About the Center

Mission
The Center for Contemporary South Asia (CCSA) promotes research, teaching and public engagement on key issues of modern South Asia in an interdisciplinary framework and in a historically and culturally grounded manner.

About
CCSA is based at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. The Center supports faculty, graduate and undergraduate research and teaching on the region and is home to the South Asian Studies concentration.

CCSA functions within the larger framework of the Watson Institute, which is seeking to define a new approach to regional studies for the 21st century. Anchored in the social sciences, this new approach is problem driven, comparative and multidisciplinary. Our multidiciplinarity will include sustained interaction of social scientists with the humanities on the one hand and disciplines such as medicine and public health on the other.

Research & Programs
At this time, the Center’s programmatic and research themes focus on inequalities, development, urbanization, democracy, public health and pluralism & diversities.

Message from the Director

After nearly a year and half, we returned to in-person activities in 2021-22 — substantially, not wholly. Some events continued to be fully virtual, especially if the main speakers were based abroad and international travel was not possible. Ram Guha spoke to us from Bangalore on his new book, Rebels Against the Raj, and a full panel on the withdrawal of India’s farm law was entirely online. Some other events took a hybrid form, as some panelists spoke in person while others zoomed in from elsewhere. Thus, Arvind Subramanian (Brown) analyzed “Whether the Indian Economy is Back” in person, while Raghuram Rajan (Chicago) commented on his arguments online from Boston.

In my message last year, I had said that our Center would collaborate with the School of Public Health (SPH) on developing a better understanding of the Covid-19 pandemic, leveraging the arrival of Ashish Jha as the new Dean of SPH. We explored this collaboration quite deeply with our opening one-day hybrid conference on “Covid-19 in South Asia”. We had scholars, policy makers, journalists and activists from all parts of South Asia, some speaking to us from Islamabad, Dhaka and Colombo via Zoom.

The OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures were given by Mira Nair, the noted film maker, reflecting “On Being Brown Before It Was Fashionable” and Siddharth Varadarajan, the trail-blazing editor of The Wire (Delhi), who spoke on “The Press and India’s Democracy”. Experimenting with form, we also had an “OP Jindal Conversation”, in which professors of literature, religion and politics engaged Salman Rushdie, the novelist, in a two-hour exchange, which was also widely watched online.

In collaboration with the Watson Institute, we have recruited Arvind Subramanian as a senior fellow for three years. In his first year (2021-22), he offered two undergraduate seminars, one on Indian economy and another on comparing the economic trajectories of India and China. These offerings will continue in the coming year(s), hugely adding to what we teach at the undergraduate level.

As Covid-19 subsided, it was possible to visit South Asia for research. Through winter and spring funding cycles, CCSA provided travel grants, to support the projects of 18 fellows (11 PhD candidates, 5 undergraduates, and 2 postdoctoral fellows).

But the biggest news of the year was that we received a generous $10 million endowment gift from Parag and Usha Saxena, Brown parents ’13, ’14 and ’15. Starting July 1, 2022, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia will be our new name. This endowment, in perpetuity, will give us resources to develop new ideas for research, collaboration, teaching and programming, while building on what we already have become known for. We are grateful to the New York-based Saxena family. The inaugural activities of the new center will take place during the week of September 9-10, and will cover economic, political and cultural trends in the region after the Second World War focusing on marginalization and inclusion. With the help of leading scholars and artists, we will do a stock-taking of where the different countries of South Asia have arrived and where they are headed.

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

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

Salman Rushdie
Fall 2021


A Fellow of the British Royal Society of Literature, Salman Rushdie has received, among other honours, the Whitbread Prize for Best Novel (twice), the Writers’ Guild Award, the James Tait Black Prize, the European Union’s Aristeion Prize for Literature, Author of the Year Prizes in both Britain and Germany, the French *Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger*, the Budapest Grand Prize for Literature, the *Premio Grinzane Cavour* in Italy, the Austrian State Prize for European Literature, the London International Writers’ Award, the James Joyce award of University College Dublin, the St Louis Literary Prize, the Carl Sandburg Prize of the Chicago Public Library, and a U.S. National Arts Award.

He holds honorary doctorates and fellowships at six European and six American universities, is an Honorary Professor in the Humanities at M.I.T, and University Distinguished Professor at Emory University. Currently, Rushdie is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

Salman Rushdie

Literature, the *Premio Grinzane Cavour* in Italy, the Crossword Book Award in India, the Austrian State Prize for European Literature, the London International Writers’ Award, the James Joyce award of University College Dublin, the St Louis Literary Prize, the Carl Sandburg Prize of the Chicago Public Library, and a U.S. National Arts Award.

He holds honorary doctorates and fellowships at six European and six American universities, is an Honorary Professor in the Humanities at M.I.T, and University Distinguished Professor at Emory University. Currently, Rushdie is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

Salman Rushdie

NOV 05
Politics, Religion and Literature: India and Pakistan
Disscussants:
Gauri Viswanathan, Columbia University
Shahzad Bashir, Brown University
Ashutosh Varshney, Brown University

From Left to Right: Ashutosh Varshney, Gauri Viswanathan, Salman Rushdie, and Shahzad Bashir
Mira Nair is a world-renowned Indian-American film director and producer. Born and raised in Rourkela, India, Mira went on to study at Delhi and Harvard universities. She began her career as a stage actor in India before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she transitioned to documentary films at 20 years old, with films such as So Far from India (1983) and Children of a Desired Sex (1987). Her narrative feature debut, Salaam Bombay! (1988), won the Camera d’Or and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film.


She is the founder of the production company Mirabai Films and the Maisha Film Lab, an annual filmmaking workshop in Uganda.

**NOV 08**
Mississippi Masala — Film Screening and Q&A with Director Mira Nair

**NOV 10**
On Being Brown Before it was Fashionable: Reflections on a Cross Cultural Journey
Commentators:
Ashish Chadha, University of Rhode Island
Karan Mahajan, Brown University

**OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series**
Siddharth Varadarajan
Spring 2022

Siddharth Varadarajan is a Founding Editor of The Wire and senior fellow at the Centre for Public Affairs and Critical Theory, New Delhi. Previously, he was the Editor of The Hindu. An economist by training, he studied at the London School of Economics and Columbia University. He taught at New York University before returning to India to work as a journalist. He has been a visiting lecturer at the journalism school at the University of California, Berkeley and a Poynter Fellow at Yale University.

APRIL 15
The Media and India’s Democracy Today

Commentators:
Edward Luce, Financial Times
Salil Tripathi, Author
Paula Chakravarty, New York University
South Asia Seminar

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 South Asia.

FALL 2021

SEPTEMBER 17
Neha Sahgal, Pew Research Center
Pradeep Chhibber, UC Berkeley
Elaine Fisher, Stanford University
Finnian M. Gerety, Brown University
Anand Vivek Taneja, Vanderbilt University
Interpreting the Pew Report on Religions in India

SEPTEMBER 23
Kalaiyarasaran A., Madras Institute of Development Studies
Caste and Racial Inequality: Competing Narratives

OCTOBER 1
Debashree Mukherjee, Columbia University
Bombay Hustle: Labor and Ecological Entanglements in 1930s Cinema

OCTOBER 8
Arvind Subramanian, Brown University
Raghuram Rajan, University of Chicago Booth
Is the Indian Economy Back?

OCTOBER 13
Christopher Clary, SUNY, Albany
Christine Fair, Georgetown University
Husain Haqqani, Hudson Institute
Dipali Mukhopadhyay, University of Minnesota
Understanding the Crisis in Afghanistan

OCTOBER 15
Rema Nagarajan, Times of India
India’s Private Health Sector’s Response to Covid — No Surprises

OCTOBER 15
Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University
Returns to International Migration: Evidence from a Bangladesh-Malaysia Visa Lottery

NOVEMBER 15
Swarnim Wagle, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
The Twin Challenge of Development Catch-up and Democratic Consolidation in Low-Income Countries: The Case of Nepal

DECEMBER 10
Debjani Bhattacharyya, Drexel University
Climate Ledgers: Law and Imperial Finance in the Indian Ocean World

SPRING 2021

FEBRUARY 4
Shoumitro Chatterjee, Penn State University
Harish Damodaran, Centre for Policy Research
Andrew Foster, Brown University
Ashok Gulati, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
Mekhala Krishnamurthy, Centre for Policy Research
Yogendra Yadav, Swaraj India
Indian Agriculture After the Revolt

FEBRUARY 18
Sangeeta Banerji, Brown University
Fixing Mumbai: Broker-life, Expertise, and Technology in the Urban Bureaucracy

FEBRUARY 25
Karen Coelho, Madras Institute of Development Studies
Remaking the Urban in the Margins: Resettlement Colonies and Differential Inclusion in India

MARCH 14
Pallavi Raghavan, Ashoka University
Animosity at Bay: An Alternative History of the India-Pakistan Relationship, 1947-52

MARCH 18
Farhana Sultana, Syracuse University
Critical Climate Justice

APRIL 8
Ramachandra Guha, Historian & Author
Leela Gandhi, Brown University
Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India’s Freedom
Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics approaches some of the big questions of politics, political economy and security, on which the South Asian region offers engaging perspectives. The series is co-sponsored by CCSA, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, and the MIT Center for International Studies.

SEPTEMBER 24
Sumitra Badrinathan, University of Oxford
Adam Berinsky, MIT
Political Misinformation in India: Evidence from Experimental Solutions

OCTOBER 29
Kanti Prasad Bajpai, National University of Singapore
Vijay Gokhale, Carnegie India
Shivshankar Menon, Centre for Social and Economic Progress
The Past and Future of India-China Relations

NOVEMBER 19
Harish Naraindas, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Vaccinating India Against Covid: Lessons from History

DECEMBER 3
Zuheir Desai, IE University
Tanushree Goyal*, Harvard University
How do Gender Quotas Impact Accountability?

FEBRUARY 11
Ambassador Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary of India
The Fractured Himalaya: India • China • Tibet 1949-62

MARCH 4
Neelanjan Sircar, Centre for Policy Research
Jason Jackson*, MIT
Colossus: The Anatomy of Delhi

MARCH 25
Sanjoy Bhattacharya, University of York
Smallpox Eradication: A Racially Inclusive History

MAY 6
Nikhar Gaikwad, Columbia University
Pia Raffler*, Harvard University
Bridging the Gulf: Experimental Evidence on Migration’s Impact on Tolerance and Internationalism

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Patrick Heller
Lyn Crost Professor of Sociology and International Studies, Brown University

Discussant*

Prerna Singh
Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Brown University

Vipin Narang
Associate Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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 the Center as intellectual interlocutors.

**OCTOBER 6**

**Modi’s India: Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy**

**Author:** Christophe Jaffrelot, Center for International Studies and Research

**Commentators:** Amrita Basu, Amherst College
Neelanjan Sircar, Centre for Policy Research
Patrick Heller, Brown University

**MARCH 11**

**Ordering Violence: Explaining Armed Group-State Relations from Conflict to Cooperation**

**Author:** Paul Staniland, University of Chicago

**Commentators:** Yelena Biberman, Skidmore College
Fotini Christia, MIT
Vipin Narang, MIT
Megan Turnbull, University of Georgia
Book Adda Continued

APRIL 22

The Deoliwallahs

Author:
Joy Ma, Author
Dilip D’Souza ’84 Sc.M, Author & Journalist

Commentators:
Payal Banerjee, Smith College
Sarah Besky, Cornell University

MAY 2

Patching Development: Information Politics and Social Change in India

Author:
Rajesh Veeraraghavan, Georgetown University

Commentators:
Rachel Brulé, Boston University
Zehra Hashmi, Brown University
Robert Jenkins, Hunter College, CUNY
Vijayendra Rao, The World Bank
Co-Sponsored Programming

SEPTEMBER 10
COVID-19 in South Asia Workshop

The School of Public Health led by Ashish Jha and CCSA held a conference on Covid-19 and South Asia. While the pandemic affected all countries, the outcomes varied significantly. Suffering in some countries and regions within countries. The workshop aimed to look at how we might account for the variations in outcome. Government policies, the strength of public health systems, citizen mobilization, vaccine availability and administration have all mattered in different ways.

Barkha Dutt, Mojo Story & The Washington Post
P. Saravanamuttu, Center for Policy Alternatives
Maliha Mannan Ahmed, Organikare Bangladesh
Field Reports From Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka

Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant of Pakistan’s Prime Minister and Federal Minister
Moderator:
Beena Sarwar, Emerson College
Commentators:
Mashail Malik, Harvard University
Muhammad Omar Afzaal, Brown University
COVID-19 in Pakistan

Bhramar Mukherjee,
University of Michigan
Arvind Subramanian, Brown University
Patrick Heller, Brown University
COVID-19 in India

Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University
Asim Khwaja, Harvard University
Ramu Kharel, Brown University
Covid-19 in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal

OCTOBER 1
Sienna Craig, Dartmouth College
The Ends of Kinship: Connecting Himalayan Lives between Nepal and New York
*Co-sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology and Contemplative Studies

FEBRUARY 3
Gowri Vijayakumar, Brandeis University
At Risk: Indian Sexual Politics and the Global AIDS Crisis
*Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Marshall Woods Lectureships Foundation of Fine Arts

APRIL 22
Matthew Rahaim, Vocalist
Suhail Yusuf Khan, Sitar Player
Nitin Mitta,Tabla
Vocal and Sarangi Recital
*Co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies

MAY 12 - 14
Borayin Larios, University of Vienna
Finnian M. M. Gerety, Brown University
Carola E. Lorea, National University of Singapore
Gudrun Bühnemann, University of Wisconsin
Dominik A. Haas, University of Vienna, Austria
Mantras: Sound, Materiality, and the Body
A workshop hosted by the University of Vienna
*Co-sponsored by CCSA & the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Arvind Subramanian was professor of economics at Ashoka University and founding director of the Ashoka Center for Economic Policy (ACEP). He is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). He was chief economic adviser to the Government of India between 2014 and 2018. Previously, he was a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School. Subramanian’s areas of interest include global development and the global economic, financial and trading systems.

Prior to his time in India, he was the Dennis Weatherstone Senior Fellow at PIIE, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, and an assistant director in the research department of the International Monetary Fund. He also worked for the GATT (the predecessor of the World Trade Organization) during the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. In 2011, Foreign Policy magazine named him a Top 100 Global Thinker.

In 2018, Professor Subramanian published Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy, reflecting on his time guiding India’s economy. His previous award-winning book, Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China’s Economic Dominance has been printed in four languages.

Meera & Vikram Gandhi Fellow

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.

Arvind Subramanian
Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

Arvind Subramanian was professor of economics at Ashoka University and founding director of the Ashoka Center for Economic Policy (ACEP). He is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). He was chief economic adviser to the Government of India between 2014 and 2018. Previously, he was a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School. Subramanian’s areas of interest include global development and the global economic, financial and trading systems.

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OCTOBER 8
Is the Indian Economy Back?
Commentator: Raghuram Rajan, University of Chicago Booth

COURSES:
IAPA 1404: Economic Development in China and India
SAST 0750: Understanding the Indian Economy

Finnian M.M. Gerety

In the fall of 2018, Finnian M. M. Gerety joined CCSA as a visiting assistant professor for a three year term. He also serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for South Asian Studies. Professor Gerety works on texts, rituals, and the senses in South Asian religions, with a focus on Hindu traditions of India. He is especially interested in Sanskrit mantras: how they are performed, textualized, and passed on; how they are embodied and sensed; how they are reflected upon and interpreted; how they are transformed in the digital age; and how they influence identity, community, and heritage within religious traditions. He teaches classes in South Asian Studies, Contemplative Studies, and Religious Studies.

MAY 12 - 14
Mantras: Sound, Materiality, and the Body

Borayin Larios, University of Vienna
Finnian M.M. Gerety, Brown University
Carola E. Lorea, National University of Singapore
Gudrun Bühnemann, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dominik A. Haas, University of Vienna, Austria

*A three day workshop hosted by the University of Vienna; co-sponsored by CCSA & the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
CCSA Fellows 2021-2022

Projects selected represent a variety of research topics related to social, political, cultural and economic change in South Asia.

In 2021-2022 the Center awarded funds for research projects, language programs, and internships to two postdoctoral fellows, five undergraduate students, and eleven graduate students.

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS**

Sangeeta Banerji, International & Public Affairs
Fixing Mumbai (Summer 2022)

Zehra Hashmi, International & Public Affairs
Data Infrastructures for Surveillance in Postcolonial Pakistan (Summer 2022)

Srivaath Kidambi Perangur
AIS Summer Language Program in Tamil (Summer 2022)

**UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS**

Priyanka Mahat
Climate Change and Nepal: An environmental justice perspective (Winter 2021)

Rhythm Rastogi
Social Audit Toolkit (Winter 2021)

Aryan Srivastava
Hate Speech on Social Media in India (Winter 2021)

Kanha Prasad
Gujarati Language Training for Research on Gandhi (Summer 2022)
CCSA Fellows 2021 - 2022

GRADUATE FELLOWS

Arnav Adhikari, English
Transnational Marxisms: Tracing Revolutionary Dialogues Between Mexico and India (Winter 2022)

Jocelyn Bell, Sociology
Reimagining within-movement conflict: Ideology and the anti-sex trafficking movement (Summer 2022)

Muhammad Omar Afzaal, Political Science
Picking Your Battles: A Story of Pakistan’s Perceptions (Winter ’21 & Summer ’22)

Geetika Nagpal, Economics
Impact of housing supply on FSI regulations (Winter 2021)

Subadevan Mahadevan, Sociology
A subnational comparative Analysis of Decarbonization in India (Summer 2022)

Aarushi Kalra, Economics
Hate at Scale: Wealth Shocks, Backlash, and Hate Speech on Social Media (Summer 2022)

Radhika Moral, Anthropology
Silk Frontiers: Supply Chains, Gendered Labor, and the Politics of Belonging in Northeast India (Summer 2022)

Alex Zhou, Economics
Beneficiary Targeting in Mumbai’s Subsidized-Housing Program (Summer 2022)

Ruchi Mahadeshwar, Economics
The Impacts of Diversity in Mumbai’s Annual Public Housing Program (Summer 2022)

Beenish Pervaiz, Political Science
Old Wars, New Tools: How alliance politics shapes vertical nuclear proliferation and technological diffusion in Pakistan & India (Summer 2022)
South Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary concentration in which students work across the humanities and social sciences, geographical locations and historical periods. Through their coursework, SAST concentrators work across the humanities and social sciences, geographical locations and historical periods. The concentration emphasizes both the diversity of South Asia as a region, as well as the long-term historical connections among people and places in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka.

COURSES SPONSORED BY CCSA

Finnian M.M. Gerety, Religious Studies
SAST 0034: Dharma: A History of Classical Indian Civilization
SAST 0140: Food, Religion and Politics in South Asia
SAST 0145: Karma, Rebirth and Liberation: Life and Death in South Asian Religions
SAST 0525: The History and Practice of Yoga in India and Beyond

Aarushi Kalra, Economics
SAST 0730: Economic and Human Development in South Asia

Nabila Islam, Sociology
SAST 0735: South Asia in the World and the World in South Asia

Arvind Subramanian, International & Public Affairs
IAPA 1404: Economic Development in China and India
SAST 0750: Understanding the Indian Economy

THESIS PRIZE

Jamila Beesley ˚22
“The Architects of the Solutions They Need”: Dalit Feminism in the U.S. Caste Abolition Movement

Lavanya Krishnan ˚22
The Politics of Privatisation in India

Akshaan Parikh ˚22
Let Us Alone to Die: Plague Camps in Bombay City, 1896–1902

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER PRIZE

Aryan Srivastava ˚22.5
Hate at Scale: Elections, Leader Identity and Hate Speech in Rural Uttar Pradesh
*Co-authored by Aarushi Kalra & Saket Tiwari

Catherine Nelli ˚23
Krishna Drinking Flames: A Kangra Painting of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa

Leo Fleissig ˚24
The Story of Ekalavya: an Embodiment of Hopelessness or a Beacon of Hope

Undergraduate Student Programming

MARCH 4
Aashish Kumar, Hofstra University
Body, Home, World: South Asian American LGBTQ+ Journeys

*Co-sponsored by the Pembroke Center and the South Asian Students’ Association

MARCH 4
Aashish Kumar, Hofstra University
Body, Home, World: South Asian American LGBTQ+ Journeys

*Co-sponsored by the Pembroke Center and the South Asian Students’ Association

APRIL 15
Vaisakhi - Naya Barsa - Pohela Boishakh
New Years Celebration

*Co-sponsored by the Himalayan Cultural Association, Sikh Students Association, and the South Asian Students’ Association

APRIL 29
Shrayana Bhattacharya, World Bank
Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh: India’s Lonely Young Women and the Search for Intimacy and Independence

*Co-sponsored by the Pembroke Center and the South Asian Students’ Association
Graduate Student Programing

Graduate students from across the disciplines working on South Asia are a vital part of the CCSA community. Students present their own work, receive fellowships to support their research and invite speakers to be part of the South Asia Seminar Series.

PRESENTATIONS BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

MARCH 2
Anindita Adhikari, Sociology
Claims, Complaints and Democratization of the Local State in India

APRIL 6
William Lodge II, Public Health
Intersectionality, Multilevel Syndemics, and HIV Medication Adherence Amongst Transwomen in India

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY GRADUATE STUDENTS

OCTOBER 1
Debashree Mukherjee, Columbia University
Bombay Hustle: Labor and Ecological Entanglements in 1930s Cinema

OCTOBER 15
Rema Nagarajan, Times of India
India’s Private Health Sector’s Response to Covid-No Surprises

FEBRUARY 25
Karen Coelho, Madras Institute of Development Studies
Remaking the Urban in the Margins: Resettlement Colonies and Differential Inclusion in India
Technology in the Urban Bureaucracy

MARCH 18
Farhana Sultana, Syracuse University
Critical Climate Justice
In March 2022, fieldwork for the JB-CI project was able to resume. Brown faculty and graduate researchers traveled to India to conduct focus group discussions and key respondent interviews in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar. In 2021-2022, the project supported two graduate student researchers and seven undergraduate research assistants. Undergraduate research assistants utilized their research skills identifying and summarizing any previous research done on citizenship and urban service provision in 12 cities being studied by the project. Our graduate researchers shared the following reflections on how the project has contributed to his professional development at Brown:

“Working on the JB-CI project has been a formative opportunity for me to apply much of my statistical and quantitative training on a large-scale, ongoing research collaboration. The project has also introduced me to the field of urban studies and helped me to make connections that will improve my dissertation field research. As a result, I expect that I will keep working on the issue of urban governance in India once the project itself has concluded.”

This summer, draft reports from three cities in Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Bhavnagar) will be presented to local stakeholders in Ahmedabad for feedback before publication. Similar events will be planned to coincide with the publication of additional city reports, the first seven of which will be completed by the end of August. Smaller excerpts of findings will also be released via various news outlets over the course of the year. Fundamentally, this project aims at improving on understanding an issue of great emerging significance: urban governance in India. The city reports will provide detailed, contextually-rich pictures of this key issue. They will, moreover, serve as definitive reference documents for urban researchers, policymakers, and practitioners for each of the 17 cities surveyed in the project.
Steering Committee

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