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CONFERENCE 2016

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## #IRC16 Programme Booklet

JNU Convention Centre, February 26-28, 2016

Details: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16>

Internet Researchers' Conference (IRC) is an annual conference series conceptualised and initiated by the Researchers at Work (RAW) programme at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS). This first edition of the conference series (IRC16) engages with the core theme of 'studying internet in India.'

The conference is hosted by the Centre for Political Studies (CPS) at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), as part of the 'UPE2 Project: Politics on Social Media.' It is supported by the CSCS Digital Innovation Fund (CDIF).

The Conference will be held at the JNU Convention Centre from Friday, February 26, to Sunday, February 28, 2016.

## **Contents**

Internet Researchers' Conference	<b>01</b>
IRC16 – Studying Internet in India	<b>02</b>
Programme – Day 01, Friday, Feb 26	<b>03</b>
Programme – Day 02, Saturday, Feb 27	<b>06</b>
Programme – Day 03, Sunday, Feb 28	<b>08</b>
Session Leaders – Biographic Notes	<b>09</b>
RAW Programme at CIS	<b>15</b>
Centre for Political Studies, JNU	<b>15</b>
CSCS Digital Innovation Fund	<b>16</b>

# Internet Researchers' Conference

The last decades have seen a growing entanglement of our daily lives with the internet, not only as modes of communication but also as shared socio-political-cultural spaces, and as objects of study. The emergence of new artifacts, conditions, and sites of power/knowledge with the prevalence of digital modes of communication, consumption, production, distribution, and appropriation have expectedly attracted academic and non-academic explorers across disciplines, professions, and interests.

Researchers across the domains of arts, humanities, and social sciences have attempted to understand life on the internet, or life after the internet, and the way digital technologies mediate various aspects of our being today. These attempts have in turn raised new questions around understanding of digital objects, online lives, and virtual networks, and have contributed to complicating disciplinary assumptions, methods, conceptualisations, and boundaries.

The Researchers at Work (RAW) programme at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) takes this opportunity to initiate an annual conference series titled 'Internet Researchers' Conference,' or IRC. The abbreviation is of course a reference to an early protocol for text-based communication over internet, and a particular net culture of anonymous and explorative peer-to-peer communication taking place through IRC chat rooms.

This conference series is driven by the following interests:

- Creating discussion spaces for researchers studying internet in India and in other comparable regions
- Foregrounding the multiplicity, hierarchies, tensions, and urgencies of the digital sites and users in India
- Accounting for the various layers, conceptual and material, of experiences and usages of internet and networked digital media in India
- Exploring and practicing new modes of research and documentation necessitated by new (digital) forms of objects of power/knowledge

## IRC16 - Studying Internet in India

The first edition of the Conference, IRC16, engages with the core theme of 'studying internet in India.' The word study here is a shorthand for a range of tasks, from documentation and theory-building, to measurement and representation.

The conference will specifically focus on the following questions:

- How do we conceptualise, as an intellectual and political task, the mediation and transformation of social, cultural, political, and economic processes, forces, and sites through internet and digital media technologies in contemporary India?
- How do we frame and explore the experiences and usages of internet and digital media technologies in India within its specific historical-material contexts shaped by traditional hierarchies of knowledge, colonial systems of communication, post-independence initiatives in nation-wide technologies of governance, a rapidly growing telecommunication market, and informal circuits of media production and consumption, among others?
- What tools and methods are made available by arts, humanities, social science, and technical disciplines to study internet in India; how and where do they fail to meet the purpose; what revisions and fresh tool building are becoming necessary; and how should the usage of such tools and methods be taught?
- Given the global techno-economic contours of the internet, and the starkly hierarchical and segmented experiences and usages of the same in India, how do we begin to use the internet as a space for academic and creative practice and intervention?

### Sessions

The Conference is organised around sessions and not papers. On October 07, the call for sessions was announced,<sup>1</sup> inviting two types of sessions: 1) discussion sessions, which may involve presentation of papers, or introductory presentations by the session leaders, followed by open discussion, and 2) workshop sessions, which may involve all the participants being led through hands-on activities by the session proposers. By the end of November, a total of 23 sessions were submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-call>.

During December, all the teams that proposed a session were asked to vote for their eight most favourite sessions, without any preferential ranking. This voting process happened in a double-blind manner, that is the teams did not know the names of the people who proposed other sessions, and we at CIS did not know which team has voted for which particular set of sessions. Based upon these votes, a total of fifteen sessions were selected for the Conference, including eleven discussion sessions and four workshop sessions.

Apart from these sessions, the Conference includes a book sprint, launch of the Open Media Library,<sup>2</sup> and a concluding roundtable to reflect on the Conference and make plans for the next edition of the same.

The book sprint will focus on developing a first draft of an online, open access, multilingual, and editable (wiki-like) handbook on 'digital methods and tools for internet research'. The book will provide an introduction to concepts, research methods, analytical strategies, software, and platforms available for studying internet and using internet for research.

The sprint is divided into three sessions, one taking place on each day of the Conference. The first session (1.5 hours) will involve discussing the tentative structure of the handbook, and creating a basic table of contents. The second session (1.5 hours) and the third session (2 hours) will be dedicated to developing and drafting the sections.

All the participants of IRC16 will take part in collaboratively developing the first draft of the book, and we plan to continue its development across various future events organised by RAW, along with other interested partners.

## **Programme – Day 01, Friday, Feb 26**

**09:00-09:30** Breakfast

**09:30-09:45** Introduction

**09:45-11:15** Discussion 01

### **#DigitalDesires**

*Ankita Deb, Rahul Kumar, and Silpa Mukherjee*

The panel intends to explore the dizzying overlaps that produce this internet induced distinct zone of ambiguity that neither the law nor the state or the

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<sup>2</sup> See: <http://openmedialibrary.com/>.

author can claim ownership over. The panel seeks to position this new world of media objects that overlap and form an uncontainable entity, seeking newer forms of negotiations with the older existing order. We seek to explore then what happens to the very essence of author(ity)ship when digital enters its domain. More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-digitaldesires>.

**11:15-11:30** Break

**11:30-13:00** Discussions 02 + 03

### **#InternetMovements**

*Becca Savory, Sarah McKeever, and Shaunak Sen*

Increasingly the Internet is also a space of fractured and fragmented movement(s): of blockages and blockades, discontinuities and disappearances. Landscapes become territorialized and movement(s) confined or obstructed. On this basis, we propose an interdisciplinary discussion session around the theme of "#InternetMovements", in terms of both mobility and immobility, fissure and flow. More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-internetmovements>.

### **#WebOfGenealogies**

*Ishita Tiwary, Sandeep Mertia, and Siddharth Narrain*

The panel attempts to understand the way digital technologies (the Internet/the current digital moment) mediate aspects of our contemporary being through the history of media circulation, legal regulation and data infrastructure. The papers in the panel focus on three crucial periods - the 1940s early history of statistical mediation, the 1980s video moment, and the early 2000s advent of legal regulation of the Internet. More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-webofgenealogies>.

**13:00-14:00** Lunch

**14:00-15:30** Workshops 01 + 02

### **#MinimalComputing**

*Padmini Ray Murray and Sebastian Lütgert*

Minimal computing is both an intellectual intention and pragmatic response that seeks to disrupt these systems by subverting existing frameworks and creating new infrastructures, acknowledging the ground realities that exist in India, such as lack of resources and access. The intention of this workshop is to explore, discover, discuss and build resources that observe these tenets. More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-minimalcomputing>.

## **#STSDebates**

*Jahnavi Phalkey and Sumandro Chattapadhyay*

This session is interested in situating present day controversies around the state and internet in India within a historiography of science, technology, and state in India. We hope to achieve two goals with this session: 1) to begin to historically frame the contemporary discussions about the internet, and equally, 2) to rethink methods of representing and mapping the debates, when the sources are not found in digital form.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-stsdebates>.

**15:30-15:45** Break

**15:45-17:15** Discussions 04 + 05

## **#ArchiveAnarchy**

*Farah Yameen and Ranjani M Prasad*

The session opens up with questions of accessibility, ownership and hegemonies in an active archive. It takes up three archives that are being built at Ambedkar University and other similar archives to explore the emerging issues of knowledge sharing on the internet: 1) the Lotika Vardarajan archive, 2) the Delhi Oralities archive, and 3) the Institutional Memory archive.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-archiveanarchy>.

## **#ManyPublicsOfInternet**

*Khetrimayum Monish and Sailen Routray*

The session will open up the understanding around notions of identity and rights in the context of governance on one hand, and the proliferation of various subcultures on the other. The objective is to try and understand the political and cultural imaginations 'of and as the public' enabled by internet and digital technologies.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-manypublicsofinternet>.

**17:15-17:30** Break

**17:30-19:00** Book Sprint 01

## **Methods and Tools for Internet Research**

Initial discussion about form and nature of the handbook, introduction to the writing/compiling process, and development of Table of Contents.

## Programme - Day 02, Saturday, Feb 27

**09:00-09:45** Breakfast

**09:45-11:15** Discussion 06

### **#DigitalLiteraciesAtTheMargins**

*Aakash Solanki, Rashmi M, and Sandeep Mertia*

The session intends to initiate a discussion on digital literacies in the wake of 'Digital India' programme drawing on the empirical insights from three different field situations. The questions we raise in this specific context may be extended to understand the current conceptual as well as practical deployment of many ICT4D programmes as envisioned by both government and non-government actors. More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-digitalliteraciesatthemargins>.

**11:15-11:30** Break

**11:30-13:00** Discussions 07 + 08

### **#FutureBazaars**

*Adam Arvidsson, Maitrayee Deka, Ravi Sundaram, and Rohini Lakshané*

In this session we want to explore the future of bottom-up markets. Extrapolating from research on what is going on now we want to collectively imagine what the future might bring. What sort of economic social and, importantly political consequences might these changes bring about? How can we theorise this emergence and how does it challenge and force us to rethink basic categories like capitalism, markets and agency?

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-futurebazaars>.

### **#PoliticsOnSocialMedia**

*Mohinder Singh, Rajarshi Dasgupta, Rinku Lamba, Shefali Jha, and Valerian Rodrigues*

We suggest that a change in Indian politics is now taking place, as different ways of governance and interventions aided by latest technologies are emerging in the social media. We will discuss this emerging field of power, critically considering its democratic potential and interrogating the political issues and ideas at stake in it. The papers to be presented would explore notions such as agency, political act, and participation.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-politicsonsocialmedia>.

**13:00-14:00** Lunch



**14:00-15:30** Workshops 03 + 04

### **#SpottingData**

*Dibyajyoti Ghosh and Purbasha Auddy*

The workshop will focus on internet usage in India and the possibilities that the internet offers for representation of data. The workshop will be divided into two parts, the first, of a more general nature, and the second, will focus on one specific aspect of data-representation. While the first part will be more of a documentation exercise, the second part will be a hands-on exercise of some web-based data representation tools.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-spottingdata>.

### **#WikiShadows**

*Rahimanuddin Shaik and Tanveer Hasan*

In this session, we shall attempt to peel out the benign face of the visible Wikipedia page (there is a hidden world out there) and discuss the political, technological and social contours of information available on Wikipedia. We shall take the participants through the various stages of discussion about a Wikipedia page and how discussions tend to alter the course of an article.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-wikishadows>.

**15:30-15:45** Break

**15:45-17:15** Book Sprint 02

### **Methods and Tools for Internet Research**

Starting to draft the sections in separate groups.

**17:15-17:30** Break

**17:30-19:00** Public Event

### **Launch of Open Media Library**

Open Media Library (OML) is a local web-application that lets you manage and sync digital media collections. For now, the focus is on books, but music and movies may be added at a later point. Lawrence Liang has described the software as a 'Napster for books.' Jan Gerber and Sebastian Lütgert, the developers of OML, will make the first public launch of the software, reflect on the political / intellectual background of the project, and help the audience to get started with the Open Media Library.

## Programme - Day 03, Sunday, Feb 28

**09:00-09:45** Breakfast

**09:45-11:15** Discussion 09

### **#FollowTheMedium**

*Zeenab Aneez*

The goal of the session will be to explore how digital methods can be aligned with current concerns about news and journalism in India, and open up avenues for research that acknowledges that online news occupies a space that includes natively digital objects and information architectures and hence demands research methods specific to this environment.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-followthemedium>.

**11:15-11:30** Break

**11:30-13:00** Discussions 10 + 11

### **#AFCinema2.0**

*Akriti Rastogi and Ishani Dey*

The session will be an interactive conversation exploring the Indian scenario of internet based independent filmmaking. The key concerns mediating this dialogue are the mobilization of the internet as a space of exhibition and distribution, and its implications in moving through extra-legal spaces, garnering cultural capital, and articulating desires.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-afcinema2.0>.

### **#LiterarySpaces**

*Arup Chatterjee and P.P. Sneha*

The last decade has seen a slow but steady emergence of online literary spaces in India. These spaces raise some intriguing questions about the growth a new online or digital literary culture, which may be mapped through the evolution of reading and writing practices as very explicitly technologised practices, and the changes in the notion of text and textuality, scholarship and pedagogy.

More: <http://cis-india.org/raw/irc16-proposed-literaryspaces>.

**13:00-14:00** Lunch

**14:00-16:00** Book Sprint 03

## Methods and Tools for Internet Research

Completing the section drafts.

**16:00-16:30** Break

**16:30-18:30** Roundtable

### IRC16 Reader and IRC17

Discussing how the IRC16 Reader will be put together, preparing a work timeline for the same, and preliminary conversations towards IRC17.

## Session Leaders – Biographic Notes

**Aakash Solanki** has a background in computer science and anthropology. His MA research on colonial data projects in British India charted a trajectory of government data practices in South Asia. He is currently an Innovation Fellow as part of a University of Chicago program with Indian government partners. He has earlier worked on a smart city project optimizing restaurant inspections in Chicago. Aakash is interested in grasping the myriad understandings of Digital Literacy pervading the Indian bureaucracy.

**Adam Arvidsson** teaches sociology at the University of Milano, Italy. He runs a research project on Value Creation in Commons Based Peer Production financed by the European Commission, and has published widely on brands, creative industries, the political economy of social media platform and the digital economy in general. At present Adam's research is focused on start-up and venture capital systems in Europe and Asia, and forms of economic organization in the 'Sharing Economy.' Adam is author of *Brands. Meaning and Value in Media Culture* (Rutledge, 2006), and more recently, *The Ethical Economy. Rebuilding Value after the Crisis* (Columbia University Press, 2013, with Nicolai Peitersen).

**Akriti Rastogi** is a provisional Ph.D. scholar by day and a Transmission Executive for All India Radio during early mornings. Her M.Phil. thesis is guided by the figure of the DIY filmmaker in whom she finds an amalgamation of innovative strategies of production, circulation and exhibition of a new form of cinema focusing on short film format in the age of Internet.

**Ankita Deb** is an M.Phil candidate at the Dept of Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. Her dissertation is on 1970s and the Romantic Couple in Bombay Cinema. Her other research interests are in melodrama, romance, media archaeology, Iranian cinema, early cinema and Bombay Cinema.

**Arup K Chatterjee** is a doctorate in English from the Center for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. His dissertation is titled 'Hillmaking: Architecture and Literature from the Doon Valley.' He has taught English, as Assistant Professor, at colleges in the University of Delhi. In 2014-15 he was the recipient of Charles Wallace fellowship to the United Kingdom. He is the founding-chief-editor of *Coldnoon: Travel Poetics* (International Journal of Travel Writing): [www.coldnoon.com](http://www.coldnoon.com).

**Becca Savory Fuller** is a performance maker and PhD researcher in Drama at the University of Exeter. Her research lies at the intersections between popular performance, public space and digital culture, and examines the performance genre of flash mobbing as it has evolved within an urban Indian context from 2003 to 2015. The project is funded by UKEIRI as part of an interdisciplinary, split-site doctoral programme between Exeter and the National School of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bangalore, co-supervised by Dr Jerri Daboo in Drama (Exeter) and Dr Shivali Tukdeo in Social Sciences (NIAS).

**Dibyajyoti Ghosh** is a UGC-NET Senior Research Fellow for PhD in the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has four years of work experience at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University in projects which dealt with archiving, digitisation and digital humanities.

**Farah Yameen** trained in filmmaking at AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia and started working on oral histories in 2014 at Ambedkar University Delhi. She also works as a researcher for documentary and fiction films, and is a self-confessed history-junkie and bibliophile.

**Ishani Dey** is a provisional Senior Research Scholar at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, i.e. she is anxiously awaiting her M. Phil viva. Her M.Phil. is an auteur driven exploration of the contemporary Hindi film industry, in which she traces the multiple trajectories that Anurag Kashyap navigates as an auteur-entrepreneur. She harbors a special love for fantasy and is exceedingly excited by prospects of alternate exhibition and circulation of cinema.

**Ishita Tiwary** is a PhD Candidate at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a Research Associate with the Sarai Programme at CSDS. Her work has been published in *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies*, *The Pirate Book* amongst others. Her research interests include media infrastructures, technology, informal film practices, and amateur film.

**Jahnvi Phalkey** (PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology) is a historian of twentieth century science and technology based at King's College London. She is the author of *Atomic State: Big Science in Twentieth Century India* (2013); and more recently, co-editor of *Key Concepts in Modern India Studies* (2015).

**Jan Gerber** is a video artist and software developer. He lives and works in Berlin. Co-initiator of Pirate Cinema Berlin, Pad.ma and Indiancine.ma, author of numerous Open Source software projects, most recently Open Media Library. Involved in a variety of open-access archive projects around the world.

**Maitrayee Deka** is currently a postdoctoral research fellow with EU FP7 project P2PValue at the Department of Sociology, University of Milan. She has done her MPhil in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics and PhD in Sociology from University of Milan. Her research interests are Pirate Economy, Bazaars, New Media and Economic Sociology.

**Mohinder Singh** is Assistant professor teaching political thought at the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Before he joined JNU in April 2013, he was teaching at the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. He finished his M. A. and doctorate (2003) from the Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi. For the last few years his research has been on the study of Hindi as the language of political discourse in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century North India with the main focus on the conceptualization of the domains of the social and the political. His recent publications include *Civilizing Emotions: Concepts in 19th Century Asia and Europe* co-authored with Margrit Pernau, Helge Jordhem et al (OUP, Oxford); 'Crisis and Critique: Diagnosis of "the present" in the Nationalist Discourse in Hindi (1870-1908)', *Critical Studies in Politics*, Ed. by Nivedita Menon, Aditya Nigam, and Sanjay Palshikar (Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2013); and 'Cosmopolitanism in Indian Political Thought,' *Indian Political Thought*, Ed. by Pradip K. Dutta and Sanjay Palshikar (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2013).

**Khetrimayum Monish** is a Ph.D. candidate at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and his work focuses on the intersections of digital technologies, governance, and citizenship.

**Dr. Padmini Ray Murray** is currently Faculty at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, where she leads on the Masters programme in the Digital Humanities. She was previously on the Board of Trustees of Wikimedia UK, and is currently Vice-Chair of Global Outlook::Digital Humanities, the Editor in Chief of the SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing) newsletter, and Managing Editor of DHCommons. Her research and published work

encompasses the history of the book, comics and games studies, as well as gender, embodiment and cultural specificity in the digital realm.

**Purbasha Auddy** is a SYLFF PhD researcher at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Her research aims to build a sustainable knowledge-site on early Bengali periodicals, pre-1867. She is co-ordinating a post-graduate diploma course on Digital Humanities and Cultural Informatics for 2015-16 at her institute.

**Rahimanuddin Shaik**, currently working as Program officer at CIS's A2K program, is a Wikipedian and believes in FLOSS. He uses Internet as a tool to propagate his mother language Telugu. He writes technical and linguistic blog posts and columns in Telugu.

**Rahul Kumar** is an M.Phil. candidate at the Department of Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU. His dissertation deals with film journalism during the 1970s in Bombay cinema. A post-graduate from CHS JNU, he's an active media pirate. His other research interests include film piracy, classical Hollywood cinema, cinephilia, film history and film genre.

**Rajarshi Dasgupta** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, JNU. Formerly Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, he primarily teaches Marxism and Biopolitics, while his research interests span radical politics, urbanization, contemporary labor and refugee histories. His recent publications include 'The Ascetic Modality: A Critique of Communist Self-fashioning' in Nivedita Menon, Aditya Nigam and Sanjay Palshikar eds., *Critical Studies in Politics: Exploring Sites, Selves, Power*, and 'The People in People's Art and People's War' in Gargi Chakrabarty ed., *People's Warrior: Words and Worlds of P.C. Joshi*.

**Ranjani Prasad** has completed her masters in Communication Studies from the University of Hyderabad. She has been working as an archivist at Ambedkar University Delhi since 2013, and is a compulsive collector of memorabilia.

**Rashmi M.** is a doctoral student in the school of social sciences at National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore. Her research interest is in the area of media studies. Her M.Phil work at English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad was on Kannada websites, in which she looked at the cultural politics of regional vernacular languages especially Kannada in the English dominated world of the Internet. Her doctoral work at NIAS focuses on changing media consumption practices via mobile phones and other peripheral technologies among users with limited technological access and economic means in the city of Bangalore and surrounding areas.

**Ravi Sundaram** is a Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. In 2000 he founded the Sarai programme at CSDS along with Ravi Vasudevan, and the Raqs Media Collective. Sundaram is the author of *Pirate Modernity: Media Urbanism in Delhi* (London 2009), and *No Limits: Media Studies from India* (Delhi, 2013). His current research looks at the worlds of circulation after the mobile phone, information fever, ideas of transparency and secrecy, and the postcolonial media event.

**Rinku Lamba** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Political Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was educated in Delhi, Oxford and Toronto, and has a strong interest in modern Indian political thought, democratic theory, the history of western political thought, and contemporary political theory (especially secularism, liberalism and multiculturalism). Her published work includes essays on state power, nationalism, Ambedkar's views on the reform of religion, and on the discourse about socio-religious reform in colonial India. She has held visiting positions at the Humboldt University and the University of Wurzburg, and research fellowships at the European University Institute and the universities of Victoria and Sydney.

**Rohini Lakshané** is a technologist, and a researcher working at the Centre for Internet and Society, India. She lives in Bengaluru and tweets @aldebaran14.

**Sailen Routray** is a researcher, social sector consultant, writer, translator (between Odia and English), reviewer, and editor. His interests in research and teaching lie in the areas of anthropology of development, anthropology of the everyday state, sociology of India, the contemporary history of Odisha, and sociology/anthropology of literature. As a consultant, he works in the areas of natural resource management (with a focus on water and forests), social sciences in Indian languages, and multi-lingual / mother-tongue education. He is a Visiting Faculty at Azim Premji University (APU), Bangalore.

**Sandeep Mertia** is a Research Associate at The Sarai Programme, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. He graduated from Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar with a Bachelors in Information and Communication Technology (Btech in ICT) in 2014. His research interests lie at the intersections of Science and Technology Studies, Software Studies, and Anthropology.

**Sarah McKeever** is currently a PhD Candidate in Contemporary India Research at the India Institute, King's College London. She previously completed a Masters of Science on Contemporary India at the University of Oxford and a Bachelors of Arts at the University of Chicago. Ms. McKeever was a Fulbright-Nehru English Teaching Assistant in New Delhi from 2010-2011.

**Sebastian Lütgert** is a media artist, programmer, filmmaker and writer. He lives and works in Berlin. Co-founder of Bootlab, textz.com, Pirate Cinema Berlin, Pad.ma and Indiancine.ma. Lecturer at the Academy of the Sciences in Berlin, various publications on cinema, copyright, and radical subcultures and the politics of technology.

**Shaunak Sen** is a film maker and researcher based in Delhi. His first feature length documentary film is *\*Cities of Sleep\** which premiered at MAMI in November 2015. He has published widely in journals including *Bioscope* and *Widescreen*. He received the Sarai Digital Media Fellowship in 2014, and the Films Division grant in 2013, the Luminato Festival Copycat residency at Toronto in 2015 as well as the Pro Helvetia residency in Switzerland for 2016.

**Shefali Jha** is Professor and teaches political philosophy and feminist political theory at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is interested in and writes on issues of constitutionalism and democracy in India.

**Siddharth Narrain** is a research associate with Sarai, Center for the the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi.

**Silpa Mukherjee** is a Delhi based research scholar. She is currently enrolled in an MPhil programme in Cinema Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is a recipient of the social media research fellowship awarded by Sarai, CSDS. Her research interests include media archaeology with a focus on the body's warped interconnections with changing media technology, studies of the medium, its resolution, aesthetics and erotics and a keen engagement with the practices of the Bombay Hindi film industry.

**P.P. Sneha** works with the Researchers at Work (RAW) programme at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), India. She is interested in questions around changing modes of knowledge production in the humanities with the advent of the internet and new digital technologies.

**Sumandro Chattapadhyay** (Research Director, the Centre for Internet and Society) works on topics of history and politics of informatics in India, new media and technology studies, and data infrastructures and economies. He is also keenly interested in computational techniques in arts, humanities, and social research, and emerging methodological questions.

**Tanveer Hasan** works with the Access to Knowledge team with CIS, Bangalore. He is interested in understanding the politics of language that shapes our understanding of knowledge, and also in exploring the processes of production of knowledge in digital and humanities fields.



**Valerian Rodrigues**, currently National Fellow, ICSSR, has taught at the Department of Political Science, Mangalore University, and Centre for Political Studies, JNU. His academic interest lies in Political Philosophy, Political Ideas and Institutions in India, Disadvantage, Marginality, and Preferential Public Policies. He has published extensively on these themes. He was Agatha Harrison Fellow, St. Antony's College, Oxford (1989-1991), ICCR Chair at Erfurt University (2012), and Senior Visiting Professor at Wuerzburg University. He is a recipient of the Sri Pravananda Saraswati UGC National Award (2006) for Political Science.

**Zeenab Aneez** is an independent journalist and researcher in the field of digital media and culture. Her interests include digital publishing practices, new media journalism, media ecologies, digital labour and social media alternatives. She was previously a reporter at The Hindu, Hyderabad. She is in the process of developing a project with the RAW programme in CIS.

## **Researchers at Work (RAW) Programme, CIS**

The Researchers at Work, or RAW, programme<sup>3</sup> at the Centre for Internet and Society is a multidisciplinary research initiative driven by contemporary concerns to understand the reconfiguration of social processes and structures through the internet and digital media technologies, and vice versa. We are interested in producing local and contextual accounts of interactions, negotiations, and resolutions between the internet and socio-material and geopolitical structures. We take India as our physical field of research, as our unevenly excavated site of artifacts and practices, and also as our vantage point to reflect on the polymorphous growth of internet technologies and their relationships with societies across the world. Our work is divided into three areas of engagement: research, learning, and practice. Research at the RAW programme is further divided in four clusters of interest: 1) internet histories, 2) digital knowledge, 3) data systems, and 4) net cultures.

## **Centre for Political Studies, JNU**

Founded in 1971 the Centre for Political Studies<sup>4</sup> has an outstanding reputation for academic excellence. In the first year of its existence, the Centre launched the M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme with 15 students. In the following academic year, the M.A. programme was launched. In keeping with the spirit of the JNU Act of 1966, the Centre for Political Studies incorporated a strong interdisciplinary emphasis in the structure and design of its syllabi. It has become one of the

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<sup>3</sup> See: <http://cis-india.org/raw>.

<sup>4</sup> See: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/SSS/CPS/>.

largest Centres of the School of Social Sciences drawing students from all parts of the country and abroad. Building on its historical strength, the centre is today a leader in teaching and research in contemporary politics on India.

Drawing on a variety of philosophical, historical and interdisciplinary approaches, the academic programme of the centre is distinguished by certain characteristic emphases which sets it apart from other departments specializing in Political Science in the country. Since its inception, it has gathered a group of faculty internationally recognized for their seminal contributions in the field of politics. Our faculty explain, interpret, and evaluate those assumptions that undergird political life. Long considered one of the top departments in the country, we have now one of the largest and most intellectually diverse political science programs in the world. Our faculty includes 17 scholars whose research and interests span multiple thematic areas in the discipline.

## **CSCS Digital Innovation Fund (CDIF)**

The CSCS Digital Innovation Fund (CDIF)<sup>5</sup> has been set up by the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) and the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) to encourage, host, and provide seed funding for the development of digital tools and infrastructure for arts, humanities, and social science research in India.

A fundamental challenge has emerged in arts, humanities, and social science research with the coming of digital media. The challenge is of at least two kinds: 1) the ways in which we access our primary materials have changed, opening up the possibility of formulating new problems as well as conducting our research, and 2) additionally, the digital networks and objects that facilitate research are themselves becoming part of the phenomena we document and analyse. While the contexts under investigation are rich and diverse, the digital tools and methods by which to explore them are not readily available, especially in India. The core mandate of CDIF is as follows:

- Identifying digital tools and infrastructure needed by researchers and practitioners in arts, humanities, and social science fields. This is clearly not a one-time exercise, but a continuous one
- Promote, support, and fund the development of new digital tools and infrastructure, as well as revision and expansion of existing ones
- Creating focused conversations and materials around teaching of, and teaching through, digital tools and infrastructure across the arts, humanities, and social science disciplines

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<sup>5</sup> See: <http://cis-india.org/raw/cdif>.