



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



South Asia Centre  
**Annual Report**  
2019/20



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*, among many others.

The logo has been designed by Oroon Das.

# INTRODUCTION

Dr Mukulika Banerjee, *Director*



As we complete the first five years of the LSE South Asia Centre, this milestone allows me to take stock of how we have done in these foundational years, and the challenges that lie ahead. And personally, as I complete my term as the Inaugural Director of this Centre, I would like to take the opportunity to recognise and thank the people and institutions that have made the Centre what it is.

The South Asia Centre at LSE was established as a recognition of the School's world-leading expertise on the South Asian countries, conducted by academic faculty, graduate students under their supervision and post-doctoral scholars. Our commitment was to building a Centre that covered the region as a whole rather than opt for a centre on India, which by virtue of its size and scholarly outputs dominates all others, and we have been vigilant in not letting any single country dominate our discussions. LSE faculty worked across a range of disciplines from Management to Media, Economics to Anthropology, each working to the highest international standards of research distinction. But their membership across disciplinary departments also kept LSE's aggregate heft of knowledge on the region across the social sciences a well-hidden asset, unknown to most even within the school. The South Asia Centre, through simple tools such as a single website listing all LSE research and publications on South Asia that allowed a visitor to glimpse this vast expertise through a single window changed that immediately. The second challenge was of a more academic nature as the Centre sought to create knowledge on specific issues rather than on disciplinary, theoretical or methodological



debates. But university life in the 21st century is an environment in which scholars are most likely to talk to colleagues within their discipline rather than those from others and so — for example, an economist of labour reforms based at LSE was likely to be more familiar with the writings on this topic by economists based in Chicago or Dhaka than they were of geographers working on the same issues based at LSE. The South Asia Centre sought to address this by assembling academics from a variety of disciplines at LSE interested in the same topic to exchange ideas. Thirdly, academic knowledge on significant issues that a wider public was interested in had remained confined to the academy. The Centre, through its public events programme and blog created platforms through which the best of academic knowledge was presented to a wider audience. We have worked hard to build partnerships in all the South Asian nations, engage speakers from each context, and above all, curate content that would allow us to study and understand the linkages and fissures between the nations of South Asia. And finally, for students at LSE (and beyond) the South Asia Centre provided an academic home within which they could expand their horizons through encounters with

other disciplines and make friendships across national boundaries in LSE's vibrant international community with those who share a common passion for the study of South Asia.

As we take stock at the end of our first five years, I am delighted to note that we have achieved enormous success in some of our efforts, while recognising of course that a lot remains to be done. In the very competitive world of London events, the South Asia Centre had already built a formidable reputation for its curation and conduct of events of an exceptionally high standard. It has become the institution of choice for publishers and authors alike to launch their books for the high quality of attendance, curation and book sales. Activists and junior scholars have also found it a place for meaningful engagement with academic peers and colleagues from other parts of the world. We turned the lockdown during the pandemic into an opportunity by inviting experts from all South Asia countries to assess each national response to Covid 19. Students have been energised to make adventurous and bold plans in putting together their own events, with the full support of the Centre. In the past year, we have initiated and supported student-led podcasts, hired them as ambassadors and instituted an essay competition for them. We can now proudly welcome three Visiting Fellows from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan each year, that will allow us to engage with scholars who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to travel to the UK and share their knowledge with colleagues here. And we have conducted an Executive Education programme for civil servants from the West Bengal State government, India at LSE in 2019/20. Our blog 'South Asia at LSE' continues to expand its readership and has a growing list of contributors who provide a wide spectrum of ideas. The blog has now achieved the milestone of 1 million hits. In this academic year, we have also instituted a new relationship with the internationally acclaimed university-based think

tank LSE IDEAS, and are now formally affiliated with it, a productive partnership built on mutuality and synergy.

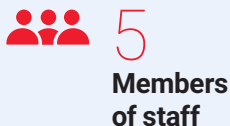
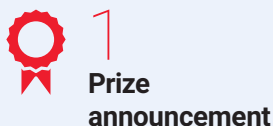
We have often been characterised as punching above our weight, and it gives me enormous pleasure to confirm this perception. The small team at the Centre has worked very hard to achieve this. The successes of the first five years is a testament to Dr Nilanjan Sarkar, the Deputy Director's brilliance and commitment from the very beginning. Christopher Finnigan, the Events and Communications Officer, has established himself as an integral member of the team and, alongside managing the blog as its Editor, has brought fresh ideas and innovation to the Centre. His predecessors as Editors of the blog and those that served as Administrators of the Centre also have our gratitude for the energies they gave to the Centre. I would also like to thank the members of the Senior Advisory Board who have always been available for counsel and support, and I am deeply grateful that they lent their support to an idea and nurtured it into existence. Academic colleagues at LSE, especially the members of the Faculty Advisory Group made a generous gift of their time and ideas despite their demanding professional lives. To all of the above, my genuine thanks.

 We have often been characterised as punching above our weight, and it gives me enormous pleasure to confirm this perception. 

I look forward to remaining committed to the South Asia Centre, especially to two new large research programmes that I had the privilege of initiating and as it grows to new heights in the next five years.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

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# SOUTH ASIA

Now in our fifth year, the South Asia Centre continues to lead LSE's engagement with the region. A wide variety of South Asia-focused events, and the establishment of 3 new Fellowships in collaboration with the Charles Wallace Trust, have once again placed LSE expertise at the heart of the Centre's activities, ensuring that through the Centre, the School has remained a leading hub for academics, students, researchers, policy-makers, media personnel, thought-makers and leaders, think tanks and members the public with an inter-disciplinary interest in the study of South Asia.

The Centre took a significant step forward in establishing itself as a research-active hub with the establishment of 3 new fully-funded Fellowships under the aegis of the Charles Wallace Trust – one each for Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. The annual Fellowships, which include a monthly stipend and a contribution towards other costs, are Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships for academics from Bangladesh and Pakistan, and a Visitorship for researchers from Myanmar. Each will be able to spend up to 12 weeks at the Centre to pursue their research, and will write a working research paper to be published and made available online by the Centre. The first 2 Fellows, for 2019/20 – from Bangladesh and Pakistan – visited the Centre in Lent 2020; details of their research and visit are available later in this Report.

Throughout 2019/20 the Centre continued to provide a unique social science space for those with interest and expertise from different disciplines and perspectives to share their ideas and analysis of pressing issues facing South Asia today. Carefully curated and timely, our events have been a valuable contribution to LSE's world class public events program; here we underline those that specifically discussed issues that crossed national boundaries in the region.

Last year, on 6 November 2019, we were once again delighted to host the announcement of the shortlist for the **DSC Prize for South Asian Literature**, which this time had four Indian authors and one author each of Pakistani and Afghan origin in contention for a cash prize of US\$25,000. The evening included a Keynote address by international bestselling novelist and eminent playwright Kate Mosse, who spoke about the importance and impact of women in writing and publishing in South Asia, in the presence of the Chair of the jury Harish Trivedi (Delhi). One of the most prestigious literary prizes for South Asia in the world, the winner – Amitabha Bagchi's *Half the Night is Gone* – was announced at the Nepal Literature Festival in Pokhara on 16 December 2019.

Against the background of the growing influence of South Asia in global politics and diplomacy, economic development, and popular culture, it is striking that South Asia-focused studies remain typecast as 'regional', in the academy as well as in areas like policy-making, the media, and think tanks in the United Kingdom. To challenge this trend, the Centre, in collaboration with the University of Sussex Asia Centre, organised a Roundtable discussion on 20 November 2019, titled **What does the Study of South Asia teach us about Capitalism**. Participants included Laura Bear (LSE), Rana Dasgupta (Brown University),

Rebecca Prentice (Sussex) and Andrew Sanchez (Cambridge), and was co-chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) and Magnus Marsden (Sussex). Panellists discussed how South Asian experiences of global capitalism are distinctive, and how an understanding of them might have implications for shifting the conceptual understandings of capitalism itself. Sadly, later Roundtables planned in this series had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

For the second year, the Centre collaborated with the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) for **The Raj Re-Examined** lectures. The series, which hosts talks by writers publishing on contested moments of imperial-colonial British rule in the Indian subcontinent, is marked by the uncomfortable issues it raises about Britain's colonial history in South Asia. The Covid-19 pandemic stopped the series midway, but we were still able to host 2 captivating talks, the first by George Morton-Jack on his recent book *India's Great War: Forgotten Stories of 1914–18* on 5 December 2019, and the second by Katie Hickman on *She-Merchants, Buccaneers and Gentlewomen: British Women in India* on 12 March 2020. Both lectures were chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).

On 4 February 2020, the Centre hosted **Rakhine, Assam and Citizenship in India**, a panel discussion that debated the legal rights of minorities in Myanmar and India, against the backdrop of the gradual stalemate between Bangladesh and Myanmar over Rohingyas, and the issues arising from India's recent changes to its citizenship conditions under the Citizenship Amendment Act. Held in collaboration with 'Restless Beings', speakers included Daniel Aguirre (Roehampton), Mabrur Ahmed and Rahima Begum (both from 'Restless Beings'), Meenakshi Ganguly (Human Rights Watch UK), and Tarunabh Khaitan (Oxford). The event was chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).

As LSE's campus closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre was amongst the first to host a live webinar on **Covid-19 in South Asia: A Comparative Perspective**, which took a wide-angled comparative perspective on the spread and containment of the virus in South Asia, focusing especially on responses to the pandemic from governments, public health bodies and citizens. The event succeeded in presenting a genuinely representative voice of the region – a first for the Centre was to have a participant from Bhutan. The breadth



L-R: DANIEL AGUIRRE, MEENAKSHI GANGULY, NILANJAN SARKAR (MODERATOR), RAHIMA BEGUM, AND MABRUR AHMED AT 'RAKHINE, ASSAM AND CITIZENSHIP IN INDIA', 4 FEBRUARY 2020.

of expertise of the panellists was commented upon not only by the virtual audience but also the participants who greatly appreciated the information that came forth from the different countries of the region. Discussants included Yamini Aiyar (from India), Tshering Cigay Dorji (from Bhutan), David Mathieson (independent analyst of Myanmar), Asif Saleh (from Bangladesh), Haroon Sharif (from Pakistan), Madhusudan Subedi (from Nepal), and Namini Wijedasa (from Sri Lanka); it was chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE).

The Centre's response to the pandemic has also been in the form of a number of widely read blogs on how this unprecedented public health emergency has affected countries across the region, ensuring that the Centre's online readership was kept up to date with latest academic analysis. '**South Asia @ LSE**', the Centre's blog, provides unique cross-national, inter-disciplinary perspectives, providing its readers with easy access to commentary on this singular pandemic confronting the region and its peoples in living memory.



KATIE HICKMAN AND PAUL DEAN AT 'SHE-MERCHANTS, BUCCANEERS AND GENTLEWOMEN', 12 MARCH 2020.

To further involve and inform non-South Asia interested students across the School of the importance of South Asia, the Centre established the **Vera Anstey South Asia Essay Competition** in honour of LSE alumnus and former LSE Lecturer and Reader Vera Anstey née Powell (1889–1967). Open to all full-time LSE Masters students, the competition requires entrants to submit an essay to a pre-set question ('The next 10 years: What is the biggest challenge facing South Asia in the coming decade?', in 2019/20), with the winner receiving book vouchers worth £250. The competition aims to increase awareness about South Asia among non-specialists, as also draw attention to the British economist's lifelong connection with the region, particularly the Indian subcontinent. In 1976 the Vera Anstey Suite in the Old Building was named in Vera's honour to celebrate her long and dedicated service to the School — a suite used by faculty and students alike for various activities.

Through the last 5 years, the Centre has continuously worked with student unions, supporting them in their activities. On 6 December 2019, the LSESU South Asia Society hosted an extremely well-attended student debate between the two student Co-Presidents of the Society Kunal Joshi (Masters in Public Administration 2020) and Hamza Tariq-Chaudhry (BSc in International Relations 2020) on developments in Kashmir. **The Kashmir Dialogue**, chaired by Dr Nicholas Evans (LSE), gathered students from across the School and outside with an interest in the Indian government's revoking of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution (which had, until August 2019, provided Kashmir with a special status in the Indian union) to discuss their views on the reasons and impact of this development for the people of Kashmir, and on bilateral relations between Pakistan and India.



# AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

In a potentially pivotal year for Afghanistan as it held a national election for a new government, the Centre organised a well-attended public event on the implications of the ending of the wars that have blighted the country for over 30 years. One of the most read blog posts on the conclusion of the US-Taliban dialogues underlined the interest of our readers in Afghanistan, and its role in the making of South Asia's future. The Centre also welcomed LSE's first-ever LSE Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellow in Lent 2020.

## AFGHANISTAN

On 18 October 2019, academics, students, civil servants, and those interested especially in the geopolitical strategy of the region gathered at LSE to attend **Taliban and Democracy in Afghanistan**, a discussion centred around a new book by Antonio Giustozzi (SOAS, London) titled *The Taliban at War: 2001-2018*. Discussants included Sarah Ashraf (LSE) and Chris Sands (independent journalist writing on Afghanistan). The event, which discussed the complex political future of the country, tenuous because of the imperative of involving the militant Taliban in its peace-building process and democratic future, and the changing role

of Pakistan in Afghanistan, was animated by the grassroots research experience of Giustozzi in collecting his research data. The event was chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).

A blog post on the conclusion of nearly 10 years of peace talks between the United States and the Taliban titled '**Are the peace talks between the United States and the Taliban fundamentally flawed?**' by Terra Schroeder (Asia-Pacific Foundation, London) and Barbara Kelemen (Central European Institute of Asian Studies, London) published on 29 August 2019 was one of the most read posts on the 'South Asia @ LSE' blog in 2019/20.



ANTONIO GIUSTOZZI AT 'TALIBAN AND DEMOCRACY IN AFGHANISTAN', 18 OCTOBER 2019.



L-R: ADNAN KHAN, S AKBAR ZAIDI, MUKULIKA BANERJEE (MODERATOR), MATTHEW MCCARTNEY, AND NATALYA NAQVI AT 'NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL ECONOMY', 15 NOVEMBER 2019.

## PAKISTAN

On 15 November 2019, the Centre hosted a discussion on a new volume of essays titled ***New Perspectives on Pakistan's Political Economy***. Co-editors Matthew McCartney (Oxford) and Akbar Zaidi (Columbia University, USA) opened the discussion that also heard from Adnan Khan and Natalya Naqvi – both leading LSE academics on Pakistan. The event, organised in collaboration with Bloomsbury Pakistan, was chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE). Video and audio recordings of the event are available online.

We were delighted to welcome Kishwar Munir (University of Lahore) as the first-ever **LSE Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellow** who spent 8 weeks at the Centre working on her research on the Indus River Water Treaty between Pakistan and India, and participating in the Centre's activities. Further details of her research are available later in this Report; unfortunately, her stay at the Centre was halted abruptly because of the closure of the campus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through the academic year, the Centre has continued to support the LSESU Pakistan Development Society and the LSESU Pakistan Society – working closely with the Presidents Hamza Tariq-Chaudhry (BSc International Relations 2020) and Hussain Abbas (BSc Economics 2020) respectively. The LSESU Pakistan Society, under Hussain's stewardship, started a series of podcasts titled **Thinking South Asia**, an interview-style discussion forum with experts on issues of relevance to Pakistan today. A series of podcasts, available at 'LSE South Asia Centre', the Centre's SoundCloud channel, have featured Shahrukh Wani (Cities Economist, IGC/LSE) on whether South Asia's cities are a source of untapped potential or examples of unplanned disasters, an in-depth interview on Pakistani politics and society with Ayesha Siddiqua (SOAS), and one on Left politics in Pakistan with Alia Ali (LSE).

# BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR

This year was marked in particular with the establishment of the first-ever Charles Wallace Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellowships at LSE for Bangladesh, and a Visiting Fellowship for Myanmar respectively. Sadly, some important events scheduled for the Lent and Summer terms in 2020 – especially to mark the birth centenary of Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – had to be cancelled due to the closure of the campus for the Covid-19 pandemic.

## BANGLADESH

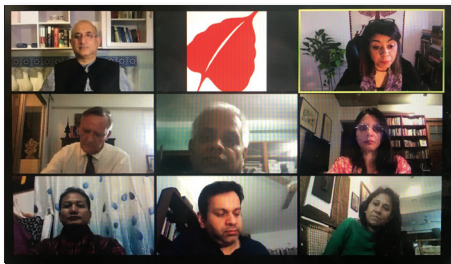
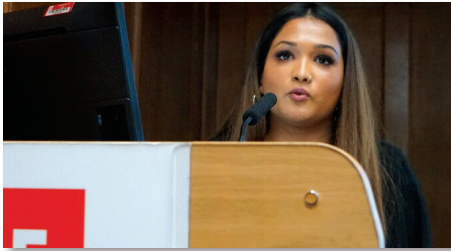
On 15 November 2019, the South Asia Centre hosted **H. E. Saida Muna Tasneem, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom**. The High Commissioner, who was accompanied by Dr Kamal Chowdhury (Chief Coordinator, Bongobondhu Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary Celebrations National Implementation Committee), met with LSE students from Bangladesh and researchers working on Bangladesh. The High Commissioner was very interested in the various academic initiatives of the Centre concerning Bangladesh, and we were in the process of curating some events to mark the centenary of Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman when the Covid-19 pandemic brought everything to a standstill. We hope to re-convene the events in 2020/21, which also marks the 50th anniversary of the birth of Bangladesh.

The first-ever **LSE Charles Wallace Bangladesh Trust Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellowship** was awarded to Md. Shafiqul Islam (State University of Bangladesh, Dhaka) to conduct research on resilience of fisher folk to coastal disasters in Bangladesh. During his stay, Shafiq participated in several of the Centre's activities, and also benefited from discussions from colleagues at LSE. More details of his research are available later in this Report; sadly, his stay was cut short because of the closure of the LSE campus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



H. E. SAIDA MUNA TASNEEM, KAMAL CHOWDHURY AND MUKULIKA BANERJEE WITH STUDENTS AND OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE LSESU BANGLA SOCIETY, 15 NOVEMBER 2019.



TASNIMA UDDIN ('RESTLESS BEINGS') AT 'RAKHINE, ASSAM AND CITIZENSHIP IN INDIA', 4 FEBRUARY 2020; PANELLISTS PARTICIPATING ONLINE IN 'COVID-19 IN SOUTH ASIA: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE', 22 APRIL 2020.

## MYANMAR

This year, the Centre marked an important step by hosting events on issues of importance and interest to contemporary Myanmar, and establishing a Visiting Fellowship to support further research on Myanmar. Two issues that have been significant for Myanmar in 2019/20 have been the continuing dialogue with Bangladesh over the Rohingya refugee crisis (including the legal challenge brought by The Gambia against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice in The Hague in 2019), and the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centre was delighted that it was able to discuss both these pressing issues at different forums through the year.

A panel discussion on **Rakhine, Assam and Citizenship in India** on 4 February 2020 debated the legal rights of minorities in Myanmar (and

India), with inputs from Rahima Begum ('Restless Beings') and Daniel Aguirre (Roehampton). Aguirre having lived and worked in Myanmar earlier, spoke passionately about the Rohingya in Rakhine and Myanmar's dialogue with Bangladesh about them, as also the developments at The Hague. This blended very well with Rahima Begum's presentation of her grassroots-level work on the condition of the Rohingya in the vast refugee camps near Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh. The event was held in collaboration with 'Restless Beings', and was chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).

The Centre's first webinar (following closure of the LSE's campus due to the Covid-19 pandemic), on **Covid-19 in South Asia: A Comparative Perspective** on 22 April 2020 included extensive commentary from David Mathieson (independent analyst of Myanmar) who had been in Yangon till the day before, and therefore had first-hand knowledge of the pandemic in Myanmar. The event, which took a wide-angled comparative perspective on the spread and containment of the virus in South Asia, focusing especially on responses from governments, public health bodies and citizens to the pandemic, was able to be genuinely representative of the region because of the inclusion of Myanmar alongside all the other South Asian countries. The webinar was chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE).

LSE PhD researcher Anthony Neil (International Development), whose doctoral research focuses on the Rohingya, interviewed Daniel Aguirre (Roehampton), who was present at the International Court of Justice at The Hague during the preliminary hearings being taken against Myanmar for the persecution of the Rohingya, and has been following both the ICJ and ICC proceedings closely. The interview, published on the Centre's blog, covered the legal accountability measures presented in court and the difficulties of providing robust pieces of evidence to prove intent to commit a genocide.

# INDIA

Ralf Dahrendorf, former Director of LSE (1974–84), once referred to the association between India and LSE as a ‘story of soul mates’. In 2019/20, LSE’s current Director, Dame Minouche Shafik, deepened that special, long-standing relationship by travelling to India on an official School visit. The Centre also celebrated the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and as India’s Constitution marked its 70th anniversary, the Centre honoured LSE alumnus and architect of India’s constitution Dr B R Ambedkar.

The Centre reaffirmed its place as London’s leading host of India-related events with a wide variety of events with high-profile speakers on Indian politics, economics and society. Highlights from Michaelmas and Lent terms include:

- **India 2020: Peculiar Changes in the Fiscal Structure of the Governments of India** — a discussion on the changing and uncoordinated nature of Centre and State-level fiscal planning with Rathin Roy (Director, National Institute of Public Finance Policy, New Delhi), who was until recently Economic Advisor to the Government of India, chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE) on 28 February 2020. The event was held in association with Indian Young Professionals Network (IYPN) UK, a group initiative of LSE alumni Arunima Kumar and Manav Gupta.
- **The Indian Republic at 70: Crisis or Continuity?** — a panel discussion to mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution in India with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE), Shruti Kapila (Cambridge), Basharat Peer (*New York Times*), chaired by Rajesh Venugopal (LSE) was held on 27 January 2020.
- **Beyond 2020: Students & Politics in India** — an interactive meeting between students and Sachin Pilot (Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan), chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) on 4 December 2019. This event was held in collaboration with Talk Journalism, National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU), LSESU South Asia Society, and LSESU India Society.



RAJESH VENUGOPAL (MODERATOR) AND SHRUTI KAPILA AT ‘THE INDIAN REPUBLIC AT 70: CRISIS OR CONTINUITY?’, 27 JANUARY 2020.

- **Nation, Gender and Religion: The Many Lives of Freda Bedi** – a discussion held on 29 November 2019 focused on the unusual life of Freda Bedi, an Englishwoman who married an Indian, and lived in India for the longest time, converting to Buddhism in her later years, with Andrew Whitehead (Author of *The Lives of Freda: The Political, Spiritual and Personal Journeys of Freda Bedi*), David Arnold (Warwick), and Katie Hickman (author of *She-Merchants, Buccaneers and Gentlewomen: British Women in India*), chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE).
- **Interpreting the Constitution of India** – a panel discussion held on 26 November 2019 to mark the birth anniversary of the father of India's Constitution and LSE alumnus Dr B R Ambedkar, with Chintan Chandrachud (Lawyer and Constitution expert), Gautam Bhatia (Oxford), with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) in the Chair. This event was part of the Centre's '100 Foot Journey Club', held in collaboration with the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom. Mr Amish Tripathi, Director, The Nehru Centre, London attended the event on behalf of the High Commission.



AMISH TRIPATHI AND CHINTAN CHANDRACHUD AT 'INTERPRETING THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA', 26 NOVEMBER 2019.



L-R: KATE SULLIVAN DE ESTRADA, IAN HALL AND MUKULIKA BANERJEE (MODERATOR) AT 'INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY', 29 OCTOBER 2019.

- **'India's Foreign Policy'** – a panel discussion with Ian Hall (Griffith University, Brisbane and author of *Modi and the Reinvention of Indian Foreign Policy*) and Kate Sullivan de Estrada (Oxford), chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE). This event was held on 29 October 2019, in collaboration with LSE IDEAS.
- **'Messengers of Hindu Nationalism: How the RSS Reshaped India'** – an animated book discussion on the increased presence of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in contemporary Indian society and politics, with Walter K Andersen (co-author; Johns Hopkins University), James Chiriyankandath (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London) and Ananya Vajpeyi (Cambridge) with Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) in the Chair. This event was held on 23 September 2019.
- **'My Home India'** – a screening and discussion with Anjali Bhushan (Director and Producer) and Mukulika Banerjee (LSE). The documentary focused on the rarely reported and little known story of the journey and life of Jewish refugees from Poland who were given refuge in India as they escaped the Nazi holocaust in the years surrounding the Second World War. This event was held on 25 June 2019 in collaboration with the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival.

A video and audio recording of all these events is available online.



(FACING THE CAMERA) MUKULIKA BANERJEE, MINOUCHE SHAFIK AND SHASHI THAROOR, WITH (BACK TO CAMERA) SAMIR SARAN (IN BLACK) AND SHIV SAHAI (IN BLUE) DISCUSSING 'FOREIGN POLICY AND THE GROWING ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIA', 9 SEPTEMBER 2019, NEW DELHI.

## LSE DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO INDIA

In September 2019, LSE Director Dame Minouche Shafik reaffirmed the School's long-standing partnership and commitment to India in her first official visit to New Delhi and Mumbai as LSE Director. While in India, Dame Minouche took part in a number of high-profile meetings with academics, policy-makers, government ministers, alumni, etc to discuss and promote LSE's work on India, and establish new relationships. On 9 September, while in New Delhi, the Director participated in two events organised by the LSE South Asia Centre.

The LSE Director's inaugural event in India was a dynamic Roundtable titled **Unpacking India's Political Economy: The Big Policy Debates and Key Research Questions**, co-convened by the LSE South Asia Centre with the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, and the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New

Delhi. It brought together leading policy-makers, thinkers, academics, researchers, scholars and practitioners from India's leading think tanks, organisations and the government to debate the big policy questions and challenges confronting India, and the environment and possibilities for reforms. Experts from a variety of sectors spoke on finance, climate and energy, agriculture and state capacity, health, urban issues, water, politics and policy, including Arunabha Ghosh (Council on Energy, Environment and Water), Navroz Dubash, Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Partha Mukhopadhyay (all from Centre for Policy Research), Ila Patnaik, Sudipto Mundle and Sacchidananda Mukherjee (all from the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy), K. Srinath Reddy (Public Health Foundation of India), Shekhar Shah (National Council of Applied Economic Research), Manisha Priyam (National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration) and Wilima Wadhwa (Pratham). The was co-chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) and Yamini Aiyar (President, Centre for Policy Research).

Later in the afternoon on 9 September, the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi hosted a lunch meeting on **Foreign Policy and the Growing Role and Responsibilities of India**, an interactive wide-ranging discussion on India's growing importance in the world, and the strategic imperatives of its foreign policy. Those in attendance included Indrani Bagchi (Diplomatic Editor, *Times of India*), Raghav Chadha (Spokesperson, Aam Aadmi Party), Sujan Chinoy (Director-General, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Delhi), Arvind Gupta (Former CEO, MyGov India), Suhasini Haidar (National Editor, *The Hindu*), Ashok Malik (Observer Research Foundation), Jyoti Malhotra (National & Strategic Affairs Editor, *The Print*), Jayant Prasad (formerly India's Foreign Secretary), Manisha Priyam (Associate Professor, National University for Educational Planning and Administration), Jayveer Shergill (National Spokesperson, Indian National Congress), Shiv Sahai (Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat), Aastha Kaul (Observer Research Foundation) and Shashi Tharoor (Member of Parliament, Indian National Congress). The event was co-chaired by Samir Saran (Director, Observer Research Foundation) and Mukulika Banerjee (LSE).

The Centre also delivered an extremely successful Executive Education programme in the last week of January 2020. The five-day program for 14 middle and senior level civil servants from West Bengal focused on Public Policy and Governance, and was conducted in collaboration with Jindal Global University in Sonapat. **The LSE South Asia Centre-JILDEE Programme on Public Policy and Governance** included 12 teaching and interactive sessions, with experts drawn from LSE, SOAS and King's College London. The programme was designed to improve levels of knowledge relating to global best practice in Public Policy, especially in areas of infrastructure, utilities, the environment and public finances, to improve participant skills in analysing Public Policy options, to suggest measures to assess Good Governance, and to relate experiences in other countries to the requirements of West Bengal and India. A highlight of the trip was an invitation to the London celebrations of India's Republic Day at the famous Guildhall, hosted by the High Commission of India.



CIVIL SERVANTS FROM WEST BENGAL PARTICIPATING IN THE LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE-JILDEE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON 'PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE', 27–31 JANUARY 2020.





L-R: WALTER K ANDERSEN, MUKULIKA BANERJEE (MODERATOR) AND JAMES CHIRIYANKANDATH AT 'MESSENGERS OF HINDU NATIONALISM: HOW THE RSS RESHAPED INDIA', 23 SEPTEMBER 2019.

## LSE AND INDIA

The 2019/20 academic year presented the Centre with several opportunities to recognise the School's long-standing relations with India. On 2 October 2019, the Centre marked **Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary** by publishing the official transcript of his speech at LSE on 10 November 1931. Gandhi spoke in the Old Theatre to an audience of LSE students while in London to attend the 2nd Round Table Conference.

On 26 November 2019, the Centre marked the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the lengthiest written national constitution of the world, with a short film of LSE students reading the Constitution's Preamble beside a bust of LSE alumnus and architect of the Indian constitution Dr B R Ambedkar. Centre Director Mukulika Banerjee also paid tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar, who completed his PhD at LSE in the early 1920s, in **Personalities and Progress: LSE and the World**, a photographic exhibition in LSE's Atrium Gallery to coincide with the **LSE Festival: Shape the World** which explored

the lives and influence of six illustrious LSE personalities. Also included in the exhibition was Clement Attlee, former British Prime Minister and Lecturer in the Ratan Tata Department of Social Science and Administration at LSE, funded by an endowment from the industrialist Sir Ratan Tata in 1912–13 following a meeting between him and LSE Founding Members Beatrice and Sidney Webb in India.

## THE STATES OF SOUTH ASIA – INDIA

Throughout 2019/20, **States of South Asia**, the Centre's free interactive online portal which compiles political, economic, social, demographic, policy and geographic data on the countries of South Asia (beginning with India) showed itself to be both a truly global resource, as well as one that is incredible popular in India, with 50 per cent of all its hits registered from a device in India. The website ([www.statesofsouthasia.com](http://www.statesofsouthasia.com)) has provided researchers working on India easy-to-access data sets free of charge, and a new and innovative pathway to engage with LSE's world-class research on the country.

# SRI LANKA

The Centre continued its activities in Sri Lanka to host Dialogues on topics of urgent importance to different sectors within the country and the international community, in the fourth Dialogue of its collaboration of critical, public discussions with UNDP Sri Lanka.

The fourth **Colombo Development Dialogue**, held on 6 February 2019 in Colombo, once again brought academic, policy and professional experts together, this time focusing on **'Governance & Public Sector Modernisation in Sri Lanka'**. Speakers discussed how to modernise the Public Sector in Sri Lanka, more specifically how to increase the meritocratic capacity of the government to better understand the complex challenges faced by the country, and ways in which Sri Lanka can enable and empower institutions and individuals to provide solutions with human-centred approaches. Panelists included Ali Cheema (Lahore; pre-recorded), Michael Moore (Sussex), Susil Premajayantha (Minister for International Cooperation, Government of Sri Lanka), Sugath Ranugge (National Salaries & Cadre Commission) and Chandima Wickramasinghe (Presidential Secretariat, Colombo). Invited discussants included Rajiv Wijeweera (UNDP Sri Lanka), Waruna Sri Dhanapala (Ministry of Defence, Government of Sri Lanka), Easwaran Rutnam (*The Sunday Gazette*) and Wasantha Deshapriya (Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration). The Dialogue was moderated by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE). A video recording of the event, and a Working Policy Paper, is available on the Centre's website.

Ahead of each Dialogue, LSE South Asia Centre also conducts a **Masterclass** in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo and UNDP Sri Lanka. During the fourth Dialogue, a group of students and early career professionals interested in Public Sector modernisation participated in a seminar with international expert Michael Moore (Sussex), convened by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE). The Masterclass remains an important part of the Centre's larger desire to impact public awareness and build capacity across the disciplinary and professional spectrum through informed, analytical knowledge.

On 25 November 2019, the Centre hosted an extremely well-attended and animated discussion following the Presidential Elections titled **'Elections 2019: What next for Sri Lanka?'**. The public discussion, chaired by Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE), included presentations from Alan Keenan (Crisis Watch, London), Dharsha Jegatheeswaran (London), Rajesh Venugopal (LSE) and Asanga Welikala (Edinburgh) on the immediate and long-term implications of the election result, especially in light of the forthcoming Prime Ministerial elections in the summer of 2020. The presentations were followed by a dynamic Q&A; a complete recording of the event is available on the Centre's website.



ABOVE: L-R: ASANGA WELIKALA, RAJESH VENUGOPAL (MODERATOR), NILANJAN SARKAR (CHAIR), DHARSHA JEGATHEESWARAN, AND ALAN KEENAN AT 'ELECTIONS 2019: WHAT NEXT FOR SRI LANKA?', 25 NOVEMBER 2019'. MIDDLE: MICK MOORE WITH STUDENTS AT A MASTERCLASS ON 'PUBLIC SECTOR MODERNISATION', UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, 6 FEBRUARY 2020. BELOW: L-R: SUSIL PREMAJAYANTHA, SUGATH RANUGGE, NILANJAN SARKAR (MODERATOR), CHANDIMA WICKRAMASINGHE, AND MICK MOORE AT THE FOURTH COLOMBO DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUES, 6 FEBRUARY 2020, COLOMBO.

# SAC IN LSE

LSE faculty and students are at the heart of all the Centre's events and initiatives, and 2019/20 has been yet another year in which we collaborated closely and often with colleagues and students from across the School. By continuing to support LSESU societies, providing opportunities at the Centre to help students develop professional skills, assist in acquiring suitable internship placements, as well as reaching out to and involving LSE alumni, the Centre has remained a key hub on campus for staff, students and alumni with an interest in the region.

## WORKING WITH LSE STUDENTS

As a new cohort of Masters students arrived at LSE, the Centre took every opportunity to engage with the hundreds of students arriving from across the world, and with those undergraduate and research students returning for another academic year. The Centre also continued to support student-led initiatives to develop another generation of analytical thinkers.

As is now an annual event, the Centre hosted a **Welcome Drinks reception** on 11 October 2019 for PhD, Post-Doctoral researchers and Teaching and Research Fellows working

on South Asia across the School's several departments. This year, it brought together a record number of people who had the opportunity to interact with and discuss their interests with others working on South Asia. Over the years, the Centre has often been complimented for this mini annual event by attendees who felt that they would otherwise never get the opportunity to meet and know of each other's work. The Centre was also able to interest several research scholars to review books for the Centre's blog, providing them with the opportunity to publish, and to involve them in the Centre's showcasing of emerging talent at LSE.



LSE PHD, POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AND TEACHING & RESEARCH FELLOWS AT WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION, 11 OCTOBER 2019.



LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE STUDENT AMBASSADOR  
SAHIMA GUPTA.

To deepen the Centre's role in enabling LSE students to gain work experience during their studies, the Centre introduced, for the first time, the **Student Ambassador Programme**, an opportunity for LSE Masters students to gain experience with the LSE South Asia Centre's digital team throughout 2019/20. Following a large number of applications, Supriya Ravishankar and Sahima Gupta (both MSc International Relations 2020) were selected, and gained experience working on the Centre's 'South Asia @ LSE' blog with the Editor Christopher Finnigan, and social media accounts through the Centre's busy Events program.

Anya Magotra (BSc International Relations 2021) was successfully placed as a Summer Intern at the prestigious International Institute for Security Studies (IISS), London by the Centre.



LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE STUDENT AMBASSADOR  
SUPRIYA RAVISHANKAR.

To mark the **70th anniversary** of the adoption of the **Indian Constitution**, the Centre produced a short film of 9 LSE students reading the Constitution's Preamble against the backdrop of a bust of LSE alumnus and architect of the Indian constitution Dr B R Ambedkar from the personal collection of LSE Arts. This unique film celebrates the values of India's Constitution through the voices of her future thinkers.

The Centre has also continued to provide writing opportunities for several LSE students in the Centre's blog. Blogs written by LSE students – such as **Populism, Islam and Development: Why Pakistan's Relationship with Chinese Investment is Nothing but Simple**, published on 4 February 2020 by Anant Venkatesh and Sahima Gupta (both MSc International Relations 2020) – have been adapted from their personal essays and dissertations. As these pieces of work were altered to suit the eclectic audience of the blog, students were taught how to adapt their writing styles to produce analysis that is academically rigorous but written in more accessible language

for an interested and lay audience. In December 2019, Tom Wilkinson (PhD International History) gained interview experience when sitting down to talk with Sachin Pilot (Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan) to discuss the role of students and politics in India.

The Centre established the **Vera Anstey South Asia Essay Competition** in honour of LSE alumnus and former LSE Lecturer and Reader Vera Anstey née Powell (1889–1967) in 2019/20. Open to full-time LSE Masters students, the competition required entrants to submit an essay of between 800 and 1,200 words to a pre-set question; in 2019/20 it was 'The next 10 years: What is the biggest challenge facing South Asia in the coming decade?', with the winner receiving book vouchers worth £250. The purpose of this competition is to reach out to and interest non South Asia-focused students in the growing importance of this dynamic region in the world, and its future potential and impact.

## SOUTH ASIA SOCIETY

The **LSESU South Asia Society**, with help and guidance from the South Asia Centre, has for another year continued to provide an extremely active presence on campus for students interested in activities that overlook national boundaries and focus on the region as a whole.

On 4 December 2019, the Centre collaborated with the South Asia Society, and the LSESU India Society, to host Sachin Pilot (Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan) for **Beyond 2020: Students & Politics in India**, an extremely popular discussion between one of India's most high profile politicians and students. The event was chaired by Mukulika Banerjee (LSE). A video recording of the discussion is available online.

On 28 November 2019, the Society organised **26/11: Reminiscence of the Siege**, a student discussion marking the 11th anniversary of the Mumbai 2008 terror attack, with Adrian Levy (Journalist) and Amit Tiwari (Actor). On 6 December 2019, the Society hosted **The**



AN LSE STUDENT ASKING A QUESTION TO SACHIN PILOT, WITH MUKULIKA BANERJEE (MODERATOR) AT 'BEYOND 2020: STUDENTS & POLITICS IN INDIA', 4 DECEMBER 2019.



L-R: NICHOLAS EVANS, HAMZA TARIQ-CHAUDHRY AND KUNAL JOSHI SPEAKING AT 'THE KASHMIR DIALOGUE: ACROSS PARTITIONED LINES', 6 DECEMBER 2019.

**Kashmir Dialogue: Across Partitioned Lines**, a well-attended and lively student debate between Co-Presidents of the Society Kunal Joshi (Masters in Public Administration 2020) and Hamza Tariq-Chaudhry (BSc International Relations 2020), about recent developments in Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370 (which gave Kashmir special status in the Indian Union) by the Government of India. The event was chaired by Nicholas Evans (LSE).

## PAKISTAN SOCIETY

On 5 February 2020, **LSESU Pakistan Society** (in collaboration with the **LSESU India Society**) hosted an evening social event of spoken word poetry and musical performances by students in Hindi, Urdu and English. On 13 March, the Society hosted a talk by Mahvish Ahmad (LSE) on the **Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement** in Pakistan. Mahvish has recently joined as Assistant Professor in Human Rights and Politics in the Department of Sociology, having completed her Doctoral research on state violence on the Pakistan–Afghanistan border.

Since March 2020, the Centre has supported **Thinking South Asia**, an LSE student-led podcast series on contemporary political debates on South Asia. The first episode featured Hussain Abbas (LSE BSc Economics 2020) and President of the LSESU Pakistan Society interviewing Shahrukh Wani (Cities Economist, IGC/LSE) on whether South Asia's cities are a source of untapped potential or examples of unplanned disasters; later episodes included interviews with Ayesha Siddiqi (SOAS) on politics and society in Pakistan, and Alia Ali (LSE) on Left Politics in Pakistan.

## LAW SOCIETY

On 22 February 2020, **LSESU Law Society** Pro Bono Division organised the **LSE Legal Aid Conference**, a two-panel event focused on issues associated with the provision of free legal aid within an international and domestic framework. The event discussed and debated the rights of sex workers, LGBTQ+ citizens, and domestic abuse survivors across South Asia. The Centre supported Sana Shahzad (LLB

Law 2021; Pro Bono Officer of the Society) to identify and contact speakers including Mayur Suresh (SOAS), Sara Hossain (London) and Gehan Gunatilleke (Oxford) to represent India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively.

## MODERN LANGUAGES' SOCIETY

The Centre worked closely with Mishal Murad (LLB Law 2021), President of the **LSESU Modern Languages' Society**, to curate an evening event on the Urdu feminist poetry of Parveen Shakir. The Centre invited Urdu poetry expert Amina Yaqin (SOAS) for a conversation with Naima Rashid, who has recently translated selections from Shakir's poetry into English in *Defiance of the Rose*; Adnan Khan (LSE) chaired the event. The event was reported in LSE's student newsletter *Beaver* by Thomas Chau, and was organised in collaboration with 'Joy of Urdu', on 21 November 2019.

## WORKING WITH FACULTY

As in previous years, we have worked closely with LSE faculty to harness our world-class South Asia expertise across the School. The interdisciplinary nature of our engagement allows for LSE faculty from different Departments to engage with our work; our events and online activities provide them with opportunities not only to disseminate their work and ideas but also engage with audiences beyond LSE. We are delighted that since the establishment of the Centre in 2015, faculty support and participation in our events has increased steadily; in 2019/20, Rajesh Venugopal (International Development), Alan Keenan (Centre for Women, Peace and Security), Adnan Khan (Public Policy), Natalya Naqvi (International Relations) and Chris Alden (International Relations) were involved

in different activities of the Centre, while the Centre's blog published posts by Rajesh Venugopal (International Development), Nimesh Dhungana (Methodology and International Development), Kripa Basnyat (Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity) and Yifei Yan (Social Policy) on different topics of interest and relevance in South Asia.

The Centre remains grateful for the support that several faculty members offer by attending events, disseminating and publicising important information and notices to target audiences in their areas of expertise, help in curation of events, participation in meetings with external stakeholders, support to our Visiting Fellows, helping us to identify and expand our network in different countries in the region, and providing the Centre with ideas for possible events.

A dedicated group of LSE faculty have continued to feature as essential partners in deciding the direction of the Centre through their membership of the **Faculty Advisory Group**. The participation of LSE faculty reaffirms the Centre as a collective venture of everyone at LSE interested in South Asia, irrespective of discipline. The members of the Faculty Advisory Group are listed on pp 32–33.

## WORKING WITH ALUMNI

The LSE is proud to have a wide network of alumni across South Asia and in 2019/20 the Centre has been particularly active in strengthening this network. Many speakers at the Centre's events have been LSE alumni, now in positions of academic and professional leadership and excellence. They remain our best ambassadors, and shining examples of our success. This year, we were able to host or publish Yamini Aiyar (MSc Development Science, 2002), Sarah Ashraf (PhD International





L-R: NILANJAN SARKAR, RIA SEN (REGIONAL AMBASSADOR, ASIA-PACIFIC), ABHILASH PULJAL (SPECIAL PROJECTS MEMBER, LSE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION), NAYANTARA PALCHOUDHURI (KOLKATA), MUKULIKA BANERJEE, RAZA RAHMAN (LAHORE), KARNVIR MUNDREY (BANGALORE), ALL LSE ALUMNI AT LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019.

Relations, 2018), Dharsha Jegatheeswaran (LLM 2019), Samir Saran (MSc Media Studies, 2008), Terra Schroeder (MSc History of International Relations, 2018) and Akbar Zaidi (MSc Social Planning of Developing Countries, 1982).

The Centre also welcomed the appointment of Sir Philip Barton (MSc Economics, 1986) as UK High Commissioner to India; sadly, a reception to celebrate Sir Philip's appointment had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the closure of the LSE campus in mid-march 2020 in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of our greatest rewards has been when our alumni have contacted us for collaborative activities; it is a striking example of their recognition of our work on and in the region, and our success in establishing South Asia in LSE in meaningful ways. 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 when another alumnus Ayushka Nugaliyadda (MSc Development Studies, 2014) joined the UNDP team. The Dialogues also benefited in its initial years from the sponsorship by Dilmah Tea whose CEO Dilhan Fernando (BSc Geography, 1989), is also an LSE alumnus.

The Centre – in collaboration with the India UK Young Professional Network, a London-based group run by alumni Arunima Kumar and Manav Gupta (both MSc Accounting and Finance 2002) – hosted Indian economist Rathin Roy (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi) on 28 February 2020 for a talk on 'India 2020: Peculiar Changes in the Fiscal Structure of the Governments of India'.

Last, but certainly not the least, the Centre remains grateful to alumni who are part of the Senior Advisory Board and continue to provide strategic advice to the Centre, and help in our fundraising efforts. The members of the Senior Advisory Board are listed on p. 30.

## FESTIVALS AND RESEARCH SHOWCASES

The launch of **States of South Asia**, the Centre's data portal on India in May 2019 (to coincide with the Indian national elections) marked an important step in our ambition to provide consolidated, easy-to-access, verified data for researchers, and has been much appreciated both within the school and outside. This year Christopher Finnigan, who oversaw the creation of the States of South Asia portal and its content at the Centre, was chosen twice by LSE to exhibit it as a pioneering example of how digital technologies can be used and designed to inform people about politics and policy, an outstanding example of Research Impact Excellence in the School. It was first shown at

the **LSE Research Showcase** on 19 November 2019, and then again on 7 March 2020 as part of the **LSE Festival: Shape the World**.

In February 2020, the Centre's Director Mukuliika Banerjee paid tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar, who completed his PhD at LSE in the early 1920s, in **Personalities and Progress: LSE and the World**, an LSE photographic exhibition during the LSE Festival that explored the global influence of six LSE personalities. Also included in this exhibition was Clement Attlee, former British Prime Minister and Lecturer in the Ratan Tata Department of Social Science and Administration at LSE, the first to hold a position funded by an endowment from the Indian industrialist in 1912–13.



LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE DIRECTOR'S TRIBUTE TO LSE ALUMNUS B R AMBEDKAR AT 'PERSONALITIES AND PROGRESS: LSE AND THE WORLD', THE ATRIUM GALLERY, LSE, FEBRUARY 2020.

# VISITING FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

In 2019/20, the Centre was delighted to welcome LSE's first-ever Charles Wallace Trust Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellows from Bangladesh and Pakistan. A new office space for our Fellows ensured that the Centre now provides a physical hub for our Visitors to engage with and contribute to the School's academic environment, and help foster new links between LSE, and individuals, and institutions across South Asia. The Centre is also delighted to announce the expansion of LSE's first-ever Charles Wallace Burma Trust Visiting Fellowship for scholars from Myanmar, whom we look forward to welcoming to the Centre in 2020/21, along with two new Fellows from Bangladesh and Pakistan. Charles Wallace Trust Fellows sit alongside our other Fellows, and together contribute to the research and academic environment of the Centre.

## Dr Edward Anderson

Dr Anderson's research is on the contemporary history and politics of India and its diaspora. From 2015–19, he was Smuts Research Fellow in Commonwealth Studies at the Centre of South Asian Studies, and a Postdoctoral Affiliate at Trinity College, Cambridge. He completed his PhD from the University of Cambridge, and his Masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Ed's research explores Indian politics and contemporary history, diasporas and migration, social media and the internet, multiculturalism, and religious and ethnic nationalism. He has published in *Modern Asian Studies*, *South Asian Studies*, and *Contemporary South Asia*, and is co-editor (with Arkotong Longkumer) of *Neo-Hindutva: Evolving Forms, Spaces, and Expressions of Hindu Nationalism* (2020).

## Dr Md. Shafiqul Islam

Dr Islam is Associate Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Science, State University of Bangladesh, Dhaka. He completed his PhD in Disaster Management from the University of Dhaka in 2019, focusing on community resilience, coping mechanisms, adaptation strategies, and sustainable approaches of drought management in the Barind Tract in Bangladesh, and has participated and presented his research findings widely, and has contributed UN Sustainable Development Report 2016. During his Visitorship at the Centre, Shafiqul conducted research on the social and ecological resilience of fisher folk to coastal disasters in Bangladesh.

“ The Fellowship helped me learn cross-cultural issues on education, research skills, networking, and knowledge-sharing. ”

FROM TOP: VISITING FELLOWS EDWARD ANDERSON,  
MD. SHAFIQL ISLAM AND KISHWAR MUNIR



### Dr Kishwar Munir

Kishwar Munir holds a PhD in Political Science from University of Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan, focusing on electoral politics and voting behaviour. She is currently Assistant Professor at the School of Integrated Social Science & Research Fellow at the Centre for Security Strategy and Policy Research at the University of Lahore. She has been a Visiting Fellow at The Stimson Center, Washington DC (July 2017), and has recently co-authored (with Iram Khalid) an article on judicial activism in Pakistan in *South Asian Studies* (2018). Kishwar's research interests include CPEC, terrorism, insurgency, regional and global security, and domestic politics in Pakistan. At the LSE South Asia Centre, Kishwar worked on 'Water Issues between Pakistan and India: Implications for Regional Security and Peace Process'.



“ This research would not be possible without the untiring efforts of the host organisation [...] and valuable interactions with various experts. ”



# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

2019/20 was another year of rapid growth of our online platforms, multimedia content and 'South Asia @ LSE' blog. Once again, the Centre's social media channels substantially expanded their online audiences. By utilising the skills and energy of LSE students – through the Centre's inaugural Student Ambassador programme, as well as a new student-run podcast titled 'Thinking South Asia' – the Centre has increased its range of digital content. Following the School's move online, due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Centre's digital communications responded quickly to the new virtual academic environment with an urgent blog series and the Centre's first-ever Webinar, both on the epidemic. During this time, the blog reached a milestone by surpassing 1 million hits in its short history.

## SOUTH ASIA @ LSE

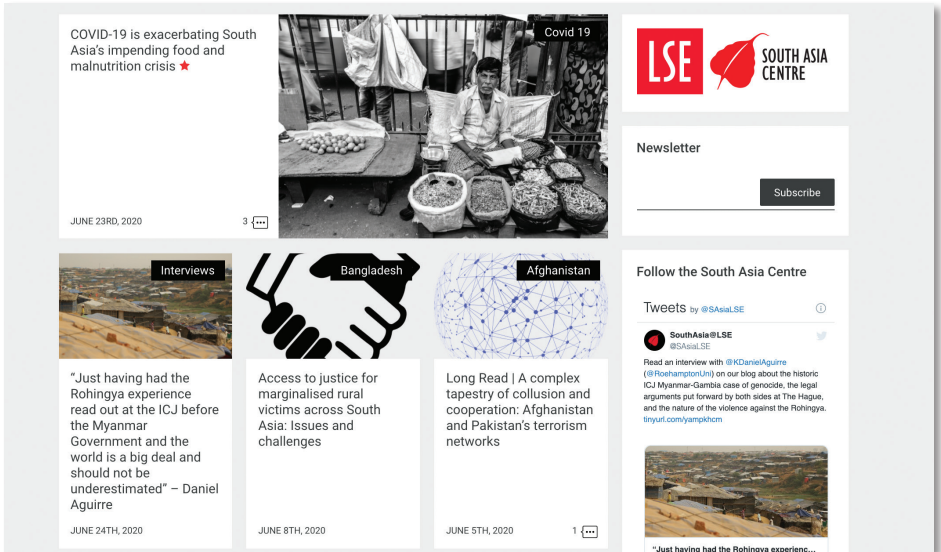
- In 2019/20, the average number of unique visitors to the blog per month reached 22,000, an increase of 45 per cent.
- In the last two Quarters of 2019, the blog's average daily audience nearly doubled in comparison to the same period in 2018.
- During term time, the blog continues to publish 5 times a week, taking the total number of views on the blog to 1,044,291 – a record for the Centre's blog till now.

With a special focus throughout the year on articles covering local government and gender equality, most notably in Bangladesh and Pakistan, the blog continued to be one of the School's most widely read blogs. As the School moved its activities online because of the Covid-19 pandemic, 'South Asia @ LSE' (funded by HEIF) reaffirmed itself as a popular virtual hub for the latest articles on research related to South Asia from LSE and across the world. Throughout March, April and May, the

blog provided analysis and commentary on how the Covid-19 pandemic was affecting South Asia, publishing both country-focused and comparative blog posts on different aspects of the pandemic.

While the blog remains on WordPress, the improved functionality of the site (following an upgrade by the School) has meant that users can access and search the blog's archive more easily and more efficiently. It is this enhanced archiving facility, combined with relevant, easily accessible and readable content, often linked to the news cycle, that has allowed the blog to reach the milestone of 1 million views.

The blog continues to share content from other LSE blogs regularly, including the 'LSE Review of Books' and the 'LSE International Inequalities Institute'. It also continues to be engaged with LSE Fellows, PhD and Masters students (including publishing blogposts deriving from their research interests), and now has a daily audience of over 300 subscribers who receive each blog in their inbox as soon as it is posted.



SCREENSHOT OF NEW HOMEPAGE OF 'SOUTH ASIA @ LSE'.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

For another year, the Centre's Facebook Page followers grew to 5,303 Followers, and 5,012 Likes, a key milestone in its growth. Our Twitter account '@SAsialLSE' has also continued to grow at a fast pace, with over 8,618 followers – matching last year's rapid growth of around 30 per cent.

The number of subscribers to the Centre's Instagram account '@southasia\_lse' has continued to grow with its other platforms. With most Followers based in London, the account, which now has 555 followers, has acted as a key resource to advertise our campus events to our London-based audience. The Centre has also built on last year's rapid increase in Followers to its YouTube account ('South Asia Centre LSE'), adding over 100 new subscribers.

An improvement in the Centre's livestreaming equipment allowed us to grow its online audience by providing high quality, interactive video content of our events program. This has meant that (subject to speaker consent), in addition to audio recordings for almost all our events, we are now able to record videos of events and make them available online for a much wider audience.

Last year's redesign of the monthly e-newsletter, which offers a summary of South Asia Centre news, past and forthcoming events and blogposts, still attracts a wide audience with 1,560 subscribers to date, an increase of 30 per cent on last year.

Twitter has witnessed another year of significant growth, and the number of followers continues to grow daily. Audience engagement is holding steady with a 1.12 per cent average

daily engagement rate compared to 1.13 per cent in 2017/18. All events are assigned their own hashtags provided at the beginning, and audience members are encouraged to tweet. Some events have been particularly beneficial to increase the Centre's visibility, especially amongst the younger generation, by tagging/being tagged – like the conversation between students and the Indian politician Sachin Pilot on 4 December.

Finally, this year's growth in the Centre's Facebook audience has been especially beneficial to prompting applications for the Bangladesh, Burma and Pakistan Charles Wallace Trust Fellowships. With 157 in Bangladesh, 151 in Myanmar and 687 followers in Pakistan, the Centre has been able to utilise our Followers' networks in these countries to help disseminate information about the Fellowships. This was especially the case with Myanmar where our posts reached 1,149 accounts.

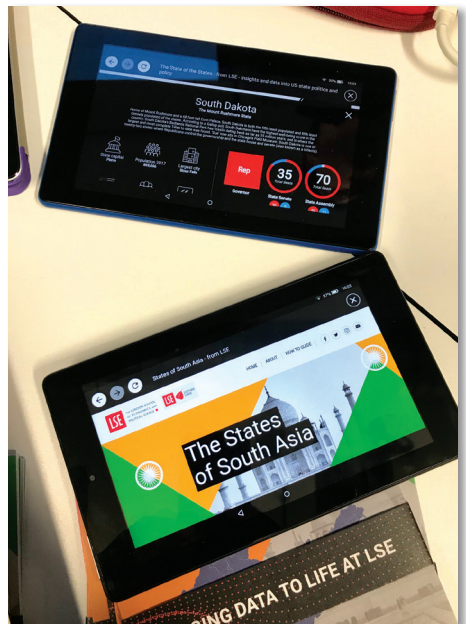
## THE STATES OF SOUTH ASIA

Following the successful launch of the Centre's 'The States of South Asia' – a free, interactive online portal that compiles political, economic, social, demographic, policy and geographic data on the countries of South Asia in May 2019, the Centre consolidated its relevance to expanding research pathways at LSE throughout 2019/20.

While 30 per cent of hits made from a computer or device originated from the UK in 2019/20, the portal has shown itself to be a truly global resource with 50 per cent of all hits made from India, 5 per cent from the US and 15 per cent from 33 other countries, establishing itself as a digital resource of global importance for research, also showcasing LSE expertise. The user-friendly aspect of the site was

demonstrated with 60 per cent of all hits made from a desktop and 38 per cent from a mobile device or iPad.

The portal not only attracted an audience outside the LSE but was twice commended within the School at internal and external set-piece LSE events alongside digital projects created by the US Centre and the Centre for Women, Peace and Security. It was chosen to be exhibited – at the **LSE Research Showcase** on 19 November 2019, and again on 7 March 2020 as part of the **LSE Festival: Shape the World** – as a pioneering example of how digital technologies can be used and designed to showcase LSE's wide-angled expertise to inform people about politics and policy, an outstanding example of Research Impact Excellence in the School.



'STATES OF SOUTH ASIA' PORTAL EXHIBITED AT 'LSE RESEARCH SHOWCASE', 19 NOVEMBER 2019.

# SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

**Nasser M MUNJEE** (Chair, Advisory Board) (LSE BSc Econ 1974; MSc Econ 1975) is Chairman of Development Credit Bank, and Tata Motor Finance Ltd, both in India. Nasser is also on the Board of several public companies, and is involved with many others as Chairman, Member of the Board or Trustee including ABB Ltd, HDFC Ltd, Britannia Industries, 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 (2009–2012). He has taught at the Delhi School of Economics and has been visiting professor at various universities across the world.

**Craig J CALHOUN** is University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. Prior to this, he was President of the Berggruen Institute in Los Angeles (2016–19); Director & President of LSE (2012–16) where he remains Centennial Professor. He 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 1979) was until recently 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, and was previously its Executive Director, alongside serving in several international organisations.

**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 IT

and telecom sectors in Pakistan, 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, USA. Krishnan co-founded SMART Modular Technologies (WWH) Inc. in 1989, and has 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 on several Boards in the Finance and Accounts sectors.

**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; member of the Board till 31 October 2019) was formerly a Trustee of the British Asian Trust, and co-founder of Aman Foundation UK; 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.

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





ABOVE: PANELLISTS DISCUSSING 'UNPACKING INDIA'S POLITICAL ECONOMY: THE BIG POLICY DEBATES AND KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS' WITH MINOUCHE SHAFIK AND (BACK TO CAMERA) YAMINI AIYAR, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019, NEW DELHI.

BELOW: PANEL ON 'WHAT DOES THE STUDY OF SOUTH ASIA TEACH US ABOUT CAPITALISM?', 20 NOVEMBER 2019.



# FACULTY ADVISORY GROUP

The Faculty Advisory Group are current faculty members at LSE; some are alumni as well. They serve as everyday Advisors to the Centre, meet twice a year, and advise on important issues concerning the Centre. They have also been actively involved in several of the Centre's events.

**Alnoor BHIMANI** (LSE PhD in Accounting & Finance 1992; Professor of Management Accounting) is interested in financial controls in social entrepreneurship, the digital economy, management accounting, and strategic finance. He has conducted historical investigations on the emergence of accounting mechanisms indicative of the dependencies between structural accounting controls and cultural shifts over time.

**Christopher COKER** (Director, LSE IDEAS) was Professor of International Relations at LSE till 2019, and has a particular interest in military, defence and strategic studies, terrorism, and the US security policy. His most recent monograph is *The Rise of the Civilizational State* (2019), and his forthcoming monograph is titled 'Why War'? LSE IDEAS is LSE's foreign policy think tank which has been voted the best university-affiliated think tank in the world by the 'Global Go To Think Tank Index' in 2019.

**Michael COX** (Director, LSE IDEAS) specialises in international politics, and is co-founder (with O. Arne Westad) of LSE IDEAS, LSE's foreign policy think tank which has been voted the best university-affiliated think tank in the world by the 'Global Go To Think Tank Index' in 2019. Alongside his other projects, Michael is currently working on a new history of LSE titled 'The "School": LSE and the Shaping of the Modern World'.

**David LEWIS** (Professor of Social Policy and Development) focuses on Bangladesh's politics and society, 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. More recently, David has published on the Rohingya humanitarian refugee crisis in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

**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. His research interests lie at the intersection of the histories of capitalism, the establishment and expansion of business, and economic history in India. He is currently working on a sequel to his co-authored book *Law and Economy in Colonial India* (2016) dealing with post-Independence India.

**Romola SANYAL** (Assistant Professor of Urban Geography) is interested in architecture, urban geopolitics, urban theory, housing and citizenship rights. She has written on the politics of space in refugee settlements in the global South with a particular focus on Lebanon and India, and is particularly interested in the relationship between forced migration and urbanisation.

**Mahvish SHAMI** (LSE PhD in International Development 2011; Programme Co-Director of Development Management) 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 of 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** (Associate 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 publication *Nationalism, Development and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka* (2019) explores the politics of market reform during conflict, post-conflict economics, and military fiscalism.

**Naufel VILCASSIM** (Professor of Marketing, Department of Management) is an expert on the use of economic theory and econometric techniques to analyse substantive marketing problems. His research has focused on problems in the areas of the marketing mix, competitive interactions and market structure. Vilcassim is also involved in a research project in India on evaluating the efficacy of mobile video training of health care workers assisting patients of Tuberculosis in completing their treatment of drugs.

# EVENTS

**25 June 2019**

**Film Screening**

with Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival  
 'My Home India'  
 Director and Producer: Anjali Bhushan  
 Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**23 September 2019**

**Book Discussion**

*Messengers of Hindu Nationalism: How the RSS Reshaped India*  
 Discussants: Walter K Anderson (Author; Johns Hopkins University, USA) James Chiriyankandath (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London) and Ananya Vajpeyi (Cambridge)  
 Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**18 October 2019**

**Panel Discussion**

'Taliban and Democracy in Afghanistan'  
 Panellists: Antonio Giustozzi (SOAS), author of *The Taliban at War, 2001-2018*, Sarah Ashraf (Institute for Strategic Dialogue, London), and Chris Sands (Independent Journalist working on Afghanistan)  
 Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**29 October 2019**

**Book Discussion**

with LSE IDEAS  
*India's Foreign Policy*  
 Discussants: Ian Hall (Author; Griffith University, Brisbane), and Kate Sullivan de Estrada (Oxford)  
 Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**6 November 2019**

**DSC Prize for South Asian Literature Announcement**

Keynote Address: Kate Mosse (Founder Director, Women's Prize for Fiction)  
 Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)



KATE MOSSE AT THE DSC PRIZE FOR SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT, 6 NOVEMBER 2019.

**15 November 2019**

**Book Discussion**

*New Perspectives on Pakistan's Political Economy* with Bloomsbury Pakistan  
 Discussants: Matthew McCartney (co-Editor, Oxford) and S Akbar Zaidi (co-editor, Columbi University, USA), Adnan Khan (LSE), and Natalya Naqvi (LSE)  
 Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**20 November 2019**

**Roundtable**

'What does the study of South Asia teach us about ... CAPITALISM'  
 with University of Sussex Asia Centre  
 Speakers: Laura Bear (LSE), Rana Dasgupta (Brown University, USA), Rebecca Prentice (Sussex) and Andrew Sanchez (Cambridge)  
 Co-Chairs: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) and Magnus Marsden (Sussex)

**25 November 2019****Panel Discussion**

'Elections 2019: What next for Sri Lanka?'

Panellists: Alan Keenan (Crisis Group, London), Dharsha Jegatheeswaran (Independent Commentator on Sri Lanka), Rajesh Venugopal (LSE) and Asanga Welikala (Edinburgh)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**26 November 2019****Panel Discussion** – '100 Foot Journey Club' with

the High Commission of India in the UK

'Interpreting the Constitution of India'

Speaker: Chintan Chandrachud (Author of *Balanced Constitutionalism: Courts and Legislatures in India and the United Kingdom*)

Discussant: Gautam Bhatia (Oxford)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)

**29 November 2019****Panel Discussion**

'Nation, Gender and Religion: The Many Lives of Freda Bedi'

Panellists: Andrew Whitehead (author of *The Lives of Freda: The Political, Spiritual and Personal Journeys of Freda Bedi*), David Arnold (Warwick), and Katie Hickman (author of *She-Merchants, Buccaneers and Gentlewomen: British Women in India*)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**4 December 2019****In Conversation**

with Talk Journalism India, National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK, LSESU South Asia Society and LSESU India Society

'Beyond 2020: Students & Politics in India'

Speaker: Sachin Pilot (Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan)

Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)



ANDREW WHITEHEAD AT 'NATION, GENDER AND RELIGION: THE MANY LIVES OF FREDA BEDI', 29 NOVEMBER 2019.

**5 December 2019****Lecture**

with the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia

'India's Great War: Forgotten Personal Stories of 1914-18'

Speakers: George Morton-Jack

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**27 January 2020****Panel Discussion**

'The Indian Republic at 70: Crisis or Continuity?'

Panellists: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE), Shruti Kapila (Cambridge), and Basharat Peer (*New York Times*)

Chair: Rajesh Venugopal (LSE)

**4 February 2020****Panel Discussion**

'Rakhine, Assam and Citizenship in India'

Panellists: Daniel Aguirre (Roehampton), Mabrur Ahmed ('Restless Beings', London), Rahima Begum ('Restless Beings', London), Meenakshi Ganguly (Human Rights Watch UK), and Tarunabh Khaitan (Oxford; via Skype)

Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)



MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK, UK WITH NILANJAN SARKAR (MODERATOR) AND RATHIN ROY AT 'INDIA 2020: PECULIAR CHANGES IN THE FISCAL STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA', 28 FEBRUARY 2020.

**6 February 2020**

**Colombo Development Dialogues**

with United Nations Development Programme, Sri Lanka

'Governance & Public Sector Modernisation in Sri Lanka'

Panellists: Ali Cheema (LUMS, Lahore; via Skype), Michael Moore (Sussex), Susil Premajayantha (H'ble Minister for International Cooperation), Sugath Ranugge (National Salaries & Cadre Commission, Sri Lanka), and Chandima Wickramasinghe (Presidential Secretariat, Colombo).

**28 February 2020**

**Roundtable**

with Indian Young Professionals Network, UK  
'India 2020: Peculiar Changes in the Fiscal Structure of the Governments of India'  
Speaker: Rathin Roy (Director, National Institute of Public Finance Policy, New Delhi)  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**12 March 2020**

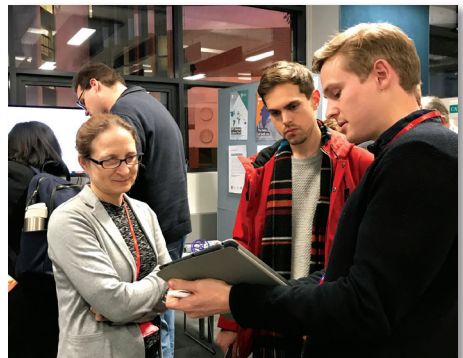
**Lecture**

with British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia  
'She-Merchants, Buccaneers and Gentlewomen'  
Speaker: Katie Hickman  
Chair: Nilanjan Sarkar (LSE)

**22 April 2020**

**Webinar**

'Covid-19 in South Asia: A Comparative Perspective'  
Speakers: Yamini Aiyar (Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi), Tshering Cigay Dorji (Thimphu Techpark Ltd, Thimphu), David Mathieson (independent analyst of Myanmar, in Chiang Mai), Asif Saleh (BRAC, Dhaka), Haroon Sharif (former Minister of State & Chairman of the Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad), Madhusudan Subedi (Patan Academy of Social Sciences, Patan/Lalitpur), Namini Wijedasa (*The Sunday Times*, Colombo).  
Chair: Mukulika Banerjee (LSE)



CHRISTOPHER FINNIGAN DEMONSTRATING THE 'STATES OF SOUTH ASIA' PORTAL AT 'LSE RESEARCH SHOWCASE', 19 NOVEMBER 2019.

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# THE TEAM



**Mukulika Banerjee**

Director



**Nilanjan Sarkar**

Deputy Director &  
Development Manager



**Christopher Finnigan**

Editor, South Asia @ LSE  
Events & Communications  
Officer



**Tamara Williams**

Administrator



**Huma Yusuf**

Pakistan Advisor





THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



**SOUTH ASIA  
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Research at LSE ■

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LSE South Asia Centre is part of LSE IDEAS. LSE IDEAS is LSE's Foreign Policy Think Tank which provides a forum that informs policy debate and connects academic research with the practice of diplomacy and strategy. LSE South Asia Centre and LSE IDEAS jointly work towards realising LSE Vision 2030 through their projects, working papers, reports, public and off-the-record events, and cutting-edge training programmes for government, business, and third-sector organisations.

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