

Conference Organizers, Plenary Session Panelists and Panel Chairs

Ashok Gurung

Ashok Gurung is one of the founding senior directors of the India China Institute (ICI) and Professor of Practice in the Julien J. Studley Graduate Program in International Affairs at The New School, New York. He is responsible for the overall development, management, and coordination of ICI programs and projects in India, China, and the United States. A native of Nepal, he has taught several courses on development management and political and social issues in Nepal at the New School, and most recently taught a course on, 'Global Himalaya: Rethinking Culture and Ecology'. Mr Gurung has more than twenty years of international development experience as an educator, researcher, manager, grant-maker, policy analyst, activist and training facilitator with civil society groups, academic institutions, foundations and multilateral organizations and governments worldwide. Among various roles, he was the Program Officer for the International Fellowships Program, the largest global leadership initiative (\$280 million) of the Ford Foundation. He holds an MA in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, a BA in International Service and Development from World College West in Petaluma, California, and a Certificate in Norwegian Culture and Society from the University of Oslo in Oslo, Norway.

Laurence Simon

Laurence Simon is Professor of International Development and Director of the Center for Global Development and Sustainability. He was the Founding Director of the Graduate Programs in Sustainable International Development from 1993 to 2014 and served as the Associate Dean for Academic Planning at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management from 2003 until September 2009. Dr. Simon currently serves on the Working Group, appointed by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, for the design of a new university in Sri Lanka. Since 2018, he also serves as the Joint Editor-in-Chief of CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion. Simon's research and teaching center on critical issues of social exclusion and emancipatory development. His current research focuses on psychological and cultural barriers to poverty reduction and on the role of social movements in development. In 2007, he took a leave from Brandeis to serve as the senior adviser on global poverty to the executive director of the Google Foundation. He has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University.

Shailaja Paik

Shailaja Paik is the Associate Professor of History, University of Cincinnati and the author of *Dalit Women's Education in Modern India: Double Discrimination*. Her first book examines the nexus between caste, class, gender, and state pedagogical practices among Dalit ("Untouchable")

women in urban India. She is currently working on a National Endowment for the Humanities-American Institute of Indian Studies funded project that focuses on the politics of caste, class, gender, sexuality, and popular culture in modern Maharashtra. Professor Paik has published several articles on a variety of themes, including the politics of naming, Dalit and African American women, women's education, and *new* Dalit womanhood in colonial India in prestigious international journals. Her research has been funded by Yale University, Emory University, the Ford Foundation, Warwick University, Charles Wallace India Trust, and the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, among others. Her scholarship and research interests are concerned with contributing to and furthering the dialogue in human rights, anti-colonial struggles, transnational women's history, women-of-color feminisms, and particularly on gendering caste, and subaltern history. Professor Paik is the first and so far the only Dalit woman scholar to receive tenure from a U.S. university.

Sukhadeo Thorat

Sukhadeo Thorat is Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a former chairman of University Grant Commission and Indian Council of Social Science Research. He is also Chairman of Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi and Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore. Prof Thorat is an economist by training who has worked extensively on issues related to rural poverty and agricultural growth, marginalised groups, the caste system, the cause of dalits, tribes, de-notified tribes, minorities, and education, through writings, Lectures Delivered and helping several dalits and other organizations. He has got research specialization in agricultural development, economic institutions and development, poverty, social exclusion and inequalities linkages, economics of caste system, caste and economic discrimination, market discrimination, labour market discrimination, Economic Problem of excluded groups, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Economic Ideas of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Human Rights and Urban slum, Ambedkar's economic thoughts and Higher education in his previous roles at Jawaharlal Nehru University (1973-2014) and as the Director of the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (2003-2006). In 2008, Prof Thorat was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, Mother Teresa International Award, recently Babasaheb Ambedkar Ratna Award by Delhi government for his dedication and extraordinary contributions on the works and thoughts of Dr Ambedkar.

Sarita Pariyar

Born and raised in a Dalit family in Basamadi village of Makwanapur district, Sarita Pariyar is intimately aware of the challenges of being a Dalit woman in Nepali society. Sarita holds a Master's degree in Sociology, and a Bachelor's degree in journalism and English literature from Tribhuvan University. Currently, she is pursuing legal studies at the Nepal Law School in Kathmandu. Sarita is also the founder of the Darnal Award for Social Justice, and serves as a

board member of SAMATA Foundation, a think-tank that works for the rights and dignity of Nepal's Dalits.

Suraj Yengde

Suraj Yengde is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School. Dr. Yengde is a published author in the field of inter-regional labor migration in the global south, caste, race and ethnicity studies. Currently, he is involved in developing a critical theory of Dalit and Black Studies. As an academic-activist in the transnational movement of Dalit rights, he is actively involved in building solidarities of Dalit, Black, Roma, Indigenous, Buraku and Refugee peoples in the Fourth World project of marginalized peoples. He is the co-convenor of Dalit-Black Lives Matter symposium, the Dalit and Black Power Movement, the India For Diversity movement, and the Dalit Film Festival. He runs a monthly Ambedkar Lecture Series at Harvard, he is the author of forthcoming *Caste Matters*, co-editor of *The Radical in Ambedkar: Critical Reflections*, and Associate Editor of *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion* published by the Brandeis University Library. Dr. Yengde is a passionate human rights attorney by training from India and the UK, and is India's first Dalit to receive a Ph.D. from an African university.

Toby Volkman

Toby Volkman is the Director of Policy Initiatives, Secretary for Luce Foundation. Prior to joining here, she worked as Director of Special Projects at the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program in New York. She has also served as a program officer at the Ford Foundation, where she developed and managed an initiative ("Crossing Borders") to revitalize the field of area studies; as director of the South and Southeast Asia Programs at the Social Science Research Council; and as deputy provost at the New School. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University and a B.A. in Art History from the University of Chicago.

Pradip Pariyar

Pradip Pariyar is the Executive Chairperson at SAMATA Foundation, Nepal. As the elected president of the Association of Youth Organization of Nepal (AYON), he worked closely with the government of Nepal to initiate a youth-responsive budget. He was a member of the government task force that developed Youth Vision 2025, a 10-year governmental national youth development policy plan. He has trained thousands of youths in leadership, peace-building, and conflict-sensitive journalism across Asia and Africa. He founded the Nepal Youth Forum to focus on policy advocacy, awareness, and youth empowerment. Pariyar was selected as a youth fellow by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He also serves as the chairperson of the Nepal Policy Center, a youth-led think tank. He has received the Youth

Leadership Award from the Nepali Government's Ministry of Youth and Sports for his decade-long contribution to youth leadership development across Nepal. He studied at Tribhuvan University.

Anupama Rao

Anupama Rao is the Tow Associate Professor, History (Barnard College), and Associate Director, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society (Columbia University). She is also Senior Editor, Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Professor Rao received her B.A., with honors, from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. from the Interdepartmental Program in anthropology and history at the University of Michigan. Her work has been supported by grants from the ACLS; the American Institute for Indian Studies; the Mellon Foundation; the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the SSRC. She was a Fellow-in-Residence at the National Humanities Center, and a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. She has been a Fellow at REWORK (Humboldt University, Berlin). Professor Rao has written widely on the themes of colonialism and humanitarianism, and on non-Western histories of gender and sexuality. Her book, *The Caste Question* theorized caste subalternity, with specific focus on the role of anti-caste thought (and its thinkers) in producing alternative genealogies of political subject-formation. She is currently working on a book on the political thought of B. R. Ambedkar; and a project titled *Dalit Bombay*, which explores the relationship between caste, political culture, and everyday life in colonial and postcolonial Bombay. Her most recent book, the edited volume *Gender, Caste, and the Imagination of Equality* was published in December 2017.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak is University Professor, and a founding member of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. B.A. English (First Class Honors), Presidency College, Calcutta, 1959. Ph.D. Comparative Literature, Cornell University, 1967. D. Litt, University of Toronto, 1999; D. Litt, University of London, 2003; D. Hum, Oberlin College, 2008; D. Honoris Causa, Universitat Roveri I Virgili, 2011; D. Honoris Causa, Rabindra Bharati, 2012; Kyoto Prize in Thought and Ethics, 2012; Padma Bhushan 2013; D.Honoris Causa, Univeridad Nacional de San Martin, 2013; D. Litt, University of St. Andrews, 2014; D. Honoris Causa, Paris VIII, 2014; Presidency University, 2014; D. Hum, Yale University, 2015; D. Litt, University of Ghana-Legon, 2015; D. Honoris Causa, Universidad de Chile, 2016; Lifetime Scholarly Achievement from the Modern Language Association of America, 2018.

Fields: 19th- and 20th-century literature; politics of culture; feminism; Marx, Derrida; globalization. Books: *Myself Must I Remake: The Life and Poetry of W. B. Yeats* (1974), *Of Grammatology* (translation with critical introduction of Jacques Derrida, *De la grammatologie*,

1976), *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics* (1987; Routledge Classic 2002), *Selected Subaltern Studies* (ed., 1988), *The Post-Colonial Critic: Interviews, Strategies, Dialogues* (1990), *Thinking Academic Freedom in Gendered Post-Coloniality* (1993; 2d ed forthcoming), *Outside in the Teaching Machine* (1993; Routledge classic 2003), *Imaginary Maps* (translation with critical introduction of three stories by Mahasweta Devi, 1994), *The Spivak Reader* (1995), *Breast Stories* (translation with critical introduction of three stories by Mahasweta Devi, 1997), *Old Women* (translation with critical introduction of two stories by Mahasweta Devi, 1999), *Imperatives to Re-Imagine the Planet / Imperative zur Neuerfindung des Planeten* (ed. Willi Goetschel, 1999; 2d ed. forthcoming), *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Towards a History of the Vanishing Present* (1999), *Song for Kali: A Cycle* (translation with introduction of Ramprasad Sen, 2000), *Chotti Munda and His Arrow* (translation with critical introduction of a novel by Mahasweta Devi, 2002), *Death of a Discipline* (2003), *Other Asias* (2005), *An Aesthetic Education in the Age of Globalization* (2012), *Readings* (2014), *Du Bois and the General Strike* (forthcoming). Significant articles: "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography" (1985), "Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism" (1985), "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (1988), "The Politics of Translation" (1992), "Moving Devi" (1999), "Righting Wrongs" (2003), "Ethics and Politics in Tagore, Coetzee, and Certain Scenes of Teaching" (2004), "Translating into English" (2005), "Rethinking Comparativism" (2010), "A Borderless World" (2011), "General Strike" (2012), "Crimes of Identity" (2014), "Our World" (2014). Activist in rural education and feminist and ecological social movements since 1986.

Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd

Dr. Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd is an Indian political theorist, writer and activist for Dalit rights. He is a major figure in the ideological movement against the Indian caste system and has been instrumental in internationalizing Dalit–Bahujan issues. Dr. Shepherd has published numerous deep and damning examinations of caste, including *Why I am not a Hindu* (1996) and *Buffalo Nationalism: A Critique of Spiritual Fascism* (2004), that have led to threats and attacks against him throughout his career. For his work he was awarded the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Award in 2000. Dr. Shepherd recently retired as Director, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. Previously, he was a Professor at the Department of Political Science, Osmania University.

Kenneth J. Cooper

Kenneth J. Cooper, a Pulitzer Prize winner, has been a journalist for four decades, specializing in government, politics and social policy, at *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Knight Ridder*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *St. Louis American*. He wrote a monthly column on Washington, "Capital Scene," for *Emergence* magazine. From 1996 to 1999, he was *The Post's* correspondent for South Asia, reporting on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives

from his base in New Delhi. In his second stint at the *Boston Globe*, he was its National Editor from 2001 through 2005. He has been a Fulbright Scholar at Cairo University in Egypt, conducting a statistical analysis of the domestic content of three Egyptian dailies, one government-run and two privately-owned. His findings were published in *Arab Media & Society*, an online journal published by American University in Cairo. He has also been a Fair Health Journalism Fellow with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. and a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He was a regular contributor to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine and the *Bay State Banner*, a local black-owned weekly. His freelance articles have appeared in *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Boston Globe Magazine*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Denver Post*, *Howard (University) Magazine*, *AARP Bulletin*, and *Crisis* magazine. From 2008 to 2017, Cooped edited the *Trotter Review*, an annual journal on African-American affairs published by the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Dina Siddiqi

Dina Mahnaz Siddiqi is Clinical Associate Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Studies at New York University. She holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a BA from Wellesley College. Her research and publications -- grounded in the study of gender, nation and Islam in Bangladesh -- cover a broad spectrum, from women's work in the ready-made garment industry to the cultural politics of nationalism. She is a member of the NYU Society of Fellows, and a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Difference (CSSD), Columbia University where she is affiliated with a three year project on Religion and the Global Framing of Gender Violence . She is on the advisory board of the journal *Dialectical Anthropology*, serves on the editorial board of Routledge's Women in Asia Publication Series, and has served as Chair of the South Asia Council (SAC) of the Association of Asian Studies (AAS). She is also on the Advisory Committees of the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS); and of the South Asian Feminist Network (SANGAT).

Gauri Vishwanathan

Gauri Viswanathan is Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. She has published widely on education, religion, and culture; nineteenth-century British and colonial cultural studies; and the history of modern disciplines. She is the author of *Masks of Conquest: Literary Study and British Rule in India* and *Outside the Fold: Conversion, Modernity, and Belief*, which won the Harry Levin Prize awarded by the American Comparative Literature Association, the James Russell Lowell Prize awarded by the Modern Language Association of America, and the Ananda K. Coomaraswamy Prize awarded by the Association for Asian Studies. She also edited *Power, Politics, and Culture: Interviews with Edward W. Said*. Prof. Viswanathan is co-editor of the book series *South Asia Across the Disciplines*, published jointly by the university presses of

Columbia, Chicago, and California under a Mellon grant. She has held numerous visiting chairs, among them the Beckman Professorship at Berkeley, and was recently an Affiliated Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a Visiting Mellon Scholar at the University of Cape Town. She has received Guggenheim, NEH, and Mellon fellowships, and was a fellow at various international research institutes. Professor Viswanathan's current work is on genealogies of secularism and the writing of alternative religious histories. She has published extensively on the cultural influence of Theosophy, with two recent articles appearing in PMLA. She is a network partner in the international research project "Enchanted Modernities: Theosophy, Modernism, and the Arts," funded by the Leverhulme Trust in the U.K.

Laura Dudley Jenkins

Laura Dudley Jenkins is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Cincinnati. Her research focuses on social justice policies in the context of culturally diverse democracies, including India, Indonesia, South Africa, and the United States. Her book *Religious Freedom and Mass Conversion in India* reveals how "religious freedom" arguments and laws have actually undermined the religious freedom of women, lower castes, and religious minorities. As President of the South Asian Muslim Studies Association, she worked to connect scholars from different disciplines and regions to create conference panels and exchange ideas. She served on the Executive Council of APSA's Religion and Politics Section and co-leads their mentoring program. Jenkins' book *Identity and Identification in India: Defining the Disadvantaged* examines competing demands for affirmative action on the basis of caste, religion, class, and gender and the ways the government identifies recipients through the courts, census, and official certificates. Her research as a Fulbright New Century Scholar in South Africa and India resulted in *Affirmative Action Matters: Creating Opportunities for Students Around the World*, co-edited with Michele S. Moses. In her articles, she analyzes religious freedom and conversion, competing minorities' claims for affirmative action, colonial and contemporary government anthropology, the role of social science in anti-discrimination law, reserved legislative seats for women, and the role of culture and the arts in sustainable development. Jenkins' book chapters examine religious family law, mass religious conversion as protest, comparative affirmative action, minority rights, historically Dalit colleges, anxious secularism, women and development, regulation of religion, and methodological diversity in political science. In addition to two Fulbrights, she has received fellowships from the Dartmouth Humanities Center and the United States Institute of Peace.

Lucinda Ramberg

Lucinda Ramberg is associate professor of anthropology and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies at Cornell University. Her research projects in South India have roots in longstanding engagements with the politics of sexuality, gender, and religion. Her first book, *Given to the*

Goddess: South Indian Devadasis and the Sexuality of Religion explores the possibilities of vernacular religion as gendered resistance and caste critique. Her current book project turns to the revival of Buddhism in South India and questions of religious conversion in relation to projects of caste radicalism, social transformation, and sexual politics.

Balmurli Natrajan

Balmurli Natrajan is Professor of Anthropology at William Paterson University of New Jersey, USA. An anthropologist and engineer by training, Murli's research and teaching interests are on caste, group formation, culture, and politics. His books include *Culturalization of Caste in India: Identity and Inequality in a Multicultural Age* (London: Routledge, 2011) on caste identity, labor and how caste legitimates itself in India today, and a co-edited volume with Paul Greenough *Against Stigma: Studies in Caste, Race and Justice Since Durban* (Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2009). His recent publications have been on food habits and politics around beef in India. He has written popular essays on Hindutva, Hinduism, vigilante culture, and myths about caste. His current research is on explanations of toilet behavior (Chhattisgarh, India), and collectivization of domestic workers (Bengaluru, India). Murli has also been active in solidarity work around South Asia in the USA focusing on issues of secularism, human rights, and neoliberalism.

Thenmozhi Soundarajan

Thenmozhi Soundarajan is a Dalit American transmedia artist, technologist and activist who is the executive director of Equality Labs. Equality Labs is a South Asian American human rights arts organization working at the intersection of storytelling, design, technology, and digital security to end caste apartheid, Islamophobia, and religious intolerance. Some of her current projects have included the transmedia project #Dalitwomenfight. Her work has been recognized by the Producers Guild of America Diversity Program, The Museum of Contemporary Art, MIT Center for New Media Studies, The Sorbonne, Source Magazine, Utne Reader, The National Center for the Humanities, The National Science Foundation, The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the Robert Rauschenberg Artist as Activist Fellowship. She has also been named part of the inaugural cohort of Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity.

Maari Zwick Maitreyi

Maari Zwick Maitreyi is an Artist, Scientist, and Research Director of Equality Labs. In that work she has helped to break new ground in community based research around caste, gender based violence, and religious freedom in the USA. She was the research lead and co-author of the groundbreaking *Caste in the United States* report as well as a co-founder of Dalit History Month. She is also the CIO of Bahujan Pedia and is working with researchers around the world to help build this collaboration between Wikipedia and Ambedkarite knowledge.

Manjari Mahajan

Manjari Mahajan is an Associate Professor in the Julien J. Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs and the Starr Professor and Co-Director of the India China Institute at The New School. Her work lies at the intersection of science and technology studies, development studies, and anthropology. Her research and teaching are on the topics of global health, philanthrocapitalism, and digital governance. Much of her empirical focus has been on India and South Africa, and more recently, on global organizations such as the Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization. She has held fellowships at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology at Halle, Germany, and the Social Science Research Council in the United States. Her papers have received prizes from the Society for Social Studies for Science and the American Anthropological Association.

Mark Frazier

Mark W. Frazier is Professor of Politics at The New School for Social Research and Co-Director of the India China Institute at The New School. His research interests focus on labor and social policy in China, and more recently on political conflict over urbanization, migration, and citizenship in China and India. His newest book, *The Power of Place: Contentious Politics in Twentieth Century Shanghai and Bombay* examines long-term changes in political geographies and patterns of popular protest in the two cities. He is also the author of *Socialist Insecurity: Pensions and the Politics of Uneven Development in China* and *The Making of the Chinese Industrial Workplace*, and Co-Editor of the *SAGE Handbook of Contemporary China*. He has authored op-ed pieces and essays for *The New York Times*, *Daedalus*, and *The Diplomat*. Frazier serves on the editorial board of *China Quarterly* and is a Faculty Associate at the Columbia University's China Center for Social Policy. He has received a Fulbright Research Award, and has been a Public Intellectuals Program Fellow at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations since 2005. Before assuming his current position at The New School, he held a chaired professorship in Chinese Politics at the University of Oklahoma and was the Luce Assistant Professor in the Political Economy of East Asia at Lawrence University, a liberal arts college in Wisconsin.

Sangeeta Kamat

Sangeeta Kamat is Professor of International and Comparative Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She specializes in interdisciplinary and critical analysis of globalization, neoliberalism and education with a regional focus on India. Her early work is on education, social movements and community based organizations that resulted in seminal contributions to the field of NGO Studies. Her book, *Development Hegemony: NGOs and the State in India* is an

ethnography of the dynamics of NGOization of grassroots social movements in western India. Her recent work is on inclusion and equity in higher education and on global finance in education. She is principal investigator of the project and lead author of the report, *Inclusive Universities: Linking Diversity, Equity and Excellence for the 21st Century* and co-author of the report, *Profiting from the Poor: Multinational Investment in Low-fee schools in Hyderabad, India* (2016, funded by Education International).

Vamsicharan Vakulabharnam

Vamsi Vakulabharanam is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Previously, he taught at the University of Hyderabad and the City University of New York. He was a grantee at the Institute for New Economic Thinking between 2011 and 2014 on a project titled, 'Economic Development and Inequality: What Can the Asian Experience Teach Us?'. He was a Fellow of the India China Institute of the New School (NY) between 2008 and 2010. He has worked on issues pertaining to agrarian change in the context of globalization in developing economies, agrarian cooperatives, and the relationship between economic development and inequality. His recent research focuses on inequality in the contemporary Asian economies, including India and China.

Scott Stroud

Scott R. Stroud is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Working at the juncture of rhetoric and philosophy, much of his research extends the thought of the American pragmatists into the realms of ethics and political activity. He is the author of the books, *John Dewey and the Artful Life* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011), and *Kant and the Promise of Rhetoric* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014). He has authored a range of articles on Ambedkar's relation to American pragmatism, and he is currently completing a book manuscript that tells the story of Bhimrao Ambedkar's brush with Deweyan pragmatism at Columbia University during 1913-1916 and how it shaped his innovative pursuit of social justice in India. Stroud's other work also engages topics in comparative/non-western rhetoric, religious rhetoric, narrative theory, and communication ethics.

Smita Narula

Smita Narula is the Elisabeth Haub School of Law's inaugural Haub Distinguished Chair of International Law at Pace University. She was associate professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law. Professor Narula's research interests include business and human rights, caste discrimination, economic and social rights, international financial institutions and human rights, international human rights law, law and human rights in south asia, national security and human rights, rights-based approaches to development. She is also the faculty director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and was senior researcher for South

Asia at Human Rights Watch. She is the author of *Broken People: Caste Violence Against India's "Untouchables"* (1999), and contributes regularly to various law journals.

Panelists and Discussants

Akhil Kang

Akhil Kang is currently pursuing PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from Cornell University where he is studying upper caste hurt and victimhood due to reservation and affirmative action. Prior to his PhD, he worked as a human rights lawyer and researcher in New Delhi. He works on gender-sexuality, post-coloniality, kinship, affect, media and urban studies. He writes about queer sex and politics at <https://www.desi-underground-gay.com/>.

Amar B. K.

Amar B. K. is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, USA. He has an MA degree in Anthropology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Before joining the University of Pittsburgh, he worked in development organizations in Kathmandu. His academic interests are social inequality and oppression, caste politics, and social movement. His current work focuses on the relationship between caste and religion. He occasionally writes in Nepali newspapers on Dalit issues.

Amaresh Dubey

Amaresh Dubey is a professor at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development (CSRD), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Before joining JNU, he taught economics at the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong and was a senior fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi. His publications include four co-authored and co-edited books, over 60 articles and papers in international and national refereed journals and edited volumes, 34 research project reports and commissioned policy papers, as well as numerous opinion pieces in national newspapers. He has visited several universities and institutes in India and abroad to deliver lectures and seminars, in addition to over a hundred invited presentations at international and national seminars and conferences over the last few years. He has been a member of different academic and executive bodies at the JNU and other universities and institutes, and a member of several central and state government committees and other statutory bodies.

Amit Thorat

Amit Thorat is an Assistant Professor of Economics, at the Center for the Study of Regional Development at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to this, he worked as an

Associate Fellow at the National Council for Applied Economics Research (NCAER), New Delhi, where he was part of the India Human Development Survey team. He obtained his PhD Degree in Economics from the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP), JNU. His research has been on issues of income, educational and health inequalities in general and across social, ethnic and religious groups in particular, in the context of India. At present he is working on understanding people's beliefs around personal and social identity in India and its implications for social behavior, individual distress and economic outcomes. His earlier work includes examining gains for small and marginal farmers from high value production as well as from farmer owned-cooperative farming.

Amritha Mohankumar

Amritha Mohankumar did her Bachelor's and Master's training in Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her interests lie in cultural studies, caste and gender. After her Master's, she worked for a short time in Jharkhand Livelihood Mission and later worked for a year in a project run at TISS, titled *Caste in Urban Locale*. She studied about Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalna Yogam, (SNDP) Mumbai. She enrolled in M.Phil. research and chose to work on the community she comes from, Ezhava caste, an ex-untouchable caste of Kerala. She considers her work a self-reflective process and makes her understand more towards my community and the experiences of women members in the association.

Anurag Bhaskar

Anurag Bhaskar is a law graduate from Harvard Law School. Before this, he completed his B.A. LL.B (Hons.) from Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University Lucknow. Thereafter, he worked as a law clerk-cum-research assistant to Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud (Judge, Supreme Court of India). Anurag is a prolific writer and commentator, and has many academic articles and opinion pieces to his credit.

Aparna Vyas

Aparna Vyas is a Ph.D. scholar in Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. under the supervision of Prof. Minati Panda and working on the culture of political graffiti at Jawaharlal University from a psycho-historical perspective. She has worked on the life and literature of Om Prakash Valmiki, a Hindi Dalit writer, in her M.Phil. and has presented papers on Dalit creativity at Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi and at Graduate Seminar held by ZHCES, JNU. She has worked on the emotional experience of *Peeda* among Dalit Women in Uttar Pradesh, India. The work has been presented in two symposiums— First on 'Psychology of the Body' convened by Prof. Minati Panda at the convention of National Academy of Psychology, and second (co-authored by Prof. Panda) on 'A conceptual History of Psychology in India' convened by

Prof. Minati Panda and Prof. R.C. Tripathi at International Congress of Psychology, Japan. She has recently published an article titled 'Reification of Collective Victimhood: Dalit Narratives, Social Repositioning and Transformation' co-authored by Prof. Minati Panda in a special issue on *Collective Victimhood and its Consequences* in *Psychology and Developing Societies*. The article explores the process of reification of Dalit victimhood through the varied creative expressions and the role of symbolic resources in birthing stability to the construct.

Aruna Daya

Aruna Daya is a Doctoral fellow at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She comes from a rural village in Telangana. She is a first-generation literate and worked as an unskilled labourer for five years while continuing her studies remotely. She has been an active participant in the Ambedkarite Movements, anti-caste movements, the movement against Rohith Verma's institutional murder, and the Karamchedu and Chundur Dalit Massacre movements along with her relatives and friends. She joined a Masters course in the University of Hyderabad in 2011. She has presented several papers in national and international conferences in India and abroad. Her paper focuses on narratives of Dalit Women including inter-caste marriage experiences through the writings of the Dalits, especially women autobiographies.

Bharat Rathod

Bharat is a doctoral candidate in the International Education program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His research interests are caste, social justice, diversity and institutional support in higher education. More specifically, Bharat has been studying the adaptability of the Microaggression theory to examine caste-based discrimination in Indian higher education contexts, and the significance of diversity framework to transform Indian university campuses into inclusive spaces. Other than academic research, he has interest in development economics, electoral politics and current affairs in South Asia. Bharat worked in the development sector and he also served as a leader in community-based organization. Since the last decade, Bharat has been associated with youth mentoring and social justice issues of marginalized communities in India.

Bharathi Prabhu

Bharathi Prabhu is General Secretary of THUDI Students Movement and Radical Students Movement. He did his schooling in Adi-Dravida Welfare School. He graduated from Madras Christian College as first generation graduate. He did his Ph.D. on the topic of *Buddhism in Tamil Culture* from the same College. Dr. Prabhu is dramatist, poet and practitioner. He wrote more than sixty plays, which have been staged in various places in Tamil Nadu. Some plays have been used for research studies at the Thanjai Tamil University. He has published about sixteen books on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's writings and speeches, and on K. Ayothithasa Panditha. He has contributed towards the emergence of new Buddhist movements in Tamil Nadu along with

THUDI patrons. At present, he spearheaded the renovation of Dalit hostels in Tamil Nadu and secured ten crore rupees for it. Presently, he is a member of the Monitoring Committee working on it along with Dr. Guganatham for the Tamil Nadu Government.

Chandra Sekhar

Chandra Sekhar teaches English at an undergraduate college in Andhra Pradesh, India. He submitted his PhD thesis recently in the Department of Cultural Studies at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. He is a recipient of UK-Visiting- Charles Wallace India Trust, and AHRC fellowships 2016-17 and Germany visiting DAAD fellowship of 2017. Mr. Sekhar has presented papers in national and international conferences. His areas of research interest include History of Christianity in Colonial South India, Dalit Literature, Feminism and Films studies.

Christina Dhanaraj

Christina Dhanaraj is a Christian Dalit woman from Chennai. She is a consultant for women and minority-led initiatives focusing on social justice, self-determination, and collaborative models of scholarship. She is currently an advisor for #Dalitwomenfight and Smashboard. She is also the co-founder of the Dalit History Month project. She currently works and lives in Beijing, China. Christina is experienced in relationship management, strategy consulting, technical research, and community organizing. She is a community leader, with proven expertise in transferring relevant corporate skills and frameworks to social justice spaces. Her writing interests lie in the politics of identity, diversity & inclusion, community care, and intersectional discourses between caste, gender, religion, race, and sexuality. During her undergraduate education at the Women's Christian College, she was the student secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India and a key resource person at conferences and workshops. She has also been involved in a number of church-based initiatives, including the Girl Child Campaign at the CSI Madras Diocese and activities for the desk of Diaconal Concerns at CSI Synod. She was formerly an editorial board member of The Rally, the All India Catholic University Federation's monthly publication. She continues to be a guest preacher at associated pastorates.

Dadasaheb Tandale

Dadasaheb Tandale is currently a Ph.D. student at School of Global Inclusion and Social Development at UMass, Boston. He holds a M.A. in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India. He has been working in development sector at the intersections of health rights, land rights and climate justice for the Dalit and Tribal populations in India from the past 12 years. As a professional, he has worked in research, advocacy, project management, operations and communications with government, partner agencies and communities. Dadasaheb has worked since 2008 with various international and national organizations in different capacities.

In Care India, he worked at managerial position in Bihar Technical Support Unit. Working in Pathfinder International in the capacity of Program Officer involved in design of monitoring and performance information systems. As Research officer in National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), and Research Associate in National AIDS Research Institute, he worked with the HIV/AIDS high risk group. He was involved in developing Study Design and tools, Preparing Training Modules for the Research Field Team. He worked with tribal communities through Society to Heal Aid Restore and Educate, to understand their beliefs and perceptions while focusing on immediate needs for better education and health services. At Kastkari Sangathan, a Tribal rights-based organization he worked on land rights issues. He has also worked with Sakshi Human rights, a network for Dalit Human Rights analyzing public interest litigations and Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, a union of Social Activists in planning process for Dalit convention with DAGAR- Dalit Adivasi Ghumuntu Abhayaan.

Deepak Kumar

Deepak Kumar is Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Political Science at University of Delhi, New Delhi. He is working on title “Linguicism in Higher Education: A Study of Selective Universities”. He completed his Master of Philosophy on “Language Discrimination in Indian Higher Educational Institutions”. He has completed his Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts from Delhi University. His major area of interest is Linguicism, Social Exclusion and Discrimination, Higher Education, Educational Policies and Human Rights. He has contributed the articles in national journals and in print media. He also presented research papers in National Conferences and also selected for International seminars in different countries. He also worked as Research Associate in ICSSR sponsored Project ‘Education as Site of Exclusion: A Study of Indian Universities’.

Gaurav Pathania

Gaurav J. Pathania teaches as an adjunct faculty at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. He served as a visiting scholar at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2018. He is also associated as a Post-Doctoral Researcher with Pullias Centre for Higher Education at the University of Southern California. He received his PhD in Sociology of Education from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, in 2017. From 2016 to 2017, he served on a project, “Distress, Discrimination and Higher Education in India” with University College London funded by the British Academy, that explored issues of distress, depression and discrimination among students. As part of this project he moderates a website, www.mindsofcaste.org, that serves as a discussion platform for scholars of caste and mental health. His latest research paper, “An Ethnography of Caste and Class at an Indian University: Creation Capital,” published by the European Higher Education Society, explores caste and class discrimination among university students. Along with several research papers and

reviews, Pathania authored his first book, *The University as a Site of Resistance: Identity and Student Politics*. It conceptualize the conditions for the emergence of cultural politics among students which structures the context of resistance. Pathania is also a poet; his poetry won the All India Poetry award in 2016.

Hira Singh

Hira Singh teaches in the Department of Sociology at York University, Toronto. His areas of interest include social inequality, social theory, and social movements. He has done research on feudalism in non-European and European societies, Colonial rule and resistance, migrant labor and agribusiness in Canada, and Indian indentured labor in South Africa. He has published articles in national and international journals. His most recent publication is *Recasting Caste: From the Sacred to the Profane*. It has been translated in Hindi and Marathi. His current project is titled *Caste and Religion: Beyond Ambedkar and Gandhi*.

Jaspreet Mahal

Jaspreet is a Fulbright Scholar (2017) from India holding a dual Master's in Sustainable International Development and Women, Gender and Sexuality studies from Brandeis University. She has worked on maternal and child healthcare for marginalized communities in Bihar, India for 5 years before coming to the U.S. She also holds a Master's in Healthcare Management from India. Currently working with Student Accessibility Support, Academic services at Brandeis, she enables to make coursework accessible for students with visual and learning disabilities with a variety of software processes. She also works with students to provide them classroom and exam accommodations in order to help them navigate their years at Brandeis. Jaspreet is on the Editorial team of *J-CASTE*, an academic journal on studying social exclusion in South Asia and beyond in the capacity of Editorial assistant for public outreach and communications. She has helped organize conferences and works closely with the Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Heller school, Brandeis. Jaspreet is an active member of Brandeis campus involved in 'Caste-Task force', working to include caste in non-discrimination policy at campus. She is also involved in many diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and prevention of sexual harassment on campus. Jaspreet is also a proud member of *Boston Study Group*, an Ambedkarite group based in Boston and partakes in various activities to advance Ambedkarite ideology in the diaspora through academic as well as non-academic space.

Jeremy Rinker

Dr. Jeremy Rinker is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina Greensboro's Department of Peace and Conflict Studies where he is currently engaged in research that explores the intersections between marginalization, collective trauma, and systems of oppression. Dr. Rinker's research and writings have long focused on South Asian communities,

untouchability, human rights, narrative meaning making, and identity in social justice movements. His first book on Ambedkarite social movements in India is titled *Identity, Right, and Awareness: Anti-Caste Activism in India and the Awakening of Justice through Discursive Practices*. With expertise in restorative justice conferencing, peace circle facilitation, program development, and social movement organization, Dr. Rinker's work aims to integrate the theory and practice of peace and conflict to achieve social justice outcomes. Dr. Rinker is also the Institutional Liaison on the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA) Board.

Jyoti Diwakar

Jyoti Diwakar is pursuing a doctoral degree in the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. She is currently working on violence against Dalit women and examining the feminist discourse. She is also a fellow at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). She did her B.A, M.A and M.Phil in Political Science. Her research interests include gender, violence, Dalit feminism and feminist theories. She has worked as a Research Associate for ICSSR's major project on girl child education in Bihar. She also presented paper concerning sexual violence on Dalit women at various national and international conferences.

Krishna M. Kamble

Krishna M. Kamble worked in various capacities from Assistant Professor to Professor and Head of the department in Radiation Therapy and Oncology in Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur. He has more than 40 years of teaching experience in a medical college. At present, he is working as a professor in Radiation Oncology. His passion is teaching and services to poor. He also has commitment to work for social uplifting of the downtrodden. His interest is in propagation of Buddhism and thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. He is supporting and helping to organize various conferences and workshop to imbibe scientific attitudes amongst the masses. His main area of work is awareness about cancer and anti-smoking. His interest is in publishing low-cost or free literature on Buddhism for popular reading. He holds a Post-Graduate Degree MD (Radiation Oncology) and three Diplomas in Radiation related subjects of medical science. He also holds an M.A. in Ambedkar Thoughts, Pali and Prakrit, as well as an M.A. and an M.Phil. in Buddhist studies. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Buddhism and Medical Science.

Kalpana B. K.

Kalpana B. K. works as a Legal Officer at Justice and Right Institute (Nepal) Here, she reviews Nepalese laws and policies related to economic, social and cultural rights of marginalized community people, provides recommendations to related authorities, does litigation of PIL related cases, and meets with ministers and the ministry's representatives to submit delegations on ESC rights of marginalized community people and women. She has a Master's degree in Law from the Tribhuvan University. Kalpana worked with Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization as an Adolescent Specialist. Kalpana also has worked with Mercy Corps Nepal as a

project officer in Sindhupalchowk district. She has worked at SAHAMATI to promote marginalized people's inclusion within major political parties. She frequently writes articles on women and dalit rights in national Nepali newspapers. She delivered statements on minority issues in 2018 at the UN Forum in Geneva.

Kalyani K.

Kalyani K. is a Doctoral Scholar in Sociology at Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences (CSSS/SSS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Her research interests include gender studies, popular culture and identity politics. Her doctoral thesis is on the topic "Forms and Practices of Resistance in Popular Culture: Exploring Sites of Gender Violence in Uttar Pradesh". She has also presented her paper at several international conferences. She is an active member of Dalit student political organization Birsa, Ambedkar, Phule Students organization (BAPSA) and is also associated with Dalit cultural group UDSF (United Dalit Students Federation), JNU. She comes from the remote village of Deorikhurd in Palamu, Jharkhand and belongs to the OBC community.

Komal Rajak

Komal is a Ph.D. Scholar in the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, working on "Contextualizing Hindu Code Bill in Women's Empowerment: An Inquiry into Hindu Women's Property Rights". She has been awarded MPhil degree on "Understanding Women's Question in Ambedkar's Social Philosophy". She has presented papers in various conferences and seminars, such as "The Democratic Implications of Ambedkarite Movement: A Synoptic View from the Feminist Perspective" in Brisbane, and "Scrutinizing Hindu Code Bill: An Enquiry into Gender-Just Citizenship" at Hyderabad Central University; "Women's Question in Ambedkar's Social Philosophy" in an International Conference on Philosophy of B. R. Ambedkar in Contemporary Period at Central University of Gujarat, among others. She also have a publication viz. "Negotiating the Dignity of Women: An Interrogation of the Devadasi Custom", in *Social Action*, apart from articles in popular magazines.

Kristina Garalytė

Kristina Garalytė was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Sociology at Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania) for her thesis "Dalit Student Movement in India: From Identity Politics to Counter Culture Movement". Her research interests include South Asian anthropology, ethnographic research methods, social movements, caste, Dalits. Since 2010, she has been teaching at the Centre of Oriental Studies at Vilnius University. Starting from July 2018, Garalytė serves as the director of the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies at Vilnius University, as well as Assistant Professor of South Asian anthropology. Together with Jean-Thomas Martelli she is

editing a special issue of **SAMAJ** (South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal) called "South Asia from the Lens of Student Politics" which is due to be published by the end of 2019.

M.A. Kalam

Kalam's doctoral research was among the Coorgs in South India. Subsequently he has studied the mass religious conversions of Dalits to Islam in Tamil Nadu. Also, he has undertaken anthropological fieldwork among South Asians in England, the USA and France. He has participated in post-Tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He is published extensively academically and also in newspapers and periodicals. He wrote a column for *The Hindu Business Line*.

Maya K. S.

Since joining the Ph.D. program in Social Science, University of Calicut, Kerala, Maya has been involved with studies related to Dalits and Adivasis in Kerala. Before joining the University, Maya wrote at a mainstream magazine related to socio-economic situation of Dalit - Adivasi lives in Kerala.

Minal Sangole

Minal Sangole is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Her doctoral research focuses on Higher Education, Forging Identities and Dalit Women. Her research interests largely involve caste identity and dynamics of gender relations with particular focus on higher education. She has participated and presented research papers in international as well national conferences. She presented a paper titled 'Higher Education and Dalit Women's Identities: Experiences, Struggles and Negotiations' at a conference at the University of Kassel, Germany. She had this paper published in the Indian Journal of Dalit and Tribal Social Work as well. She recently participated as a panelist for the Draft National Education Policy 2019 organised by the Centre for Social Justice and Governance, Sociology of Education (TISS) in collaboration with the National Coalition of Education (NCE), India. She is actively engaged in the activities organised by Ambedkarite Students Association at TISS. She helped to initiate the Dalit Bahujan Adivasi Women's Collective at TISS. She is an active member of the Council of Ambedkarite Buddhists Academics introduced in TISS that has extended its academic workshops and talks in various Buddhist *viharas* across Mumbai and Nagpur.

Mohan Kumar Naik

Mohon Kumar Naik is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. He was born and brought in the Khurigam village of south Odisha, which is one of the most backward regions in India

concerning socioeconomic and human indicators. Being born into a *Dalit* and impoverished family of this region, Mohon had faced several struggles to get into education and social life without bias. He was the first college-educated graduate of his village, and he is the first Ph.D. candidate who has got into one of the premier educational institutions of India from his region. Before joining Ph.D. in IIT Bombay, he has done M.Phil (Planning and Development – 2012 to 2014) from the same institute. Before and aftermath of his M.Phil education, he had a work experience of around five years with the Non-Government Organizations – FES and BISWA. As a working professional, Mohon had closely worked with *Dalit*, *Adivasis* and other traditional forest dwelling communities and learned several of their livelihoods problems, caste and based discriminatory bias against them, etc., Mohon's research interests span around livelihoods and resettlement problems of *Dalits* and *Adivasi* communities and accessibility of common property resources to the *Dalits* and *Adivasis*.

Mustafa Khan

Mustafa Khan spent over ten years working within infrastructure development, as a lawyer, on projects like the London Olympics. His research, centered around Anthropology, is based on the study of the coal mining project located in the Southern Pakistan province of Sindh. In particular, his focus is on the construction of 200 kilometres of road to facilitate access to mine area. The coal mining project is situated in the Tharparkar region, which shares a 500 kilometre frontier with India. Relations between Pakistan and India have remained tense since they both gained independence from Britain in 1947, and this colours Pakistani government policy towards Tharparkar. One of the effects of the large scale infrastructure development has been the rise of an assertive movement within the Dalit communities. His research is focussed on the discourse of ethnic identity and the politics of ethnic activism. The public discourse and state policies in Pakistan have discouraged a politicized identification of the Dalit identity, equating the idea of caste with India. The Dalit movement in Pakistan in many ways has been "born transnational", with organizations such as the International Dalit Solidarity Network playing an important role in mobilizing and supporting Dalit activism. Transnational organizing and coalition building have opened up new opportunities for Dalits in Pakistan to influence national legislative agendas, however many NGOs that specialize in development or human rights have seen Dalits as clients; with the Dalit movement dependent on their funding.

Narender Kumar

Narender Kumar is Professor in Political Studies, School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has teaching and research experience of 20 years in various Central Universities including University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. His areas of interest include Institutions, Processes and Public Policy with

special reference to the marginalized groups. His doctoral thesis looked into the functioning of the Parliament as an institution in India with special reference to its role in policy formulation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during 1985-95. It has been a significant contribution in the context of the paradox depicted in declining influence of Parliament in policy formulation on the one hand and the emerging assertion among the marginalized sections of the Indian society during the decade on the other. He has 6 books to his credit. He has published around 15 research papers in national and international journals. He has also delivered several special lectures in different parts of the country. As partner in collaborative international project, he looked into various contours of family/dynasty politics in Haryana, for which King's College, London; London School of Economics; and CERI-Sciences Po, Paris were partners. He was awarded Indo-French Social Scientist Fellowship to study the concerns of the Roma people, a Gypsy community, in France.

Palashi Vaghela

Palashi Vaghela is a doctoral student at the department of Information Science in Cornell University. She identifies as a Dalit activist-scholar working at the intersection of practice and scholarship on gender, caste and technology in India. She was trained as an engineer in information communication technologies in her undergraduate education. Upon graduating, she worked in the technology industry as a software developer and in the social development industry as a women's rights activist thinking about feminist technologies. She applied to the doctoral program at Cornell because she was disillusioned by the caste-and-class-blind work being done in the feminist NGO world and was simultaneously deeply concerned about the largely depoliticized/anti-political nature of computing education and cultures. Through her graduate education she has developed methodological and topical training as an interdisciplinary researcher working at the intersection of feminist, gender and sexuality studies, development anthropology, and science and technology studies. She was systematically introduced to anti-caste scholarship and Dalit, Bahujan, Adivasi Feminisms in South Asia which shaped my research and work interests to focus on studying the relationship between gender, caste and computing in India. Her dissertation research is an anti-caste, feminist study of programmatic efforts of diversity and inclusion by NGOs and technology companies in rural and urban India. She is undertaking a comparative study between efforts of diversity and inclusion in the computing industry of Bangalore and digital literacy programs for women in rural Banaras. Her goal is to both examine how computing cultures embody caste in professionalized workspaces as well as take a strong Dalit/anti-caste perspective on the practices of feminisms in development efforts related to computing.

Poonam Singh

Poonam Singh works as an assistant professor at Satyawati College (Day), University of Delhi. She has recently been awarded a Doctorate for her thesis titled 'Self and Society: A Study of

Hindi Dalit Autobiographies,' by the University of Delhi. This research has extensively investigated the gendered position of Dalit women in the Indian social system. In her research on Dalit women from Uttar Pradesh, she looks into why/how the Dalit women from Uttar Pradesh are more submissive despite the political ascendancy of Mayawati (who has been the Chief Minister of the state for four terms) as compared to the Dalit women from Maharashtra, who instead paved the way for a more vocal Dalit feminism. She has also been researching on issues of caste, gender, and how caste positions in India form innumerable internal social hierarchies within/outside the lower and the higher castes likewise. She has written several research papers regarding the same.

Prashant Ingole

Prashant Ingole is currently a doctoral candidate in Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. Through his research, he explores the field of Dalit and Cultural studies. In his dissertation he is looking at the representation and lived experiences of Dalits in graphic narratives, social media, Hindi cinema and general Dalit life narratives.

Purna Bahadur Nepali

Purna B. Nepali recently joined Kathmandu University as Associate Professor, responsible for Master of Public Policy and Governance (MPG) at the Kathmandu University School of Management (KU SOM), Nepal. Dr. Nepali is a Research Fellow (non-resident), Harvard Kennedy School and Hutchins Center, Harvard University, US where he is undertaking his research on "Political Economy of Inclusive Agrarian Transformation: Comparative Analysis of Race-Caste of US and Nepal/South-Asia". He completed his Fulbright Visiting Research Fellowship (2017-18) in Centre for Global Development and Sustainability at Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. His research was on "Reorienting Political Economy of Agrarian Transformations", focusing on marginalized communities in Nepal. Previously he was the Regional Project Coordinator, Regional Food Security Governance Project in South Asia and East Asia (Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar) at DanChurchAid (DCA), funded by the European Union. For the past decade he has researched land rights and food rights, and advocates for an evidence-based policy and reform in South Asia from a civil society perspective. In addition, he teaches graduate courses for masters and PhD students as an adjunct professor at the Tribhuvan University and the Agriculture and Forestry University in Nepal. As a lead editor of the journal *New Angle*, he recently edited a special issue of the peer reviewed article called "Agrarian and Land Issues".

R. Limbadri

Dr R. Limbadri is a professor of Public Administration, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana state, India. He is currently working as the vice chairman, Telangana state council for

Higher education, a state sponsored organ meant for the development and regulation of higher education in the state. He was born in a Dalit family whose natural setting is subjected to socio-cultural and economic backwardness. He has completed his entire education in state sponsored institutions and scholarships provided by the state under the category of Dalits. He believes in the philosophy of Dr B R Ambedkar and strives for his physical existence and academic growth. For his background of a Dalit family, it is a big achievement to climb for this position of Vice chairman of an august and apex body of higher education in the state but he tries to strive through my academic endeavors to climb to the higher positions.

Raya Steier

Raya Steier is a lawyer, activist, and gender-based advocate who is a Dalit-American organizer with Equality Labs. She made history in the 'MeToo' movement when she created the LoHsa list which helped survivors around India and the US address issues of gendered harassment in universities. This list was covered extensively across the world.

Richard Frasca

Richard Frasca was born in the pre-gentrified North End of Boston when it was a working class Italian-American community very different from the high-income tourist magnet it has become recently. With grandparents who had emigrated from Southern Italy who spoke only Italian, he was brought up in a traditional Roman Catholic bi-lingual joint family that celebrated all important Italian religious holidays and festivals. Without his realizing it at the time, this cultural environment nurtured interests in languages, religion, music and performance, and academics. After graduating from Tufts University with a BS in Environmental Health Engineering, Richard was invited to join the Peace Corps to teach English in government Teacher Training colleges in Tamilnadu in South India. After completing a five month course in Intensive Tamil and Teaching Methodologies in Peace Corps Training, Richard served for 5 years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Tamilnadu developing an excellent proficiency in spoken and written Tamil. Richard adopted India and specifically Tamilnadu as his second homeland and decided to move forward with a career in South Asian Languages and Literatures completing at the University of California an MA and Ph.D. focusing on the Tamil and Sanskrit languages and an MA in Theatre. After teaching for more than two decades at the University of California, he returned to his Boston roots via Harvard University where in response to student and colleague requests he created and developed over the span of a decade the Harvard University Tamil Language Program, which is now a regular part of the Harvard South Asia Curriculum. Richard's numerous publications include a book published by the University of Hawaii Press focusing on the Terukkūttu ritual theatre form of Tamilnadu.

Roopali Rokade

Roopali Rokade is a writing instructor and a third year Ph.D. researcher at the Department of Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University, Toronto, Canada. Her doctoral project is an ethnographic investigation of transnational commercial surrogacy. Besides gender and Dalit studies, she is also interested in race and racism, indigenous movements, neoliberalism, globalization and girlhood studies. Her interest in women's issues consolidated into serious academic endeavors when she pursued a post-graduate certificate course in Women's Studies at the University of Pune, India. She holds two Master's degrees in English Literature (India) and Women's Studies and Feminist Research (UWO, London, ON). She also pursued a diploma in Assaulted Women's and Children's Counselor/ Advocate (AWCCA) program from George Brown College in Toronto. She worked for about six years as a lecturer at a college in India. In Toronto, she volunteered extensively for two Anti-Violence Against Women NGOs. She also worked as a 'Peer Leader' for a pilot research project on South Asian Women's sexual health education for the NGO, the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP).

Rupali Bansode

Rupali Bansode is a Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Her doctoral research investigates caste and gender relations in the aftermath of a caste-based sexual atrocity. She holds a Master's degree in Women's Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her research interests include the study of caste, gender and sexual violence.

Sakya Mohan

Sakya Mohan is a historian-turned-clinical psychologist, currently practicing as a Mental Health Practitioner in an outpatient psychotherapy center based in Philadelphia, USA. He is the son of a former Untouchable from a small village near Madras; joined LNG College, University of Madras for B.A. and completed his M.A. in history, moved to University of Pondicherry for M.Phil and Ph.D. in Indo-Portuguese maritime history. He then studied clinical/counseling psychology after completing MS in Clinical & Counseling Psychology and he has also enrolled for Psy.D. program at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He has authored books in history, politics and Buddhism and has contributed research articles to Indian History Congress relating Dalit history of South India. Sakya Mohan is the first to introduce Dalit Historiography establishing Dalit history in the field of Indian history and also the first to write Tamil Nadu Dalit history digging out the history of Buddhist era in South Indian history. He is also a member of American History Association as well as American Psychological Association contributing research papers to define casteism as a mental health disorder and establish sources to include the casteist mental health disorder in the DSM-5 (Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorder) and ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) widely persists for centuries in

South Asian region particularly in India. Above all, he identifies as an active Ambedkarite proudly calls himself a Dalit American.

Suman Damera

Suman Damera is a research student in the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. His Ph.D. work focuses on “Changing patterns of Caste Violence in Andhra Pradesh”. He finished his undergraduate and post-graduate studies from the same Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. He obtained M.Phil. on the topic of “State and Welfare: A study of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) in Andhra Pradesh”, which deals with implementation of SCSP and how the earmarked funds have been diverted for other activities by the government instead of utilising the earmarked funds for the social, economic and educational development of Dalits. He was the recipient of National Fellowship by University Grants Commission. His areas of research interest include caste politics, public policy, contemporary India political process and social movements. He served as the elected General Secretary for Students Union, UoH in the year 2016-17. He is also actively been part of many social movements and Dalit movements in general and HCU campus in particular. He is committed and interested in combining both academics and activism. His larger theoretical interest is to understand the intersections of caste and class in the Indian context beyond the economic lenses.

Sunaina Arya

Sunaina Arya is co-editor of a forthcoming book *Dalit Feminist Theory: A Reader* published by Routledge. She is a Doctoral candidate in the Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, completing a dissertation on Feminist Philosophy from a Dalit perspective. She completed her M. Phil. entitled ‘Ambedkar as a Feminist Philosopher’ and M.A. at the same centre. Her areas of research include Ambedkarite social and political philosophy, philosophy and psychology, and the philosophy of social sciences. She has also been an active member of Delhi-based Ambedkarite students’ organisations like BAPSA (Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students’ Association), UDSF (United Dalit Students’ Forum), FOR (Flames of Resistance), and is a sensitive participant in the struggle toward a just and harmonious society.

Svati P. Shah

Dr. Svati P. Shah is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she is affiliated with the Departments of Anthropology and Afro-American Studies, as well as teaching for the Social Thought and Political Economy Center. She is an anthropologist of South Asia whose work proposes that questions of caste, sexuality, space, political economy, and migration are inseparable. Her work engages both ethnography and social theory in spaces where these theoretical and temporal

dynamics are most clearly manifest, including spaces where sexual commerce is solicited by people doing sex work in urban contexts and, more recently, in the the spaces of queer and transgender social movements. Dr. Shah's first book, *Street Corner Secrets: Sex, Work and Migration in the City of Mumbai* was drawn from a long-term ethnography of sex work and 'sexual commerce' in Mumbai's informal economies. In 2019, she served as a guest editor for *SAMAJ* (South Asian Multidisciplinary Academic Journal), for an issue on the themes of "Gender, Sexuality, Gender Identity and Sedition." She also holds affiliations at the University of Witwatersrand, in the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) and the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER). Prior to teaching at the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Shah taught at NYU, Wellesley College, and Duke University. Dr. Shah earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology and Public Health from Columbia University.

Swati Kamble

Swati Kamble is a Ph.D. student at the University of Geneva. Her research focuses on the impact of Dalit women's activism on the policy process in Maharashtra. She was involved with the International Dalit Solidarity Network, Sweden chapter, and the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU). SDuring her Master's studies in the Hague and Budapest, she participated in 'Human Rights Councils' and 'UN Forum on Minority Issues' at the United Nations, Geneva, representing issues and concerns of Dalits and minority women. She has conducted intersectionality studies and policy analysis of various core policy scripts in India. In 2011, she co-started a grassroots organization in the slums of Mumbai to locally strengthen grassroots mobilization for seeking benefits of policy programs meant for Dalits, and at the same time, continue advocacy at the state level for policy change towards inclusion and fair implementation.

Tanvi Yadav

Tanvi Yadav is a Ph.D. Research Scholar at the Department of Public Policy, Law and Governance at the Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer. She is currently working on the discrimination and violence against Dalit and tribal women in the form of witch-hunting with a regional focus on Rajasthan in North India. She is a socio-legal researcher with a focus on the persistence of traditional, cultural and caste-based violence in rural India. She has worked on women's rights in tribal societies, provided free legal aid to poor and marginalized communities as a paralegal volunteer, worked as a soft skills trainer at the University of Delhi and has had a visiting sessions experience with police personnel in Jammu and Kashmir. She is active in civil society and student movements, and with NGOs.

Thomas Crowley

Thomas Crowley is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University, New Jersey. His research lies at the intersection of political ecology, urban studies and caste studies. His Ph.D. research focuses on the town of Mahad, Maharashtra, analyzing how the politics of water brings together both anti-caste struggle and environmental contestation, in the midst of state-supported industrialization. Before beginning his Ph.D., Thomas was a researcher at the Delhi-based NGO Intercultural Resources, where his main research focused on the ecological history of Delhi and the contested politics of Delhi's forested hills. He completed a manuscript of a book on this topic while working as a Social Science Fellow at the Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany, and he is currently preparing this book for publication with the tentative title *The Ridge: Delhi from the Ground Up*. Prior to his time in Delhi, Thomas was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Pune, where he was first exposed to the anti-caste movement and Ambedkarite politics. Thomas' writing has been published in peer-reviewed academic publications such as *Ethics & the Environment*, and *Emotion, Space and Ecology*, as well as in popular media outlets such as *Jacobin* and *Kindle India*.

Tushar Ghadage

Ghadage Tushar Madhukar, specializes in Law and has a Master's degree in Social Work with a specialization in Criminology and Justice from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences [TISS], Mumbai, India. He further pursued my M.Phil. in the Department of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad (UoH) where his research focused on multiple religious identities of Dalits and implications of caste atrocities. Under the supervision of Prof. N. Sudhakar Rao. he is currently pursuing his PhD in the Center for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, UoH, where the thesis is titled "Caste, Religion and Conversion – Dalit's Contestation against Caste Hegemony through Buddhism in Maharashtra", under the guidance of Associate Prof. Dr. S. Ramudu. He was in the National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan as a Short Term Visiting Researcher for six months. During my masters, he was placed at Thane Central Prison for his fieldwork where he worked with an early-age prison inmates. He was also associated with the District Legal Services Authority where he was working with the vulnerable sections of society in accessing legal services through legal aid. He is also actively associated with Ambedkar Students' Association. He has served as Convener of Ambedkar Students' Association before. He continues to be associated with the organizations which are working on Dalit rights and caste atrocity issues and supporting them at various levels.

Ujjwal Prasai

As a writer and a political analyst, Ujjwal Prasai has been contributing his writings to major news outlets being published from Nepal. Straddling the worlds of radio, print and digital journalism as a reporter and editor, his writings span political commentary, ground reportage and literary critiques. His translation work, including a full-length book, have been in the public domain and have contributed in deepening dialogues in a diverse and multi-lingual polity like Nepal. By organising a literary festival in the vernacular, far from the capital region, he has contributed to bolstering the public sphere in Nepal. He holds a Master's degree in English literature from Pokhara University, Nepal and Bachelor's in English and Sociology from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Vijay Shivram Khare

Dr. Vijay Khare is Professor & Head, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies (DDSS) and Head, Department of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU). He was awarded Partial Fellowship by the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Khare was selected for the United Nations Short Course on 'Hologrammatic Terrorism' United Nations, Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, University of Rome, Italy. He completed Executive Leadership Program and Advanced Mediation and Peacemaking at the University of London, UK. Dr. Khare received his Post-doctoral Fellowship from the University Grants Commission (UGC), University of Pune and the Social Scientist award for the research work under the Indo-French Social Scientist Exchange Programme at the Foundation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris. Khare was awarded the Fulbright –Nehru Fellowship and Erasmus Fellow by the European Commission. He is engaged in a number of national and international projects and actively involved in European Commission funded projects. His areas of expertise are international relations, national security, non-traditional security, terrorism and counter-terrorism, peace and conflict resolution, human rights and internationalization of higher education.

Vinod K. Mishra

Dr. Vinod Kumar Mishra is an Assistant Professor at Indian Institute of Dalit Studies. He did his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Geography (Population Studies) from the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He has published research articles in reputed journals and presented papers in various national and international conferences. His recent book along with other co-authors is titled *Caste, Discrimination, and Exclusion in Modern India*. He has completed important research studies such as 'Housing and Basic Amenities in Metropolitan Urban Agglomerations', 'Migration Pattern and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Migrants in Slums', 'Deprivation in Access to Basic Amenities in India: Analysis by Social Groups', 'Urban Rental Housing Market', 'Impact of Social Protection Programme on Informal Sector Workers',

‘Discrimination in Urban Spheres’, ‘Social Inclusion in Local Governance’, ‘Think Tank University Relationship in South Asia’ and ‘Empowering Adolescents Girls and Boys for Improving Social and Reproductive Health’. He is also managing editor of *Journal of Social Inclusion Studies*.

Vivek Narayan

Vivek V. Narayan is a scholar, performance-maker, and writer, whose research is on caste and anti-caste politics in south India. He is currently at work on his monograph, *Stolen Fire: Caste Scripts and Anti-Caste Politics in South India, 1893-2018*, which looks at the Dalit movement in contemporary Kerala as well as the history of anti-caste struggle in colonial-era Travancore. He recently graduated from Stanford University with a Ph.D. in Theater and Performance Studies, and a Ph.D. Minor in Anthropology. He is also an alumnus of Royal Holloway, University of London, where he completed MA Theatre (Directing) on a Charles Wallace India Trust Award, and St. Xavier’s College, Mumbai, from which he graduated with a BA in English Literature. His writing has appeared in *AZURE*, *The Caravan*, *The Hindu*, and *Fountain Ink*, and is forthcoming from *J-CASTE*, while his theatre work has been staged in India, the UK, and the US. In 2019, he was one of two awardees of the inaugural Bluestone Rising Scholar Prize from J-CASTE for his essay “Mirrors of the Soul: Performative egalitarianisms and genealogies of the human in colonial-era Travancore, 1854- 1927.”

Yashica Dutt

Yashica Dutt is an author and a journalist who shifted the narrative on how Dalits were perceived in Indian media after she 'came out as Dalit' in 2016. Her first book, *Coming Out as Dalit* was recently released in the Indian subcontinent to an overwhelmingly positive reception and has earned rave reviews from almost all major Indian publications. She is soon bringing the book to the United States and the rest of the world and hopes to bring powerful Dalit narratives in the global spotlight.