

## ***Comparative Politics and the Indian Political Process***

Summer Semester 2018

Frequency: Weekly (Tuesday)

Time: 09:00 to 11:00

Venue: SAI Room Z10

Instructors:

1. Rahul Mukherji, Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University

2. K C Suri, Professor of Politics, Department of Political Science, Hyderabad Central University & DAAD Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, SAI, Heidelberg



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### **Aims**

This Vorlesung in comparative politics will reflect key issues in comparative politics and seek to establish their relevance for the study of India. on the relationship between the Indian state and society, and the conditions under which governance succeeds and fails in India. Topics include social power, class, social capital, the state, India's democracy and other important topics in Indian politics, clientelistic politics and state capacity.

The Vorlesung is designed to serve for BA and MA students.

### **Calendar and Syllabus**

1. 17.04.2018: Introduction: Social Power (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)  
We will discuss the organization of this class in this session. This is a free-thinking session. It will be used to introduce the class. Students are not expected to read for the first seminar class.

Politics is largely about power relations. This session will discuss three dimensions of power. What are the three faces of power? Can we recognize the three faces of power in social life? Do they comprehensively tell us about power relations? We will try to see whether these faces of power manifest themselves in social and political life in India. Do institutions reflect power relations?

*Essential*

Steven Lukes. *Power: A Radical View* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2005), chapter 1.

*Supplementary*

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005).

Paul Pierson, "Power in Historical Institutionalism," in Orfeo Fioretos, Tulia G Falletti and Adam Sheingate, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016): 124-43.

2. 24.05.2018: Reflections on readings and getting organized. (No lecture)
3. 08.05.2018: Class Based Arguments (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)  
Does capitalism produce democracy? How strong are the arguments in favour of the rise capitalism as the basis for democracy?

*Essential*

Douglass C North and Barry R: Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment", *Journal of Economic History* 49, 4 (1989), 803-32.

Pranab Bardhan (1984). *The Political Economy of Development in India* (New York: Basil Blackwell), pp.40-53.

*Supplementary*

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966), especially chapters 1, 7 & 6.

Kathleen Thelen, *How Institutions Evolve* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004): 1-38.

Peter A Hall and David Soskice, ed., *Varieties of Capitalism* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001).

John Harriss, *Power Matters* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Vivek Chibber, *Locked in Place* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003), 3-12.

Kanta Murali, *Caste, Class and Capital* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

4. 15.05.2018: Clientelism (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)  
Can citizen-friendly democratic governance be subverted by powerful social actors?

*Essential*

Herbert Kitschelt and Steven I Wilkinson, "Citizen-Politician Linkages," in Herbert Kitschelt and Steven I Wilkison, ed., *Patrons, Clients and Policies* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007): 1-49.

Carolyn Elliot, "Clientelism and the Democratic Deficit" *Studies in Indian Politics* 4, 1 (2016): 22-36.

*Supplementary*

Kanchan Chandra, *Why Ethnic Parties Succeed* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Partha Chatterjee, *Lineages of Political Society* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011).

Rahul Mukherji, *Political Economy of Reforms in India* (Oxford University Press, 2014): ch. 3.

Allen Hicken, "Clientelism," *Annual Review of Political Science* 14 (2011): 289-310.

5. 22.05.2018: Political Power of Economic Ideas (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)

Do ideas within the state matter for politics and policy?

*Essential*

Peter Hall, "Policy Paradigms, Social Learning and the State," *Comparative Politics* 25: 3 (1993): 275-96.

Meredith Woo-Cumings, "Introduction," in Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State* (Cornell University Press, 1999), 1-31.

Rahul Mukherji, *Globalization and Deregulation: Ideas, Interests and Institutional Change in India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press): chapter 1.

*Supplementary*

Peter A Hall, "Introduction," in Peter A Hall, edited, *The Political Power of Economic Ideas* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989): 3-26.

Mark Blyth, *Great Transformations* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002): 17-48.

Theda Skocpol, "Introduction: Bringing the State Back In," in Peter Evans, et al., *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), chapter 1.

Rahul Mukherji, "Is India a Developmental State" in Yin-Wah Chu, ed., *The Asian Developmental State* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2016): 117-138.

Ronald Herring, "India's Failed Developmental State," in Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989): 306-34.

Stephen D. Krasner, "Approaches to the State," *Comparative Politics* 16, 2 (January 1984): 223-45.

Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995): 21-42.

Sudipta Kaviraj, "A Critique of the Passive Revolution," in Partha Chatterjee, ed., *State and Politics in India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1997): 45-88.

Rahul Mukherji, "Governance reform in a weak state: Thirty years of Indian experience" *Governance*, Vol.30, No.1 (2017), pp. 53–58.

Perna Singh, "Sub-Nationalism and Social Development," *World Politics* 67, 3 (July 2015): 506-62.

6. 29.05.2018: Social Capital (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)  
Do social networks aid the process of development?

*Essential*

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), chapter 1.

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), chapter 1.

Anirudh Krishna, "Politics in the Middle," in Herbert Kistchelt and Steven I Wilkinson, ed., *Patrons, Clients and Policies* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007): 141-58.

*Supplementary*

Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner, "The Pursuit of Social Welfare" *World Politics* 70, 1 (January 2018): 122-63.

Himanshu Jha, "Emerging Politics of Accountability," *Economic and Political Weekly* LIII, 10 (March 10, 2018): 47-54.

Tariq Thachil, *Elite Parties, Poor Voters* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014).

Subrata Kumar Mitra, "Room to Manoeuvre in the Middle," *World Politics* 43, 3 (1991): 390-413.

7. 05.06.2018: India's Democracy (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)  
Does India challenge the view that capitalism produces democracy? If capitalism did not produce democracy, what did? What is the evolving nature of Indian democracy?

*Essential*

Rajni Kothari, "The Congress System in India," *Asian Survey* 4, 12 (December 1964): 1161-73.

Maya Tudor, "Explaining Democracy's Origins," *Comparative Politics* 45, 3 (April 2013): 253-72.

Louise Tillin, "Questioning Borders," *Pacific Affairs* 84, 1 (March 2011): 67- 87.

*Supplementary*

Sumit Ganguly and Rahul Mukherji, *India Since 1980* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), especially chapter 4.

Subrata Mitra, *Politics in India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Myron Weiner, "The Struggle for Equality," in Atul Kohli, ed., *The Success of India's Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001): 193-225.

Atul Kohli, ed., *The Success of India's Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Christophe Jaffrelot, *India's Silent Revolution* (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2003).

8. 12.06.2018: Indian Political Process 1 (Lecture\_by Professor K C Suri 1).

9. 19.06.2018 State Capacity (Lecture by Professor Rahul Mukherji)

How does the state in India develop the capacity to govern?

#### *Essential*

Atul Kohli, "Regime Types and Poverty Reform in India," Pacific Affairs (Winter 1983-84), pp. 649-72.

Rahul Mukherji and Himanshu Jha, "Bureaucratic Rationality, Political Will, and State Capacity - MGNREGS in Undivided Andhra Pradesh" *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 52, No. 49 (2017), pp. 53-60.

Himanshu Jha, "State Process, Ideas and Institutional Change," *Pacific Affairs* 91, 2 (June 2018): 309-328.

#### *Supplementary*

Rahul Mukherji, "Governance reform in a weak state: Thirty years of Indian experience" *Governance*, Vol.30, No.1 (2017), pp. 53-58.

Akshay Mangla, "Bureaucratic Norms and State Capacity in India," *Asian Survey* 55, 5 (2015), pp. 882-908.

Patrick Heller, "Degrees of Democracy," *World Politics* 52 (July 2000): 484-519.

10. 26.06.2018: Indian Political Process (Lecture by Professor K C Suri 2)

11. 03.07.2018: Indian Political Process (Lecture by Professor K C Suri 3)

12. 10.07.2018: Indian Political Process (Lecture by Professor K C Suri 4)

13. 17.07.2018: Indian Political Process (Lecture by Professor K C Suri 5)

14. 24.07.2018: Final Exam

### **Prior Requirements**

This class does not require any prior knowledge of South Asia. What is required is a commitment to social theory and an interest in India. The instructor and the lecturers are happy to work with students. Students are required to go through the readings mentioned just below the titles. This is essential for taking the exam. The

supplementary materials are further readings for students who want to learn more about a particular topic.

## **Organization**

The Vorlesung will be a 90-minute lecture with discussions wherever possible. We encourage students to ask questions, even though lecturing will be the main component of the class. Questions and comments make for a lively class both for the lecturer and the pupils. Otherwise, the class becomes boring. I will use slides, which will come with lecture notes.

The lecture slides and essential readings will be uploaded on Moodle. The supplementary material will be available in the library reserves. Following the lecture and essential readings will earn students a good grade. If students engage the supplementary material as well, that will be impressive. There is no limit to how much you can learn from this class. I have pointed to additional resources in the following section titled: Scholarly Resources.

Students who desire a “Schein” must register on Moodle by the second week after the lecture begins. The password for registering for this class is: Comparative 18.

## **Assessment**

Attendance in the Vorlesung is voluntary for those who do not wish to get a ‘Schein’ at the semester’s end. For others, attendance is compulsory. The exam paper will be given out on July 17. The week between July 17 – July 23 can be used for preparation. There will be a closed book exam on July 26.

Students who do not attend the exam will receive no grade, unless they have a good excuse. Such students are required to submit a paper within a week. MA students will have to write a 4500 to 5000 - word paper. BA students are should turn in a 3000 to 3500 - word paper. The right to turn in such a paper is not automatic. We will need to be convinced that circumstances beyond the student’s control led to the student’s absence at the time of the exam.

## **Scholarly Resources**

These resources are not required for taking the exam. However, if you are deeply interested in politics, political economy and South Asia, these journals will allow you to go deeper.

*Journals:* The journals given below are scholarly in nature. They often carry papers on the political economy of South Asia. You can go to their web sites, if you are keen to learn more about this class.

*Economic and Political Weekly:* <http://www.epw.in/>

*Journal of Development Studies*

*World Development*

*Pacific Affairs*

*Asian Survey*

*Contemporary South Asia*

*India Review*

*Seminar:* <http://www.india-seminar.com/>

*Himal:* <http://himalmag.com/>

*Contemporary South Asia*

*Journal of South Asian Development*

*Journal of Asian Studies*

*World Politics*

*Comparative Politics*

*American Political Science Review*

*Leading newspapers:* *Economic Times* (India), *The Hindu* (India), *Indian Express* (India).