



Young  
Scholars  
Initiative



Centre of SOUTH  
ASIAN STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

## The Political Economy of Ecological Change and Economic Security in the Global South

1-2 July 2024

University of Cambridge

*The INET-YSI workshop, jointly organised with the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, will delve into the political economy of ecological change and economic security in the Global South. The conference will examine the distinct regional and local ecological conditions that influence livelihoods and natural resource management systems. It will underscore the profound impact of the climate crisis on vulnerable communities. The conference will draw attention to the paradox of the Global South bearing minimal historical responsibility for climate change yet facing significant vulnerability, thus complicating economic security as resources are redirected to adaptation and mitigation. Despite these challenges, collaborative efforts and mitigation initiatives are emerging, driven by states, grassroots movements, and indigenous methodologies. These efforts aim to enhance ecological practices, drive socio-economic reforms, and foster sustainable development. Advanced doctoral students and early career scholars will participate in this two-day conference, focusing on themes such as sustainability and resilience, human-environmental interactions, and the interplay between climate change and migration.*

## Sunday 30 June

**15:00**      **Check-in: Young scholars** | At the Porters Lodge, Jesus College  
                 **Senior scholars** | West Court, Jesus College

Jesus College is about a 20-minute walk from the coach station (for the Heathrow Express) and about a 40-minute walk from Cambridge Train Station.

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**19:00**      **Dinner and drinks** | Prioress's Room, Jesus College

**19:00-19:30**      **Pre-dinner drinks**

**19:30**      **Dinner**

## Monday 1 July

**07:30-08:30**      **Breakfast** | *Jesus College Hall*

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**08:30**      **Walk to the conference venue, Alison Richard Building (ARB), 7 West Road, Cambridge**  
The Alison Richard Building is a 20-minute walk from Jesus College.

**09:00-09:30**      **Registration and Refreshments** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd floor, ARB

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**09:30-10:30**      **Welcome and Keynote Address** | Room S1, First floor, Alison Richard Building

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### **Welcome**

**Prof. Shailaja Fennell** (Director of the Centre of South Asian Studies; Professor, University of Cambridge), on behalf of the Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

**Sunanda Nair-Bidkar** (Director of Strategic Planning, South Asia, INET), on behalf of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)

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### **Keynote Lecture: Weather Shocks and Religious Conflicts in Medieval India**

**Prof. Sriya Iyer** (Professor, University of Cambridge)

**10:30-12:00**      **Panel 1**

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**Informal economy and social practices** | Room S1, First floor, Alison Richard Building

**Chair and Discussant: Professor P. B. Anand**

1. *The Political Economy of Informal Institutions in India*  
Kishen Shastry, University of Cambridge
2. *Gate-Cane: (Un)Tying the Knots Between Climate, Cane, and Early Marriage in Rural India*  
Reetika Subramanian, University of Cambridge

**12:00-13:00**    **Second Lecture Session** | Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building

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**Title: Reflections on Political Economy and Political Ecology in the Global South-Three decades of scholarship**

**Prof. Bhaskar Vira** (Professor, University of Cambridge)

**13:00-14:00**    **Lunch** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd floor, Alison Richard Building

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**14:00-15:30**    **Panel 2**

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**Just transition (1)** | Room S1, First floor, Alison Richard Building

**Chair and Discussant: Dr. Rekha Bhangaonkar**

1. *Governing finance towards a just transition in the Rainforest*  
Joao Braga, UCL
2. *The Green Energy Transition and Local State in Inner Mongolia, China*  
Weishen Zeng, University of Oxford

**15:30-16:00**    **Tea/Coffee Break** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd floor, Alison Richard Building

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**16:00-17:30**    **Panel 3**

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**The Political Economy of Property** | Room S1, First floor, Alison Richard Building

**Chair and Discussant: Professor Sudipta Sarangi**

1. *Why traditional land taxes don't work in areas with traditional political institutions: the case of property taxation in rural Zambia and Sierra Leone*  
Sripriya Iyengar Srivatsa, University of Cambridge
2. *Extensions: An adaptive way of Placemaking*  
Suchismita Goswami, Copenhagen University

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**18:00 onward**    **Informal Pizza dinner (Pizza Express, Regent Street)**

## Tuesday 2 July

**07:30-09:00**    **Breakfast** | *Jesus College Hall*  
**Check out of Jesus College and walk to the conference venue (ARB)**

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**10:00-11:30**    **Welcome** | **Rekha Bhangaonkar** (University of Cambridge) & **Varsha Gupta** (YSI)

**Panel 4**

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**Just transition (2)** | Room S1, First floor, Alison Richard Building

**Discussant: Professor Shailaja Fennell**

1. *A tale of two iconic dams - Tehri and Nathpa Jhakri*  
Lucy Goodman, University of Cambridge
2. *Just Transition in India: Leaving No One Behind*  
Kerim Sert, Middle East Technical University

**11:30-12:00**    **Tea/Coffee Break** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd floor, Alison Richard Building

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**12:00-13:00**    **Third Lecture Session** | Room S1, first floor, Alison Richard Building

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**Title: Gold: perspectives on environment and the political economy of social development**

**Prof. Barbara Harriss-White** (Professor Emerita, University of Oxford)

**13:00-14:00**    **Lunch** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd floor, Alison Richard Building

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**14:00-15:30**    **Panel 5**

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**Sustainability and Resilience** | Room S1, first floor, Alison Richard Building

**Chair and Discussant: Professor Shailaja Fennell**

1. *Civil Society Engagement in Addressing Displaced Population Due to Floods in the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Srpska*  
Emilija Jovic, University of Belgrade

2. *ASEAN resilience and the challenge of cross-sectoral coordination*  
Albert Park, University of Oxford

**15:30-16:00**    **Tea/Coffee Break** | Centre of South Asian Studies, 3rd Floor, Alison Richard Building

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**16:00-17:00**    **Fourth Lecture Session** | Room S1, first floor, Alison Richard Building

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**Title: Are More Choices Better and Other Tales About Decision-Making**  
**Prof. Sudipta Sarangi** (Head, Department of Economics, Virginia Tech)

**17:00-17:10**    **Vote of Thanks**

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**Prof. Shailaja Fennell** (Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge)  
**Sunanda Nair-Bidkar** (Institute for New Economic Thinking)

**17:10-17:30**    **Wrap up, new publications and next steps**

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## Organising Committee

**Shailaja Fennell** (Professor of Economic Security and Resilience, Department of Land Economy and Director, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge)

**Rekha Bhangaonkar** (Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge)

**Sunanda Nair-Bidkar** (Director of Strategic Planning, South Asia, INET)

**Sattwick Dey Biswas** (Organizer, YSI)

**Arun Balachandran** (Organizer, YSI)

**Varsha Gupta** (Organizer, YSI)