

# 2023 / 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Saxena Center for  
Contemporary South Asia

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# 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, 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 multidisciplinaryity 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.

# Director's Note

2023-24 was the second year of the Saxena Center of Contemporary South Asia, our new name as a result of the generosity of Parag and Usha Saxena, Brown parents '13, '14 and '15. The new resources have allowed us to re-imagine our collective life, especially integrating the arts and humanities more prominently in our programming and student research, and making it possible to invite scholars and fellows to take residence for a substantial length of time.

Ali Sethi was our first artist in residence. He taught a three-part non-credit seminar and gave a public lecture, "Raga Saga: Theory and Practice in North Indian Music". The initial expectation was that about 15 students would register for his seminar; in the end, 30 students did. The experiment was hugely successful. Following the same format, we have invited the musician T.M. Krishna, from Chennai, to be with us in the spring. Meanwhile, Anand Patwardhan will be our artist in residence this fall, showing and discussing his famed documentary films.

Arvind Subramanian was our fellow till 2023. Late in the summer, he left for the Peterson Institute, Washington DC. Siddharth Swaminathan joined us for 2023-24 as a faculty fellow. He worked with Patrick Heller and me, helping us complete our data analysis for the long-running project on citizenship and urban governance in India. A team of students worked with us, learning important tools and insights in the process.

Yamini Aiyar will be our fellow this year. Until recently, she was President and Chief Executive of the Centre for Policy Research, Delhi. She will work on her book on welfare politics in India and participate in our activities.

Our Jindal lectures were delivered by Ravish Kumar, the Magsaysay award winning journalist from India, in the fall and by Atul Kohli (Princeton) in the spring. Kumar spoke about the interaction between the media and Indian democracy under Prime Minister Modi. Kohli's lectures were on the evolution of India's political economy since liberalization began in the early 1990s, focusing in particular on the Modi period. Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo (MIT) will be our Jindal lecturer this fall.

In our seminar series, we welcomed Rajmohan Gandhi, the distinguished public intellectual, to the center. He presented his most recent research, in which he documented and analyzed Mahatma Gandhi's influence on Reverend James M. Lawson, a major figure in the American Civil Rights Movement. P. Thiaga Rajan, minister in Tamil Nadu government, spoke on the relationship between India's democracy and its Constitution. Chandrabhan Prasad, a leading Dalit scholar from India, presented his reflections on Dalit Capitalism.

We gave 15 grants for student research, covering topics as wide-ranging as "Thevaram: A Musicological Analysis", "Performing Nationalism in ..Sri Lankan Nationhood", "Paralegal Activism in.. India", and "Prevalence of Mental Health Illness in .. Nepal.

We welcome our new director of undergraduate studies, Tiraana Bains, who teaches in the history department. She has taken the place of Finnian Moore-Gerety, who has left for Oxford. He will, however, continue to be associated with us as a non-resident affiliate.

We also have new staff members, who joined us this past year. Pawan Pandey is our new Program Manager and Natalia Kharkovskaia our new Events and Communications Coordinator.

Our events, both past and incoming, are listed on our website ([watson.brown.edu/southasia](http://watson.brown.edu/southasia)). We hope to see you at many of our activities this coming year.



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

# EVENTS



# 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.*







# Ravish Kumar



Ravish Kumar is an Indian journalist, author and media personality. Until recently, he was the Senior Executive Editor of NDTV India, hosting a number of programs including the channel's flagship weekday show Prime Time, Hum Log, Ravish Ki Report, and Des Ki Baat. He has been twice conferred with Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for the Best Journalist of the Year and became the fifth Indian journalist to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2019.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023**

*Weaponizing Media - Delegitimizing Citizens*

**COMMENTATORS:**

**Sadanand Dhume, Wall Street Journal**

**Poulami Roychowdhury, Brown University**

**Prerna Singh, Brown University**



# Atul Kohli



Atul Kohli, the David K.E. Bruce Professor of International Affairs at Princeton University, specializes in the political economy of developing countries. His work emphasizes the role of effective states in inclusive development. He's authored several notable books and edited numerous volumes, serving as Editor of *World Politics* journal. Kohli has also held leadership roles in organizations like the American Political Science Association. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and has received grants from institutions such as the Social Science Research Council and Ford Foundation.

**APRIL 24, 2024**

*Modi's March to Power: How Congress Paved the Way*

**COMMENTATORS:**

**Prerna Singh, Brown University**

**Irfan Nooruddin, Georgetown University**





**APRIL 26, 2024**

*Modi in Power: More Continuity than Meets the Eye*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Gilles Verniers, Amherst College

Ashutosh Varshney, Brown University





## Artist in Residence

*Ali Sethi was our first artist in residence. He gave a three-part non-credit undergraduate seminar, assisted by Ria Modak, a PhD student in history, and gave a public lecture.*





**OCTOBER 24, 2023**

*Raga Saga: Theory and Practice in North Indian Music*

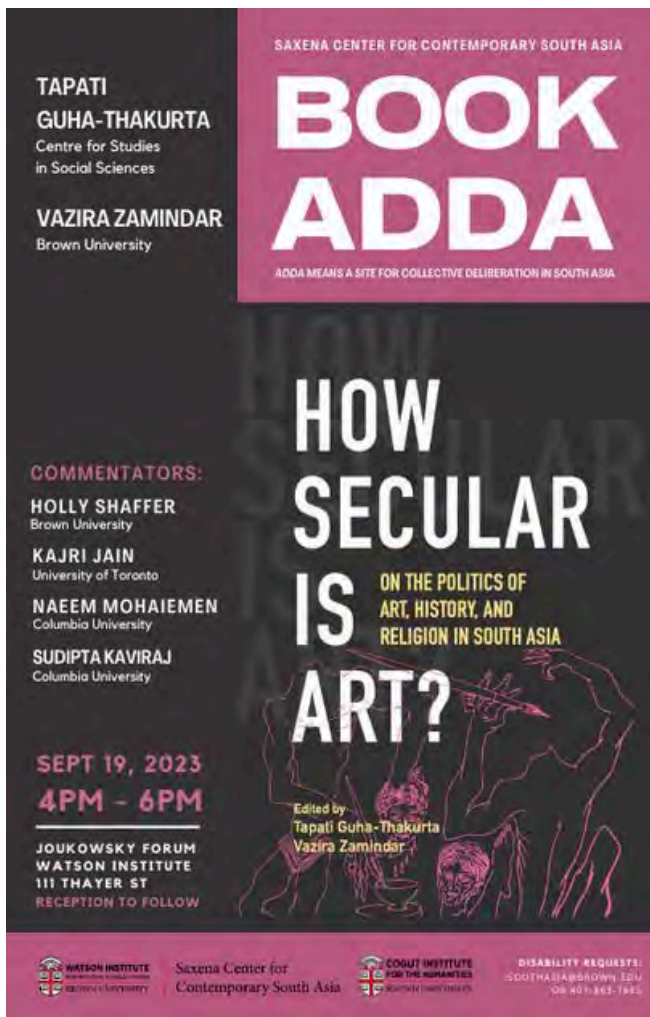


# Book Adda Series

*Adda means a site for collective deliberation in South Asia. This series features panel discussion of important new books.*







**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

Vazira Zamindar & Tapati Guha-Thakurta  
*How Secular is Art?*

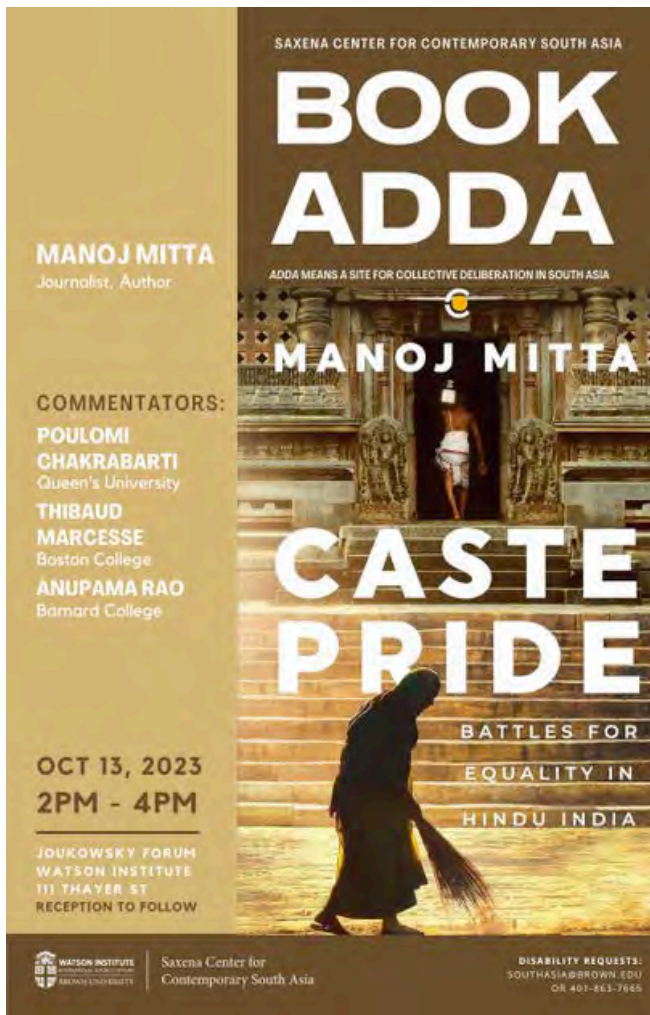
**COMMENTATORS:**

Kajri Jain, University of Toronto  
Sudipta Kaviraj, Columbia University  
Naeem Mohaiemen, Columbia University  
Holly Shaffer, Brown University

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

As an invitation to interrogate the secular modality of art, the book unsettles both the categories of 'art' and 'secular' in their theoretical and historical implications. It questions the temporal, spatial, and cultural binaries between the 'sacred' and the 'secular' that have shaped art

historical scholarship as well as artistic practice. Thinking from the south, all the essays here are anchored in a conception of a region – one fissured by histories of partition, state formations, and religious nationalisms but still offering a collective site from which to speak to the disciplines of art and the knowledge worlds in which they are embedded. The book asks: How do we complicate the religious designations of pre-modern art and architecture and the new forms of their resurgence in contemporary iconographies and monuments? How do we re-conceptualize the public and the political, as fiery contestations and new curatorial practices reconfigure the meaning of art in the proliferating spaces of museums, galleries, biennales and festivals?



**OCTOBER 13, 2023**

Manoj Mitta

*Caste Pride: Battles for Equality in Hindu India*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Poulomi Chakrabarti, Queen's University

Thibaud Marcesse, Boston College

Anupama Rao, Barnard College

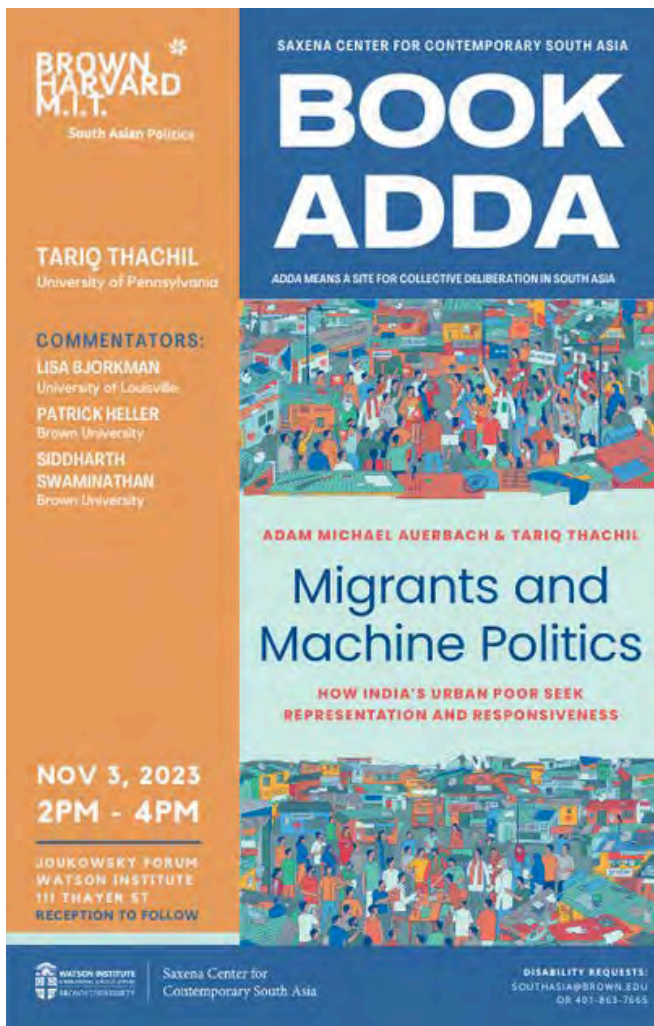
**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Manoj Mitta examines the endurance and violence of the Hindu caste system through the lens of the law. Linking two centuries of legal reform with social movements, he unearths the characters, speeches, confusions and decisions that have shaped the war on caste,

mitigating how this ancient institution discriminated between Hindus across the board. Where they could live, how they could dress, whether they could go to a shop, a stream, walk a street or mingle, enter a temple, whom and how they could marry, which scriptures applied to whom, whether their actions, innocent or criminal, would attract punishment or impunity.

Through these histories of reform, Mitta establishes that untouchability is merely the best-known aspect of varna, an elusive purity-based hierarchy that affects the freedoms of all. With ground-breaking discoveries and incisive insight, *Caste Pride* is at once moving, enlightening and transformative.





**NOVEMBER 3, 2023**

Tariq Thachil

*Migrants and Machine Politics*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Lisa Bjorkman, University of Louisville

Patrick Heller, Brown University

Siddharth Swaminathan, Brown University

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

As the Global South rapidly urbanizes, millions of people have migrated from the countryside to urban slums, which now house one billion people worldwide. The transformative potential of urbanization hinges on whether and how poor migrants are integrated into city politics.

In *Migrants and Machine Politics: How India's Urban Poor Seek Representation and Responsiveness*, SIS Professor Adam Auerbach and Tariq Thachil (University of Pennsylvania) draw on years of fieldwork in urban north India to argue against conventional portrayals of migrant settlements as politically subdued, bought-off, or polarized by local dons and political 'machines.'

Auerbach and Thachil show how migrants actively construct and populate the political networks that connect them to city governments. To do so, they generate and wield intense political competition to sow unexpected, important, and imperfect seeds of accountability within urban politics.



**SWAPNIL RAI**  
 Author,  
 Assistant Professor,  
 University of Michigan  
 Ann Arbor

**COMMENTATORS:**

**DARSHANA SREEDHAR MINI**  
 Wisconsin University

**ANUJA JAIN**  
 Wesleyan University

**MEHELI SEN**  
 Rutgers University

**CHAIR:**  
**ASHISH CHADHA**  
 URI

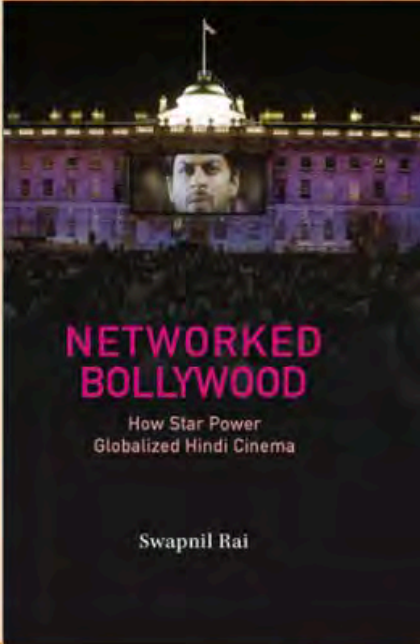
**MARCH 1,  
 2024  
 2PM - 4PM**

**JOUKOWSKY FORUM  
 WATSON INSTITUTE  
 111 THAYER ST  
 RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

SAXENA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA


# BOOK ADDA

ADDA MEANS A SITE FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION IN SOUTH ASIA



**NETWORKED  
BOLLYWOOD**  
 How Star Power  
 Globalized Hindi Cinema

Swapnil Rai



SAXENA CENTER FOR  
CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA

DISABILITY REQUESTS:  
 SOUTHASIA@BROWN.EDU  
 OR 401.863.7665

**MARCH 1, 2024**

Swapnil Rai

*Networked Bollywood: How Star Power Globalized Hindi Cinema*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Darshana Sreedhar Mini, University of Wisconsin-Madison

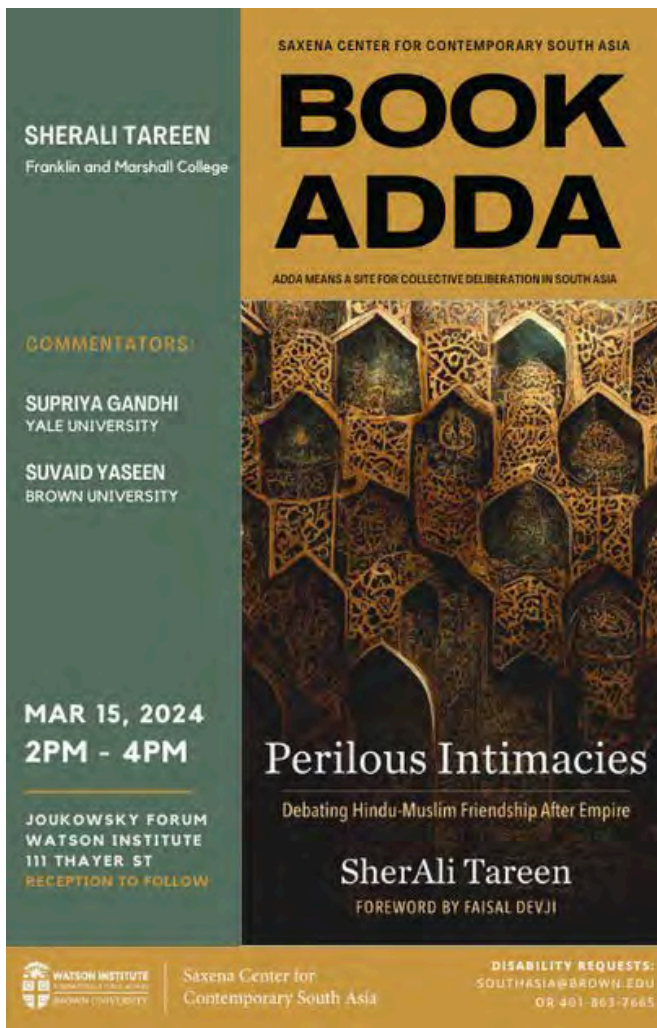
Anuja Jain, Wesleyan University

Meheli Sen, Rutgers University

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Networked Bollywood provides an interdisciplinary analysis of the role of the stars in the transformation of Hindi cinema into a global entertainment industry. The first Indian film was made in 1913. However, filmmaking was recognized as an industry almost a hundred years later. Yet, Indian films have been circulating globally since their inception.

This book unearths this oft-elided history of Bollywood's globalization through multilingual, transnational research and discursive cultural analysis. The author illustrates how over the decades, a handful of primarily male megastars, as the heads of the industry's most prominent productions and corporations, combined overwhelming charismatic affect with unparalleled business influence. Through their "star switching power," theorized here as a deeply gendered phenomenon and manifesting broader social inequalities, India's most prominent stars instigated new flows of cinema, industrial collaborations, structured distinctive business models, influenced state policy and diplomatic exchange, thereby defining the future of Bollywood's globalization.



**MARCH 15, 2024**

SherAli Tareen

*Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship After Empire*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Supriya Gandhi, Yale University

Suvaid Yaseen, Brown University

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

*Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship After Empire*. Friendship—particularly interreligious friendship—offers both promise and peril. After the end of Muslim political sovereignty in South Asia, how did Muslim scholars grapple with the possibilities and dangers of Hindu-Muslim friendship?

In this groundbreaking book, SherAli Tareen explores how leading South Asian Muslim thinkers imagined and contested the boundaries of Hindu-Muslim friendship from the late eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. He argues that often what was at stake in Muslim scholarly discourse and debates on Hindu-Muslim friendship were unresolved tensions and fissures over the place and meaning of Islam in the modern world. *Perilous Intimacies* considers a range of topics, including Muslim scholarly translations of Hinduism, Hindu-Muslim theological polemics, the question of interreligious friendship in the Qur'an, intra-Muslim debates on cow sacrifice, and debates on emulating Hindu customs and habits.

**CHITRALEKHA ZUTSHI**  
College of William and Mary

**COMMENTATORS:**  
**DEAN ACCARDI**  
Connecticut College  
**SUVAID YASEEN**  
Brown University

**APR 19, 2024**  
**2PM - 4PM**

**LEUNG CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
**111 THAYER ST**

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**SAXENA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA**

**BOOK ADDA**  
ADDA MEANS A SITE FOR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

**SHEIKH ABDULLAH**  
*The Caged Lion of Kashmir*  
CHITRALEKHA ZUTSHI

**WATSON INSTITUTE**  
INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

**Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia**

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

**APRIL 19, 2024**

Chitralkha Zutshi  
*Sheikh Abdullah: The Caged Lion of Kashmir*

**COMMENTATORS:**

Dean Accardi, Connecticut College  
Suvaidd Yaseen, Brown University

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

*Sheikh Abdullah: The Caged Lion of Kashmir*, a biography of the controversial Kashmiri leader, was recently published by HarperCollins India in its prestigious "Indian Lives" series (2024). The Yale University Press edition of the book will be released in summer 2024. The book has been reviewed widely and has been at the top of the

bestseller lists for non-fiction since its release. Watch her discussing the book on The Federal and Aaj Tak Radio.

Several fellowships have supported her research over the years, including the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (2005-2006), the Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress (2008), and a Senior Research fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies (2014-2015). A winner of the 2014 Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence and two endowed professorships at William & Mary, she also serves on the International Advisory Board of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*.







## 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 analysis on contemporary South Asia.*

**September 8**  
**Aqil Shah, Fahd Humayun & Niloufer Siddiqui**

*Political Crisis in Pakistan*

**October 3**  
**Rohini Somanathan**

*Scheduling Caste: State-shaped Identity and Inequality in India*

**October 24**  
**Ali Sethi**

*Raga Saga: Theory and Practice in North Indian Music*

**November 6**  
**Chandra Bhan Prasad**

*Dalit Capitalism, A Memoir: A Self-Respect Movement*





**November 8**

**Yamini Aiyer,**

The President and Chief  
Executive of the Centre for Policy  
Research

*Citizen vs Labharthi  
(beneficiary): Interrogating  
India's Emerging Welfare State*

**December 8**

**Siddhartha Deb,**

Author, Journalist

*A New Kind of Indian Novel: A  
Discussion on The Light at the  
End of the World*

**November 14**

**Palanivel Thiaga Rajan,**

Minister for Information  
Technology & Digital Services

*Democracy in India:  
Constitutional Design and  
Realized Outcomes*



**February 2**

**Tiraana Bains,**

Historian of Britain, South Asia,  
and the global British Empire

*The Ideological Origins of the  
British Empire in South Asia*



**March 22**

**Rajmohan Gandhi,**

Historian and Biographer

*Resisting Supremacy: The  
Dogged and Unfinished Life of  
Rev. James M. Lawson*





# 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 the Saxena Center, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, and the MIT Center for International Studies.*



**September 15**

**Anirvan Chowdhury**

Harvard University

*Religiously Conservative Parties  
and Women's Political  
Mobilization: Gender Norms,  
Party Activism, and  
Democratization in India*

**September 22**

**Gemma Dipoppa**

Brown University

**Saad Gulzar**

Princeton University

*Fires: The Political Economy and  
Health Impacts of Crop Burning  
in South Asia*

**November 17**

**Pradeep Chhibber**

University of California,  
Berkeley

*Democracy's Reach: Local  
Voting Patterns in Lok Sabha  
Elections*

**December 1**

**Melani Cammett**

Director of the Weatherhead  
Center for International  
Affairs

**Poulomi Chakrabarti**

Queen's University

*Defensive Cooperation:  
Understanding Pro-Social  
Attitudes in Indian Muslims*





**February 9**

**Shikhar Singh,**

University of Pennsylvania

*In-group Anger or Out-group  
Ambivalence: Voters and Cross-  
ethnic Distribution*

**February 23**

**Soledad Artiz Prillaman,**

Stanford University

*The Patriarchal Political Order -  
The Making and Unraveling of  
the Gendered Participation Gap  
in India*

**March 1**

**Aidan Milliff,**

Florida State University

*Understanding Majoritarian  
Violence: Evidence from Hate  
Crimes and Crowd Violence in  
India*

**March 8**

**Arvind Subramanian,**

Peterson Institute for  
International Economics

**Devesh Kapur,**

Johns Hopkins University

*One-Sixth of Humanity: The  
Development Odyssey of  
India's Precocious  
Democracy*





# Graduate Student Seminars

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

**October 20**  
**Kiran Garimella,**  
Rutgers University

*Misinformation and its  
Moderation on WhatsApp*

**October 27**  
**Joyojeet Pal,**  
University of Michigan

*Social Media Influencers and  
Political Capture in India*



**April 12**  
**Toral Gajrawala,**  
New York University

*Ajnabi: Estranging Modernism in  
South Asia*







# Additional Programs & Film Screenings

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

**September 28**

**Ravish Kumar**, Indian journalist,  
author and media personality  
Film Screening: *While We  
Watched*

**October 18**

**Parth Jindal '12**,  
*Industry, Sports and Corporate  
Careers in India*

**November 10**

*Back from the Field: Returning  
Fellow Presentations*



## December 1

*Crafting Cuisine: A Celebration of Food and Art in South Asia with Andrea Gutierrez, Sarah K. Khan, Sylvia Houghteling, Deepa Reddy and Yael Rice*





# 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.*

## **SAS PRE-APPROVED COURSES FOR FALL 2023**

### **MAJOR CONTENT HUMANITIES**

HIAA 0063 | Food and Art in the Early Modern World | H. Shaffer | TTh 10:30-11:50a

HIST 1620 | Resisting Empire: Gandhi and the Making of Modern South Asia | V. Zamindar | TTh 10:30-11:50a

COST/RELS/SAST 0140 | Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia | F. Moore-Gerety | TTh 1-2:20p

COST/RELS/SAST 0145 | Karma, Rebirth and Liberation: Life and Death in South Asian Religions | F. Moore-Gerety | T 4-6:30p

COST/RELS 0560 | Contemplation and Social Action | S. Reddy | M 3-5:30p

RELS 0615 | Rumi and Friends: The World of Sufi Poetry | S. Bashir | F 3-5:30p



## MAJOR CONTENT SOCIAL SCIENCES

IAPA 2000A | Theory and Research in Development | P. Heller | Th 1-4p

POLS 2330 | Politics in India | A. Varshney | Th 1:30-4p

POLS 1824S | Politics of Migration | G. Dipoppa | W 3-530p

## MINOR CONTENT HUMANITIES

ANTH 0100 | Introduction to Cultural Anthropology | M. Lennon/TBD | MW/F 11-11:50a

ARCH 2635 | An Empire without Bounds: The Roman Empire in Its 'Global' Context | T. Franconi | F 3-50p

ECON 2510 | Economic Development I | E. Macchi | MW 1-2:20p

HIST 1954K | Anti-colonial Temporalities, Geographies and Artisanal Formations | Zamindar / Azoulay | Th 4-6:30pm

IAPA 0200 | Foundations of Development | N. Chorev | TTh 10:30-11:50a

RELS 0100 | Buddhist Thought, Practice, and Society | J. Protass | MWF 2-2:50p

SANS 1620 | In Which Jayadeva Sings of Krishna: The Gītagovinda, its reception, and influence. | D. Buchta | TTh 10:30-11:50a

TAPS 1230 | Global Theatre and Performance: Paleolithic to the Threshold of Modernity | I. Ramos | TTh 1-2:20p

## LANGUAGE

HNDI 0100 | Beginning Hindi or Urdu | A. Koul | MTWTHF 12-12:50p

HNDI 0300 | Intermediate Hindi-Urdu | A. Koul | MTWTHF 1-1:50p

HNDI 1080 | Advanced Hindi-Urdu | A. Koul | MWF 9-9:50a

SANS 0100 | Elementary Sanskrit I | D. Buchta | MWF 1-1:50p

SANS 0300 | Sanskrit Epic Narrative | D. Buchta | TBA

## **COURSES FOR SPRING 2024**

### **MAJOR CONTENT HUMANITIES**

ANTH 1253 | The Visual and the Written in Anthropology: Fruzzetti's Documentary Films and Ethnographic Research | L. Fruzzetti | T 4-6:30p  
ARTS 1008 | Heart as Vector: Thinking Across the Arts with Shahzia Sikander | H. Shaffer | F 12-2:30p  
COST/RELS 0035 | Saints and Mystics of India | S. Reddy | TTh 10:30-11:50a  
COST/RELS 0525 | The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond | F. Moore-Gerety | T 4-6:30p  
HIST 0690C | Cities of the Global South | O. Ahmad | F 3-5:30p  
HIST 1958C | History beyond Empires and Nations: Kashmir 1846-2020 | S. Yaseen | T 4-6:30p  
RELS 0980Q | Contestations Within Political Islam | S. Yaseen | M 3-5:30p  
RELS 2400D | Islamic Pasts and Futures | S. Bashir | Th 4-6:30p  
SAST 0700C | Current Debates in Modern South Asia | Nomaan Hasan | M 3-5:30p

### **MAJOR CONTENT SOCIAL SCIENCES**

IAPA 1001 | Foundations of Development | A. Varshney | TTh 2:30-3:50p  
SOC/HIST 1954H | The City in Strife: Mapping Segregations, Inequality, Insurrection | Zamindar / Heller | M 3-5p

## **MINOR CONTENT HUMANITIES**

AMST 2221C | Afro-Asian America: Intraminority Relations in Historical Perspective | S. Lee | Th 2-4:30p

ARCH 2635 | An Empire without Bounds: The Roman Empire in its 'Global' Context | T. Franconi | W 3-5:30p

COST/RELS 0032 | Music and Meditation | S. Reddy | T 4-6:30p

ETHN 1200N | Introduction to Asian American History | S. Lee | TTh 9-10:20a

HIAA 0077 | Revolutions, Illusions, Impressions: A History of Nineteenth-Century Art | H. Shaffer | T/Th 9-10:20a

HIST 1267 | The Global British Empire, 1600-The Present | T. Bains | MWF 10-10:50a

RELS 1425 | Buddhist Poetry | J. Protass | W 3-5:30p

## **MINOR CONTENT SOCIAL SCIENCES**

POLS 0200 | Introduction to Comparative Politics | G. Dipoppa | TTh 10:30-11:50a

SOC 2050 | Contemporary Sociology | P. Heller | W 9a-12p

URBN 0215 | Urban Life in the Global South | L. Yapp | TTh 1-2:20p

## **LANGUAGE**

HNDI 0200 | Beginning Hindi or Urdu | A. Koul | MTWTHF 12-12:50p

HNDI 0400 | Intermediate Hindi-Urdu | A. Koul | MTWTHF 1-1:50p

HNDI 1080 | Advanced Hindi-Urdu | A. Koul | MWF 9-9:50a

SANS 0100 | Elementary Sanskrit I | D. Buchta | MWF 1-1:50p

SANS 0300 | Sanskrit Epic Narrative | D. Buchta | TBA

# THESIS PRIZE & UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRIZE RECIPIENTS

## THESIS PRIZE:

### Arts:

#### Grace Xiao

*"(Dis)location, Diaspora, and the Camera Image: Zarina Bhimji in the 1980s"* (Department of History of Art and Architecture, adviser: Holly Shaffer)

### Humanities:

#### Hamsa Shanmugam

*"Thēvāram: A Musicological Analysis of Tamil Saiva Devotional Music from a Karnātak Perspective"* (Department of Music, adviser: Marc Perlman)

### Social Sciences:

#### Phoebe Dragseth

*"Weaving Histories: Unraveling the Diverging Textile Political Economies of India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam through Colonization and Globalization"* (Department of Political Science, adviser: Ashu Varshney)

## UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRIZE:

#### Anisa Sondhi & Kieran Malik

*"Deviant: The Role of Women's Sexuality in Notions of Colonial Indian Society"* (HIST 1620: Resisting Empire)

#### Deven Kamlani

*"Thinking with Sindh: Beyond Borders and Between Memories"* (HIST 1620: Resisting Empire)

#### Aparajitha Anantharaman

*"Legal Archives of the Colonial Home: Inscribing and Describing the 'Traditional' Woman in Nineteenth-Century India"* (HIST 1972A: American Legal History)

#### Kaiya Pandit & Shaurya Singh

*"The Great Bengal Famine: An Analysis of Economic Causes"* (HIST 1620: Resisting Empire)





PEOPLE

## STEERING COMMITTEE

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## VISITING FACULTY

Siddharth Swaminathan



Siddharth Swaminathan was, until recently, Professor of Political Science at Azim Premji University in Karnataka, India. Swaminathan teaches courses on Politics in India, Welfare Rights, and Empirical Policy Analysis. He received an MA and PhD in political science from the Claremont Graduate University. His research focuses on political demography, voter behavior, citizenship and urban governance in India. Prior to joining Azim Premji University, he held faculty positions at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, La Sierra University and California State University.

# SAXENA CENTER WINTER FELLOWS 2023

**Aparajitha Anantharaman**

Project Title: Advaita Vedanta Immersive: Reading  
Shankara's Commentary on the first two Brahmasutras



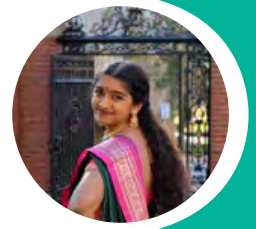
**Ari D Rangarajan**

Project Title: Empowering Indian Industry:  
An Investigation into the Impact of Voluntary and  
Confidential



**Hamsa Shanmugam**

Project Title: Thevaram: A Musicological Analysis



**Roshny Shannon Constantine**

Project Title: Performing nationalism: the role of  
performance in (de)constructing Sri Lankan nationhood



**Leja Joe Mathew**

Project Title: How does the State shape identities?





## Nomaan Hasan

Project Title: Paralegal Activism and the Promise of Law in Contemporary India



## Aditi Priya

Project Title: Public HealthCare Service in Bihar: Access and Experience



# SAXENA CENTER SUMMER FELLOWS 2024

## Ari D Rangarajan

Project Title: Voluntary Audits and Working Conditions in India: An Impact Assessment of the Social Compact Program



## Nicholas Sanzi

Project Title: The Deep Technology Development Ecosystem in Tamil Nadu



## Margaret Masselli

Project Title: The Crystallization of Patna Painting: Mica, Mining, and Art at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century



## Sneha Chowdhury

Project Title: South Asian Late-modernist Poetry and Romanticism: Responses and Revisions



## Meena Venkataramanan

Project Title: Rethinking Windrush: Indo-Caribbean Diaspora Literature and Political Blackness



## **Pamudu Tennakoon**

Project Title: Decolonization and Ruination:  
Returning to the Field



## **Priya Aditi**

Project Title: HealthCare in India:  
Field and Archival Research



## **Lila Chamlagai**

Project Title: Prevalence of Mental Health Illness  
Among the Bhutanese Refugee Camp and Its  
Affected Area of Nepal



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