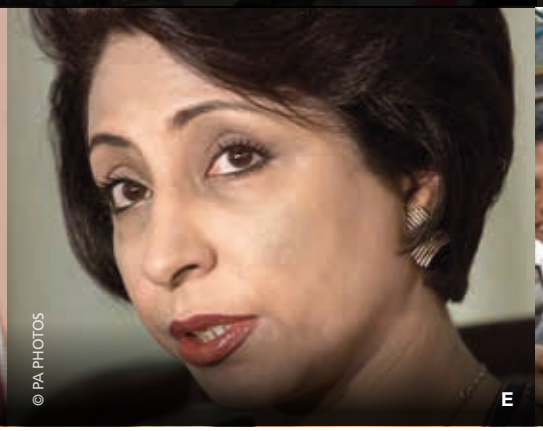
South Asia Centre

LSE Institute of Global Affairs

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PAKISTAN MONUMENT VIEW POINT, ISLAMABAD © SURONIN/DREAMSTIMEE; LOUIS KAHN-DESIGNED PARLIAMENT HOUSE IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH © PALASHKHAN01/DREAMSTIME; FISHERMEN IN AHANGAMA, SRI LANKA © FILMLANDSCAPE/DREAMSTIME; HOUSES ON THE MOUNTAIN IN KALIMPONG © KESSUDAP/DREAMSTIME

If we want to increase our comparative understanding of governments and civil societies, and design policies that will work in incredibly complex settings, South Asia is unparalleled as a place to begin.

Dr Mukulika Banerjee, Director, South Asia Centre



A. B R AMBEDKAR (MSC 1921, PhD 1923), PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA. **B.** SHIREEN MAZARI (BSC ECONOMICS 1973), MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN. **C.** ABUL FATEH (BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE COURSE FOR COMMONWEALTH DIPLOMATS 1950), FIRST FOREIGN SECRETARY OF BANGLADESH (1971-72). **D.** A. S. JAYAWARDENE (MSC ECONOMICS, 1964), GOVERNOR, CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA (1998-2004). **E.** MALEEHA LODHI (BSC GOVERNMENT 1975, PhD 1980), PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UN (2015-). **F.** SHER BAHADUR DEUBA (RESEARCH STUDENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1989), PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL (1995-97, 2001-01, 2004-05)

The South Asia Centre marks a step-change in LSE's engagement with the region. It is a global platform from which to engage with South Asia, a region whose particularities constantly challenge conventional social science thinking.

With your support, we are building an international hub from which around 80 academics and a multidisciplinary network of South Asian researchers at LSE engage with key actors across the region. The Centre's intellectual perspective is outward-looking and comparative, and creates inter-regional and global dialogues on issues of contemporary concern.

Why South Asia?

South Asia accounts for over 25 per cent of the world's population, and is considered by many to be the primary agent of the new world order: an important driver of economic growth which is at once dynamic and volatile, it is a major force in the global balance of power. It is also a highly militarised region, with countries that pose serious risks to international security, both geopolitically and environmentally. As a result, South Asia throws up an extraordinary number of complexities and challenges.

The South Asia Centre proposes a bold and innovative exploration of a number of conceptual and analytical factors, including politics and civil society, religion and secularism, federalism, democratisation and liberalism, sustainable development and equal opportunity, resistance and the subaltern, migration, finance, health, climate and much else from amongst an inexhaustible list of issues of critical importance.

Why LSE?

LSE can leverage the intellectual capital of world-renowned faculty from across disciplines whose teaching and research are focused on South Asia. The South Asia Centre delivers LSE's academic powerhouse to the region, and South Asian talent to LSE.

A key inspiration for the Centre is the growing importance of South Asia to processes of globalisation. The Centre places the region at the core of interdisciplinary, global debates by bringing the benefit of comparative viewpoints of other region-focused Centres at LSE, as well as examining these issues from the perspective of South Asia.

The South Asia Centre is built on a rich seam of engagement with the region that is almost as old as LSE itself. In 1911-12, LSE founders Sidney and Beatrice Webb travelled to what is today Pakistan, and to India. They met industrialist and philanthropist Sir Ratan Tata, who subsequently endowed a Chair focused on India's social policy, economy and labour. Since that time presidents, prime ministers, chief justices, parliamentarians, business leaders, diplomats, activists, barristers, academics and Nobel laureates from several countries in the region have studied at LSE, as have hundreds of students from all backgrounds.

CELEBRATING INDIA AND PAKISTAN

INDIA AT 70

LSE INDIA SUMMIT 2017 NEW DELHI 29-31 MARCH 2017

PANEL DISUSSIONS ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY, THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, WATER SECURITY, AND QUANTITATIVE DATA.

PAKISTAN AT 70

LSE PAKISTAN SUMMIT 2017 KARACHI 10-11 APRIL 2017

PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN, ART AND MODERNITY, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, PHILANTHROPY AND INSTITUTION BUILDING.

Aims

Pushing the boundaries of research

The South Asia Centre ensures that the region is at the heart of the School's interdisciplinary and global academic work, while also driving research in new directions. For instance, an initial theme breaks away from a stereotype of contemporary Pakistan focused on terrorism, jihad and relations with India and the US towards a more inclusive and composite frame – and considers Pakistan on its own terms, in its own context, and in a positive light on the global stage as South Asia's frontier to the Middle East.

Building a network of exceptional researchers across the region

The Centre actively nurtures new generations of research scholars working on South Asia, equipping them with the skills to address complex issues of contemporary relevance. It will develop a database of research scholars across the world to promote collaborations and comparativist approaches. This will create a platform with unequalled access to a network of powerful partners and stakeholders involved in academic intervention and impact based on research and analysis.

Building partnerships across the region

The Centre engages with governments, academics, research centres, think tanks, individuals and businesses in or with interests in South Asia by actively pursuing customised partnerships, collaborations and funding for research on themes of contemporary regional and global relevance. Formal schemes like the LSE Practitioners-in-Residence programme for Indian Foreign Service officers provide gateways for engagement with and outreach by the Centre.

A. BEATRICE AND SIDNEY WEBB, c. 1942.
B. CHARLES GABRIEL SELIGMAN,1924 © NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL. IN 1908 SELIGMAN WAS INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA TO STUDY THE VEDDA.
C. PROFESSOR SIR RAYMOND FIRTH, c. 1965. DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, 1932-68. IN THE MID-1950s FIRTH ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA ON METHODS TO INVESTIGATE SOCIAL CONDITIONS.
D. FRED HALLIDAY (SECOND FROM RIGHT), DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 1984. HALLIDAY CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE STUDY ON 'REGIME SURVIVAL' IN AFGHANISTAN IN THE 1970s.

Major Initiatives in 2015/16

Members of the Centre visited Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan through 2015/16, reaching out to governments, business and community leaders, and alumni to establish the Centre in the region. For details, see the Annual Report 2015/16 on the Centre's website lse.ac.uk/southasia

We organised the first-ever LSE India Summit in January 2016 with support from 'Difficult Dialogues', a platform for debate and discussion with international and domestic experts – on India's relations with the Middle East; Banking and Finance; Civil Society; and Infrastructure. Award-winning author Amitav Ghosh, and famous Serbian political activist Srdja Popovic delivered special lectures.

NILANJAN SARKAR WITH MEMBERS OF THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NEPAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, KATHMANDU, JULY 2016

New alumni chapters were established in Nepal and Sri Lanka in 2016, and a series of events are planned to deepen LSE's relations with the 2 countries. Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar visited Kathmandu in July 2016.

LSE DELEGATION WITH HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN MIAN NAWAZ SHARIF, 22 FEBRUARY 2016

We submitted a proposal to the Government of Pakistan for the establishment of a Jinnah Professorial Chair at LSE to spearhead the Centre's Pakistan programme.

The Centre established the '100 Foot Journey Club' with the High Commission of India to curate events of mutual interest; the Club's activities were inaugurated with a lecture by Dr Raghuram Rajan, Governor, Reserve Bank of India in March 2016.

The Centre is Academic Advisor to the Partition Museum (Town Hall, Amritsar), the first-ever museum of memories and artefacts from the Partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947.

Partition Museum, Town Hall, Amritsar

Join us

With your support we will develop new agendas, investigate pressing issues, provide comparative lessons, examine new data, build capacity in public and private sectors, create new synergies, and initiate partnerships and collaborations across the region.

Dr Mukulika Banerjee
Director

Dr Nilanjan Sarkar
Deputy Director

Mr Tim Aldcroft
Administrator

Ms Sonali Campion
Communications and
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Ms Huma Yusuf
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LSE Institute of Global Affairs

The South Asia Centre is a part of the LSE Institute of Global Affairs.
The Institute of Global Affairs offers a space dedicated to cutting-edge research, policy engagement and teaching across multiple disciplines to pioneer inclusive and locally-rooted responses to global challenges.
lse.ac.uk/iga

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