

A photograph of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai, India, at dusk. The building is illuminated with warm lights, highlighting its intricate Gothic Revival architecture. The central clock tower is the focal point, with a large clock face. The sky is a soft purple and blue. In the foreground, a red and white bus, several yellow and black taxis, and a few cars are visible on the street. Palm trees and other greenery are scattered in front of the building.

BROWNINDIA
INITIATIVE

Annual Report 2015-2016



Research Themes

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

The Initiative currently conducts research on the following themes:

- 1** Indian Urbanization: Governance, Politics and Political Economy
- 2** Economic Inequalities and Change
- 3** Pluralism and Diversities
- 4** Democracy

Above: Engaged audience at Student Fellowship Presentation

Front Cover: Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at Sunset, Mumbai, India. Image: Paul Prescott

OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series

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

Fall 2015

MONTEK SINGH AHLUWALIA

In October 2015, Montek Singh Ahluwalia delivered the OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures. Ahluwalia has served as a high-level government official in India, as well as with the IMF and the World Bank. He has been a key figure in India's economic reforms since the mid-1980s. Most recently, Ahluwalia was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission from July 2004 till May 2014. In addition to this Cabinet level position, Ahluwalia was a Special Invitee to the Cabinet and several Cabinet Committees. In 2011, he was awarded the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian honor, for his outstanding contribution to economic policy and public service.

Ahluwalia has written on various aspects of development economics, including Indian economic policy. His articles have been published in a number of professional international journals

and also in books. He co-authored *Re-distribution with Growth: An Approach to Policy* (1975). He also wrote, "Reforming the Global Financial Architecture", which was published in 2004 as Economic paper No.41 by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. Ahluwalia is an honorary fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford and a member of the Governing Council of the Global Green Growth Institute, a new international organization based in South Korea. He is a member of the Alpbach-Laxenburg Group established by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and the Alpbach Economic Forum.

Ahluwalia received a BA degree from St. Stephens College, Delhi University. He went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and received an M.A. and an M.Phil degree in Economics. He has received several honorary doctorates, including the Doctor of Civil Law (*Honoris Causa*) from Oxford University.



1

OCTOBER 26

*India's Economic Performance:
A Retrospective Assessment*

Commentator:

Abhijit Banerjee, MIT

Chair:

Ashutosh Varshney, Brown University

2 Annual Report 2015–2016

2

OCTOBER 28

India's Future Prospects and Policy Imperatives

Commentator:

Lant Pritchett, Harvard University

Chair:

Christina Paxson, President, Brown University



Ahluwalia lectures to a full Joukowski Forum



Abhijit Banejee, Ashutosh Varshney, Montek Ahluwalia



Students pose with Ahluwalia

OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series

SPRING 2016

SALMAN KHURSHID

In spring 2016, Indian politician, lawyer, and writer Salman Khurshid delivered the OP Jindal Distinguished lectures on India-Pakistan relations and India's Muslims. Mr. Khurshid started his political career as an Officer on Special Duty in the Prime Minister's Office, during the Prime Ministership of Indira Gandhi in the early 1980s. Later he became the Deputy Minister of Commerce, and then Minister of State for External Affairs from 1991-1996. During this period he was a Member of Parliament from the Farrukhabad constituency in Uttar Pradesh. In the General Election of 2009, he was once again elected as a Member of Parliament from Farrukhabad, winning as a candidate of the Indian National Congress. He became the Union Minister of State with Independent Charge of Corporate Affairs and Minority Affairs in the Government of India. Subsequently, he was elevated to Cabinet Minister

first of Water Resources with Minority Affairs; then Law & Justice and finally Foreign Minister of India.

Mr. Khurshid has been the President of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee twice. He was also the President of the Delhi Public School Society and Dr. Zakir Husain Study Circle. He is the author of the play *Sons of Babur* (2008) published by Rupa & Co., which has been staged, (over 25 performances) with Tom Alter in the lead role. He also edited *The Contemporary Conservative: Selected Writings of Dhiren Bhagat* (Viking 1990). Books he has written include *Beyond Terrorism: New Hope for Kashmir* (South Asia Books 1994), *At Home in India: The Muslim Saga* (Hay House 2014) and *The Other Side of the Mountain* (Hay House 2016). Mr. Khurshid studied at St. Stephen's College, Delhi and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, UK . He was also a Lecturer in Law at Trinity College, Oxford.



Salman Khurshid, Kevin McLaughlin, and Ashutosh Varshney





Full house for Khurshid's lecture, India-Pakistan Relations: Can We Move Forward?



Salman Khurshid and Ashutosh Varshney at reception



1 **APRIL 29**
India's Muslims Since Independence

Chair:
Kevin McLaughlin, Brown University

2 **MAY 2**
*India-Pakistan Relations:
Can We Move Forward?*

Chair:
Edward Steinfeld, Brown University

Brown-India Initiative Seminars

The Brown-India Initiative Seminar is a central interdisciplinary offering of the Initiative. This series of public lectures facilitates a convergence of figures from across the lines of academia, civil society, literature, public policy, and journalism to contribute to the discourse on contemporary India. ■



*Full House for Besky's *The Land in Gorkhaland: Rethinking Belonging in Darjeeling, India**



Dennis Dalton



Rajesh Veeraraghavan

FALL 2015

1 **OCTOBER 1**
Rustom Bharucha, Jawaharlal
Nehru University
*The Aftermath: Reflections on Terror
and Performance*

2 **OCTOBER 2**
Dennis Dalton, Professor Emeritus, Barnard
College, Columbia University
*Gandhi at the Center of Modern Indian
Intellectual Discourse*

3 **OCTOBER 16**
Sarah Besky, Brown University
*The Land in Gorkhaland: Rethinking
Belonging in Darjeeling, India*

4 **NOVEMBER 13**
Asad Ali Ahmed, Harvard University
*Of Panopticons, Pannomions and the
Corpo-Real: Bentham and the
Universalization of 'Blasphemy'*

5 **NOVEMBER 20**
Lisa Bjorkman, University of Göttingen,
Germany & University of Louisville
*Pipe Politics, Contested Waters: Embedded
Infrastructures of Millennial Mumbai*

6 **DECEMBER 2**
Neelanjana Sicar, University of Pennsylvania
*Bihar and Beyond: The 2015 Bihar Election
and its Implications for Indian Politics*

SPRING 2016


1 **FEBRUARY 19**
Atul Pokharel, Brown University
*When Courts Plan: The Greening of
New Delhi's Auto Rickshaws*

2 **FEBRUARY 25**
Ram Singh, University of Delhi
*Using Eminent Domain to Acquire Private
Properties: The Actors and the Outcomes*

3 **MARCH 11**
Rajesh Veeraraghavan, Brown University
*Open Governance and Democratizing
Surveillance: A Study of NREGA in
Andhra Pradesh, India*

4 **MARCH 21**
Aishwary Kumar, Stanford University
*Severeignty and the Unforgiveable:
Ambedkar on the Logic of the Death Penalty*

5 **APRIL 8**
Sheetal Chhabria, Connecticut College
The Global Housing Crisis in Colonial Bombay

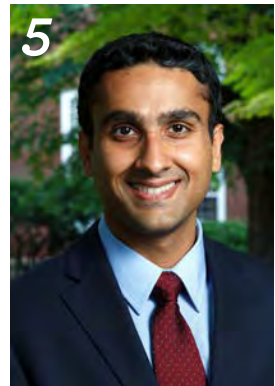


Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Brown-Harvard-MIT joint seminar on South Asian politics approaches some of the big questions of politics, political economy and security, on which the South Asian region in general, and India in particular, offers engaging perspectives. The series is co-sponsored by the Watson Institute at Brown University, the South Asia Institute and Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, and the MIT Center for International Studies. ■

- 1 SEPTEMBER 25**
Aseema Sinha, Claremont McKenna
Degrees of Clientelism in the World's Largest Democracy
- 2 OCTOBER 9**
Sandip Sukhtankar, Dartmouth College
How Does MNREGA Affect Rural Labor Markets and Incomes? Evidence From a Large-scale Experiment
- 3 NOVEMBER 13**
Devesh Kapur, University of Pennsylvania
Electrifying India: Regional Political Economies of Development
- 4 FEBRUARY 5**
Adam Ziegfeld, George Washington University
Why Regional Parties? Clientelism, Elites, and the Indian Party System
- 5 FEBRUARY 26**
Dean Spears, RICE Institute
Neighborhood Sanitation and Infant Mortality
- 6 MARCH 4**
Christopher Clary, Brown University
Voters and Foreign Policy: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Pakistan
- 7 APRIL 22**
Atul Kohli, Princeton University
East India Company Revisited

www.southasianpolitics.net



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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- 1 Ashutosh Varshney**
Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies
and the Social Sciences, Brown University

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 3 Patrick Heller**
Professor of Sociology and International
Studies, Brown University
- 4 Prerna Singh**
Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of
Political Science and International Studies,
Brown University
- 5 Akshay Mangla**
Assistant Professor of Business
Administration, Harvard Business School

Book Adda

The book adda series continued in popularity in 2015-2016. Adda means a site for collective deliberation in South Asia. This series, features panel discussions of important new books written by our colleagues, or those significantly involved with us as intellectual interlocutors. ■

1 SEPTEMBER 18

Tariq Thachil's *Elite Parties, Poor Voters: Social Services as Electoral Strategy in India*

Authors:

Tariq Thachil, Yale University

Commentators:

Patrick Heller, Brown University
Dan Slater, University of Chicago
Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro, Brown University
Ashutosh Varshney, Brown University

2 FEBRUARY 12

Kanchan Chandra's *Democratic Dynasties: State, Party and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics*

Authors:

Anjali Bohlken, University of British Columbia
Kanchan Chandra, New York University

Commentators:

Pradeep Chhibber, University of California, Berkeley
Daniel Smith, Harvard University



Tariq Thachil introduces Elite Voters, Poor Parties



Kanchan Chandra, author of Democratic Dynasties



Ashutosh Varshney and Tariq Thachill respond to questions from the audience

 A vertical poster for a "Book Adda" event. The top half has a red background with white text. The bottom half has a white background with a red chair illustration.

BROWN-INDIA INITIATIVE PRESENTS

BOOK ADDA

DEMOCRATIC DYNASTIES
STATE, PARTY AND FAMILY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN POLITICS
EDITED BY KANCHAN CHANDRA

February 12, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Co-Occurrence Forum
10000 University
111 Thayer Street
Pittsburgh, PA
Reservations to follow

BROWN-INDIA INITIATIVE

Book Adda is a need-based initiative of South Asian languages to promote a cross-cultural practice of learning, associated with free speech, thinking and democratic social formations.

Urban South Asia Reading Group

Launched in Fall 2013, the reading group meets occasionally during the academic year with the goal of bringing together people at Brown with an interest in urban South Asia. The group has two primary activities 1) small, informal workshops at which ongoing research work on urban South Asia, both at Brown and by visitors, is presented to the group for discussion; 2) key publications and research on urban South Asia are read and discussed. The group includes graduate and undergraduate students, as well as faculty from the Watson Institute, Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology.

The Gilded Ages Research Group

A collaboration initiated by Brown political science faculty members James Morone, Edward Steinfeld, and Ashutosh Varshney, in the Spring 2014, the Gilded Ages Research Group aims to study rapid urbanization and industrialization across three comparative cases: contemporary India, contemporary China, and late nineteenth century America. The group particularly seeks to understand a series of phenomena generally associated with “gilded ages” periods - rapid urban infrastructural build-out, extensive inbound migration to cities, machine politics, corruption, labor unrest, and blurred public-private boundaries. The group considers the extent to which rapid urbanization and industrialization can be described as a singular phenomenon across time and place, and whether the nature of political institutions and regime type at the national level actually affects the nature of politics and state-society relations within the city.

PRESENTATIONS 2015–2016

1

SEPTEMBER 24

Adam Auerbach, American University
*The Political Economy of Party Network
Organization and Development in India's
Urban Slums*

2

OCTOBER 22

Joel Andreas, Johns Hopkins University
*The Brief, Tumultuous History of "Big
Democracy" in China's Factories*

3

NOVEMBER 12

Margaret Pearson, University of Maryland
*Local Government and Firm Innovation in
China: The Case of the Clean
Energy Sector*

4

DECEMBER 3

Wendy Schiller, Brown University
*Machine Politics, Corruption, and the Path to
the U.S. Senate 1871-1913.*

5

MARCH 3

Michael Levien, Johns Hopkins University
*Differentiation by Speculation: Real Estate and
Agrarian Change in a Rajasthani Village*

6

MARCH 24

Amy Hanser, University of British Columbia
*Opting Out? Gated Consumption, Infant
Formula, and China's Affluent
Urban Consumers*

7

APRIL 21

Dorothy Solinger, University of California Irvine
*When Chinese Central Orders and Promotion
Criteria Conflict: Implementation*



Photo by CCSA Fellow, Rebecca Barron

Co-Sponsored Programs

In its fourth year, the Initiative co-sponsored events with many departments across campus. ■

1 **OCTOBER 24**
Hari Kondabolu, Comedian
With Asian American Heritage Series

2 **NOVEMBER 19**
Rahul Sirohi, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Alternate Paths to Economic Development: A Comparative Analysis of Brazil and India in the Era of Neoliberalism
With the Brazil Initiative

3 **FEBRUARY 25**
University and Dissent: Universities Under Siege (teach-in)
With South Asian Studies and RISD

4 **MARCH 8**
Nakul Swahney, Filmmaker
Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai Screening and Q&A
With South Asian Studies

5 **MARCH 14-15**
Materializing Sanctity, Enacting Authority: Text, Image, and Performance in India & China
With International Graduate Colloquium Fund

6 **MAY 5**
Sarnath Banerjee, Visual Artist
A Conversation with Sanarth Banerjee
With South Asian Studies



Participants of the University and Dissent teach-in

Jaanagraha Research Partnership

The Janaagraha-Brown Citizenship Index (JB-CI) Report was released in December 2014 at a conference in Bangalore. The report seeks to measure the quality of citizenship in urban India by evaluating citizen engagement and public service provision. Co-authored by Ebony Bertorelli (Janaagraha), Siddarth Swaminathan (Azim Premji University) and Ashutosh Varshney and Patrick Heller (Brown-India Initiative), the report is the result of a collaborative project between Brown University and Janaagraha, a Bangalore based not-for-profit organization working on the quality of life in urban India. The project has two aims: (i) construction of various measures of citizenship, including a citizenship index - a measurable statistical index assessing the quality of citizenship across individuals within a city; and (ii) examination of the determinants of basic service delivery in urban centres. The report asks how citizenship is distributed across the various categories of class, caste and religion. Who shows higher levels of citizenship? The report also asks how basic services - education, health, power, sanitation, water, etc. - are provided to the city and how citizens experience the bureaucracies and organizations associated with such services. How does citizenship matter relative to caste, class and religion?



Brown-India Initiative Fellows 2015

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

FACULTY FELLOWS



1 Sarah Besky
Assistant Professor of Anthropology and
International and Public Affairs



2 Patrick Heller
Professor of Sociology and International and
Public Affairs

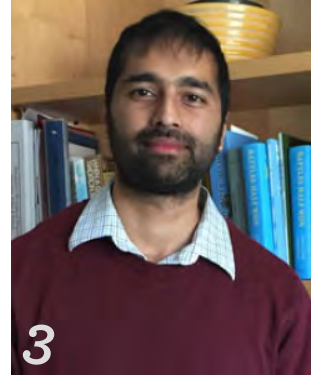
GRADUATE FELLOWS



1 **Anindita Adhikari**
Sociology | New Delhi
*In Search of the Developmental State
at the Frontlines*



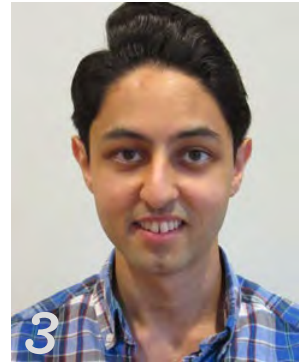
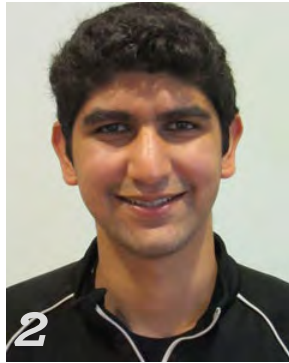
2 **Kaustav Chakrabarti**
Political Science | India
*Why State-Coercion Elicits Contrasting
Civilian Behavior?*



3 **Rajeev Kadambi**
Political Science | India
*Marxian Anticolonialism and Humanist Uto-
pias: A Critical Reading*

OCTOBER 16 & 23
India Initiative Student Fellow Presentations

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



1 **Elana Pyfrom '17**
Chennai
*Toxicology Studies in HIV and Diabetes
at YRG Care*

2 **Pranav Sharma '17**
New Delhi & Bangalore
*Mental Health Care and the State: Political
Challenges of Instituting Health Systems
Reforms in India*

3 **Sachin Pendse '17**
Dharamsala
*Social Media Networks and Cultural
Identity Among the Tibetan Community
of Dharamsala*

4 **Sydney Tan '17**
Dharamsala
*Stressing Out Holistically: The role of Stress
in Tibetan Medical School*

5 **Tenzin Lama '16**
Mumbai
*Housing and Land Rights in
Contemporary Mumbai*

Additionally Funded Students



Girija Borker | PhD Candidate, Economics
Jharkhand, India
*Enrollment and Learning Effects of Ethnic
Interaction Between Students and Teachers
in Jharkhand, India*



Steven Brownstone | Undergrad '16
Dhaka, Bangladesh
*Keeping it in the Family: The Role of
Family Social Networks in Migration*



Christopher Lingelbach | Undergrad '19
New Delhi, India
*Examining the Water Policy Challenge:
Can Water Use Embedding lead the way*

Anish Aitharaju | Undergrad '18
New Delhi, India
Mental Health as a Social Stigma in India

Visiting Scholars



Ramesh Ramanathan

Ramesh Ramanathan is a social entrepreneur, and works on urban issues in India. He is co-founder of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, a non-profit focused on transforming quality of life in Urban India. He is also Chairman of Janalakshmi Social Services, a not-for-profit social business holding company that has promoted enterprises in urban financial inclusion and urban affordable housing.

Ramesh works closely with government on urban issues in a pro-bono capacity. His current positions include being the National Technical Advisor, Government of India for the Jawarharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the country's flagship urban mission. Prior to his social initiatives, Ramesh held leadership positions with Citibank in New York and London, in the bank's capital markets business. Ramesh has an MS in Physics from BITS Pilani, an MBA from Yale University and a CFA from AIMR. In 2007, he was chosen as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



Swati Ramanathan

Swati Ramanathan is co-founder of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy — a thinker-practitioner “do-tank” — committed to transforming India's cities and citizenship. Janaagraha takes a systems approach to addressing urban challenges, working both with citizens at the grassroots, as well as with all three federal tiers of government. Ms. Ramanathan leads Janaagraha's innovations in technology for greater government accountability and citizen participation. She has received international recognition for ipaidabribe.com on retail corruption; and ichangemycity.com on hyper local citizen participation, most recently winning Google's Global Impact Challenge, 2013.

Ms Ramanathan is also Chairperson of Jana Urban Space Foundation, committed to improving urban planning and urban design in India's cities. She was honored by the Government of Rajasthan with the Rajyotsava Puraskar — Rajasthan's highest civilian award — for her work on the Jaipur 2025 Master plan. She has prepared the National Urban Spatial Planning and Development (NUSPD) 2013 Guidelines, for planning India's cities, at the behest of the Ministry of Urban Development, and the Planning Commission, Government of India.



Siddharth Swaminathan

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

His most recent publications include: *Statistical Methods and Political Analysis: Examining the 'Economic Vote' in Indian Parliamentary Elections* (Knowing the Social World: Challenges and Responses, 2015) and *Politics, Development, and Deaths: Comparing China and India* (Konark Publishers Private Ltd, 2015)



Ram Singh

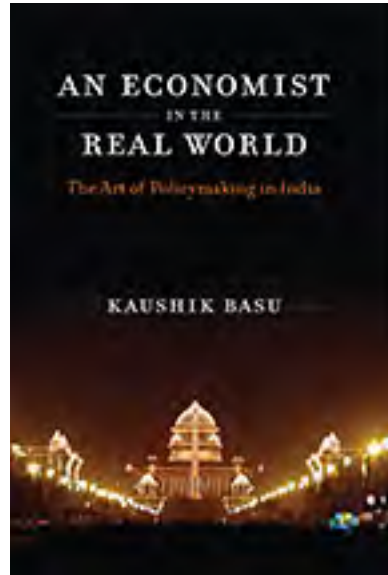
Ram Singh is an Associate Professor at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi. He holds Ph.D. (JNU, New Delhi) and Post-Doctorate (Harvard) degrees in Economics. His areas of research interests are Contract Theory, Public Economics, Public Private Partnerships, and Law and Economics. He is a recipient of Fulbright, Commonwealth and Erasmus Mundus Fellowships in Economics and Ronald Coase Fellowships in Economics. His recent publications include "The Inefficiency of Compulsory Land Acquisition" in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2012; "The Efficiency of Comparative Causation" (with Francesco Parisi) in the *Review of Law and Economics* 2011; "Delays and Cost Overruns in Infrastructure Projects: Extents, Causes and Remedies" in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2010; "Comparative Vigilance" (with Allan Feldman), in the *American Law and Economics Review*, 2009.

He has taught at the Delhi School of Economics, Brown University, University of Hamburg, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and has been Commonwealth Fellow at the London School of Economics. He is Co-editor of the *Indian Economic Review*.

Publications Supported by Initiative



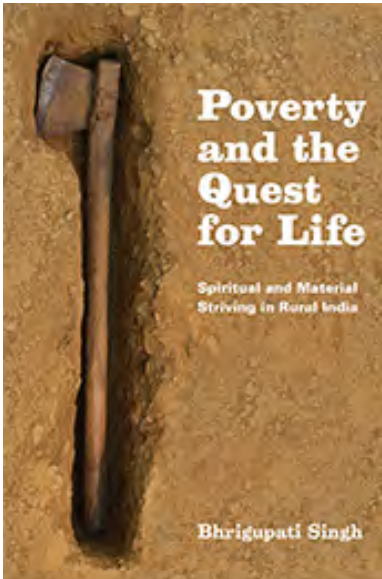
Rupa & Co, 2015



MIT Press, 2015

Over the years the Initiative has supported several intellectual and public figures by providing the impetus to collate materials for distinguished lecture series or while writing in residence at Brown. For example, Narendar Pani of the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore, India, drafted the article, "Historical insights into modern corruption: Descriptive moralities and cooperative corruption in an Indian city" (Griffith Law Review 2016), while in residence with the Initiative. The publications above were supported in a similar manner by the Initiative.

Books by Our Faculty



University of Chicago Press, 2015

Bhrigupati Singh

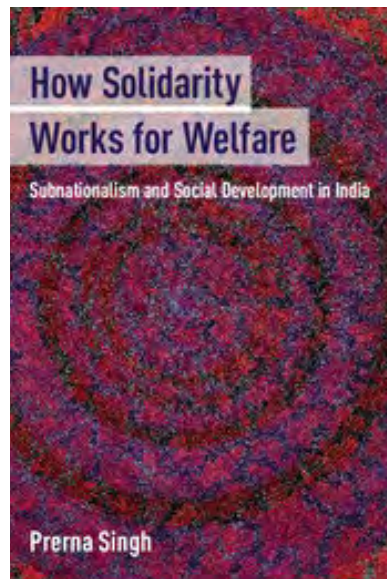
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Awarded the Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences and the 2016 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in the category of Analytical-Descriptive Studies.

Prerna Singh

Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies

Awarded five prizes for her research: the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Prize, the Barrington Moore Prize from the American Sociological Association, the Leubbert prize from Comparative Politics, the Mary Parker Follett Prize from the American Political Science Association, and the best article prize in the Sociology of Development by the American Sociological Association.



Cambridge University Press, 2015

Steering Committee



1 **Ashutosh Varshney**
Director, Brown-India Initiative
Sol Goldman Professor of International
Studies and the Social Sciences
Professor of Political Science
ashutosh_varshney@brown.edu

2 **Andrew Foster**
Professor of Economics
and Community Health
Director, Population Studies
and Training Center
andrew_foster@brown.edu

3 **Leela Gandhi**
John Hawkes Professor of
Humanities and English
leela_gandhi@brown.edu

4 **Patrick Heller**
Professor of Sociology
and International Studies
Director, Graduate Program in Development
patrick_heller@brown.edu

5 **Bhrigupati Singh**
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
and International Studies
bhrigupati_singh@brown.edu

Staff



Stephanie Abbott-Pandey
Program Manager
stephanie_abbott@brown.edu



Justine Brown
Administrative Coordinator
justine_brown@brown.edu