## Urban Transformations, Youth Aspirations and Education in India

February 20-21, 2020, IIT Gandhinagar

**Venue:** Academic Block 5/202

### Day 01 – Thursday, 20th February, 2020

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<td>10:00-11:15</td>
<td><strong>Inaugural Panel on Education</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair: Manisha Priyam, NIEPA&lt;br&gt;Sudhir Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar&lt;br&gt;Bhushan Patwardhan, UGC Vice Chairman, New Delhi&lt;br&gt;Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University</td>
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<td>11:45-13:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Educational Conundrums of Indian Youth</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair and Discussant: John Harriss, Simon Fraser University&lt;br&gt;1. Youth Culture and Non-Formal Education: Young Peoples’ Engagement with Culture and Non-Formal Education in an Indian City&lt;br&gt;Shailendra Kharat, Pune University&lt;br&gt;2. Bounded Aspirations and Youth Capacity: Interrogating Public Higher Education in North India&lt;br&gt;Manisha Priyam, NIEPA</td>
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<td>15:45-17:15</td>
<td><strong>Session 3: Studying the Youth: Methods and Approaches</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chair and Discussant: Reetika Khera, IIM Ahmedabad&lt;br&gt;1. Indian Youth: Patterns of change and continuity&lt;br&gt;Sanjay Kumar, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)&lt;br&gt;2. Education and Social Mobility: Youth Experiences in Urban India&lt;br&gt;Divya Vaid, Jawaharlal Nehru University&lt;br&gt;3. Privatization of Higher Education and Unequal Opportunities for the Youth: A Case from Nepal&lt;br&gt;Pradmod Bhatta, Tribhuvan University</td>
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<td>17:15-17:30</td>
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| 17:30-18:30  | **Keynote Lecture – I**  
*Fresh Contact: Empowering Youth Innovators in South Asia*  
Craig Jeffrey, University of Melbourne. |
| 19:00        | **Film Screening:**  
*Lifelines: documenting social change in the Indian Himalayas* by Jane Dyson, Venue: 300 Audi, Block 1 |

**Day 02 – Friday, 21st February, 2020**

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| 10:00-11:30  | **Session 4: Peri-urban/Small Town Youth Aspirations**  
Chair and Discussant: Craig Jeffrey, Australia-India Institute  
1. Mimicking the urban: Loss of Land, Livelihood and Location in the Peri-urban  
   Radhika Kumar, Motilal Nehru College, Delhi University  
2. Rockstar Shamans (*bhuvas*) and Innovations in Rabari Youth Aspirations: New Occupational Trajectories in Peri-Urban Gujarat  
   Mona Mehta, IIT Gandhinagar  
3. What kind of Urban? What kind of Education? The Case of Kullu District  
   Diya Mehra, South Asian University |
| 11:30-11:45  | **Tea**                                                                |
| 11:45-12:45  | **Keynote Lecture – 2**  
*Aspiration, Opportunity, Mobility: the prospects for development among India’s youth*  
John Harriss, Simon Fraser University |
| 12:45-13:45  | **Lunch**                                                              |
| 13:45-15:15  | **Session 5: Urban Landscapes: Marginality and Circulation**  
Chair and Discussant: Adrian Athique, University of Queensland  
1. Circular Labour Mobility and Claims to the City  
   Renu Desai, Independent Scholar  
2. Urban Dislocations and Educational Strategies: Metro Colonies, Bengaluru  
   Shivali Tukdeo, NIAS, Bangalore  
3. Voices of Marginalized in Urban Spaces  
   Sudhanshu Bhushan, NIEPA |
| 15:15-15:30  | **Tea**                                                                |
| 15:30-17:00  | **Student Presentations**                                              |
| 17:00-17:30  | **Concluding Remarks**                                                 |
India is today at the cusp of two potentially transformative phenomena: urbanization and new demographic realities that make it one of the youngest nations in the world. These ‘demographic’ phenomena have been profoundly compounded by an overlay of economic policy led transformations—the liberalisation of India's economy since 1991, that has deepened its linkages with global neoliberal markets. The neo-liberal transformations are at once phenomena of the markets as also recasting social and institutional spheres with ideas that are global in reach and outlook. Also significant is the technology inspired transformation of the economy, workplace, education, and communications—all with significant implications for youth lives and culture. Most nations perceive the youth as an important national resource—invest in training their capacities, and hope they will be drivers of the economy. Besides, the youth are seen as bearers of creativity, energy, and an inspiring culture of the young.

Policy conceptualisations of the youth look at them as an age-related stage of transition—in between childhood and mature adult life. Yet, there are more divergences on the exact age-range, than a convergence on the figures. The United Nations defined the youth as consisting of ages 15-24; India’s National Youth Policy 2003 defined a much broader age range of 13-35; in 2014, this was revised down to include the ages 15-29. An important national document *Youth in India 2017* (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2017) takes a broad age range of 15-34 for its analysis of available statistics with respect to education and work amongst youth in India. Academic works too mirror the complexity in defining a strict age range—Dyson 2018 for example uses the age range 15-34, and considers the youth’s own understanding of its being a ‘generation’ as a social and spatial construct. This further contributes to the making of an ‘agency of the youth’—their own action that can lend to collective action.

Notwithstanding the complexities of policy and academic understanding of the youth, in terms of numbers, young people currently make up the largest segment of India’s population. More than half of India’s population (600 million) is currently under the age of 25 years and more than 65 percent of Indians are below the age of 35 years. This striking demographic reality is often described by policy analysts as India’s “demographic dividend” because of its potential to produce great economic benefits. The neoliberal promise of unprecedented wealth generation through its stated commitment to the ideas of individual merit, self-reliance, economic efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit (Gooptu 2013) have engendered anew middle class and youth aspirations for a better life. How the dynamics of increasingly youthful population and intense urban transformations unfold, will have far reaching implications for socio-economic mobilities, educational and training landscapes, and democratic political participation in India.
The Indian state has attempted to engage with the processes of urbanization and youth aspirations through various policy measures such as developing a policy for the youth, urban renewal missions, ‘rurban’ initiatives, Smart City projects and the setting up of Special Economic Zones. The New Education Policy 2019, and its emphasis on a liberal model of education, alongside greater options for skills based trainings is one of the most comprehensive policy focus on the youth. The aim is to train a whole generation of youth to global best standards. Besides, the government has already put in vast resources into skill development programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushalya Vikas Yojana. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and National Skill Development Corporation have undertaken a range of skill development initiatives in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) format for the purpose of “skilling” Indian youth.

However, given the socio-economic and educational deficits in India, there is a serious gap between the dynamic nature of economic opportunities available and the skills among youth. These gaps have produced troubling trajectories of social and economic mobilities (Jeffrey, Jeffery and Jeffery 2008) and anxieties about social status and lack of economic productivity (Jeffrey 2010). Most significantly, this is unfolding in the backdrop of urban marginalities and exclusion (Priyam 2014, 2017) that manifest both within but also beyond the conventional domains of city spaces and urban centres.

This conference will explore the important linkages between urbanization, youth aspirations, and education and skill development initiatives in India. In examining these many facets, it will build on the insights of critical urban studies that have alerted us to the complexities of the ‘urban-rural continuum’, the processes of ‘urbanized interdependencies’, ‘regionalization of urbanization’ and the disintegration of the ‘hinterland’ (Brenner 2009, 2013) and their historical specificities in the Indian context of the Global South (Robinson 2002). For instance, the conference will deliberate upon questions such as:

- How are the urban transformations related to the unfolding of the project of Indian democracy?
- What are the socio-economic aspirations of youth in spaces of urban marginality and peri-urban spaces?
- What are the challenges youth face at the personal, local, regional and structural levels in realizing their aspirations?
- What are the issues in accessing higher education for the youth from locations of urban marginality?
- What are the pathways available for post-school transitions, including skills training and work?
- What are the varied meanings of the term “skills” as understood both by the youth who are the targets of skill development programs and the providers of such skills?
- How best should we understand the gaps that often exist between skills acquired, opportunities available and the career/job/work expectations of youth, community members and expert skill providers?
- How do the millennials in rural, and peri-urban areas approach the world of work, given the changing nature of jobs in the era of globalization and privatization? Are the securities of government jobs still a preference over anything that the ‘gig economy’ may have to offer?
The objectives of this conference are

- To evolve an inter-disciplinary engagement on the nature of urban transformations and the youth in India
- To understand the nature of policy dynamics with respect youth and urban transformations—with a view to the policy discourse in the global South more generally, and India in particular
- To understand the challenges to educational access and skills provision for the youth, given the nature of urban transformations
- To understand the civic engagements and collective action dynamics of the youth
- To specially understand the constraints and challenges on account of rural-urban migration, constrained urban location in areas of urban marginality, social caste background, and peri-urban locations

The conference aims to consolidate the knowledge shared as policy briefs, and as academic outputs in leading journals of urban studies, and education; and also an edited volume.

References:


-----------------------------------------------2017. ‘Political Processes under the Microscope: Comparative Ethnography as an Approach to Understanding Democracy and Elections in India’, Notes on Methods, Studies in Indian Politics, Sage, Volume 5, Number 1
ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE 1: Fresh Contact: Empowering Youth Innovators in South Asia
Craig Jeffrey and Jane Dyson, Australia-India Institute

Influential sociologist Karl Mannheim (1970) argued that, when a cohort of people faces the same challenges and opportunities at the same point in their lives, they may come to imagine themselves as a ‘generation’. He also claimed that this generation can come to have a type of ‘fresh contact’ with their inherited social worlds, which often leads them to engage in specific forms of new action. The early 2020s is a moment when a type of generational consciousness has emerged among 18-30 year olds across many parts of South Asia. Moreover, this cohort has had a ‘fresh contact’ with its milieu, which is leading, in turn, to fresh social action, for example in areas such as education, health, work/the economy, and environment. Building on recent field research, I will seek in this lecture - which is jointly authored with Dr. Jane Dyson - to provide a conceptual and practical framework for investigating youth action in different parts of South Asia. We argue for a focus on acquiring basic information on the nature of youth innovative action and the development through the research process of networking and training opportunities for youth, recognising that many youth innovators are working outside institutional contacts. I hope that the lecture might lead to the development of a new large-scale research project with youth, including the development of a South Asia Youth Network.

KEYNOTE 2: Aspiration, Opportunity, Mobility: the prospects for development among India’s youth
John Harriss, Simon Fraser University

My understanding of ‘development’ is that stated by Nehru, speaking before the Constituent Assembly: that everyone should be able to develop her/himself according to her/his abilities. I want to ask how far this aim has been achieved. Starting with the idea of a ‘culture of aspiration’, and drawing on some of the findings from research among Indian youth, I will discuss what we know about their aspirations; then what is known about the opportunities that they have; and, consequently, about social mobility in the country. This will lead me to conclude with observations about education policy.

Youth Culture and Non-Formal Education: Young Peoples’ Engagement with Culture and Non-Formal Education in an Indian City
Shailendra Kharat, Savitribai Phule Pune University

Exclusionary identities are plaguing societies and polities across the globe in present times. Culture has been one of the important forces behind formation of these identities. However, culture not only shapes the society, but also in turn gets shaped by the latter. Young people play a very important role in this dynamic. Given various limitations of formal education, non-formal education plays a substantial role in not only acquisition of various skills by young people but also in their cultural socialisation. Our study, which is a part of a
collaborative research project with Cultural Heritage and Identities of Europe’s Future (CHIEF), seeks to understand the cultural ideas held by young people and the role of non-formal education, among others, in shaping those ideas. For accessing this, we did fieldwork with an organisation in Pune city that imparts non-formal education to youth in activities related to various art forms. During the fieldwork, we used various research methods such as participant observations and semi-structured interviews with young people and practitioners working with the organisation. Through these methods, we sought to understand the role that forces such as family, friends and the internet play in forming conceptions about values such as diversity, difference and Indian culture amongst youth. This study also talks about the role played by the urban milieu in the interaction between youth, non-formal education and culture. And also how these dynamic interactions create and recreate urban environment itself.

Diversity and contestation are considered to be cornerstones of India’s culture post-independence. However, these two principles are shaped and reshaped through power laden processes. Our study shows how youth in urban India is affected by and intervenes in this process of cultural politics. These processes have deep implications on whether and in what form cultural diversity would remain in this country in future.

**Bounded Aspirations and Youth Capacity: Interrogating Public Higher Education in North India**

Manisha Priyam, NIEPA

This paper engages with public higher education in North India—in the Patna University and the Banaras Hindu University, from the lens of the youth as a sociological category. It draws on long term research in both universities, listening to student voices, especially in hostels in these universities. I argue that hostels are a spatial site and an assemblage that forge friendships, and a generation of youth. This is akin to a ‘fresh contact’ (Karl Mannheim’s notion, as used in the scholarship of Dyson, 2018) wherein a generation develops a sense of itself, and novel approaches to engage and act. I argue that this agency of youth is a collective capacity, a resource they use in two key ways: first, to reflect on what they have left behind—mainly the limited or non-existent educational facilities in their smaller towns and villages. Second, simultaneously to interrogate the institutional practice and everyday culture of public higher education.

The first is illustrative of youth agency as a capacity to aspire—the sociological imaginary that motivates spatial mobility, and is the rationale for public provision of higher education. The second is its critical engagement with the inherited surroundings, hierarchical and bureaucratic everyday practices, and also the meta-narratives of higher education. The spatial site of the hostel, and its social assemblage, enables a useful interrogation of what the normative provision of higher education should be. The youth have an idea of what a good College or University ought to be—*accha kya hona chaahiye*—egalitarian and meritocratic. But in the absence of any systematic engagement with the social agency of youth, the everyday practice of public education reconstitutes the youth as an administrative and political category. The fraternity of the hostel, with its creative possibilities for re-
engagement and reform, becomes by default a bounded domain, limiting aspirations and youth capacity.

Voices of Marginalized in Urban Spaces

Sudhanshu Bhushan, NIEPA

In an urban space the students in institutions of higher education occupy an important place. It is interesting to note that the first generation learners constitute 46 percent of students in higher education institutes, as per the 71st round of NSS. However, no attempt has been made to understand who these learners are? Their voices are marginalized in the mainstream policy discourse which is so heavily influenced by neo liberalism. Based on the Student Satisfaction Survey on an all India basis an attempt is made to understand them - their language difficulty, learning difficulty, loss of capabilities and income and social barriers. It is important to understand their views on curricula, assessment, college life and the ways in which policy could overcome their barriers and mainstream them in the urban spaces. The objective of the paper is to throw light on barriers, preferences and the directions of policy following from it.

Caste, gig-economy and the youth: The resurgence of a new age caste politics in urban Gujarat

Dyotana Banerjee, IIT Gandhinagar

The paper interrogates how caste features in the way the youth workers navigate in the gig economy that has unleashed a large number of contractual, short term and app-based work in Indian cities. My ethnographic research in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad reveals that an overwhelming majority of the youth working in the app-based food delivery services (for examples, Swiggy and Zomato) and as Ola and Uber drivers in Ahmedabad belong to the lower castes and Dalit communities. They often migrate to urban areas from small towns and nearby villages looking for work to escape the caste based occupational patterns of their previous generations. These workers, as my study reveals, are increasingly turning to their own caste -based solidarity networks such as Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch (RDAM), Gujarat Kshatriya Thakor Sena (GKTS) and Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) etc. in the urban and peri-urban areas to demand socio-economic benefits for their own caste groups. The paper asks, how do the gig-economy workers from the lower castes navigate in the highly caste segregated urban spaces of Ahmedabad? What drives them to join various caste collectives while working in the city? The paper hints at an important paradox; while the recent emergence of the gig economy provides the young jobseekers from the lower castes an escape route from the caste-based occupations in the rural, their caste identities are strategically masked and highlighted in informing their choices, aspirations and anxieties while navigating in the urban. The unpredictable and uncertain nature of the contractual work consolidates caste and kinship networks to get work and information about available work in the urban economy. Many youth respondents of my study suggested that they rarely have time to go for rallies and events organized by the caste based political groups such as RDAM, GKTS and PAAS but they show support and connect to their own caste groups through social media platforms. The new age caste politics of Gujarat seems to highlight the questions of youth and the economy more than the tropes of identity politics.
The Y factor in Indian Politics: Analysing democratic disruptions by India’s young politicians

Sarthak Bagchi, Ahmedabad University

India’s vibrant and festive elections have often brought to light the existing dichotomies of Indian democracy by highlighting the multitude of social cleavages like caste, class and gender. While there exists a vast literature to understand the functioning of Indian democracy through the lens of these cleavages using theorizations such as ‘silent revolution’ and ‘democratic upsurge’, there has not yet been a robust understanding of the disruptions caused to the democratic functioning due to age (or lack of it) factor. With almost 84 million first time eligible voters in the 2019 parliamentary elections, India’s youngest voters numerically outrun the entire voting populations of many western democracies. With more than 65% of its 1.4 billion people being below 35 years of age and with an average age of 29, Indian democracy is as unmatched in its youth as perhaps it is in its diversity. However, the number of young politicians who are able to contest and succeed in India’s elections is always a poor reflection of this vibrant youth factor. Out of the few successful cases of young Indian politicians, most belong to political dynasties or come with the backing of powerful political parties. In this paper, I trail the election campaign of a few young Indian politicians who challenged this status quo of powerful backgrounds in Indian elections by contesting the 2019 parliamentary elections without the backing of a powerful party and/or family and ended up disrupting democracy. By analysing the election campaigns and political maneuvers of politicians like Kanhaiya Kumar, Jignesh Mevani and Mukesh Sahni, I attempt to explore the different ways in which democratic disruption and democratic consolidation is carried out by India’s young politicians.

Traditional modes of entry into electoral politics for young and aspiring politicians earlier used to be through a career based on ‘social work’, which later on transformed into lateral entry via dynastic linkages or through any prominent political party. However, with rising costs of elections and an increased centralization of political parties across national and regional levels, the entry barriers for the young politicians to enter the electoral fray has only become more rigid. This paper follows the different trajectories of political entry for Jignesh Mevani as an independent MLA, who represents the dalit issues; Mukesh Sahni, the self-proclaimed ‘son-of-mallah’ who uses his money power to create a platform for assertion of the Nishad and Mallah (EBC) voice and Kanhaiya Kumar, the CPI candidate who while fighting from Begusarai at the local level, captured the imagination of the entire nation, emerging as a prominent symbol of resistance who added and normalized the vocabulary of ‘azaadi’ in a distraught nation. In doing so, I try to capture the myriad transformations occurring in India’s body politic by taking these sub-regional or regional cases and analyze the national importance of the manner in which they impact Indian politics.
**Education and Social Mobility: Youth Experiences in Urban India**

Divya Vaid, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Macro studies on social mobility have established broader patterns of intergenerational stability in India. However, the opportunities of social mobility of the youth have not been adequately explored. This paper will trace the patterns of social mobility of the youth in India broadly over-time, while focusing specifically on urban youth. It will compare these patterns of mobility to the social mobility of the non-youth population. The impact of education on occupational mobility will be analysed over-time. Finally, the experiences of mobility and barriers to mobility faced by young working women in one city will be studied. The paper uses both macro national-level data as well as in-depth interviews to explore these patterns and experiences of mobility among the youth.

**Indian Youth: Patterns of change and continuity**

Sanjay Kumar, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Living in big metropolitan cities and witnessing the changes which are taking place with regard to lifestyle, attitudes, perceptions, orientation etc. one gets a sense that Indian society is changing rapidly and youths of this country are harbinger of these changes. No doubt, the youth which form a very large section of Indian population (figure vary depending upon the age brackets) are on the forefront of these changes, but by only looking at the changes amongst attitudes, perception, orientation amongst youth in metropolitan cities if one concludes that Indian youth are extremely modern with regard to social and family values, one would be making a mistake. A survey based nation-wide systematic study indicates, Indian youth present a unique mix of both change and continuity. The change is clearly reflected with regard to their lifestyle, but at the same time, their attitude towards social values represent a trend of continuity. The Indian youth remains deeply oriented their family, and respect and cherish the social values.

Studies over last one decade suggest, there are visible changes in the lifestyle and consumption patterns amongst Indian youth. The usage and desire for using modern style of clothing is catching up. Even though large number of urban youths possess modern electronic equipment, but they still desire for most modern gadgets. The Last decade has witnessed enormous increase in the mobility pattern amongst Indian youth, and it is likely to increase in coming years. The interest in politics is on the rise which has resulted in their increased participation in electoral politics. The 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha has witnessed a much higher turnout amongst Indian youth compared to past elections. The data suggest, there are few other parameters on which we notice changes happening amongst Indian youth.

But along with these changes, there is a strong evidence of trend of continuity amongst Indian youth reflected in terms of their views, attitudes and practice with regard to social and family values. In-spite of this increasing modernity, self-choice marriage does not dominate the mode of marriage. Large number of youths, even those living in big cities, marriage arranged by parents remains the preferred mode of marriage. No wonder, dating before marriage is still not seen as a very positive, and live-in relationship is virtually unacceptable amongst Indian youth. Choice for a government job still remains very strong and there is hardly any change
in youth preference for government job during last one decade. Youth aspire to study and work abroad, but settling down in a foreign country leaving aside his own country is not a preferred choice amongst Indian youth. There are other signs of continuity in values and attitudes amongst Indian youth. Clearly, the Indian youth present a unique mix of both change and continuity.

**Mimicking the Urban: Loss of Land, Livelihood and Location in the Peri-urban**

Radhika Kumar, Motilal Nehru College, Delhi University

Urbanization in India is growing at an exponential rate. While earlier instances of urbanization involved accommodation of migrant population within the city, the past couple of decades have witnessed centrifugal tendencies as peripheral areas are co-opted to disperse burgeoning urban populations. Creation of such Peri-urban areas is seen as an important transitional stage for rural populations towards urbanization and development. However Peri-urbanization in cases of prosperous rural communities has resulted in loss of land, livelihood and cultural anchorage. This paper looks at the particular case of a village in district Faridabad, where land was acquired in 2008 for purposes of setting up an Industrial Model Township (IMT). As a smaller ‘metropolitan city’ in 2001, Faridabad did not witness the growth of ‘urban agglomerations’ as the city proper expanded inward. However as a part of the Faridabad Master Plan 2011, the IMT was given environmental clearance and involved relocating polluting units from the city to the periphery. As a result of this acquisition the village is now adjacent to the urban sectors of Faridabad and the spill-over of urbanization is evident. This acquisition of land resulted in far reaching spatial-temporal changes which are analyzed along three axes. Loss of land led to agrarian spaces being converted into built up area. Livelihood patterns changed as farmers became rentiers forcing a sudden shift in occupational patterns which are inter-generational. Finally monetization of assets unleashed consumerism and an identity crises particularly for the youth who straddle the local and rural while aspiring to mimic the urban and global. Using the qualitative research method, particularly ethnography, this paper looks at the creation of the Peri-urban from the perspective of those farmers whose land was forcibly acquired. The paper argues that in economically prosperous rural areas the turn towards urbanization has ended up mimicking the urban. The Peri-urban while adopting the urban form, camouflages a rural economic, social and cultural crises.

**Rockstar Shamans (bhuvas) and Innovations in Rabari Youth Aspirations: New Occupational Trajectories in Peri-Urban Gujarat**

Mona Mehta, IIT Gandhinagar

The increasing urban transition of Maldharis in Gujarat from their traditionally rural occupations of cattle rearing has happened in the wake of depleted pastoral lands, rapid urbanization and neoliberal policies. This paper examines the aspiratioinal trajectories of Maldhari (Rabari in particular) youth in peri-urban Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad and their innovative responses to conditions of economic precarity associated with jobless growth and shrinking public sector job opportunities in Gujarat. Specifically, it analyzes the popularity of modern day Rabari bhuvas or shamans beyond their traditional ritualistic roles, Rabari youth
cultural icons trending on social media and the preference of ordinary Rabari youth for careers in informal financing, land dealings and transport-based entrepreneurship. I argue that Rabari youth display of innovation in the face of economic precarity reveal three aspects about youth aspirations and urban transformations: First, Rabari self-narratives about the loss of traditional pastoral occupations are not necessarily stories of despair but replete with aspirations for a better life in which neoliberal symbols of material success are desired, embraced and selectively critiqued. Second, traditional caste identity and pride are simultaneously relied upon, invoked and refashioned to embrace new occupations in the informal economy. Third, the peri-urban location is envisioned as deeply connected with the urban and rural as part of a larger landscape—one that enables, but also occasionally obstructs forms of socio-economic mobility. The study draws on analysis of Rabari popular culture reflected in songs and music videos on social media, interviews and observation of Rabari communal events in and around peri-urban spaces of Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad city since 2018.

**Coming off age and Stuck in place: Masculinity and (im)mobility among displaced Pandits in Jammu**

Ankur Datta, South Asian University

Since 1989 the Indian administered state of Jammu and Kashmir has been embroiled in a conflict between Kashmiri Nationalists and the Indian state. This paper focuses on the Hindu minority of the Kashmir valley, better known as the Kashmiri Pandits. Following a series of targeted attacks and a general climate of fear and the breakdown of law and order, the vast majority of this community fled the Kashmir valley. A significant section of the displaced Pandits relocated to cities like Jammu and New Delhi where they have lived ever since. The paper will draw on the biography and conversations with two Kashmiri Pandit men who were children at the time of displacement and came of age in exile. These men have spent their youth living in a low income camp colony which is located in Jammu, a non-metropolitan city. By drawing on their experiences, set in the context of larger ethnographic work in Jammu, this paper will attempt to engage with questions of masculinity, stuckedness and the process of ‘growing up’ in non-metropolitan/provincial urban areas. Critical to this paper is to locate the point where populations defined by a moment of spatial dislocation and mobility are all forced to come to terms with the demands of social mobility.

**What kind of Urban? What kind of Education? The Case of Kullu District**

Diya Mehra, South Asian University

A part of this paper title (‘what kind of urban’) refers to a paper I have already written, however the question is posed here in relation to small towns, urban-like rural areas, and education. Between 2010-2013 I participated in a project on small towns, entitled *Subaltern Urbanisation in India* which argued for a focus on non-metropolitan urban areas, in a context where almost half of India’s urban population lives in towns below 100,000 and the number of ‘census towns’ (or non-statutory urban areas) has rapidly increased. The project sought to consider, through a series of case studies, what urbanization meant and looked like in such areas, arguing that such urban or urban-like growth reflected local conditions and innovation,
‘subaltern drivers’ of growth if you will. My case study for that project was Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh, and based on very preliminary fieldwork done in this district I will consider the prospects of youth in this quickly growing, and relatively prosperous but ‘remote’ landscape, in particular, how they are positioned within changing socio-economic terrains, both objective and subjective, and in relation to higher education. What is noteworthy about this case is that Kullu’s youth do not face intense socio-economic precarity for reasons that will be described in the paper, and that the region itself has grown through multiple modes – including horticulture, tourism and hydroelectric investments. In this context, different sets of youth find different work-life trajectories, and accessing higher education is only one possible path, even as there appear to be multiple trajectories of gaining the skills and knowledge required for the new kinds of enterprises that are emerging, and are certainly not limited to skills based formal education. The critical fault-line for youth, both educated and non-educated, vis-à-vis older generations is narrated as the relationship to farming and the land. As rural non-farm employment becomes a critical source of employment in the Indian context, the question then emerges is what kind of education is appropriate for this diverse landscape, and what does higher education mean in this context?

Privatization of Higher Education and Unequal Opportunities for the Youth: A Case from Nepal
Promod Bhatta, Tribhuvan University

Circular Labour Mobility and Claims to the City
Renu Desai, Independent scholar

While there are significant discussions around Indian cities as spaces of migration, circular labour migration has remained a neglected phenomena in thinking about urbanism. This is surprising given that significant numbers of labour migrants engage in circular migration, also called seasonal, short-term and temporary migration. The annual rate of temporary labour migration has, in fact, been estimated to be seven times higher than that of permanent labour migration (Keshri & Bhagat 2013). These migrants work in diverse occupations and economic sectors; they come to the same city each time they migrate from their villages or migrate to different cities in each migration cycle; and they live in the city for a few months to almost the entire year.

Focusing on the living spaces of circular migrants who work in the construction sector in Ahmedabad and the dynamics of their access to shelter and basic services, this paper examines the politics of their claims to the city. The paper explores how the multidimensional vulnerability of these labour migrants – which stems from their informal employment and labour recruitment practices in the construction sector, weak labour governance, the nature of urban policies and governance, etc – shapes their living spaces, experiences and claims in the city. It also explores how their habitations of, and claims to, the city are shaped by their translocal lives, which are forged through multilocal households and multilocal livelihoods. More broadly, the paper grapples with how cities and urban citizenship can be imagined by
engaging with the vulnerabilities, informalities and translocal lives of circular labour migrants.

The paper draws upon a series of short research studies coordinated by the author since 2014 on the living conditions of migrant construction workers in Ahmedabad; their experiences and practices vis-à-vis shelter and basic services; and the policy and governance context shaping their entitlements in the city.

**Urban Dislocations and Educational Strategies: Metro Colonies, Bengaluru**

Shivali Tukdeo, NIAS, Bangalore

Displacements, eviction and rehabilitation have become common aspects of urban development initiatives. Focusing on restructuring of the city of Bengaluru over the last decade, especially in the context of new modes of transportation, this research focuses on two rehabilitated neighbourhoods in the city.

The Metro train project has been a signature feature of the post-2000 development in Indian cities, starting with initial operations in Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru and moving gradually to other cities. Capital intensive projects such as the Metro rail highlight the linkages between public transportation, infrastructure-driven development and new ways of accessing the city. As the construction was underway, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) proceeded to acquire land in the city. Two settlements, centrally located and densely populated, were cleared out and rehabilitated to the periphery of the city. For the residents of these *Bastis*, the dislocation meant two contrasting pieces of reality: on the one hand, loss of their social world and, on the other, livelihood opportunities and acquisition of certain material resources as part of compensatory processes. The following questions inform the work: How do families start over in an ever-changing city like Bangalore? In what ways does dis/relocation create new margins that link to the city? How do planning for education and school preparedness become part of the resettled families? My interest in the project stems from the issues that are of contemporary relevance; however, eviction and its aftermath have long been connected to urban reforms and transformation. In understanding the moving life of Bengaluru in the context of evolving educational landscape, my research draws on existing scholarship on urban informality, spatial reorganisation and the shifting discourse of development.
SPEAKER BIO-NOTES

Craig Jeffrey, Professor of Geography and Director, Australia India, Institute

A leading authority on South Asian youth, Craig has spent over two decades working in western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. He also writes on Indian democracy, educational transformation, and globalisation and has authored six books, including Timepass: Youth, Class and the Politics of Waiting in India, Keywords for Modern India, and A Very Short Introduction to Modern India. Professor Jeffrey’s work has informed the policy of governments and global organisations including the United Nations, World Bank, UK Department of International Development, and the Australian Government. In 2015, Craig launched the New Generation Network, a ground-breaking network of postdoctoral fellows researching aspects of contemporary India across Australia. Craig is Professor of Geography at the University of Melbourne and was previously Professor of Geography at the University of Oxford and Official Fellow of St. John’s College, Oxford. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Australian Academy of Social Sciences.

John Harriss, Professor Emeritus of International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

John Harriss is Professor of International Studies at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. He has been a visiting researcher at the Madras Institute of Development Studies and has published extensively on aspects of India's political economy.

Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi

Dr. Patwardhan is a biomedical scientist who is Fellow of National Academy Sciences (India) and National Academy of Medical Sciences (India). He was Director, Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, at Savitribai Phule Pune University. He has been member of important national committees of the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Council for Scientific & Industrial Research, Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science & Technology, Department of Biotechnology, and Indian Council of Medical Research. He has worked on several policy making bodies including Taskforces of National Knowledge Commission, Planning Commission and consultant to the World Health Organization Geneva. He is Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine published by Elsevier and is on Editorial Boards of many reputed Journals. He is recipient of many orations and awards including Sir Ram Nath Chopra Oration, Waldemar Haffkine Oration, Dr C. Dwarkanath Oration, Dr P.K. Devi Oration, KLE University Oration, and V K Joag Best Teacher Award. His recent scholarly books ‘Integrative Approaches for Health’ and ‘Innovative Approaches to Drug Discovery’ both published by Academic Press Elsevier have received excellent reviews. He has received several research grants and has guided 19 PhD students, 8 Indian Patents, 2 US Patents, over 120 research publications and 7200 citations.

Sudhir Jain, Director, IIT Gandhinagar

Padma Shri awardee Sudhir Jain is currently serving his third term as director of the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, which he joined as founder-director in June 2009. He was on the faculty of IIT Kanpur for 35 years from 1984-2019. Dr. Jain is an internationally
reputed scholar of earthquake engineering and a passionate academic administrator. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Roorkee, and Masters and Doctoral degrees from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. He served as President of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering from 2014-18. He was elected Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering in 2003, and conferred Life Membership by the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering (NZSEE) in 2013. Under Dr. Jain's leadership, IITGN has introduced several innovations in curriculum, student affairs, faculty recruitment and institutional management to inculcate and promote excellence by faculty and students. He led the development of IITGN's new campus, which has won several national awards and is the first campus in India to receive the 5-star GRIHA-LD rating. Dr Jain has made major contributions to earthquake engineering practice and education in India. He was instrumental in the development of several important seismic codes in India, and has trained thousands of professional engineers and college teachers in earthquake engineering through his continuing education programmes. He established the National Information Centre of Earthquake Engineering (NICEE) at IITK and developed the National Programme on Earthquake Engineering Education (NPEEE), supported by the Government of India. Dr. Jain has served as consultant for several major projects, such as bridges, petrochemical pipelines and concrete dams and has published more than 150 scholarly papers. His research interests include the study of damaging earthquakes, reinforced concrete buildings, bridges, and seismic codes.

Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University

Professor Pankaj Chandra is the Vice Chancellor of Ahmedabad University. He was the Director of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (2007-2013) and Professor of Operations & Technology Management at IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore before joining Ahmedabad University. He has also held tenured appointment at McGill University in Montreal and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Geneva, International University of Japan, Cornell University, and Renmin University, Beijing. He was the Chairperson of the Doctoral Programme at IIM Ahmedabad and the first Associate Dean (Academic) at ISB, Hyderabad. He was part of the founding team at the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship at IIMA and its first Chairperson. He holds a Bachelor of Technology degree from Banaras Hindu University and a PhD from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Professor Chandra was a member of the Government of India Committee on Rejuvenation of Higher Education (Yashpal Committee) that relooked at the Indian Higher Education system as well as the Committee on the Autonomy of Central Institutions. He has been a member of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Professor Chandra’s research and teaching interests include manufacturing management, supply chain coordination, building technological capabilities, higher education policy, and hi-tech entrepreneurship. His recent book titled ‘Building Universities that Matter’ studies issues of Governance, Change & Institution Building in Indian Universities. He serves on boards of several firms and institutions and has been involved with startups.

Divya Vaid, Assistant Professor, JNU

Divya Vaid is Assistant Professor in the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences at the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has a D.Phil from Nuffield College, Oxford on “Class Mobility of Men and Women in India”. Her research interests include the study of social stratification, social mobility and inequalities, educational
attainment and policy, and application of quantitative research methods. She has published in journals such as the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Contemporary South Asia*, and *Asian Survey*. She is the author of *Uneven Odds: Social Mobility in Contemporary India*, OUP, 2018. She serves on the editorial board of Sage Journal *Studies in Indian Politics*, and is a co-ordinator for the “Notes on Methods” section of this journal.

**Adrian Athique, Associate Professor, University of Queensland**

Associate Professor Adrian Athique is based at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Queensland. His research interests include the social, cultural and economic aspects of the media and he has written a body of work on developments in India. Professor Athique is editor of the Sage journal *Media International Australia* and co-editor of the Oxford University Press series, *Media Dynamics in South Asia*. He has worked on a number of collaborative research programmes under the MHRD and UGC, including his current collaboration with the Centre for Policy Studies, IIT Bombay (under the SPARC programme). His major publications include: *The Multiplex in India* (2010, Routledge, with Douglas Hill), *Indian Media* (2012, Polity), *Digital Media and Society* (2013, Polity), *Transnational Audiences* (2016, Polity), *The Indian Media Economy* (2018, 2 vols, OUP, with Vibodh Parthasarathi and SV Srinivas) and *Digital Transactions in Asia* (2019, Routledge, with Emma Baulch).

**Reetika Khera, Associate professor, IIM Ahmedabad**

Reetika Khera is Associate professor of Economics and Public systems at IIM Ahmedabad. Before joining IIMA, she held the Sulaiman Muttawa Chair (Associate Professor) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. Her research interests include social policy issues including food security, nutrition, health, basic education and social security in India. She has been actively involved in policy debates around these issues. She has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals, Indian journals and writes regularly for popular media. She was a Postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University between 2006 – 2007 after completing her PhD at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. She holds a M.Phil in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and BA from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

**Radhika Kumar, Assistant Professor, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi**

Radhika Kumar is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi. She completed Bachelors in Political Science from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi. Thereafter she pursued an MA, MPhil and PhD from the Centre for Political Studies (CPS) Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her doctoral research work is a comparative sub-national study of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in the post liberalisation period. Radhika is interested in political economy and how it relates to electoral politics. Her other area of interest is political communication and elections in India She has contributed papers to various edited books and journals including *Studies in Indian Politics, Economic and Political Weekly, Indian Journal of Public Administration* and others. She received the ICAS: MP post-doctoral fellowship on the topic *Gender, Caste and Political Representation: the case of Dalit women panchayat members in the state of Haryana*, from January to April 2018 at the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi.
Shailendra Kharat, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

Shailendra Kharat teaches Politics at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. His doctoral research focuses on post-Mandal OBC politics in Indian states. He has been a member of an editorial board of a reputed Marathi research journal *Samaj Prabodhan Patrika*. He has published on the topics of Indian politics, caste politics, and state elections in India in Marathi and English. He was a recipient of ICSSR National Doctoral Fellowship. His research interests include local politics, elections, caste identity politics, state politics in India and state-society interactions. Since the last few years, he has been doing intensive fieldwork in an urban locality to understand political mobilisation happening there. He has presented the findings of this research in several seminars and conferences. More recently, Dr. Kharat has been engaged in an international collaborative research project, Cultural Heritage and Identities of Europe’s Future (CHIEF). In this project, he is specifically involved in understanding Indian youths’ engagement with heritage and non-formal educational practices. He has been attempting to relate this research with various aspects of cultural studies, especially in the inter-related contexts of India, global south and the entire world.

Ankur Datta, Assistant Professor, South Asian University

Ankur Datta is a Social Anthropologist and teaches at the Department of Sociology, South Asian University. He completed his MA at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and his PhD at the London School of Economics. He conducted fieldwork among Kashmiri Pandits who have been displaced by the conflict in the Kashmir Valley. His work addresses questions of displacement and dislocation, place-making and the politics of victimhood. He has a larger interest in exploring how people locate themselves in the world and in the context of complex histories. He has published articles based on his research in different journals such as Modern Asian Studies, Contributions to Indian Sociology and is the author of *On Uncertain Ground*.

Manisha Priyam, Associate Professor, NIEPA

Dr. Manisha Priyam is Associate Professor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, New Delhi. She received her Ph.D. in International Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has been a Post-doctoral fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library with a research award from the Indian Council for Social Science Research. She is the author of *The Contested Politics of Education Reforms in India: Aligning Opportunities with Interests*, Oxford University Press, 2015. Among her other publications, are the following: “*From Clients to Citizens: Learning from Brazil Provides an Opportunity to Delhi*” in N. Jayaram edited, *Social Dynamics of the Urban*, Springer, 2017; “Missing Women Leadership in Indian Higher Education”, in Shamika Ravi (edited). *Difficult Dialogues: A Compendium of Contemporary Essays on Gender Inequality In India*, New Delhi: Brookings India, 2019; “Global Wars, National Legacies, and State Controls: The Dilemmas of Institutionalism of Public Universities”, in Sudhanshu Bhushan edited *The Future of Higher Education in India*, Springer, 2019. Her other academic writings have been published in journals such as *Studies in Indian Politics, Seminar, Economic and Political Weekly*. In her policy advisory role, she has worked for the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Government of National Capital Territory of
Delhi, the World Bank, and the UNDP as Adviser on projects of tertiary and primary education reforms and urban social policies.

**Mona G. Mehta, Assistant Professor, IIT Gandhinagar**

Dr. Mona G. Mehta is Assistant Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar. She received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Chicago in 2010 and taught Comparative Politics at Scripps College in Claremont, California till 2012. Her research interests include urban transformations and the remaking of city spaces, youth aspirations and skill development programs in urban and rural India, middle class politics, democracy and identity politics in India, and the political thought of M K Gandhi. She has co-edited, *Gujarat Beyond Gandhi: Identity, Conflict and Society* (Routledge 2010) and authored several scholarly articles pertaining to her research interests. Her academic writings have been published in journals such as the *Economic and Political Weekly, South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, Contributions to Indian Sociology Contemporary South Asia*, and *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

**Sanjay Kumar, Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi**

Sanjay Kumar is engaged in conducting research on a wide range of themes using quantitative method. He uses survey as his main research tool to understand not only the Electoral Patterns, which is his core area of research, but also on themes like --Indian Youth, State of Democracy in South Asia, State of Indian Farmers and Slums of Delhi. He is mainly seen as a scholar working on Indian Elections, voting behaviour on which he has published several books and edited volumes [Post Mandal Politics in Bihar: Changing Electoral Patterns, Changing Electoral Politics in Delhi: From Caste to Class. All his research on elections are conducted using survey method. As an expert on Survey method he regularly delivers lecture in various universities on Using Survey Method in Social Sciences. He was commissioned by SAGE to write on how to conduct election survey. His book (with Praveen Rai) *Measuring Voting Behaviour in India* was first published in English (2013) and has been translated in Hindi and Marathi. This book is on the list of essential reading in Political Science in many colleges of Delhi University.

He has also worked extensively on Issues related to Indian Youth. The Research on Indian Youth is largely survey based, has conducted three rounds of nation-wide survey on various sociological and political issues related to Indian Youth. He has also co-authored and edited volumes on Indian Youth: (With Peter De Souza and Sandeep Shastri) [Indian Youth in a Transforming World: Attitudes and Perceptions, Indian Youth and Electoral Politics: An Emerging Engagement. The edited volume Youth in India: Aspiration, Attitudes, Anxieties based on the latest study has been published recently by Routledge.

His research, especially on electoral politics, gets noticed by policy makers. The Election Commission of Indian had commissioned the Lokniti Program of which he is the co-director to conduct research related to people’s opinion and attitudes towards Electronic Voting Machine, issues related to lower enrolment and lower turnout in Delhi and to better understand the NOTA vote. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel invited him to present before the standing committee to make suggestion for electoral reforms. The ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs also appreciated this research and he was also appointed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs to advise the ministry on issues related to Youth. Besides academic writing he writes regularly for both English and Hindi newspapers. His articles are

**Dyotana Banerjee, Adjunct Faculty, IIT Gandhinagar**

Dyotana Banerjee has received a PhD in Politics in the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. Her doctoral research focused on caste-based spatial segregation and Dalit politics in Ahmedabad. She holds an M.A in International Relations from Jadavpur University and an M.Sc in International Development from The University of Edinburgh.

**Shivali Tukdeo, Associate Professor, NIAS, Bangalore**

Shivali Tukdeo is Associate Professor in the education programme at National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore. Her scholarly engagements are rooted in diverse disciplinary interactions including education policy, critical social theory and sociology of education among others. Her research interests include sociology of education, global studies in education and gender studies. Her recent book, *India Goes to School: Education Policy and Cultural Politics* (2019) looks at education policy in India in terms of several overlapping and contradictory stages, conditions and contexts.

**Sudhanshu Bhushan, NIEPA**

Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan specializes in Internationalisation of Higher Education, Policy issues in Higher Education and Educational Planning. His recent contributions include Quality Assurance of Transnational Higher Education: Australia and India Experiences, Public Financing and Deregulated Fees in Indian Higher Education, and Restructuring Higher Education in India. He is the co-editor of a book on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in India and Australia to be published by Routledge in 2018. His book on the Future of Higher Education in India is published by Springer. His present responsibility is to conduct and guide research and to provide policy support to the Government. He is the recipient of Amartya Sen Award 2012 for distinguished Social Scientist, an award instituted by Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

**Pramod Bhatta, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu**

Pramod Bhatta, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tribhuvan University at the University Campus in Kirtipur, Kathmandu. Prior to this, he was a senior researcher of education at Martin Chautari, a not-for-profit research and policy based institute in Kathmandu, of which he is currently the Chair. He has written widely on Nepal's education in the areas of education policy and politics, education governance, and education privatization. He has coauthored *Exemplary Practices in Primary Education* (2007, in Nepali), *Nepal: Patterns of Privatization in Education* (2017) and edited/coedited *Dalit in the Print Media* (2000, in Nepali), *Education in Nepal: Problems, Reforms and Social Change* (2009) and *Participation in Higher Education: Social Dimensions of Inequality* (2011, in Nepali). He has published many articles and book chapters, including in *Studies in Nepali History and Society*, and *Globalisation, Societies and Education*. E-mail: pramodbhatta@gmail.com
Sarthak Bagchi, Assistant Professor, Ahmedabad University

Sarthak Bagchi is an Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Sciences. He worked as a doctoral research scholar at the Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University, in the Netherlands. Trained as a political scientist from the University of Hyderabad, where he did his MA and MPhil, Sarthak has been a keen observer of electoral politics, party systems and state politics in India. His research interests lie in the topics of patronage politics, populism, electoral politics, state-society relations, party politics, informal politics and comparative politics. He has also conducted research to understand politics in other countries such as Turkey, Indonesia and the Netherlands. His research interests lie in the topics of patronage politics, populism, electoral politics, state-society relations, party politics, informal politics and comparative politics. He has also conducted research to understand politics in other countries such as Turkey, Indonesia and the Netherlands. He also writes on politics for general audiences in The Wire, The Indian Express and The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy. Sarthak has also worked as a journalist with TV news channel, News X, before entering academics. Sarthak has previously worked as a researcher with KITLV (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies), Leiden and Göttingen University, Germany. At Ahmedabad University, Sarthak teaches courses on Indian Politics in the Social and Political Science Majors programme and foundation studios on Democracy & Justice.

Diya Mehra, Assistant Professor of Sociology, South Asian University

Diya Mehra is Assistant Professor of Sociology at South Asian University where she has taught since 2012. Her research and writing centres on three main areas namely the history of Delhi’s urbanization in the 20th century; economic liberalization and its impact on Indian metropolitan cities, and contemporary urbanization processes as witnessed in small Indian towns. Her academic writing has appeared in numerous journals and edited volumes on urban India. She has also been visiting faculty at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, as well as a researcher at Sarai-CSDS, and a postdoctoral fellow in the Urban Dynamics programme of the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), New Delhi.

Navdeep Mathur, Associate Professor, IIM Ahmedabad

Navdeep Mathur is at the Public Systems Group at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. He conducts research on urbanism, resistance and alternatives to top-down urban planning and institutional design, and teaches courses on social justice, power and politics, interpretive methods, participatory theatre and public policy.

Renu Desai, Independent scholar, Ahmedabad