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

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

   Supplementary

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*

*Supplementary*

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

*Essential*
Supplementary

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

Supplementary

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

*Essential*

*Supplementary*

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*

*Supplementary*
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*

*Supplementary*

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).