



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND  
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA  
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

## Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia

### Department of Political Science

*Special Lecture on*

# Farewell to Arms: How Rebels Retire without Getting Killed

*by*

**Dr. Rumela Sen**

*Columbia University*

How do rebels give up arms and return to the political system that they had once sought to overthrow? Policymakers often focus on incentives like cash and jobs to lure rebels away from extremism. From the rebels' perspective, however, physical safety is more important than these livelihood options. Rebels quit extremist groups only when they know that they can disarm without getting killed in the process. This talk focuses on the process of retirement of Maoist rebels in the south Indian state of Telangana. It also highlights what the process of exit through informal networks tells us about democracy, civil conflict and counterinsurgency in India and beyond.



Dr Rumela Sen is lecturer in the discipline of international and public affairs, SIPA, and associate research scholar, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace, at Columbia University. Sen's research focuses on civil conflict, post conflict governance and state building, primarily in the context of South Asia. Her first book (Oxford University Press, forthcoming) examines the process of retirement and reintegration of former Maoist rebels in India. The book draws on her extensive fieldwork in conflict zones in India, where she interviewed current and former Maoist rebels and other stakeholders in the conflict. Her research on the Maoist movement in India received media coverage in *India in Transition* (CASI), *Hindu Business Line* as well as in vernacular newspapers in India.

**Date: Monday, May 3, 2021**

**Time: 14:00 – 16:00, CEST**

**Online - Via Zoom**

**Meeting id: 812 5314 7896, Pass code: TheoryM21**

**Zoom link- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253147896?pwd=RE1HUIFtYmRrczVkUW9Lbi9pS3E4Zz09>**