



***ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | Salina Singh***

*By Elisabeth Grove*

Since highschool, Selina Singh has been interested in anything with an “international flavor”— whether it was history, politics, business, or security. Drawn to Cal Poly for its educational value and stunning location, Political Science was the perfect fit. At Cal Poly, Selina concentrated in International Affairs and minored in Psychology, doing a variety of projects and research that facilitated her goals.

One of her most memorable classes was Political Theory with Dr. Moore, studying the writings of Nietzsche, Freud, Aristotle, and John Locke. The memories of getting called on at random in that class are still memorable for her to this day. In Dr. Hurt’s International Organizations and Law class, Selina studied the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, particularly focusing on biological defense and threat

perception. Under Dr. Hurt's guidance, students were encouraged to challenge the status quo and pursue projects and ideas they were uniquely motivated by. The assignment helped her to develop one of the most important skills she honed at Cal Poly- focusing on primary research. In her final year at Cal Poly, Selina examined separatist terrorism in India to illustrate the roles of religious belief systems and collective memory on identity and extremism.

During her time at Cal Poly, she participated in a summer internship program at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies in Arlington, Virginia, where she worked at the International Center for Terrorism Studies. During her time there, Selina gained a better understanding of how businesses perceive security issues and how it informs key operational decision-making processes. The experience was incredibly formative - as Selina found the juncture between understanding international security threats and its real-world application to the commercial sector incredibly fascinating.

After leaving Cal Poly in 2010, Selina attended the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., receiving a post-graduate certificate in Political Psychology. After that, she moved to London and earned a Master's in Terrorism, Security, and Society from King's College, London, ultimately graduating in 2014.

Today, Selina lives in London and works as a Senior Consultant for a global security and crisis response consultancy called NYA. In her work, she supports companies to manage and respond to security risks. She finds the research and writing skills, honed at Cal Poly, to be key in lending credibility and authority to her advisory role. Also integral to her work are tolerance and respect for different ideas and the capacity to challenge and change them

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– skills reinforced by a Political Science degree. In her spare time, Selina enjoys playing the piano, cooking, and running.

Selina also offers advice to current Political Science students:

“I would encourage students to seek out internships if possible and generally gain exposure to the potential career(s) they are interested in. College is an ideal time in which you are well situated to learn about different fields and understand what you are and are not interested in for the future.”