

BROWNINDIA **INITIATIVE**



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

The Brown-India Initiative is
an interdisciplinary hub for the
study of contemporary India at
Brown University.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



India is in the throes of profound change. Among the larger economies of the world, India's economic growth rate over the last two decades has been second only to China's, the recent slowdown notwithstanding. Indian democracy has deepened, as groups placed at the lower end of the traditional social hierarchy have not only participated vigorously in elections, but also put politicians from the historically underprivileged social backgrounds in power. As a downward shift in political power has taken place, a substantial middle class, too, has emerged, spurring changes in cultural and economic habits, with the possibility that the middle class might also force changes in politics before long. New security challenges have emerged both externally and internally. The continuing erosion of traditional caste hierarchies in many parts of India has led to an overall decline in social inequalities, but with rising affluence, economic inequalities have also grown. The overall pace of change has quickened, and the issues of governance have acquired new intensity.

Never since the early days of independence has the study of India been so exciting. And never since those days has the

potential for research to contribute to political, economic and social transformation been greater. Brown's interest in India has emerged at a critical moment.

2012-13 was the inaugural year for the Brown-India Initiative. We presented cutting-edge scholars to our audiences, launched new research projects, held lectures and conferences, sponsored films screenings, and awarded research and internship grants to our students and junior faculty. We collaborated with several units of the university and formed institutional partnerships in India. Leading public figures visited us.

It is a great moment to be at Brown. Our intellectual horizons are expanding globally. Focusing on a huge and increasingly significant part of the world, the Brown-India Initiative is part of our institutional effort to fathom the rising global complexity of contemporary times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashutosh Varshney'.

Ashutosh Varshney

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



- 1 Kaushik Basu. Photo credit: Karen Philippi.
- 2 Kaushik Basu with Brown University President Christina H. Paxson. Photo credit: Karen Philippi.
- 3 Director of the Watson Institute for International Studies, Richard Locke, with Ashley Tellis and Ashutosh Varshney. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.
- 4 Ashley Tellis and Richard Locke. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.
- 5 Audience in the Joukowsky Forum. Photo credit: Karen Philippi.

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. THE LECTURES WILL BE ORGANIZED BY THE BROWN-INDIA INITIATIVE. ■

Kaushik Basu

In November 2012, Kaushik Basu delivered the first O.P. Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series, titled **“From the Slopes of Raisina Hill: India’s Economic Reforms and Prospects,”** to a packed Joukowsky Forum. Basu is Senior Vice President and Chief Economist, World Bank. From December 2009 to July 2012 he served as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India at the Ministry of Finance. Until 2009 he was Chairman of the Department of Economics and during 2006-9 he was Director of the Center for Analytic Economics at Cornell University. Earlier he was Professor of Economics at the Delhi School of Economics, where in 1992 he founded the Centre for Development Economics and was its first Executive Director. He is currently (the fourth) President of the Human Development and Capabilities Association, which was founded by Amartya Sen.

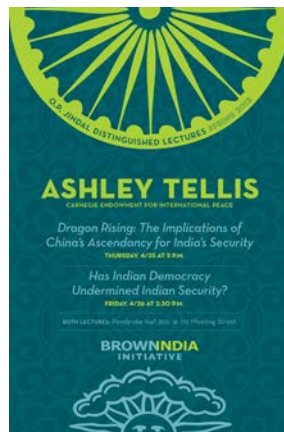
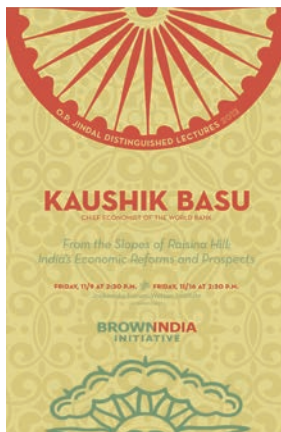
In addition to publishing numerous academic books and papers, Professor Basu has also contributed popular articles to magazines and newspapers, such as *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *India Today* and *Business Standard*. He also wrote a regular column for *BBC News Online*. He has regularly appeared on television. In May 2008, he was awarded one of India’s highest civilian awards, the Padma Bhushan, by the President of India.

Ashley Tellis

The Spring 2013 OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures were presented in a two-part series on Indian security by Ashley J. Tellis, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who specializes in international security,

defense, and Asian strategic issues. Tellis spoke to a large audience at each of his talks, the first titled, **“Dragon Rising: The Implications of China’s Ascendancy for India’s Security,”** and the second, **“Has Indian Democracy Undermined India’s Security?”**

While on assignment with the U.S. Department of State as senior adviser to the under secretary of state for political affairs, Tellis was intimately involved in negotiating the civil nuclear agreement with India. Previously, he was commissioned into the Foreign Service and served as senior adviser to the ambassador at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi. He also served on the National Security Council staff as special assistant to the president and senior director for strategic planning and Southwest Asia.





MEERA AND VIKRAM GANDHI FELLOWSHIPS

MEERA AND VIKRAM GANDHI FELLOWSHIPS ENABLE MAJOR JOURNALISTS, PUBLIC FIGURES AND SCHOLARS WORKING ON INDIA TO UNDERTAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS WHILE IN RESIDENCE AT BROWN. THE FELLOWSHIPS ARE FUNDED BY A GIFT FROM MEERA AND VIKRAM GANDHI. ■

Barkha Dutt

Group Editor with NDTV and one of India's best known journalists, Barkha Dutt was the first Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow during fall 2012. She is the host of the award-winning talk show, *We the People* and the daily prime time show, *The Buck Stops Here*. She also writes a weekly column for *The Hindu-Indian Times*. In 2008, she was awarded the *Padma Shri*, one of India's highest state honors, and in 2012 she was crowned 'TV Personality of the Year' by The Association for International Broadcasting.

During her residency, Ms. Dutt worked on her first book, *The Unquiet Land: Exploring India's Fault Lines*. The book will analyze the delicate regions of India that have the potential to push the country into greater conflict. In a public seminar during Brown's family weekend, Dutt shared a section of the book, including reflections on her field reporting of the 1999 India-Pakistan war, which made her a household name.

In addition to utilizing Brown student research assistants and holding office hours to meet with community members, Barkha Dutt attended most India Initiative events where she contributed to the dialogue with her questions and comments.

Yogendra Yadav

Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Yogendra Yadav served as the spring Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow in 2013. In 2008, he was awarded the Malcolm Adishesiah Award for contribution to development studies, and was the first recipient of the Global South Solidarity Award by the International Political Science Association in 2009.

His field of interest is the promise, practice, and prospects of modern politics. He has studied how this unusual promise has been read by Indian socialist intellectuals, the conditions under which it is sometimes realized in the arena of electoral politics, and the public policy design that can help redeem it. At present he is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Aam Aadmi Party.

While in residence at Brown, Yadav furthered the vibrant intellectual community among students and faculty. The fellowship provided Professor Yadav the opportunity to work on a new book focused on the idea of equality in twentieth-century India, the progress of which he shared with the community in a lecture on May 5, 2013.

- 1 *Barkha Dutt. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.*
- 2 *Yogendra Yadav. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.*
- 3 *Barkha Dutt leads an India Initiative seminar at Brown.*
- 4 *Yogendra Yadav poses for a photo with Ashutosh Varshney.*
- 5 *Yogendra Yadav addresses the audience in the Joukowsky Forum.*
- 6 *Barkha Dutt socializes at the reception for her seminar. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.*



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I THINK ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE INITIATIVE THAT'S SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT TO UNDERLINE IS ITS DEEP INTERDISCIPLINARY FOCUS: THAT WE HAVE PARTICIPATING IN THE INITIATIVE SCHOLARS WHO COME FROM A WIDE RANGE OF FIELDS ACROSS THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND EVEN BEYOND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES INTO HISTORY AND HUMANITIES.

—KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN, DEAN OF THE FACULTY

BROWN-INDIA INITIATIVE SEMINARS

THROUGH THIS SERIES OF PUBLIC LECTURES, THE INDIA INITIATIVE FACILITATES A CONVERGENCE OF FIGURES FROM ACROSS THE LINES OF ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY, LITERATURE, PUBLIC POLICY, AND JOURNALISM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCOURSE ON MODERN INDIA. ■

FALL 2012

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|--------|--|--------|--|
| SEP 21 | Partha Chatterjee , Columbia University
<i>"Football and Collective Identity in Colonial Calcutta"</i> | OCT 19 | Barkha Dutt , Journalist
<i>"The Unquiet Land: Exploring India's Fault Lines"</i> |
| SEP 28 | S.M. Krishna , Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India
<i>Brown-India Initiative Inauguration</i> | NOV 2 | Simon Chauchard , Dartmouth College
<i>"Vote and Reputation: An Experiment on Indian
Voters' Evaluations"</i> |
| OCT 5 | Uday Mehta , City University of New York
<i>"Gandhi's Ambivalence Towards Democracy"</i> | NOV 30 | Emmanuel Teitelbaum , George Washington
University
<i>"Low Profile Resources and Insurgent Violence:
Evidence from India"</i> |
| OCT 12 | Rana Dasgupta , Novelist
<i>"Intimations of Futurity: Delhi, New Elites
and the World"</i> | | |

- 1 *His Excellency, Shri SM Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India. At the formal inauguration of the Initiative. Photo credit: Jay Mandal.*
- 2 *Provost Mark Schlissel welcomes SM Krishna. Photo credit: Karen Philippi.*
- 3 *Engaged audience thanks Ambassador Rao. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.*
- 4 *President Christina Paxson and Ambassador Nirupama Rao. Photo credit: Himani Sood.*
- 5 *President Christina Paxson, Provost Mark Schlissel and SM Krishna. Photo credit: Karen Philippi.*



- ① *Gabielle Kruks-Wisner. Photo credit: Annika Klein.*
- ② *Rana Dasgupta, Photo credit: Jesse Nemerofsky.*
- ③ *Ashutosh Varshney. Photo credit: Annika Klein.*
- ④ *Partha Chatterjee. Photo credit: Frank Mullin.*
- ⑤ *Uday Mehta. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.*

SPRING 2013

- FEB 4 **Nirupama Rao**, India's Ambassador to the United States
"America's Asian Pivot": The View from India"
- FEB 15 **Thad Dunning**, Yale University
"Parties, Caste, and Distribution in India: Grassroots Political Mobilization in Cross-State Perspective"
- MAR 1 **Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner**, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies
"Citizen Claim-Making Strategies in Rural Rajasthan: Who Makes Demands for Public Services and How?"
- MAR 14 **Ruby Lal**, Emory University
"Coming of Age in Nineteenth-Century India: The Girl-Child and the Art of Playfulness"

- MAR 15 **Gyanendra Pandey**, Emory University
"Modern Prejudice: 'Vernacular' and 'Universal'"
- APR 5 **Ananya Vajpeyi**, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
"B.R. Ambedkar: Reshaping the Political Imagination in Modern India"
- MAY 3 **Yogendra Yadav**, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies
"The Idea of Equality in Twentieth-Century India"
- MAY 13 **Madhulika Banerjee**, Delhi University
"Politics of Knowledge: Ayurveda in Contemporary India"

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

FALL 2012

- OCT 9 **Greg Bailey**, La Trobe University
"Social and Economic Aspects of Buddhism in Early Historical India 200 BCE - 200 CE"
- OCT 11 **Rana Dasgupta**, Novelist
Reading and discussion with International Writers Program
- OCT 23 **Rachel Dwyer**, SOAS, University of London
"Islamicate or Islamophobic?: Muslims in Hindi Cinema"
- OCT 24 **Barkha Dutt and Rachel Dwyer**
Celebration of the Life of Yash Chopra, 1932 - 2012
- OCT 25 **Rachel Dwyer**, SOAS, University of London
"Filming the Gods: Hindu Religious Genres and Myth Making in Hindi Cinema"
- NOV 15 **Timothy Lubin**, Washington & Lee
"Status Mapping in Classical India: How Brahmins Cornered the Market in Norms"

SPRING 2013

- JAN 28 **Hanns Baker**, University of Groningen
"The Kalinjar Fort and the Religious History of North India"
- FEB 28 **Isabel Hofmeyr**, University of the Witwatersrand
"Gandhi's Printing Press: An Experiment in Slow Reading"
- MAR 4 **Vivek Narayanan and Sharmistha Mohanty**
"Almost Island: Indian Writing Now"
- APR 11 **Mira Nair**, Filmmaker
"The Reluctant Fundamentalist"
- APR 18 **Questioning Marginality: Dalits and Muslims in Urban India**
Three-day conference with South Asian Studies
- APR 18 **Sarovar Banka**, Filmmaker
"A Decent Arrangement"



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“INDIA INITIATIVE IS EXEMPLARY FOR THE WAY IN WHICH IT HAS VERY RAPIDLY FORMED IMPORTANT AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS INTERNATIONALLY—IN PARTICULAR, IN THE CASE OF THE INDIA INITIATIVE BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS IN DELHI AND BANGALORE. THIS IS SURELY THE WAY OF THE FUTURE IN THE UNIVERSITY, AND I THINK AT BROWN, INDIA HAS BEEN THE PLACE WHERE IT’S STARTED TO HAPPEN FIRST.

—KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN, DEAN OF THE FACULTY

MAJOR RESEARCH PARTNERS IN INDIA

PARTNERSHIPS FORM A KEY COMPONENT OF THE INITIATIVE'S RESEARCH PROJECTS. ■

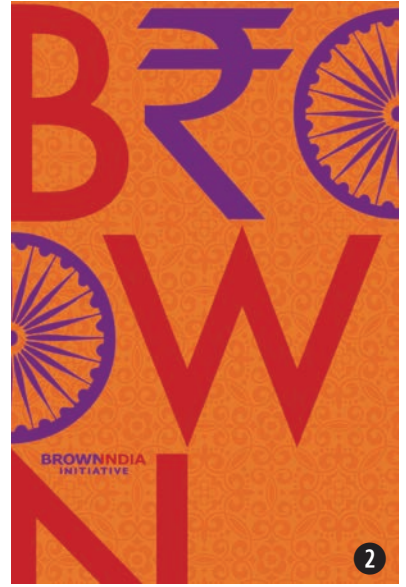


A long-term collaboration between the Brown-India Initiative and the **Centre for Policy Research** (CPR) is being developed for the study of urban India. Patrick Heller, Professor of Sociology and International Studies at Brown, spent the year at CPR as a visiting senior Fellow. With CPR collaborators and with support from the initiative, he conducted research on urban governance in Delhi, supervising intensive fieldwork in 16 slums. Over the next few years the goal is also to build and maintain an “urban observatory” that would systematically generate and track research on the transformation of Indian cities. The project is jointly funded by the Brown-India Initiative and a grant from the Indian Council for Social Science Research.



Janaagraha, India's leading think tank on urban issues, is conducting a multi-year study in collaboration with the Initiative Director, Ashutosh Varshney, Patrick Heller, and several Brown graduate students. The project will study questions of citizenship and public service delivery in urban India. India's eight largest cities—Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune—are to be studied first. Results of the first part of research—in Bangalore—will be available in March 2014.

- 1 *Professor Patrick Heller with researchers for Janaagraha-Brown Citizenship Index Project*
- 2 *Swati Ramanathan, Co-founder of Janaagraha. Photo courtesy of Janaagraha Communications*
- 3 *Ramesh Ramanathan, Co-founder of Janaagraha, reaching out to citizens. Photo courtesy of Janaagraha Communications*
- 4 *Partha Mukhopadhyay, senior research fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. Photo credit to LIRNEasia*
- 5 *Training session of the Field Researchers for the Citizenship Index Pilot.*



1 Students attend a lecture in the Joukowsky Forum. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.

2 Brown-India Initiative poster

3 India Initiative seminars video recorded and livestreamed to Internet users. Photo credit: Annika Klein.

4 Students engage with guest lecturers. Photo credit: Rythum Vinoben.

“ THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN VERY HARD—A LOT OF COLD CALLS, A LOT OF STRETCHING MY HINDI ABILITIES, A LOT OF CHALLENGING BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARES. IT HAS REQUIRED A LOT OF PERSISTENCE. AND I FEEL LIKE IT HAS GIVEN SO MUCH BACK TO ME.

—DAVID ADLER, BROWN '14
INTERN, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

INDIA INITIATIVE FELLOWS

THIS SPRING THE BROWN-INDIA INITIATIVE AWARDED NEARLY \$75,000 TO FUND SUMMER PROJECTS FOR EIGHT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, SEVEN GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND TWO FACULTY MEMBERS CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON INDIA. THE PROJECTS SELECTED FOR FUNDING REPRESENT A VARIETY OF RESEARCH TOPICS RELATED TO SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC CHANGE IN INDIA. ■

FACULTY FELLOWS



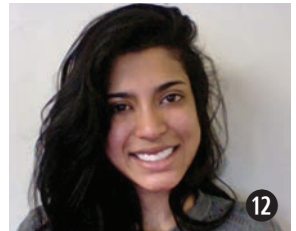
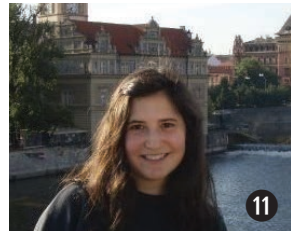
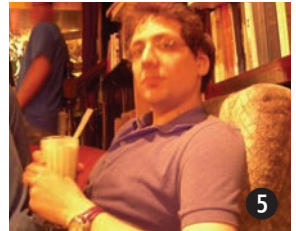
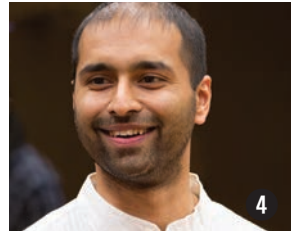
1 Jo Guldi
Assistant Professor,
Department of History
*Learning from India: Maps of the
Modern Commons in Land and Water*



2 Sriniketh Nagavarapu
Assistant Professor,
Department of Economics and
Center for Environmental Studies
*Reforming the Public Distribution
System*

“UNDOUBTEDLY, THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE INDIA INITIATIVE ARE THE BEST PART OF MY EDUCATION HERE AT BROWN.

—RAJEEV KADAMBI
PHD CANDIDATE, POLITICAL SCIENCE



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AS A STUDENT OF INDIAN POLITICS, IT HAS BEEN AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH SCHOLARS DOING CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH ON INDIA.

—POULOMI CHAKRABARTI
PHD CANDIDATE, POLITICAL SCIENCE

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

- 1 Poulomi Chakrabarti**
Political Science
One Nation, Many Worlds: Varieties of Developmental Regimes in India
Cambridge, MA, Washington, D.C., and New Delhi
- 2 David Glick**
Economics
Competition in Public Service Delivery: Evidence from India
Lucknow and Ludhiana
- 3 Brian Horton**
Anthropology
In the Wake of the Rainbow Spring: The Precariousness of Being Queer in a Post-377 India
Mumbai
- 4 Rajeev Kadambi**
Political Science
Examining Ambedkar's Vision of Social Justice through the Politics of Recognition: From Margins to the Main Site
New Delhi
- 5 Daniel Kushner**
Political Science
Reading Bhaarat: The Mediators that Connect Leaders to Voters
New Delhi and Lucknow
- 6 Jamie McPike**
Sociology
Urban Governance at the Boundaries: Exploring the Intersection of State and City Politics Under NURM in Urban India
Bangalore and Chennai
- 7 Andrea Wright**
Anthropology
Parlor or Salon: Beauty and Modernity in Contemporary India
Pune

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWS

- 8 David Adler**
Development Studies
Implementing the World-Class City
Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- 9 Sujaya Desai**
Anthropology and International Relations
Bridging the Divide Between the Legal and Social Realms
Mumbai
- 10 Anamta Farook**
Education studies
Experience in Education Policy Design and Research in India
Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi
- 11 Jenna Haber**
History
Managing Water and Waste
Janaagraha, Bangalore
- 12 Viveka Hulyalkar**
Political Science
"Let's Be Well Red:" Expanding the Health Scout Program Throughout Mumbai to Sustainably Combat Anemia
Let's be Well RED, Mumbai
- 13 Hailey Nguyen**
Economics
Dimensions and Determinants of Rising Sex Ratios in South India
South India Community Study (SICS)
- 14 Taran Raghuram**
Economics
Understanding the Nature and Extent of Corruption in India
Janaagraha Applied Research Program, Bangalore
- 15 Florian Schalliol**
Physics and Philosophy, Economics
GOOD/CORPS Corporate Social Responsibility Expansion Project
Bangalore and Mumbai



STEERING COMMITTEE

- 1 Ashutosh Varshney**
Director, Brown-India Initiative
Sol Goldman Professor of
International Studies and the
Social Sciences
Professor of Political Science
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- 2 Andrew Foster**
Professor of Economics
Professor of Health Services
Policy and Practice
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- 3 Lina Fruzzetti**
Royce Family Professor of
Teaching Excellence and
Professor of Anthropology
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- 4 Patrick Heller**
Professor of Sociology
and International Studies
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- 5 Vazira Zamindar**
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WATSON INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

BROWN UNIVERSITY