

**Arthur C. Helton Fellowship
2023 Program Fellow**



Aakarsh Banyal is a University Merit Scholar, Dean’s Researcher, and Shantanu Tomar Scholar at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, India. After completing his undergraduate degree, he will read for the BCL at the University of Oxford to specialise in international law and dispute settlement. Previously, he has interned with the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, New York and the Chief Prosecutor’s Office of the International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh. In addition, he has assisted international law scholars, including Dr. Anna Petrig (University of Basel), Dr. Sandesh Sivakumaran (University of Cambridge) and Dr. Siobhán Mullally (UN SR Trafficking in Persons), on several book projects and research assignments. The Helton Fellowship will allow him

to continue his work with the Chief Prosecutor’s Office of the Tribunal in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Specifically, he will research the fair trial rights of absconding individuals and the “non-traditional” practice of trials *in absentia* at the Tribunal. He will produce a report which critically examines this practice from a legal standpoint while capturing the experiences and opinions of various stakeholders regarding these trials.