

BIO-NOTES: CHAIR AND SPEAKERS

Sanjay Kumar



Sanjay Kumar is Professor and currently the Director at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. His core area of research is Electoral Politics, but using survey method as research tool he has been engaged in conducting research on very wide range of themes-Indian Youth, State of Democracy in South Asia, State of Indian Farmers, Slums of Delhi and Electoral Violence.

He has widely published, written and edited. His recent work includes Post-Mandal politics in Bihar: Changing Electoral Patterns. His other works include Changing Electoral Politics in Delhi: From Caste to Class and so on.

Gilles Verniers



Gilles Verniers is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Ashoka University and Co-Director of the Trivedi Centre for Political Data. He is currently teaching the course "Making Sense of Indian Elections".

His research interests include Mechanisms of representation and participation in India, State politics, Democratisation in South Asia, Sociology of elected representatives, controversies and problems in India's democracy, Ethnic and Post-Identity Politics, Minority Politics, and political parties.

Nishtha Satyam



Nishtha Satyam is the Deputy Country Representative for UN Women, the entity of the United Nations that is dedicated to working towards Gender Equality and Woman's Empowerment, in India since January 2018. She formerly managed Strategic Partnerships, Policy Impact and Public Relations for the UN Women Multi Country Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Nishtha has also served as the Private Sector Partnerships Specialist with the Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and UNDP.



Tara Krishnaswamy

Tara Krishnaswamy is a Software Director at an MNC in Bengaluru and co-founder of Shakti, a pan-India, non-partisan citizens pressure group working to get more women into State Assemblies and Parliament. She is also co-founder of Citizens for Bengaluru, a grassroots people's movement with landmark campaigns for #SteelFlyoverBeda, mass transit, citizens manifesto and ward committees in Bengaluru. On the policy front, she has worked on Lokpal amendments, Justice Verma Committee for Rape Law amendments and presented to multiple Rajya Sabha Standing Committees. She was a special invitee to the 15th Finance Commission workshop on Fiscal Federalism with Finance Ministers of several states, hosted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. She was a member of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Andhra Pradesh Special Category Status constituted by Pawan Kalyan. She has consulted on manifestos for political parties.

She is an independent author on federalism, citizenship, gender and caste issues with First Post, The News Minute, Live Mint, News Laundry, Times of India, Hindustan Times etc.