2003**  
                              **Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) - 2005 to date**

As a **Researcher** at the Centre from 2001 to 2003, I was engaged in the comparative study of peace processes with a view to informing the design of the Sri Lanka ceasefire agreement, signed in February 2002 and abrogated unilaterally by the Government in February 2008. I also examined issues related to democratic governance - focussing on the structural underpinnings of conflict and its importance on post-conflict scenarios, societal transformation and peace processes. I have organised and actively participated in conferences and workshops in Sri Lanka and internationally, articulating options for a negotiated settlement to the protracted ethno-political conflict in Sri Lanka.

As **Coordinator of the Media Unit** of CPA from 2001 to 2003, I was responsible for the programme initiatives of CPA dealing with conflict sensitive journalism and the design and delivery of training material for media interventions in Sri Lanka.

I am presently a **Senior Researcher** at the Centre, responsible for expert input into the design and application of initiatives on issues related to civil society communications strategies, peacebuilding, traditional / mainstream media, new media and democratic governance.

*Responsibilities and achievements:*

- Strategic visioning of media reform initiatives undertaken by the Media Unit
- Facilitating sustainable partnerships with a wide network of national and provincial journalists as well as CSOs, NGOs and CBOs.
- High profile liaisons with international bilateral and multilateral agencies that include frequent debriefings with international press freedom and human rights advocacy groups as well as presentation in local and international workshops and conferences on the state of media, conflict and peace in Sri Lanka.
- Coordinator of the Voices of Reconciliation project ([www.voicesofpeace.lk](http://www.voicesofpeace.lk)) in Sri Lanka, which was a media and civil society initiative that from 2004 - 2006 introduced public service journalism values as well as new media initiatives and citizen journalism to Sri Lanka. During the project, I managed a combined portfolio of programmes worth over US\$ 150,000.
- Editor of *Peace Monitor*, a bi-monthly publication of the CPA dealing with issues of Conflict Transformation and Peace in Sri Lanka and international fora, from 2002 - 2003.
- Editor and chief architect of *Groundviews*, Sri Lanka's first and international award winning citizen journalism website - <http://www.groundviews.lk>.
- Chief architect of *Vikalpa*, Sri Lanka's first Sinhala and Tamil citizen journalism website - <http://www.vikalpa.org>
- Chief architect of *Vikalpa* YouTube Channel, Sri Lanka's first and only Citizen Journalism video compendium - <http://www.youtube.com/vikalpasl>
- Sri Lanka's first, and to date only, civil society internet radio on peace and reconciliation (<http://radio.voicesofpeace.lk>)

***Editor, Peace Monitor, Centre for Policy Alternatives - 2001 - 2002***  
***Coordinator, Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, Centre for Policy Alternatives - 2001 - 2002***

As Editor of *Peace Monitor* and the first Coordinator of the Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, I worked with erstwhile Tamil nationalist and human rights activist Ketheshwaran Loganathan to set up the first significant initiatives of the Unit.

***Responsibilities and achievements:***

- *Peace Monitor* at the time was the only English magazine dealing with conflict resolution in Sri Lanka, with a distribution of around 3,000 copies islandwide.
- I was responsible for editing submissions, liaising with authors, determining the focus of each issue, editing every submission, page layout, graphics, print and distribution. Joint editorials with Kethesh were occasionally written.
- As Coordinator of the Unit I was responsible for, in collaboration with Kethesh, donor liaison, project proposal development, communications and media relations.

***Head, ICT for Peacebuilding, InfoShare - August 2003 to date***

I helped establish InfoShare ([www.info-share.org](http://www.info-share.org)), a non-profit organisation created to explore the means through which ICT can help bridge communications gaps between the main stakeholders in a peace process and enable greater public participation in holistic, inclusive and participatory knowledge sharing networks.

***Responsibilities and achievements:***

I am a globally recognised though leader in the conceptualisation and applications of ICT for peacebuilding (ICT4Peace). My experience is both in academic research of ICT4Peace as well as applied field experience in conflict zones. I lead project development for applications and system to support peace processes, conflict resolution, human rights and peace negotiations.

I have facilitated several groundbreaking initiatives using ICT for Peace in Sri Lanka, including:

1. Sri Lanka Peace Library (<http://www.peacelibrary.org>)
2. All the citizen journalism initiatives under CPA as noted above
3. The first blog on the web dealing specifically with ICT for Peace and Conflict Transformation (<http://ict4peace.wordpress.com>)

Presently, I am involved in the design of virtual negotiations support platforms, human rights monitoring systems and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms in support of peace operations. I remain engaged in the systems design for virtual peace support processes in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Africa and have successfully designed online discussion support mechanisms, conflict early warning systems, resource libraries, humanitarian emergency relief systems and other advanced tools in support of distributed collaborative work in a peace process.

***Editor, Peace Library ([www.peacelibrary.org](http://www.peacelibrary.org)), InfoShare - August 2003 to 2005***

As the Editor of the Peace Library, I was responsible for a large-scale content digitisation project in support of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in Sri Lanka. The ultimate vision of the project is capture as much endogenous knowledge as possible to strengthen sustainable conflict transformation in Sri Lanka.

***Responsibilities and achievements:***

- Conceptualising, designing and launching Sri Lanka's first web based library dedicated to peace and conflict resolution research
- Managing content on a daily basis, including searching for local and international content on peacebuilding and populating the library accordingly.
- Liaising with local and international partners on generating content for the library.

**Other  
Offices**

***Fellow - The Centre for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution***

***University of Massachusetts, Amherst (<http://www.odr.info>)***

The Center exists to support and sustain the development of information technology applications, institutional resources, and theoretical and applied knowledge for better understanding and managing conflict. I was appointed as a Fellow in 2004 in recognition of my pioneering work in the advancement of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). I regularly lecture Online Dispute Resolution courses conducted by the University of Massachusetts at a graduate and post-graduate level and am regarded by the Centre by as one of the leading ODR thinkers in the world.

***Special Advisor - ICT4Peace Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland***

I am a Special Advisor to the ICT4Peace Foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.ict4peace.org>). The ICT4Peace Foundation aims to enhance the performance of the international community in crisis management through the application of information Communications Technology (ICT) - technologies that can facilitate effective and sustained communication between peoples, communities and stakeholders involved in crisis management, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding.

***Former member of Editorial Board, OJPCR***

I served on the Editorial Board of the Online Journal for Peace and Conflict Resolution (<http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/>). The OJPCR is a valuable online resource for students of conflict resolution and encourages original writing on current topics of debate.

***Fellow - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trust***

The Trust exists to bring together the rising generation of leaders worldwide, aged under 40, from government, business, NGOs, academe, the media and other sectors. I was made a Fellow of the Trust subsequent to a presented a paper on post-9/11 Human Rights and Terrorism in Sri Lanka at the conference on *Security, Independence and Liberty after September 11th: Getting the Balance Right* in May 2002.

**Scholarships & Awards**

***Rotary World Peace Fellowship - 2004 - 2005***

I was the sole Sri Lankan recipient of the Rotary World Peace Fellowship in 2004 and the second Sri Lankan to be awarded it. The Rotary World Peace Fellowship recognises contributions made in the field of peacebuilding and development through a research oriented advanced Masters programme.

My research at the University of Queensland looked into Computer Support Collaborative Work (CSCW) theory and its supporting role for peace processes and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR).

**Language Proficiency:** English - Extremely fluent in writing and speaking  
Sinhalese - Fluent in speaking, reading and translating

**From 2001 to the present, conferences, workshops and seminars organised by the following institutions have been attended, locally and internationally. Participation has included the presentation of papers on security, governance, human rights, technology, media and conflict resolution issues. The institutions are:**

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- World Food Programme (WFP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Sea-Change Partners (on Harvard Negotiation Processes)
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trust, United Kingdom
- Oneworld South Asia, Delhi, India
- South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), Kathmandu, Nepal
- Rotary International
- International Media Support (IMS), Copenhagen, Denmark
- Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- University of Federalism, Fribourg, Switzerland
- Forum of Federations, Ontario, Canada
- Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF)
- PANOS - South Asia
- IMPACS - Canada
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)
- South Asia Partnership (SAP)
- Bellanet
- UNICEF
- European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)
- Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- South Asia Peace Institute (SAPI)
- BBC World Service Trust
- Swedish Development Corporation (SDC)
- Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS)
- Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS)
- Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)

## Some Publications and Articles

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- *Facets of Terrorism in Sri Lanka*, Liberal Times, Volume X, Number 1, 2002
- *Freedom of information: a case for peace, openness and good governance*, Daily Mirror, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2002
- *The Role of Conflict Sensitive Journalism*, Daily News, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2002 (Also published in the Tamil Canadian - [www.tamilcanadian.com/pageview.php?ID=818&SID=135](http://www.tamilcanadian.com/pageview.php?ID=818&SID=135))
- *The Role of Media in Peace Process*, published in Tamil Canadian website - [www.tamilcanadian.com/pageview.php?ID=1618&SID=135](http://www.tamilcanadian.com/pageview.php?ID=1618&SID=135)
- *From Violence to Peace: Terrorism and Human Rights in Sri Lanka*, Term Paper for the Third Peace and Human Rights Orientation Course organised by South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), 3-17<sup>th</sup> August, 2002.
- *The Internet and Conflict Transformation in Sri Lanka*, paper presented at the Oneworld Regional Conference for South Asian Partners, 18-19<sup>th</sup> March 2002 in Delhi, India.
- *The Role of Media in Peace Processes*, paper presented at 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Environmental Journalists, organised by Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF), 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2002, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- *Case Studies and Online Advocacy Principles within the context of ICT and Conflict Transformation*, paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oneworld South Asia Meeting for Regional Partners, 3-4 February 2003 in Delhi, India.
- *Media and Conflict in Sri Lanka*, paper written for Consultative Workshop on Managing Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Southern Asia: Role of Education and the Media, organised by United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), 9-11 May 2003, Ahungalla, Sri Lanka and also published in *Media Asia*, Volume 30 Number 3, 2003.
- *Peace Process in Sri Lanka*, paper written for conference on Strengthening security and cooperation in South Asia post 9/11 organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), 1-3 July 2003, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- *Transforming landscapes: Forging new ODR systems with a human face*, Conflict Resolution Quarterly, Special Issue on Online Dispute Resolution (Up-coming, December 2005)
- *An Asian Perspective on Online Mediation*, Sanjana Hattotuwa, Rotary World Peace Fellow and Melissa Conley-Tyler, Senior Fellow, Faculty of Law, Asian Journal of Mediation, Inaugural Issue, October 2005
- *Thoughts on democracy, peace, the internet and new media*, paper written for conference on Communication Technology and Social Policy in the Digital Age: Expanding Access, Redefining Control organised by Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California in March 2006
- *The future of ODR: One brief glimpse*, paper written for 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Online Dispute Resolution Forum in Cairo, Egypt in March 2006.
- Current research and other articles can be found at <http://sanjanah.wordpress.com>
- Ideas and research on the use of technology for peacebuilding can be found at <http://ict4peace.wordpress.com>
- Op-ed contributions to *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Observer* newspapers in Sri Lanka (all archived articles at <http://sanjanah.wordpress.com>)
- Occasional contributions to local and South Asian magazines of an academic nature (all archived articles at <http://sanjanah.wordpress.com>)

## Skills

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- Excellent knowledge of Windows (3.11 up to XP SP2), Mac OS X (10.4.x to 10.5.x), World Wide Web, Internet and related technologies including new media and digital broadcasting
- Competent in audio and video editing
- Fluent in English and Sinhalese

- Experienced and highly motivated public speaker
- Skilled television presenter and moderator (hosted two prime time television political talk shows in Sri Lanka)
- Strong organizational & knowledge management, time-management and inter-personal skills
- Globally recognised thought leader in the use of ICT for peacebuilding

## References

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### *Professional:*

- Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Alternatives  
[sara@cpalanka.org](mailto:sara@cpalanka.org)
- Ms. Sharmini Boyle, Executive Producer, Young Asia Television  
[sharmini@yatv.net](mailto:sharmini@yatv.net)

### *Academic:*

- Mr. Keval Arora, Senior Lecture, English, University of Delhi, India  
[keval@ndf.vsnl.net.in](mailto:keval@ndf.vsnl.net.in)
- Ms. Marianne Hanson, Reader in International Relations and Co-Director, Rotary Centre, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia  
[m.hanson@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.hanson@uq.edu.au)