

CPS@50



HANDBOOK

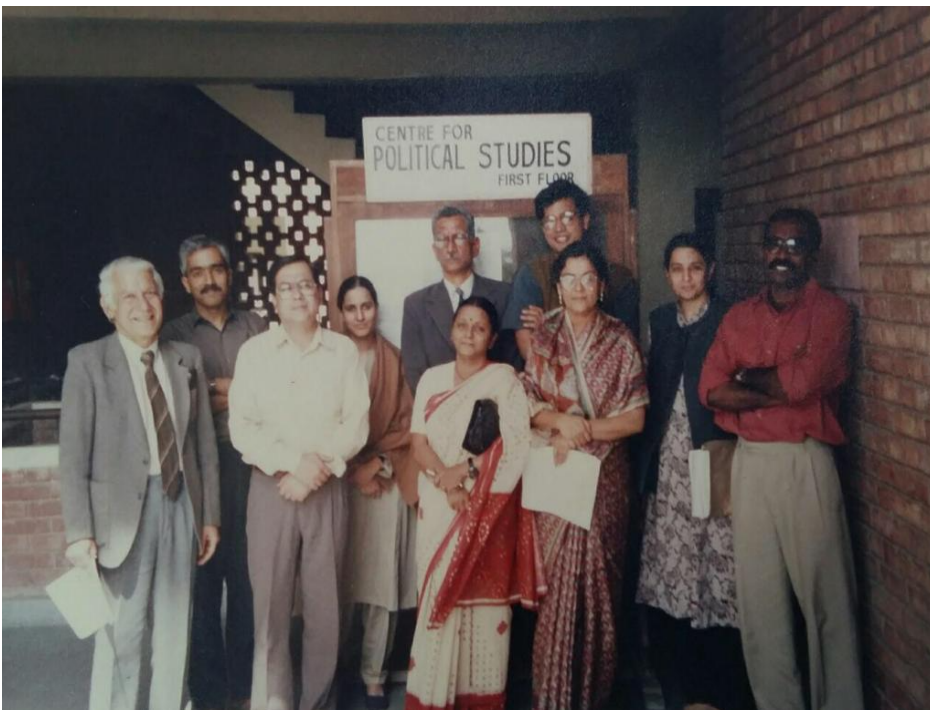
Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-67

History, Current and Former Faculty

History

The Centre for Political Studies is one of the flagship centres of study of the Jawaharlal Nehru University in terms of the university's huge reputation in the social sciences. For the last fifty years the Centre for Political Studies has been at the forefront of teaching and advanced research in the discipline of political science. It has put at the very heart of its academic concerns the serious and systematic study of Indian politics. It has done so by retaining the focus on the study of Indian political institutions, at the same time avoiding the pitfalls of an excessively narrow focus that the institutional approach itself may be prone to.



The lens has been adjusted to understand the larger political processes and social trends that institutions have been subjected to and how they have responded to these, at times successfully through a combination of the creative and innovative and at other times, not so successfully as they may have succumbed to the stresses placed upon them. In addition to studying political institutions dynamically in this manner, the Centre for Political Studies has also attempted to understand the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of institutions.

This has involved the attempt to combine harmoniously the fields of political theory and Indian politics, rather than tending to view them as separate and sparring areas of study. As a result of this there is in addition to the Indian politics component in the courses of study a large array of courses concerned with the philosophical and the conceptual. The Centre for Political Studies has not refrained from looking outwards at the world and in doing so has constantly reconfigured the study of comparative politics and international relations. In the case of comparative politics this has been especially significant as the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Socialist command economies of Eastern Europe somewhere at the mid-point of its fifty year existence has a major rethinking of this field of study.

The core courses that the Centre for Political Studies offers to its students seek to capture the major concerns of the discipline. In addition, the numerous optional courses cater to the specialisations of faculty members especially as these respond to the ever changing concerns of the political. The Centre for Political Studies can count as past, and current faculty members some of the most eminent and distinguished scholars, internationally recognised and respected for the quality and consistency of their academic output. Many of them have not remained confined to the so-called cloistered confines of the academy and through their constant engagement with larger audiences in the popular press and media have assumed the critical role of public intellectuals, thereby extending their scholarship far beyond learned journals and the rarefied discussion in academic seminar rooms. There is also the remarkable contribution of CPS alumni in numerous

realms such as academia, government, journalism, the social sector et. al. that continuously adds to the profile and standing of CPS as every year numerous students graduate and take up larger responsibilities in their respective fields of endeavour. It would be futile to even begin listing some of the many distinguished names who count themselves as former students.

The Golden Jubilee of the Centre for Political Studies affords a good opportunity to understand the slow, gradual and persistent development of CPS into its current form. It also forces us to think ahead in terms of the concerns that current faculty members, especially the younger ones will carry forward in the decades ahead as they contend with the many issues with their training in the discipline, that will also give rise to greater advances in the discipline as well.



Current Faculty



Ajay Gudavarthy, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies

My areas of research include Civil Society, Post-colonial Theory, Critical Theory, and Populism. I attempted to interrogate the interface between Liberal notions of Civil Society and post-colonial formulation on 'Political Society'. In my follow-up work I shifted the focus from 'high politics' to militant mobilization and revolutionary violence. More recently, in the last few years, workings of the populist turn in democracies across globe but more pertinently in India has been of interest to me. I attempted to look at vicissitudes of popular politics at one end and the limits of subaltern mobilization at the other. My published work, apart from articles in various national and international journals, include books (Edited)- *Reframing Democracy and Agency: Interrogating Political Society, Politics of Post-Civil Society: Contemporary History of Political Movements in India (Translated into Hindi), Maoism, Democracy and Globalisation: Cross-Currents in Indian Politics, Cultural Politics of Modern India* (Edited), *Revolutionary Violence versus Democracy: Narratives from India, India after Modi: Populism and the Right* (Translated to Chinese, Forthcoming 2022), (ED) *Secular Sectarianism: Limits of Subaltern Politics. Ethics and Emotions in 'New India'*. I am currently Associate Member, Institute for Humanities, Simon Fraser University, Canada. In the past I was a Visiting Professor, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Gottingen University, Germany (2014); Visiting Fellow, Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law, University of Aberdeen (2012); Visiting Fellow Goldsmith's College, London, (2010).

Links- <https://www.epw.in/author/ajay-gudavarthy>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajay_Gudavarthy

<https://www.e-ir.info/2021/06/06/interview-ajay-gudavarthy>



Anupama Roy, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

My research focuses on debates on citizenship, political anthropology of public institutions, constitutionalism, law and democracy, and gender studies. She obtained her MA degree from Allahabad University, MPhil degree from University of Delhi, and her PhD degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton, USA. She is the co-author of the book *Election Commission of India: Institutionalising Democratic Uncertainties* and author of *Citizenship in India, Mapping Citizenship in India*, and *Gendered Citizenship: Historical and Conceptual Explorations*. She has co-edited *Dimensions of Constitutional Democracy* (Springer 2020) and *Poverty, Gender and Migration in South Asia* (Sage, 2008). Her forthcoming book *Citizenship Regimes, Law and Belonging* (OUP, 2022) examines the contemporary landscape of citizenship in India. Her research articles have appeared in various national and international journals including *Asian Studies Review, Australian Feminist Studies, Critical Asian Studies, Contributions to Indian Sociology, Economic and Political Weekly, Seminar, Election Law Journal*, and *Studies in Indian Politics*. Anupama Roy was a senior fellow in the Centre for Women's Development Studies, before she joined the Centre for Political Studies in JNU. She has been a visiting scholar in various universities, including Sydney University, University of Warwick and University of Wurzburg, Germany. She was Sir Ratan Tata post-doctoral Fellow at the Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi and KTP Fellow at University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.



Amir Ali, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Amir Ali's areas of interest are in political theory, multiculturalism, group rights, political Islam and British politics. Previously he taught at the Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and was Agatha Harrison Memorial Visiting Fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford. He has published two books *South Asian Islam and British Multiculturalism* and *Brexit and Liberal Democracy: Populism, Sovereignty and the Nation State*.



Asha Sarangi, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

She completed her Ph.D at the Department of Political Science of the University of Chicago, USA. She has received distinguished awards like the *National Scholarship* of the Government of India for pursuing Ph.D abroad, Fellowship of the *American Institute of Indian Studies*, *Junior Fellowship* of the department of culture, Government of India and the *Social Scientist Award* under the Indo-French cultural exchange program. She was invited to be a *Global Partner* for the Swiss National Science Foundation Funded project titled "Language and Knowledge Society in the Age of Globalization: English in Independent India" in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2016, she was invited as a *visiting professor at the Centre for South Asian Studies of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK*. The main areas of her research are political and cultural economy of development in modern India, linguistic nationalism in India, identity and politics in South Asia and the politics of cultural nationalism in modern India. She has written extensively and contributed more than three dozen articles in edited volumes and various peer-reviewed national and international journals. She has written a new introduction to V.P. Menon's *Integration of Indian States*, republished after six decades by the Orient Blackswan in 2014. She had earlier edited *Language and Politics in India*, and co-edited *Interrogating Reorganisation of States: Culture, Identity and Politics in India*. The details of her publications can be found at <http://www.jnu.ac.in/Faculty/ashasarangi/cvpdf>



V. Bijukumar, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Before joining CPS, he taught Political Science, at Mizoram University, Aizawl, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, SIS, JNU. His areas of interest include Comparative Politics, Political Economy of Development, and Society and Politics in Northeast India. He has completed three research projects funded by the University Grants Commission being a part of the faculty in NEHU Shillong and CCPPT/SIS, JNU. He has published more than eighty research articles in various peer reviewed national and international journals and edited volumes in addition to contributing articles of current relevance to various regional and national dailies and magazines. He has published two books, *Parties and Electoral Politics in Northeast India: Contention of Ethno-regionalism and Hindu Nationalism*, *Reinventing the Congress: Economic Policies and Strategies since 1991*. The recent publications include: "Radicalised Civil Society and Protracted Political Actions in Kerala (India)", *Asian Ethnicity*, "Conservation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability in Northeast India" in C K. Lepcha and U Lal (eds.), *Communities, Institutions and Histories of India's Northeast*, "The social contract of a public university: Equality, social justice and democracy", in D.V. Kumar (ed.), *The Idea of a University: Possibilities and Contestations*.

Website: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/index.php/content/bijukumar>



Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Dwaipayan teaches Indian politics, issues of democracy and development, and methods in social sciences. He has written on left-wing politics in India, contemporary West Bengal, local democracy, agrarian reforms, electoral politics and social policies. His work seeks to generate explanatory frameworks for political processes based on extensive field-studies. Recently his work on 'party society' and 'government as practice' has drawn critical attention from an array of scholars. He has earlier been a fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and held visiting positions at the Universities of Göttingen (Germany), Claremont (United States), Massey (New Zealand). He was a Cambridge Nehru Scholar for doctoral studies in the University of Cambridge and was subsequently awarded Chevening, Charles Wallace and Fulbright Scholar-in-Resident Fellowships. He has co-edited a book on social capital and his book *Government as Practice* is a study of governance from below in India's multi-layered democracy seen through the prism of West Bengal's long Left Front rule. He is member of the M. S. Merian – R. Tagore Centre of Advance Studies 'Metamorphoses of the Political' (ICAS:MP), an Indo-German research collaboration. He has contributed extensively in edited volumes, as well as in national and international journals.



Harish Wankhede, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Harish Wankhede was awarded PhD on 'Secularism and Social Justice: Religious Minorities and Quest for Equality' under the supervision of Professor Valerian Rodrigues in JNU. He was awarded the Raman Fellowship in 2013 and was associated with the Center for South Asia, Stanford University as Visiting Scholar. He also worked as faculty of Political Science at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. Wankhede has published close to 100 independent articles, review, commentaries and essays in major Indian journals, periodicals and magazines on the topics of Dalit identity and caste politics, Indian Cinema, Nationalism, Hindutva, Globalization, etc. He writes opinion columns in The Hindu, The Indian Express, The Hindustan Times and The Financial Express. He has published "Vagabond Dalit: Social Obligation and Quest for Freedom" in Jagannatham Begari (ed) *Dr, BR Ambedkar and Social Transformation: Revisiting Philosophy and Reclaiming Social Justice*. He has also published article in "Hindutva Hegemony and Future of Democratic Struggles" *Economic and Political Weekly*, "Waiting for Citizenship" *Economic and Political Weekly*; "The Post-Political Dalit Movement in Maharashtra" *Economic and Political Weekly*, "Inequalities, Democracy and Globalization" in *India: the Next Superpower?" LSE Ideas Report- SR 010*, London School of Economics, UK.



Jubilee Shangrei, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

He earned his Master, MPhil and PhD degrees from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Shangrei previously taught Political Science at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. His areas of research include Political Theory, Local Government & Politics in India, ethnic conflicts and nationalism with particular focus on Northeast India.



Manindra Thakur, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Manindra N. Thakur teaches Political Reading of Classical Indian Thought, Radical Movements in India and Modern Indian Political Thought. He has been working on an interdisciplinary project on Mapping Knowledge and Practice in India. His research interests are related to Marxism and Religion, Politics of Knowledge, and Consciousness Studies. He is a member of the Creative Theory Group and one of the series editors of Themes in Creative Theory. His edited books are 'Wounded History: Religion, Conflict, Psyche and Social Healing' and 'Democracy on Move: Moments and Movements'. One of his recently published articles is 'Is Capitalism Facing a Philosophical Crisis?'



Narender Kumar, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Narender is currently Chairperson and joined CPS as a faculty in 2015. His early schooling was in various villages and advanced one in the city of Panipat in Haryana, afterwards completed Bachelor with Economics and Political Science from Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra, and finally received Masters and Doctorate in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has experience of working with various and diverse central higher educational institutions i.e. University of Delhi; Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow that enriched his both professional and personal experience. His teaching and research interest include: Indian Politics, Public Policy and Political Process with

special reference to marginalized groups; Panchayati Raj and Dalit Politics. He has been teaching courses on Methods in Social Sciences, Elections and Political Process, Dalit Movements in Contemporary India, and Development and Politics in India. He has completed various research projects including from University Grants Commission, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Actionaid, etc. He received Indo-French Social Scientist Fellowship (2011) and Global Change Makers Award (2020). Narender Kumar has contributed research papers in various Journals including Journal of History and Society of South Asia, Journal of Social Inclusion Studies, Economic and Political Weekly, and in edited books from National and International Publication Houses. His recent publications include Dr. Ambedkar and Democracy edited with Christophe Jaffrelot, and Politics and Religion in India.



Papia Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

I did my PhD in Political Theory and Indian Politics from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I now teach. My research interests are in language diversity and rights, decolonization, institutional-mechanisms, democratic and human rights, language-in-education and policies of multiculturalism and gender issues. My first monograph titled *Language as Identity in Colonial India: Policies and Politics* was published in 2018. My upcoming book is called *Critical Sites of Inclusion in Higher Education in India*. I have published in national and international journals including *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Geoforum*, *International Journal on Diversity, Social Action* and *Droit et Cultures*. In 2016, I was selected as fellow at Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities, University of Edinburgh and held fellowships at Brown University (2015), Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg, 2013, Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship 2007. My collaborated international projects were funded by ICSSR-NIHSS and British Academy. I held visiting professor positions at Rhodes University in South Africa 2018 and at University of Edinburgh in 2016. In 2009, I was awarded the Distinguished Teacher of Delhi University Award for mentoring students. For my work on language-in-education and diversity, I was awarded the Global Solidarity award by International Association for Applied Linguistics, The Netherlands.

Research gate profile: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Papia-Sengupta>

Academia.edu profile: <https://jnu.academia.edu/papiasengupta>

JNU profile: <https://www.jnu.ac.in/content/papiasg>



Rinku Lamba, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Rinku Lamba obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto. Prior to that she earned research degrees from the University of Oxford (as an Inlaks Scholar) and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research and teaching interests fall within the domains of contemporary political theory and Indian political thought. Her published work focuses on state power, multiculturalism, secularism, and conceptions of religion in India, as well as on the political thought of Ranade, Phule, Ambedkar and Gandhi. She has been a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI, a Harold Coward Fellow at the University of Victoria, and has held fellowships at the University of Sydney and at the Australian Catholic University, Sydney. Most recently she held fellowships at the *Multiple Secularities* research centre in the University of Leipzig, and at the *Justitia Amplificata* research centre in the Goethe University Frankfurt. She has held visiting teaching positions at the Humboldt University and at the University of Wurzburg. In March 2019 she was the Lansdowne Visiting Scholar in Religious Studies at the University of Victoria in Canada. She is presently completing a monograph on Indian political thought.



Rajarshi Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Rajarshi Dasgupta teaches concepts in political philosophy, philosophical issues in Marxism and biopolitics. His research and publications address intellectual history of Indian Left, questions of culture and politics, and intersections of urbanization, migration and refugee afterlives of South Asia. Dasgupta brings together readings of primary and vernacular sources with longitudinal multi-sited ethnographies to study social and political behaviour and theorize changing subjectivities in India. Dasgupta did his MA and M.Phil. from JNU and D.Phil. as a Felix scholar from Oxford. He has been subsequently awarded the Frere Exhibition Prize, and prestigious grants from the Queen's College, Oxford, the Beit Trust and Charles Wallace India Trust. He has been formerly fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, and visiting fellow at the University of Calcutta. He has taken part in several international research collaborations, most recently on 'Global Suburbanisms' housed in Toronto university, and currently leading the 'Rethinking City' project housed in the University of London. He has contributed articles to several national and international journals and chapters to edited volumes that are widely cited.



Shefali Jha, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Shefali Jha did her PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles on 'Hegel and the Sociality of Freedom'. Her areas of interest lie in Western Political Thought, Political Theory, Feminist theory, and Constitutionalism and Democracy. She teaches courses in Political Philosophy, Feminist Political Theory and in the Philosophy of Social Science. She is the author of 'Western Political Thought: From the Ancient Greeks to Modern Times', and has written articles on how the concepts of rights, representation and secularism were debated during the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly of India (1946-1950) as the members struggled with fleshing out a constitutional framework for Indian democracy. The significance of these questions of minority rights, of the requirements of democratic representation in a society marked by different kinds of disadvantage and pluralities, and of the meaning of secularism in a deeply religious society, has endured as we track the transitions of Indian democracy.



T G Suresh, Associate Professor, Centre for Political Studies

T G Suresh received his BA from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, MA from Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and PhD from JNU. His teaching / research interests focus on Comparative Political Economy, and Urbanization and Labour Processes in Asian Cities. His current project studies the relationship between peasant workers and labour intermediaries in India and China. Suresh has published book chapters and journal articles on labour regimes in India and China, labour in global production networks and China's urban question. His conference papers have focused on urban process and new forms of labour intermediations in China. His book reviews have appeared in *China Quarterly* and *China Report*. Suresh is a recipient of the Fulbright Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship 2019-2020 and a Visiting Scholar at the South Asia Program, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. In 2012, he was a Visiting Research Scholar at the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore. In 2008, he has received the ASIA Fellows Award of the Asian Scholarship Foundation (ASF) to conduct research on the development experience of Sichuan province, China. Since 2008, Suresh has lived in and conducted research in Chinese cities including Shanghai, Chengdu, Beijing and Guangzhou. Link to personal webpage providing detailed and updated CV <https://jnu.ac.in/Faculty/tgsuresh/cv.pdf>



Sudhir Kumar Suthar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Sudhir teaches courses on International Relations, agrarian politics and research methods. He is actively involved in understanding agrarian question of India. He has done major project on understanding farmer suicides in three Indian states. His research interests are also on Bundelkhand region of central India. He is founding president of the Rural and Agrarian India Network (RAIN). Sudhir is also associated with BRICS Initiative in Critical Agrarian Studies (BICAS). He has published books on state and governance in Russia, and theories and approaches in international relations. His research articles have been published in prestigious international journals such as International Studies, Social Change and Economic and Political Weekly. Sudhir is a regular columnist for Indian Express, The Wire, and Newsclick. He is also Chief Editor of a peer reviewed journal The Research Post. He also contributes to various Hindi newspapers. Before joining CPS, Sudhir was an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. He was also associated with the planning commission of India as a consultant for Prime Minister's Special Task Force on Governance in Bihar. Sudhir is also a blogger who writes short stories and poems on his personal blog khamosh aawazen (silent voices). His stories can be heard on his personal Facebook page Hamari stories. His blog can be accessed on www.sudhir131.wordpress.com



Tapan Kumar Bihari, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Before joining CPS Tapan has taught earlier at Central University of Jharkhand. He was teaching the subjects namely Human Rights and Conflict Management and International Relations to Post Graduate and Integrated Master Degree students respectively. He holds a Ph.D degree in Political Science from University of Hyderabad. He has also completed M.A. and M.Phil degree in Political Science from the same university. He has done research work on Institutions and Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes to obtain his Ph.D degree and done research work on Public Policy related to Education and Poverty Alleviation Programmes for his M.Phil degree. During his Ph.D, he has worked as Research Associate in various Major Research Projects of UGC and ICSSR related to Public Policies and Tribal Development. He was also a National Level Master Assessor for NIRDP, Hyderabad to Certify Master Trainers/ Resource Person related to PRI. He was also Member, Governing Body, Swami Shraddhanand College, University of Delhi from 2019-2021. Currently he is carrying out a Project on Impact Assessment of Swachh Bharat Mission on The Health Profile of Rural Women: Comparative Study of Himachal Pradesh and Odisha funded by IMPRESS, ICSSR, New Delhi. His research interests are Public Policy, Indian Government and Politics and Development Studies.



Vidhu Verma, Professor, Centre for Political Studies

Professor Vidhu Verma teaches courses in Political Philosophy and Political Theory. Her areas of research include Comparative Political Theory, feminist political theory, State and civil society, affirmative action policies and social justice in India. She has recently edited 'State in India: Ideas, Norms and Politics; 'Unequal Worlds' and 'Secularism, Religion and Democracy'. She has co-edited and contributed to volumes on 'State, Law and Adivasis: Shifting Terrains of Exclusion' and 'Empire of Disgust'. She is the author of three books including "Non-discrimination and Equality in India: Contesting Boundaries of Social Justice", and besides articles in several journals. She has been educated in the universities of Delhi, JNU and Oxford. She has also been Chairperson of the Centre for Political Studies (CPS), the Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH) and the Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion (CSDE), in JNU. She was a visiting fellow, Maison Des Science de L'Homme, Paris, under UGC sponsored Indo-French cultural exchange program in 1994 and under the ICSSR sponsored Indo-French cultural exchange program in 2006. She was a General Fellow (2000-2002), and Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi (2008-2010). She was a senior fellow with ICAS at University of Erfurt, Germany (1st October- 10th December 2019).

Former Faculty



Balveer Arora

Balveer Arora taught Political Science at the Centre for Political Studies (1973-2010) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He was Rector and Pro- Vice Chancellor of the University from 2002 to 2005. Arora obtained his Doctorate in Political Science from the University of Paris Pantheon-Sorbonne (1972) after reading History at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, and Political Science at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po) Paris. Arora has been a visiting professor at U Penn, Philadelphia, and Sciences Po Paris. He has written extensively on India's federal democracy, in *Indian Federalism: Origins and Development*; *Multiple Identities in a Single State*; *Transforming India*; *Changing Role of All-India Services*. He was made a Knight in the Legion of Honour, the highest civilian honour of the French Republic, in July 2011. Earlier, he had been received as Officer in the Order of Academic Laurels (2003). He has been a member of the Scientific Councils of the French Network of Institutes of Advanced Studies (RFIEA) and the Human Sciences House (MSH), Paris. His publications include: "Diversity and Unity in the Indian Republic" in Moreno & Colino eds *Diversity and Unity in Federal Systems*; "The New Party System: Federalised and Binodal" in Ajay Mehra ed *Party System in India* (co-authored) and "Indian Federalism" in K.C.Suri ed *Indian Democracy* (co-authored). More recent work includes "The Value of Comparative Federalism" in a volume co-edited by N Steytler and R Saxena, and "Multilevel Elections and Federal Governance in Comparative Perspective" (co-authored with K K Kailash).

For more information please see <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Balveer-Arora>



Bishnu N. Mohapatra

Bishnu Mohapatra is a social theorist and poet. He is currently a Senior Professor at Krea University where he joined in 2018 as its inaugural Dean of the School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences (SIAS). He is currently a Senior Professor at Krea University where he joined in 2018 as its inaugural Dean of the School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences (SIAS). Mohapatra has taught politics for more than twenty-five years at University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Azim Premji University. He has held visiting appointments at Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, National University of Singapore, University of Kyoto, Japan, and National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore. From 2002 to 2010, he headed the governance portfolio of the Ford Foundation's South Asia office, New Delhi. He is the anchor for India / South Asia of the World Humanities Report, supported by UNESCO and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) and coordinated by Council for Humanities Centres and Institutes, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Mohapatra has published in the areas of identity politics, democracy, minority rights, urban politics, civil society and social capital. He is currently researching on cities and their multiple imaginings in history. He is also in the process of initiating a collective research project that seeks to understand the conceptual universe embedded in India's Bhasa literature. Mohapatra is also a well-known Indian poet. He has authored five books of poetry and has translated two volumes of Pablo Neruda's poetry into Odia. His latest volume of poetry in Odia – Barshabatara- a meditation on rain, on nature was published in July, 2021. He served as the member of the national jury for Moortidevi award of Bharatiya Jnanpith, Delhi from 2013-2015.



Gopal Guru

Gopal Guru was Professor at the Centre for Political Studies in JNU where he taught courses on Indian Politics and Political Thought in Modern India. Presently he serves as the editor of the *Economic and Political Weekly*. His work ranges across issues in phenomenology, moral philosophy and Dalit historiography. His publications include *Humiliation: Claims and Context*, (edited); *The Cracked Mirror*, (with Sundar Sarukkai), *Indian Debate of Theory and Experience, Caste, Experience and Everyday Social* (with Sundar Sarukkai). Chapters in edited books include "Aesthetic of Touch and the Skin, An Essay in Contemporary Indian Political Phenomenology," in (edited by) Arindam Chakrabarti, *Indian Aesthetic and The Philosophy of Art*, Bloomsbury, London 2016; "Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's Modern Moral Idealism: A Metaphysics of Emancipation," in (edited by) Jonardon Ganeri, *The OUP Handbook of Indian Philosophy*; "Limits of Organic Intellectuals, A Gramscian Reading of Ambedkar," in (edited by) Cosimo Zene, *The Political Philosophies of Antonio Gramsci and B.R Ambedkar*; and "On Justice," in Pratap Mehta and Niraja Gopal Jayal (eds.). *Oxford Handbook on Indian Politics*.



Gurpreet Mahajan

Gurpreet Mahajan was Professor at the Centre for Political Studies and she retired in June 2021. Besides serving as the Chairperson of CPS she was closely associated with the setting up of the Centre for Philosophy, and was its Chairperson in the initial years. She taught courses in political philosophy, philosophy of social sciences and multiculturalism. Writing on issues of difference, discrimination, equality, secularism and civil society, in a comparative framework, her work explores the particularity of the Indian experience and theorization. She is the author of *Explanation and Understanding in the Human Sciences, Identities and Rights: Aspects of Liberal Democracy in India, The Multicultural Path: Issues of Diversity and Discrimination in Democracy*, and *India: Political Ideas and the Making of a Democratic Discourse*. Her other recent publications include *Religion, Community and Development: Changing Contours of Politics and Policy in India* (co-edited with S.S. Jodhka), *Accommodating Diversity: Ideas and Institutional Practices*, and *Reading India: Selections from Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. II, (co-edited with S S Jodhka and Ila Patnaik). In addition to this, she has authored several book chapters and journal articles. Apart from her academic work, she writes for newspapers and participates in other media forums. She is on the editorial and advisory boards of several national and international journals, and is associated with various academic committees of UGC and ICSSR. She continues to contribute to the academic and administrative bodies of several universities in India.



Rahul Mukherji

Rahul Mukherji is Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, located within the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg University. He is currently the Executive Director of the South Asia Institute and speaker for the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies. Rahul has taught at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and National University of Singapore. He is Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, and co-chair of the China-India workshop at Fudan University in Shanghai. He serves on the board of journals such as *India Review*, *Pacific Affairs* and *Governance* and co-edits a book series titled: *Institutions and Development in South Asia* with Oxford University Press. Mukherji has published a piece titled "COVID vs. Democracy" in the October 2020 issue of the *Journal of Democracy*. He co-authored with Sumit Ganguly, *India Since 1980*. His books include *Political Economy of Reforms in India*, and *Globalization and Deregulation: Ideas, Interests and Institutional Change in India*. For more detail please go to:

<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/sai/pol/team/mukherji.html>



Rajeev Bhargava

Rajeev Bhargava is Honorary Senior Fellow at CSDS, Delhi and currently, Director of the Centre 's Parekh Institute of Indian Thought. He was also the Centre's Director (2007-2014). He has been a Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where he taught from 1980 to 2005. Between 2001 and 2005, he served as Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. He is an Honorary Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford. Bhargava has been a Visiting Fellow at Harvard University, Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, a Berggruen Fellow at Stanford, Tsinghua and New York Universities, Distinguished Resident Scholar, Columbia University, and Asia Chair at Sciences Po, Paris. Bhargava's publications include *Individualism in Social Science*, *What is Political Theory and Why Do We Need It?* and *The Promise of India's Secular Democracy*. His edited works are *Secularism and Its Critics* and *Politics and Ethics of the Indian Constitution*.



Sudha Pai

Sudha Pai's area of research and teaching has been Indian Politics, which broadly covers Dalit Politics, State Politics in India, Agrarian Politics, Communalism, Institutions and Legislative Governance. Some of her books include *Dalit Assertion and the Unfinished Democratic Revolution: the BSP in Uttar Pradesh*; *Political Process in Uttar Pradesh: Identity, Economic Reforms and Governance* (edited); *Revisiting 1956 B.R. Ambedkar and States Reorganization* (co-author Avinash Kumar); *Indian Parliament: A Critical Appraisal* (co-edited with Avinash Kumar); *Everyday Communalism: Riots in Contemporary Uttar Pradesh* (co-authored with Sajjan Kumar) and *Constitutional and Democratic Institutions in India A Critical Analysis* (edited) 2020. Pai was Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Teen Murti, New Delhi (2006 to 2009) Rector of JNU (2011-2015) National Fellow, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi (2016 to 2017). She has been member of many projects including SIDA and UNIRISD and on the Board of Governors of institutions such as the Indian Institute of Dalit studies, GB Pant institute Allahabad, ISEC Bangalore, and the Advisory Committee of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Mohali, part of ISB Hyderabad. She is also well known for her articles in leading national newspapers such as The Indian Express, The Economic Times and websites such as thewire.in on contemporary politics and public policy. She was awarded the 2019 Exemplar Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement by the South Asian Studies Association. For more information please see: <http://www.sudhapai.com>



S. N. Jha

S.N. Jha taught at CPS from 1978-2001. He started his academic career in the early 1960s from the Patna University and served on the faculty of leading institutions such as the IIPA and IIT Delhi. He has also held visiting fellowship at Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, England and was a visiting Professor at the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Over the years he taught courses on local politics, Indian State, Public administration, Political Analysis and Political Sociology. He has published numerous books, articles and book chapters. His books include *Leadership and Local Politics: A Study of Meerut District in Uttar Pradesh 1923-1973*; *State, Political Process and Identity: Reflections on Modern India*, co-edited with Zoya Hasan and Rasheeduddin Khan, and *Social Mobilization and Development: Local Politics in the Punjab and Maharashtra*. His publications exemplify field-oriented research with deep theoretical underpinnings. He authored a textbook for NCERT with an objective to introduce political science to school students. Prof. Jha has served on numerous committees such as the member of the high powered committee appointed by Government of India to review the response of the state governments to the audit reports of the CAG .



Valerian Rodrigues

Valerian Rodrigues taught courses in political theory, Indian political thought and Indian politics at the Centre for Political Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prior to joining CPS, Rodrigues taught in the Department of Political Science in Mangalore University. Rodrigues held the Ambedkar Chair at Ambedkar University Delhi, and was recently Visiting Professor at Simon Fraser University. He is presently working on a monograph on Ambedkar's political philosophy, as well as conducting field-work for a study on Veerashaiva-Lingayat Contention in Karnataka, India. His published books include *B.R. Ambedkar: Essential Writings*; *The Indian Parliament: A Democracy at Work* ((with B.L. Shankar); *Speaking for Karnataka*, (with Rajendra Chenni, Nataraj Hulyar and S.Japhet); and an edited volume *Conversations with Ambedkar, 10 Ambedkar Memorial Lectures*. Recent articles include "Democracy, Elections and Governance" in Vikas Jambhulkar, Jitendra Wasnik and Mohan Kashikar, eds., *Remaking Civil Society: Democracy, Good Governance and Elections in India*; "Democracy's Ghettos: Adivasi Leadership in India" in Jagannath Ambagudia and Virginius Xaxa, eds., *Handbook of Tribal Politics in India*, and "Gandhi and Ambedkar on Caste", in Pradeep Gokhale, ed., *Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*.



Zoya Hasan

Zoya Hasan is Professor Emerita and former Dean of the School of Social Sciences, and former Chairperson of the Centre for Political Studies and founder Chairperson of the Centre for Women's Studies and Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion. Professor Hasan has held visiting appointments at National University of Singapore, University of Zurich, University of Edinburgh and fellowships at, among others, University of Sussex, Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, and the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin. She was a member of the National Commission for Minorities, National Integration Council, CAGE and the National Book Trust. Professor Hasan has published widely on Indian society and politics, state, democracy, party politics and political movements and on issues of equity and social justice. She is the author/editor of 18 books, including most recently *Congress After Indira: Policy, Power Political Change (1984-2009)*; *Politics of Inclusion: Caste, Minority and Affirmative Action*; *Agitation to Legislation: Negotiating Equity and Justice in India*. Her book titled *Ideology and Organization in Indian Politics: Polarisation and the Growing Crisis of the Congress Party (2009-2019)* will be published in March 2022. She has recently completed a monograph titled *The New Grammar of Democratic Assertion: Mobilising for Equal Citizenship in India*.

Introduction to Courses

Indian Politics

Over the years CPS has established itself as the leading academic department in the world for teaching and research on Indian politics. The bedrock for this lies on the numerous core and optional courses offered over the years by the CPS faculty. The courses on Indian politics, especially the core ones, emphasize the study of institutions in Indian politics. Institutions are viewed not as standalone entities but as an ensemble of processes emerging from the commingling of philosophical ideas that undergird them, the historical contingencies often shaping them and the innovations that make them sometimes uniquely adaptable to addressing the increasing complexity of Indian politics. Institutions have at the same time adapted not by innovating and adjusting but offering a pushback resistance to political distortions that may want to twist institutions beyond their constitutional remit. At the same time, the study of the Indian constitution has emerged as a major area of interest where the emphasis again is, to use the words of a much-acclaimed book written by members of the CPS faculty, understand 'India's living constitution', as a sort of political ecosystem that is ever responsive to the fast-changing demands and requirements of the polity. In addition to the core courses the numerous optional courses that have been designed by faculty members reflect not just their individual research interests but bring in a range of themes in Indian politics as varied as the party system, trade unions and pressure groups and the rapid emergence of social media and its effects on politics.

Comparative Politics and International Relations

The objectives of the courses in comparative politics and international relations are to make students familiar with various political processes in other parts of the world. In comparative politics the focus is on issues of nationalism, state, and political economy. The course provides a historical overview of political trends in different parts of the world with a focus on Asian states. Optional courses on globalization focus on various aspects with special reference to Asian states and societies. The course on international relations follows a non-traditional approach by tracing the disciplinary history prior to emergence of the Westphalian state system. The focus is on traditional (realist or liberal theories) as well as alternative theoretical interventions like constructivism, critical theory, feminist approach and political economy approach. The pedagogy of the course engages with alternative approaches by referring to anthropological and ethnographic studies. The course encourages students to understand international politics beyond the categories of state and international system and focuses on the relationship between state-society and individuals. This course also tries to make students familiar with emerging issues and concerns in global politics including changing nature of war, environmental challenges, changing nature of global trade and emerging areas of conflict.

Political Philosophy

The Centre is well known for its strengths in what is traditionally called western political thought in the Indian university system. The Centre offers courses ranging from early Greek philosophy to later continental philosophy, normative theory, feminism, Marxism and post-structuralist thought. In recent decades, the Centre has produced cutting edge work in Indian political thought and scholarship pushing the limits of postcolonial theory. In doing so the Centre has led by example to the decolonization of knowledge production, and to critical studies in comparative political contexts. There is a wide gamut of compulsory and optional MA and Ph.D. courses offered in these and allied streams. The courses in political philosophy combine an emphasis on thorough and rigorous reading of texts in political philosophy along with the need to capture with clarity central concepts that are crucial to the wider understanding of politics. One of the challenges that the Centre has always confronted is to not allow the study of political philosophy to be viewed by students as a realm of the archaic and the arcane, that the study of even some of the older texts reveals the lively throbbing and pulsating of the political. The Centre's faculty enjoy international renown for contribution to issues of secularism, multiculturalism, social justice, democratic theory and populism.

