

2022 / 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Saxena Center for
Contemporary South Asia

About the Center

Mission

The Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia promotes research, teaching and public engagement on key issues of modern South Asia in an interdisciplinary framework and in a historically and culturally grounded manner.

About

The Saxena Center is based at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. The Center supports faculty, graduate and undergraduate research and teaching on the region and is home to the South Asian Studies concentration.

The Saxena Center functions within the larger framework of the Watson Institute, which is seeking to define a new approach to regional studies for the 21st century. Anchored in the social sciences, this new approach is problem driven, comparative and multidisciplinary. Our multidisciplinary will include sustained interaction of social scientists with the humanities on the one hand and disciplines such as medicine and public health on the other.

Research & Programs

At this time, the Center's programmatic and research themes focus on inequalities, development, urbanization, democracy, public health and pluralism & diversities.

Message from the Director

2022-23 was our inaugural year as the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia. In December 2021, we received a generous \$10 million endowment gift from Parag and Usha Saxena, Brown parents '13, '14 and '15. They had been contributors earlier as well. Their endowment will give us resources in perpetuity, and will allow us to imagine our collective life anew. We can generate new ideas for research, collaboration, teaching and programming, while building on what we already have become known for. We are immensely grateful to the Saxena family.

With members of the Saxena family present, Brown's President Christina Paxson inaugurated the newly named center. Our inaugural activities included three panels on politics, economics and culture. Our Panelists, many coming from South Asia, covered all countries of the region, including those we have not been able to cover adequately in the past: Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We also had a hugely successful concert by Ali Sethi, followed by his remarkable talk on the culture panel the next day.

The Saxena endowment has already made a new shift in our work possible. We have decided to incorporate the arts in our programming more systematically. This includes extending our gaze to cinema and film artists. We showed several films last year, including the film, *Zwigato*, by Nandita Das, with her present to interact with our community.

We also hosted TN Krishna, a leading classical musician, who gave a set of talks on his work explaining, among other things, how society and culture interpenetrate each other in South Indian music. Additionally, inspired by a popular demand after Ali Sethi's concert, we have also invited him to be with us as an artist in residence this fall. He will run a non-credit study group on the art of music in South Asia

Kamila Shamsie, a Pakistani British novelist, and Shekhar Gupta, currently the editor of The Print and formerly the editor of The Indian Express, were our OP Jindal Distinguished Lecturers last fall. Shamsie covered a rarely discussed subject – the interaction between Hellenic and South Asian cultures through history, and Gupta spoke on “Democracy and Freedom of the Press.” We will pursue the latter theme this fall with a Jindal lecture by Ravish Kumar, who was until recently with NDTV and is a front-ranking Hindi journalist in India.

For the last two years, Arvind Subramanian has been our senior fellow. He has left for a prestigious policy position at the Petersen Institute in Washington. A highly respected and popular member of our community, he will undoubtedly be missed. We expect him to be occasionally involved with our work in the future as well.

Ashutosh Varshney

Director, Saxena Center for
Contemporary South Asia
Sol Goldman Professor of International
Studies and the Social Sciences
Professor of Political Science

EVENTS



Saxena Center Inauguration Weekend



Inauguration of the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia

Marginalization and
Inclusion in South Asia:
Economics, Politics, & Culture



Joukowsky Forum & Starr Plaza
Watson Institute, 111 Thayer St



FRI, 9 SEPT 2022

2:00PM | Inauguration by President Paxson
& Economics Panel

Chaired by Christina Paxson

Shantayanan Devarajan, Georgetown University

Asim Khwaja, Harvard University

Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University

Karthik Muralidharan, University of California, San Diego

Sailesh Tiwari, World Bank

5:30PM | Concert by Ali Sethi & Band



SAT, 10 SEPT 2022

10:00AM | Politics Panel

Chaired by Ashutosh Varshney

Avidit Acharya, Stanford University

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Princeton University

Shandana Khan Mohmand, Institute of Development Studies

Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Centre for Policy Alternatives

Ali Riaz, Illinois State University

2:00PM | Culture Panel

Chaired by Shahzad Bashir & Prerna Singh

Vikram Doctor, Economic Times

Marina Tabassum, Marina Tabassum Architects

Manjushree Thapa, Writer

Ali Sethi, Writer



SEPTEMBER 9 & 10

Inauguration of the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia

Marginalization and Inclusion in South Asia: Economics, Politics & Culture

Following the establishment of an endowment in perpetuity for the Center, in September 2022, the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia was inaugurated by President Christina Paxson. The inaugural weekend took place on September 9th & 10th, 2022. It was a full two-day event that brought together regional experts from across the globe and focused on marginalization and inclusion in South Asia. The weekend featured three panels, one each on South Asian economics, politics and culture. While planning for the inauguration, it was important to us to keep the Center's mission at the core of the entire event, making it a point to include as much cross diversity across South Asia as possible, which is why each panel had an expert on nearly every nation in the region.

The economics panel was organized by Andrew Foster (Brown University) and chaired by President Christina Paxson, featuring Shantayanan Devarajan (Georgetown University), Asim Khwaja (Harvard University), Mushfiq Mobarak (Yale University), Karthik Muralidharan (University of California, San Diego), and Sailesh Tiwari (World Bank).

The politics panel was organized and chaired by Ashutosh Varshney and featured Avidit Acharya (Stanford University), Pratap Bhanu Mehta (Princeton University), Shandana Khan Mohmand (Institute of Development Studies), Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu (Centre for Policy Alternatives), and Ali Riaz (Illinois State University).

The culture panel was Organized by Shahzad Bashir (Brown University) and Prerna Singh (Brown University) featuring Vikram Doctor (Economic Times), Marina Tabassum (Marina Tabassum Architects), Manjushree Thapa (Writer), and Ali Sethi (Writer).

In addition to the three expert panels, the center hosted an outdoor concert featuring award winning Pakistani singer, songwriter and author, Ali Sethi, accompanied by Shayna Esther Dunkelman and Grey McMurray.



Pratap Bhanu Metha



Ali Sethi Concert in Starr Plaza



Christine Paxson



Ali Sethi



Inaugural Reception of Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia



Christine Paxson, Shantayanan Devarajan, Sailesh Tiwari, Mushfiq Mobarark, Asim Khwaja, Kartihik Muralidharan



OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures

To promote a serious discussion of politics, economics, social and cultural change in modern India, Sajjan and Sangita Jinal have endowed, in perpetuity, the OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures by major scholars and public figures.



Kamila Shamsie, OP Jindal Lecture





Shekar Gupta (The Print)

OCTOBER 14, 2022

The Media & India's Democracy Today

COMMENTATORS:

Ellen Barry, The New York Times

Salil Tripathi, Author

Sadanand Dhume, American Enterprise Institute

Shekhar Gupta Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *The Print*, India's fastest growing digital news platform known for its non-hyphenated liberalism. He is a prolific columnist, with his highly influential weekly column 'National Interest' which is translated into five languages. A selection of these columns was collected in the bestselling book, 'Anticipating India'. Shekhar, a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, hosts 'Off the Cuff' – an offering from *The Print* – which sees him in conversation with an eminent guest twice a month. His daily YouTube show 'Cut The Clutter' explains and analyses the big news development of the day from India and around the world.



Kamila Shamsie (Author)

OCTOBER 21, 2022

*From Greeks to Indo-Greeks to 'Greco-Britains':
2,000 years of Hellenic culture in South Asia*

COMMENTATORS:

Lina Fruzzetti, Brown University

Saniya Kamal, Brown University

Shazia Rahman, University of Dayton

Kamila Shamsie is the author of eight novels, which have been translated into over 30 languages. *Home Fire* won the Women's Prize for Fiction and the Hellenic Prize and was long listed for the Man Booker Prize; *Burnt Shadows* won the Premio Boccaccio (Italy) and *A God in Every Stone* won the Anisfield-Wolf Award (USA). A Vice-President and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Manchester, she was one of Granta's 'Best of Young British Novelists' in 2013. She grew up in Karachi, and now lives in London. Her most recent novel, *Best of Friends*, was published in September 2022.



Christopher Clary

Book Adda Series

Adda means a site for collective deliberation in South Asia. This series features panel discussion of important new books written by our colleagues or those significantly involved with the Saxena Center as intellectual interlocutors.

**GOPALKRISHNA
GANDHI**
Ashoka University

TRIDIP SUHRUD
CEPT University

COMMENTATORS:
UDAY MEHTA
CUNY

FAISAL DEVJI
University of Oxford


NOV 18, 2022
10AM - 11:30AM

VIRTUAL EVENT
REGISTRATION
REQUIRED

SAXENA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA

BOOK ADDA

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI & TRIDIP SUHRUD



SCORCHING LOVE

Letters from
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
to his son Devadas

ADDA MEANS A SITE FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

WAPSON INSTITUTE
ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Saxena Center for
Contemporary South Asia

DISABILITY REQUESTS:
SOUTHASIA@BROWN.EDU
OR 401-863-7445

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

*Gopalkrishna Gandhi &
Tridip Suhrud — Scorching Love*

COMMENTATORS:

Uday Mehta, CUNY

Faisal Devji, University of Oxford

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former bureaucrat who has served an illustrious career as a diplomat and held several administrative positions. He has previously served as India's High Commissioner to South Africa and Sri Lanka. He has also served as the 23rd Governor of West Bengal.

Dr. Tridip Suhrud is a renowned scholar in the field of political science and cultural history. He has extensively worked on the life and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi and the social and cultural history of modern Gujarat. Prior to joining CEPT University, Dr. Suhrud was serving as the Director & Chief Editor of Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust.

About the book: This book publishes Gandhi's letters to his youngest son, Devadas from 1914, when father and son were both in South Africa to 1948, when they were both in Delhi, the capital of free India where within hours of the last letter Gandhi was assassinated. Gandhi wrote these letters by day, he wrote them by night, he wrote them from aboard trains, steamers, both right and left hands being pressed into service to rest one when tired out. The letters span three decades during which the writer grew from being a fighter for the rights of Indians in South Africa to being hailed as Father of the Nation by millions in India and - opposed by many as well including the man who felled him by three bullets fired at point blank range on 30 January, 1948. The letters hold his aspirations for his son and for his nation. They bear great love and they also scorch.

BROWN HARVARD M.I.T.
South Asian Politics

CHRISTOPHER CLARY
SUNY, Albany

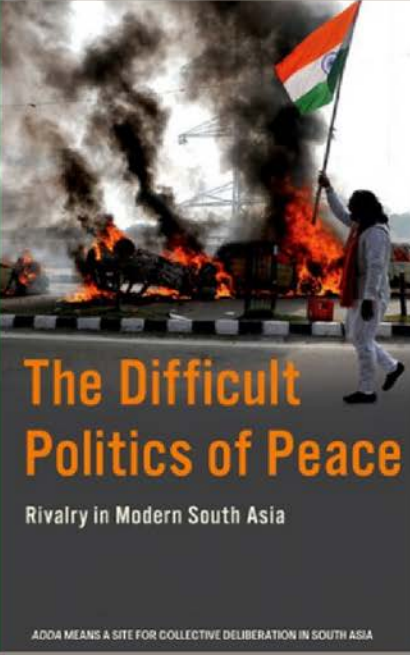
COMMENTATORS:
CHRISTINE FAIR
Georgetown University
TYLER JOST
Brown University
ASFANDYAR MIR
United States Institute of Peace

DEC 9, 2022
2PM - 4PM

JOUKOWSKY FORUM
WATSON INSTITUTE
111 THAYER ST
PROVIDENCE, RI

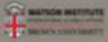
SAXENA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA

BOOK ADDA



The Difficult Politics of Peace
Rivalry in Modern South Asia

BOOK ADDA MEANS A SITE FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

 Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia

DISABILITY REQUESTS:
SOUTHASIA@BROWN.EDU
OR 401-863-7665

DECEMBER 9, 2022

Christopher Clary —

The Difficult Politics of Peace

COMMENTATORS:

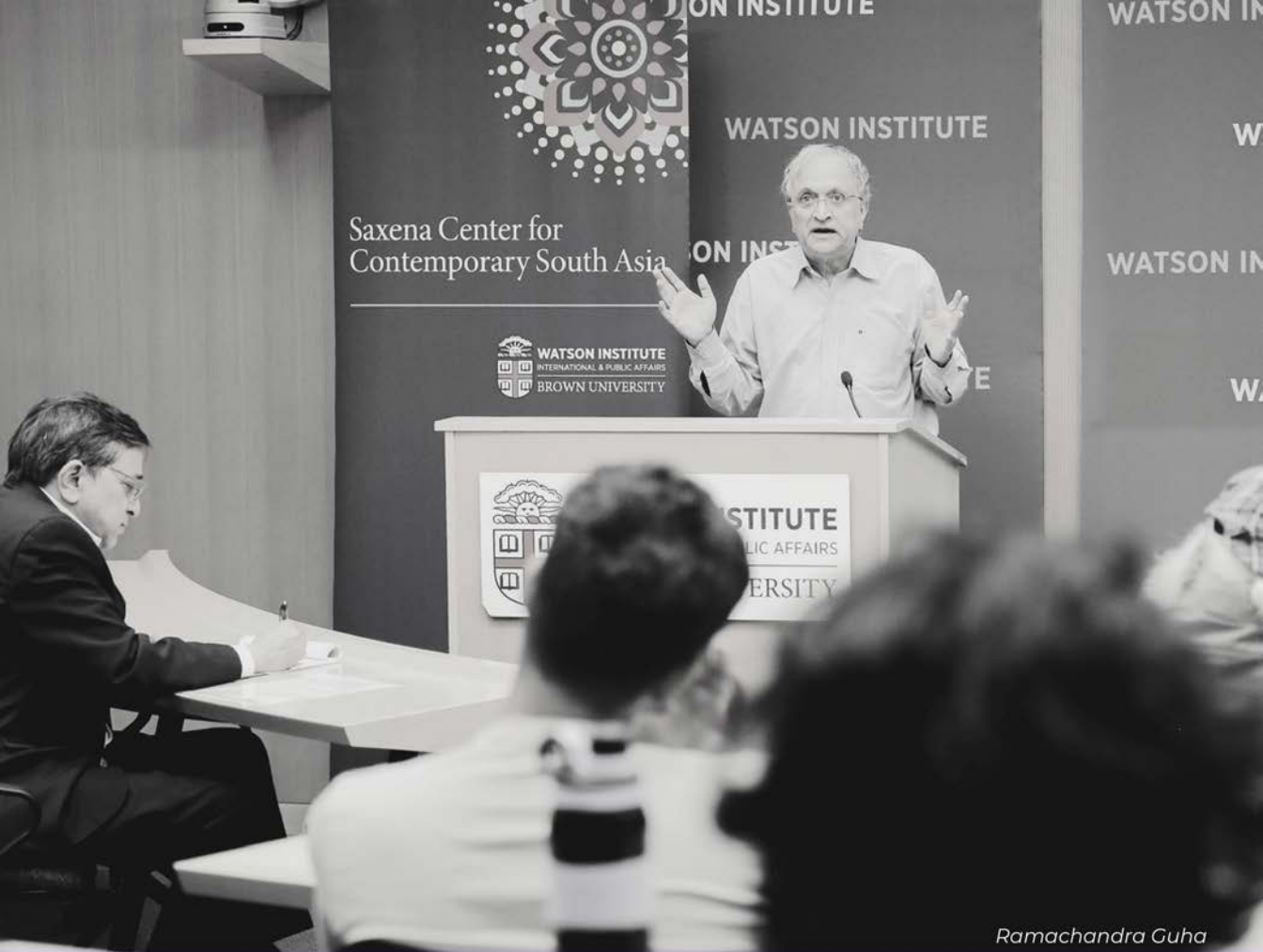
Christine Fair, Georgetown University

Tyler Jost, Brown University

Asfandiyar Mir, United States
Institute of Peace

Christopher Clary is an Assistant Professor of Political Science. His research focuses on the sources of cooperation in interstate rivalries, the causes and consequences of nuclear proliferation, U.S. defense policy, and the politics of South Asia. Previously, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University, a predoctoral fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, a Stanton Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellow at the RAND Corporation, and a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow in India.

About the book: Since their mutual independence in 1947, India and Pakistan have been engaged in a fierce rivalry. Even today, both rivals continue to devote enormous resources to their military competition even as they face other pressing challenges at home and abroad. Why and when do rival states pursue conflict or cooperation? In *The Difficult Politics of Peace*, Clary provides a systematic examination of war-making and peace-building in the India-Pakistan rivalry from 1947 to the present. Drawing upon new evidence from recently declassified documents and policymaker interviews, the book traces India and Pakistan's complex history to explain patterns in their enduring rivalry and argues that domestic politics have often overshadowed strategic interests. It shows that Pakistan's dangerous civil-military relationship and India's fractious coalition politics have frequently stymied leaders that attempted to build a more durable peace between the South Asian rivals.



Ramachandra Guha

South Asia Seminar Series

This series of public lectures facilitates a convergence of figures from across the lines of academia, civil society, literature, public policy, and journalism to contribute to the discourse on contemporary South Asia.

Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia



WATSON INSTITUTE
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BROWN UNIVERSITY

WATSON INSTITUTE



SEPTEMBER 16

P. Saravanamuttu,

Centre for Policy Alternatives
*Sri Lanka in Crisis: Democratic
Governance Imperiled?*

SEPTEMBER 28

TM Krishna,

Musician, Writer, Activist
Art & Activism - Meaning and Purpose

SEPTEMBER 30

Nayanika Mathur,

Oxford University
*Writing the Anthropocene from the
Indian Himalaya*

OCTOBER 7

Sanjay Kak, Filmmaker

*Archives of the Present: Witness in
Kashmir and Palestine*

OCTOBER 24

Rukmini S., Data Journalist

*Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What
Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About
Modern India*

NOVEMBER 7

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Jr.

Artist, Environmental Activist

Fazale Rab Lund

Environmental Activist

Marvi Latifi

Women's Democratic Forum, Activist

Zehra Hashmi

Brown University

Ahsan Kamal

Quaid-e-Azam University

*Flooding in Pakistan: Climate Justice,
Mitigation and Adaptation*

NOVEMBER 11

Projit Mukharji,

University of Pennsylvania

*Brown Skins, White Coats: Genes,
Castes and Medical Risk in
Twentieth-century India*

DECEMBER 9

Khadija Nazari, Brown University

Javed Rezayee, Story Producer

Azizullah Royesh, Sheesha Media

*"More of us might be killed—but we
will win": Hazara Persecution and
Resistance in Afghanistan*

FEBRUARY 24

Faiza Moatsim,

University of Southern California
*Planning Bureaucracy and its
Encroachments: The Making of
Islamabad as a Master-planned City*

MARCH 2

Dipti Khera, New York University
*Monsoon Downpours: From
Monumental Moods to micro-histories,
C. 1700-1900*

MARCH 17

Aasim Khan, Brown University
Zehra Hashmi, Brown University
*Prehistories of the Information Age and
the Politics in South Asia*

MARCH 20

Resuf Ahmed,
University of Lausanne
*Does Political Quota Lead To
Development? Evidence From India*

APRIL 7

Parismita Singh

*Crisis Comics: Drawing and Writing
Non-Fiction in South Asia*

APRIL 21

Bhrigupati Singh,
Ashoka University
*Is India going through an Opioid
Epidemic? Examining Currents of Life
and Death in Contemporary India*

APRIL 26

Ramachandra Guha, Author
*Sport and the Nation: Cricket and the
Making of Modern India*

MAY 2

Nandita Das, Filmmaker
*Screening of 'Zwigato' & Discussion
with the Director*

Nandita Das, Ashutosh Varshney





Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics approaches some of the big questions of politics, political economy and security, on which the South Asian region offers engaging perspectives. The series is co-sponsored by CCSA, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, and the MIT Center for International Studies.



Gilles Verniers, Ashutosh Varshney

SEPTEMBER 23

Gilles Verniers, Ashoka University
*The Making of UP's New Politicians:
 The Elite Roots of Inclusion*

OCTOBER 28

Tanu Kumar, Claremont
 Graduate University
*Housing as welfare: How subsidized
 home ownership generates social
 mobility through wealth, voice, and
 dignity in India*

NOVEMBER 1

Yamini Aiyer, Centre for Policy Research
*Rewriting the Grammar of the
 Education System: Delhi's
 Education Reform*

NOVEMBER 4

Vineeta Yadav, Penn State University
*How Elite Risk Preferences Shape
 Democracy: Evidence from India
 and Pakistan*

DECEMBER 9

Christopher Clary, SUNY Albany
Christine Fair, Georgetown University
Tyler Jost, Brown University
Asfandiyar Mir, US Institute of Peace
The Difficult Politics of Peace

FEBRUARY 24

Alexander Lee, University of Rochester
*The Tragedy and the Paradox: State
 building in South Asia since 1526*

MARCH 10

Erum Haider, College of Wooster
*Seeing Like a Business: Privatized
 Service Delivery and Trust in
 Urban Pakistan*



Christopher Clary, Christine Fair, Asfandiyar Mir

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Director:

Ashutosh Varshney (Brown)

Co-Conveners

Patrick Heller (Brown)

Mashail Malik (Harvard)

Gautam Nair (Harvard)

Vipin Narang (MIT)

Prerna Singh (Brown)



Graduate Student Programming

Graduate students from across the disciplines working on South Asia are a vital part of the Saxena community. Students present their own work, receive fellowships to support their research and invite speakers to be part of the South Asia Seminar Series.

PRESENTATIONS BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

OCTOBER 27

Muhammad Omar Afzaal, Political Science
Picking Your Battles: A Story of Pakistan's Perceptions

DECEMBER 1

Jocelyn Bell, Sociology
Reimagining within-movement conflict: Ideology and the anti-sex trafficking movement

FEBRUARY 22

Ieva Zumbyte, Sociology
Adapted Delivery: How Childcare Workers and Parents Produce Care in the Neighborhoods of Chennai

MAY 3

Ahona Palchoudhuri, Anthropology
Classical Everyday: An Anthropology of Music in Rural and Urban West Bengal



Sangeeta Banerjee, Nayanika Mathur

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 30

Nayanika Mathur, Oxford University
Writing the Anthropocene from the Indian Himalaya

OCTOBER 24

Rukmini S., Data Journalist
Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India



Vazifa Zamindar, Nandita Das, Ashutosh Varshney

Additional Programs & Film Screenings

The Center continues to host film screenings and co-sponsor events with many departments across campus.

SEPTEMBER 16

Film Screening: *A Night of Knowing Nothing*

SEPTEMBER 27

TM Krishna, Musician, Writer, Activist
Music Workshop

MARCH 2

Dipti Khera, New York University
Monsoon Downpours: From Monumental Moods to Micro Histories, c. 1700-1900

MARCH 16

Nida Kirmani, Producer
Film Screening: *Shadowlands*

APRIL 13

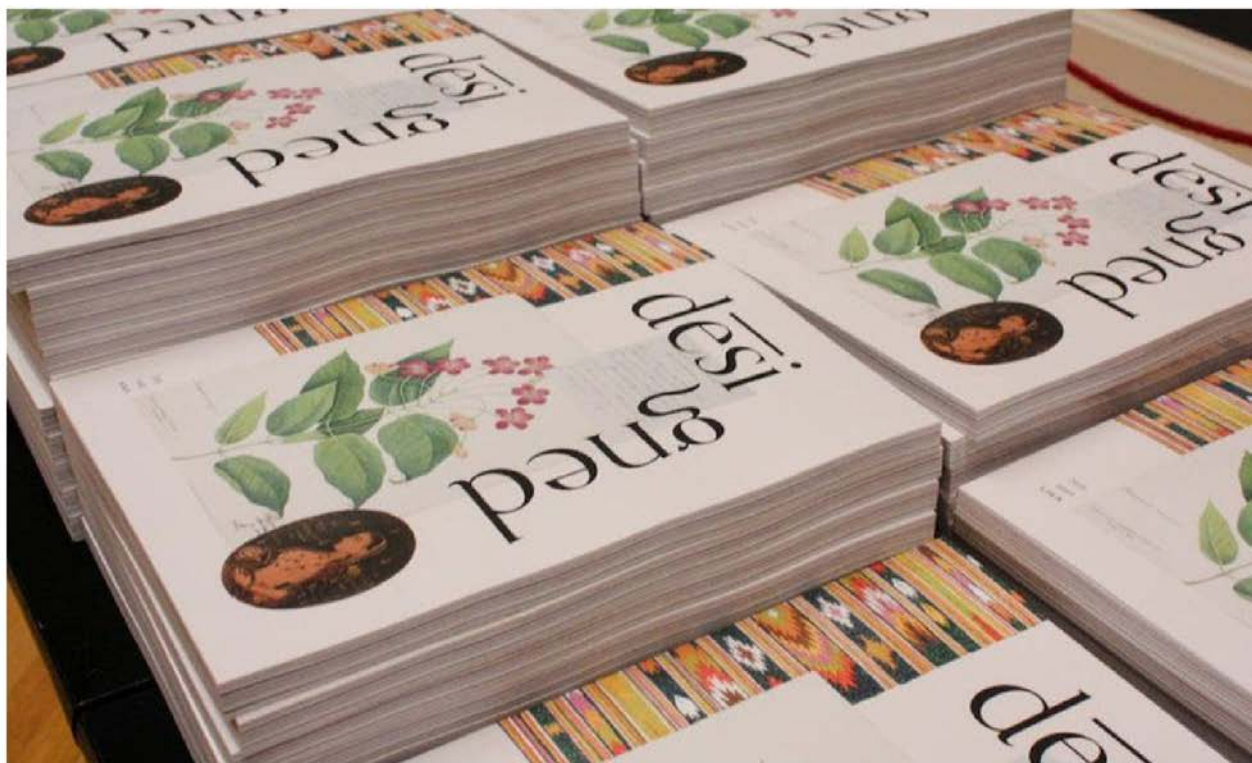
Launch of *Desi-gn*; A South Asian art publication

MAY 2

Nandita Das, Filmmaker
Film Screening: *Zwigato*

MAY 12

Film Screening: *Joyland*



South Asian Studies

South Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary concentration in which students work across the humanities and social sciences geographical locations and historical periods. The concentration emphasizes both the diversity of South Asia as a region, as well as the long-term historical connection among people and places in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka.

Courses Sponsored by the Saxena Center

Finnian M.M. Gerety, Religious Studies

SAST 0037: Sensing the Sacred: Sensory Culture in South Asian Religions

SAST 0140: Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia

SAST 0525: The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond

SAST 0526: This Whole World is OM: Mantras in Indian Religions

Arvind Subramanian, Economics

SAST 0750: Understanding the Indian Economy

IAPA 1404: Economic Development in China and India

William Lodge, Public Health

SAST 0700B: Introduction to Modern South Asia: Public Health from Theory to Practice

THESIS PRIZE & UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRIZE RECIPIENTS

Thesis Prize:

Arts:

Zeeshan Hassan-Andoh '23

Lines and Layers: The Formation of Contemporary Miniature Painting

Humanities:

Srinaath Kidambi Perangur '23

Translating Tyāgarāja: The Sanskrit Songs of South India's Most Famous Classical Composer

Catherine Michele Nelli '23

On Nineteenth-Century Indology: Divergences Between Sanskrit and Colonial French and English Reception of Jayadeva's Gītagovinda

Social Sciences:

Catherine Michele Nelli '23

Between Empire and Post-Colonial Nation-Building: A Comparative Analysis of Nationalism's Role in French India's Decolonization in Chandernagore and Pondicherry (1947-1954)

Undergraduate Paper Prize:

Lucas Fromm '23

Conceptions of Liberation: A comparative analysis of how four Indian philosophical traditions conceptualize Moksa

Aalia Jagwani '24

The Departure

Adi Thatai '23

A Bite of Home: Family Recipes Adapted from the writings of Saramma Kendangath Joseph

Kate Salke '23

Yantra and Mantra: Aesthetic, Symbolic, and Ritual Unifiers



PEOPLE

STEERING COMMITTEE



Ashutosh Varshney

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and the Social Science, Professor of Political Science
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Shahzad Bashir

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Holly Shaffer

Robert Gale Noyes Assistant Professor of Humanities
Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture
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Perna Singh

Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor
of Political Science and International Studies
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VISITING FACULTY



Finnian M.M. Gerety
Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies,
South Asian Studies
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

In the fall of 2018, Finnian M. M. Gerety joined CCSA as a visiting assistant professor for a three year term. He also serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for South Asian Studies. Professor Gerety works on texts, rituals, and the senses in South Asian religions, with a focus on Hindu traditions of India. He is especially interested in Sanskrit mantras: how they are performed, textualized, and passed on; how they are embodied and sensed; how they are reflected upon and interpreted; how they are transformed in the digital age; and how they influence identity, community, and heritage within religious traditions. He teaches classes in South Asian Studies, Contemplative Studies, and Religious Studies.

COURSES:

SAST 0037: Sensing the Sacred: Sensory Culture in South Asian Religions

SAST 0140: Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia

SAST 0525: The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond

SAST 0526: This Whole World is OM: Mantras in Indian Religions

MEERA & VIKRAM GANDHI FELLOW



Arvind Subramanian

Meera & Vikram Gandhi Fellow, Saxena Center
Senior Fellow, Watson Institute

Arvind Subramanian was professor of economics at Ashoka University and founding director of the Ashoka Center for Economic Policy (ACEP). He is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). He was chief economic adviser to the Government of India between 2014 and 2018. Previously, he was a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Prior to his time in India, he was the Dennis Weatherstone Senior Fellow at PIIE, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, and an assistant director in the research department of the International Monetary Fund. He also worked for the GATT during the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. In 2011, Foreign Policy magazine named him a Top 100 Global Thinker.

In 2018, Professor Subramanian published *Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy*, reflecting on his time guiding India's economy. His previous award-winning book, *Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China's Economic Dominance* has been printed in four languages.

COURSES:

SAST 0750: Understanding the Indian Economy

IAPA 1404: Economic Development in China and India

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS



AIIMS PARTNERSHIP WITH BHRIGUPATI SINGH

Since 2015-16, Bhri Gupta Singh has partnered with the psychiatry department at AIIMS to explore how the idea of “quality of life” is understood. Since summer 2020, Singh and his partners have been preparing a second round of surveys in urban poor neighborhoods in Delhi based on the World Health Organization’s Quality of Life instrument, [WHO-QOL BREF], a 26-item questionnaire created in 1991 with the aim of creating “an international cross-culturally comparable quality of life assessment instrument.” The second round of surveys will include questions regarding the impacts of COVID-19 in these communities.



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

JANAAGRAHA PARTNERSHIP WITH ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY & PATRICK HELLER

The Janaagraha-Brown Citizenship Index (JB-CI) project focuses on measuring the quality of citizenship in urban India by measuring the extent to which Indian citizens can effectively use their civil, political and social rights in cities. The project is a unique and equal partnership in both its concept and execution between academic researchers at Brown University and practitioners from the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy on a crucial contemporary subject.

This year, the JB-CI research team was able to complete a third round of research in Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Ajmer, and Jalandhar. The team also completed reports on cities researched in the previous round; Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Bhavnagar, Mumbai and Kochi. In January 2023, JB-CI held a one-day workshop in Kochi, where they received feedback from government officials, civil society actors and scholars. Additionally, a paper on urban governance in Bangalore, researched in the first round of research, has been published by American Journal of Sociology (AJS) in the July 2023 issue.

SAXENA CENTER FELLOWS 2022-2023

Graduate Students



Osama Ahmad

PhD Candidate in History

Project Title: City of Knowledge: Lahore's Urdu Bazaar
as engine of Print, Urbanity and Self-fashioning
Summer 2023



Muntazir Ali

PhD Candidate in Religious Studies

Project Title: Chitral, 1920-1969: Reorientation,
Accession, and Integration
Summer 2023



Micheal Neubauer

PhD Candidate in Economics

Project Title: Caste-based Preferences, Social Pressure and
(Statistical) Discrimination in the Labor Market in Village India
Summer 2023



Pamudu Tennakoon

PhD Candidate in History of Art & Architecture

Project Title: Decolonization and Ruination:
Archival Research in the UK
Summer 2023



William Lodge

PhD Candidate in Public Health

Project Title: Co-occurring factors impacting ART adherence among transgender women in India

Winter 2022



Ahona Palchoudhuri

PhD Candidate in Anthropology

Project Title: Malhar and Mannat:

The Framing of a Musical Request

Winter 2022



Fred Shaia

PhD Candidate in Political Science

Project Title: Equity in a Warming World: The Global South and the Making of the International Climate Regime, 1972-2022

Winter 2022



Nainvi Vora

PhD Candidate in History of Art & Architecture

Project Title: Women Sculptors and the Rise of South Asian Modernism

Winter 2022

Undergraduate Students



Swetabh Changkakoti '24

Intern, Data For India

Summer 2023



Arman Deendar '24

Project Title: Anti-colonial resistance and
Decolonization in Goa
Summer 2023



Justin Dyer '25

Intern, Peak Sustainability Ventures
Summer 2023



Anushka Kataruka

Data Journalism Intern, The Hindu
Summer 2023



Hamsa Shanmugam

Project Title: Thēvāram: A Musicological Analysis
Summer 2023

STAFF



Grace Cardogno
Program Manager
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Bronte Dinges
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