

WEDNESDAY 28th NOVEMBER
Room CLM 4.02, Clement House, LSE
18.30 – 20.00

“Nepal: a politics of perpetual crises?”

Speaker: Dr George Varughese (The Asia Foundation)

Discussants: Prof Paul Jackson (University of Birmingham)
Dr Mara Malagodi (LSE)

Nepal has been in transitional crisis for five years and, for a decade before that, underwent severe political instability and lethal violence. Taken together, the actions of political actors over the past several years evidence a steady move towards the practice of a politics of perpetual crises. As a long-time Nepal watcher and country representative of a governance-focused INGO, Dr Varughese will discuss some implications for the country's progress.

George Varughese has been The Asia Foundation's country representative in Nepal since May 2009, where he oversees a broad range of programmes that support an effective political transition; facilitate conflict transformation, peacebuilding and alternative dispute resolution; safeguard women's security and combat the trafficking of persons; support public policy analysis and engagement; and enable local economic governance and opportunity. Dr Varughese served as TAF Country Representative in Afghanistan from 2005-2009 and holds a joint PhD in public administration and political science from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Dr Malagodi is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Law where she is undertaking a project investigating patterns of exclusion for Nepal's ethno-linguistic, religious and regional groups, dalits, women and LGBTs in the constitutional arena by mapping the Supreme Court's decisions since 1990 with regard to interpreting the Right to Equality.

Prof Jackson is a political economist working predominantly on conflict and post-conflict reconstruction, with a key interest in decentralisation and governance. He has worked widely in both Africa and Asia on issues surrounding security and development and is currently director of the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform.

The event is free and open to all on a first come, first served, basis.