



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



SOUTH ASIA
CENTRE

Research at LSE ■



South Asia Centre
Annual Report
2020/21



Our logo is a leaf from the *Ficus religiosa* (Sacred Fig), a tree found across the countries of South Asia. It symbolises social, cultural, religious, and ecological benevolence, embodying a shared geography. This intrinsic commonality, cutting across political boundaries and identitarian constructions, provokes intriguing curiosity about the ties that bind this complex region. In amplifying this, our logo ties the Centre to LSE's motto: *Rerum cognoscere causas*, 'to know the causes of things'.

The height and breadth of the *Ficus*, along with its dry season deciduous nature, gives it its innate popularity in South Asia — as provider of shade from the scorching sun in the summers, and warm, filtered sunshine in its cold winters. Its density and strength make it a nesting paradise for several kinds of birds, and its leaves provide fodder for two of South Asia's most important pack animals, the camel and the elephant.

The bark, leaves and figs of the *Ficus* have several medicinal attributes, and are used in Ayurvedic, Yunani and other alternative medical knowledge-systems, helping to treat open wounds, inflammations, ulcers, asthma, and digestive and heart ailments.

Its popular names include *arani*, *ashvattha*, *bo*, *bodhi*, *bodhidruma*, *beepul*, *esathu*, *pimpal*, *pipal*, *ragi*, and *shuchidruma*, among many others.

The logo has been designed by Oroon Das.

INTRODUCTION

Professor Alnoor Bhimani, *Director*



The South Asia Centre is LSE's primary platform for global engagement with the region. Central to our work is the exchange of ideas, and advancing thought on issues of social, political, economic, and cultural significance relating to South Asia.

Since the establishment of the Centre in 2015, much has altered around the globe. Greater interactions across countries have been accompanied by movements towards isolationism. The digitalisation of economies has unleashed issues of liberty, wealth disparities as well as possibilities to 'leapfrog' the West. South Asian nations are part of these shifts and are seeing their destinies evolve alongside other specificities that themselves shape the world in different ways. The activities of the South Asia Centre have explored these, and other changes in the making this year.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we have been intensely active in delivering on this objective. Geographical boundaries do not delimit the permeation of ideas that are trans-disciplinary, knowledge exchanges that are formal or informal, nor thinking that is practice-based or academically derived. The Centre recognises this and continues to widen the set of issues it addresses. Ultimately, the Centre is about 'Unravelling South Asia to the World', our new tagline which underlines our purpose — of disseminating variously the dynamism of

contemporary South Asia across all our platforms and communications. We do this via diverse activities for exchanging ideas, fostering focused conversations, creating knowledge resources, providing research opportunities, and by seeking to impact public thought.

The start of the pandemic coincided with changes in the administration of the Centre with several staff departures. This provided an opportunity to employ LSE students to assist with numerous engagements of benefit to both them and the Centre. While the expectation may have been that circumstances this past year would dampen the extent and pace of our activities, the Centre instead found itself accelerating its work. Technology powered us to greater heights! We have been able to reach out to a global diversity of speakers, and made increased and strategic use of social media and other e-communication platforms to expand awareness of our activities. Almost every event has had online views in excess of expectations; a special lecture by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen to mark the centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman has seen 175,000+ views.

In our events through 2020/21, we have discussed differential systems of justice, public health concerns, geopolitical movements, decolonising forces, and the rise of populism amidst liberalism. We have also mounted conversations on social entrepreneurship challenges in the modern world, on different perspectives on menstruation, and on the promise of cryptocurrencies. Amongst other important mentions are two events focused on Myanmar, and the inclusion of speakers from Bhutan in another couple of events.

We also initiated events 'series' to consolidate the impact and output of our intellectual activities in accretion, and feedback from audiences has shown that this has been welcome, appreciated and very successful. 'Geopolitics beyond Borders' discussed how the dynamics of South Asia was changing fundamentally with the emergence of non-South Asian political influence in the region (China, USA); 'Decolonising Knowledge' explored the imperatives to change in the post-Colony (like law and legal frameworks); and 'Fact & Fiction' has introduced discussions about wider issues and concerns focused around newly published titles, with a panel of experts and interested commentators. All these will continue in 2021/22, as we explore other themes that impress upon the intellectual dynamism of the region at this time.

This year has also provided us with the opportunity to organise several commemorative events. As part of LSE's 125th anniversary, we organised three events with the Fabian Society, exploring the complicated, contentious history of several Fabians and LSE — and the versatile impact of Fabians with and in South Asia, including LSE Founding members Beatrice & Sidney Webb, Harold Laski and students involved in India's freedom struggle, and Leonard Woolf in Sri Lanka.

We have also marked two commemorations in Bangladesh: the centenary of the birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence — with a specially commissioned 'Bangladesh @ 50' logo — and a series of blogposts and events.

We collaborated with LSE Library to launch an online exhibition on Dr B R Ambedkar, helping publicise the Library's archives for research. Making available the complete student files of Ambedkar to download free was one reason for this being the most viewed page on the Library's website ever; it has had more than 25,000 page views in the first month (as opposed to an average of 7,000 views per exhibition in total). A special Roundtable to mark the launch discussed Ambedkar's radicalism in the context of India's Constitution, his views on caste, and gender.

We have also been busy developing two new digital maps on Bangladesh and Pakistan, and updating the digital map on India (first launched in 2019) as part of the 'States of South Asia' initiative — all as free online digital resources for researchers. Working Papers from Roundtables are being planned, and two Working Papers by Visiting Fellows under the auspices of the Charles Wallace Trust — from Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively — are also being finalised.

In July–August, the Centre organised a series of lectures in collaboration with the Department for Transport UK as part of the 'South Asian Heritage Month'. This was the first time that the Centre engaged — via these 'Impact' lectures — directly with the government, to participate in the official celebration of South Asian heritage in the UK. Three lectures covered different aspects of past and contemporary South Asia, which are described in greater detail later in this Report.

Through all this, we are extending alliances and building networks with other institutions and have, during the year, engaged in several new collaborations within and outside LSE. These include the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London; iProbono; Fabian Society; High Commission of Bangladesh; Department for Transport UK; 'Decolonising LSE' Collective; LSE School of Public Policy; and the LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre. These collaborations build on current ones with LSE IDEAS; LSE Library; Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET), New York; National Indian Students & Alumni Union UK (NISAU); High Commission of India; LSESU Pakistan Development Society; and LSESU India Society.


The publication of blogs has been streamlined, which has mobilised wider global presence by not just accessing more internationally dispersed speakers but also growing manifold our audience participation.

All these are explained in greater detail in the pages that follow, and a complete listing of events in 2020/21 appears at the end of this Report.

Core to our intent is to grow the world's awareness of South Asia given the region's extensive and deepening impact and involvement in an increasingly complex world. We will continue to foster discourse on emerging spheres of thought and action, and

their relationships to South Asia. Achieving this relies on the input of staff, faculty and friends of the South Asia Centre to whom I am grateful. Our Faculty Advisory Group members have provided us with insights, ideas and support that is, as always, proving invaluable. The Senior Advisory Board ensures our focus remains globally relevant and retains directional excellence. The upcoming year will see the Centre organise many more events and activities that will broaden the understanding of South Asian issues and their global relevance.



Ultimately, the Centre is about 'Unravelling South Asia to the World', our new tagline which underlines our purpose – of disseminating variously the dynamism of contemporary South Asia across all our platforms and communications. 

We look forward to seeing you engage with the South Asia Centre as we plan more exciting activities!

YEAR IN REVIEW



30
Events



1
Prize
announcement



31
Blogposts



9,452
Facebook
followers



749
Instagram
followers



9,741
Twitter
followers



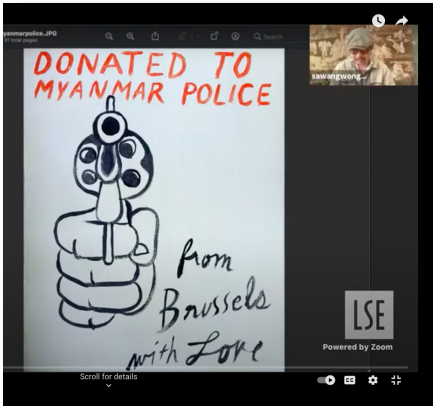
357,716
You Tube
event views



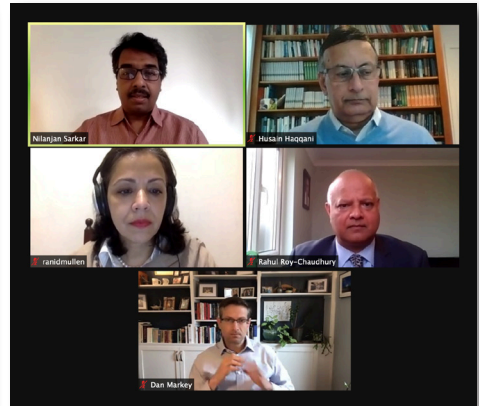
4,060
You Tube
subscriptions



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MICHAEL COX, JEANNE MOREFIELD, BRANT MOSCOVITCH, ANDREW HARROP, JAIRAM RAMESH, SIMON HIX & TEJAS PARASHER (CENTRE) AT 'HAROLD LASKI & INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE', 18 MARCH 2021.



SAWANGWONGSE YAWNGHWE SPEAKING ABOUT HIS ART AT 'MILITARY MYANMAR: FEARING FREEDOM', 27 MAY 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, HUSAIN HAQQANI, RAHUL ROY-CHAUDHURY, DANIEL MARKEY & RANI D MULLEN AT 'DIFFERENT STARS, DIFFERENT STRIPES: THE US IN SOUTH ASIA', 16 FEBRUARY 2021.

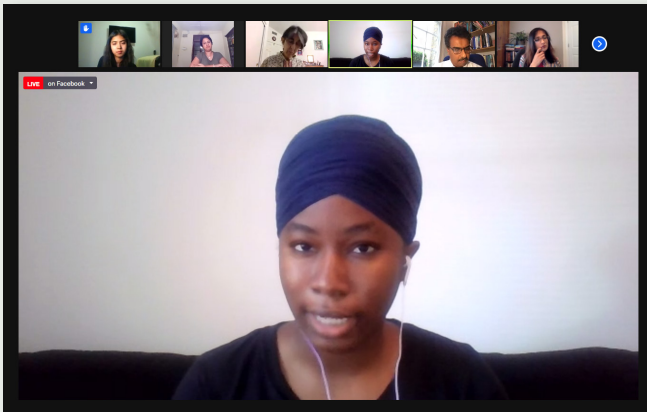
TOUGH TALK

This new series does exactly what it says: it talks tough, asking questions that are all too real in South Asia, asks them starkly and bluntly, and invites speakers from different perspectives. The questions in this series are the big questions, yet those that are often not asked with the frankness required for an open discussion.

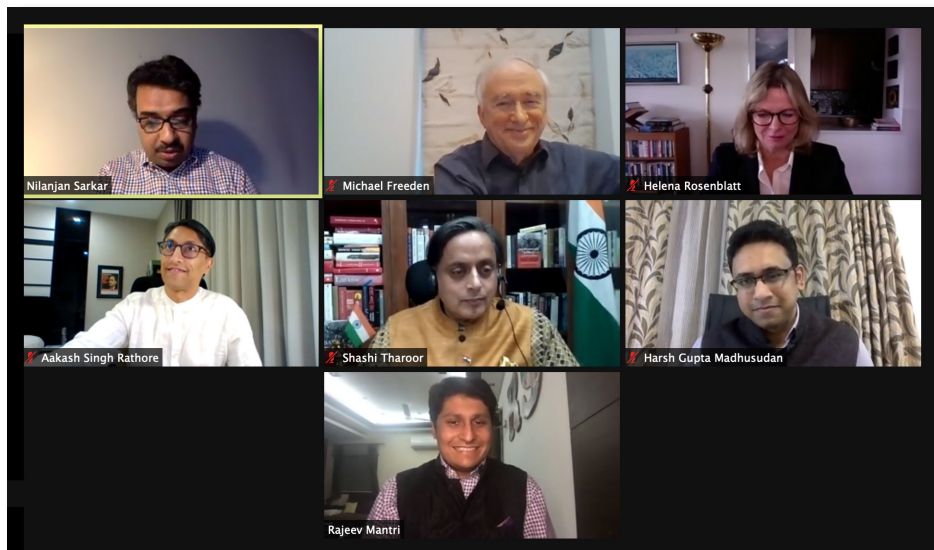
TOUGH TALK #1 kicked off the new academic year with a question that haunts South Asia: **'Are South Asians Racist?'** Speakers from India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka — and a Black convert to Sikhism in the US — spoke of the variety of racist discrimination they have faced or witnessed from their co-citizens/co-community members. Registers of discrimination included religious/ethnic minority status (Hurmat Ali Shah spoke about being Pashtun in Pakistan), physical features (Ngurang Reena on being a north-easterner (from Arunachal Pradesh) in northern India), historical migrants (Beheroze Shroff discussed her research on Siddis in India; Nirosha Kulasekara her work with Africans/descendants in Sri Lanka), mixed-race (Hsu Yadanar Tun on being called 'the K-word' in Myanmar), and the experience of being Black and 'Sikh' in the US (Gurpreet Kaur/Jasmine Morris). Malini

Ranganathan spoke as Interim Faculty Director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at the American University, Washington DC.

Several disturbing points came out clearly from this discussion: the routine and systemic nature of the sharpest forms of racism — based on physical features, ethnicity, religion — towards one another within South Asian communities; the almost socially 'institutionalised', unconscious and blatant practice of such discrimination; the propensity to identify as victims of 'racism' in 'white' contexts whilst being in complete denial of, or complicit in, precisely the same (or similar) practices within one's own communities, whether as perpetrators or as bystanders; the justification of discriminatory practices within their own communities as 'cultural', or stemming from impressionistic 'stereotypes'; and the clear



GURPREET KAUR (JASMINE MORRIS) AT 'ARE SOUTH ASIANS RACIST?', 30 SEPTEMBER 2020.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, MICHAEL FREEDEN, HELENA ROSENBLATT, HARSH GUPTA 'MADHUSUDAN', RAJEEV MANTRI, AAKASH SINGH RATHORE & SHASHI THAROOR (CENTRE) AT 'DOES LIBERALISM ALLOW POPULISM?', 20 JANUARY 2021.

refusal, even of the panelists, to engage in this discussion had it been moderated by a white person.

In Lent Term, TOUGH TALK #2 addressed the uncomfortable awareness amongst several thinking people of all political persuasions: **'Does Liberalism Allow Populism?'** where, 'allow' was used in the strict sense of 'giving permission for (someone or groups) to do something, or to not prevent something from happening'. The discussion considered if the 'Liberal' political order, inasmuch as it aspires to support all views, has inadvertently allowed 'il/non-liberal' groups to prosper in liberal political space, only for them to stifle that space once they come to power? Panelists included political philosophers Michael Freeden, Aakash

Rathore, and Helena Rosenblatt, Harsh Gupta 'Madhusudan' & Rajeev Mantri (co-authors of *A New Idea of India: Individual Rights in a Civilisational State*) and Shashi Tharoor (author of *The Battle of Belonging: On Nationalism, Patriotism, and What it means to be Indian*).

Several interesting points came up in the discussion — most predictably between the Centre and Centre-Right positions (in India) of equality of citizenship and belonging anchored in its historical/civilisational context alongside its constitutional guarantees, as would be true in all modern, liberal nation-states.

Recordings of both events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

GEOPOLITICS BEYOND BORDERS

Geopolitics in South Asia has changed dramatically in recent years, quite uniquely because of the emergence of 'non' South Asian vectors in the geo-dynamics of this region. Traditionally seen as an unhappy conglomeration of neighbours with India as the regional geo-political power, its dynamics now is completely different.

New power-brokers have altered the fray – China, with its financial investments in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; the withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan; competitive investment by India in sub-Saharan Africa; the emergence of Iran in South Asian geopolitics; and the activation of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (aka QUAD) by the US, India, Australia and Japan – alongside the strengthening of Blue Finance and ocean economics in the Indian Ocean; the bellicosity of nuclear-powered nationalisms; the strengthening of relations between Nepal and China – all this leading to a change in India's control of the geopolitical narrative in the region.

The Centre organised three events in 2020/21, each addressing the emerging dynamics of South Asia's geopolitics which is now influenced as much by those beyond its borders. All three Roundtables were in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) and LSE IDEAS.

'The Dragon's Ring: China in South Asia'

invited speakers to discuss the growing financial investments of China overland (via its 'Belt & Road Initiative') and by sea via FDIs, in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and how – consequently – it has 'ringed' India, and curtailed India's prominence with a suddenness that is as dramatic as it is masterly. Speakers included Filippo Boni, Li Li, Rahul Roy-Chaudhury & Nilanthi Samaranyake, and was moderated by Chris Alden from LSE.

'Different Stars, Different Stripes: The US in South Asia'

was held in Michaelmas Term, shortly after Biden was declared President of the US. The change in US attitude towards Afghanistan and Pakistan, the activation of the QUAD (and the US' attendant avowed ambition of checking China's increasing dominance in the region) meant the discussion was both speculative and animated. Speakers Hussain Haqqani, Daniel Markey & Rani D Mullen were masterfully moderated by Rahul Roy-Chaudhury from IISS.

'Kashmir: Frontier & Shroud'

was focused on the recently published *White as the Shroud: India, Pakistan and War on the Frontiers of Kashmir* (2020) by Myra Macdonald, on the long-contentious Siachen Glacier, and the endless skirmishes between China, India and Pakistan. Discussants included Macdonald herself, alongside Pallavi Raghavan and Farhana Shaikh, with Rahul Roy-Chaudhury as Moderator. And the conversation – powered by Macdonald's grassroots-level knowledge as a journalist (having visited both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border) – explored in particular the story of the Indo-Pak war over this barren, frozen glacier, and its complex shadow on the geopolitics of the region, now made more critical with China's increased involvement in Pakistan.

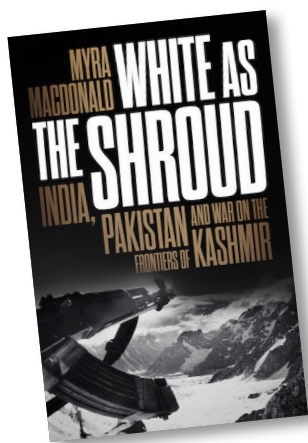
Recordings of all three events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).



LI LI AT 'THE DRAGON'S RING: CHINA IN SOUTH ASIA',
13 OCTOBER 2020.



HUSAIN HAQQANI AT 'DIFFERENT STARS,
DIFFERENT STRIPES: THE US IN SOUTH ASIA',
16 FEBRUARY 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR,
RAHUL ROY-CHAUDHURY, MYRA MACDONALD, PALLAVI
RAGHAVAN & FARZANA SHEIKH AT 'KASHMIR: FRONTIER
& SHROUD', 6 MAY 2021.

LEFT: COVER OF MYRA MACDONALD'S *WHITE AS THE
SHROUD: INDIA, PAKISTAN AND THE WAR ON THE
FRONTIERS OF KASHMIR*.

DECOLONISING KNOWLEDGE

South Asia is home to several post-colonial nations. Much of its institutional and political systems are inherited and derived from its colonial past, sometimes more directly than others. Over the decades, different countries have adapted that framework to suit its needs, but the inheritances of knowledge are more difficult to overcome.

A collaborative event with iProbono in October 2020 addressed this head on, in the context of the legal knowledge that so many nations in South Asia have inherited from Britain, and continue to grapple with in their everyday dealings. The discussion – with Aparna Chandra (India), Osama Siddique (Pakistan) and Aritha Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka), moderated by Mariam Faruqi (iProbono) – considered the burden of colonial knowledge from all its perspectives: how, in some instances, post-

colonies have developed radical new laws, and at another level continue to be blighted with the knowledge of the past.

Of course, the need to decolonise ‘knowledge’ in South Asia has many aspects, and the Centre will continue to explore these in future events.

A Recording of this event is available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MARIAM FARUQI, OSAMA SIDDIQUE, ALNOOR BHIMANI & APARNA CHANDRA AT 'COLONIAL LAWS & SOCIAL CHANGE', 21 OCTOBER 2020.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: OSAMA SIDDIQUE, APARNA CHANDRA & ARITHA WICKRAMASINGHE AT 'COLONIAL LAWS & SOCIAL CHANGE', 21 OCTOBER 2020.

FABIAN DIALOGUES

LSE's relationship with the Fabians goes back to its founding members, particularly the Webbs; at the same time, several Fabians had strong links with South Asia, or had visited/written about it. As LSE marked its 125th anniversary (1885–2020), the Centre hosted a series of events about Fabians and South Asia to mark these celebrations. We were delighted that the Fabian Society agreed to collaborate with the Centre for this series.

This series has been one of our most intellectually exciting ones – in retrospect, several actions of the Fabians in Britain seem counterintuitive, grate against our good senses, and complicate our engagement with them with distinct discomfort. Our events were going to explore this directly: tensions tangled in the wider context of race, class, eugenics, Empire, imperialism &c, motored by global political imperatives and intellectual movements of the 19th–20th centuries.

Focusing on South Asia allowed our events to examine dichotomies starkly, locating the actors and their actions at home and abroad,

between divergent interests, demonstrating how these were invested and complex engagements walking a particular tightrope along a slippery slope: if some Fabians supported eugenics, they also supported opportunities for education for all.

The first Dialogue, titled '**Beatrice & Sidney Webb: The Race for LSE**', thus played on 'race' to underline both the global effort undertaken by them to establish a liberal educational institution as well as their complex engagement with eugenics and its attendant presences at LSE. Their enterprise convinced Indian businessman Sir Ratan Tata to make a gift that saw the establishment of 'The



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, KEVIN MORGAN, CHRIS RENWICK, MICHAEL COX, ANDREW HARROP & SUE DONNELLY AT 'BEATRICE & SIDNEY WEBB: THE RACE FOR LSE', 17 NOVEMBER 2020.

Ratan Tata Department of Social Justice and Administration', where the future British Prime Minister Clement Attlee was appointed Lecturer. LSE Archivist Sue Donnelly presented a remarkable set of documents underlining the Webbs engagement with Mr Tata and their trip to India; other speakers included Michael Cox, Kevin Morgan and Chris Renwick, moderated by Andrew Harrop (Fabian Society).

There were also Fabians at LSE, like the Politics professor Harold Laski, who were deeply critical of Empire and Imperialism. Laski was a magnet especially for Indian students who were (from the 1920s) increasingly active in calls for India's independence in the United Kingdom, a call which several in the Labour Party supported at the time. The second Dialogue, chaired by LSE Harold Laski Professor Simon Hix, was titled **'Harold Laski & India's Freedom Struggle'**, with panelists Michael Cox, Jeanne Morefield, Brant Moscovitch, Tejas Parasher, and Jairam Ramesh, moderated by Andrew Harrop (Fabian Society) exploring Harold Laski's engagement with Indian students at LSE, and his support for India's independence from colonial rule. While Ramesh focused on Krishna Menon (on whom he has a new biography), Parasher spoke on lesser-known but equally important Indians at LSE (including the historian Beni Prashad), and Morefield read a summary of the late Isaac Kramnick's unpublished article on Laski's engagement with India.

The third Dialogue, in the Summer Term, was titled **'Leonard Woolf: Voicing Ceylon?'** (the all-important question-mark highlighting the contestations in post-colonial debates). Woolf



'FABIAN WINDOW' BY CAROLINE TOWNSHEND, SHAW LIBRARY, LSE MAIN BUILDING.

was not associated with LSE but was, of course, a prominent Fabian who had — early in his life — been a civil servant in what was then 'Ceylon', an experience that allegedly led to his leaving the Civil Service upon his return to England, and formed the core of several of his later writings where he appeared to 'speak for' the people of the colony, presenting their perspective and highlighting their plight through his fictional characters. Panelists included Alexander Bubb, Peter Wilson — and very interestingly, Minoli Salgado, whose grandfather had in fact worked with Woolf during his time in Ceylon. The discussion was moderated by Andrew Harrop (Fabian Society).

Recordings of these events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

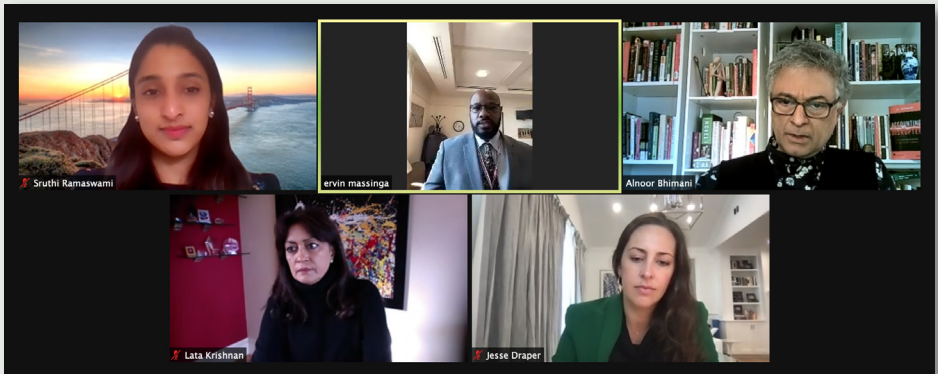
In 2020/21, the Centre made a conscious decision to focus on women-centred issues, and we hope to continue this in future years. A significant element in this is the inclusion of men in conversations concerning ‘women’s issues’.

Deciding on what to focus is always a challenge since there are so many relevant, and equally important, issues to consider. We decided, therefore, to begin with focusing on health, and economics.

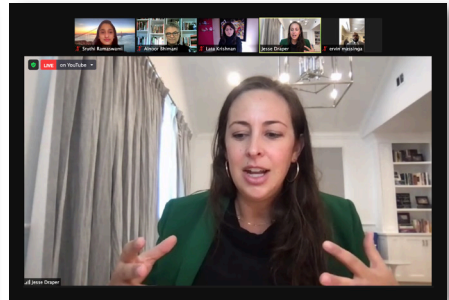
Women have been playing an increasingly important role in board rooms, often blazing the trail in start-up organisations. Yet it remains remarkably overlooked, especially in conversations about South Asia. **‘Women: The Future of Start-ups’** was curated with this in mind, and we were delighted to include Lata Krishnan (LSE alumnus and member of the Centre’s Senior Advisory Board), Jesse Draper, Sruthi Ramaswami — all women entrepreneurs — and Ervin Massinga, moderated by Alnoor Bhimani. Interest in this — at the time of the

event as well as later — has underlined the need and importance of such conversations.

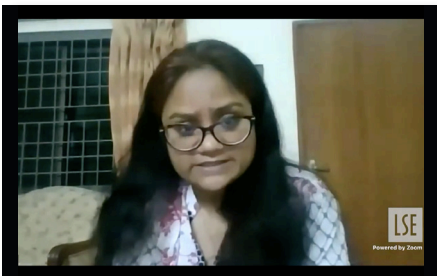
And in yet another radical departure, the Centre convened a panel discussion titled **‘Menstruation is Everyone’s Business: Period.’** on menstruation, access to hygienic provisions, period poverty and cultural obstacles for women in South Asia. We were delighted to include, amongst others, Tashi Zangmo from Bhutan who spoke about Buddhist nuns & their access to menstrual hygiene, and Daniel Epstein, who has developed a menstrual tracking App. Other panelists included Farah Ahamed (who is editor of a volume of essays on menstruation), Suhani Jalota and Ayra Indrias Patras; the event was moderated by Nilanjan Sarkar.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SRUTHI RAMASWAMI, ERVIN MASSINGA, ALNOOR BHIMANI, JESSE DRAPER & LATA KRISHNAN AT ‘WOMEN: THE FUTURE OF START-UPS’, 10 MARCH 2021.



LATA KRISHNAN (LEFT) & JESSE DRAPER (RIGHT) AT 'WOMEN: THE FUTURE OF START-UPS', 10 MARCH 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FARAH AHAMED, DANIEL EPSTEIN, TASHI ZANGMO, SUHANI JALOTA & AYRA INDRIAS PATRAS (LEFT) AT 'MENSTRUATION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS: PERIOD', 25 MARCH 2021.

FACT & FICTION

The Centre has organised its book events in the past year in two ways: new and interesting titles relevant to South Asia have been discussed by a panel of interested speakers; and new titles/authors have been included in discussions about wider connected issues. We are delighted at the positive response to this from our global audience as well as authors of the titles.

To enhance engagement with the contents of individual titles, **Fact & Fiction** invited a panel of subject/thematic experts carefully chosen to represent different relevant perspectives, who engaged the author in conversation. But new book titles have also appeared as part of focused thematic discussions in other series/events – like ‘Tough Talk’, ‘Geopolitics beyond Borders’ and ‘Artha Vivaad’ – where the author was invited to present their arguments as part of a discussion on a wider theme.

A total of eight titles – marked by the immediacy of their relevance – were discussed in 2020/21, and – with the exception of one (*Suheldev*) – all others were discussed by a panel of experts. Inviting several discussants for a single title enabled a multi-perspectival engagement with the themes and issues of the books, often leading to animated discussion about deeper issues. This intended wider angle was enhanced by giving the events a title that was (perhaps even slightly) different from the title of the book, whilst using the cover image of the book in our publicity to clarify the nature of the event to the attendees.

In Michaelmas Term, we discussed ***Everyday Justice in Myanmar: Informal Resolutions and State Evasion in a Time of Contested Transition*** (2020), a collection of articles by academics and grassroots workers on the multiple, informal channels of ‘justice’ subscribed to by the people of Myanmar. Editor Helene Maria Kyed and



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, HELENE MARIA KYED, HANS STEINMULLER, MI THANG SORN POINE, DANIEL AGUIRRE & MICHAEL CHARNEY AT ‘EVERYDAY JUSTICE IN MYANMAR’, 9 OCTOBER 2020.

contributor Mi Thang Sorn Poine spoke about the making of the book with Myanmar experts Daniel Aguirre and Michael Charney, moderated by Hans Steinmüller (LSE). The Centre was delighted to host this event in collaboration with LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre especially for its focus on Myanmar, which is of enormous interest because of its location at the cusp of South and Southeast Asia. The military coup in February 2021 that has upended the fragile democratic system – and on which we did an event later in the Summer Term – was still to happen at the time of this book event.

Outrage: The Rise of Religious Offence in Contemporary South Asia (2019) was an especially difficult event to convene because the book had several editors and several contributors who wrote on several countries of South Asia – and discussed several religious communities in their writings! Predictably, it turned out to be an extremely interesting discussion because all discussants (Utsav Bains – who could not continue due to connectivity problems, Amber Darr, Sara Hossain) bar one (Paul Fuller, an academic) were legal experts, and the editors/authors (Kathinka Frøystad, Iselin Freydenlund & Paul Rollier) were all academics. What turned out to be fascinating were the perspectives from which the lawyers

and the academics approached and discussed the question of religious identity and offence across the religions of South Asia, leading to a discussion so animated that there was hardly any time for a Q&A.

Suheldev: The King Who Saved India was the only exception to the Centre's multi-perspectival format for book events. This was a one-on-one conversation between Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar and the author of the book, Amish on a mythical king from 11th century northern India, the period of research specialism for Nilanjan. Central to this was the discussion of the role of historical fiction in society, and where it stood in relation to historical facts it was based on.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, ISELIN FRYDENLUND, PAUL FULLER, UTSAV BAINS, SARA HOSSAIN, KATHINKA FRØYSTAD, AMBER DARR & PAUL ROLLIER (CENTRE) AT "OUTRAGE": RELIGIOUS OFFENCE IN SOUTH ASIA TODAY', 27 OCTOBER 2020.

In Lent Term, the Centre convened a Roundtable which was unique both for the content as well as the participants: the book, **India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders** (2020) is a series of 20 interviews with <50yo Indian politicians poised to take over national politics from the older generation. The Centre invited five Indians – either involved in political activity (Pushparaj Deshpande, Kawalpreet Kaur) or directly involved with political parties (Ali Khan Mahmudabad, Astik Sinha), or studying political parties (K. Vignesh Rajahmani) – crucially, all <40yo Indians, those whose lives will be directly impacted by those who have been interviewed in the volume. The editors of the volume – Pradeep Chhibber and Harsh Shah – provided crucial insights into how the interviews were conducted, the circumstances & challenges of compiling the volume in time. The discussants were given five pre-selected interviews of politicians not inclined to their own political persuasions for comment. In sum, it turned out to be a good-humoured exchange of contesting political ideas and visions about the future of the world's largest democracy!

Gandhi, the most potent global icon, continues to animate our worlds of thoughts and ideas. Sumathi Ramaswamy's **Gandhi: The Art of Disobedience** (2019) focused on artworks and the expression of Gandhi's disobedience. The discussants – Monica Juneja, Tridip Suvrud & Anselm Franke – discussed the different ways in which icons and ideologies can be expressed, and accordingly deciphered in art, and possible ways in which the theme of non-violence can be approached. Curated in the Summer Term, it was followed by an extremely engaged Q&A with the audience.

Myra Macdonald's **White as the Shroud: India, Pakistan and War on the Frontiers of Kashmir** is an in-depth account of a journalist's long years of engagement with the region, and its complex vectors. Farhana Shaikh, Pallavi Raghavan and Rahul Roy-Chaudhury, alongside Myra, discussed this pervasive and deeply divisive topic in South Asia involving China, India and Pakistan, as part of our 'Geopolitics beyond Borders' series.

'Tough Talk' (detailed earlier in this Report) has by far been our most successful series of events because of the stark manner in which we ask the questions. Shashi Tharoor's **The Battle for Belonging: On Nationalism, Patriotism and What It Means to be Indian** (2020; UK edition titled *The Struggle for India's Soul: Nationalism and the Fate of Democracy* (2021)), and Rajeev Mantri & Harsh Madhusudan's **A New Idea of India: Individual Rights in a Civilisational State** (2019) were included in the discussion titled 'Does Liberalism allow Populism?' – two books with very different, even opposing, ideas of what being 'Indian' means. Their views were discussed by political theorists Michael Freeden, Akash Singh Rathore & Helena Rosenblatt.

Ravinder Kaur's **Brand New Nation: Capitalist Dreams and Nationalist Designs in Twenty-First-Century India** (2020) was the centre of our discussion in 'Artha Vivaad: Dialogues in New Economics' (detailed later in this Report) which we curate annually in collaboration with the Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET) in New York. The discussion was very topical, not least because of the stresses brought upon by the pandemic amidst which this event was being held. Expectedly, it generated huge interest from a global audience – with expert views from Sanjay Jain, Nasser Munjee & Ila Patnaik.

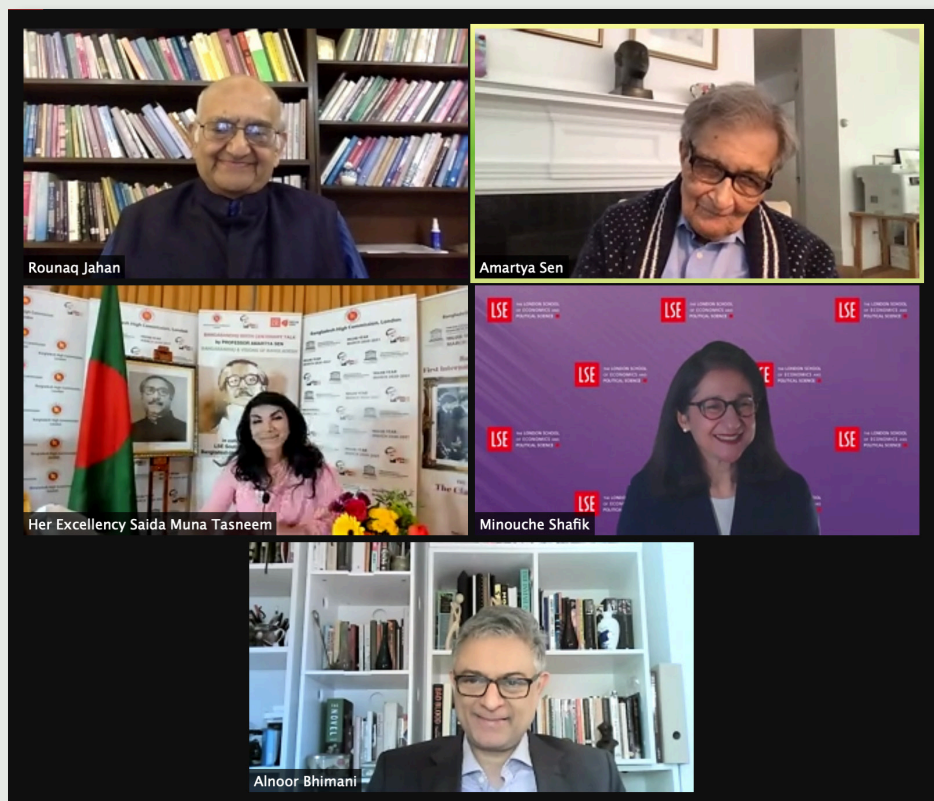
A Recording of all these events is available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

BANGLADESH

The years 2020/21, quite fortuitously, marked two significant anniversaries for Bangladesh: the centenary of Founding Father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the Golden Jubilee of its birth and independence. This provided the Centre with the opportunity to forefront Bangladesh throughout 2020/21, and we are delighted at the record-breaking success of our events in attendance and engagement.

To mark **'Mujib 100'**, we organised a special lecture by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen in collaboration with the High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the United

Kingdom in January 2021. Chaired by LSE Director Baroness Minouche Shafik, Sen's lecture – **'Bangabandhu and Visions of Bangladesh'** – mixed his personal (Sen was born in modern



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: REHMAN SOBHAN, AMARTYA SEN, MINOUCHE SHAFIK, ALNOOR BHIMANI & H. E. SAIDA MUNA TASNEEM AT 'BANGABANDHU & VISIONS OF BANGLADESH', 27 JANUARY 2021.

Bangladesh) with Sheikh Mujib's political (the influence of the language movement and political ideals during his time in Calcutta), to present a blended exposition of the ideas and ideals of Bangabandhu in the demand for Bangladesh from Pakistan. The talk was followed by a brief discussion with eminent Bangladeshi economist Rehman Sobhan, moderated by Centre Director Alnoor Bhimani, and remarks by H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom.

The lecture remains our most well-attended & viewed event of all times – more than 1,200 people heard it live, and (as we go to press) the video has been viewed more than 100,000+ times! On popular demand, Sen's lecture has been published on our blog 'South Asia @ LSE', and is due to be re-published in a forthcoming anthology of essays commemorating Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee.



The Centre marked 'Bangladesh @ 50' in different and interesting ways. To start, the Centre commissioned a special logo to mark the event – focused on the national flower

of Bangladesh, the Water Lily (*Nymphaea nouchali*), surrounded with various *jamdani* sari weave patterns. The logo, prepared by graphics designer Oroon Das, was used for all events held to commemorate 'Bangladesh @ 50'.

In Lent term, we hosted '**Becoming Bangladesh**', a Roundtable with scholars discussing the birth of Bangladesh from different perspectives. Chaired by LSE Bangladesh specialist Katy Gardner, panelists included Meghna Guha-Thakurta, Nayanika

Mookherjee, Srinath Raghavan, Yasmin Saikia, and Salil Tripathi; in Summer Term, LSE Professor David Lewis convened a panel titled '**Climate Change: What Bangladesh Can Teach the World**' which discussed the several issues that Bangladesh has faced as a 'climate vulnerable' nation, and the creative if critical solutions it has developed to mitigate climate emergencies. Panelists included Saleemul Haq, Farah Kabir, Khushi Kabir, and Shahpar Selim. There will be more events to mark 'Bangladesh @ 50' in 2021, which will appear in next year's Annual Report.

The Centre has also published a **series of blogposts** on the Centre's blog 'South Asia @ LSE' – one every month since January 2021 – to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh. They have included personal accounts of individuals as Bangladesh was being born (Kamal Hossain, who was in prison with Sheikh Mujib in West Pakistan, and travelled back with him to Dhaka in 1971 via Delhi; Sashanka S Banerjee, the Indian diplomat who accompanied Sheikh Mujib from London to Delhi on the flight; Julian Francis, who was based in India with Oxfam, and travelled to Bangladesh in 1971–72, finally becoming a citizen of the country; Mushtaque Ahmed Raza Chowdhury, LSE alumnus and member of the Centre's Senior Advisory Board, who joined the Liberation Movement when he moved to Dhaka as a student, not heeding his mother caution to stay away from politics), but also academic posts covering different aspects of Bangladesh from *dalits* to film censorship, from Bangladeshi restaurants in Brick Lane to stories of entrepreneurship in Covid times.

Recordings of these events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

INDIA

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on India – South Asia’s largest and most populous country – as well as Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s proposed visit (after Britain exited the European Union) to pursue a Free Trade Agreement were two issues that we discussed in our events this year.

ARTHA VIVAAD



Our annual event with the Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET), New York – **‘Artha Vivaad: Dialogues in New Economic Thinking’** – this year was a discussion on India’s new economic temper, urging the world to come to India to

invest, manufacture and utilise its potential. Titled ‘India: Aspirations and Contradictions in the Age of Nationalist Capital’, the event focused around Ravinder Kaur’s *Brand New Nation: Capitalist Dreams and Nationalist Designs in Twenty-First-Century India* (2020), and discussed with a panel of experts – Sanjay Jain, Ila Patnaik, and Nasser Munjee as Moderator – the dynamics of foreign investment and production in the new global economy, now impacted by the pandemic and its post-scenarios.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, RAVINDER KAUR, ILA PATNAIK, NASSER MUNJEE, SANJAY GUPTA & SUNANDA NAIR-BIDKAR AT ‘INDIA: ASPIRATIONS & CONTRADICTIONS IN THE AGE OF NATIONALIST CAPITAL’, 17 JUNE 2021.

THE INDIA CONFERENCE 2021



The Centre has initiated **'The India Conference'** in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU), which will focus on big issues that inform UK–India relations.

The formal withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 31 January 2020 allows the UK to enter into bilateral agreements with other, non-EU countries at will. Post-Brexit, India is seen as one of the foremost countries that the UK was looking towards to enter into agreements with, on a number of issues of mutual interest, which would be of mutual benefit. **'The India Conference 2021: UK–India Relations after Brexit'** (31 January 2021) therefore focused on the various opportunities and possibilities that Brexit has opened up for the two countries – in the shadow of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's proposed trip to India in April 2021 (later cancelled due to the pandemic). Moderated by NISAU Chairperson Sanam Arora, speakers included Lord Karan Bilimoria and India's former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, and touched upon the range of areas of common interest between the UK and India; the conference also coincided with India's Republic Day (26 January). And as part of the Centre's long-standing habit of working with students unions, this conference also collaborated with the LSESU India Society, with its President Ahaan Gupta included in the event, which was chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar.

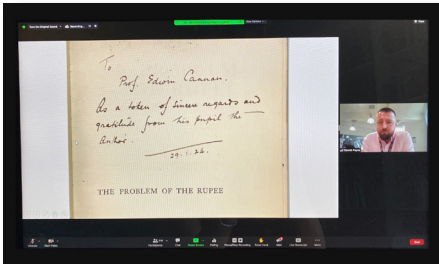
AMBEDKAR: EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANISE

Dr B R Ambedkar remains one of the most influential alumni of LSE. To commemorate the upcoming centenary of the award of his PhD from LSE, published later as *'The Problem of the Rupee'*, the Centre worked with Daniel Payne (Curator, Politics & International Relations, LSE Library) to curate an online exhibition on Ambedkar's time at LSE, including making available free of charge the complete student file of Ambedkar from LSE's Archives.

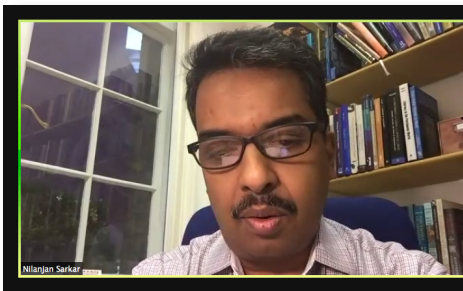
The online exhibition – titled **'Educate, Agitate, Organise: Ambedkar and LSE'** – is a landmark exhibition in the history of LSE Library for several reasons, not the least of which is that for the first time in the history of the Library's website since the time it was first launched, 'clicks' on the exhibition page exceeded the number of clicks on the Library's homepage in the first three weeks since the launch of the exhibition on 30 June! Another record was broken easily by the number of online visitors to the exhibition – there were more than 25,000 visitors in the first month alone, as compared to an average of 7,000 visitors in total for other online exhibitions.

As we go to press, the exhibition remains the most visited online exhibition LSE Library has ever curated, with more than 30,000 visitors.

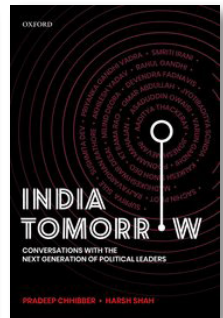
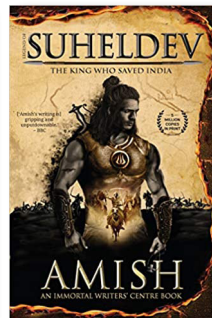
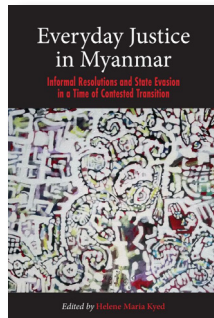
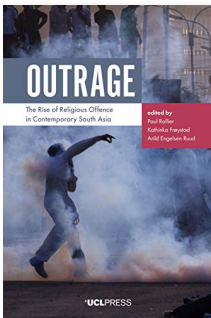
To accompany the launch of this exhibition, the Centre organised a special Roundtable (in association with LSE Library and DecolonisingLSE Collective) to discuss Ambedkar's ideas on caste, gender and the Indian Constitution. It remains one of the best attended online events of the Centre in the last year. Suraj Yengde, Rohit De and Shailaja Paik were panelists with Jayaraj Sundaresan



(LEFT) DANIEL PAYNE SHOWING DOCUMENTS FROM DR B R AMBEDKAR'S STUDENT FILE, AND SURAJ YENGDE (RIGHT) AT 'AMBEDKAR: CASTE, CONSTITUTION, GENDER', 30 JUNE 2021.



NILANJAN SARKAR & AMISH TRIPATHI AT 'SUHELDEV: THE KING WHO SAVED INDIA', 11 NOVEMBER 2020.



SELECT COVERS OF TITLES DISCUSSED IN 'FACT & FICTION' SERIES.

as Discussant & Nilanjan Sarkar as Chair in a Roundtable that covered Ambedkar's radical ideas and writings; Daniel Payne presented a summary of the exhibition.

Recordings of these events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

PAKISTAN

The world lost a stalwart in the sudden and unexpected death of Pakistan's Magsaysay award-winning human rights/civil liberties activist I A Rehman in April 2021. 'Rehman sa'ab' (as he was respectfully and affectionately known) had participated in events at the Centre, and we were keen to celebrate his life.

Long-time associate Hina Jilani in Pakistan, and India's leading civil rights advocate Kalpana Kannabiran spoke about him at **'Human Fights: Celebrating I A Rehman (1930–2021)'**, the title underlining the struggles embedded in Rehman's lifelong commitment to uphold the rights and liberties of all in Pakistan. Asad Jamal, who knew Rehman very well, also spoke at the event moderated by Amber Darr, who had in fact interviewed I. A. Rehman for the 'South Asia @ LSE' blog in 2018, when he was visiting London.

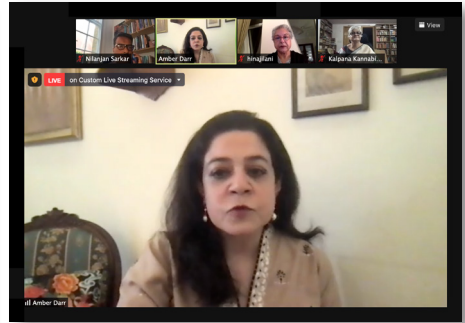
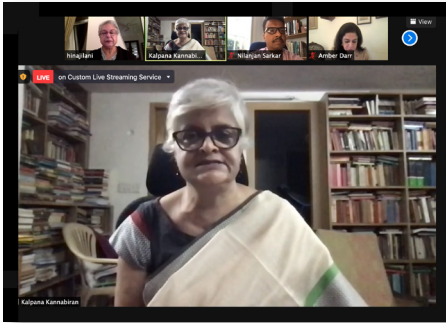
Earlier, in February, the Centre hosted a lecture by Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani (former Chief Justice of Pakistan) on **'Rights of Minorities in**

Pakistan'. An animated discussion followed with Mahvish Ahmad (LSE) and Sulema Jahangir, and Mustafa Yar Hiraj (LSESU Pakistan Development Society) with whom we did this event in collaboration. Justice Jilani spoke of his own judgement in the Church Blasts Case (2015), and his *suo moto* notice in favour of the rights of religious minorities in Pakistan, within the Islamic republic; the lecture will be published as a special blogpost in due course.

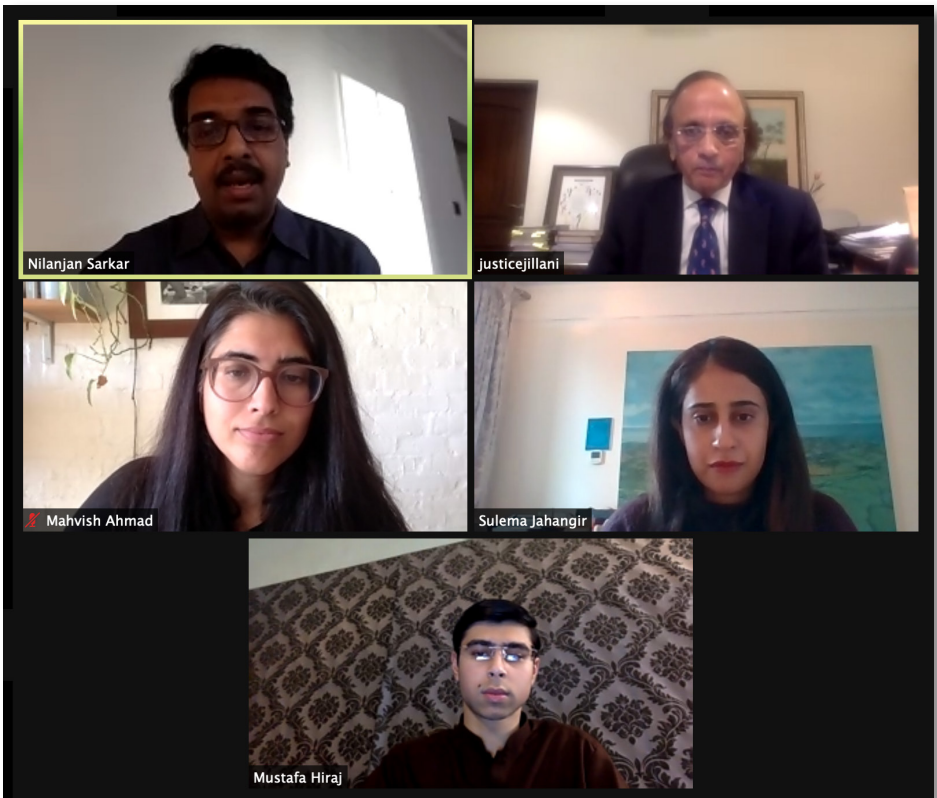
Recordings of these events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KALPANA KANNABIRAN, AMBER DARR, NILANJAN SARKAR, ASAD JAMAL & HINA JILANI AT 'HUMAN FIGHTS: CELEBRATING I. A. REHMAN (1930-2021)', 4 MAY 2021.



KALPANA KANNABIRAN (LEFT) & AMBER DARR (RIGHT) AT 'HUMAN FIGHTS: CELEBRATING I. A. REHMAN (1930-2021)', 4 MAY 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJANI SARKAR, TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, SULEMA JAHANGIR, MUSTAFA YAR HIRAJ & MAHVISH AHMAD AT 'RIGHTS OF MINORITIES IN PAKISTAN', 2 FEBRUARY 2021.

SOUTH ASIA HERITAGE MONTH

In July–August 2021, the Centre was invited by the Department for Transport, UK to organise a series of three lectures for civil servants in the ‘South Asian Heritage Month’ series. Closed to the public, these online lectures were part of the Centre’s ‘Impact’ activities, that seek to inform the public through expert academic knowledge.

The three lectures, on topics requested by the Department for Transport, were delivered by experts identified and invited by the Centre, were incredibly well-attended, created very animated discussions, and were widely appreciated as amongst the best events that the Department of Transport had convened.

An especially rewarding aspect of this series was that the audience was truly eclectic – it comprised not only British South Asians but people from several other nationalities, reflecting not only the cosmopolitan nature of the British civil service and society, but also the interest that South Asia continues to generate amongst so many. This meant that each lecture was followed by a very engaged and animated discussion in the Q&A session.

Transport historian **Christian Wolmar** delivered the first lecture on Britain’s role in and influence on the railways in India, one of the largest and most complex network of railways anywhere in the world, catering to its now 1.38 billion people. Wolmar’s lecture included an enviable series of rarely seen photographs, strung together with his masterly commentary which covered the theme from the introduction of the railways in India to modern times.

Edward Anderson (Northumbria) spoke on the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, the tensions, displacement and trauma that lead to the largest displacement of peoples in history. Ed’s lecture too was richly textured with archival photographs that highlighted the enormity of the event, as Hindus and Muslims living on either side of the newly-created border moved in both directions.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, this year marked two commemorative anniversaries of Bangladesh: the centenary of the birth of its Founding Father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh’s independence. **Maher Anjum** (Oi-tijjo) presented a spell-binding lecture on Bangladesh’s progress and emergence against all odds to becoming a middle-income country, confronted as it is by challenges of serious poverty, climate vulnerability and public health issues, amongst much else. With graphs, posters, photographs and signages, Maher began with identifying ‘stereotypical’ images of Bangladesh in the UK and slowly worked her way through them, demolishing one stereotypical image at a time. It was a fitting end to a fantastic series of three lectures, with an engaged discussion at the end.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, NIRUPAMA RAO, SANAM ARORA, KARAN BILIMORIA & AHAAN GUPTA AT 'THE INDIA CONFERENCE 2021: UK & INDIA AGTER BREXIT', 29 JANUARY 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, PETER WILSON, MINOLI SALGADO, ALEXANDER BUBB & ANDREW HARROP AT 'LEONARD WOOLF: VOICING CEYLON?', 9 JUNE 2021.

OTHER EVENTS

Between April & July 2019, grappling as we were with the newness of WFH ('Working from Home'), doing events online (via Zoom) meant that we were able to have speakers from several countries at once, making these initial lockdown events genuinely representative and global in its pool of experts.

COVID-19 EVENTS

Mid-March 2019, and through 2020/21, were marked by the closing down of LSE — and the world — due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Like so many others grappling to make sense of it all, and impacted as South Asia was in the way we now know it to have been, the Centre curated events to examine and understand the pandemic in real time as it unfolded across the countries.

The following events successfully brought to our online audience the unfolding of the virus across South Asia — both within countries, and on a comparative scale. Different events revealed the different ways in which individual national governments were handling the pandemic, even as the world as a whole tried to make sense of it scientifically, medically, and through state-imposed restrictions and forbiddances.

- **Covid-19 in South Asia: A Comparative Perspective**
- **Covid-19 in South Asia: Bangladesh, India and Pakistan** (in collaboration with LSE School of Public Policy, Institute of Global Affairs & International Growth Centre)
- **South Asia: Public Health Response to Covid-19**
- **Pandemic & Populism: Craig Calhoun & Pratap Bhanu Mehta in Conversation**



'HANDS WITH LATEX GLOVES HOLDING A GLOBE WITH A FACE MASK' BY ANNA SHVETS.

Speakers included: for Bangladesh, Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Mushfiq Mobarak & Asif Saleh; for Bhutan, Tshering Cigay Dorji; for India, Yamini Aiyar, Jishnu Das, Pratap Bhanu Mehta & K Srinath Reddy; for Myanmar, David Mathieson; for Nepal, Madhusudan Subedi; for Pakistan, Tania Aidrus, Mishal Khan, Haroon Sharif & Faisal Sultan; for Sri Lanka, Namini Wijedasa; and Craig Calhoun. Adnan Khan (LSE) chaired the collaborative event with the School of Public Policy; the other three events were chaired by then Centre Director Mukulika Banerjee.

BROTHERS IN ARMS: SRI LANKA ELECTIONS 2020

Sri Lanka went to the polls amidst the pandemic in August 2020, in the aftermath of the devastating terrorist attack on Easter in 2019, and the results were as dramatic as they were somewhat expected. As the title of our event suggests, former President (2005–2015) Mahinda Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) returned with a 'super majority', winning almost two-thirds of the total number of parliamentary seats (145+5 allies = 150/225 seats). The victory also brought to power not one or two but four Rajapaksa brothers, and a son, in government, each with powerful & coveted portfolios: Gotabaya as President, Mahinda as Prime Minister, Basil as Minister of Finance, Chamal in charge of Home & National Security, and Namal (Mahinda's son) as Minister for Youth & Sports.

Our panelists — lawyers, activists, journalists & academics — discussed not only the triumphant return of the erstwhile President (as Prime Minister) but also what this victory meant for promised majoritarian constitutional amendments and its impact on Sri Lanka, framed as it is in a global scenario of the rise of majoritarian politics, and beset by huge international debt, and China's increasing dominance. No other elected government in the world has five members of a family controlling such important portfolios, and riding on such a definite electoral victory. The discussion was passionate and animated, interrupted by technological challenges, but Swasthika Arulingam, Gehan Gunatilleke, Jayadeva Uyangoda, and Javid Yusuf laid

out in clear terms their views and concerns about the outcome of this election for the larger democratic process and dynamism of Sri Lanka. The discussion was moderated by Rajesh Venugopal (LSE), and chaired by Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar.

CRYPTOCURRENCIES & SOUTH ASIA

The Centre has, in 2020/21, consciously worked to curate events on emerging themes of global interest in which South Asia(ns) are playing a significant role. Cryptocurrencies (like Bitcoin, for instance) have in recent times hyperinflated in their crypto-value, and is fast emerging as an important, serious alternative in the world (for instance, El Salvador has recently made cryptocurrency legal tender, including for international money transfers). Cryptocurrencies have accordingly seen an increasing interest and popularity in and amongst South Asians.

'How will Cryptocurrencies change South Asia?' — this online Roundtable invited Muneeb Ali (Co-Founder of 'Stacks' and CEO of 'Hiro', a developer tooling company in the Stacks ecosystem), and Nischal Shetty (Founder of 'WazirX', India's top-rated cryptocurrency exchange) to discuss the future (and advantages) of cryptocurrency in South Asia, alongside the fierce sceptic Jon Danielsson (Director of the Systemic Risk Centre, and Reader at LSE Finance). It was predictably animated whilst being good-humoured, and was Chaired by Centre Director Alnoor Bhimani.

Recordings of these events are available on the Centre's website (see back cover for details).

VERA ANSTEY ESSAY COMPETITION

“ She was very good at games and very good in the social life of the School. What she saw in that fool Anstey I never could make out! She could buy and sell him & live by the profit in two seconds. Someone who came back — I can't remember the name — told me that she was running the whole economic department there in Bombay which I quite believe. ”

Lilian Knowles, *Professor of Economic History to Director Professor William Beveridge, recommending Vera's hire at LSE in 1921.*

This essay competition (which is for all PGT/ PGR students at LSE) was established in honour of Vera Anstey (1889–1967), alumnus and Reader in Economics. Vera had a lifelong interest in and association with South Asia, having lived in Bombay for several years as well, and upon her retirement from LSE in 1954, published *Introduction to Economics for Students in India and Pakistan* (1964). **Ritika Arora-Kukreja** (LSE MSc in International Development) won the first prize (£250 book vouchers from Waterstones) for her winning essay on 'What is the biggest challenge facing South Asia in the next 10 years?' Ritika's essay, titled 'The Threat of Consent', discussed the unspoken consent citizens ascribe every time they justify the contentious incidents unfolding in their nations is perhaps the novel, fundamental challenge we ought to scrutinise further.

Commenting on her winning essay, the jury said: *'This essay has chosen an interesting subject – the notion of questioning and the lack of it thereof. It refers to a Foucauldian notion of 'masked power' and the manner in which consent is crafted (reminiscent of Gramsci's notion of the manufacturing of consent as constitutive of hegemony). This is explored through the education system that promotes regurgitation, making citizens passive consumers of information, before moving on to the state and state power.'*

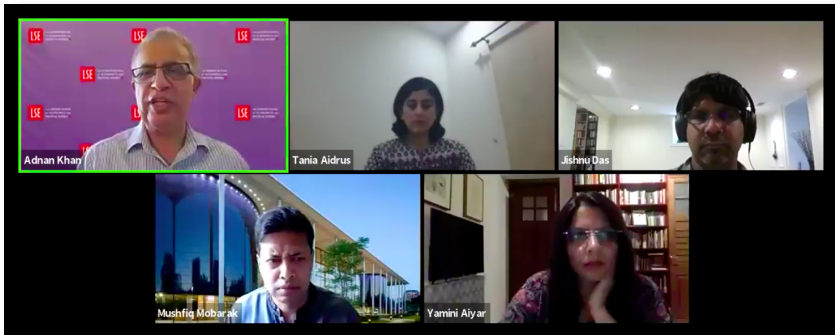
The essay was published on the Centre's 'South Asia @ LSE' blog on 4 May 2021.



RITIKA ARORA-KUKREJA, WINNER OF THE VERA ANSTEY ESSAY COMPETITION 2020/21.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, JAYADEVA UYANGODA, RAJESH VENUGOPAL, SWASTHIKA ARULINGAM, GEHAN GUNATILLEKE & JAVID YUSUF AT 'BROTHERS IN ARMS: SRI LANKA ELECTIONS 2020', 20 AUGUST 2020.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ADNAN KHAN, TANIA AIDRUS, JISHNU DAS, YAMINI AIYAR & MUSHFIQ MOBARAK AT 'COVID-19 IN SOUTH ASIA: BANGLADESH, INDIA & PAKISTAN', 22 JUNE 2020.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JON DANIELSSON, ALNOOR BHIMANI, MUNEEB ALI & NISCHAL SHETTY AT 'HOW WILL CRYPTOCURRENCIES CHANGE SOUTH ASIA?', 3 JUNE 2020.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

The Centre had the opportunity to be involved in preparing several resources for researchers interested in South Asia in 2020/21.

STATES OF SOUTH ASIA

The Centre launched a digital map of India (under the title 'States of South Asia') collating political, economic, social, cultural, and demographic meta data from open and verified government and other sources as a pilot project in May 2019, funded by LSE's Knowledge Exchange & Impact (KEI) initiative.

In 2020/21, the Centre decided to enhance its academic research resources for the benefit of the academic community, and has been working on digital data maps for Bangladesh and Pakistan, and updating the data in the India map. These will become available in 2021/22.

B R AMBEDKAR STUDENT FILE

The Centre, in a fruitful collaboration with LSE Library, publicises the Library's little-known resources relating to South Asia. On 30 June 2021, we launched an online exhibition of the papers of Dr B R Ambedkar, amongst LSE's most illustrious alumni and 'father' of the Constitution of India with a Roundtable discussion on Ambedkar's ideas on gender, the Constitution and caste. At the time of completing this report, the exhibition is LSE's most-visited online exhibition ever, with over 30,000 visitors. Daniel Payne (Curator for Politics & International Relations at LSE Library) – in collaboration with the South Asia Centre and the 'DecolonisingLSE' Collective – digitised and collated several documents, and the entire 'Ambedkar File' has now been made available to download free for researchers.

OTHER RARE PAPERS

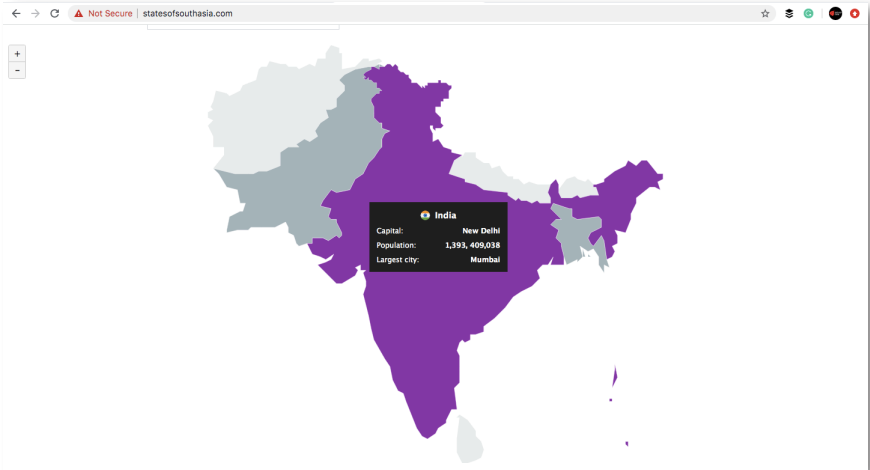
Labour MP **Peter Shore's** papers on the Bangladesh Liberation War, as well as documents relating to the 75th anniversary of India and Pakistan's independence, are planned for the next year.

The Centre is also considering preparing Working Papers from select Roundtables, as well as formalising the process of publishing Working Papers of Visiting Fellows.

With these, the Centre hopes to begin to create a corpus of useful and relevant research resources for users, made available free.



PORTRAIT OF DR B R AMBEDKAR BY G. S. NAGDEVE (1970), GIFTED TO LSE BY THE DR AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, LONDON ON 25 SEPTEMBER 1973.



TOP: LANDING PAGE OF 'STATES OF SOUTH ASIA' BIG DATA DIGITAL MAP, TO BE UPDATED & LAUNCHED WITH NEW MAPS IN 2021/22; MIDDLE: POSTER FOR ONLINE EXHIBITION TITLED 'EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANISE: AMBEDKAR AND LSE', LAUNCHED ON 30 JUNE 2021; AND LABOUR MP PETER SHORE & BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN IN CONVERSATION, 1975.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

The Centre now has a new tagline – ‘Unravelling South Asia to the World’ – which highlights the conscious and focused intention of the Centre’s activities on all its platforms. In 2020/21, all our social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – alongside our e-communications (like e-notices) have been coordinated in the publicity and messaging of the Centre’s activities and priorities. We have also developed individual publicity strategies for each platform, to optimise our impact and presence to important stakeholders. Moving fully online allowed the Centre to record all our events (now available for later viewing by interested audiences).

This coordinated and focused strategy has yielded spectacular results, especially in raising the Centre’s profile through its activities on all fronts, particularly in a year when the Centre’s staff reduced to just one Deputy Director, alongside adapting to the changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

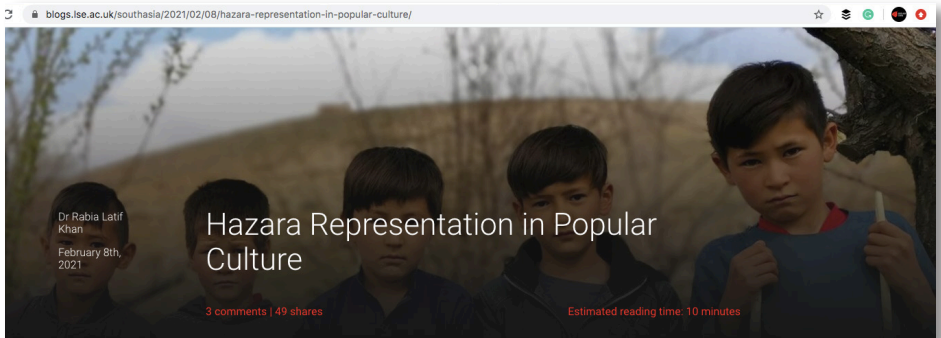
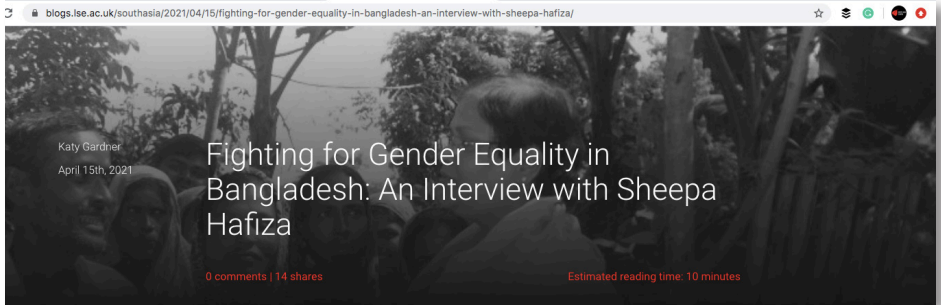
As we close this year’s Annual Report, our followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have shown the highest single-year increase since the founding of the Centre in 2015 (see p.4 for stats), and Professor Amartya Sen’s lecture has been viewed by more than 100,000 times on Facebook.

From January 2021, all the Centre’s online events are now livestreamed on the Centre’s dedicated You Tube channel; till December 2020, events were being livestreamed on Facebook, and recordings of those events are available on the Centre’s Facebook page.

‘SOUTH ASIA @ LSE’

The Centre has reorganised the publication profile of the blog. The blog now publishes only one post a week, making a conscious effort to source posts on different countries and topics – and focusing on new, cutting edge research and ideas.

The blog also published – as a series – one post each month to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence, headed by a specially commissioned logo to mark the event. Starting in January 2021, the blog has published a series of posts on the time of Sheikh Mujib in (then) West Pakistan, Mujib’s journey with an Indian diplomat from London to Dhaka via New Delhi, and other posts on charity workers, gender, growth & development indices, and minority/*dalit* rights. More are planned for the remainder of the year.



SELECT SCREENSHOTS OF BLOGPOSTS PUBLISHED IN 2020/21.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS & RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

In 2020/21, the Centre was lucky to have several LSE students enrol for our Ambassadorship programme, which provides students with the opportunity to work at the Centre as a Volunteer, and gain first-hand experience and knowledge of the interests and activities of the Centre.

In 2020/21, **Sahima Gupta** (MSc International Social and Public Policy) and **Rahul Yadav** (MSc International Relations) worked with Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar on the blog, vetting submissions and being trained in basic copyediting skills. Sahima was pursuing her second Masters programme at LSE, and had been an Ambassador in 2019/20 as well.

Vanshika Kalsi (MSc International Migration and Public Policy) worked briefly, assisting in updating the meta data for the States of South Asia – India map.

The Centre is grateful to them for their voluntary support, and we wish them all the best for their future.

In 2021, the Centre was provided with some funds from the Higher Education Impact Funding (HEIF) in LSE, and this allowed us to hire three Research Assistants to develop & update the digital maps of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. **Dipyaman Chakrabarti** (PhD in International Relations), **Sahima Gupta** (MSc International Social and Public Policy) and **Talha Ahmad Wani** (MSc Economics) have been working to develop the digital datasets for maps of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan respectively, which will go live in 2021/22.



GRAPHIC OF 'STATES OF SOUTH ASIA' LANDING PAGE ON LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE'S WEBSITE, TO BE LAUNCHED IN 2021/22.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VANSHIKA KALSI,
RAHUL YADAV, SAHIMA GUPTA, DIPYAMAN
CHAKRABARTI & TALHA AHMAD WANI.

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

Nasser M MUNJEE (Chair, Advisory Board) (LSE BSc Econ 1974; MSc Econ 1975) is Chairman of Development Credit Bank, and Tata Motor Finance Ltd, both in India. Nasser is also on the Board of several public companies, and is involved with many others as Chairman, Member of the Board or Trustee including ABB Ltd, HDFC Ltd, Britannia Industries, Jaguar Land Rover plc, several Tata companies, and the City of London.

Kaushik BASU (LSE PhD Economics 1976) is Professor of Economics and C. Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. Basu has served as the Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of the World Bank, and as Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India (2009–2012). He has taught at the Delhi School of Economics and has been visiting professor at various universities across the world.

Craig J CALHOUN is University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. Prior to this, he was President of the Berggruen Institute in Los Angeles (2016–19), and Director & President of LSE (2012–16) where he remains Centennial Professor. He has also been President of the Social Science Research Council in New York (1999–2012), and University Professor at NYU (2004–12).

A Mushtaque R CHOWDHURY (LSE MSc Demography 1979) was until recently Vice Chairperson of BRAC, Dhaka where he started his career more than 40 years ago. He was the founding Director of BRAC's Research & Evaluation Division, and was previously its Executive Director, alongside serving in several international organisations.

M Ali JAMEEL (LSE BSc Accounting & Finance 1991) is CEO, TPL Trakkers Pvt Ltd in Karachi. He has previously served as Chief Executive of Jahangir Siddiqui Executive Bank (1999–2001). Ali has also held several advisory posts in the IT and telecom sectors in Pakistan, and serves as Director, Executive Director and Non-Executive Director of several companies. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Lata KRISHNAN (LSE BSc Economics 1981) is Chief Financial Officer for Shah Capital Partners, USA. Krishnan co-founded SMART Modular Technologies (WWH) Inc. in 1989, and has held corporate accounting and finance positions at Montgomery Securities, Arthur Andersen & Company LLP, and Hill Vellacott & Company in London, England. She has also held Director and Advisor posts on several Boards in the Finance and Accounts sectors.

Mehli K MISTRY is Director of M. Pallonji Group of Companies with interests in shipping, logistics, leasing, insurance, investment and finance, based out of several cities across the world. Mehli works out of Dubai, London and Mumbai.

Ratan N TATA is a businessman, philanthropist, investor and Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons (holding company of the Tata Group), the Mumbai-based global business conglomerate. He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan (2000) and Padma Vibhushan (2008) by the Government of India, and The Honorary Knight Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (2014) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his lifelong services to business and community.



SHASHI THAROOR AT 'DOES LIBERALISM ALLOW POPULISM?', 20 JANUARY 2021.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NILANJAN SARKAR, KATY GARDNER, NAYANIKA MOOKHERJEE, SRINATH RAGHAVAN, MEGHNA GUHATHAKURTA, SALIL TRIPATHI & YASMIN SAIKIA (CENTRE) AT 'BECOMING BANGLADESH', 8 FEBRUARY 2021.

FACULTY ADVISORY GROUP

The Faculty Advisory Group are current faculty members at LSE; some are alumni as well. They serve as everyday Advisors to the Centre, and meet twice a year. They have also been actively involved in several of the Centre's events.

Mahvish AHMAD (Assistant Professor in Sociology) teaches Human Rights and Politics at LSE. Prior to this, she has been Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Western Cape, and earlier was a journalist covering military and insurgent violence in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region. Mahvish has a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge, has co-founded the bilingual English-Urdu magazine *Tanqeed*, and co-convenes 'Archives of the Disappeared', a research initiative investigating the archiving and documentation of communities destroyed in acts of mass violence. She is currently completing a book manuscript on state violence in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

Chris ALDEN (Director, LSE IDEAS; Professor of International Relations) and published, most recently, *Foreign Policy Analysis: New Approaches* (2017; co-authored), and *New Directions in Africa-China Studies* (2019; co-edited). He has held Visiting Fellowships at the universities of Cambridge, Tokyo, and Pretoria, and at the Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Cachan), and Centre d'études et de recherches internationales, both in Paris. LSE IDEAS is LSE's foreign policy think tank which has been voted the best university-affiliated think tank in the world by the 'Global Go to Think Tank Index' in 2019.

Christopher COKER (Director, LSE IDEAS) was Professor of International Relations at LSE till 2019, and has a particular interest in military, defense and strategic studies, terrorism, and the US security policy. His most recent monograph is *The Rise of the Civilizational State* (2019), and his forthcoming monograph is titled 'Why War'? LSE IDEAS is LSE's foreign policy think tank which has been voted the best university-affiliated think tank in the world by the 'Global Go to Think Tank Index' in 2019.

Swati DHINGRA (Associate Professor of Economics) is an expert in international economics, trade policy, industrial organisation, and Brexit; she is also an Associate at the Centre for Economic Performance at LSE. She was awarded her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has been a Fellow at Princeton University prior to joining LSE. Swati's research interests are in international economics, globalisation, industrial policy, firms in international trade, impact of trade agreements, and industrial development in India.

David LEWIS (Professor of Social Policy and Development) focuses on Bangladesh's politics and society, particularly on how the country has been impacted by four decades of international development policies. He has worked extensively on the roles of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society actors in South Asia – mainly in Bangladesh but also in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. More recently, David has published on the Rohingya humanitarian refugee crisis in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

Romola SANYAL (Assistant Professor of Urban Geography) is interested in architecture, urban geopolitics, urban theory, housing and citizenship rights. She has written on the politics of space in refugee settlements in the global South with a particular focus on Lebanon and India, and is particularly interested in the relationship between forced migration and urbanisation.

Naufel Vilcassim (Professor of Marketing, Department of Management) is an expert on the use of economic theory and econometric techniques to analyse substantive marketing problems. His research has focused on problems in the areas of the marketing mix, competitive interactions and market structure. Vicassim is also involved in a research project in India on evaluating the efficacy of mobile video training of health care workers assisting patients of Tuberculosis in completing their treatment of drugs.

EVENTS

22 April 2020

Roundtable

Covid-19 in South Asia: A Comparative Perspective

Speakers: Yamini Aiyar (Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi), Tshering Cigay Dorji (Thimphu Techpark Ltd., Thimphu), David Mathieson (Independent Analyst of Myanmar), Asif Saleh (BRAC, Dhaka), Haroon Sharif (Government of Pakistan, Islamabad), Madhusudhan Subedi (Patan Academy of Social Sciences, Nepal), and Namini Wijedasa (*The Sunday Times*, Colombo)
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

22 June 2020

Panel Discussion

Covid-19 in South Asia: Bangladesh, India and Pakistan

Speakers: Tania Aidrus (Special Assistant to Prime Minister of Pakistan on Digital Pakistan), Yamini Aiyar (Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi), Jishnu Das (GeorgeTown University), and Mushfiq Mobarak (Yale University)
Chair: Adnan Khan (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with the LSE School of Public Policy.

2 July 2020

Panel Discussion

South Asia: The Public Health Response to Covid-19

Speakers: Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury (formerly BRAC, Dhaka), K Srinath Reddy (Public Health Foundation of India), Faisal Sultan (Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Lahore), and Mishal S Khan (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

30 July 2020

In Conversation

Pandemic and Populism: Craig Calhoun and Pratap Bhanu Mehta in Conversation
Speakers: Craig Calhoun (Arizona State University) and Pratap Bhanu Mehta (Ashoka University)
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

20 August 2020

Panel Discussion

Brothers in Arms: Sri Lanka Elections 2020
Speakers: Swasthika Arulingam (member of the Liberation Movement, Colombo), Gehan Gunatilleke (University of Oxford), Jayadeva Uyangoda (University of Colombo), and Javid Yusuf (*The Sunday Times*)
Moderator: Rajesh Venugopal (LSE)
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

30 September 2020

Tough Talk

Are South Asians Racist?
Speakers: Gurpreet Kaur (Jasmine Morris; Black American activist for inclusion within Sikh community, Texas), Hsu Yadanar Htun (Burmese feminist advocate), Nirosha Kulasekara (University of Colombo), Malini Ranganathan (American University, Washington DC), Ngurang Reena (JNU, New Delhi), Hurmat Ali Shah (Ryerson University, Ontario), and Beheroze F Shroff (University of California, Irvine)
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

9 October 2020

Fact & Fiction

Everyday Justice in Myanmar

Speakers: Daniel Aguirre (University of Roehampton), Michael W. Charney (SOAS), Helena Maria Kyed (Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen), and Thang Sorn Poine (EMReF, Yangon)

Moderator: Hans Steinmuller (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre.

13 October 2020

Geopolitics beyond Borders

The Dragon's Ring: China in South Asia

Speakers: Filippo Boni (Open University, UK), Li Li (Tsinghua University, Beijing), Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London), and Nilanthy Samaranyake (Center for Naval Analysis (CAN), Washington DC)

Moderator: Chris Alden (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSE IDEAS and IISS London.

21 October 2020

Decolonising Legal Knowledge

Colonial Laws and Social Change

Speakers: Aparna Chandra (National Law School of India University, Bengaluru), Osama Siddique (Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, Lahore), and Aritha Wickramasinghe (Colombo).

Moderator: Mariam Faruqi (iProBono, UK)

Chair: Alnoor Bhimani (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with iProbono UK.

27 October 2020

Fact & Fiction

Outrage: Religious Offence in South Asia Today

Speakers: Amber Darr (Coventry University), Paul Fuller (Bath Spa University), Kathinka Frøystad (University of Oslo), Iselin Frydenlund (MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo), Sara Hossain (Lawyer, Dhaka), and Paul Rollier (University of St Gallen)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar

11 November 2020

Fact & Fiction

Suheldev (The King Who Saved India)

Amish Tripathi, author of *Suheldev: The King Who Saved India* in conversation with Nilanjan Sarkar (Deputy Director, LSE South Asia Centre).

This event was part of the '100 Foot Journey Club' in collaboration with the High Commission of India in London.

17 November 2020

Fabian Dialogues

Beatrice & Sidney Webb: The Race for LSE

Speakers: Michael Cox (LSE), Sue Donnelly (LSE), Kevin Morgan (University of Manchester), and Chris Renwick (University of York)

Moderator: Andrew Harrop

(Fabian Society, London)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was part of the 125 Years Celebrations of LSE, and in collaboration with the Fabian Society, London.

20 January 2021**Tough Talk**

Does Liberalism Allow Populism?

Speakers: Michael Freedon (University of Oxford), Harsh Gupta 'Madhusudan' and Rajeev Mantri (co-authors of *A New Idea of India: Individual Rights in a Civilisational State*), Aakash Rathore (LUISS University, Rome), Helena Rosenblatt (University of New York), and Shashi Tharoor (author of *The Battle of Belonging: On Nationalism, Patriotism, and What it Means to be Indian*)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

27 January 2021**Special Lecture: Mujib100 Centenary Celebrations**

Bangabandhu and Visions of Bangladesh

Speaker: Amartya Sen (Harvard University)

Participants: H.E. Saida Muna Tasneem (High Commissioner of Bangladesh in UK) and Rehman Sobhan (Economist, Dhaka)

Moderator: Alnoor Bhimani (LSE)

Chair: Baroness Minouche Shafik (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with the High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the United Kingdom.

29 January 2021**The India Conference 2021**

UK & India after Brexit

Participants: Lord Karan Bilimoria (UK-India Business Council), Nirupama Rao (retired Foreign Secretary, Government of India), Sanam Arora (Chairperson, NISAU), and Ahaan Gupta (LSESU India Society)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK, and LSESU India Society.

2 February 2021**Panel Discussion**

Rights of Minorities in Pakistan

Speaker: Tassaduq Hussain Jillani (Retired Chief Justice of Pakistan)

Participants: Mahvish Ahmad (LSE), Sulema Jahangir (Dawson Cornwell, London), and Mustafa Yar Hiraj (LSESU Pakistan Development Society)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSESU Pakistan Development Society.

8 February 2021**Bangladesh @ 50**

Becoming Bangladesh

Panelists: Gary J Bass (Princeton University), Meghna Guhathakurta (Research Initiatives Bangladesh, Dhaka), Nayanika Mookherjee (Durham University), Srinath Raghavan (Ashoka University), Yasmin Saikia (Arizona State University), and Salil Tripathi (author of *The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War and its Unquiet Legacy*, New York)

Moderator: Katy Gardner (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was part of the LSE South Asia Centre's special series of events to mark the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

16 February 2021**Geopolitics beyond Borders**

Different Stars, Different Stripes: The US in South Asia

Panelists: Husain Haqqani (Hudson Institute, New York), Daniel Markey (Johns Hopkins University), and Rani D Mullen (College of William and Mary, Virginia).

Moderator: Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSE IDEAS and IISS London.

28 February 2021

Fact & Fiction

India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders.

Discussants: Pradeep K Chhibber (University of California - Berkeley), Pushparaj Deshpande (Managing Trustee & Director, Samruddha Bharat Foundation, India), Kawalpreet Kaur (National Vice-President, All India Students Association), Ali Khan Mahmudabad (Ashoka University), Vignesh Karthik Rajahmani (King's College London), Harsh J Shah (Harvard Business School), and Astik Sinha (President, Asian Democratic Leaders Alliance)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

10 March 2021

Panel Discussion

Women: The Future of Start-ups

Panelists: Jess Draper (Founding Partner, Halogen Ventures), Lata Krishnan (Chief Financial Officer, Shah Capital Partners), Ervin Massinga (Senior Advisor, Bureau of South & Central Asian Affairs, US Government), and Shruti Ramaswami (Co-Founder, Neythri)

Chair: Alnoor Bhimani (LSE)

18 March 2021

Fabian Dialogues

Harold Laski & India's Freedom Struggle

Panelists: Michael Cox (LSE), Jeanne Morefield (University of Birmingham), Brant Moscovitch (McGill University), Tejas Parasher (University of Cambridge), and Jairam Ramesh (author of *A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V.K. Krishna Menon*)

Moderator: Andrew Harrop (Fabian Society, London)

Chair: Simon Hix (LSE)

This event was part of the 125 Years Celebrations of LSE, and in collaboration with the Fabian Society, London

25 March 2021

Panel Discussion

Menstruation is Everyone's Business. Period.

Panelists: Farah Ahamed (writer and editor of an anthology on period poverty in South Asia), Daniel Epstein (University of California - Irvine), Suhani Jalota (Founder, Myna Mahila Foundation), Ayra Indrias Patras (Forman Christian College, Lahore), and Tashi Zangmo (Bhutan Nuns Foundation, Thimphu)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

4 May 2021

In Memoriam

Human Fights: Celebrating I.A. Rehman (1930-2021)

Speakers: Asad Jamal (Civil Rights Lawyer, Lahore), Hina Jilani (Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan), Kalpana Kannabiran (former Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad, India)

Moderator: Amber Darr (Coventry University)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

6 May, 2021

Geopolitics beyond Borders

Kashmir: Frontier and Shroud

Panelists: Myra Macdonald (author of *White as a Shroud: India, Pakistan, and War on the Frontiers of Kashmir*), Pallavi Raghavan (Ashoka University), and Farzana Shaikh (Chatham House, London)

Moderator: Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London)

Chair: Nilanjan Sakar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSE IDEAS and IISS London.

13 May 2021

Fact & Fiction

Gandhi: Disobedience & its Art

Speakers: Monica Juneja (University of Heidelberg), Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University), and Tridip Suhrud (CEPT, Ahmedabad)

Moderator: Anselm Franke (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

20 May 2020

Bangladesh @ 50

Climate Change: What Bangladesh Can Teach the World

Panelists: Saleemul Huq (ICCCAD, Dhaka), Farah Kabir (ActionAid, Bangladesh), Khushi Kabir ('Nijera Kori', Dhaka), and Shahpur Selim (USAID, Dhaka)

Moderator: David Lewis (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was part of the LSE South Asia Centre's special series of events to mark the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

27 May 2021

Panel Discussion

Military Myanmar: Fearing Freedom

Speakers: David Brenner (University of Sussex), Htike Htike (Queen Mary University of London), Wai Hnin Pwint Thon (The Burma Campaign UK), and Sawangwongse Yawngnwe (Burmese artist, in exile in The Netherlands)

Moderator: Dominique Dillabough-Lefebvre (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with LSE Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre.

3 June 2021

Panel Discussion

How will Cryptocurrencies change South Asia?

Panelists: Muneeb Ali (Co-Founder of Stacks), Jon Danielsson (LSE), and Nischal Shetty (Founder of WazirX)

Chair: Alnoor Bhimani (LSE)

9 June 2021

Fabian Dialogues

Leonard Woolf: Voicing 'Ceylon'?

Speakers: Alexander Bubb (University of Roehampton), Minoli Salgado (Manchester Metropolitan University), and Peter Wilson (LSE)

Moderator: Andrew Harrop (Fabian Society, London)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was part of the 125 Years Celebrations of LSE, and in collaboration with the Fabian Society, London.

17 June 2021

Artha Vivaad: Dialogues in New Economics

India: Aspirations & Contradictions in the Age of Nationalist Capital

Speakers: Sanjay Jain (University of Oxford), Ravinder Kaur (University of Copenhagen), Ila Patnaik (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Delhi), and Sunanda Nair-Bidkar (INET, New York)

Moderator: Nasser Munjee (LSE alumnus)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This event was in collaboration with the Institute of New Economic Thinking, New York.

30 June 2021

Panel Discussion

Ambedkar: Caste, Constitution, Gender

Panelists: Rohit De (Yale University), Shailaja Paik (University of Cincinnati), Daniel Payne (LSE), and Suraj Yengde (Harvard University)

Discussant: Jayaraj Sundaresan (LSE)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

This was a special event to launch the online exhibition 'Educate. Agitate. Organise: Ambedkar & LSE' jointly curated by the LSE South Asia Centre, LSE Library and DecolonisingLSE Collective.

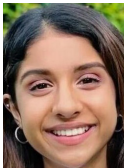
THE TEAM



Alnoor Bhimani
Director



Nilanjan Sarkar
Deputy Director



Anya Magotra
Student Research Assistant



The logo for the London School of Economics and Political Science, featuring the letters 'LSE' in white on a red square background.

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



**SOUTH ASIA
CENTRE**

Research at LSE ■

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BLOG

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YouTube [South Asia Centre LSE](https://www.youtube.com/SouthAsiaCentreLSE)

LSE South Asia Centre is part of LSE IDEAS. LSE IDEAS is LSE's Foreign Policy Think Tank which provides a forum that informs policy debate and connects academic research with the practice of diplomacy and strategy. LSE South Asia Centre and LSE IDEAS jointly work towards realising LSE Vision 2030 through their projects, working papers, reports, public and off-the-record events, and cutting-edge training programmes for government, business, and third-sector organisations.

lse.ac.uk/ideas