

## 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).



**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).



**K.C. Suri** is a professor at the Department of Political Science at University of Hyderabad. He has published many 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.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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 Sabithya Parishad* (KSSP). He later played a key role in launching a national level education movement and setting up local village governments in Kerala.



**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.



**Nikhil Dey** is s one of the founder members of the MKSS. He has been a part of the organisation's decision making collective and its numerous struggles of the poor for land, the payment of minimum wages, justice, and equality. Dey was a member of the Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC) and of the State Employment Guarantee Council of Rajasthan.



**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.



**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.



**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*.



**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.



**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](mailto:polsai@sai.uni-heidelberg.de) to register for this event.