

# CRISIS OF TRUTH?

## THE DIGITAL ERA AND FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

27th-28th August 2021

The inaugural Academic Writing Lab Symposium,  
Department of Social Sciences and the Humanities IIT-Delhi, India

### BIOGRAPHIC NOTES: Paper Presenters and Speakers

**Zeba, PhD Research Scholar at Centre for the Study of Law and Governance (CSLG), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.**

My PhD work deals with questions of liberalism as a political creed. It explicates how the ideological concerns of liberalism can be reconciled with the political demands of socio cultural groups manifested in the demands for political autonomy. It has been situated in the context of political demands for autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir while exploring how the same can be correlated with the discourse of socio spatial marginalization in Jammu and Kashmir specifically focusing on the Borderlands. My MPhil work dealt with concerns of political and local autonomy in context of local governance in Jammu and Kashmir. My academic publications and conferences are centred on theorizing political autonomy, liberal state, Local governance and Discourse of autonomy in Jammu and Kashmir. My academic interests constitute exploring the political philosophy of liberalism and its contemporary challenges, Politics of Jammu and Kashmir, Borderland studies, Challenges of Higher Education in India and social stratification among Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir.



**Dr. Ravi Kant, Assistant Professor at Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi.**

·He has been teaching at SRCC from last 5 years. He has completed his under-graduation from Delhi University and post-graduation from B.B.A.U Lucknow (A Central University), and completed his PhD from Central University of Gujarat. His areas of specialization in Economics of Education, Indian Economy and Public Finance. He has presented papers in several national level conferences and seminar. He has published chapters in editorial books and also published some papers in journals.

**Dr Manohar Kumar, Assistant Professor at IIT, Delhi, SSH Department.**

He completed his PhD in Political Theory from LUISS University, Rome in 2013. He has a Masters in Development Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and a Bachelors in Economics from Hindu College, University of Delhi. He is currently finishing a co-authored book project titled 'Speaking Truth to Power. A Theory of Whistleblowing' slated to be published in 2018. Prior to joining IIT-Delhi, Manohar held postdoctoral fellowships at IIT Delhi (2015-2017) and AMSE, Aix Marseille University (2017-2018).







**Jayana Jain, postdoctoral researcher at the LMU Munich within the project ONLINERPOL**

She has completed her Ph.D. in English and Cultural Studies at the University of Münster. She was granted EU's Marie Curie Fellowship and later the DAAD Graduate School Scholarship to conduct research on South Asian diaspora. Her recently published work includes the monograph *Thinking Past 'Post-9/11' Home, Nation and Transnational Desires in Pakistani English Novels and Hindi Films* (2021). Alongside migration studies, she is interested in digital humanities, law, political theory, gender and disability studies.

**Vinay Brandon, Phd Research Scholar located at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi**

After having an itinerant intellectual career studying mathematics, physics and economics, he found an ideal intellectual landscape in sociology. Marrying his interests in Political Economy and the interdisciplinary field of STS, he is currently researching the speculative life of money within the overall project of digital society.



**Madiha Noman has completed her Master's in English after completing her B.A. (Hons.) in Communicative English from Aligarh Muslim University (UP, India)**

Interested in researching about Muslim Women and digital culture, she actively tries to compliment her academia with on-field volunteering with several NGOs and self-help groups for women. She is passionate about the intersection of technology and its role in the development of digital space as a culture. Apart from academia, Madiha has been a state-level basketball player and takes an active interest in sports.



**Deepshikha Sharma, postgraduate in Philosophy from the Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi**

Received a Bachelors degree in Philosophy from Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi. She will be joining Krea University as a Teaching Fellow this fall. Her research interests lie on the intersections of epistemology, science and technology studies, and gender.



**Dr. Praveen Priyadarshi, Assistant Professor at IIIT, Delhi, SSH Department.**

He completed his PhD in Development Studies from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London. His academic interest lies at the intersections of the categories of space, institutions and policy especially in the urban context. He brings these categories to bear upon his understanding of contemporary politics in India and the Global South. Before joining us, Praveen has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College, Evening, University of Delhi (DU). His publications include papers in *Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)* and a co-edited book from Pearson Longman, titled *Contemporary India: Economy, Society, Politics*. He has been an Associate at the Crisis States Research Centre, LSE, and at the Developing Countries Research Centre (DCRC), University of Delhi. He was the Tata PhD Fellow at the Asia Research Centre (ARC), at the London School of Economics.



**Debarun Sarkar, PhD student at University of Mumbai**

**•Cheshta Arora, PhD student at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore**





**Sarthak Bagchi, Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University**

·He teaches courses on Democracy, Indian Political Processes and India's democratic transformation. His research is primarily focused on clientelism and patronage politics, comparative politics, Indian state politics, Populism, Informal Politics and Identity Politics. He also writes on politics for general audiences in *The Wire*, *The Indian Express* and *The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy* and appears as a political commentator for television news channel, NDTV india. Sarthak has also worked as a journalist with TV news channel, News X, before entering academics. Sarthak has previously worked with KITLV (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies), Leiden and Göttingen University, Germany as researcher and post-doctoral researcher respectively.

His research interests lie in the topics of patronage politics, populism, electoral politics, state-society relations, party politics, informal politics and comparative politics. He has also conducted research to understand politics in other countries such as Turkey, Indonesia and the Netherlands. In Indian State politics, Sarthak looks at the extent and prevalence of patronage networks and clientelistic politics in different Indian states, using methods of comparative analysis. His work uses ethnographic methods to follow and study the mediation and maneuvering of informal networks of political actors, especially in the ambit of election campaigns to understand the different ways in which politicians try to connect with their voters.

**Dr. Rahul K. Gairola, The Krishna Somers Senior Lecturer in English and Postcolonial Literature and Fellow of the Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia**

·He received a joint doctorate in English and Comparative Literature, Film, & Media Studies from University of Washington, Seattle and completed his Master (with distinction) from Rhode Island College. He has taught at IIT Roorkee, Queens College and York College of The City University of New York (CUNY) in New York City; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC); and other American institutions. He also holds Digital Humanities (DH) certificates from international forums including DHSI at Victoria, Canada; ESUDH at Leipzig, Germany; and DHOxSS at Oxford, UK. He has recently delivered talks at the University of Victoria, Canada; Berkeley Center for New Media at the University of California-Berkeley and at the University of Washington-Seattle, USA; Indraprastha College for Women at the University of Delhi, India; and The Digital Studio at the University of Melbourne, Australia.



He had published five books: the co-edited volume *Memory, Trauma, Asia: Recall, Affect, & Orientalism in Contemporary Narratives* (Routledge/ Taylor & Francis, 2021); the co-edited volume *South Asian Digital Humanities: Postcolonial Mediations Across Technology's Cultural Canon* (Routledge/ Taylor & Francis, 2020); the co-authored monograph *Migration, Gender & Home Economics in Rural North India* (Routledge/ Taylor & Francis, 2019); the single-authored monograph *Homelandings: Postcolonial Diasporas & Transatlantic Belonging* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016); and the co-edited volume *Revisiting India's Partition: New Essays in Memory, Culture, & Politics* (Lexington Books/ Orient Blackswan, 2016). He has co-edited themed issues of *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (Taylor & Francis, 2021), *South Asian Review* (Routledge, 2020), and *Asiascape: Digital Asia* (Brill, 2019), and has widely published peer-reviewed research articles. Cumulatively, his research unearths the assumptions, practices, and policies around productions of "home," and who such productions exclude across English language and literature, comparative literature, film & media, and digital studies.

**Prof. Dipesh Chakrabarty, Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor in History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College**

He holds a BSc (physics honors) degree from Presidency College, University of Calcutta, a postgraduate Diploma in management (considered equivalent to MBA) from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and a PhD (history) from the Australian National University. He is the Faculty Director, University of Chicago Center in Delhi, a faculty fellow of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, an associate of the Department of English, and by courtesy, a faculty member in the Law School.

He is a founding member of the editorial collective of *Subaltern Studies*, a consulting editor of *Critical Inquiry*, a founding editor of *Postcolonial Studies*, and has served on the editorial boards of the *American Historical Review* and *Public Culture*. He was one of the founding editors, with Sheldon Pollock from Columbia University and Sanjay Subrahmanyam from UCLA, of the series, *South Asia Across the Disciplines*, published by a consortium of three university presses (Chicago, Columbia, and California). He served on the Board of Experts for non-Western art for the Humboldt Forum in Berlin and was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board to the Center for Global Cooperation Research (Bonn and Essen) for a few years from 2012. He is also an Associate in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney 2018-2021.

He is the recipient of the 2014 Toynbee Foundation Prize for his contributions to global history and of the 2019 Tagore Memorial Prize awarded by the Government of West Bengal for his book *The Crises of Civilization*. He was awarded a DLitt honoris causa by the University of London (conferred at Goldsmiths) in 2010 and an honorary doctorate by the University of Antwerp in 2011. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (conferred on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute in 2011). He was elected an honorary fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 2006 and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004.

His most recent book is *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* (in press, University of Chicago). He also has collections of translated essays forthcoming in Italian with Nottetempo, in Russian with v-a-c Foundation, and in Spanish with Edición Mimesis. A Chinese translation of *Provincializing Europe* is forthcoming with Commercial Press. Other recent books include *The Crises of Civilization: Exploring Global and Planetary Histories* (Delhi: OUP, 2018) and, with Ranajit Dasgupta, *Some Aspects of Labour History of Bengal in the Nineteenth Century: Two Views* (Delhi: OUP, 2018). He is also the co-editor, along with Henning Trüper and Sanjay Subrahmanyam, of *Historical Teleologies in the Modern World* (Bloomsbury, 2015).





# AWL-SSH SYMPOSIUM TEAM

## CONVENORS:



### **Dr Payel C Mukherjee**

Dr Payel C Mukherjee is currently a faculty member at the SSH department of IIIT Delhi and an adjunct professor at the Dept of English, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Her work focuses on Cosmopolitanism, Home, Colonial and Postcolonial Literature, Indian Nationalism, Women and Gender, History of Ideas, and South Asian Studies. She has written for several scholarly publications including Routledge Research in Postcolonial Literatures, South Asian Review, Journal of Human Values, Sahitya Akademi, Gandhi Marg to name a few, and has presented her research at academic forums like The European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (EACLALS), The South Asian Literary Association (SALA), Association for Asian Studies (AAS, USA) and Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (CACLALS).

### **Dr Aasim Khan**



Dr. Aasim Khan is Head of the Department and Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi. As a social scientist he has cross-disciplinary interests in theories of social media, social networks and Big Data. His research themes concern the rise of new media platforms and digital technologies in society, and their implications for politics, policy and more broadly democracy in contemporary world. He earned a Bachelor of Science from St Stephen's College, Delhi University and then an MA in mass communication at AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia. Subsequently he worked for many years in broadcast news journalism (CNN-IBN) and international development (inc. Oxfam GB). In 2010, he moved to the UK and completed an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Subsequently, he joined his doctoral research at King's College London and, in 2018, he was awarded a PhD in Politics and Public Policy (Contemporary India).

Over the years, Aasim has received several grants and fellowships for his research work. These include the Global Institutes Studentships and the Mazumdar Fellowship (2012-2015) in the course of his doctoral studies at King's India Institute, KCL. In 2014, he was awarded the Global Governance Futures fellowship by the GPPi Institute (Berlin) to join a international study group on Internet governance. Their report was subsequently published by GPPi and the Brookings Institute, Washington DC. His research and commentaries have also appeared in academic and popular media publications, including the Economic and Political Weekly, Culture Unbound, Global Policy, Television and New Media and he has also published several book chapters and more recently co-authored a chapter in a volume on digital transformations in urban India (DigiNaka, Orient Blackswan, 2020).

He is currently undertaking multiple research projects, and is a co-Investigator for a project supported by the GCRF (in collaboration with Goldsmiths University, UK). Aasim is also the Director on a project funded by the IMPRESS scheme of the ICSSR, which aims to study environmental policy and politics in 'millennial India'. At IIIT-Delhi, he has established an independent research project NewsLab that aims to explore the social science, ethics and practices of digital journalism in South Asia.

Dr. Aasim Khan is Head of the Department and Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi. As a social scientist he has cross-disciplinary interests in theories of social media, social networks and Big Data. His research themes concern the rise of new media platforms and digital technologies in society, and their implications for politics, policy and more broadly democracy in contemporary world. He earned a Bachelor of Science from St Stephen's College, Delhi University and then an MA in mass communication at AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia. Subsequently he worked for many years in broadcast news journalism (CNN-IBN) and international development (inc. Oxfam GB). In 2010, he moved to the UK and completed an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Subsequently, he joined his doctoral research at King's College London and, in 2018, he was awarded a PhD in Politics and Public Policy (Contemporary India).

Over the years, Aasim has received several grants and fellowships for his research work. These include the Global Institutes Studentships and the Mazumdar Fellowship (2012-2015) in the course of his doctoral studies at King's India Institute, KCL. In 2014, he was awarded the Global Governance Futures fellowship by the GPPi Institute (Berlin) to join a international study group on Internet governance. Their report was subsequently published by GPPi and the Brookings Institute, Washington DC. His research and commentaries have also appeared in academic and popular media publications, including the Economic and Political Weekly, Culture Unbound, Global Policy, Television and New Media and he has also published several book chapters and more recently co-authored a chapter in a volume on digital transformations in urban India (DigiNaka, Orient Blackswan, 2020).

He is currently undertaking multiple research projects, and is a co-Investigator for a project supported by the GCRF (in collaboration with Goldsmiths University, UK). Aasim is also the Director on a project funded by the IMPRESS scheme of the ICSSR, which aims to study environmental policy and politics in 'millennial India'. At IIIT-Delhi, he has established an independent research project NewsLab that aims to explore the social science, ethics and practices of digital journalism in South Asia.



### **Dr Nishad Patnaik**

Dr Nishad Patnaik is Assistant Professor at Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi. He received his PhD in philosophy from The New School for Social Research (NSSR), New York, U.S.A in 2013. He holds a M.A. in philosophy from NSSR, as well as a M.A. and M.Phil. in philosophy from Delhi University. His dissertation entitled, "Time, Space and Finitude; Kant and Husserl on the Question of Transcendental Logic" received the 'Alfred Schutz Memorial Award in Philosophy and Sociology'. In addition to his research interests in Kantian transcendental Idealism, and Husserlian phenomenology, Nishad's other areas of research include Social and Political Philosophy, Marx and the Critical Theory tradition, Ethics, and the Philosophy of Technology. He is currently engaged in writing a book length manuscript on the genealogy of nationalist identity and its apparently paradoxical reassertion in the context of the hegemony of the contemporary capitalist world order.

Before joining IIITD, he was a visiting assistant professor at IIIT Hyderabad (2018-19), Visiting Fellow at J.N.U. (2015-17), and held visiting faculty positions at IIT Delhi (2015-16), St. Stephen's College, Delhi (2016-17) and Westchester Community College, New York, 2013-14.

## **SUPPORT TEAM**

**Rushali Saha:** She is an AWL Fellow at the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi.

**Binoj Baby:** He is the Junior Manager at the Department of Social Science and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi.

**Pallavi Kaushik:** She is the Deputy Manager, Corporate Communications and Alumni Relations at IIIT-Delhi.

**Ankit Agarwal:** He is the Web Manager at IIIT-Delhi.

