Political Economy of Contemporary South Asia

13–14 OCTOBER 2023
10 Stephen’s Hall - UC Berkeley

INET-YSI Conference @ UC Berkeley on:

- Dialectics of Globalism and Nationalism
- Inequality and Populism
- Agrarian and Urban Crises
- Data and Social Justice
Friday, October 13

08:30 - 09:00 AM  Registration

09:00 - 09:15 AM  Inaugural Session

09:15 - 10:45 AM  Panel I: Dialectics of Globalism and Nationalism

Chair: Munis Faruqui, Associate Professor, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley

Speakers:

Anush Kapadia, Associate Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay
David Grewal, Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law
Katharina Pistor, Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law, Columbia Law School

10:45 - 11:00 AM  Coffee

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM  Panel II: Agrarian-urban Crises

Chair: Vamsi Vakulabharanam, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Speakers

Sai Balakrishnan, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley
Sharad Chari, Associate Professor, Berkeley Geography, UC Berkeley
Thomas Blom Hansen, Reliance-Dhirubhai Ambani Professor in South Asian Studies and Professor in Anthropology, Stanford University

12:30 - 1:30 PM  Lunch

1:30 - 2:30 PM  Young Scholars Session I: Migrants, Capital and Capitalism

Chair: Jay Pocklington, Director, Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking

Discussant: Arindam Dutta, Professor of Architectural Theory and History, MIT

Speakers

Pratim Ghosal, DPhil candidate in International Development, University of Oxford:
“From Diamonds to Real Estate: Saurashtra Patels and Socially Embedded Capital in a Transforming City”

2:30 - 2:45 PM  
Coffee

2:45 - 3:45 PM  
Young Scholars Session II: Dispossessions

Chair: Sattwick Dey Biswas, Coordinator, History of Economic Thought Working Group, Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking
Discussant: Sai Balakrishnan, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley

Speakers

Danish Khan, Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at Franklin & Marshall College: “Agrarian-Urban Frontier’ and Real-Estate Development; Rethinking ‘Accumulation by Dispossession’ in the Postcolonial Punjab, Pakistan”

Gajendran V, Post-Doctoral Fellow, IIT Hydrabad: “Variegated Dispossession: Varieties and Modalities of Dispossession in Chennai’s Ennore, India”

3:45 - 4:00 PM  
Coffee

4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Reflections & Roundtable

Pranab Bardhan, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Economics, UC Berkeley: Reflections on Indian Political Economy

Followed by Roundtable with

Paul Pierson, John Gross Endowed Chair, Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley
Steven Vogel, Director of the Political Economy Program, the II Han New Professor of Asian Studies, and a Professor of Political Science and Political Economy, UC Berkeley

7:00 PM  
Dinner at Faculty Club (by invitation only)
Saturday, 14 October

09:00 - 10:30 AM  **Panel III: Inequality and Populism**

*Chair: Sai Balakrishnan*, Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley

*Speakers*

*Arindam Dutta*, Professor of Architectural Theory and History, MIT  
*Jayati Ghosh*, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
*Vamsi Vakulabharanam*, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

10:30 - 10:45 AM  **Coffee**

10:45 AM - Noon  **Panel IV: Data and Democracy**

*Chair: Pia Malaney*, Senior Economist and Director of Center for Innovation, Growth, and Society, Institute for New Economic Thinking

*Speakers*

*Sripad Motiram*, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
*Gilles Verniers*, Amherst College, MA and Centre for Policy Research, Delhi

Noon - 1:00 PM  **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:15 PM  **Young Scholars Session III: Inequality and Crises**

*Chair: Arun Balachandran*, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University  
*Discussant: Vamsi Vakulabharanam*, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Speakers*

*Saswata Guha Thakurata*, Assistant Professor, Kanchrapara College, West Bengal, India: “Crisis, Inequality and Populism: Analyzing the Relationship between Changing Sources of Growth and Distributional Dynamics” (co-authored with Manikantha Nataraj)"

*Snigdha Kumar*, PhD candidate in Sociology, University of Minnesota  
Banking on/with Data: Decoding the Platformization of Banking in India

2:15 - 2:30 PM  **Coffee**
2:30 - 3:45 PM  **Young Scholars Session IV: Inequality and Space**

*Chair: Jay Pocklington, Director, YSI, Institute for New Economic Thinking*

*Discussant: Katharina Pistor, Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law, Columbia Law School*

*Speakers*

**Zahra Khalid**, PhD Candidate in Geography, City University of New York: “Aspiring to secure: the political economy of real-estate development in Karachi, in a time of sea-level rise”

**Leilah Vevaina**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong: “Immortality and Inequality: The Trust and the ‘Unincorporate Body’”

3:45 - 4:00 PM  **Coffee**

4:00 - 5:00 PM  **Looking Ahead (Closed)**

*Moderators*

**Sunanda Nair-Bidkar**, Director of Strategic Planning, South Asia, Institute for New Economic Thinking

**Jay Pocklington**, Director, Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking