



VERA ANSTEY SOUTH ASIA ESSAY COMPETITION 2020-21

The 'Vera Anstey South Asia Essay Competition' is established by the LSE South Asia Centre in honour of LSE alumnus and Reader Vera Anstey (1889–1967).

'The next 10 years: What is the biggest challenge facing South Asia in the coming decade?'

Home to nearly one-sixth of the world's population, some of the highest rates of economic growth in the world, a burgeoning middle class and ever-increasing power in international affairs, South Asia is one of the world's most influential regions today.

But the last decade has not been absent from testing political, economic, social and environmental challenges. From the rise of majoritarian nationalism in India to the war in Afghanistan, acts of terrorism in Sri Lanka and natural disasters in Nepal, the region's citizens and leaders have been confronted with enormous challenges.

So, what about the next ten years? What tests lie in wait for the region? Will national economies have to finally work to reduce their reliance on worker's remittances? Will the lack of high-quality jobs, rapid urbanisation, rising inequality, or escalating tensions between neighbours plunge the region into a decade-long crisis? Are the effects of the climate crisis more immediate and severe than we anticipate? Are the threats to democratic norms experienced over recent years set to become a permanent feature of South Asian politics?

In this inaugural Vera Anstey South Asia Essay Competition, you have the opportunity to explain to a large and influential audience of policy-makers, journalists and academics from around the world what challenges the region will have to confront in the next ten years.