

Workshop Governing India

Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute
7th-8th May 2017
Venue: Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH)
Hauptstrasse 242, D-69117 Heidelberg

India presents a laboratory for comparisons where narratives of successful and failed governance can reveal the conditions under which citizen centred governance is likely to occur. This workshop invites policy-makers, public intellectuals, technocrats and scholars who have engaged with governance in India to reflect and discuss on how India executes its governance. The workshop provides a ringside view of interactions between the political executive, technocracy (bureaucracy) and civil society groups that engenders possibilities for citizen well-being in India.

Speakers



Aruna Roy is a social activist who co-founded the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), a social and grassroots organization for the empowerment of workers and peasants. She is a former civil servant who resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). She was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award (2000).



K C Suri is a professor at the Department of Political Science at University of Hyderabad. He has published number of book chapters and papers in national and international journals on different themes pertaining to politics and policies in India. Presently he is the Managing Editor of *Studies in Indian Politics*, a bi-annual Political Science journal published in India.



K Raju is a retired IAS officer. He is currently the chairman of the Scheduled Caste (SC) Division of the Congress party. He was Secretary-rural development, Government of Andhra Pradesh. During his tenure in Andhra Pradesh, he played an instrumental role in setting up the most successful implementation architecture for the right to employment in the state of Andhra Pradesh.



M P Parameswaran is a nuclear engineer and an educationist. He was instrumental in broad-basing a popular science movement in Kerala known as *Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad* (KSSP). He later played a key role in launching a national level education movement and setting up local village governments in Kerala.



Paranjoy Guha Thakurta is currently Editor of the *Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW-leading social science journal in India). His work experience, spanning almost 40 years, cuts across different media: print, radio, television and documentary cinema.



Pradip Baijal is a retired bureaucrat from the IAS and was chief of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. He is credited for telecom revolution by pushing for unified licensing.



Rahul Mukherji is Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg Universität. He has previously taught at the National University of Singapore, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Hunter College - City University of New York and the University of Vermont (USA).



Santhosh Mathew is a political economist with extensive experience as a civil servant within the IAS. He is currently chairperson, National Council for Teacher education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. He was Professor at India's civil service college in Mussoorie (1994-2000).



Shankar Singh is a social activist and the co-founder of MKSS. He played an instrumental role in the minimum wage struggle, securing employment guarantees for the rural poor and access to information movement. Singh is a renowned people's theatre artist, a skill, he uses proficiently to mobilise people and spread awareness at the grassroots by engaging in street theatre, puppetry, song, and drama.



Sowmya Kidambi is director of Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT), Department of rural development, in Andhra Pradesh, India. Kidambi has led the introduction of social audits throughout India, which review how public-sector funds have been spent on the ground. The audits help to improve governance and reinforce public trust in the state.



Subrata K Mitra is Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore; and Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Universität Heidelberg. He has published a number scholarly of books and journal articles on governance and politics in India.



Surjya Kant Mishra is the opposition leader in the state of West Bengal and belongs to the Communist Party of India (Marxist). He was the minister of Health and Minister in-charge of Land & Land Reforms, Panchayats & Rural Development when the CPI(M) was in power in the state.



Swapan Dasgupta is a senior Indian journalist and Member of Parliament, being a Presidential nominee to the Rajya Sabha (India's Upper House of Parliament). He has held senior editorial positions at leading newspapers in India such as The Statesman, The Daily Telegraph, The Times of India, The Indian Express and India Today.



Wajahat Habibullah is a retired civil servant. He held senior positions in the government administration and was secretary to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (local self-government). After retirement, he served as the first information commissioner of the Central Information Commission of India, a central body tasked to implement Right to Information (RTI) law.

Please Email at polsai@sai.uni-heidelberg.de to register for this event.