



Dr. Timothy Samuel Shah

Dr. Timothy S. Shah is Director of Strategic Initiatives of the [Center for Shared Civilizational Values](#) and Distinguished Research Scholar in Politics at the University of Dallas. From 2017 to 2020, Dr. Shah led an intensive project funded by Templeton Religion Trust on the religious freedom landscape in South and Southeast Asia. One of the project's [major findings](#)—that Nahdlatul Ulama spiritual leaders “represent the most theologically potent and operationally effective actors promoting religious liberty in the Islamic world today”—inspired Dr. Shah to join these NU leaders in establishing the Center for Shared Civilizational Values in 2021. With his wife, Rebecca Shah, he is based in Bangalore, India.

By training and personal passion, Dr. Shah is a scholar of politics and political philosophy, specializing in religious freedom, religion and global politics, and the history of moral and political theory. According to Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, “Dr. Shah’s exceptional work in the promotion of religious liberty, both at home and across the globe, has established him as a major figure in national and international discussions of what... Americans have long—and rightly—regarded as ‘the first freedom.’”

Among numerous achievements in recent years, Dr. Shah co-founded the Washington-based Religious Freedom Institute in 2016, serving as its Vice President for Strategy and International Research and director of its South and Southeast Asia Action Team until 2020. Between 2011 and 2018, he was based at Georgetown University, where he served as associate director of the Berkley Center’s Religious Freedom Project and associate professor of the practice of religion and global politics in Georgetown’s Department of Government. He was previously a senior fellow at the Pew Research Center and, from 2004 to 2009, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he directed (with Walter Russell Mead) the Council’s first program on Religion and Foreign Policy.

Dr. Shah is the author or editor of numerous books, including *Even if There is No God: Hugo Grotius and the Secular Foundations of Modern Political Liberalism* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming); *Under Caesar’s Sword: Christian Responses to Persecution* (Cambridge University Press, 2018); *Homo Religiosus? Exploring the Roots of Religion and Religious Freedom in Human Experience* (Cambridge University Press, 2018); *Christianity and Freedom: Historical Perspectives* and *Christianity and Freedom: Contemporary Perspectives* (both with Cambridge University Press, 2016); *Rethinking Religion and World Affairs* (Oxford University Press, 2012); *Religious Freedom: Why Now? Defending an Embattled Human Right* (Witherspoon Institute, 2012); and *God’s Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics* (W.W. Norton and Company, 2011). Dr. Shah’s articles on religion, religious freedom and global politics, in history and in the

contemporary world, have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Review of Politics*, *Fides et Historia*, and elsewhere.

In addition to his affiliations with the Center for Shared Civilizational Values and the University of Dallas, Dr. Shah also currently serves as a senior fellow at the Archbridge Institute as well as the principal investigator for the [Freedom of Religious Institutions in Society \(FORIS\) project](#) at the Religious Freedom Institute.

Dr. Shah received his A.B. in Government, *magna cum laude*, in 1992 and a Ph.D. in political science, in 2002, both from Harvard University. From 1997 to 1998, he was a Visiting Graduate Student in Theology at Christ Church, Oxford University.