

Ireland India Institute
Postgraduate Conference 2017

Dublin City University

Dublin

Ireland

Call for Papers

Deadline for abstracts: 3 February 2017

The Ireland India Institute, DCU, is pleased to announce its first Postgraduate Conference on South Asia, which will be held on 26 May 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. The conference is hosted in collaboration with the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS). Doctoral researchers and early career academics are invited to send proposals for papers addressing the following themes:

- **Nationalism and nation-building**

Acknowledging that the idea of 'the Nation' is a contested concept this theme explores the impact of the rise of nationalism and the legacy of nation building in South Asia. Economic globalisation and the internet revolution has made the world more interconnected than ever before; however, the past decade has also seen an acceleration in the growth of nationalisms and a retreat into the 'nation state'. In the context of South Asia, what are the contradictions for a modernising society that result from the re-emergence of nationalism? What are the emerging political trends that are being shaped by nationalisms? What are the implications of current nation building projects in the region and what is the ongoing implication of past nation building projects?

- **Social Movements in South Asia**

The meta narratives of the state and the nation in South Asia has, at various stages of history, been contested by a range of social movements. Social movements have not only challenged the dominant discourse of the nation-state but also offered alternative ways of imagining how history, society and politics are structured. This theme will explore the emergence of the diverse social movements in South Asia. It will address the significance of the different junctures of history in which they developed and examine the challenge they presented to the meta narratives of South Asia. It will focus particularly on those movements that developed to provide a voice for subaltern groups.

- **Framing identities in South Asia**

Taking a different perspective from the theme on Nationalism and Nation Building, this theme examines the contradictory trends of homogenisation and the protection of diversity that have been a feature of South Asian states during

the past century and that has shaped the framing of identities in the region. It asks to what extent has the acceptance of negotiated identities, in the extremely diverse societies of South Asia, been a result of the influence of liberal democratic principles on the institutions of States. What are the tensions that exist on issues of race, religion, gender and other cultural identities? What is the impact of the homogenising (or polarising) tendencies of the state versus the right of minority identities to self-determination?

- **Intersectionality in researching South Asia**

In a region as diverse as South Asia, research on intersectionality has the capacity to analyse the role played by multiple socio-political agents in shaping reality. This theme, discusses the role of intersectionality as a methodological tool and also its particular relevance for research on South Asia. Of particular interest is the use of intersectionality in research on caste and gender relations in contemporary society. Papers can be from either a methodological or theoretical perspective or present an empirical case study of intersectional research.

- **'New' Media in South Asia**

In the wake of the proliferation of smart phones and high speed internet the capacity of the individual to communicate information to an almost unlimited audience has been hailed as 'democratization of communication'. This 'democratization of communication' presents a paradox as although the communication revolution has created space for previously unheard, subaltern voices and perspectives it has also enabled the rapid spread of misinformation and the manipulation of information by elite groups. This theme asks what has been the South Asian experience of this paradox? How is new media shaping social interactions and the day to day experience of politics in South Asian?

- **The future of South Asia**

This theme addresses the dynamic development of South Asian states as international actors in the context of a shifting and increasingly uncertain international environment. Papers are welcomed that address issues of the security strategies of South Asian States, incorporates the concept of human security and responses to environmental issues including climate change as well as more traditional security concerns. Papers can also address the economic and social challenges facing South Asian states including the eradication of poverty and the achievement of balanced economic development.

Proposals for papers should include a title, abstract (300 words), authors name and email address and a 150 word bio and has to be submitted to the conference organisers Arpita Chakraborty and Hari Krishnan at india.postgradconference@dcu.ie no later than **3 February 2017**. When submitting a paper please indicate preferred theme(s) and/or up to 6 keywords. All authors will be contacted by the end of February.

If you need any further information, please get in touch with

Arpita Chakraborty (Arpita.chakraborty3@mail.dcu.ie) or

Hari Krishnan (harikrishnan.sasikumar2@mail.dcu.ie).

The organisers hope to be able to offer a number of bursaries to support the participation of PhD students from South Asia. In order to apply for travel bursary, please attach a 250-word document of bursary justification with your proposal.