

## **ABSTRACT**

The thesis titled ‘Remembering 1962 War: Trust Deficit and War Memory in Sino-Indian Relations’ investigates the influence of the war memory and remembrance of the 1962 Sino-Indian war on Indian policy elites’ distrust towards China. It focuses on Indian policy establishment’s intense distrust of Chinese intentions and examines how construction, dissemination and prominence of the war memory narratives of betrayal and humiliation within the Indian strategic community, perpetuates negative perceptions and suspicion towards China. The project employs a historical and analytical approach and covers the period from 1949 to 2022. The study advances in three phases. The first phase of the study extending from 1949 to 1962 delves into the foundational basis and construction of the memory narratives of betrayal and humiliation. The second phase of the study explores the state and the larger Indian strategic community’s role in popularising a simplistic account of the war through information control and selective dissemination. Using case studies, this phase also identifies the memory narrative that dominates Indian strategic community’s remembrance of the war. The final phase examines the long process of reconciliation and confidence building between the two countries and evaluates how Indian policy elites’ selective remembrance hinders attempts of reconciliation and often fuels distrust towards China. The project contributes to the field of International Relations by exploring the impact of the psychological dimension on inter-state relations. It highlights how along with material and structural factors, selective reconstruction and remembrance of events can perpetuate distrust and hinder cooperation between nations. The thesis also underscores the need for re-evaluating the memory narratives entrenched in Indian policy elites’ psyche and revising the remembrance of the war to foster positive ties with China.