



Cover images, top to bottom:

Matrimandir, Auroville, India Elephant Stables, Hampi, India Tungabhadra River, Hampi, India

Images courtesy of Maya Sorabjee '16

Brown-India Initiative
Annual Report 2013–2014

Message from the Director

In 2013–14, the Brown-India Initiative completed its second year of activities, consisting of lectures, seminars, conferences, films, concerts, research projects and outreach.

Before I present an overview of our activities, let me first welcome three new faculty, who will be associated with us. Leela Gandhi, John Hawkes Professor of Humanities and English, comes to us from the University of Chicago; Bhrigupati Singh, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, migrated from King's India Institute, London; and Prerna Singh, Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies, simply drove down I-95 from Harvard to be with us. Our new colleagues bring fresh intellectual energy and will enrich us immeasurably. Leela and Bhrigu have also joined the Steering Committee of the Initiative.

In the fall of 2013, we had the pleasure of hosting a lecture by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen on India's inequalities. It was co-sponsored by the Watson Institute's distinguished speakers series and chaired by President Paxson. Our OP Jindal Distinguished Lecturers were Ram Guha in the fall and Ashis Nandy in the spring. Guha spoke on Gandhi, and Nandy on partition violence.

Nirupama Rao, India's former ambassador to the US, was our Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow. She will continue till December, and is working on a book on India-China relations. In collaboration with the Department of Modern Culture and Media

(MCM), we hosted Rana Dasgupta, a novelist, who was a writer-in-residence and co-taught a class on Asian cities and modern capitalism. We also welcomed Partha Mukhopadhyay (Centre for Policy Research, Delhi) in the fall and Narendar Pani (National Institute of Advanced Study, Bangalore) in the spring, each giving us their insights on India's urbanization.

The Brown-India Seminar continued to meet, as did the Joint Brown-Harvard-MIT Seminar on South Asian Politics. In all, over 40 events were held during the academic year.

Launched last year in collaboration with Janaagraha (Bangalore), the research project on citizenship and urban public services, co-led by Patrick Heller and me, presented its first set of findings in Delhi in March. The next stage of the project will be launched in the winter. An urban India group, consisting of faculty and students, has been formed, as has a group titled "The Gilded Ages," which seeks to compare India's urbanization experience with contemporary China and late 19th century United States.

Ashutosh Varshnev

Director, Brown-India Initiative Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences Professor of Political Science

Research Themes

The research themes of the initiative are explored through public lectures, seminars, conferences, films, concerts, research projects and outreach.

The Initiative currently conducts research on the following themes:

- 1) Urban India: Governance, Politics and Political Economy
- 2) Economic Inequalities
- 3) Pluralism and Diversities
- 4) Democracy



OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series

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

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

In November 2013, Ramachandra Guha spent a week in residence at Brown to deliver three OP Jindal lectures in a series titled, "Arguments with Gandhi."

Guha is a prominent author and columnist based in Bangalore. Now a full-time writer, he has previously taught at Yale and Stanford, held visiting chairs at Berkeley, LSE, Indian Institute of Science and the University of Oslo.

Dr. Guha's books include a pioneering environmental history, *The Unquiet Woods: Ecological Change* and *Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya* (Oxford University Press, 1989); *Savaging the Civilized* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), a life of the anthropologist-activist Verrier Elwin, which the *Times Literary Supplement*

called the "best biography by an Indian for many years;" an award-winning social history of cricket, A Corner of a Foreign Field (Picador), which was awarded the Daily Telegraph Cricket Society Book of the Year prize; and India after Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy (Picador, 2007), a widely discussed and also prize-winning history of India since independence.

Dr. Guha's awards include the Leopold-Hidy Prize of the American Society of Environmental History, the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for excellence in social science research, the Ramnath Goenka Prize for excellence in Journalism, and MacArthur Research and Writing Award. He has also been honored with the R. K. Narayan Prize and the Padma Bhushan.

NOVEMBER 5

Lecture I: The Diasporic Roots of Gandhi's Pluralism Commentator: Karuna Mantena, Yale

NOVEMBER 8

Lecture III: Was Gandhi an Environmentalist? Commentator: J. Timmons Roberts, Brown

NOVEMBER 6

Lecture II: Gandhi, Ambedkar, and the Dalit Question Commentator: Uday Mehta, CUNY Graduate School





Ramachandra Guha



Vazira Zamindar and Ashis Nandy



Guha, J. Timmons Roberts, and Ashutosh Varshney

ASHIS NANDY

Ashis Nandy, a political psychologist and social theorist, is a major political and cultural critic in contemporary India.

Ashis Nandy's work focuses on both the socially creative and destructive potential of human beings, and sources itself primarily in Indian history and contemporary trends as well as seeking to create academic linkages between the Indian subcontinent and other countries of the Global South. He has held fellowships at at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, the World Futures Studies Federation, the International Network for Cultural Alternatives to Development, and at the Universities of Edinburgh, Hull, and Trier.

He served as director of the Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) between 1992 and 1997, and has remained closely associated with the center.

His books include *The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self Under Colonialism* (Oxford India, 2010), in which Nandy turns colonial studies on its head by examining the impact of imperialism on the colonizing nation itself; and *The Savage Freud and Other Essays on Possible and Retrievable Selves* (Princeton, 1995), a series of essays in which he "seeks to locate cultural forms and languages of being and thinking that defy the logic and hegemony of the modern West."

In 2007, Ashis Nandy received the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize.



MARCH 12

Lecture I: Forgetting the Unforgettable: Memories of Killing Commentator: Vazira Zamidar. Brown



MARCH 14

Lecture II: Beyond Trauma: Silence, Exorcism and the Doomed Journey to a Lost Self Commentator: Ashutosh Varshney, Brown

Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellowships

Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellowships enable major journalists, public figures and scholars working on India to undertake substantial projects while in residence at Brown. The fellowships are funded by a gift from Meera and Vikram Gandhi.

In January 2014, Nirupama Rao, the former Ambassador of India, joined the Brown-India Initiative as Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow for one year. Rao can often be found in her Watson Institute office, where she meets and collaborates regularly with other Watson faculty, fellows, students or her research assistants. Rao is writing a book that focuses on the evolution of the relationship between India and China during 1949–1962.

Rao joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1973. In a diplomatic career spanning four decades, she served in various world capitals, including Washington, Beijing and Moscow. She acquired extensive experience in India-China relations, having served in the East Asia Division of the

Ministry at policy level capacities for several years, and later serving as India's first woman Ambassador to China from 2006 to 2009. Rao assumed her responsibilities as Ambassador of India to the United States in September 2011, a position she held until November 2013. Prior to that, Rao was appointed Foreign Secretary, the highest office in the Indian Foreign Service, where she served a two-year term until July 2011. She was designated as Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi in 2001 and was the first woman Indian Foreign Service officer to hold this post. Her other ambassadorial assignments include Peru, Bolivia, and Sri Lanka where also she was India's first woman High Commissioner.

FEBRUARY 4

India, China, the US and World Politics A Conversation between Nirupama Rao, Former Indian Ambassador to the U.S. and Richard M. Locke, Director, Watson Institute

SEPTEMBER 19

The Politics of History: India and China, 1949–1962







Clockwise from left: Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Rao and Richard M. Locke, Reception following Rao's opening lecture

I look forward to my year at Brown University with great anticipation. The India Initiative at Brown's Watson Institute has provided a needed and valued focus on the study of contemporary India. I am thrilled to contribute to scholarship on India's global outlook and its foreign policy priorities and challenges.

-Ambassador Rao

Brown-India Initiative Seminars

The Brown-India Seminar series is a central interdisciplinary offering of the Initiative. 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 India.



President Paxson and Amartya Sen



Sen signs student's book

FALL 2013

SEPTEMBER 19

Amartya Sen, Harvard University Why is the Penalty of Inequality so High in India?

SEPTEMBER 20

Ruchir Sharma, Morgan Stanley Is India a Breakout or a Breakdown Nation?

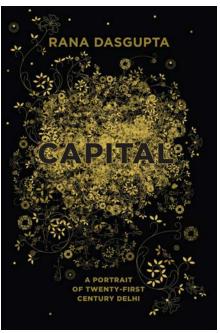
NOVEMBER 1

Beatrice Jauregui, University of Cambridge Beatings, Beacons, and Big Men: Police Disempowerment and Delegitimation in India

NOVEMBER 15

Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Columbia University India's Republican Constitution: Locating Directive Principles of State Policy







Left to right: Ashwini Deshpande, Cover of Capital by Rana Dasgupta, Harsh Mander

SPRING 2014

FEBRUARY 7

Jeffrey Witsoe, Union College Caste, Democracy and the Postcolonial State: A View from Bihar

FEBRUARY 20

Harsh Mander, Social Worker & Writer Inequality with Indifference: The Story of New India

APRIL 7
Ashwini Deshpande, Delhi University
Is Self-Employment the Answer to Caste
Discrimination?

APRIL 15

Jonathan Shainin, New Yorker News Editor Rana Dasgupta, Novelist Ashutosh Varshney

Writing India: Two Authors and an Editor

APRIL 25

Rina Agarwala, Johns Hopkins *Informal Labor Politics in India and Beyond*

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 in general, and India in particular, offers engaging perspectives.

SEPTEMBER 27 @ MIT

Pradeep Chhibber, University of California, Berkeley *Mobilizing Identities: Religious Practice and Political Action in India*

OCTOBER 11 @ BROWN

Maya Tudor, University of Oxford *The Promise of Power*

NOVEMBER 22 @ HARVARD
Gary Bass, Princeton University
America, India, and the War
for Bangladesh

FEBRUARY 28 @ MIT

Christine Fair, Georgetown University *Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army's Way of War*

APRIL 4 @ HARVARD

Karthik Muralidharan, University of California, San Diego The State and the Market in the Delivery

The State and the Market in the Delivery of Primary Education in India: Theory and Evidence

APRIL 18 @ BROWN

Pratap Mehta, Centre for Policy Research India's Political Economy: Towards a New Framework

MAY 5 @ HARVARD Lakshmi Iyer, Harvard

Politician Identity and Religious Violence in India

www.southasianpolitics.net











ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

CHAIR



Ashutosh Varshney

Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences, Brown University

CO-DIRECTORS



Vipin Narang

Associate Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

3 P

Patrick Heller

Professor of Sociology and International Studies, Brown University



Prerna Singh

Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Brown University



Akshay Mangla

Assistant Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

Co-Sponsored Programs

In its second year the Initiative co-sponsored events with many departments across campus including Anthropology, Classics, English, Development Studies, Modern Media and Culture, Sociology and South Asian Studies.

SEPTEMBER 13

Shankar Tucker, Musician & Composer Opening Concert and Reception

OCTOBER 9

Pankaj Rishi Kumar, Filmmaker Film Screening of In God's Land

OCTOBER 9

Monsoon Bissell & Benaifer Bhadha Two Women Talking: Making Meaning of Gender, Violence and Tradition through Personal Storytelling

OCTOBER 17

Amitava Kumar, Vassar College You Have to be a Terrible Monster to Write

OCTOBER 24-26

Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference

FEBRUARY 7

Stephanie Jamison, University of California, Los Angeles 'I Make New a Song Born of Old': On the New Translation of the Rayeda

FEBRUARY 11

Lina Fruzzetti, Brown University When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged

APRIL 1

Karin Zitzewitz, Michigan State University The Art of Secularism: The Cultural Politics of Modernist Art in Contemporary India

MARCH 13

Feminist Women's Film Festival Featuring Firaag by Nandita Das

MARCH 24

Ashutosh Varshney & Patrick Heller Faculty Commencement Forum India's 2014 Elections: Analyzing Results, Speculating Possibilities



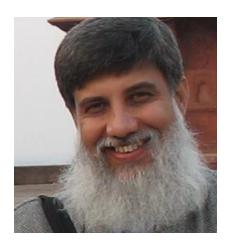






Clockwise from top: Shanker Tucker and band, Vazira Zamindar and Nandita Das, Lina Fruzetti, Audience at Tucker concert

Visiting Scholars



OCTOBER 30 How is India Urbanizing?

NOVEMBER 14 Are Big and Poor Cities Anv Different?

FALL 2013

Partha Mukhopadhyay

Sponsored by the Graduate Program in Development (GDP). Partha Mukhopadhyay, was a visiting scholar at the Watson Institute in October and November 2013. Insights from his two lectures significantly contributed to the development of the Initiative'ss urban India research theme.

Mukhopadhyay has been a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research since 2006. Prior to this. he was part of the initial founding team at Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), where as a part of their Policy Advisory Group, he was involved in nurturing the development of policy and regulatory frameworks necessary for the flow of private capital into infrastructure projects in a manner that provided efficient service to the final user. He has also been with EXIM Bank of India, as the first Director of their Eximius Learning Centre in Bangalore, and with the World Bank, in what then was the Trade Policy Division in Washington. He has been associated with a number of government committees and has also taught at IIM Ahmedabad, XLRI Jamshedpur, and at the School of Planning and Architecture in Delhi. His research interests are in infrastructure, urban development and the development paths of India and China. He has a PhD in Economics from New York University and an MA and MPhil from the Delhi School of Economics.

SPRING 2014

Narendar Pani

Narendar Pani is an economist by training, who has, over the last thirty years, written extensively on a variety of subjects. He is the author of *Inclusive Economics: Gandhian Method and Contemporary Policy* (Sage Publications, 2002), *Redefining Conservatism: An Essay on the Bias of India's Economic Reform* (Sage Publications, 1994), and *Reforms to Pre-empt Change: Land Legislation in Karnataka* (Concept Publishing, 1983). He is also the author of an analysis of the WTO, two novels, a booklet on theatre, and several hundred articles in the editorial pages of newspapers.

Pani was a visiting fellow at the Brown-India Initiative and GDP at the Watson Institute from March to May 2014. During his three months at Watson, Pani was an extremely active member of the community, attending and contributing to many events throughout the institute, delivering two presentations, and completing a paper on corruption in Bangalore. Pani is currently Professor of Social Sciences at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.



MARCH 17
Historical Roots of Corruption in an Indian City: Mark Cubbon and the Gap Between Legality and Morality in Bangalore



Functioning Anarchy of Indian Cities: A Neo-Gandhian Interpretation of the Urban

Writer-in-Residence



SPRING 2014

Rana Dasgupta

Rana Dasgupta was born in the UK in 1971 and grew up in Cambridge. As an adult he lived in France, Malaysia and the US before moving to Delhi in 2000. In the spring of 2014 Mr. Dasgupta became "Professor Dasgupta," co-teaching a course titled, "Faking Globalization: Media, Piracy and Urbanism" with Modern Culture and Media (MCM) faculty Joshua Neeves, as the Distinguished Visiting Lecturer and Writer-in-Residence with MCM. Students from Dasgupta's class gave rave reviews of his teaching.

During his visit Dasgupta's third book, Capital: The Eruption of Delhi (Penguin, 2014), was released. In Capital, Dasgupta illuminates Delhi through the eves of its people, taking the reader through a series of encounters—with billionaires and bureaucrats, drug dealers and metal traders, slum dwellers and psychoanalysts—which plunge into Delhi's intoxicating story of capitalist transformation. His first novel, Tokyo Cancelled (Black Cat. 2005), was short-listed for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the Vodafone Crossword Award. In 2009 his second novel, Solo (Harper Collins), won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and has been translated in 12 languages.

Thanks for a fantastic semester. Never before have I had my worldview so fundamentally shifted by an academic course.

-Student of Faking Globalization

Thank you for the compliment, critique, consideration, understanding, and respect. There's something invaluable about a teacher who reaches their students by caring about what their perspective is and challenging it.

—Student of Dasgupta



Research

Janaagraha (Bangalore) & Brown-India Initiative Research Partnership: Improving Citizen Engagement and Service Provision in India

On March 25–26 Ashutosh Varshney, Patrick Heller, Siddharth Swaminathan, Institute for Social and Economic Change, and Ebony Bertorelli, Janaagraha, presented their initial analysis of the data collected in the Brown-Janaagraha partnership on urban India. Janaagraha is a leading urban NGO based in Bangalore. Their working paper was discussed over a two-day workshop by panels of several leading experts on local politics. urbanization, and citizenship services. Their study aims to evaluate the provision of civic, political, and social rights of citizens.

More specifically, the study poses three main questions: What is the quality of citizenship in urban India? What are the factors that impact this quality—social discrimination, state accountability. communitarian values, etc.? What is its impact on public service delivery?

Held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi the workshop was jointly funded by Janaagraha and the Initiative.



Patrick Heller



Taran Raghuram '14

Taran Raghuram '14 interned at Janaagraha as a Brown-India Initiative undergraduate fellow in summer 2013. There he analyzed data on corruption for the NGO's website www.ipaidabribe.com and helped to create the Crowdsourced Retail Bribery Index (CRBI). He was then invited back by his team supervisor to present at the Coalition Against Corruption Summit in January 2014, for which he received support from the Initiative.



Ashutosh Varshney, Patrick Heller, Siddarth Swaminathan and Ebony Bertorelli

Urban India Reading Group

Launched in fall 2013, the reading group meets monthly during the academic year with the goal of bringing together people at Brown with an interest in urban India, including both those with a specific India focus, and those interested in developing a comparative understanding of Indian cities. The group has two primary activities 1) small, informal workshops at which ongoing research work on

urban India, both at Brown and by visitors, is presented to the group for discussion; 2) key publications and research on urban India are read and discussed. The group includes graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty from the Watson Institute, Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology.

PRESENTATIONS 2013-2014

OCTOBER 24

Gayatri Singh, PhD Candidate, Brown Freedom to Move. Barriers to Stav: An Examination of Rural Migrants' Transition to Urban Residence in India

FEBRUARY 27

Ebony Bertorelli, Janaagraha & Siddharth Swaminathan, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore Citizenship Index Working Paper



Partha Mukhopadhyay, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research Are Big and Poor Cities Any Different?



MARCH 17

Narendar Pani. National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore Historical Roots of Corruption in an Indian City: Mark Cubbon and the Gap Between Legality and Morality in Bangalore



DECEMBER 12

Jamie McPike. PhD Candidate. Brown Contingent Urban Futures: Understanding the Politics of Urban Policy Implementation and the Translocality of Urban Governance in India



MAY 5

Mitchell Cook. PhD Candidate. MIT Urban Governance in the Context of Revenue Centralization: Intergovernmental Transfers and the Imperative for Municipal Finance Reform in India

The Gilded Ages Research Group

The Gilded Ages Research Group, a collaboration initiated by Brown political science faculty members James Morone, Edward Steinfeld, and Ashutosh Varshney, in the spring of 2014, aims to study rapid urbanization and industrialization across three comparative cases: contemporary India, contemporary China, and late nineteenth century America. The group particularly seeks to understand a series of phenomena generally associated with "gilded age" periods—rapid urban infrastructural

build-out, extensive inbound migration to cities, machine politics, corruption, labor unrest, and blurred public-private boundaries. The group will consider the extent to which rapid urbanization and industrialization can be described as a singular phenomenon across time and place, and whether the nature of political institutions and regime type at the national level actually affects the nature of politics and state-society relations within the city.

SPRING 2014



APRIL 10

Laura Phillips Sawyer, Harvard-Newcomen Fellow, Harvard Business School American Fair Trade: Proprietary Capitalism, Networks, and the New Competition, 1890–1940



MAY 1

Milan Vaishnav, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Three Pillars of Grand Corruption in the New India



APRIL 24

Lukas Rieppel, Brown Accounting for Dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History

Brown-India Initiative Fellows 2014

The Initiative awarded funds for research projects and summer internships to seven undergraduate students, six graduate students, and two faculty. The projects selected for funding represent a variety of research topics related to social, political, cultural, and economic change in India. In the fall, student fellows from the previous year presented their work in two workshops.

FACULTY FELLOWS



Rose McDermott David and Marianna Fisher University Professor of International Relations Professor of Political Science Attitudes Toward Sexual Equality by Religion in India



Hilary Silver Profesor of Sociology and Urban Studies Professor of Public Policy The Penalty for Being Muslim













GRADUATE FELLOWS

- Anthropology | Rajasthan & various cities, North India Undignified Names: Language Practices and Caste in North India
- Irene Pang
 Sociology | New Delhi
 Becoming Citizens: Construction Workers
 in Beijing and Delhi
- Abhilash Medhi
 History | Guwahati, Kolkata,
 Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Nagaon & Sivasagar
 Clio on the Margins: Historical Memory
 and Regional Identity in Early Twentieth
 Century Assam
- Rijuta Mehta
 MCM | New Delhi, Mumbai,
 Kolkata, Bangalore & Ahmedabad
 The Partition Photography Project
- Anar Parikh
 Anthropology | Ahmedabad
 Articulating Anxiety and Aspiration: Heritage
 Preservation in Urban India
- Rama Srinivasan
 Anthropology | Haryana
 Decoding 'Love Marriage': Negotiating
 Emotions and Legal Recourses in
 Contemporary Haryana











UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

Josephine Devanbu '15 Vellore Emerging Personhood: Identity and Demography in a Rural Antenatal Clinic



Steven Brownstone '16 New Delhi Middle Schools in India: Access and Quality

Emilo Leanza '15 Kolkata & New Delhi Oral Histories of the Naxalite Movement (1967-75)



Alisa Schubert-Yuasa '15 New Delhi @ Times of India How is the Aam Aadmi Party Changing India's Political Landscape?

Ria Mirchandani '15 Mumbai with various destinations Remembering Partition: The Sindhi Perspective

Rainwater for Humanity

Samuel Lee '15

Moncompu, Kerala

Rainwater for Humanity

Daniella Flores '15

Moncompu, Kerala

Rainwater for Humanity





Rising seniors and motivated social entrepreneurs, Samuel Lee '15 and Daniella Flores '15 have leveraged the support they received from the Initiative to take their student organization to the next level, having recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with a local NGO partner. Working side by side with the local program manager they employ, they anticipate the completion of 12 rainwater harvesting tanks in the fall. Both plan to continue working on the project after graduation next spring.

You can read more about their progress at www.rainwaterforhumanity.org

We are fortunate to work with local, knowledgeable and passionate people, who advise us closely... The way we think we should do it one day soon pivots in various directions, based on different viewpoints and considerations. This process, while frustrating, forces us to take a closer look at our field and at our community, to address their actual needs rather than the needs we think they have.

-Daniella Flores

Steering Committee











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- Andrew Foster Professor of Economics Professor of Health Services Policy and Practice

andrew foster@brown.edu

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