

Centre de Sciences Humaines

CSH Seminar (January 2024 - June 2024)



About CSH

The Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH, UMIFRE n°20) is part of a network of research units of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). The CSH is a multidisciplinary research unit that covers all disciplines of the social sciences and humanities.

CSH Seminar

The CSH seminar takes place once every month. It offers researchers from different disciplines across social sciences an opportunity to present their upcoming or recently published work. Presentations are followed by a discussion with another scholar and a Q/A session with the audience. The sessions are in hybrid mode. The seminars are coordinated by Laurence Gautier (laurence.gautier@csh-delhi.com) and Joël Cabalion (joel.cabalion@csh-delhi.com).

Seminar Calendar

Monday, 15 January 2024

"Numbers as Political Allies: The Census in Jammu and Kashmir", by **Vikas KUMAR** (Azim Premji University).

Discussant: **Chakraverti MAHAJAN** (Delhi University)

Monday, 12 February 2024

"A Pathway to Intergenerational Social Mobility? The Impact of Education", by **Divya VAID** (Jawaharlal Nehru University). Discussant: **Sonalde DESAI** (National Data Innovation Centre & University of Maryland College Park)

Monday, 4 March 2024

"Monolingual States in a Polyglot Setting? The Long History of Linguistic Territorial Reorganisation in India (1905-1950s)", by **Veena NAREGAL** (Institute of Economic Growth). Discussant: **Kalpna KANNABIRAN** (Council for Social Development)

Monday, 8 April 2024

"Channelling Compassion Towards Change: Elite Volunteerism, Corporate Philanthropy and Education Reform in Urban India", by **Vidya SUBRAMANIAN** (OP Jindal University). Discussant: **Gayatri NAIR** (IIIT Delhi)

Monday, 13 May 2024

"What Does My IITian Tag Actually Mean? The Relationship between Academic Titles and Job Positions", by **Odile HENRY** (Paris 8 University, Centre de Sciences Humaines). Discussant: **N. SUKUMAR** (Delhi University)

Monday, 3 June 2024

"Between Nation and Community. Muslim Universities and Indian Politics after Partition", by **Laurence GAUTIER** (Centre de Sciences Humaines). Discussant: **Hilal AHMED** (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies)

Timings: 17h00 - 18h30 IST

Venue: Centre de Sciences Humaines

IFI-CSH Conference room (ground floor), 2, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi - 110011

15 January 2024 : “Numbers as Political Allies: The Census in Jammu and Kashmir”, by Vikas Kumar

Abstract: *Numbers as Political Allies* analyses censuses of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) as public goods, collective self-portraits and symbols of modernity and enriches the debates on the political economy of statistics. The book argues that J&K's data deficit is shaped by, and shapes, ethno-regional, communal and scalar contests across different levels of governance, but the deteriorating quality of metadata limits our ability to evaluate the quality of census data.

Speaker: **Vikas Kumar** is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Azim Premji University (Bengaluru). His research explores the interfaces between politics and statistics, economics and religion, Kautilya’s Arthashastra, and other pre-modern texts.

12 February 2024 : “A Pathway to Intergenerational Social Mobility? The Impact of Education”, by Divya VAID

Abstract: The study of social mobility has been an important strand of inquiry in the sociology of developed countries. In India, this research is more recent with limited focus on the experiences of women. This talk draws on national level data to establish the macro trends in intergenerational social class mobility by gender, caste, community and rural-urban location, and explores the impact of education as a driver for this mobility.

Speaker: **Divya Vaid** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research interests include the study of social mobility and inequalities, social stratification, educational attainment, class and political participation.

4 March 2024 : “Monolingual States in a Polyglot Setting? The Long History of Linguistic Territorial Reorganisation in India (1905-1950s)”, by Veena NAREGAL

Abstract: This paper traces the category of 'region' as a territorial entity around language as it emerged through official documents, constitutional debates, education policy debates and responses by Marathi regional elites in the period between the Bengal Partition onwards and early years after 1947.

Speaker: **Veena Naregal** is a Professor in Sociology at Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, with an interest in historical Sociology and Labour. Her current work, based on mixed methods research, explores the intersections of marginalization and policy-making/ analysis.

8 April 2024 : “Channelling Compassion Towards Change: Elite Volunteerism, Corporate Philanthropy and Education Reform in Urban India”, by Vidya SUBRAMANIAN

Abstract: This article explores how young elite urban professionals and fresh graduates in Mumbai and Delhi are fostering diverse aspirations of service, entrepreneurship and charting new professional mobilities through volunteering opportunities at a well-known corporate supported non-governmental organisation (NGO), the Teach for India (TFI) programme.

Speaker: **Vidya Subramanian** is an Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy. She is a sociologist who works on entrepreneurship, education and governance. Her recent research work examines the trajectories of young elite professionals as they shift from conventional pathways into the development sector.

13 May 2024 : “What Does My IITian Tag Actually Mean? The Relationship between Academic Titles and Job Positions”, by Odile HENRY

Abstract: India's ambitious reservation policy now allocates 49.5 % of the seats in public higher education institutions and central government to caste groups considered to be disadvantaged and marginalised. Based on fieldwork at IIT Kanpur, where interviews, ethnographic observations and administrative data collection were conducted, we question the meritocratic model advocated by these elite institutions.

Speaker: **Odile Henry** is a Professor at Paris 8 University and the Director of the *Centre de Sciences Humaines* (CSH). Her recent publications on the subject include (with M. Ferry) “When Cracking the JEE is not Enough. Processes of Elimination and Differentiation, from Entry to Placement, in the Indian Institutes of Technology”, SAMAJ (2017).

3 June 2024 : “Between Nation and Community. Muslim Universities and Indian Politics after Partition”, by Laurence GAUTIER

Abstract: *Between Nation and Community* examines the political role of Muslim universities (AMU and Jamia Millia) in post-independence India. The book argues that these institutions constituted platforms to imagine the nation as much as the Muslim qaum. They served as intermediaries between central state authorities and the Muslim population, and formed major centres for different strands of Muslim politics in the post-independence period.

Speaker: **Laurence Gautier** is a Researcher at the *Centre de Sciences Humaines* (CSH). She taught History at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities before joining the CSH. Her research focuses on Indian Muslims' location in post-independence India as citizens and as a minority group.