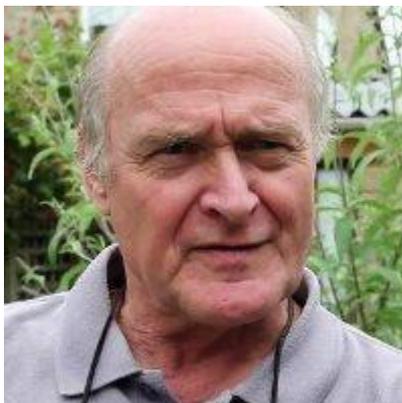


**Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia**  
**Department of Political Science**

**Is there a countermovement against neo-liberalism in India  
today?**

**John Harriss**  
Simon Fraser University

The rise of neoliberalism in public policy across the world may be seen as a further phase of what Karl Polanyi referred to as 'the Great Transformation'. For Polanyi, the attempt to make a reality of the utopian idea of the self-regulating market gave rise to a counter-movement, which led ultimately to the crisis of the mid-twentieth century. Though it is perhaps the most problematic aspect of Polanyi's analysis, his arguments invite reflection on the politics of the present - on 'the economic and political origins of OUR times' of the early 21st century. While India is far from being an exemplar of neoliberalism, its influence in policy is plain, and the lecture examines evidence of a countermovement, in labour politics, in agrarian politics, and in the politics of middle-class activism.



**John Harriss is currently Professor, and was the founding Director of the School for International Studies, at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.** He was formerly Professor of Development Studies at the London School of Economics; and is a sometime Dean of the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia. He has researched in and on India, and on Tamil Nadu in particular, since the early 1970s. Publications include *Reinventing India: Economic Liberalism, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy* (co-authored with Stuart Corbridge; Polity Press 2000); and *Reinventing Social Democratic Development* (with Olle Tornquist; Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 2016). Harriss is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

**Date: Monday, January 22, 2018**

**Time: 16:00 – 18:00**

**Venue: SAI, Room 317**

**All are cordially invited!**