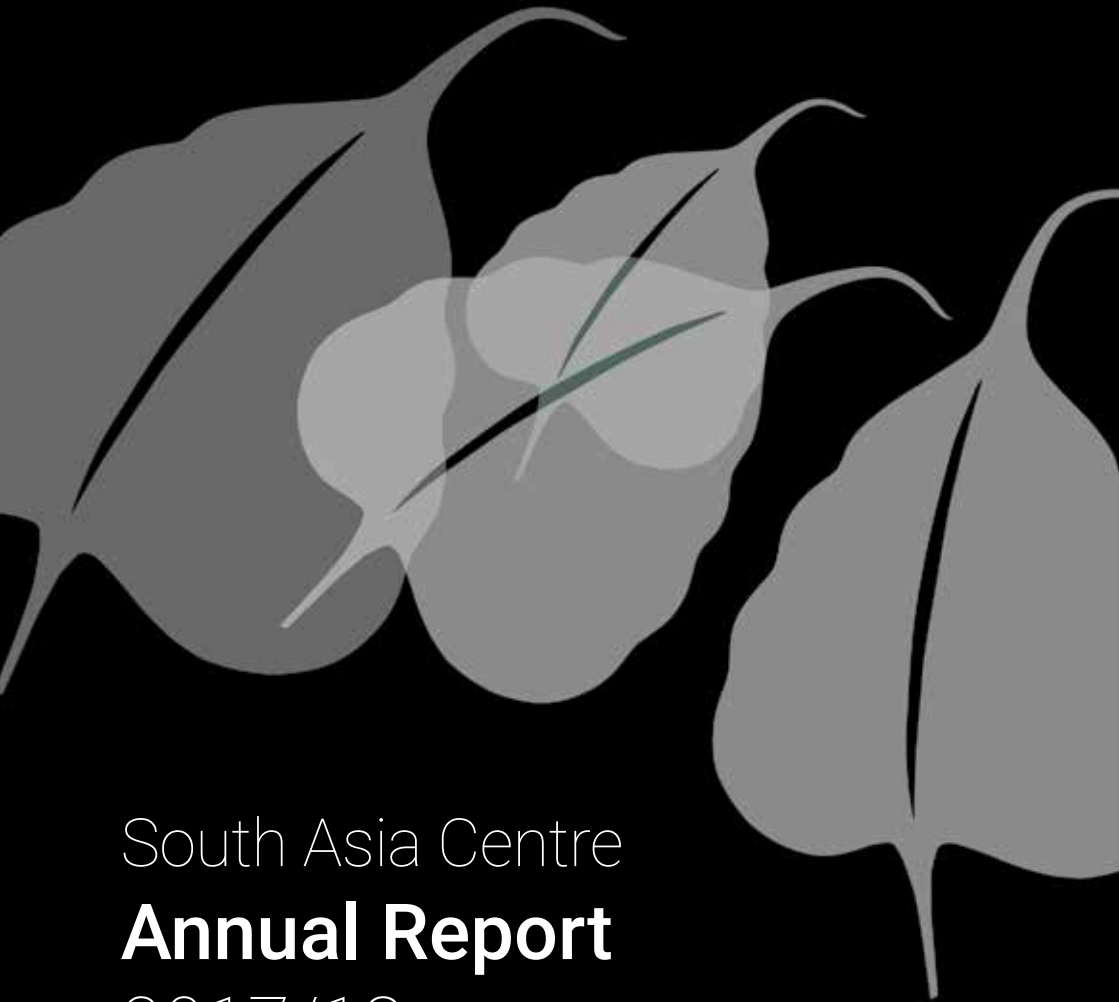
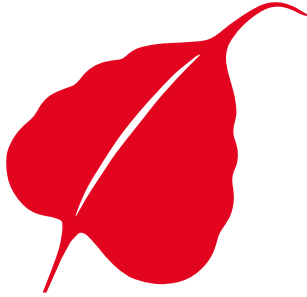




THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



South Asia Centre  
**Annual Report**  
2017/18



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*, amongst many others.

The logo has been designed by Oroon Das.

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# INTRODUCTION

Dr Mukulika Banerjee, *Director*

**The South Asia Centre's third year saw a number of new beginnings and a consolidation of our strengths and reputation in the UK and in South Asia. In 2017/18, we expanded our activities for Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh while continuing our work relating to India and Pakistan.**

In addition to country-focused activities, we achieved another milestone when we hosted the first-ever LSE South Asia Summit in London in March 2018 focusing on issues of regional interest, with experts of nearly all countries of the region. We also held the first day-long Bangladesh Summit at LSE in June, and the first-ever Centre event in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We have therefore continued to do what we do well – curate and host public events of exceptionally high quality, create new agendas for academic discussion both within LSE and outside, and engage with stakeholders in South Asia while continuing to establish our presence in the region.

The United Kingdom in general, and London in particular, are very competitive spaces for a research centre focused on South Asia. A number of such Centres predate our existence, and others have since been established with strong institutional and secure financial support from their host universities. In this climate, it gives me particular pleasure to report that the LSE South Asia Centre has done extremely well in relation to its competitors in just three years. An important reason for this has been the unusual quality of our public events, and our collaboration with key British institutions. This year, to mark the 70th anniversary of independence, we worked with the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom to host two exhibitions on the constitutions of Pakistan and India in the Atrium Gallery in LSE from September to

December 2017. In October 2017, we collaborated with The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple for an anniversary lecture on Gandhi, and we continue to regularly brief and work with the Foreign Office and Chatham House. We also launched our collaboration with The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and co-hosted a day-long Bangladesh Summit at LSE with plans to host the next one in Berkeley in 2019 and the third in Dhaka in 2020.

A particular marker of our events is the high quality of our speakers, and the unique curation of each of our events that generate polemical and ground-breaking conversations. An unprecedented discussion between the two ex-Intelligence chiefs of Pakistan and India, hosted by us to a packed hall and much media coverage, was a first such event in the UK. We also welcomed a galaxy of prominent academics, authors, policy-makers and politicians during the year which attracted strong audience participation. The visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Shahid Khaqan Abbasi at the personal invitation of the Centre was a major highlight; Mr Abbasi announced the Government of Pakistan's commitment to establishing a Visiting Professorial Chair in honour of Quaid-i Azam Jinnah which will help realise our ambition to becoming a hub for world class social science research on Pakistan.

In South Asia, the first 'Colombo Development Dialogues' was held in collaboration with UNDP Sri Lanka to bring international and local expertise on specific themes of human development and also to build capacity among young researchers through a specially designed 'Masterclass'. In India, we launched the *Artha Vivaad* speaker series in collaboration with the Institute of New Economic Thinking, New York. Through such events, the Centre continues to harness resources with other world-class institutions to present cutting-edge research and discussions. The outputs of these events are disseminated widely through our Working Paper series available to download from our website, and the 'South Asia@LSE' Blog which continues to publish a wide range of specially commissioned articles. I am delighted to report that the Centre has been successful in attracting HEIFE funding for the editorial post for 5 years and has nearly doubled its readership in the past year.

We have also provided sustained and behind-the-scenes support to all South Asia-related students societies at LSE – a Sri Lanka Students Society was established this year with our encouragement. A standout event in 2017/18 was a mock Dialogue between Indian and Pakistani 'officials' and those representing the UN on the Kashmir issue organised by the South Asia Development Students Society, which showed more insight, imagination and realism in addressing this complex issue than official talks! Our students continue to remain our best brand ambassadors as they have started to reach back to the Centre for collaborations as they embark on their new careers in universities, think tanks and government organisations. Within LSE, we have continued to strive to create cross-disciplinary conversations among faculty on common interests which is a challenge in any

university organised by disciplinary academic departments. Nevertheless the presence of respected guest speakers has provided the catalyst for such experiments, and has been immensely productive. The results of these have prepared the ground for a future research programme – for which we hope to win research grant funding for – to address specific issues in South Asia, to be studied through multiple research approaches from different disciplinary perspectives.

“ It gives me particular pleasure to report that the LSE South Asia Centre has done extremely well in relation to its competitors in just three years. An important reason for this has been the unusual quality of our public events, and our collaboration with key British institutions. ”

Our biggest challenge remains to find consistent revenue streams to sustain the Centre's activities and ambitious future plans. The commitment of the Jinnah Visiting Professorship by the Government of Pakistan will go some way towards achieving our aim to building a world class research hub on Pakistan. A generous gift from Mr Ali Jameel will help us sustain the South Asia Centre in the next two years. And an early gift from Tata Trusts will help us scale our activities in India further.

We look forward to all the challenges ahead!

# SOUTH ASIA

Since our launch in 2015, the Centre has worked tirelessly to engage with all countries in South Asia. In 2015-17, we organised very successful events in India and Pakistan, and visited Bangladesh and Nepal. In fact, our Centre is unique in organising events in countries in South Asia alongside our several events and activities in London.

In 2017/18, we have concentrated on curating events in and about Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This has been both successful as well as rewarding. Each event was marked by animated discussions on topics of contemporary importance from across disciplines and perspectives. We also collaborated with other institutions and marshalled our combined resources to attract a global audience.

In September 2017, we announced the shortlist of the **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature**, an event we are proud to host every year. The prize — a cash award of US\$25,000 — went to Anuk Arudpragasam's *A Story of a Brief Marriage*, which was announced in Dhaka on 18 December 2017.

This year also provided us with the resources and opportunity to fulfil yet another ambition: to host events that focused on more than one country in the region, on issues of mutual interest across the region.

We were therefore delighted to curate the first-ever **LSE South Asia Summit** on 10 March 2018 in London, in the presence of several members of our Senior Advisory Board, and a brilliant audience. The summit focused on two topics of pan-South Asian significance:



L-R: SNIGDHA POONAM (DELHI), ADAM ROBERTS (*THE ECONOMIST* UK), LOTTE HOEK (UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH), AMMARA MAQSOOD (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER) & DAVID GELLNER (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD) SPEAKING ON 'WHO ARE THE MIDDLE CLASS IN SOUTH ASIA?' AT THE LSE SOUTH ASIA SUMMIT, 10 MARCH 2018.

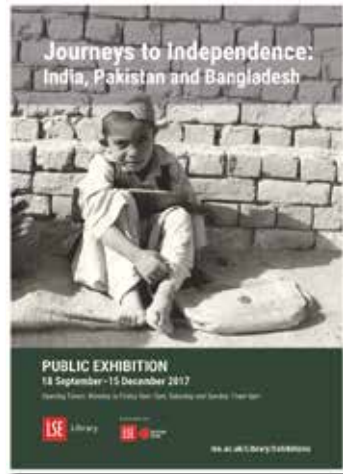
- *Is China South Asia's Principal Ally?*  
Panelists included Filippo Boni (on Pakistan; Birmingham), Luke Heslop (on Maldives; LSE), Yuka Kobayashi (on China; SOAS), Siddharth Varadarajan (on India; *The Wire.in*) and Ganeshan Wignaraja (on Sri Lanka; LKI, Colombo) with Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London) as Moderator.

The panel discussed what China's expanding geo-political influence in South Asia over the last few years means for the region as a whole, and in bilateral relations between countries of the region given China's asymmetrical and systematic investments in infrastructure and trade agreements — from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the proposed project of a Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) to the 99-year lease of Sri Lanka's port of Hambantota, and China's 'Belt and Road Initiative'.

- *Who are the Middle Class in South Asia?*  
Speakers included David Gellner (on Nepal; Oxford), Ammara Maqsood (on Pakistan; Manchester), Edward McBride (on India; *The Economist*), and Snigdha Poonam (on India; Journalist) with Lotte Hoek (on Bangladesh; Edinburgh) as Moderator.

The panel explored the idea of, and the realities behind, the middle class in South Asia. The International Comparison Programme Survey (2011) which redefined Purchasing Power Parity has dramatically changed the definition of who comprises the 'middle class'. Consequently, in the particular context of South Asia — namely, high GDP growth with high levels of inequality — do we identify an elusive middle class by either exaggerating or diminishing its size, nature or effectiveness?

An audio recording of the Summit is available on the Centre's website.



The Centre was delighted to host the first-ever public dialogue between the former intelligence chiefs of India and Pakistan. Titled **'Can Intelligence Services do Good? A Conversation between Indian and Pakistani Former Chiefs'**, it featured Amarjit Singh Dulat (formerly RAW, India) and Ehsan Ul Haq (formerly ISI, Pakistan). Unsurprisingly, the auditorium was bursting at the seams! The event was organised in collaboration with LSESU Pakistan Development Society and the South Asia Future Forum. Other speakers included Aamir Ghauri (SAFF; journalist) and Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London). The event was chaired by Mukulika Banerjee, Director, South Asia Centre.

The Centre also supported an exhibition organised by LSE Library from 18 September to 15 December 2017. **'Journeys to Independence: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh'** explored LSE's relation with India, Pakistan (and Bangladesh from 1971) on the 70th anniversary of independence of India and Pakistan. The exhibition was unique in featuring original documents only from the collections of LSE Library, such as Beatrice Webb's journal notes from her trip to the subcontinent in 1911/12, and various other related items — including documents and photographs showing British support for independence for India and Pakistan, and later for Bangladesh.

# AFGHANISTAN, NEPAL AND BANGLADESH

The Centre has continued to develop and consolidate its links with Afghanistan and Nepal in 2017/18. We have also initiated a program to develop events and projects relating to Bangladesh.

## AFGHANISTAN

The Centre was approached by SUNY, Albany to submit a joint application to UKAID to develop a long-term, primary education-focused, capacity-building program for Afghanistan. The proposal contained a series of initiatives to build primary-level school education for children in Afghanistan. Although we were unable to receive the grant, we were able to interact with various stakeholders interested in capacity-building activities through education in Afghanistan, and in South Asia. As we enter our fourth year, we are determined to create a platform for meaningful debates focusing on Afghanistan, and on her relations with other countries in South Asia.

At LSE, we co-hosted (with the Department of International Relations) a discussion on **'Afghanistan in Global Affairs: New Histories and Perspectives'**. Speakers included Dawood Azami (BBC), Martin Bayly (LSE), Elisabeth Leake (Leeds) and Timothy Nunan (Freie Universität, Berlin), and was chaired by Professor Christopher Coker (LSE). Each spoke on a variety of issues based on primary research, outlining the challenges and the successes of re-establishing political processes in Afghanistan, arguing that the complexities of the involvement of foreign powers in Afghanistan also provide crucial lessons for other democracies in war-ravaged polities struggling to rebuild structures of governance.



L-R: MARTIN BAYLY (LSE), ELISABETH LEAKE (UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS), CHRISTOPHER COKER (LSE), TIMOTHY NUNAN (FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN) & DAWOOD AZAMI (BBC), PANEL DISCUSSION ON 'AFGHANISTAN IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS', LSE, 19 OCTOBER 2017.

## NEPAL

The Centre has been working consistently over the last few years to engage with Nepal, and in earlier years we had the privilege of hosting both academics and prominent leaders from Nepal at the Centre. In 2017/18, we built on this to host a hugely successful Roundtable Discussion focusing on Nepal's new constitution, and the complexities confronting her as she moves from being a monarchy to a republic; we hope to host a bigger event focusing on Nepal in the coming year.

On 21 May 2018, **'Nepal: From Hindu Kingdom to Secular State'** was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Nepal to the UK, H.E. Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi; panelists included David Gellner (Oxford), Mara Malagodi (City University, London),

Sondra Hausner (Oxford), Marie Lecomte-Tilouine (CNRS, Paris) and Michael Hutt (SOAS), and was chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).

On 29 May 2018, Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar attended the Nepal Development Conference at the Embassy of Nepal, to mark Nepal's Republic Day, at the invitation of H.E. Durga Bahadur Subedi.

H.E. Durga Bahadur Subedi also inaugurated the second LSESU South Asia Society's 'South Asia Development' conference on 17 March 2018 at LSE. In his Opening Remarks, he spoke about the essence of regional cooperation and globalisation. The annual conference is organised by the LSESU South Asia Society, and is supported by the South Asia Centre.



L-R: MARA MALAGODI (CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON), SONDRHA HAUSNER (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD), H.E. DURGA BAHADUR SUBEDI (AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL IN UK), NILANJAN SARKAR (LSE), DAVID GELLNER (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD), MARIE LECOMTE-TILOUINE (CNRS PARIS) AND MICHAEL HUTT (SOAS) AT ROUNDTABLE ON NEPAL, LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 21 MAY 2018.



## BANGLADESH

We have been working for the past couple of years to develop events and activities focused on Bangladesh and were delighted that in 2018, we were able to give it a prominent form.

Although the Centre has hosted individual events on Bangladesh over the last few years, this year marked our first-ever **LSE Bangladesh Summit** (in collaboration with the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California-Berkeley) on 5 June 2018. A total of 15 speakers from the UK, USA and Bangladesh spoke to an actively opinionated audience of almost 200 people.

Three panel discussions focused on:

- *Minority Rights* – with Shelley Feldman (Cornell), Delwar Hussain (Edinburgh), and a speaker on Sexual Minorities, with Katy Gardner (LSE) as Moderator;
- *The Idea of Bangladesh* – with Meghna Guhathakurta (Research Initiative Bangladesh), Kieran Mitton (KCL), Shahpar Selim (ICCAD, Dhaka), and Sanchita Saxena (UC-Berkeley) as Moderator;
- *Civil Society and the State* – with Joseph Devine (Bath), Sara Hossain (Supreme Court of Bangladesh), David Lewis (LSE), and Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Moderator.

Kasia Paprocki (LSE) opened the Summit with her remarks, and Naila Kabeer (LSE) delivered the plenary lecture on 'Parallel Narratives of Nationhood: Gender, Islam and Civil Society in Bangladesh', which was chaired by Lutfey Siddiqi (LSE alumnus; Member of Court of Governors).

Working Papers of each panel discussion will be available on the Centre's website in October 2018; the audio recordings are already available.

The Centre is now planning further Summits on Bangladesh, with the aim that we will be able to host a Summit in Dhaka in the foreseeable future.



MD SHAHIDUL HAQUE (FOREIGN SECRETARY OF BANGLADESH) AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 15 MARCH 2018.

The Centre also hosted a discussion on the Rohingya Crisis from the perspective of the Bangladesh government, when we invited Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque to speak on **'The Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis: Bangladesh's Response'** on 15 March 2018 at LSE. The event was also attended by the Hon'ble High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom H.E. Md. Nazmul Quanine. Foreign Secretary Haque described first-hand the government's incredible humanitarian response to a tragedy triggered by others, but whose financial costs are being borne by Bangladesh. The event was chaired by Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar.

Dr Sarkar was also invited to attend the 47th Bangladesh Independence Day celebrations held at the International Maritime Organisation, hosted by the Bangladesh High Commission, London on 29 March 2018; and a special event on 4 July 2018 to mark Bangladesh's graduation to becoming a Middle Income country.

Amidst all this, LSE students have recently energised the LSESU Bangla Society, and we hope to work with them in future years.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NILANJAN SARKAR (LSE) AND H.E. MD NAZMUL QUAUNINE (HIGH COMMISSIONER OF BANGLADESH IN UK) AT THE 47TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS, LONDON, 29 MARCH 2018; PANELISTS (L-R) SHAHPAR SELIM (ICCAD DHAKA), KIERAN MITTON (KCL LONDON), MEGHNA GUHATHAKURTA (RESEARCH INITIATIVES DHAKA) & SANCHITA SAXENA (UC-BERKELEY) AT THE LSE BANGLADESH SUMMIT, 5 JUNE 2018; NAILA KABEER (LSE) DELIVERING THE PLENARY LECTURE AT LSE BANGLADESH SUMMIT, 5 JUNE 2018.

# INDIA

The Centre continued its series of exciting events on India in 2017/18, curating events on important issues of concern to India today; in Michaelmas Term 2017, we continued with our series of events to mark the 70th anniversary of India's independence. Alongside our own activities, we also worked closely with the High Commission of India under the banner of the '100 Foot Journey Club', LSESU India Society and several other institutions.

The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple invited the South Asia Centre to organise a commemorative lecture on 2 October 2017 (the birth anniversary of M. K. Gandhi, an alumnus of Inner Temple) to mark the opening of their new academic year in the 70th year of India's independence: Faisal Devji (Oxford) spoke on **'Barrister Gandhi Takes the Stand'**. The lecture was introduced by Mukulika Banerjee, Director of the South Asia Centre, and was followed by a reception at Inner Temple.

Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar and Charlotte de Mille (Courtauld) co-curated an exhibition titled **'Law and Nationhood: India at 70'** in LSE's Atrium Gallery, in collaboration with the High Commission of India, London from 13 November to 7 December 2017. The exhibition – which included rare documents and letters never displayed to the public – explored the relationship between legality and nationhood in the making of independent India, placing her Constitution at the heart of it. It focused on four prominent Indians – Shyamaji Krishnavarma, M. K. Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and B R Ambedkar (an LSE alumnus). Amongst several others, H.E. Mr Y.K. Sinha, Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom visited the exhibition which was shown to him by co-curators Nilanjan Sarkar and Charlotte de Mille.

In the past year, the Centre has also hosted a number of public lectures, workshops, roundtable discussions, book discussions, and film screenings featuring new research on India. Highlights include

- **'The Argumentative Indian'** – a documentary on Amartya Sen's life and work followed by a discussion with Sen and Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Moderator in collaboration with the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival 2017;



NOBEL LAUREATE AMARTYA SEN (HARVARD)  
AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 27 JUNE 2017.



- **‘Talking Economics: Finance and Reform in India’** — public lecture by Adair Turner (INET) with Nasser Munjee (LSE alumnus, Chair of the Centre’s Senior Advisory Board) as Moderator and Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE) as Chair, in New Delhi. This was the inaugural event in *‘Artha Vivaad: Lectures in New Economic Thinking’*, which the Centre has developed in collaboration with the Institute for New Economic Thinking, New York;
  - **‘Privacy and Law in India’** — Chintan Chandrachud (Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP), Sarah George Kotak (NLSIU), and Mayur Suresh (SOAS) examined India’s Privacy Judgement (2017) and its implications on the Aadhar mandate, with Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE) as Moderator;
  - ***The Broken Ladder: The Paradox and Potential of India’s One Billion*** — Anirudh Krishna (Duke), with Maitreesh Ghatak (LSE) and Sohini Kar (LSE), with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Chair, discussed issues of capacity and potential in light of Krishna’s recently published book;
  - ***A Business History of India: Enterprise and the Emergence of Capitalism from 1700*** — Tirthankar Roy (LSE; member of the Centre’s Faculty Advisory Group) launched his latest book at a panel discussion with Bishnupriya Gupta (Warwick), Michael Aldous (Queen’s University, Belfast) and D. Rajeev Sibal (Pratham UK), moderated by Sanchari Roy (KCL).
- Further details of these and other events are listed at the end of this report, and audio recordings of each event is available on the Centre’s website.
- **‘Ram Rahim: Faith and Justice in India’** — Utsav Singh Bains (Supreme Court of India) and Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Chair discussed the landmark judgement against self-styled spiritual leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim, convicting him of raping some of his followers. This event was organised in collaboration with National Indian Students and Alumni UK (NISAU);

# PAKISTAN

The Centre has worked hard over the last few years to curate unique and interesting events on Pakistan, both in London as well as in Pakistan. We continued to organise events and activities through 2017/18, riding on the success of events we had already begun in the previous year to mark the 70th anniversary of the birth of Pakistan.

**The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Shahid Khaqan Abbasi visited LSE** at the invitation of Mukulika Banerjee (Director, South Asia Centre) on 4 November 2017. Mr Abbasi spoke to an invited audience of students, alumni and guests on issues confronting Pakistan today, and later engaged in a Q&A with the audience. The event was chaired by LSE Director Dame Minouche Shafik.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Abbasi announced his government's commitment to support the Jinnah Visiting Professorship at the LSE South Asia Centre. LSE has over 105 students from Pakistan this year.

Michaelmas Term 2017 continued a series of events marking Pakistan's 70 years of independence. From 9 October to 3 November 2017, Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar and Charlotte de Mille (Courtauld) curated an exhibition in LSE's Atrium Gallery titled **'Citizenship and Law: Pakistan at 70'**. The exhibition celebrated the central role of Quaid-i Azam M. A. Jinnah as lawyer and statesman. Displaying documents from his time at Lincoln's Inn and his role as Privy Councillor in 1930s London, together with photographs, newspaper clippings and objects relating to her constitutional history, the exhibition highlighted the long-standing relations between Pakistan



DAME MINOUCHE SHAFIK (DIRECTOR, LSE) AND SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI (HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN) DURING Q&A WITH STUDENTS, LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 4 NOVEMBER 2017.

and the UK. Several items were lent by the museum of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and from the personal collection of former Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani. The Hon'ble High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom H.E. Mr Syed Ibne Abbas, and Senator Sherry Rehman visited the exhibition, which was shown to them by co-curator Nilanjan Sarkar.

The Centre also hosted two public lectures to accompany this exhibition: **'The Radcliffe Boundary Commission and the Geographical Imagination of Pakistan'** by Lucy Chester (Colorado - Boulder) on 16 October 2017, and **'Pakistan and the Grand Narratives of 20th Century History'** by David Gilmartin (NCSU) on 4 December 2017, were both chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar, and drew over 200 guests.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VISITOR TO 'PAKISTAN AT 70' EXHIBITION, ATRIUM GALLERY, LSE; DAVID GILMARTIN (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL) AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 4 DECEMBER 2017; LUCY CHESTER (UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER) AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 16 OCTOBER 2017.



# SRI LANKA

This year marked our success in establishing the Centre's presence in Sri Lanka. The Centre is delighted to announce the successful launch of the **'Colombo Development Dialogues'**, a series of 6 Dialogues to be held in Colombo over 3 years.

The dialogues have been developed in collaboration with UNDP Sri Lanka. The first Dialogue on 4 April 2018 was on **'Integrated Development Impact through Partnerships and Innovation'**, and explored the importance of incorporating human-centred design processes when creating citizen-centric and organic solutions to the country's development issues.

The Dialogue aimed to stimulate discussion on meeting the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030 for proactive action on multiple fronts. The panelists included Rajesh Venugopal (LSE), H.E. Tung-Lai Margue (EU Ambassador, Colombo), Dulani Sirisena (Australian High Commission, Colombo), Maneesha S. Wanasinghe (University of Colombo), Carl Cruz (Unilever, Sri Lanka), Sonali Dayaratne (UNDP Sri Lanka), and Indrajit Coomaraswamy (Central Bank of Sri Lanka). Invited discussants included Ajith de Alwis (CSSTI, Colombo), Dushni Weerakoon (IPS, Sri Lanka), Smriti Daniel (Journalist) and Thilana Wijesinghe (Government of Sri Lanka). The Dialogue was inaugurated by UNDP Sri Lanka Director Jorn Sorensen, with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Chair.

A Working Paper of the Dialogue, as well as the video recording of it is available on the Centre's website.

With this series of Dialogues, the Centre has achieved another milestone, namely, to initiate capacity-building activities in the region. The First Colombo Development Dialogue was preceded by a Master Class on **'Poverty, Social Welfare and Data in Sri Lanka'**, convened by Rajesh Venugopal (LSE) at the University of Colombo. About 30 students had been invited from different universities in Sri Lanka to attend this half-day Master Class, which focused on developing reading and analytical skills based on a pre-circulated publication. There was also a component of group discussion and formulation of questions relevant to the theme of the lecture in the Master Class aimed at encouraging students to think independently, and articulate their queries. A complete recording of the Master Class is available on the Centre's website.

The Centre has also supported the re-establishment of the LSESU Sri Lanka Society (which had been present in earlier years but had latterly lapsed), and we hope to support them in their activities from 2018 onwards.



INAUGURAL 'COLOMBO DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE' ON 'INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION', COLOMBO, 4 APRIL 2018.

# THE '100 FOOT JOURNEY CLUB'

The Centre continued its collaborative relationship with the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom under the auspices of the 100 Foot Journey Club – which marks, almost literally, the distance between India House and the LSE – and was established in 2015.

The Club hosts academic events of mutual interest, building on our commitment to work with governments to impact public consciousness through informed knowledge. All events of the Club focus on India, or on India in relation to the wider world – and there is a conscious attempt to curate interdisciplinary events focusing on issues of contemporary relevance and concern in India today.

We organised two events in collaboration this year, very unique and different from one another, and both equally successful. The Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of the High Commission of India in making these events possible.

Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar co-curated an exhibition entitled **'Law and Nationhood: India at 70'** from 13 November to 7 December 2017, with Charlotte de Mille (Courtauld), as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of India's independence. The exhibition focused on four prominent Indian barristers, Shyamaji Krishnavarma, M. K. Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and B R Ambedkar (an LSE alumnus) and detailed the precarious journeys of each of them between their nationalist fervour and British education. Krishnavarma and Gandhi were disbarred by their British alma maters (Gandhi being reinstated only in 2012), while Nehru and Ambedkar never met that fate. More widely, the exhibition explored the relationship between legality and nationhood in the making of



NILANJAN SARKAR (LSE) WITH H.E. Y. K. SINHA (HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA IN UK) AT 'INDIA AT 70' EXHIBITION, ATRIUM GALLERY, LSE. THE EXHIBITION WAS SUPPORTED IN PART BY THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA UNDER THE BANNER OF THE '100 FOOT JOURNEY CLUB'.





L-R: PRAB SEYAN (WATFORD SIKH ASSOCIATION), JAMES HEGARTY (CARDIFF UNIVERSITY), PRITAM SINGH (OXFORD BROOKES) & M. P. S. BEDI (LONDON) AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 22 MARCH 2018.

independent India, placing her Constitution at the heart of it. The High Commission very generously lent their facsimile copy of the first edition of the Indian Constitution for this exhibition.

The year 2017 also marked the 350th birth anniversary of the revered tenth Guru Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji. The Centre organised a panel discussion titled '**Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji: Understanding the Sacred Word**' at LSE, as a grand finale to the year-long celebrations of the Guru's birth anniversary. The panel discussion was preceded by Opening Remarks by H.E.

Mr Y K Sinha, Hon'ble High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom. Panelists included James Hegarty (Cardiff), Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes), M P S Bedi (P C Pirthi Bedi Foundation) and Prab Seyan (Watford Sikh Association). Chaired by Deputy Director Nilanjan Sarkar, the event was attended by both academics and others, and ended with an animated discussion about the importance and continuing relevance of the Sacred Text in the world today. The papers presented at the panel discussion have been published separately, and a complete audio recording of the proceedings is available on the Centre's website.

# SAC IN LSE

This year was marked particularly by the success the Centre had in working with several of our colleagues and departments at LSE in some form or another. It has been our endeavour to work with LSE colleagues to pool resources and harness expertise to bring South Asia centrestage. We are delighted that in 2017/18 we collaborated with LSE Arts for two exhibitions, with LSE Library for their Michaelmas 2017 Exhibition, and with the departments of Economic History, International Relations, and Law to organise different events.

## WORKING WITH LSE STUDENTS

Over the last three years, the Centre has worked tirelessly with LSE students – at an individual level as well as supporting the activities of the Students Unions – encouraging them in their initiatives to do different things, or to do the same things differently!

The Centre's principal engagement with the students is via their activities in the respective students unions, supporting them in all possible ways to help them curate the amazing events they organise, underlining their applied relevance, and their wider, longer-term benefits. The students remain sovereign owners of all their activities, and the Centre involves itself – only when approached by the students to do so – in an advisory capacity. We are delighted that this has led to a widespread engagement between the Centre's small staff and LSE's students. One measure of this success is that in 2017/18, LSE saw the establishment of two new societies, the LSESU Bangla Society and the LSESU Sri Lanka Society. We look forward to supporting their activities in future years.

## SOUTH ASIA SOCIETY

The LSESU South Asia Society, which was founded on an idea fostered by the South Asia Centre – namely, to focus on the region as a whole in comparative perspective, overlooking

national boundaries – entered its third year, and a new cohort of students took over the reins of the Society.

The Centre also advised the Society which (along with LSESU Pakistan Development Society) organised an extremely animated debate titled **'India-Pakistan Dialogue: Kashmir'** on 17 February 2018. The debate was conducted by students representing the two countries and their respective officers alongside international bodies like the UN and a separate group representing Kashmiris, and the guest session included remarks by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE), Vidya Ram (*The Hindu*) and Aamir Ghauri (*The News*) who gave insights, details and views on how dialogue on Kashmir can be advanced between India and Pakistan.

On 6 March 2018 the Centre facilitated the screening of **'Caste Aside'**, a documentary about the practice of caste among expatriate Indians living in Britain, and their opposition to the British government's decision to introduce legislation against caste discrimination in the UK. The South Asia Society organised the screening, which was followed by a discussion led by the documentary makers Priyanka Mogul and Damiano Petrucci.

The flagship event of the Society is their annual day-long conference, and the Centre worked closely with them to organise the second **'South Asia Development Conference'** on 17 March 2018.

The conference was inaugurated by H.E. Dr Durga Bahadur Subedi, Hon'ble Ambassador of Nepal to the United Kingdom, and included three panel discussions:

- *How Culture Moderates within Ethnic and Religious Forms of Nationalism* – panelists included Edward Anderson (Cambridge), Suman Doonga (SPIC MACAY, Delhi), and Shahid Mahmood Nadeem (PTV Academy, Lahore) with Omer Azhar (LSESU) as Moderator;
- *Making Growth Sustainable and Inclusive* – with Martin Rama (World Bank), Ishrat Husain (State Bank of Pakistan) and Khalid Payenda (Deputy Minister of Finance, Afghanistan) with Ahmed Nauraz Rana (LSESU) as Moderator;
- *Investment in Social and Human Capital* – speakers included Lloyd Gruber (LSE-IPA), and Anshu Gupta (Goonj, India) with Yumna Baloch (LSESU) as Moderator.

## INDIA SOCIETY

The Centre advised the LSESU India Society for their annual LSESU India Forum titled '**India in the Global Landscape**' on 3 March 2018 – with a range of speakers from Bollywood actors to politicians, business leaders to academics, and to a packed audience for a full day. Their discussions included

- *The Future is Today: The Great Indian Movement* – speakers included Neeraj Kanwar (Apollo Tyres), Ajay Bijli (PVR Group), and Anil Rai Gupta (Havells), with Alnoor Bhimani (LSE) as Moderator;
- *The Essence of Dynamic India* – including Shazia Ilmi (BJP), Aatishi Marlena (AAP), Jyotiraditya Scindia (Congress) as speakers, and Sumantra Bose (LSE) as Moderator;

- *Revitalising the Indian Playing Field* – panelists included Aakash Chopra (former Cricketer and Commentator), Mithali Raj (Indian Women's Cricket Team), and Rajneesh Chopra (Dunamis Sportainment), with Ruth Kattumuri (LSE) as Moderator;
- *Present Prospects: Forecasting the Future* – speakers were Yashveer Singh (Ashoka), Shaheen Mistri (Teach for India), Deepa Dasmuni (Former Union Minister of State and Urban Development), with Ruth Kattumuri (LSE) as Moderator;
- *Finance and Economics: Redesigning the Financial Terrain* – speakers included Aashish Chauhan (BSE), Yaga Venugopal Reddy (formerly RBI), Vik Mehrotra (Venus Capital Mgt.), with Kanchana Ambagahawita (LSE) as Moderator.

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher gave a special lecture on 'The Emerging Trends in Bollywood'.

## PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

The LSESU Pakistan Development Society have had a busy academic year. The Society collaborated with us (and the South Asia Future Forum) to organise the first-ever discussion between former Indian and Pakistani intelligence chiefs on 6 October 2017, titled '**Can Intelligence Services do Good? A Conversation between Indian and Pakistani Former Chiefs**'. The discussion featured Amarjit Singh Dulat (formerly RAW, India), Ehsan Ul Haq (formerly ISI, Pakistan), Aamir Ghauri (SAFF), and Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS). The Q&A session was Chaired by the SAC Director Mukulika Banerjee.

The Society also held their second annual '**Future of Pakistan**' conference, which ended with a Q&A session with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who visited LSE at the invitation of the South Asia Centre.

The conference, as always, focused on the developmental aspects of contemporary Pakistan, with an array of speakers from different sectors in animated discussion with the audience. H.E. Mr Ibne Abbas, Hon'ble High Commissioner of Pakistan in the United Kingdom inaugurated the conference. This incredibly well-attended event on 4 November 2017 included discussions on

- *Development in Pakistan* – with Nafisa Shah (PPP) and Miftah Ismail (Special Assistant on Economic Affairs, PMO) as speakers, and Anan Khan (LSE-IGC) as Moderator;
- *Politics* – panelists included Cyril Almeida (*The Dawn*), Qamar Zaman Kaira (Former Minister for Information), and Abdul Qayyum (member of the Senate), with Hassan Miraj (LSE alumnus) as Moderator;
- *Foreign Policy* – Sherry Rehman (former member of the Senate), Farzana Sheikh (Chatham House), and Aamir Ghauri (*The News*) were panelists, with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) as Moderator.

We are delighted that the Society won the Best Conference of the Year Award for the 'Future of Pakistan Conference'. LSE student, co-founder of the conference and Society President Omer Azhar Bhatti also became the first Pakistani to win LSE's prestigious 'Outstanding Contribution to the LSE Students Union' Award.

## WORKING WITH ALUMNI

In 2017/18, our initiatives have come full circle, with alumni approaching us with ideas of their own. Nothing can be more rewarding than this for the Centre – our alumni are our most valuable resource, our best life-long ambassadors.

The '**Colombo Development Dialogues**', our first major in-country initiative in Sri Lanka happened because of the enterprise of alumnus

Fadhil Bakeer Marker (MSc Social Policy and Development, 2010) who contacted us with the idea of starting this series, and has worked relentlessly to make it happen. It was an added delight that as we moved forward with this idea – which is now well underway from April 2018 – Fadhil's team at UNDP was joined by others who are also LSE alumni, especially Ayushka Nugaliyadda (MSc Development Studies, 2014). The Dialogues are sponsored by Dilmah Tea whose CEO is Dilhan Fernando (BSc Geography, 1989), also an LSE alumnus.

The **Indian Young Professionals Network** (IYPN) is the brainchild of Arunima Kumar and Manav Gupta (both LSE alumni), and this year the Centre began a unique series of meetings with them: a conversation between members of IYPN and a prominent Indian personality. The idea behind this new series of talks is to engage prominent Indians with young Indian professionals in the UK, and create platforms to discuss how expatriate Indians can engage with India in meaningful ways. The first meeting, on 28 June 2017, was with LSE alumnus Nasser Munjee (also Chair, Senior Advisory Board of the Centre) on '**India's Financial System**'. Nasser is Chairman of Development Credit Bank, and Tata Motor Finance Ltd in India.

Other alumni have returned to LSE to be panelists or moderators at events, sometimes responding to last-minute requests, sometimes travelling across the world at their own cost to fulfil their promises. Our alumni remain in touch with us through various means, and we continue to send out termly e-news bulletins especially for our alumni across the region with highlights of termly activities of the Centre.

Finally, our alumni also remain our most committed audiences at our events both in the region, as well as in London – our London alumni have loyally and faithfully attended our events, and engaged with the Centre.

# VISITING FELLOWS

The Centre hosted four post-doctoral Visiting Fellows in 2017/18, extending our association with peer institutions across the world, and providing early career researchers with an inter- and multi-disciplinary environment in which they are able to engage with their research.

## Dr Musarat Amin

Dr Amin joined the Centre as Visiting Fellow in April 2017, for a year. At the Centre, her post-doctoral project looked at Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy and impediments to the successful implementation of the National Action Plan, including an analysis of softer approaches to mitigating terrorism through de-radicalisation and peace education.

Dr Amin completed her PhD in International Politics from Jilin University (China) in 2013, and is Assistant Professor in the Department of Defence and Diplomatic Studies at Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi. Her post-doctoral Fellowship was supported by the Pakistan Higher Education Council, Punjab.

## Dr Hanako Nagata

Dr Nagata holds a PhD in the Social Sciences from Ochanomizu University, Japan with a focus on South Asian economics and gender studies, particularly the ready-made garment industry and related gender issues in Bangladesh. Since 2014, she is Associate Professor at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ibaraki University, Japan.

During her year-long Visitorship at the Centre (which started in April 2018), Dr Nagata is conducting research on the increasing 'feminisation' of the labour force, focusing on women workers in the ready-made garment industry in Dhaka and Kolkata, examining the theoretical paradigms surrounding this theme.

Dr Nagata attended the Centre's first-ever 'LSE Bangladesh Summit' on 5 June 2018, and has presented her research in conferences at several places in the UK and Europe.

## Dr Rizwan Naseer

Dr Naseer completed his PhD in International Relations from Jilin University, China in 2013, and is Assistant Professor of International Relations at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Islamabad. Dr Naseer's time at the Centre (September 2017-March 2018) focused on developing his book manuscript entitled 'South Asia's Nuclear Security in the Global Nuclear Order' which examines nuclear security in Pakistan and India, and the opportunity this presents for diplomacy and cooperation in the region.

## Dr Tamara Relis

Dr Relis joined the Centre as Research Fellow in 2016 for a period of two years. A Barrister & Solicitor in the UK and an Attorney in the US, Dr Relis is currently working on a new book project on human rights, access to justice and conflict resolution involving Tibetan refugees in India, Nepal and Bhutan on a British Academy / Leverhulme SRG grant. She has taught human rights law, non-state justice and legal pluralism, and evidence in New York (Tuoro Law Centre) and has been Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Columbia University Law School.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: (L-R) NOBEL LAUREATE AMARTYA SEN (HARVARD), MUKULIKA BANERJEE (LSE) & YOGENDRA YADAV (SWARAJ ABHIYAN INDIA) AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 6 JUNE 2018; LORD TURNER AT 'ARTHA VIVAAD', NEW DELHI, 5 OCTOBER 2017; RECEPTION FOR PHD STUDENTS WORKING ON SOUTH ASIA, LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 23 FEBRUARY 2018; FAISAL DEVJI (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD) AT INNER TEMPLE, LONDON, 2 OCTOBER 2017.

# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

In 2017/18, the South Asia Centre has continued to develop its digital channels, multimedia content and its blog, 'South Asia @ LSE', broadening ties with the region and attracting a wide-ranging audience from the countries the Centre represents – and beyond. Social media audiences continue to expand (particularly in the case of Twitter where our Followers have increased significantly) and the Blog, which has grown its cross-publication relationships, monthly audience figures, and number of articles published.

## SOUTH ASIA @ LSE

- From September 2017, posts have been published 5 times a week, growing to 6 per week from March.
- The Blog has attracted an average of 11,005 views per month from June 2017 to the end of May 2018, and 7,162 visitors per month. Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 figures of this year have surpassed the first and second quarter of 2016-17 on average with 1,684 extra views and 1,311 extra readers per month.
- 'South Asia @ LSE' continues to post a diverse range of content featuring photo essays, comment pieces, book reviews, interviews and research articles.

The Blog (funded by HEIF) continued its expansion of content including the addition of Saturday cross-posts, enabling it to develop strong content-sharing relationships with prestigious media partners including *India Spend*, *Scroll*, *The Wire.in* and The Asia Research Institute (formerly IAPS) blog. The Blog also collaborates with the LSE Review of Books, Women, Peace and Security, The Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa and the LSE Development Blog.

The Blog has renewed its efforts in producing original and innovative content, engaging with current events in South Asia (particularly the ongoing elections in the region) and also

internationally including for instance, South Asian perspectives on Brexit and the widely covered China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). There has been an increase in photo essays, interview content and series pieces.

'South Asia @ LSE' also increased its contributor portfolio – continuing the use of the knowledge exchange model – whilst introducing targeted writer recruitment drives. This has enabled the Blog to attract more women authors and writers from lesser-covered regions including Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan. Furthermore, we have begun collating and monitoring author data to maintain and promote a wider inclusivity and representation across gender and the regions that 'South Asia @ LSE' represents.

The Blog now covers all events organised by the Centre. Each event is live-tweeted and recorded, and at least one interview is conducted per event. Esteemed members of academia, politicians, activists and authors have provided interviews and book reviews, attracting more followers to the Blog and upholding its reputation as a high-quality and respected online publication.

The Blog continues to work with Masters and PhD students from LSE and beyond, publishing their research articles and using our social media platforms and monthly Newsletter to share and promote the activities of student societies



relating to the region. PhD students are also given the opportunity to network and improve their professional skills by interviewing event speakers and panellists.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- The Facebook page continues to grow, reaching 3,675 Followers and 3,679 Likes.
- The South Asia Centre Twitter account has grown rapidly in the last year, reaching over 6,071 followers – an increase of over 1,400 since last year.
- All events are live-tweeted and recorded. More popular events are livestreamed.
- The e-Newsletter which offers a brief summary of South Asia Centre news, events and the blog, is sent out to 1,388 subscribers each month.
- An additional events schedule notification is circulated monthly and individual event notifications are also sent out to our mailing lists.

In the last year, the South Asia Centre has added to its substantial video and audio collections utilising multimedia platforms like YouTube, Soundcloud, and Facebook Live. One of the Centre's event highlights 'Press Freedom and Democracy' with Siddharth Varadarajan, editor and co-founder of *The Wire.in*, has received a combined total of 766 views across Facebook and YouTube. The Centre's event videos for the year 2017/18 have received 1,891 views to date (June 2018). The Centre has also established an Instagram account, publishing event and article pictures.

Last year Facebook algorithms changed – altering the extent to which the Centre is able to engage with its audience without paying fees. However, reaching out to the relevant student and alumni

## TOP 5 POSTS IN 2017/18

'How farmers in an Indian village used broadband to save onions, and their livelihood' – by Arshad Perwez

'Assam against itself: a reply to Sanjib Baruah' – by Suraj Gogoi, Gorky Chakraborty and Parag Jyoti Saikia

'How the rise of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman impacts India' – by Pieter-Jan Dockx

'China is Sri Lanka's biggest source of FDI, but there is room for more' – by N.P. Ravindra Deyshappriya

'Rising to the SDGs: How can Nepal make meaningful progress by 2030?' – by Ashutosh M. Dixit

societies at LSE on Facebook to share our events remains a highly effective strategy. Alongside Twitter, Facebook remains one of our most successful online platforms to advertise events on – particularly to student audiences. LinkedIn, growing in popularity, is set to become a greater focus of the team in the following months.

Finally, Twitter has witnessed a significant increase of almost 32% in followers in the past year alone, with numbers growing daily. Audience engagement is holding steady with a 1.13% average daily engagement rate compared to 1.14% during 2016/17. All events are now assigned their own hashtags provided at the beginning, and audience members are encouraged to tweet. By providing comprehensive event coverage via Twitter, the Centre is able to reach a much larger audience, attract more media attention and bring our events to those who are unable to attend them.



# SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

The South Asia Centre held its second Senior Advisory Board meeting on 6 September 2017 and a third meeting on 9 March 2018. Mr Nasser Munjee (Chair, Senior Advisory Board and LSE alumnus) convened the meeting. Dr Mukulika Banerjee (Director, South Asia Centre) presented a detailed report on the activities of the Centre from June 2016 onwards, and outlined the vision and strategic plan for the future.

The Centre is privileged to have on its Senior Advisory Board members who are deeply interested in the activities of the Centre, and have worked hard with us to raise the profile of the Centre across the world in their varied networks, raise funds, and participate in our events and activities where possible.

**Nasser M MUNJEE** (Chair, Advisory Board) (LSE BSc Econ 1971-74; MSc Econ 1974-75) is Chairman of Development Credit Bank, and Tata Motor Finance Ltd., both in India. Nasser is also on the Board of 15 public companies, and is involved with several others as Chairman, Member of the Board or Trustee including ABB Ltd, HDFC Ltd, 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 (2009-12). He has taught at the Delhi School of Economics and has been Visiting Professor at various universities. He founded the Centre for Development Economics in Delhi and is President of the International Economic Association. He has been awarded the Padma Bhushan (2008).

**Craig J CALHOUN** is University Professor in Social Sciences at Arizona State University. Prior to this, he was President of the Berggruen Institute in Los Angeles, CA (2016-18); and Director & President of LSE (2012-16) where he remains Centennial Professor. Craig 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 1978-79) is 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, was previously its Executive Director, alongside serving in several international organisations including The Rockefeller Foundation (2009-12) and the UN, teaching at Columbia (2002-04), and was also MacArthur Fellow at Harvard (1992-93).

**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 Pakistani IT and telecom sectors, 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. Krishnan co-founded SMART Modular Technologies (WWH) Inc. in 1989 and also 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 to several boards in the Finance and Accounting sector, and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

**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.

**Fayeeza NAQVI** (LSE BSc Econ 1982) is Co-Founder and Chairperson of Aman Foundation, a private philanthropic trust headquartered in

Karachi; in 2015, she was awarded the BNP Paribas Grand Prix award in recognition of her humanitarian work. Fayeeza was previously founding Director of Saharay Welfare which oversaw the disbursement of funds to deserving NGOs in Pakistan, and is currently Trustee of the British Asian Trust.

**Ratan N TATA** is a businessman, philanthropist, investor and Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, the 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.



L-R: RATAN N. TATA, MEHLI K. MISTRY, MUKULIKA BANERJEE, NASSER MUNJEE (CHAIR, SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD), FAYEEZA NAQVI, NILANJAN SARKAR, LATA KRISHNAN & ALI JAMEEL.

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# FACULTY ADVISORY GROUP

The Faculty Advisory Group are current faculty members at LSE. They serve as everyday Advisors to the Centre, and meet twice a year. In 2017/18, they advised on some very testy issues confronting the Centre and their unanimous support has provided invaluable strength. They have also been actively involved in several of the Centre's events.

**Maitreesh GHATAK** (Professor of Economics) is a theorist of Applied Microeconomics with a focus on economic development. Maitreesh's recent work on India analyses land acquisition and compensation policies in West Bengal; continuing preference for intra-caste marriage; and welfare beneficiary attitudes toward cash and in-kind transfers.

**David LEWIS** (Professor of Social Policy and Development) focuses on Bangladesh's politics and society, and 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.

**Tirthankar ROY** (Professor of Economic History) launched his latest book, *A Business History of India: Enterprise and the Emergence of Capitalism from 1700* (2018), with the South Asia Centre on 31 May 2018. Tirthankar's research focuses on the history of Indian Capitalism. He is currently working on a sequel to his co-authored book *Law and Economy in Colonial India* (2016) dealing with post-Independence India.

**Mahvish SHAMI** (Assistant Professor in International Development) focuses on patron-client relationships established between peasants and their landlords in Pakistan. Mahvish is currently exploring the types of collective action projects peasants undertake in villages with varying levels of connectivity.

**Siva THAMBISETTY** (Associate Professor in Intellectual Property Law) has research interests in the intellectual property protection of biotechnological inventions, bioethics, and comparative patent law. Siva has written on the implications for India's pharmaceutical industry of the Supreme Court decision to uphold the grant of the first compulsory license on a patented drug; India's death penalty and criminal justice system; and accessibility legislation in India.

**Rajesh VENUGOPAL** (Assistant Professor in International Development) researches the political sociology of development and violent conflict, particularly with reference to South Asia. He has researched and written on post-conflict reconstruction, nationalism, development aid, private sector development, and liberal peacebuilding. His recent publications on Sri Lanka explore the politics of market reform during conflict, post-conflict economics, and military fiscalism.

# EVENTS

**27th June 2017**

**Film Screening and Discussion**

with the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival 2017

'The Argumentative Indian'

Speaker: Amartya Sen (Harvard)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**27th September 2017**

**DSC Book Prize Shortlisting Announcement**

Speakers: Surina Narula, Steven Bernstein, Michael Wood and Gurinder Chadha.

**2nd October 2017**

**Public Lecture**

'Barrister Gandhi Takes the Stand'

Speaker: Faisal Devji (Oxford)

Discussant: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

Chair: David Pittaway (Inner Temple)

**3rd October 2017**

**Public Lecture**

with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

'Ram Rahim: Faith and Justice in India'

Speaker: Utsav Singh Bains (Supreme Court of India)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**5th October 2017**

**Roundtable Discussion - Artha Vivaad**

with the Institute for New Economic Thinking

'Talking Economics: Finance and Reform in India'

Speaker: Adair Turner (INET)

Discussant: Nasser Munjee (Chair, Senior Advisory Board, SAC)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**6th October 2017**

**Roundtable Discussion**

with LSESU Pakistan Development Society and the South Asia Future Forum

'Can Intelligence Services do Good? A

Conversation between Indian and Pakistani Former Chiefs.'

Discussants: Amarjit Singh Dulat (formerly RAW,

India), Ehsan Ul Haq (formerly ISI, Pakistan),

Aamir Ghauri (SAFF), Rahul Roy-Chaudhury

(International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**16th October 2017**

**Public Lecture**

'The Radcliffe Boundary Commission and the Geographical Imagination of Pakistan'

Speaker: Lucy Chester (Colorado-Boulder)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**19th October 2017**

**Roundtable Discussion**

with the Department of International Relations

'Afghanistan in Global Affairs: New Histories and Perspectives'

Discussants: Dawood Azami (BBC), Martin Bayly

(LSE), Elisabeth Leake (Leeds) and Timothy Nunan (Freie Universität Berlin)

Chair: Christopher Coker (LSE)

**9th October 2017 to 3rd November 2017**

**Gallery Exhibit**

'Citizenship and Law: Pakistan at 70'

with The Courtauld Institute of Art, the High

Commission of Pakistan to the UK and LSE Arts

Curated by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE) and Charlotte de Mille (Courtauld)

**4th November 2017**

**Visit by Prime Minister of Pakistan**

Keynote address on Pakistan Today

Speaker: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (Hon'ble Prime Minister of Pakistan)

Chair: Minouche Shafik (LSE)

### 13th November 2017 to 7th December 2017

#### Gallery Exhibit

'Law and Nationhood: India at 70'  
with The Courtauld Institute of Art, the High Commission of India to the UK and LSE Arts  
Curated by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE) and Charlotte de Mille (Courtauld)

### 24th November 2017

#### Workshop

'The Case for a Universal Basic Income Scheme in Developed vs Developing Countries'  
Speaker: Maitreesh Ghatak (LSE)  
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

### 4th December 2017

#### Public Lecture

'Pakistan and the Grand Narratives of 20th Century History'  
Speaker: David Gilmartin (North Carolina State University)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

### 7th February 2018

#### Roundtable Discussion

'Privacy and Law in India'  
Discussants: Chintan Chandrachud (QEU&S LLP), Sarah George Kotak (NLSIU) and Mayur Suresh (SOAS)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

### 9th February 2018

#### Public Discussion

with the Department of Law  
'Democracy and Defiance in the Supreme Court of India'  
Speaker: Aditya Sondhi (NLSIU)  
Discussant: Siva Thambisetty (LSE)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

### 23rd February 2018

#### South Asia PhD Network

Drinks reception for PhD students from across LSE working on the region, to assist research dissemination and introductions to academic communities.

### 9th March 2018

#### Public Lecture

'Challenges to Press Freedom in a Democracy'  
Speaker: Siddharth Varadarajan (*The Wire.in*)  
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

### 10th March 2018

#### South Asia Summit

'Is China South Asia's Principal Ally?'  
Panelists: Filippo Boni (Birmingham), Luke Heslop (LSE), Yuka Kobayashi (SOAS), Siddharth Varadarajan (*The Wire.in*), and Ganeshan Wignaraja (LKI, Colombo)  
Moderator: Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (IISS, London)

'Who are the Middle Class in South Asia?'

Panelists: David Gellner (Oxford), Ammara Maqsood (Manchester), Edward McBride (*The Economist*), and Snigdha Poonam (Journalist)  
Moderator: Lotte Hoek (Edinburgh)

### 14th March 2018

#### Book Discussion

*The Broken Ladder: The Paradox and Potential of India's One-Billion*  
Discussants: Anirudh Krishna (Duke), Maitreesh Ghatak (LSE) and Sohini Kar (LSE)  
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

### 15th March 2018

#### Public Discussion

'The Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis: Bangladesh's Response'  
Speaker: Md. Shahidul Haque (Government of Bangladesh)  
Introduction: H.E. Mr Md. Nazmul Quaunine, (Bangladesh High Commission, London)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**22nd March 2018**

**Public Forum** - 100 Foot Journey Club  
'Shri Guru Gobind Singh ji: Understanding the Sacred Word'

Opening Remarks: H.E. Mr Y K Sinha (High Commission of India to the UK)

Discussants: James Hegarty (Cardiff), Prab Seyan (Watford Sikh Assoc.), Pritam Singh, (Oxford Brookes), and M P S Bedi (P C Pirithi Bedi Foundation)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**4th April 2018****Colombo Development Dialogues**

with the United Nations Development Programme, Sri Lanka

'Integrated Development Impact through Partnerships and Innovation'

Panelists: Rajesh Venugopal (LSE), H.E. Tung-Lai Margue (EU Ambassador), Dulani Sirisena (Australian H. C., Colombo), Maneesha S. Wanasinghe (University of Colombo), Carl Cruz (Unilever Sri Lanka), and Sonali Dayaratne (UNDP Sri Lanka)

Discussants: Ajith de Alwis (CSSTI), Dushni Weerakoon (Institute of Policy Studies), Smriti Daniel (Journalist) and Thilan Wijesinghe (Government of Sri Lanka)

Moderator: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**17th May 2018****Seminar**

Workshop for LSE Faculty and Doctoral Researchers

'What's Wrong with Indian Democracy?'

Speaker: Abhijit Banerjee (MIT)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**21st May 2018****Roundtable Discussion**

'Nepal: From Hindu Kingdom to Secular State'

Opening Remarks: H.E. Durga Bahadur Subedi (Nepal Embassy, London)

Speakers: David Gellner (Oxford), Mara Malagodi

(City University of London), Sondra Hausner (Oxford), Marie Lecomte-Tilouine (CNRS, Paris) and Michael Hutt (SOAS)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**31st May 2018****Book Discussion**

*A Business History of India: Enterprise and the Emergence of Capitalism from 1700*

Speaker: Tirthankar Roy (LSE)

Discussants: Bishnupriya Gupta (Warwick), Michael Aldous (Queen's, Belfast) and D. Rajeev Sibal (Pratham, UK)

Moderator: Sanchari Roy (King's College London)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**5 June 2018****LSE Bangladesh Summit**

with the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California-Berkeley

'Minority Rights'

Panelists: Shelley Feldman (Cornell), Delwar Hussain (Edinburgh) and one speaker on Sexual Minorities

Moderator: Katy Gardner (LSE)

'The Idea of Bangladesh'

Panelists: Meghna Guhathakurta (Research Initiatives Bangladesh), Kieran Mitton (King's College London) and Shahpar Selim (ICCCAD)

Moderator: Sanchita Saxena (UC-Berkeley)

'Civil Society and the State'

Panelists: Joseph Devine (Bath), Sara Hossain (Supreme Court of Bangladesh) and David Lewis (LSE)

Moderator: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**Plenary lecture**

'Parallel Narratives of Nationhood: Gender, Islam and Civil Society in Bangladesh'

Speaker: Naila Kabeer (LSE)

Moderator: Lutfey Siddiqi (LSE)

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# THE TEAM



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