

Thomas Uthup [Ombud9@yahoo.com] is senior research associate, Institute of Global Cultural Studies, Binghamton University, (SUNY); and president, Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (Twitter/@friendsunaoc). He previously served as research and education manager for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Dr. Uthup's academic focus has been on the complex relationships between culture and society, with special attention to religious factors - especially Islam - affecting political behavior. He has published well over 90 newspaper, journal and reference articles. He has made several presentations at local, regional, national, and international meetings. Dr. Uthup has taught at Binghamton University, NY, and the College of Wooster, OH, and has served as guest lecturer in classes at Oberlin College, OH, and Cornell University, NY. His media experience also includes serving as a panelist on National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation and several television interviews. Dr. Uthup's current research interests include South Asian and Middle Eastern politics, religion and politics, and global mobility in the education arena. He has also worked as a fundraiser and administrator at Syracuse University, NY, and Oberlin College, OH. He has been a grant evaluator for the Federal Corporation for National and Community Service and a board member of a community organization and an international educational exchange program. He received his Bachelor's degree in economics, politics, and sociology from Bangalore University (St. Joseph's College) in Bangalore, India; a Master's degree in international journalism from Baylor University in Waco, Texas; and an MA and Ph. D in political science from Binghamton University (SUNY).