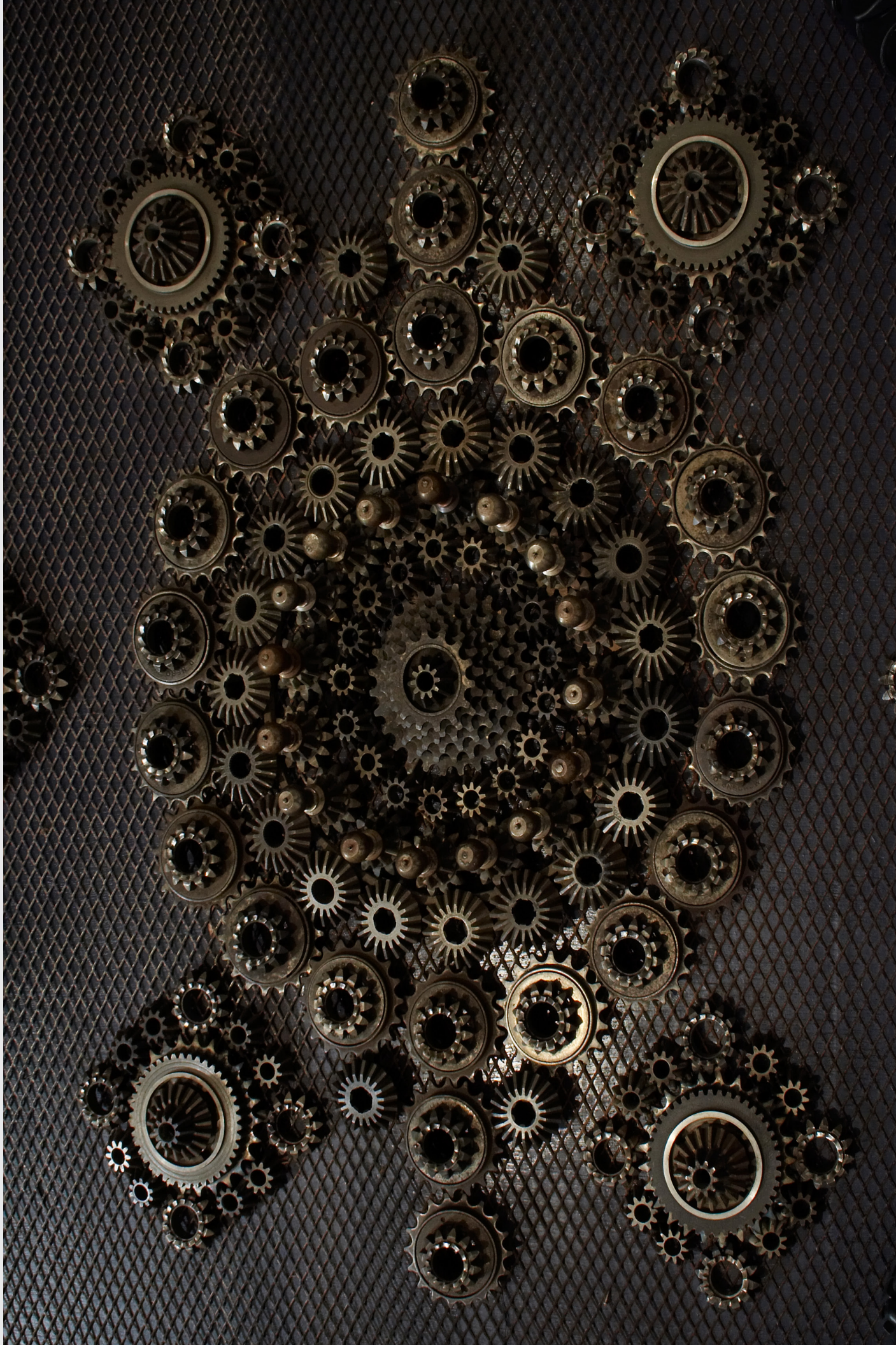


YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-20

THE LAKSHMI MITTAL AND FAMILY SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Year in Review
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

MITTAL INSTITUTE ADMINISTRATION

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Meena Sonea Hewett, *Executive Director*

CAMBRIDGE

Chelsea Ferrell, *Assistant Director*
Alex Gilliard, *Communications Manager*
Selmon Rafey, *Program Coordinator*
Sneha Shrestha, *Arts Program Manager*
Megan Siwek, *Staff Assistant*

Shubhangi Bhadada, *Mittal Institute Fellow*
Tiara Bhattacharya, *Research Associate*
Neha B. Joseph, *Research Fellow*

IN-REGION

India
Sanjay Kumar, *India Country Director*
Savitha Ananth, *Program Manager, B4*
Sushma Mehta, *Grant and Finance Manager*
Ira Pundeer, *Communications Manager*
Farhana Siddiqui, *Staff Assistant*
Samyukta Singh, *Program Coordinator*

Mariam Chughtai, *Pakistan Programs Director*
Pukar Malla, *Nepal Programs Director*

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

TEAM (SHARED WITH OTHER
ASIA-RELATED CENTERS)

Sarah Gordon, *Director of Finance and
Administration*
Maryam Mirza Alivandi, *Financial Associate*
Karen Christopher, *Financial Associate*
Kathryn Maldonis, *Senior Financial Associate*

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Letter from the Director

Another big year for the Mittal Institute has sped by, bringing with it new interdisciplinary programming and renewed partnerships with students, faculty, and groups across campus in the spirit of “One Harvard.”

Yet, we have recently been faced with an unprecedented challenge that has deeply affected the way the Institute, Harvard, and the broader community operate. The outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic is unpredictable, but our team has responded with gusto and creativity, remaining steadfast in our efforts to expand the understanding of and interest in South Asia across all of Harvard’s schools.

Continuing our dedication to building expertise around the preservation of heritage sites throughout South Asia, a workshop in Mumbai brought together faculty and experts from numerous nations to consider the museum’s cultural importance not only in preserving the past, but in its poten-

tial to serve as a societal hub for local citizenry. Throughout the year, our faculty and staff represented the Mittal Institute in South Asia, visiting Colombo, Sri Lanka; Delhi, India; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Lahore, Pakistan; and Kathmandu, Nepal.

Here in Cambridge, we hosted a conference to highlight Bangladesh’s emergence as an economic and cultural giant, convening 27 speakers from Harvard, peer institutions, and governing bodies and organizations across Bangladesh to discuss the nation’s economy, history, public health, and more. Just a few months ago, we partnered with another Harvard institute to bring together policy stakeholders, business leaders, and scholars to discuss Pakistan’s financial reforms and policies.

In the fall, we rolled out a Current Event lecture series, providing our audience with thoughtful and engaging discussions between faculty and fellows on topics ranging from the rise of nationalist and populist

leadership to various social and political crises. During the winter recess, several Mittal Institute affiliates and grant-funded students traveled to Bangladesh to perform research in Rohingya refugee camps, seeking avenues to build community and hope for the future by improving architectural design and understanding the challenges of employment and income for refugees.

The manuscripts for our 1947 Partition of British India project and our project on Meritocracy in China and India are now being collated into edited volumes for publication. These are the fruits of two extensive multi-faculty and multi-institution collaborations that have been led by the Mittal Institute or co-led in partnership with groups across Harvard and peer universities.

In January, our New Delhi office helped local scientists and academics develop the first India Science Festival, a platform in Pune that emphasized the user-friend-

liness of science. Thousands of guests traveled from all over the country to listen to debates presented by scientists from Harvard, peer universities throughout the US, and local institutions. Audience members engaged with scientific exhibits and demonstrations of technological marvels over the course of the two-day event.

In the past, our events have mainly relied on in-person meetings and live audiences to drive discussion. Moving forward, we have adapted to the current environment by embracing remote communication technologies in the service of our mission: to better understand the opportunities offered by South Asia and the challenges in accessing these.

This spring, we have brought a series of informative COVID-19 webinars into the homes of our audience, hosting prominent speakers from a variety of disciplines and locations and welcoming viewers in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. In a

webinar centered on South Asia’s response to COVID-19, hundreds of viewers joined us to learn from researchers at Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, BRAC University, and the Public Health Foundation of India. Speakers addressed the varied in-region policy responses to the virus, their efficacy, and their impact on the health system and social sector.

We continue to work with students, faculty, and affiliates remotely to drive research and highlight the diverse and significant work of our community. In early May, we convened virtually for our Annual Cambridge Symposium. This event brought together our donors and Harvard faculty to discuss COVID-19’s impact on the arts and science of South Asia, as well as the notion of unpreparedness that the international community faces as global ties fray and national issues cross borders.

I want to reassure our faculty, students, and

greater community that we will continue to support them in their endeavors to highlight and expand the wealth of knowledge that can be found throughout South Asia. Currently, we are strengthening both our physical presence in Delhi and our institutional relationships in Bangladesh to expand our network and connect scholars, students, and regional experts to build intellectual capital around the issues that matter most to South Asia. Our community has proven to be a resilient one, and together we can adapt to these unplanned circumstances, hopefully emerging even stronger in its aftermath.

TARUN KHANNA
Director, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute;
Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School

2019–20 Highlights

135
Speakers/Panelists

5 Conferences
3 Workshops
30+ Seminars

Events
38+

Our webinar
audience tuned in
from
47 countries

THE OUTCOME OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS UNPREDICTABLE, BUT OUR TEAM HAS RESPONDED WITH GUSTO AND CREATIVITY, REMAINING STEADFAST IN OUR EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE UNDERSTANDING OF AND INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA ACROSS ALL OF HARVARD'S SCHOOLS.

— TARUN KHANNA

NEW DONOR(S)
Kushagra Nayan Bajaj
Chairman, Bajaj Group

6 Enhanced Gifts from
Current Donors

6

NEW
FELLOWS

Shah Numair Ahmed Abbasi
Visiting Artist Fellow

Naveen Bharathi
Raghunathan Family Fellow

Abdul Razaque Channa
Syed Babar Ali Fellow

Sagar Chhetri
Visiting Artist Fellow

Sakshi Gupta
Visiting Artist Fellow

Suhasini Kejriwal
Visiting Artist Fellow

\$86,000
in Faculty
Research Grants

8 Student
Winter Grant 2020
Recipients

Research
Sites across
Countries 4

\$1,500
Average Grant

Our Mission

The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University (The Mittal Institute) engages in interdisciplinary research to advance and deepen the understanding of critical issues in South Asia and its relationships with the world.

NEWSLETTER

168,439
Sends

WEBSITE

55%
Increase in
Site Traffic

YOUTUBE

11,200
Hours Watched

45% Increase in
Subscribers

TWITTER

Impressions
230k

SEPTEMBER 2019

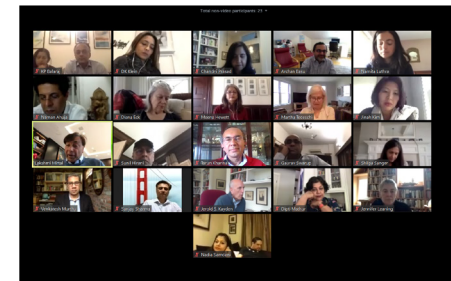
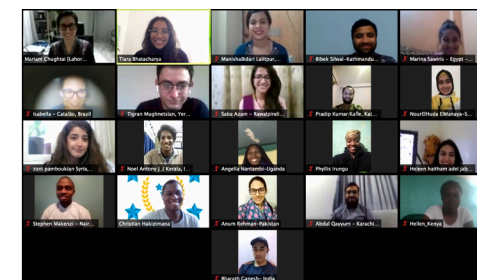
The Bangladesh Rising Conference convened experts from across the US and Bangladesh to discuss the nation's economy, history, public health, and more.

NOVEMBER 2019

The Nepal Mandala Symposium centered on the modernity and globality of Nepal's art and culture, bringing together scholars whose work critically examines Nepal's history.

DECEMBER 2019/MAY 2020

The Crossroads Emerging Leaders Program received applications from over 6,000 first-in-family college students across 97 countries. A virtual program for the 80 finalists was held in May 2020.



MAY 2020

The Annual Cambridge Symposium went virtual, assembling Mittal Institute donors and Harvard faculty for a discussion on science, the arts, and unpreparedness in a world responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APRIL 2020

A COVID-19 webinar series convened Harvard faculty and in-region experts to discuss the healthcare-, economic-, and education-related impacts of the pandemic for an international audience.

FEBRUARY 2020

Under the Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises program, the India Digital Health Network submitted comments to the Parliament of India on the 2019 Personal Data Protection Bill.

FALL 2019

NOVEMBER 2019

Kushagra Nayan Bajaj joined the Mittal Institute's Advisory Board and created a new fellowship for scholars from India.



JANUARY 2020

The Program for Scientifically Inspired Leadership team traveled to Manipur, India for the second time to teach local high school schoolers and met with the Chief Minister of Manipur.



JANUARY 2020

The Delhi office held its second Annual Symposium at the India Science Festival in Pune, which aimed to bridge the gap between science and society.

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Museums & the City Workshop was held at CSMVS in Mumbai, facilitating an exchange of knowledge around museum management, conservation, and effective curatorial practices.



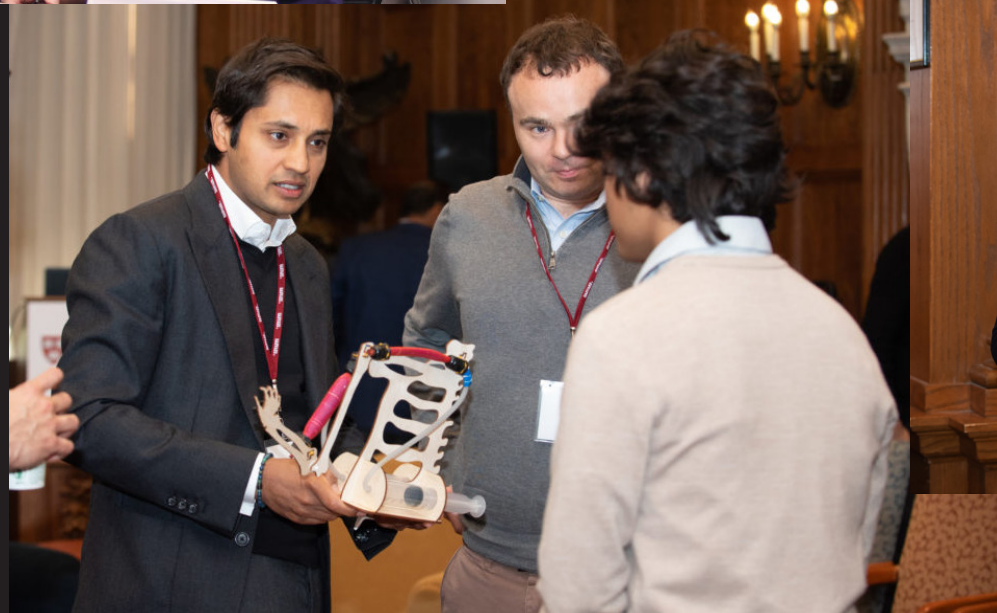
SPRING 2020





FACULTY PROJECTS and PROGRAMS

The Mittal Institute supports faculty-led multidisciplinary research projects and programs in the disciplines of arts and humanities, social sciences, and sciences.



Clockwise: Professors Philippe Cluzel and Venkatesh Murthy; Professor Tarun Khanna speaking about meritocracy in India and China at Ashoka University; Professors Jukka-Pekka Onnela, Jinah Kim, Conor Walsh, and S V Subramanian; Professors Satchit Balsari, Jennifer Leaning, Martha Chen, and Sheila Jasanoff; Professor Diana Eck; Mittal Institute Fellow Shubhangi Bhadada; Aditya Mittal observes a Soft Robotics Toolkit developed by Professor Conor Walsh's team

Project Team: **JENNIFER LEANING**, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; **PRASHANT BHARADWAJ**, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Graduate Studies, Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego; **TARUN KHANNA**, Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School; Director, The Mittal Institute, Harvard University; **ASIM IJAZ KHWAJA**, Director, Center for International Development; Sumitomo-FASID Professor of International Finance and Development, Harvard Kennedy School; **KARIM LAKHANI**, Charles Edward Wilson Professor of Business Administration and Dorothy and Michael Hintze Fellow, Harvard Business School; **RAHUL MEHROTRA**, Professor of Urban Design and Planning; Director of the Master of Architecture in Urban Design Degree Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design; **SHUBHANGI BHADADA**, Mittal Institute Fellow; **TIARA BHATACHARYA**, Research Associate; **MICHAEL MENIETTI**, Research Associate; **RUIHAN WANG**, Research Associate; **NABIL KHAN**, Research Associate; **STEPHANIE MAO**, Intern



Professor Jennifer Leaning



THE 1947 PARTITION PROJECT REFLECTS ON A CHARGED HISTORICAL EVENT MORE THAN 70 YEARS AFTER THE FACT AND PROVIDES PERSPECTIVE ON THE COMPLEXITY OF INVOLUNTARY POPULATION DISPLACEMENT TAKING PLACE TODAY ACROSS THE WORLD IN RECORD NUMBERS.

— JENNIFER LEANING

The 1947 Partition of British India

A research project that seeks to develop a rich and empirically grounded understanding of the 1947 Partition of British India by exploring its demographic and humanitarian consequences.

The 1947 Partition of British India research project delves into the questions that surround the demographic and humanitarian consequences of the Partition, many of which have gone unanswered for decades. Under the direction of **Jennifer Leaning**, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the project has expanded with the support of the Mittal Institute to build a deeper understanding of the mass displacement and migration that occurred in 1947.

Rahul Mehrotra, Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, continues to research the drastic shift of post-Partition urban growth and development in South Asia due to mass movement.

Prashant Bharadwaj, Associate Professor at UC San Diego, and **Asim Ijaz Khwaja**, Sumitomo-FASID Professor of International Finance and Development at Harvard Kennedy School, continue to employ machine learning to assess political rhetoric and inflammatory language and their impact on regional economic behavior.

COLLECTING NARRATIVES & CROWDSOURCING MEMORIES

Over the past few years, **Tarun Khanna**, Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor at Harvard Business School and Director of the Mittal Institute, and **Karim Lakhani**, Charles Edward Wilson Professor of Business Ad-

ministration at Harvard Business School, **Shubhangi Bhadada**, Mittal Institute Fellow, and their team have set out to crowdsource oral narratives from Partition survivors. Recently, another round of story collection from Partition survivors in India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan increased the project's overall number of narratives to 2,400. The team is currently seeking a place to house these interviews so they are available to a global audience for posterity.

Throughout 2019 and early 2020, Professor Khanna gave lectures in New York, Bengaluru, and Pennsylvania on the efforts to crowdsource memories of the 1947 displacement. For the first time ever, a single study on the Partition brings together Pakistanis, Indians, and Bangladeshis, highlighting their different perspectives — as it is unlikely that the existing primary written sources represent the views of all of those who actually suffered.

With the oral stories resource, there is the potential to draw common lessons from the accounts of migration and inform the future of involuntary movement around the world. “This is an example of a historical event that is salient, whose legacy continues to haunt us... it will continue to be a shaper of political harmony,” said Shubhangi Bhadada.

APPOINTING NEW AMBASSADORS

In November 2019, the Mittal Institute hosted a certificate ceremony for the

campus ambassadors who had participated in the research project by interviewing those who had witnessed the 1947 Partition. The ambassadors collected a second round of oral stories from Partition witnesses over the span of six weeks, bringing the total number of stories to over 2,400 — about 1,400 from India, 800 from Pakistan, and 100 from Bangladesh — and contributing significantly to the scholarship about the events that led to the largest involuntary migration in recent history.

EXPANDING SCHOLARSHIP

The Partition team is in the final stages of completing a manuscript for a book that will consist of numerous multidisciplinary essays, written by contributors from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States — including **Uma Chakravarti** and **Mihir Bhatt** (India); **Nadhra Khan** and **Yaqoob Bangash** (Pakistan); **Ornob Alam**, **Omar Rahman**, and **Rita Yusuf** (Bangladesh); **Rahul Mehrotra**, **Tarun Khanna**, **Karim Lakhani**, **Jennifer Leaning**, **Asim Ijaz Khwaja**, and **Prashant Bharadwaj** (United States).

In October 2019, the team's paper, “Crowdsourcing Memories: Mixed Methods Research by Cultural Insiders—Epistemological Outsiders,” was published online on the Academy of Management website, and will be published in print in the Academy of Management Perspectives Journal, Vol. 35(2) in May 2021.

Project Team: **JINAH KIM**, Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University;
MEENA HEWETT, Executive Director, Mittal Institute, Harvard University



Students learn live model drawing at Lalit Kala (Fine Arts) Campus in Nepal; it's emergence was a topic of discussion at the Nepal Mandala Symposium



THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF HERITAGE IN SOUTH ASIA —
 ANCIENT AND MODERN — AND HOW TO PRESERVE IT
 WELL IS A CONCERN FOR MANY PARTIES.

— JINAH KIM

Arts at the Mittal Institute

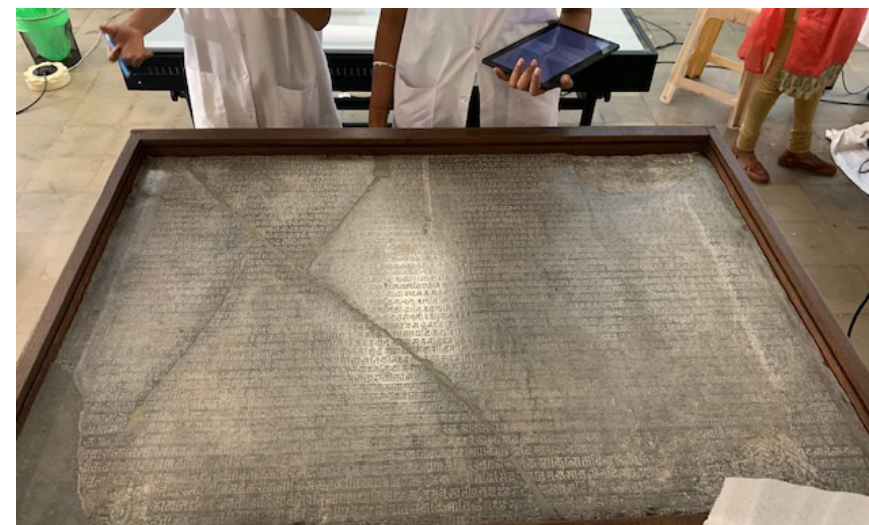
Partnering with arts fellows, faculty, and in-region institutions, the Mittal Institute supports artistic commentary on South Asia's issues, while working to preserve the region's art and cultural sites.

The Mittal Institute continues its dedication to the scholarship and preservation of South Asian art, sculpture, and architecture through conservation and collections management, the Visiting Artist Fellowship, an arts fund program, and numerous arts-related events.

CONSERVATION AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

The Mittal Institute has partnered with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) museum in Mumbai, the Harvard Art Museums' Straus Conservation Center, and Harvard's Graduate School of Design to support scholarly pursuits in art and site collection and conservation management.

This year, the Mittal Institute further developed its Program for Conservation of Culture, working to preserve the invaluable wealth of art and cultural sites throughout South Asia and nurture robust conservation practices in the region. As part of the effort to develop a "Commons" for art conservation research, Meena Hewett, Executive Director of the Mittal Institute, conducted site visits to the CSMVS Museum to study conservation and restoration practices adopted by conservators in India. This program aims to create a knowledge-sharing platform among museums in the region. In September 2019, the Mittal Institute partnered with CSMVS to hold the Museums & the City Workshop, which explored how



Clockwise: Artifact restoration in progress at the CSMVS Museum; Vijaydurg Map (242.5cm X 209cm; 18th century; Tempera on paper) on display at the CSMVS museum; Meena Hewett, Executive Director of the Mittal Institute

museums can create an expanded culture of civic life that represents and nurtures

the diverse and plural sensibilities of those with whom they share space.

VISITING ARTIST FELLOWSHIP

Under faculty director **Jinah Kim**, Professor of History of Art & Architecture at Harvard University, the Mittal Institute selects four artists from South Asia each year to visit Cambridge as Visiting Artist Fellows. During their fellowship, the artists deepen their artistic explorations of South Asia through the use of Harvard’s museums, libraries, and archives. The fellows are given opportunities to connect with both faculty and students, using their time in Cambridge to build on the Harvard community’s understanding of South Asian social, political, cultural, and economic issues through the lens of art and design.

In Fall 2019, Visiting Artist Fellows **Sagar Chhetri** and **Sakshi Gupta** joined the Mittal Institute. Chhetri, a photographer from



Of all the fallen men, Shah Numair Ahmed Abbasi, mixed media on fabric, 2017



A boy in a burning field, Bhairawa, Nepal, Sagar Chhetri, 2018

Nepal, delved into the identity conflict experienced by the Madhesi community of Nepal through profound imagery of their daily lives. Gupta, a sculptor and mixed media artist from India, explored the human condition, transformation, and the momentariness of life, time, and eternity by turning found objects into new art pieces.

Suhasini Kejriwal and **Numair Abbasi** arrived in March to begin the Spring 2020 Visiting Artist Fellowship. Kejriwal, a painter and photographer from India, explores the changing urban landscape in India and the daily lives of the people who live and work there. Abbasi, a mixed media artist from Pakistan, draws on popular culture, anecdotes, and colloquialisms to stage personal and social narratives in an attempt to challenge the politics behind how gender is socially constructed and performed.

BUILDING SCHOLARSHIP ON SOUTH ASIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE

Each year, the Mittal Institute provides funding for Harvard students to study South Asian art and sculpture and to travel to various countries to further their work. This year, **Karan Saharya** investigated the production of urban space through preservation designations, delving into contemporary issues of spatial cleansing,



Some Beast, Sakshi Gupta, Scrap Iron, Approx 210 x 225 cm, overall dimensions variable, contingent on installation arrangement, 2008



I WANT TO LOOK AT THINGS LIKE TIME, SPACE, AND VALUE THROUGH MATERIALITY. COMING FROM SOUTH ASIA, IT’S ALL THE MORE INTERESTING, BECAUSE A CITY THIS OLD IS STILL GOING THROUGH MUCH CHANGE — AND THAT HAS A HEAVY INFLUENCE ON MY WORK.

— SAKSHI GUPTA

social justice, and transformation in Delhi. “My research benefited immensely from the stories I heard, the people I met, and the places I visited in India, allowing me to bridge the gulf between conservation as an academic endeavor and the tangible pressures of on-ground urbanization,” he said.

Davindar Singh traveled across urban centers, towns, villages, and the countryside throughout Punjab to examine the production of religious sound in shrines, churches, gurdwaras, masjids, and Buddhist monasteries. “My main goal was to examine the production of religious sound in a variety of settings, with an eye toward

the social demarcation of ‘spaces’ around the sites of these sounds,” he said.

Vaishnavi Patil explored the conception of the mother-child motif in ancient India within Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain traditions, expanding on the function and role of these goddesses and the similarities and differences in their worship. She made site visits to Samalaji and Roda to understand the landscape of the temple complexes and their significance.

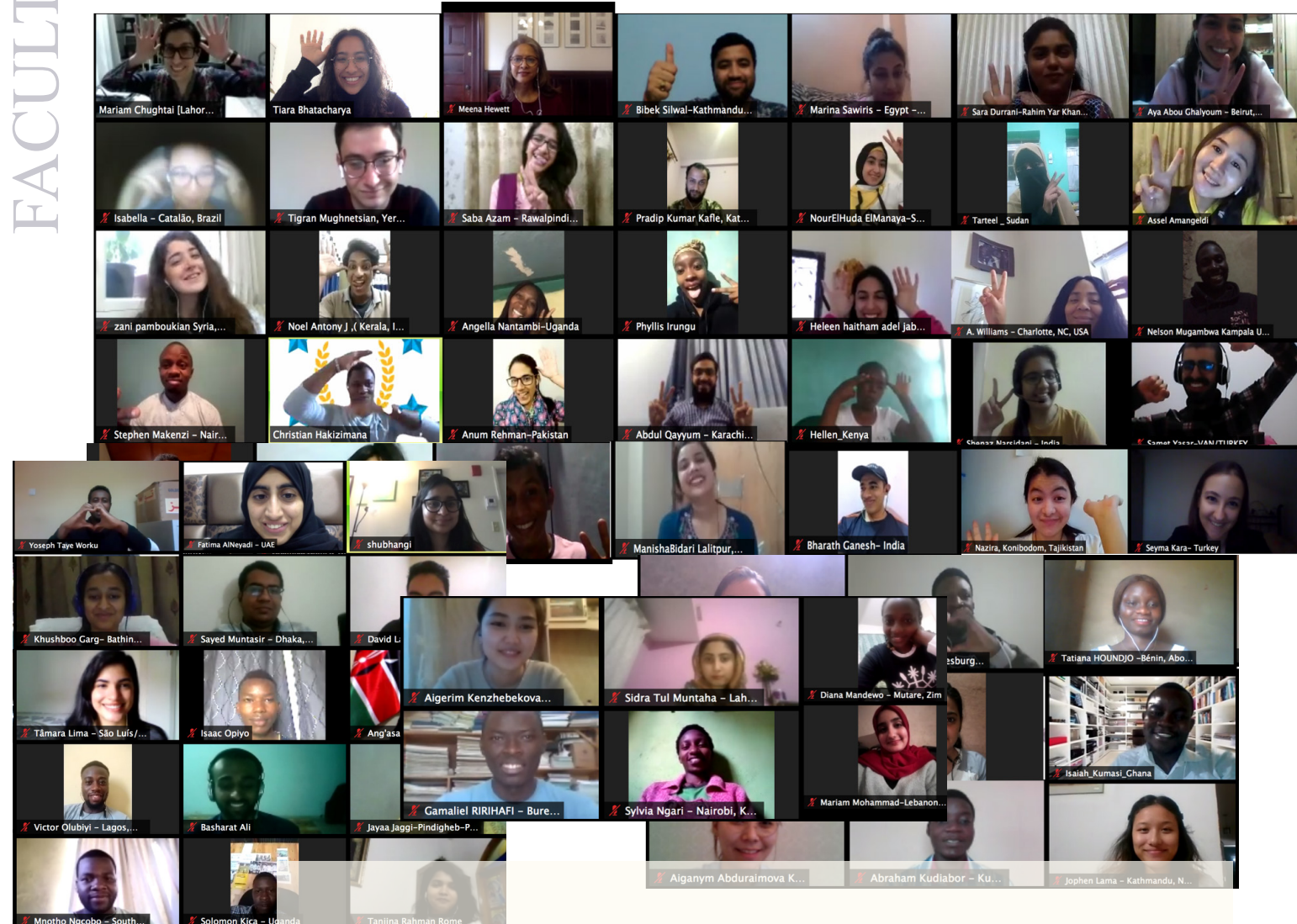
The Mittal Institute co-sponsored the Nepal Mandala Symposium in Fall 2019, which coincided with an exhibition sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities on Nepalese Buddhist art, *Dharma and Punya: Buddhist Ritual Art of Nepal*, bringing together many lesser-known objects of the Malla and Shah periods. “The symposium was an opportunity to start a discussion about how to challenge the yoke of insularity and examine the later history of Nepal in terms of its modernity and globality,” said Professor Jinah Kim. The symposium brought together scholars of religion, anthropology, and art history to present papers that critically examine various aspects of Nepal’s culture.

The Mittal Institute is dedicated to celebrating South Asia’s art, and regularly brings artists from the region to Harvard for performances, lectures, and screenings, including **Musa Syeed**, award-winning filmmaker; **Raj Rewal**, leading Indian architect; and **Ashima Krishna**, architect and historic preservation planner.



Eden V, Suhasini Kejriwal, Acrylic on canvas, 305×183cm (120×72”)

Faculty Leads: **TARUN KHANNA**, Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School; Director, The Mittal Institute, Harvard University;
KARIM LAKHANI, Charles Edward Wilson Professor of Business Administration and Dorothy and Michael Hintze Fellow, Harvard Business School



Participants of the Crossroads virtual program held in May 2020



THIS IS A LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAM. [IT] HELPED ME MAKE AN IMPORTANT DECISION ABOUT MY CAREER PATH, GIVING ME THE MOTIVATION AND INSPIRATION TO THINK BIG, WORK HARD, STAY FOCUSED, AND ACHIEVE ALL OF MY ACADEMIC GOALS... GEOGRAPHY IS NEVER A BARRIER FOR IDEAS.

— CROSSROADS STUDENT

Crossroads Emerging Leaders Program

A unique, fully-funded career development opportunity for ambitious youth around the world who have overcome significant barriers to higher education and are the first in their families to attend college.

Now in its third year, the Crossroads Emerging Leaders Program continues to grow and offer its participants a unique, life-changing opportunity. Spearheaded by Professors **Tarun Khanna** and **Karim Lakhani**, the pro bono program provides a fully funded career development opportunity for students around the world who face difficult financial and social circumstances and are the first member of their family to attend university.

RECORD-BREAKING APPLICANTS

This year, the program received 6,093 total applications from 97 countries spanning the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, South Asia, and US students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The applicants participated in five virtual courses during the first round of the application process, consisting of a fully funded selection of interdisciplinary courses offered online on HarvardX through Crossroads' partnership with edX. Overall, 80 finalists qualified for the final segment of the program — a selection rate of just over one percent of applicants.

AN ONLINE, GLOBAL CLASSROOM

During the application process, for the first time, the “Crossroads Virtual Program” was offered to 1,900 Crossroads students from over 70 countries via Zoom in February and March 2020. It consisted of an

interdisciplinary seminar series designed specifically for Crossroads students and curated to encourage their individual professional and academic aspirations. It featured 12 senior faculty across a range of disciplines, teaching courses on the sciences, arts, humanities, and more.

For the selected 80 finalists, the program would typically culminate in a weeklong trip to Dubai, where students would learn in-person from leading Harvard faculty. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, this year's cohort convened virtually over the course of two weeks, covering an extensive and multidisciplinary curriculum featuring case studies and discussion groups.

The finalists connected with mentor speakers, including Nobel Laureate and founder of Grameen Bank, **Muhammad Yunus**, as well as internationally recognized keynote speaker **Tariq Qureshy**, Senior Vice President at Brown Brothers Harriman. As their eyes were opened to new cultures and connections, the students were able to imagine new futures and career paths alongside their peers from across multiple continents. The team will continue organizing virtual content for this year's finalists.

The Crossroads Emerging Leaders Program is a joint effort between the Harvard Business School Club of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), HBS Professors Tarun Khanna and Karim Lakhani, and The Mittal Institute.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM 2019-20



ASIM IJAZ KHWAJA, HKS
Innovation in the Education Ecosystem



MUHAMMAD ZAMAN, BU (Engineering)
Engineering Approaches to Global Health Inequity



JUKKA-PEKKA ONNELA, HSPH
Introduction to Python Programming



MICHAEL SZONYI, Harvard FAS
China's Belt and Road Initiative: Why it Matters



CONOR WALSH, Harvard SEAS
Disruptive Technologies: Augmenting Human Performance



FRANCESCA DOMINICI, HSPH
How does Climate Change Affect your Health?



RAHUL MEHROTRA, Harvard GSD
Architecture and Society



MAYA JASANOFF, Harvard FAS
Empire Then and Now: Globalization



AMITABH CHANDRA, HBS
Missing Medicines: Finance, Life Science, and Ethics



KRISTEN STILT, HLS
Islamic Conceptions of Animal Rights



HANSPETER PFISTER, Harvard SEAS
The Art and Science of Data Visualization



DEBORA SPAR, HBS
How Machines Shape our Human Destiny

Faculty Leads: **TARUN KHANNA**, Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School; Director, The Mittal Institute, Harvard University; **MICHAEL SZONYI**, Frank Wen-Hsiung Wu Memorial Professor of Chinese History, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Director, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University



Professors Michael Szonyi and Tarun Khanna



IF WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE FUTURE WILL NEED, WE CAN CHANNEL STUDENTS' EFFORTS TO MEET THE FUTURE.

— **BERNARD YEUNG**

Meritocracy in China and India Program

An investigation into talent allocation in Chinese and Indian societies, uncovering how meritocracy is conceptualized, has changed over time, and has impacted the processes of education and talent promotion in these countries.

Beginning in 2015, the Meritocracy in China and India Project has worked to build a better understanding of merit and talent systems in China and India, and the roles that power and influence play in these two nations. The goal of the project is to produce a volume of essays written by scholars from China, India, and the United States, from Harvard University and additional peer universities. Recently, the manuscript has reached the final stages of preparation toward the published volume.

WHAT IS MERITOCRACY?

Co-directed by Professor **Tarun Khanna** and **Michael Szonyi**, Professor of Chinese History and Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, this project takes an in-depth look at the approaches of both China and India in recognizing, nurturing, and allocating talent in-country. Project participants seek a better understanding of the limitations individuals in these nations face when restricted by historical class systems that leave many without effective education and opportunities for promotion.

“The impetus behind the project was the sense of the dual meanings of meritocracy as a social, educational, and occupational system in which all people have the opportunity to develop themselves to their full potential, in terms of both their education and professional development. Leaders are selected on the basis of their capacity

to rule, and their performance is assessed by some form of the systematic evaluation system,” said Professor Szonyi.

REALLOCATING TALENT

Bernard Yeung, Stephen Riady Distinguished Professor in Finance and Strategic Management at the National University of Singapore and researcher on the Meritocracy project, is collaborating with **Vincent Chua**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore, and **Randall Morck**, Stephen A. Jarislowsky Distinguished Chair in Finance and Professor at the University of Alberta, to develop a chapter for the edited volume.

Professor Yeung’s research centers on meritocracy and talent allocation in Singapore. “In Singapore, parents know their children need to get good exam results, so they push their children to study hard. Teachers know they will be rewarded if they place students into top universities. The employer, parents, teachers, and students are all in pursuit of excellent grades — and it becomes an equilibrium,” said Professor Yeung.

But the modern world changes quickly — and getting good grades isn’t enough anymore. “Maybe we need more people thinking outside the box, who excel in more than just textbooks and can organize themes and provide leadership. We have

to come up with other measures of success and give more channels and opportunities to climb upwards,” said Professor Yeung.

Through the development of the edited volume, the project team seeks to raise awareness of the subject matter and continue the conversation to inspire change.

Essay contributors include **Varun Aggarwal** (Aspiring Minds), **Shyam Babu** (Center for Policy Research), **Daniel A. Bell** (Shandong University), **Vincent Chua** (National University of Singapore), **Ashwini Deshpande** (Ashoka University), **Sumit Guha** (The University of Texas at Austin), **Zachary M. Howlett** (Yale-NUS College), **Devesh Kapur** (Johns Hopkins University), **William C. Kirby** (Harvard University), **James Lee** (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), **Chen Liang** (Nanjing University), **Pratap Bhanu Mehta** (Ashoka University), **Randall Morck** (University of Alberta), **Chandrabhan Prasad** (Center for Civil Society), **Michael Puett** (Harvard University), **Bamboo Ren** (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), **Sudev Sheth** (University of Pennsylvania), **Ajantha Subramanian** (Harvard University), **Michael A. Szonyi** (Harvard University), **Ashutosh Varshney** (Brown University), **Bernard Yeung** (National University of Singapore Business School), and **Lawrence LC Zhang** (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology).

Faculty Lead: **VENKATESH MURTHY**, Raymond Leo Erikson Life Sciences Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University



Panelists at a B4 seminar



THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE WAS AMAZING, BECAUSE OF INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE LECTURES BY TOPMOST ACADEMICS, FREE DISCUSSION, IMAGE ANALYSIS, AND HANDS-ON LEARNING SESSIONS. EXCHANGING IDEAS WITH OTHERS AND THE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IS GOING TO HELP MY PHD PROJECT DESIGN AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

— **MONIKA SHARMA, B4 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT**

Building Bharat-Boston Biosciences (B4) Program

Now in its second phase, the B4 Program educates and inspires young Indian scientists through fellowships, workshops, and seminars as they pursue research and careers in fields related to the biosciences.

The Building Bharat-Boston Biosciences (B4) Program is the second iteration of the earlier Boston-Bangalore Biosciences Beginnings Program. Funded by the Department of Biotechnology within the Government of India, the Mittal Institute collaborates with IBAB, Bengaluru and IISER, Pune to connect institutions in India and Boston and create a platform for them to promote research and build new knowledge in the biosciences.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE IN BANGALORE

Under the leadership of faculty director **Venkatesh Murthy**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University, the B4 Fellowship program offered five Science and Technology Fellowships for 18 months in the fields related to biosciences at Harvard and other institutions in the Boston area. In August 2019, the Mittal Institute welcomed five fellows from India to Cambridge to work in labs with faculty mentors.

2019-20 B4 Fellows and their specializations include: **Ajay Shakar Labade** (Genome Biology, mentored by **Jason Buenrostro**, Assistant Professor of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology), **Kritika Gupta** (Molecular Genetics and Protein Biophysics, mentored by **Philippe Cluzel**, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology), **Madhumathi Kalidoss** (Biomaterials, mentored by **Muhammad Zaman**, Profes-

sor of Biomedical Engineering at Boston University), **Premananda Karidas** (Plant Developmental Biology, mentored by **Elena Kramer**, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology), and **Sudipta Tung** (Experimental Evolution and Population Dynamics, mentored by **Michael Desai**, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and of Physics).

Beginning this year, the program will offer up to 11 fellowships for visiting scientists to spend 12 months at Harvard and other Boston institutions. This new iteration of the program will target junior faculty from academic institutions and research organizations in India whose research relates to the biosciences.

CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE

The program also organizes two annual “Young Scientist” workshops on topics related to biosciences to promote interdisciplinary learning and introduce talented Indian students to the emerging fields in life sciences. The workshops comprise several lectures given by eminent experts and incorporate hands-on lessons to provide students with practical knowledge on how to apply these lessons to future endeavors.

The first workshop of the year, hosted at IISER in Pune, convened 25 students from Indian universities and institutions to receive training from experts in Advanced

Light Microscopy techniques, ranging from basic microscopy to super-resolution imaging. The students attended lectures given by eminent scientists from Harvard University and institutions across India. Through hands-on laboratory experiments, students learned epifluorescence, confocal, multi-photon, airy scan, and TIRF microscopy techniques, as well as DNA/RNA labeling and image analysis. Using what they learned, the students analyzed cells and sub-cellular organelles.

A subsequent seminar, “Life Sciences in the Next Decade,” was moderated by Professor Murthy at IISER, Pune, alongside panelists **Sanjeev Galande**, **H. Subramanya**, **Shubha Tole**, and **Geeta Narlikar**. The group emphasized the importance of mathematics and physics in education, speaking about various funding options, the criticality of an interdisciplinary approach, and the importance of developing educational systems that prioritize translational research and application.

Faculty Leads: **VENKATESH MURTHY**, Raymond Leo Erikson Life Sciences Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University; **DOMINIC MAO**, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies (CPB/MCB); Lecturer, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University



The PSIL team meets with N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur



CROSS-CULTURAL MENTORSHIP EXPOSES THE STUDENTS TO DIVERSITY IN EVERY SENSE. THIS IS GREAT IN DISPELLING PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLACES, AND CULTURE.

— **DOMINIC MAO**

Program for Scientifically Inspired Leadership (PSIL)

A Harvard team traveled to Manipur, India to deliver a curriculum centered around critical thinking and problem-solving to local high school students, recruiting prospective teachers from the region to participate as teaching assistants.

In January 2020, a seven-member team from Harvard University visited the Indian state of Manipur to conduct the second iteration of the Program for Scientifically Inspired Leadership (PSIL).

Dr. **Dominic Mao**, Faculty Director of PSIL and Lecturer in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard, and **Christopher Li**, the program's Associate Director and a Research Assistant at the Belfer Center, led the team. They were joined by five undergraduate students: **Allison Pao**, **Katelyn Li**, **Jeff Prince**, **Charlotte Ruhl**, and **Shivani Aggarwal**. Throughout the weeklong program, the Harvard students developed and taught a Western-style curriculum in the classrooms of a local high school, alongside college-level teaching assistants from the area, presenting a diverse range of topics that included social psychology, journalism, media literacy, ethical dilemmas, cell biology, and more.

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

PSIL brings together three distinct groups of students to create its community: Harvard undergraduates, prospective teachers from the region, and high school students from various schools throughout Manipur. While the high school students develop critical thinking and leadership skills, the prospective teachers — who act as teaching assistants during the program

— and Harvard undergraduates learn how to become effective teachers. An important component of the program is cultural immersion, expanding the worldviews of each of the three groups. Throughout the trip, the PSIL team learns about the history and culture of Manipur by visiting various sites alongside the local teaching team.

GROWING THE PROGRAM

In its 2020 iteration, the PSIL was transformed into a residential program to ensure more engagement and participation from the students. The team is also exploring support from the state governments to scale up the program in future iterations, and met with **N. Biren Singh**, Chief Minister of Manipur, in Imphal. During the meeting, Dr. Mao provided an overview of the program and its mission: to promote leadership and liberal arts educational enrichment for high school students in Manipur, while concurrently fostering cultural exchange between Cambridge and Manipur.

The Chief Minister welcomed the delegation and discussed his government's initiatives to improve local schools in the region, offering statistics about recent developments. "What you're doing is very encouraging, and my government is eager to support your efforts in the future," the Chief Minister said.



IT WAS REALLY EMPOWERING TO KNOW THAT WE WERE DOING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER. THAT WAS A LITTLE BIT DAUNTING AT TIMES, BUT I THINK THAT WAS WHAT MADE THE EXPERIENCE SO REWARDING: KNOWING THAT WE ABLE TO BUILD SOMETHING FROM NOTHING. JUST BEING IN MANIPUR, IT'S ABOUT EXPERIENCING A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE. I THINK A LOT OF US MIGHT HAVE COME IN [TO THIS PROGRAM] WITH A HARVARD MINDSET, BUT IN MANIPUR THINGS ARE BASED UPON THE STRENGTHS OF RELATIONSHIPS.

— **ALLISON PAO**, STUDENT, HARVARD COLLEGE

Faculty Leads: **TARUN KHANNA**, Jorge Paulo Lemann Professor, Harvard Business School; Director, The Mittal Institute, Harvard University; **CONOR WALSH**, Gordon McKay Professor of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; **PAWAN SINHA**, Professor of Vision and Computational Neuroscience, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT; **SATCHIT BALSARI**, Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Assistant Professor, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health; **RAHUL MEHROTRA**, Professor of Urban Design and Planning; Director of the Master of Architecture in Urban Design Degree Program and Co-Director of the Master of Landscape in Architecture in Urban Design Degree Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design; **JINAH KIM**, Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University; **ASHOK GADGIL**, Andrew and Virginia Rudd Family Foundation Chair Professor of Safe Water and Sanitation, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley; **VIKRAM PATEL**, The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School



The Project Prakash team working to restore eyesight to children



EMPOWERING THE PRAKASH CHILDREN AND GIVING THEM FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE SO THEY CAN GROW UP TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT GOAL THAT WE WILL BE WORKING TOWARDS.

— **PRITI GUPTA, RESEARCH SCIENTIST, PROJECT PRAKASH**

Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises Program

A multi-year program supporting the development of social entrepreneurship projects that positively impact social, economic, and environmental issues in India.

The Multidisciplinary Approach to Innovative Social Enterprises Program, funded by the Tata Trusts, identifies and steers innovative social enterprises based on rigorous academic research. These enterprises seek to address issues that keep India's vulnerable populations in a cycle of poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy.

The program provides a platform approach that connects problem identifiers, experts, and entrepreneurs to collaborate on innovative social enterprises across sectors that address India's most pressing challenges. The populations impacted by these initiatives range from individual families to communities in the urban, semi-urban, and rural areas across India. This year, three new projects have been added to the program: Building a Sanitation Hub, Project Empower, and Mapping Color in History.

PROJECT PRAKASH Pawan Sinha

Since 2005, Project Prakash has worked at the very grassroots of India, in hundreds of villages, connecting them to the most sophisticated treatment available for curable blindness. Project Prakash's field workers use a digital application that helps them easily keep track of and follow up with their patients. The health data from this centralized repository will provide crucial

context to formulate policies regarding the types of medical and rehabilitation resources that are most needed to improve the health of children.

In October 2019, PPCT inaugurated two Prakash Vision Centers (PVCs) in Brahmpur and Pali blocks of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Several patients have been screened at the PVCs since their inauguration, providing those diagnosed with refractive error with glasses. The PVC team also conducted 16 local awareness sessions, interacting with around 200 people to build awareness of various eye health issues. Moving forward, the team plans to establish an enduring presence in poorly served rural communities.

PROJECT 3T (TRAINING, TASK SHIFTING, TECHNOLOGY) Satchit Balsari

The goal of Project 3T (Training, Task-Shifting, and Technology) is to develop standardized protocols for the proposed Health and Wellness Clinics currently in development by the National Health Protection Scheme. The project has identified St. John's Research Institute (SJRI) as its primary test site to prototype the "EHR-Lite," a small-footprint, customizable electronic health record for primary care clinics in India.

Project 3T will develop regional Digital Health Innovation Hubs to provide a prototyping environment for scientists and industry partners to develop mobile and cloud-based solutions that augment primary care delivery in India. The project will boost regional capacity to evaluate and rapidly test digital health interventions (from early stage to those already on the market) at the primary care level to improve population health. The project is collaborating with Social Alpha and up to three state governments to propose the creation of several testing labs that will generate evidence for the validity, feasibility, and scalability of new technologies.

PROJECT MAPPING COLOR IN HISTORY Jinah Kim

Mapping Color in History (MCH) is a digital platform to compile and organize newly generated information on pigments and place these colors within a historical context. MCH draws from existing and ongoing research on scientific analysis of pigments, adding new data through collaboration with research centers that are engaged in pigment analysis in Asian painting. The project aims to devise appropriate conservation treatment plans that will ensure the longevity of these irreplaceable historical treasures before they are damaged beyond repair.

Currently, the project team is in the process of setting up a collaboration with local Indian institutions, including the Asiatic Society, Udaipur Museum, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), and hiring project assistants and conservators. Over the month of January, meetings with various conservators and leaders at these three institutions were organized and field visits were conducted to CSMVS and Udaipur Museum.

PROJECT SOFT ROBOTICS TOOLKIT
Conor Walsh

The Soft Robotics Toolkit, based on a concept developed at Harvard Biodesign Lab, aims to lower the barrier of entry for students to participate in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) by developing a line of soft robotic activities and making them available to young students. Each kit contains the parts and instructions to create a soft robot, teaching students everything from the creation of silicone materials to final assembly. Adaptable for lesson plans, workshops, and home and school use, the kits generate student excitement about the STEM field.

The project is also developing an educational magazine to accompany the toolkit. The team is currently working to turn the prototype into product form. This process



The INREM team visits wells and lakes around the village of Fatepura and tests the water using a test tube filled with a reactive agent

involves analyzing the data based on workshops conducted in New Delhi in April and October 2019, and improving on matrices determined from the feedback received. Moving forward, the project team will optimize the product development process in India by working with manufacturers to establish a supply chain and building connections with local schools to develop and organize pilot programming.

PROJECT DEFLUORIDATION OF WATER
Ashok Gadgil

The Defluoridation of Water Project aims

to develop affordable technology that can remove excess fluoride in the drinking water of rural communities in India, where there is a dearth of access to even very basic resources. The project then plans to develop and test this technology, scaling it up to a pilot test with a capacity of 500 liters per day of safe drinking water. The team will collaborate closely with Indian partners who are currently funded through the Tata–Harvard project. Working together, the groups will address questions of financial viability, technical feasibility, and cultural appropriateness.

In 2019, contaminated water samples from Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, were sent to INREM and ICT-Mumbai for analysis. Samples were forwarded to the Gadgil Lab in Berkeley, where the project’s research assistant conducted tests for a variety of absorption and characterization studies. Looking ahead, the project will continue laboratory research to optimize bauxite processing cost and fluoride removal efficiency.

PROJECT BUILDING A SANITATION HUB
Rahul Mehrotra

Led by Professor Rahul Mehrotra, this project examines the design challenges of how a community toilet can be imagined as a sanitation hub rather than a mono-functional community toilet facility. This hub could contain a range of programmatic functions: a laundromat, com-



“Sanitation and Equity” exhibit at the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial

munity toilets, a healthcare center (such as a clinic or pathlab), and a hub for clean water, with the potential of also serving as a platform for community activities.

Research conducted under this project has included a mapping of the landscape of sanitation issues in Mumbai and globally, an exploration of social, technical, and cultural challenges surrounding sanitation infrastructure, and potential design and planning solutions. This research was exhibited at the 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennial as a mixed media installation entitled “Sanitation and Equity.” Work under this project is now focused on designing a prototype project that can be deployed in under-served urban slums in India.

PROJECT FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES
Ashok Gadgil

The “Cool Mesh Berkeley India Stove (CMBIS)” project creates cookstoves that are designed to reduce fuel consumption per meal by 50 percent while also producing 50 percent less smoke than a traditional biomass fire.

Presently, the project team is exploring user-friendliness and price-point issues related to the CMBIS cookstove, and researchers and manufacturers are making modifications accordingly. Once complete, there will be enough data to answer questions about the extent of the cookstove’s

use. Individual and focus group interviews have been completed with families across the three pilot villages in Karjat district, Maharashtra. The project team conducts stove trials in households by collecting stove-usage data based on free one-week trial periods. The input of users in rural areas has been emphasized and included through qualitative methods. Issues raised about the design of the cookstove are considered and addressed.

Additionally, different strategies are being explored, including methods of expansion and payment model options for households interested in these cookstoves.

PROJECT EMPOWER
Vikram Patel

The goal of Project Empower is to build a digital platform to train frontline health providers to deliver psychosocial interventions with sustainable quality. Its evidence-based program, ESSENCE, has already been evaluated in randomized controlled trials in India and Nepal, with support from the Wellcome Trust and UKAid.

The project team has developed a prototype of the digital training program, performing a pilot test of the program in Sehore District in the state of Madhya Pradesh. All local field work is being conducted by the project’s implementation partner, Sangath, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health that will be providing access to frontline workers and community health centers.

Under the Tata Trusts grant, this new project began in October 2019 and has since been working towards augmenting the existing digital platform in Madhya Pradesh and scaling up to an additional district in the state. Based on feedback from community health workers, the project is currently enhancing the digital training content and adding new features that best capture the interest of health workers to add value to the learning experience.



Young students test out the Soft Robotics Toolkit at a workshop in India



A site visit under the Fuel-Efficient Cookstove project



GenEd 1011 students



TAKE IT. I WAS WORRIED THAT I WOULD NEED TO HAVE A GOOD GROUP AND I WAS WORRIED HOW MUCH I WOULD ENJOY THE CLASS. BUT IT REALLY TEACHES YOU DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING ... I NEVER THOUGHT LIKE AN ARTIST BEFORE AND I NEVER KNEW THAT CURIOSITY AND INNOVATION CAN BE SCIENTIFIC ...

— GenEd 1011 STUDENT

Inter-faculty Teaching

The Mittal Institute supports the creation of curriculum that explores solutions to complex challenges in the developing world, providing interdisciplinary courses taught by Harvard faculty to students and the virtual global community.

EdX COURSE:

Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies

In a virtual business and management course on edX taught by Professor **Tarun Khanna**, over 480,000 participants have enrolled from around the world to explore how entrepreneurship and innovation can tackle complex social problems in emerging economies. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the course delves into the prior attempts to address these issues across emerging markets, and students identify points of opportunity for entrepreneurial efforts and propose and develop their own creative solutions. The goal of the course is to make students aware of their own individual agency, exploring what they themselves can do to address a seemingly intractable problem.

Throughout the course, students investigate financing, scaling up of operations, branding, management of property rights, and how to create the appropriate metrics to assess progress and social value of their entrepreneurial endeavors. From issues of healthcare and online commerce to fintech and infrastructure, students examine the diverse geographic regions of Africa, China, Latin America, and South Asia to better understand the entrepreneurial opportunities in these emerging markets.

GenEd 1011 COURSE:

Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions To Intractable Social And Economic Problems

Now in its ninth year, this unique and innovative course was open to all undergraduate and graduate students across Harvard. The course provides an interdisciplinary framework and multiple lenses through which to think about the economic and social problems that affect five billion people in the developing world. Taught by multiple Harvard faculty members across schools, case study discussions cover challenges and potential solutions in fields as diverse as health, education, technology, urban planning, arts, and the humanities.

Starting with an introductory module taught by Professor **Tarun Khanna** that reviews salient approaches to development and the roles that entrepreneurs can play within these, the course is co-taught by Professors **Satchit Balsari**, **Krzysztof Gajos**, **Rahul Mehrotra**, and **Doris Sommer**. Students are introduced to cases across the developing world, with a particular focus on Africa, China, Latin America, and South Asia. Throughout the course, students work in teams to design entrepreneurial solutions that address one of the many problems identified, thinking about complex issues from perspectives and disciplines different from their own.

GenEd 1011 FACULTY



TARUN KHANNA
Harvard Business School



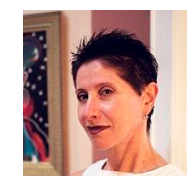
SATCHIT BALSARI
Harvard Medical School; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



KRZYSZTOF GAJOS
Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences



RAHUL MEHROTRA
Harvard Graduate School of Design



DORIS SOMMER
Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences



Professor Asim Ijaz Khwaja with Dr. Hafeez Shaikh, Dr. Reza Baqir, and Professor Carmen Reinhart



OUR RESEARCH EXAMINES HOW CITIZENS CAN HOLD GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ACCOUNTABLE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY OUTSIDE OF ELECTION CYCLES IN PAKISTAN.

— ASIM IJAZ KHWAJA

Faculty Research Grants

Each year, the Mittal Institute supports faculty research projects with grants that bring together scholars from different fields and regions whose research relates to South Asia.

2020 GRANTS

Can You Hear Me Now?: Experimental Evidence on Improving Educational Outcomes through Non-electoral Citizen Participation

Asim Ijaz Khwaja

Comparing Health and Development in the Punjab of India and Pakistan

Richard Cash

Looking Back, Informing the Future: The 1947 Partition of British India: Implications of Mass Dislocations across Geographies

Jennifer Leaning

Alleviating Time Poverty Among the Working Poor

Ashley Whillans

Climate Change and Flooding in Nepal: Identifying the Factors Contributing to and Impeding Disaster Resilience in the Terai Region

Michael VanRooyen

GRANT SPOTLIGHT: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING

Michael VanRooyen, Lavine Family Professor of Humanitarian Studies at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and **Vincenzo Bollettino**, Director of the Program on Resilient Communities at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, have been awarded a Mittal Institute faculty grant to carry out research on modern-day climate change and flooding in Nepal.

Specifically, their team will identify the factors contributing to and impeding disaster resilience in the Terai region, a lowland area of southern Nepal. Through interviews and focus group discussions in Kathmandu and the Terai region, they will identify the key measures of resilience and identify the level of preparedness for disaster in the Terai. The project will culminate in an academic paper that identifies the key factors that impact disaster preparedness in the region.



FURTHERING RESEARCH among STUDENTS

The Mittal Institute supports Harvard undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in their South Asia-related research and internships, entrepreneurial projects, and on-campus student group activities.

Clockwise: The 2019 Seed for Change Competition winners, Vikas Bihma and Pankaj Mahalle of Gramhal, outside of their new warehouse in India; The Seed for Change finalists and judges posing at the 2019 Annual Cambridge Symposium; Julia Fine, Winter 2018 grant recipient; A panel discussion at the student-run Harvard India Conference; The Green Screen panel, winner of the 2018 Seed for Change Competition, in action; Section of a street in Dharavi, Mumbai; illustration by Eduardo Pelaez, Winter 2018 grant recipient



A collaborative design process led by Co-Create Architects, Jhendaiah; photo taken by Nadyeli Quiroz & John Wagner



WHERE COMMUNITY WAS DELIBERATELY INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF SPATIAL DESIGN AND CREATION, WE FOUND THERE TO BE PRECIPITOUS BENEFITS OF ENGAGEMENT, SAFETY AND WELFARE, AND INSTANCES OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

— NADYELI QUIROZ, WINTER 2020 GRANT RECIPIENT

Student Research and Grants

The Mittal Institute supports the work of undergraduate and graduate students focused on deepening their academic engagement with issues facing South Asia.

STUDENT GRANTS

The Mittal Institute funds students in their pursuit of research, language studies, or internships focused on South Asia during the winter and summer recesses. Winter grant recipients for the 2019-20 academic year are:

ALEXIS BROWN

PhD Candidate in Philosophy
Researching the Rasavahini in Sri Lanka

NIHARIKA SINGH

PhD Candidate in Philosophy
Targeting Your Job Search: Evidence from an Online Platform

VAISHNAVI PATIL

PhD Candidate in Philosophy
The “Mother Goddess” in South Asian Religions

NADYELI QUIROZ, MLA ‘20

Living Form: Organic Design, Co-creation of Space and Identity in the Kutupalong Refugee Camp

IRIS YELLUM

PhD Candidate in Philosophy
Revaluing Viability: Science and Legumes in Indian Agriculture

DIVYA CHANDRAMOULI

PhD Candidate in Philosophy
Tracing the Stories of Tamil Dramatists in Tamil Nadu

ANGELINA YE ‘20

Safety, Sex, and Smartness: An Experiment on Cognitive Function

SIVA EMANI ‘21

Deity Inspirations for the Classical Musicians of the Carnatic Tradition

Summer 2020 grants to be determined.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION GRANTS

The Mittal Institute offers grants to undergraduate and graduate student organizations for projects relating to either individual countries or spanning the region of South Asia. Mittal Institute grants also support student events that have an academic focus and Harvard faculty involvement, as well as social events, such as concerts, mixers, and holiday celebrations.

Select student organizations and events funded in 2019-20 include:

- India Conference 2020 organized by the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Business School
- International Women’s Week 2020 Keynote organized by Womxn in Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design
- South Asia Women’s Collective

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Each year, the Mittal Institute supports Graduate Student Associates (GSAs) from across Harvard and other Boston-area universities. GSAs participate in monthly workshops and share their research on South Asia, presenting their latest findings, sharing thesis or dissertation advice, and discussing best practices for field research. The goal of the program is to establish a community of peers and support original research in and on South Asia.

Our 2019–2020 head Graduate Student Associates are:



AKSHAY DIXIT
PhD Candidate,
Harvard University



AIDAN MILLIFF
PhD Candidate,
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology



BLAIR READ
PhD Candidate,
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology

2019 SFC Competition Juror Panel:

KP BALARAJ, Co-Chair, Advisory Council, The Mittal Institute

MEERA GANDHI, Founding Member, Advisory Council, The Mittal Institute

NADIA SAMDANI, Founding Member, Arts Council, The Mittal Institute

OSMAN KHALID WAHEED, Founding Member, Arts Council, The Mittal Institute



Vikas Birhma of Gramhal



[THROUGH GRAMHAL], WE [ARE HOPING TO] BUILD AN ECOSYSTEM FOR FARMERS THAT EMPOWERS THEM TO DECIDE WHEN TO SELL, WHOM TO SELL TO, AND AT WHAT PRICE. THROUGH THIS MODEL, WE ASPIRE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 600 MILLION PEOPLE IN INDIA WHO ARE DIRECTLY DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE. WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE NO FARMER HAS TO DIE TO FEED THE PLANET.

— **VIKAS BIRHMA, GRAMHAL**

Seed for Change Competition: 2019 Updates

An annual student competition to develop new entrepreneurial projects for India and Pakistan that aim to positively impact social, economic, and environmental issues.

Through the Seed for Change (SFC) Program, the Mittal Institute fosters and supports the development of a healthy, vibrant ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in both India and Pakistan. Each year, the Mittal Institute holds this competition to identify and reward interdisciplinary student projects that positively impact social, economic, and environmental issues in India and Pakistan.

To bring new, substantive ventures and ideas to the region, the program prioritizes projects that are in the early stages of development, rather than start-ups that have already received financial support. Through this program, numerous entrepreneurial ventures have sprouted in Pakistan and India and continue to positively impact the lives of those who reside there.

GRAMHAL (WINNER)

Vikas Birhma, MPP '19

Pankaj Mahalle, Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai

Julie Battilana (Advisor), Harvard Kennedy School; Harvard Business School

Gramhal is a social enterprise that aims to redesign India's agricultural market by building smallholder farmers' agency to price their goods. Doing so will improve their livelihoods and increase their income by unlocking post-harvest services of storage, credit, and market linkage via a digital platform.

The urgent need for cash during the

harvesting season requires smallholder farmers to quickly sell their produce without waiting for a favorable price. The lack of access to storage and the need to repay credit further intensify the situation. Thus, most farmers end up distress selling at a throwaway price, leading to a vicious cycle of debt.

In the last few months of 2019, over 50 farmers sold their produce — worth USD 100,000 — through Gramhal, receiving a fair and higher price. The team inaugurated their first warehouse and procurement center in Sawali village of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra, India, which will serve as the one-stop solution to smallholder farmers for post-harvest services.

MEET (RUNNER-UP)

Vish Srivastava, MDE '19

Ankit Chugh, Medha

Jock Herron (Advisor), Harvard Graduate School of Design

Meet is an employment app that connects verified employers and job seekers, providing both with trusted information such as reviews, job openings, and profiles to support better matching. The platform is working to address the difficulties of India's job market, where 30% of 15–29-year-olds are unemployed or not enrolled in an educational institution or skills training program.

With the Seed for Change grant, the Meet team will renew their partnership with a

local software development firm in Lucknow to continue building the product. The team has partnered with the NGO Medha to launch a pilot, test their hypothesis, and eventually scale the platform. Meet launched its pilot in April 2019, and now has over 100 active users. Recently, the team received funding from the Ford Foundation and reached additional user-base milestones.

RISKBOARD (RUNNER-UP)

Pradeepan Parthiban, ALM '19

Arjun Bisen, MPP '19

Ryan Jiang, Harvard College '20

Luka Caratsch, University of St. Gallen

Satchit Balsari (Advisor), Harvard Medical School

Riskboard provides a digital dashboard tool for corporations, investors, and NGOs that want to monitor human rights abuses and political risks. The tool aggregates news, social media data, and political and economic indices to give the user an understanding of the disruptions and reputational risks in their complex supply chains and investments. Using open source media data sites like GDELT, the team can pull information from media reports around the world and across multiple languages.

With the grant from the Seed for Change competition, the team will create and pilot a prototype of the tool. After designing this, they will go on the ground to observe any functional issues face-to-face.



PROVIDING PLATFORMS for SCHOLARS

The Mittal Institute serves as an active platform for connecting faculty and students from across Harvard and other U.S. academic institutions with scholars, public and private organizations, and governments in South Asia.



Clockwise: Participants and panelists speak at the Bangladesh Rising Conference; An audience of faculty, donors, and researchers at the 2019 Annual Cambridge Symposium; Professors Patrick Heller, Bish Sanyal, Susan Fainstein, and Sai Balakrishnan; Professors Martha Chen and Jennifer Leaning pose with Dorothy Austin and Devaki Jain at the 2019 Annual Mahindra lecture; Professor Jacqueline Bhabha and Elizabeth Donger; Roluahpuia, 2018-19 Raghunathan Family Fellow, and Professor Sugata Bose at a Spring 2019 seminar



Muhammad Musa in discussion with Professor Tarun Khanna



ONE OF OUR LESSONS IS THAT WE'VE NEVER HAD ONE HOMOGENOUS NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE SITUATION IN A COMMUNITY. IT'S IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE SOURCES AND FORCES OF POSITIVITY ALIGN, AND HOW YOU BEGIN YOUR PARTNERSHIP THERE. THEN, USE THAT FORCE TO ENGAGE WITH THOSE WHO ARE ON THE FENCE, AND USE THAT MOMENTUM TO CREATE CRITICAL MASS.

— MUHAMMAD MUSA, BRAC INTERNATIONAL

Events and Seminars

The Mittal Institute strengthens South Asia-related research in a variety of disciplines through our symposiums, seminars, and workshops.

Each academic year, the Mittal Institute hosts a multitude of events covering topics in the arts, humanities, sciences, education, business, and more.

In partnership with relevant organizations, student groups, and academic institutions, the Institute's events provide platforms for faculty, scholars, industry leaders, and others to present their research, discuss developing issues, and look toward the future to deepen the public's understanding of the critical issues that South Asia faces every day.

During the academic year 2019-20, we hosted 5 Symposiums and conferences, 3 workshops, and 30 seminars that featured over 135 speakers.

Our symposiums, seminars, and workshops bring world-renowned speakers from South Asia to Cambridge, with high-profile speakers in 2019-20 including **Kaushik Basu** (former Chief Economist of the World Bank), **Suchitra Vijayan** (Founder and Executive Director of The Polis Project), **Raj Rewal** (Distinguished Architect), and **Salil Shetty** (former Secretary-General of Amnesty International).

Co-sponsors for some of these events include the various Harvard Schools and Departments, the Asia Center, FXB Center for Human Rights, Harvard Ed Portal, Aspiring Minds, IISER, Pune, and Brown University.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mittal Institute's seminars moved to a virtual platform. Beginning in April, the Institute launched a series of webinars delving into the impact of COVID-19 on South Asia, reaching viewers around the world from 47 countries across six continents. The first webinar, "The Response to COVID-19 in South Asia," was moderated by Professor **Vikram Patel** and comprised a panel of two Harvard faculty members and three in-region scholars and experts, who uncovered the effects of government policies on the region's healthcare and social systems.

The second webinar — "The Science Behind COVID-19," moderated by Professor **Jennifer Leaning** — hosted four Harvard faculty panelists and explored the transmission of the virus throughout South Asia. Future COVID-19 series webinars in the Spring and Summer of 2020 will focus on the pandemic's impact on South Asia's economics, education, and labor force.



2020 Annual Cambridge Symposium virtual meeting with Mittal Institute supporters and Harvard faculty

THE MITTAL INSTITUTE
HAS BECOME AN
INTELLECTUAL HUB NOT ONLY
IN CAMBRIDGE, BUT ALSO IN
SOUTH ASIA THROUGH ITS
OFFICE IN DELHI.
— LAKSHMI MITTAL

ANNUAL CAMBRIDGE SYMPOSIUM

The Annual Cambridge Symposium was held virtually in May 2020, welcoming Mittal Institute donors and Steering Committee members to discuss COVID-19's impact on the fields of arts and sciences throughout South Asia. **Homi Bhabha**, Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities, delivered a keynote lecture, "The Governance of the Unprepared," remarking on the disastrous events of the 21st century for which governments and populations have seemingly been unprepared, including the current COVID-19 pandemic. The science panel delved into the vaccine creation process and the transmission of COVID-19. A panel on the arts explored the potential future landscape of arts, culture, and museums in a post-COVID-19 world. **Lakshmi Mittal** delivered the closing remarks.

ANNUAL INDIA SYMPOSIUM

The second Annual India Symposium was held in January 2020 at the India Science Festival in Pune, at the campus of IISER. The festival welcomed thousands of guests for two days of science education, with the goal of bridging the gap between science and society. This non-profit initiative worked to help the community engage with the latest in science from across the world, fueling curiosity and demystifying the scientific career path. More than 30 world-renowned scientists gave talks, and displays included exciting AI exhibits, robots, and other scientific marvels. The festival also gave students the opportunity to present their work and participate in science competitions.



Panelists speaking at the India Science Festival in Pune, India in January 2020



Professor Reshmaan N. Hussam speaking at the Bangladesh Rising Conference

CONFERENCE: BANGLADESH RISING

In September 2019, experts from Harvard, peer institutions, and organizations and governing bodies across Bangladesh discussed the nation's economy, history, art and heritage, entrepreneurship, public health, and actions to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

CONFERENCE: PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The Pakistan Development Forum, a two-day conference supported by Syed Babar Ali funds in collaboration with Evidence for Policy Design at Harvard Kennedy School, convened policy stakeholders, business leaders, and scholars for a discussion on the most pressing development challenges that Pakistan faces. A panel of speakers examined potential financial reforms at the macroeconomic level, seeking avenues that could increase domestic productivity.

SYMPOSIUM: NEPAL MANDALA

In December 2019, a symposium on the modernity and globality of Nepal's art and culture coincided with an NEH-sponsored exhibition on Nepalese Buddhist art, entitled *Dharma and Punya: Buddhist Ritual Art of Nepal*, which brought together lesser-known objects of the Malla and Shah periods. The symposium convened scholars of religion, anthropology, and art history whose work critically examines Nepal's culture and history.



Nepal Mandala Symposium participant discussion

SEMINARS ON SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY AND POLITICS

SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2019

Panel Discussion - Kashmir: Decoding the Crisis

Ashutosh Varshney, Prerna Singh, Ashwaq Masoodi, Beena Sarwar, Salil Shetty (Moderator)

Film Screening - Valley of Saints

Musa Syeed (Director), Ali Asani (Moderator)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

The Fears Have Gone Away: Exploring the Roots of Insurgent Citizenship in India’s Bhil Heartland

Alf Nilsen, Sai Balakrishnan (Moderator)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Voting for Strongmen: Nationalist and Populist Leadership in Brazil and India

Rachel Brule, Bruno Carvalho, Patrick Heller (Moderator)

OCTOBER 11, 2019

BOOK TALK: Macabre Social Capital: The Families of Pakistan’s Lashkar-e-Tayyaba

C. Christine Fair (Author), Kristin E. Fabbe (Moderator)

OCTOBER 25, 2019

BOOK TALK: Delusional States: Feeling Rule and Development in Pakistan’s Northern Frontier

Nosheen Ali (Author), Ali Asani (Moderator)

DECEMBER 6, 2019

Fireside Chat with India’s Ambassador to the US

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Sandeep Chakravorty, Dhananjay Tiwary

FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Citizenship: History, Policy, and Protests

Sana Aiyar, Kalyani Ramnath, Sahana Ghosh, Suchitra Vijayan, Rohit De (Moderator)

SEMINARS ON THE ARTS

OCTOBER 15, 2019

VISITING ARTIST FELLOWSHIP ART EXHIBITION: Exploring Identity Through a Contemporary South Asian Lens

Sagar Chhetri, Sakshi Gupta, Jinah Kim (Moderator)

OCTOBER 25, 2019

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: Reason

Anand Patwardhan (Director), Sugata Bose, Amartya Sen

DECEMBER 2, 2019

BOOK TALK: Until the Lions: Echoes from the Mahabharata

Karthika Naïr (Author), Parimal Patil (Moderator)



The B4 August 2019 workshop students at IISER, Pune in India

WORKSHOP: BIOIMAGING AND ADVANCED LIGHT MICROSCOPY

As part of the Mittal Institute’s B4 Program, 25 life science students from universities across India traveled to IISER, Pune, in August 2019 to learn about the latest advancements in contemporary light microscopy. The students participated in lectures given by eminent scientists from Harvard University and various institutions across India and received hands-on training in laboratories.

In-region workshop

BOOK WORKSHOP

In November 2019, a book workshop with Mariam Chughtai, former Babar Ali Fellow at the Mittal Institute, brought together six leading professors — Kristen Fabbe, Christine Fair, Tarun Khanna, Amartya Sen, Jacob Shapiro, and Qasim Zaman — to review Chughtai’s draft manuscript and curate feedback. The workshop was attended by doctoral and graduate students from across the university to help them build relationships with potential mentors and teach them about the process of taking research to print.



Panelists at The Museums & The City workshop at CSMVS in Mumbai

WORKSHOP: MUSEUMS & THE CITY

A workshop in September 2019 at CSMVS in Mumbai explored how museums could potentially create an expanded culture of civic life that represents and nurtures the diverse and plural sensibilities of those with whom they share space.

In-region workshop



Professors Mariam Chughtai and Amartya Sen discuss the process behind publishing research manuscripts



Professors Patrick Heller, Bruno Carvalho, and Rachel Brule speak at a Current Events Series seminar

URBANIZATION
SEMINARS

OCTOBER 1, 2019
Timeless Rasa & the Spirit of Our Times for Epic Works
Raj Rewal

OCTOBER 23, 2019
Royal City Invented: Mysore in the 20th Century
Janaki Nair,
Sai Balakrishnan (Moderator)

OCTOBER 28, 2019
Tools for Urban Conservation in Luc-know: Advocacy, Politics, and Civic Engagement
Ashima Krishna,
Rahul Mehrotra (Moderator)

NOVEMBER 5, 2019
BOOK TALK AND DISCUSSION:
Shareholder Cities: Land Transformations Along Urban Corridors in India
Sai Balakrishnan (Author),
Bish Sanyal, Patrick Heller,
Susan Fainstein,
Rahul Mehrotra (Moderator)

NOVEMBER 21, 2019
RAGHUNATHAN FAMILY FELLOW SEMINAR: Fractal Urbanization: Spatial Segregation in Liberalizing India
Naveen Bharathi,
Sai Balakrishnan (Moderator)
(This seminar was also held in New Delhi, India, in January 2020.)

SEMINARS ON
WOMEN AND
GENDER

NOVEMBER 8, 2019
Property, Power, and Women: Positive and Perverse Consequences of Indian Reforms for Gender Equality
Rachel Brulé,
Emmerich Davies (Moderator)

JANUARY 14, 2020
BOOK TALK: Breaking the Mold: Girl Power and Beyond in Contemporary India
Neha Hiranandani (Author),
Jacqueline Bhabha (Moderator)
(Co-sponsored by KC College, India)
In-region event

SEMINARS ON
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MARCH 6, 2019
Growing the World’s Largest NGO: BRAC, Bangladesh, and Beyond
Muhammad Musa,
Tarun Khanna (Moderator)

JUNE 12, 2020
The Labor of Fashion, the Global COVID-19 Crisis, and the Politics of Resistance in Bangladesh
Taslima Akhter, Jyotirmoy Barua,
Seuty Sabur, Dina Siddiqi, Nafisa Tanjeem, Elora Chowdhury (Moderator),
Durba Mitra (Moderator)



Raj Rewal speaking at his seminar, “The Timeless Rasa & the Spirit of Our Times for Epic Works”

PUBLIC HEALTH
SEMINARS

AUGUST 7, 2019
Translating Public Health Research into Policy and Action
K. Vish Viswanath
(Co-sponsored by the Harvard Chan-India Research Center)
In-region event

DECEMBER 5, 2019
Primary Health Care Reforms in India: Field Lessons from Early Implementation
Rajani R. Ved,
Bhargav Krishna (Moderator)
(Co-sponsored with the South Asian Students Association at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health)

APRIL 17, 2020
The Response to COVID-19 in South Asia
Richard Cash, Sabina Faiz Rashid,
Shamika Ravi, Srinath Reddy,
Vikram Patel (Moderator)

MAY 14, 2020
The Neglected Epidemics in India: How Will COVID-19 Affect Them?
Vikram Patel, Jacqueline Bhabha,
Purnima Menon, Poonam Muttreja,
Soumya Swaminathan,
Paul Farmer (Discussant)
(Co-sponsored with the Harvard Medical School)

SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
SEMINARS

AUGUST 13, 2019
B4 Seminar: Life Sciences in the Next Decade
Sanjeev Galande, H. Subramanya,
Shubha Tole, Geeta Narlikar,
Venkatesh Murthy (Moderator)
In-region event

OCTOBER 8, 2019
Data Privacy 3.0: Are We Ready for AI in South Asia?
Rahul Matthan, I. Glenn Cohen,
Tarun Khanna (Moderator)



Sheila Jasanoff at a meeting in Bengaluru ahead of her seminar, “Can Science Make Sense of Life? The Politics of CRISPR Regulation”

OCTOBER 22, 2019
Soft Robotics STEMkit: Introducing Cutting Edge Research to School Education, Talk-cum-demonstration
Talk-cum-demonstration
Alex Beaudette, Sapna Shah,
Ankur Goel
In-region event

JANUARY 17, 2020
Can Science Make Sense of Life? The Politics of CRISPR Regulation
Sheila Jasanoff,
Jahnavi Phalkey (Moderator)
(Co-sponsored with the Center for Cellular and Molecular Platforms and Science Gallery Bengaluru)
In-region event

APRIL 24, 2020
The Science Behind COVID-19
Caroline Buckee, Sheila Jasanoff,
Victoria D’Souza,
Jennifer Leaning (Moderator)

EDUCATION
SEMINARS

MAY 22, 2020
Educational Responses to COVID-19 in South Asia
Asim Ijaz Khwaja,
Fernando Reimers



Professor Vikram Patel speaking during the webinar, “The Response to COVID-19 in South Asia”



Meena Hewett with B4 Fellows, Ajay Labade (middle) and Sudipta Tung (right)

W

I LOOK FORWARD TO EXPERIENCING THE VIBRANT INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, LEARNING NEW RESEARCH TECHNIQUES TO EXPAND MY ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO, PRESENTING MY WORK, AND FINDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE GLOBAL PLATFORM.

— SUDIPTA TUNG, B4 FELLOW 2019-20

Fellowships

The Mittal Institute offers fellowships to scholars and practitioners from South Asia to utilize the university's resources to contribute to self-driven, independent research within a variety of disciplines.

The Babar Ali Fellowship supports advanced degree-holders and recent PhD recipients in their continued research in areas related to Pakistan.



ABDUL RAZAQUE CHANNA

Babar Ali Fellow 2019-20

Dr. **Abdul Razaque Channa** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro – Pakistan. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University, and his thesis, “Schooling Gender in Rural Pakistan,” makes a unique contri-

bution to the anthropological knowledge of how schooling affects the construct of gender.

Dr. Channa has almost 10 years of professional experience working on social development projects with the government of Pakistan, national NGOs, and international organizations. He is also a photographer and makes ethnographic films on gender, heritage, folk culture, and indigenous communities. His visual work has been published, displayed, and screened internationally.

Currently, Dr. Channa is conducting research on the textbooks used to teach elementary public school students throughout the Sindh province, working to uncover how these textbooks contribute to the construction, inculcation, and perpetuation of gender roles in Pakistan.



NAVEEN BHARATHI

Raghunathan Family Fellow 2019-20

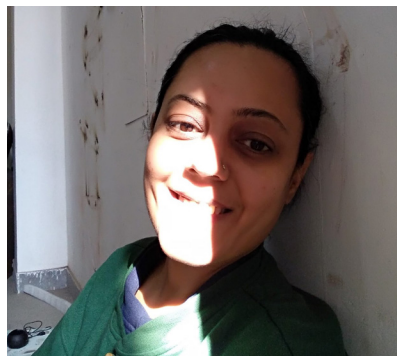
Dr. **Naveen Bharathi**'s research interests meet at the intersection of political sociology and political economy of identity in India. Specifically, his research explores the relationship between ethnic diversity and development.

Dr. Bharathi has written about issues ranging from the relationship between ethnic diversity and public-goods-provisioning to spatial segregation in contemporary urban India. Prior to his career in research, Dr. Bharathi has worked as an architect and planner in distinguished architectural and planning firms in India.

Currently, Dr. Bharathi is researching urban and residential segregation, and considering how caste and class overlap in an urban setting. He will continue to explore whether or not urbanization is a solution to breaking caste and religious barriers.

The Raghunathan Family Fellowship supports recent PhD recipients in the humanities and social sciences with their research on historical or contemporary South Asia.

The Visiting Artist Fellowship brings artists of diverse backgrounds to Harvard’s campus to expand their work, using various mediums to comment on social, economic, and political issues in South Asia.



SAKSHI GUPTA
Visiting Artist Fellow
Fall 2019

Sakshi Gupta was born in India and graduated from the College of Art, Delhi with a Masters of Fine Art in sculpture in 2004. Her practice is an attempt to frame human conditions of understanding, progressing, suffering, and halting due to a lack or gain of knowledge, will, or energy. Gupta uses materials considered to be “waste” or “ordinary” to make something of significance, and her works are deeply influenced by the environment and physical contexts from which they are produced. Her practice seeks to highlight not only the sculptural form, but also its relation to the space it occupies.

During her time at Harvard, Gupta studied the perspectives that are fundamental to current systems of spatial design and rethought not only her relationship with spaces and materials, but examined fresh ways of interweaving them vis-a-vis her practice and the context from which she comes.



SAGAR CHHETRI
Visiting Artist Fellow
Fall 2019

Sagar Chhetri was born and raised in Nepal, along the India-Nepal border. In 2016, Chhetri graduated with a diploma in photojournalism from the Danish School of Media and Journalism. Working as a visual researcher in these two different countries provided him with a strong foundation to grow as a visual arts practitioner.

His recent series, Eclipse, explores the politics of identity, geography, power, and justice. The series practices a unique approach to the personal, the social, and the political. Chhetri strives to understand and document the identity struggles of his Madhesi peers — the indigenous inhabitants in southern Nepal — and the Madhesh Movement that was initiated by the people in 2006 in post-civil-war Nepal.

During his time at Harvard, Chhetri researched racial and social identity, indigeneity, marginalized voices across South Asia, the history of the Nepal-India border, and the map that was introduced in the Sugauli treaty that was signed between the East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal in 1816.



SHAH NUMAIR AHMED ABBASI
Visiting Artist Fellow
Spring 2020

Shah Numair Ahmed Abbasi was born in Pakistan and graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture with a BFA in Fine Art in 2014. His practice draws on popular culture, anecdotes, and colloquialisms to stage personal and social narratives in an attempt to challenge the politics behind how gender is socially constructed and performed. The figure of the male nude is a recurring theme, often presented in ways that undermine or question idealized masculine virtues.

Recent turns in his practice observe how queer men navigate issues related to their identity during interactions within and beyond the community, and across domestic, public, and virtual environments. He repurposes dating apps to investigate the dynamics of fragile spaces where interactions are dislocated, ephemeral, and motive-driven.

During his time at Harvard, Abbasi investigated the construction and performance of binary genders, sexualities, and their panoptic behavior in South Asia as rippled consequences of colonization, and whether the practice, acceptance, and visibility of the spectrum of genders and sexualities pre-date colonization.



SUHASINI KEJRIWAL
Visiting Artist Fellow
Spring 2020

Suhasini Kejriwal was born in India and graduated from Goldsmiths College at the University of London with an MFA in 2006. Since 2015, she has explored the changing urban landscape in India — especially Chitpur in Kolkata and Chor Bazar in Mumbai. She regularly engages with both of these historic neighborhoods in several capacities: flaneur, photographer, artist, witness, and even collaborator.

Kejriwal uses her archive to make rich, layered, embroidered photo composites that echo the quiet but extraordinary beauty of the daily lives of the people who live and work in these urban areas. Recently, she collaborated with a signage maker in Chitpur to combine text with ready-made or found objects. Imbuing these objects with new meaning and placing them back within their original contexts allowed her to layer the landscape in a meaningful way.

During her time at Harvard, Kejriwal worked with its rich resources and pedagogical processes to expand her knowledge of the contemporary Indian urban city.

Under the B4 Program, Science and Technology Fellows visit Harvard and other Boston institutions to deepen their research in the biosciences and learn from faculty and mentors.



KRITIKA GUPTA
B4 Fellow 2018-20

Kritika Gupta comes to Cambridge from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore, where she specializes in Molecular Genetics and Protein Biophysics.

At Harvard, her mentorship is under **Philippe Cluzel**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics.

Through her research project, Gupta is performing comprehensive analyses of extensive datasets for mutational sensitivities of single bacteria cells.



MADHUMATHI KALIDOSS
B4 Fellow 2018-20

Madhumathi Kalidoss works with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Madras, and comes to Boston specializing in Biomaterials.

Currently, her research is focused on developing local drug delivery systems for the treatment of periodontal infections using calcium phosphate bio-ceramic nanoparticles, using her dental background.

Kalidoss’s mentorship falls under the guidance of **Muhammad Zaman**, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and head of Zaman Lab at Boston University. With Professor Zaman, she will work in the laboratory to use 3D cancer models and test dental biomaterials.



AJAY SHANKAR LABADE

B4 Fellow 2018-20

Ajay Shankar Labade, coming to Cambridge from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune, specializes in the field of Genome Biology.

While he is at Harvard, he will be working with his mentor, **Jason Buenrostro**, Assistant Professor at Harvard University in Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology and head of the Buenrostro Lab.

Labade's research focuses on the functional importance of Nucleoporin Nup93 — a protein coding gene associated with diseases like nephrotic syndrome, which damages the kidneys.



PREMANANDA KARIDAS

B4 Fellow 2018-20

Premananda Karidas joins us at Harvard from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore, where he

uses his specialty in Plant Developmental Biology to research the development of biological surfaces — like plant leaves and insect wings — at the organ, cellular, and molecular levels.

Karidas has been paired with mentor **Elena Kramer**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard and head of the Kramer Lab.



SUDIPTA TUNG

B4 Fellow 2018-20

Sudipta Tung hails from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune, where he specializes in Experimental Evolution and Population Dynamics.

His research focuses on the different control methods for stabilizing extinction-prone populations.

Tung's mentor, **Michael Desai**, is a Professor in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (OEB) and head of the Desai Lab.

Our Research Affiliates contribute to Harvard's scholarship on South Asia through their wealth of expertise on the region, from political economy to public health.

RONAK D. DESAI

Vice-Chair, India Practice, Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Ronak Desai's research and scholarship over the past few years has focused primarily on US-India ties (strategic, energy, and technology transfer and collaboration), diaspora politics, and corruption and governance issues in the subcontinent. He has also done considerable work advising companies on how to ensure compliance with foreign anti-corruption laws in South Asia and other high-risk jurisdictions.

IMTIAZ UL HAQ

Assistant Professor of Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences

Imtiaz Ul Haq's research primarily focuses on understanding how individuals engage with financial services. He has studied preferences toward both basic and advanced financial products. His recent work examines how the poor in developing countries utilize formal and informal financial services to meet their needs. He aims to study such mechanisms in greater detail during his time at Harvard, with a particular focus on insurance.

AKSHAY MANGLA

Associate Professor in International Business, University of Oxford, Saïd Business School

Akshay Mangla's primary expertise lies in the comparative political economy of developing countries, with a regional specialization in South Asia. His research focuses on public and private governance, institutional performance, and the changing nature of state-society relations in India, with a current focus on the political economy of India. Dr. Mangla employs innovative research designs and empirically-grounded methods to study the dynamics of governance.

HASNA JASIMUDDIN MOUDUD

Chairperson, Bangladesh National Committee of IUCN Members

Hasna Moudud studies the Silk Road to uncover the lost links between Mongolia and India via Bangladesh. She is also studying the life and work of Atisha Dipankara Srigana, the great Buddhist scholar who was born in Bangladesh.

SUJATA SAUNIK

Indian Civil Service

At Harvard, **Sujata Saunik** is working on a comprehensive study of the recent Kerala Floods to critically examine the successes and failures of the response in order to learn lessons for future rebuilding projects. She is also studying internal migration in Jalna, Maharashtra, and its impact on health and education services for women and children.

SALIL SHETTY

Senior Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Salil Shetty has been a long-term activist on issues of poverty and justice and has served as Amnesty International's eighth Secretary-General. He now

works with the Carr Center, researching accountability and equity in governance in India across sectors. He seeks to understand strategies for more inclusive and accountable governance in India.

VERONICA VARGAS

Research Associate, Alberto Hurtado University

Veronica Vargas is an economist focusing on public health. She is currently exploring potential collaboration between South Asia and Latin America on R&D of new vaccines and therapeutics. Her research addresses how Harvard can build on existing strengths and comparative advantages between these two regions and further catalyze research and development capabilities and collaborations for lower-priced vaccines and therapeutics.

FATIMA T. ZAHRA

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Fatima Zahra devises public policies to enhance employment and educational opportunities for women, refugees, and other marginalized groups in South Asia. She is currently working with the local community at the Rohingya refugee camps to improve mental and fiscal well-being of refugees. She is also working on interventions to enhance education and health outcomes of women and children leveraging mobile technologies in these camps.

MUHAMMAD H. ZAMAN

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor of Biomedical Engineering and International Health, Boston University

Muhammad Zaman's work focuses on the regulatory framework, quality of pharmaceuticals, and access to medicines and diagnostics in South Asia. His work examines how generic pharmaceutical companies in South Asia (particularly Cipla) address the issue of quality. In particular, the research aims

to understand the equilibrium between growing demand for affordable pharmaceuticals and the costs to create and maintain quality of the product.

RAILE ROCKY ZIIPAO

Faculty, Central University of Punjab

Raile Ziipao is trained as a multidisciplinary researcher and development practitioner. He is currently tenured at the Central University of Punjab, and has a forthcoming book entitled "Infrastructure of Injustice: State and Politics in Manipur and Northeast India." His PhD thesis examined the social dynamics of infrastructure development in India's frontier and border region from socio-anthropological and political perspectives using political economy as his theoretical framework.

Mittal Institute Governance

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Harvard’s vision for expanded engagement with South Asia is crafted by senior scholars and administrators from across the University, and by public and private sector leaders from around the world. The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute Advisory Council, a team of distinguished volunteer leaders, provides strategic counsel and support.

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We are deeply grateful to the following donors for providing encouragement and support during the expansion of our India operations.

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Radhika Chopra, MPP ‘96 and Rajan Anandan



Mittal Institute supporters and Harvard faculty at the 2019 Annual Cambridge Symposium



Clockwise: Professors Jerold Kayden, Rahul Mehrotra, and Tarun Khanna; Shahid Hussain and Professor Vikram Patel; Syed Babar Ali; Professor Homi Bhabha; Professor Jinah Kim and Shanay Jhaveri; Neha B. Joseph, Shubhangi Bhadada, Megan Siwek, and Alex Gilliard; Sanjay Kumar; Savitha Ananth and Chelsea Ferrell

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