

# Political Economy of Contemporary South Asia

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

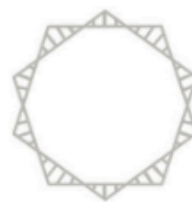
## INET-YSI Conference @ UC Berkeley on:

- Dialectics of Globalism and Nationalism
- Inequality and Populism
- Agrarian and Urban Crises
- Data and Social Justice

Institute for  
**New Economic Thinking**

**Young  
Scholars  
Initiative**

Asia Political  
Economy Center,  
UMass Amherst



**CENTER ON  
CONTEMPORARY  
INDIA**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

**Berkeley** **GMS**  
GLOBAL METROPOLITAN STUDIES

**Berkeley** City & Regional  
Planning

# 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:*

**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"

**Ayan Meer**, Doctoral candidate in the International Development Group at the

Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT: "Migrant Capitalism: International Emigration and the Political Economy of Urbanization in Punjab"

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 Hyderabad: "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 Il 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