



SOUTH ASIAN SECTION FOR PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION



## WELCOME MESSAGE BY THE CHAIR

Friends, Welcome to SASPA.

Firstly, I hope that you are healthy and doing well. Many of us have lost loved ones or have suffered from some loss, in the year gone by. Our deepest sympathies and best wishes are with you, as you navigate these difficult times.

We are all living in extraordinary times. I am reminded of this saying by Francis of Assisi “Start by doing the necessary, then do what’s possible and suddenly, you are doing the impossible.” Most of us have been asked to the impossible in the past year or so, and have managed to pull through. This is a testament to the human spirit.

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# WELCOME MESSAGE BY THE CHAIR (CONTINUE)

Covid-19 has dominated our consciousness for the past year and half and despite this once in a lifetime pandemic, many of us have found a way to continue to teach and conduct research. We have found community online, through Whatsapp groups and messages sent by email. I found community through sharing books with friends and colleagues. So, if you received a book from me, you know that I was just trying to share something interesting that I read and wanted you to enjoy it, as well!

SASPA is one such community that was formed, not too long ago, with the goal of providing a platform for engaging scholars, researchers, teachers and practitioners based in South Asia and North America. We are happy that our numbers are growing, but want to encourage you to join us, if you are not a member, yet. If you are, please encourage your students, colleagues to join us.

Our goal is not only to share scholarship about the region, but also to bring to fore some of the lessons that the South Asian region can offer to the rest of the world : issues of diversity in all its forms- Linguistic, regional, religious and cultural. South Asia is also home to a very rich tradition of administration and governance, which has evolved over a period of time. Given the massive numbers of people and the scale of problems, the South Asia region is unique in many respects and can be a good place to study issues of scaling up, in social innovation and governance.



Democracy is facing renewed challenges in all corners of the world and this is a great time to study issues of democratic governance in South Asia, as it faces its own unique challenges.

Many of the scholars featured in this newsletter are studying issues of governance, gender diversity, Human resource challenges etc. and contributing to our understanding of the region (and the rest of the world too). We have hosted two events so far and are planning for a few more, in the coming months.

The start of a new academic year is around the corner for most colleagues in North America and South Asia. I want to wish you a successful year and please reach out to us, if you wish to discuss any ideas/ possibilities of collaboration.

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**Yours truly,  
Sabith Khan, PhD  
Chair, SASPA**



**Wishing you and your family a happy Independence day!**  
**We at SASPA commit to take the activities and networks of ASPA National to the South Asian region, and support for South Asian scholars and practitioners in the field of administration.**





# FEATURED SCHOLARS



## DR. ALASDAIR ROBERTS

Join us in congratulating SASPA's executive board member, Dr. Alasdair Roberts whose article "Bearing the White Man's Burden: American Empire and the Origin of Public Administration" is a runner-up for the 2021 Riccucci-O'Leary Award by the Public Management Research Association

The City of Dallas' Office of Equity and Inclusions' Resilience Division in celebration of the Asian Pacific Month

## Dr. Meghna Sabharwal

*"The bamboo ceiling faced by members of the AAPI group is real and we as a community need to dismantle some of the discriminatory patterns and dispel the beliefs and stereotypes that this group experiences."*





# FEATURED SCHOLARS

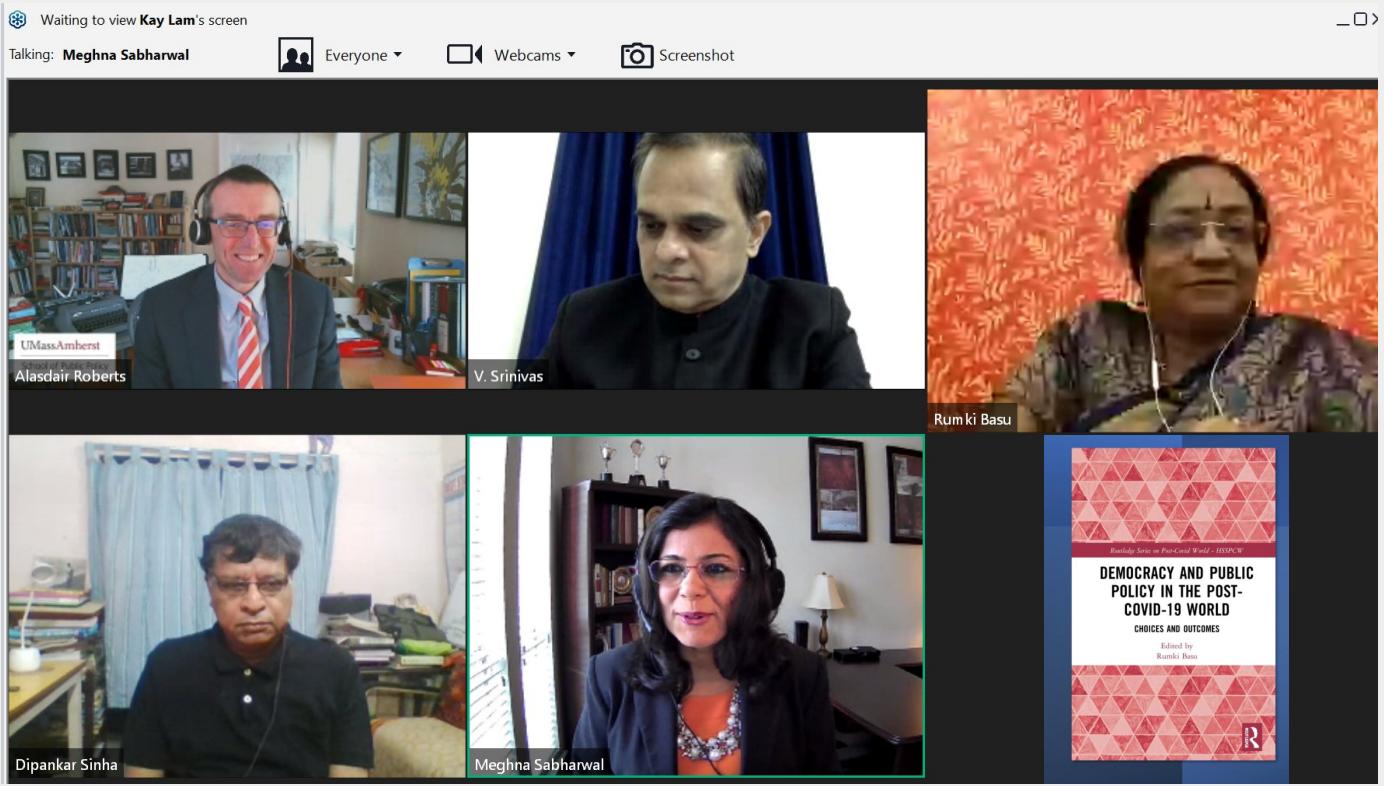
## DR. POOJA PASWAN

Join us in congratulating SASPA's member, Dr. Pooja Paswan on her new position as an Associate Director (Academic) at the Tillotoma Foundation.



## MERIL ANTHONY

Many congratulations to SASPA's member Meril Anthony on receiving Dr. Eugene Owen Scholarship from the ICPSR Summer Program In Quantitative Methods of Social Research.



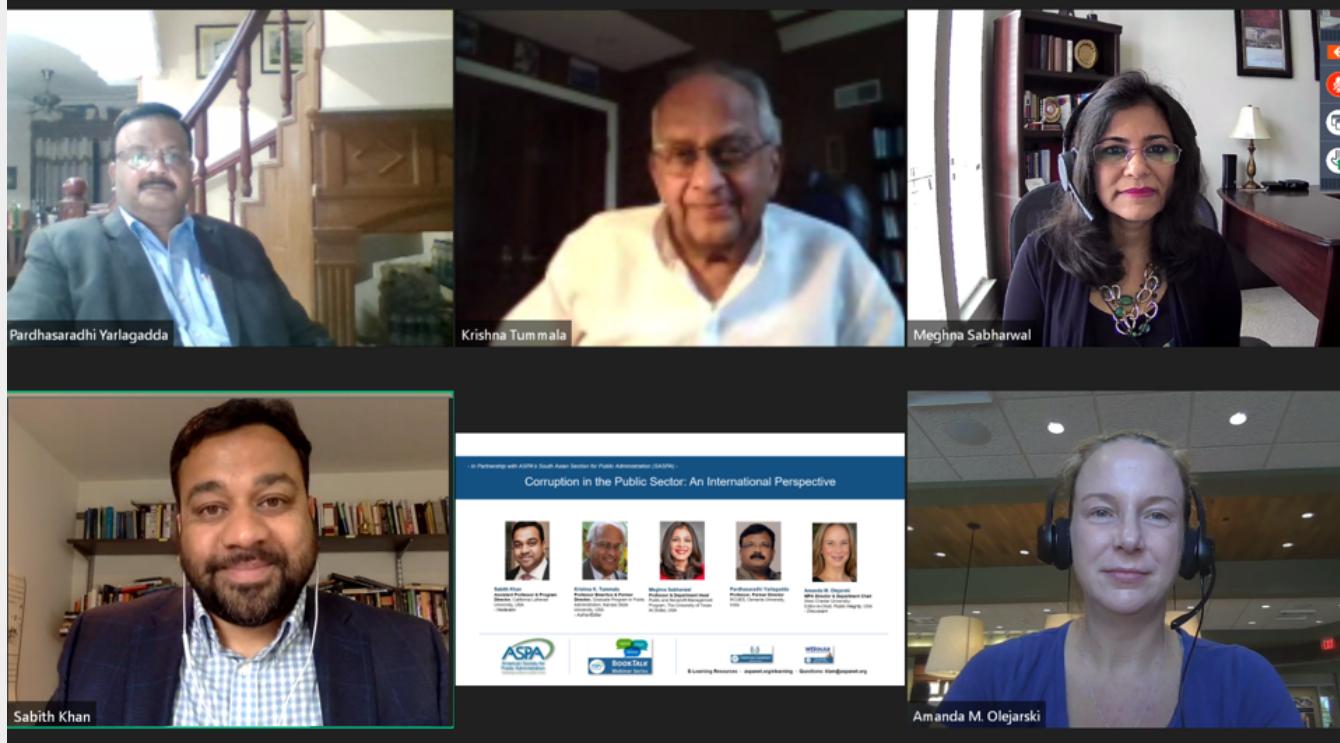
# SASPA FIRST BOOK TALK

## DEMOCRACY AND PUBLIC POLICY IN THE POST COVID19 WORLD: CHOICES AND OUTCOMES, EDITED BY RUMKI BASU | MAY 12, 2021

"Democracy and Public Policy in the Post-COVID-19 World: Choices and Outcomes", edited by Rumki Basu (Jamia Millia University, India) is the first in Routledge's series on the Humanities and the Social Sciences in a Post COVID-19 World. On May 12, 2021 the South Asian Section of Public Administration (SASPA) at ASPA was honored to host a discussion on this book. Presenters included: Dr. Rumki Basu from the Jamilla Milia University; Dr. Alasdair Roberts from the University of Massachusetts; Dr. Meghna Sabharwal from the University of Texas at Dallas; Dr. Dipankar Sinha from the Centre for Social Sciences and - Humanities, University of Calcutta; and Dr. V. Srinivas from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India. Planned and written in 2020 against the backdrop of the pandemic, Dr. Basu's book highlights policymaking and implementation sectors in India. Its 14 chapters reexamine the normative and the empirical world of policymaking in one of the the world's largest and most complex democracies. During the book talk, guest speakers shared thoughts about the unprecedent impacts of COVID-19 on future policymaking in India and other democracies. Theoretical frameworks, models and approaches used in the policymaking process and studies their contemporary relevance were also discussed.

# SASPA SECOND BOOK TALK

## CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE | Jun 29, 2021



On June 29, 2021, the South Asian Section of Public Administration (SASPA) at ASPA hosted a webinar on "Corruption in the Public Sector". This panel brought together a group of scholars including Dr. Sabith Khan, Dr. Meghna Sabharwal, Dr. Pardhasaradhi Yarlagadda and Dr. Amanda M. Olejarski to discuss insights from a book of the same name, edited by Dr. Krishna Tummala. The session examined case studies of corruption from across the globe, from Hong Kong to India, from South Africa to Brazil. Dr. Krishna Tummala pointed out that in many countries, eradicating corruption has been widely discussed but the actions don't amount to the rhetoric. In other words, everyone over-promises and under-delivers. Despite the presence of various laws, ordinances, guidelines, and moral principles, public agencies breed corruption. The panel discussed several reasons and one of the main ones turned out to be the low pay scale of government employees around the world. "While this could be true, we also see corruption in countries where there are high salaries in government sector," pointed out one of the panelists. "It is certainly lack of professionalism, as we need to move away from moralizing about this issue and deal with it as a professional ethics issue," Prof. Tummala argued.

***We are thankful to all presenters and participants for joining us in the SASPA booktalks !***

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS



Shields, P.M., **Rangarajan, N.**, & Casula, M. (2020). The Potential of Working Hypotheses for Deductive Exploratory Research. *Quality & Quantity*.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11135-020-01072-9>

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Mitchell, A. M., & **Soni, S.** (2021). Institutional development and the dowry death curve across states in India. *Journal of International Development*.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.3549>

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**Pooja Paswan** - Published in PA Times

[Linking Villages: A Road to Development](#)

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**Shahan, A. M.**, Jahan, F., & Khair, R. (2021). A glimpse of light in darkness: Performance-based accountability in Bangladesh public administration. *Public Administration and Development* (Accepted for publication and available at:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pad.1945>

**Shahan, A.M.** & Jahan, F. (2020). Change and Stability of Public Policies in Bangladesh: An Alternative Model of Policy Process. In N. Ahmed (ed.) *Public Service Delivery in Bangladesh, Parliament, Public Policy and Local Government*, 89-118. Dhaka: University Press Limited.

**Shahan, A.M.** & Khair, R. (2020). Social Accountability through Social Media; Developing a Framework for Analysing Bangladesh's Experiences. In M. A. Alam, Q. Alam, R. Khair & M.R. Karim (eds.), *Managing Change for Better Public Service Delivery*, 95-126. New York: Routledge

# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**Khair, R. & Shahan, A.M. (2020).** Exploring the Impact of Democratic Transition on Bureaucratic Discretion. In Q.Alam, A. Rahman & S.R. Islam (eds.) *The Economic Development of Bangladesh in Economic Century, Prospects and Perspectives*, New York: Routledge

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**Mali, N. V., Yerramsetti, S., & Manoharan, A. P. (2021).** Communicative Governance to Mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Delhi, India. *International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR)*, 10(2), 116-123.

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**Roberts, A. S. (2020).** Abolishing India's Planning Commission: The Results After Five Years. Forthcoming in *Public Administration Review*.

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**Valcik, N. A., Sabharwal, M., & Benavides, T. J. (2021).** *Human Resources Information Systems. Management for Professionals*.

**Zvobgo, V., Abraham, R., & Sabharwal, M. (2021).** Faking Versus Feeling Emotions: Does Personality-Job Fit Make a Difference. *Public Personnel Management*, 00910260211034213.



**Be sure to send us your Op-Eds, publications, ideas for the newsletter, and any awards as we desire to further share your accomplishments with our section members and beyond**

Email Sabith Khan at:  
[khanpgg@vt.edu](mailto:khanpgg@vt.edu)

# ASPA'S SECTION ON INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATION

## Special Issue of the Occasional Paper Series

SICA's first Special Issue of the Occasional Paper Series focuses exclusively upon papers accepted for SICA's 7th Annual Riggs Symposium in April 2020. We are pleased to highlight contributions of the SASPA's members in the SICA's special issue.



### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Aroon P. Manoharan

"I am pleased to introduce the special issue of the SICA Occasional Paper Series. The goal of the Paper Series is to provide a platform for highlighting diverse perspectives on various international and comparative issues that are becoming more relevant in an increasingly global environment"

### GLOBAL COMPARATIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE PRACTICE OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE

Aroon P. Manoharan & Tony Carrizales

"Public administrators and policymakers can no longer focus solely on local issues. They must develop a global understanding of public problems and develop holistic sustainable solutions"



### COMBATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZED DOWRY IN INDIA

Suparna Soni

"Despite the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of India records several thousand of dowry deaths each year, which indicates the lack of effectiveness and enforcement of the existing law that narrowly finds the legal solutions for a social problem without understanding the culturally imbedded and institutionalized practice"

To read the full issue: <http://www.sica-aspa.org/special-issue-january-2021/>

# SASPA'S SCHOLAR

## DR. ASIF M SHAHAN

**Dr. Asif M Shahan is currently working as an Associate Professor at Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka. He has studied public administration and under Fulbright Fellowship, completed his MPA from George Mason University. Dr. Shahan obtained his PhD from the same university in 2015. At the department, he teach courses related with political science, public administration and public policy at both the undergraduate and graduate level.**

### Journey to the Public Administration Field

When I was a graduate student, I was looking for an opportunity to get involved in research activities without having a clear understanding what 'doing research' means. Fortunately, at that time, one of the faculty members of my department came back after finishing her PhD and I got an opportunity to work with her. To be honest, I 'learned' research by 'doing research' and working with her on that project really changed my life. That was the time I got interested in research as I learned how social science can



be used to properly define a puzzle and to find answers to that puzzle.

Moreover, I have always considered Bangladesh as an interesting 'laboratory' for social science research. This is a country where the political parties rarely agree with each other, politics is confrontational in nature and the bureaucracy has been identified (in literature) as an entity that is unresponsive, aloof, and resistant to changes. However, despite having all these challenges, the country has managed to do reasonably well in the last fifty years especially in terms of reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. This 'paradox' is something that has kept me interested in doing research on Bangladesh and like other social scientists of Bangladesh, I am also trying to explore and explain this paradox.



## BANGLADESH'S EXPERIENCE

**What are the challenges to development in Bangladesh? In the past few years, Bangladesh has performed quite well. How can one explain this?**

If development is defined through the lens of economic growth and/ or poverty reduction, then yes, Bangladesh has done remarkably well. The country has achieved spectacular economic growth and This growth has been complemented by a decline in the poverty rate. The poverty headcount ratio (upper poverty line and per cent of the population) has decreased steadily from 48.9 per cent in 2000 and 31.5 per cent in 2010 to the current rate of 20.5 per cent. The lower poverty line headcount ratio also went down from 17.6 per cent in 2010 to 10.5 per cent. Bangladesh has also performed well in different social development indicators and in fact, it has made significant progress in ensuring food and nutrition security. And all of these have been done while dealing with natural disasters at regular intervals.

In my opinion, four factors are responsible for the country's success.

First of all, whereas the major political parties differ with each other in almost all areas, there, however, exists a consensus among them regarding the state's role in supporting the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups of the population. In the area of social development, policies have remained largely consistent and this has allowed the government to play an effective role in reaching out to people and support them.

Secondly, over the years, the successive governments designed and implemented different policies and programmatic interventions to create educational and employment opportunities for women. And this is paying off. Women are actively participating in the economic sector and they are playing the pivotal role in the Readymade Garments Sector. Moreover, economic empowerment is also allowing women to participate effectively in the decision making process at the household level. As they are now making key decisions about dietary choice, that is helping the country in achieving food and nutrition security.



Thirdly, Bangladesh has a vibrant NGO sector and these NGOs are playing a key role, especially at the rural level, in raising awareness of the people about their rights and ensuring their access to government services.

Finally, there is a tendency in Bangladesh to ignore the contribution of local level bureaucracy and in my opinion, that is wrong. I think the bureaucracy of the country is changing and a new generation of bureaucrats are now working at the grassroots who understand the value of NGOs and know how to work with the non-state actors in reaching out to people. I think these four factors are the key reasons behind the country's success in reducing poverty and making progress in different social development indicators.

However, there is always a concern about the sustainability of this growth and I think, for Bangladesh, the biggest challenge is coming from the political domain. The political actors, over the years, have failed to design effective democratic institutions and they have rarely shown any interest in taking initiatives to strengthen these institutions. Bangladesh can no longer be considered as an electoral democracy, the parliament has been dysfunctional while being controlled by one party, and all the institutions of accountability (including the

Anti Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, Information Commission, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General) are struggling in performing their roles. Consequently, Bangladesh is performing poorly in different governance indicators, its control on corruption is weak, and both vertical and horizontal accountability mechanisms have become ineffective. The dominant executive is functioning while remaining unaccountable and there are indications that economic resources are being diverted by the ruling party and its members to satisfy their clientele groups. Lack of focus on strengthening the democratic institutions, I think, is the biggest challenge for the country and without effective political institutions, it is highly likely that gains from the economic development will not be properly distributed.

### **How does Bangladesh fit into the narrative of development, in a South Asian context?**

I think Bangladesh's developmental experiences can be explained from two perspectives. At one end, it is a story of agility and determination, and it shows how a war-torn country, which is also one of the biggest victims of climate change, is now performing better than its South Asian neighbors in many of the economic and social development indicators. This is a

story that tells us how political commitment, policy consistency, women empowerment and GO-NGO collaboration may eventually help a country in achieving its goals.

On the other hand, it is also a story that is quite puzzling. Bangladesh is often considered a 'development paradox' because its impressive success in the socio-economic domain has been achieved within a governance structure, which has not performed satisfactorily. The World Bank's Good Governance Indicators (GGI) show that over the last decade and a half, its score in all the indicators has gone down. This particular trend, i.e., growth or development within a weak governance structure does not mean that this is an ideal model that can be followed. Instead, it raises question about the sustainability of Bangladesh's development journey.

### **What can other countries of South Asia and the global south learn from the Bangladesh experience?**

I will focus on two issues. First of all, Bangladesh has shown how empowering women can pay off and pay off a big time in ensuring socio-economic growth and this is something that other South Asian countries can learn from Bangladesh. Secondly, I think at the rural level, Bangladesh is showing how a GO-NGO approach can work in an effective manner to reach out to people and to support them. This governance approach

followed at the local level is something that other South Asian countries can learn from Bangladesh.

### **Lastly, how covid-19 is impacting the country?**

The impact is severe. We still do not have the official data yet, but different studies have already pointed out that we are likely to see a significant increase in poverty rate. Covid-19 also has a severe effect on the urban poor. As a significant number of them work in informal economy, the government-imposed lockdown has disrupted their income and livelihood opportunities and moreover, unlike the rural poor, they are not being covered through the social safety net programs. Even though efforts have been taken to support them, it is quite inadequate in nature. Studies have also shown that Covid-19 will also negatively affect Bangladesh's achievement in food and nutrition security.



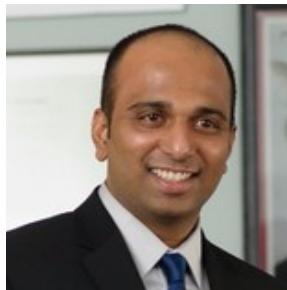


# SASPA LEADERSHIP

## SECTION EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP (FOUNDING MEMBERS)



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**VICE CHAIR**  
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University of  
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**SECRETARY**  
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Texas State University

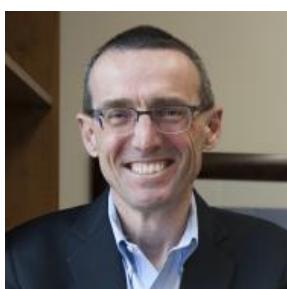


**TREASURER**  
Dr. Suparna Soni,  
SUNY Buffalo State  
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Dr. Meghna Sabharwal  
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Jamia Millia Islamia  
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George Washington  
University

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Important events, scholarship and calls for proposals that shouldn't be missed**



This three-day event includes two plenary sessions, 180+ panel and/or paper presentation sessions, a poster session and numerous opportunities for networking/idea sharing.  
For more information: <https://www.arnova.org/page/50th>

ARNOVA21 also offers many scholarships and opportunities for new scholars and students:

- Early Career Mentoring Program - Deadline: August 27  
<https://www.arnova.org/page/mentoringprogramapp>
- ARNOVA Best Poster Award: Submission open on July 8  
<https://www.arnova.org/page/PosterAward>
- For more information about ARNOVA scholarship and awards:  
<https://www.arnova.org/page/awardsscholarships>

The image shows the logo for the APPAM 43rd Annual Fall Research Conference. It includes the APPAM logo, the text "43rd Annual Fall Research Conference November 11-13, 2021 Austin, Texas", and a call to action "The Power of Inclusion: Incorporating Diverse Voices in Public Policy Analysis and Management". To the right is a graphic of hands fitting puzzle pieces together.

The 2021 APPAM Fall Research Conference will be a multi-disciplinary research conference attracting the highest quality research on a wide variety of important current and emerging policy and management issues. The conference is comprised of super sessions, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, and special events and is designed to encourage substantive interaction among participants. #2021APPAM is planned to occur as an in-person event with very limited opportunities for virtual presentation.

For more information and registration: <https://www.appam.org/conference-events/fall-research-conference/the-power-of-inclusion/>

**Guest edited by: Erna Ruijer, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University School of Governance, Suzanne J. Piotrowski, Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University Newark.**

## **Call for Papers - Special Issue: Inclusion and E-Government**

This special issue of Information Polity is specifically interested in the impact and implications of e-government on inclusion. It features a selection of manuscripts from an open call for papers, as well as the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) Study Group on e-Government of the 2021 Annual Conference of the European Group for Public Administration in Brussels, Belgium. The papers selected for this special issue contribute to knowledge in the areas of social equity, digital inclusion, participation, transparency, public policy, governance, and public administration.

Topics covered by the special issue may include, but are not limited to:

- State-of-the-art academic thinking about e-government and inclusion/exclusion of individuals and different groups in society;
- Case studies of the impact of e-government on inclusion/exclusion of individuals and different groups in society;
- Theoretical and practical explorations of the different types of inclusion and how they relate to e-government;
- Critical analysis of the relations between e-government and inclusion/exclusion;
- Historical accounts of e-government measures to tackle inclusion;
- Mechanisms and measures for assessing e-government impacts on inclusion/exclusion;
- Theoretical and empirical analyses of approaches to e-government that enhance inclusion; and
- The extent to which e-government produces forms of exclusion and discrimination.

Abstracts should initially be submitted by September 17 2021

More information: <https://informationpolity.com/news-blog/call-papers-special-issue-inclusion-and-e-government>

**THE 51ST ANNUAL  
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE  
FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**SEPT. 23 - 24, 2021**



This year's conference theme is "Seeking equilibrium: changing public service, changing society." The past few years have taught us that for public administrators and the communities we serve, resilience is a necessity – not a choice. Public and nonprofit professionals are now challenged to lead the way as we move through a period of immense difficulty, loss, and accelerated change. In the Southeast and throughout the United States, high expectations for public service are a constant, while the political context remains highly polarized.

For more information: <https://secopa.org/2021-virtual/>



International Organization for Remittances & Migration

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR REMITTANCES AND MIGRATION

# 2021 VIRTUAL SUMMER WORKSHOP

IOREM is holding its first summer workshop that will bring together leaders and experts in the field of migration and remittances for fun filled and knowledge driven discussion and activities.

**AUGUST 25TH, 2021  
11:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

Please reserve your spot ASAP. There is no cost to register. You can register by emailing [mbartulahenkle@callutheran.edu](mailto:mbartulahenkle@callutheran.edu)

IN COLLABORATION WITH





# AGENDA

## THIS WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE...

- RENOWNED KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- SESSIONS ON DATA AND RESEARCH REGARDING REMITTANCES
- PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR RESEARCH
- PANEL PRESENTATION ON THE RELEVANCE OF REMITTANCE EXPERTISE IN ACADEMIA AND PROFESSIONAL CAREERS
- NETWORKING LUNCHEON

## ABOUT IOREM

*IOREM is a network of scholars in the area of remittances and migration that focuses on research, knowledge sharing, public and private partnerships, publications, organization of events, graduate student training, awards and communication.*

*At the core of the organization is communication between all interested parties in the fields of migrant and worker remittances and the links to diasporas, international migration, seasonal migration, refugees, organized labor agreements, social & economic integration, policies and regulation, as well as issues that impact senders and recipients.*

*Join us as we build this organization.*

# NASPAA SOUTH ASIA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 12-14 NOVEMBER 2021

## CALL FOR PROPOSAL



The 2021 Virtual NASPAA South Asia Conference in November 2021, to be organized by NASPAA; the South Asian Institute of North South University, Bangladesh; and the JSW School of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India, aims to bring together academics, practitioners from civil society, and representatives from the private sector from South Asia to virtually share lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic and to discuss ways to prepare public leaders for a post-pandemic world that could be 'volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA)

The conference will focus on the key questions:

- What should be the role of public policy-making in an uncertain world?
- How can public policy and public administration training in South Asia contribute toward dealing with a post-pandemic world?
- Can collaborative governance help in a post-pandemic uncertain future?

The conference invites proposals for fully-formed panels and individual papers. The suggested themes for the conference are:

- Managing Pandemic in South Asia-Covid and Beyond: Lessons for the Future
- Adaptive Policy-Making in an Uncertain World
- Learning from the Pandemic for Realigning Public Policy and Public Administration Education in South Asia
- Leveraging Technology for Governance in a Post-Pandemic World
- Information/Data Literacy for Informed Policy Decisions
- Preparing Public Leaders for Future Epidemics and Natural Disasters
- Collaborative Governance for Crisis Management and Emergency Preparedness
- Crises Management and Communication Strategies
- Reforming and reimagining Governance institutions in the post pandemic World
- Open track relevant to the overall theme of the conference

**Important Dates and Contact Details:**

- Deadline for individual paper abstract: August 22, 2021
- Deadline for panel proposal: August 22, 2021
- Decision on paper and panel submission: September 19, 2021
- Deadline for submission of draft paper: November 5, 2021
- Email for submission of abstract, panel proposal, draft paper and general enquiries: [naspaa.conf21@northsouth.edu](mailto:naspaa.conf21@northsouth.edu)



# EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON PHILANTHROPY

10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,  
DECEMBER 2-3, 2021

**What:**

10th International Research Conference of the European Research Network On Philanthropy  
Building Bridges in the aftermath of covid-19:  
Where will the Philanthropy of Today lead us Tomorrow?

**When:**

2-3 December, 2021

**Where:**

University College Dublin, Ireland

**Why**

Now is the time to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the philanthropic space and we should address the question on how to best organize this. To what extent are the concepts of charitable giving and philanthropic giving intertwined or diverging roads? How will we navigate the tensions that exist between government funding and private philanthropic giving? Join us as we consider how philanthropy (including venture philanthropy, social impact investment and social innovation) shape the landscape of giving in the twenty-first century in the aftermath of covid-19.

**For who:**

- Researchers in all academic disciplines
- Professionals from and working with the philanthropy sector – including nonprofit executives and staff, foundation staff, consultants, and policymakers.
- Non-presenters are welcome

**Call for proposal:** <https://ernop.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CFP-dublin-2021-1.pdf>

## ABOUT SOUTH ASIA

South Asia is a term used to represent the southern region of the Asian continent, comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The population of South Asia is about 1.891 billion or about one fourth of the world's population, making it both the most populous and the most densely populated geographical region in the world. Overall, it accounts for about 40% of Asia's population, over 24% of the world's population, and is home to diverse societies.

# FEATURED STUDENT MERIL ANTONY

In this volume, SAPSA is thrilled to introduce one of our outstanding student members, Meril Antony - a doctoral candidate at the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), Rutgers University-Newark. Meril Antony has been recently recognized as one of the 2021 ASPA Founders' Fellows and she also received several prestigious awards. SASPA is proud of Meril's achievements and grateful to her contribution to the section.

## About Meril Antony

I am a fourth-year doctoral candidate at the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA), Rutgers University-Newark. I also have a MPA from SPAA, Rutgers University-Newark. Born in India, I completed my undergraduate degree in Economics from University of Delhi. I have been working in the education policy space, both in India and in U.S., for the last few years. My idea of conducting research is to be at the nexus of civil society and academia that allows for an understanding of how strengthening partnerships for enhancing social impact. Before starting my PhD, I worked as an



Education Pioneer Fellow, working to enhance New York-based non-profit's experiential civic education project across Latin America and Africa, and researching to bridge the gap between policy and advocacy within the civic education realm.

## Areas of research

My research interests are centered around urban policy, social equity, public management leadership, and performance management theories. Using the co-production theory, this dissertation seeks to provide an empirical validation and theoretical advancement of co-production mechanisms by considering schools



as public service organizations. Using both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the dissertation will identify agent-based and organizational barriers such as the presence of social/cultural capital and school efforts to curtail or enhance parents' own efforts at home and school toward their child's education.

Furthermore, the resulting analyses will also have wide-ranging policy implications by developing equitable school policies and practices to bridge the gap between parents and students of different socio-economic and racial backgrounds.

#### **Journey to ASPA and SASPA**

I joined ASPA in 2017, and since then there has been no looking back. ASPA and the annual conference is an amazing platform to put forward your research ideas but also meet your peers, scholars from the discipline, build connections and be exposed to the inter-related work to your research interests. As a 2021 Founder's Fellow, I got a wonderful

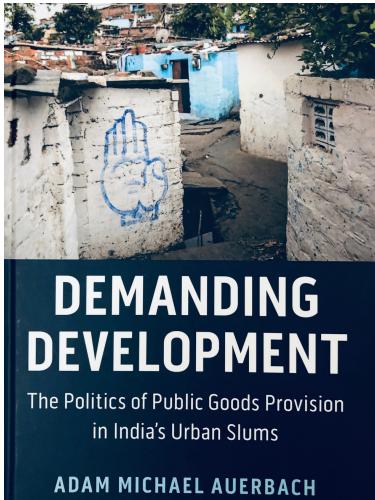
opportunity to meet other PhD students and scholars who are doing amazing work in our field. I am equally excited to be a member of SASPA. As a South Asian and international scholar, being part of SASPA provides me with an incredible opportunity to meet and network with scholars from around the world who are working on research pertaining to South Asian issues and understand the issues from a comparative lens.

#### **Advice to early students and scholars in the public administration field**

As a student, or early scholars, being part of professional associations such as ASPA is very beneficial. It is an incredible way to not only be exposed to the early learning of the academic journey, but to meet your future colleagues, or experts in your area of interest. Similarly, joining ASPA sections such as SASPA can help nurture your research agenda, especially if you are interested in comparative research. Moreover, sections like SASPA will provide opportunities to put forth your research, get meaningful feedback from other members, and potential collaborations.

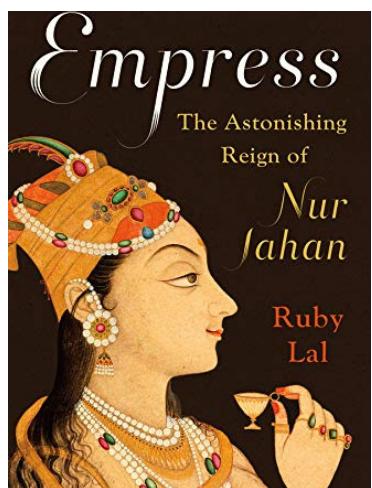
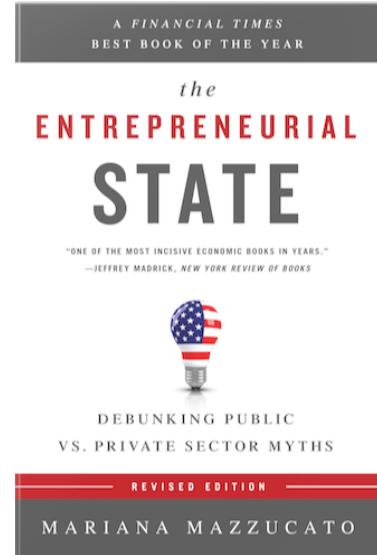


# BOOKS WE ARE READING



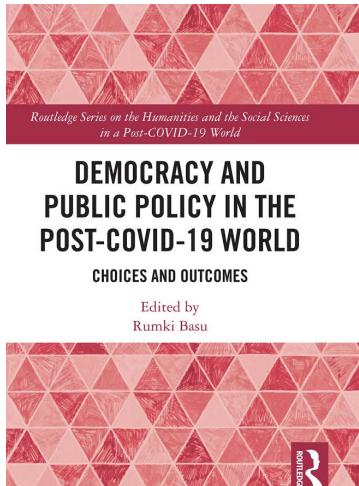
*"Demanding Development"* won the 2021 Dennis Judd Best Book Award from the Urban & Local Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA). India's urban slums exhibit dramatic variation in their access to local public goods and services - paved roads, piped water, trash removal, sewers, and streetlights. Why are some vulnerable communities able to demand and secure development from the state while others fail? Drawing on more than two years of fieldwork in the north Indian cities of Bhopal and Jaipur, *Demanding Development* accounts for the uneven success of India's slum residents in securing local public goods and services.

A book written by Mariana Mazzucato which argues that the United States' economic success is a result of public and state funded investments in innovation and technology, rather than a result of the small state, free market doctrine that often receives credit for the country's strong economy. Mazzucato argues that understanding the difference between the "myth" and the reality of this success is particularly important saying: "If the rest of the world wants to emulate the US model, they should do as the United States actually did, not as they say they did". The book was listed among the Financial Times best books of the year, and was reviewed in several publications including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal.



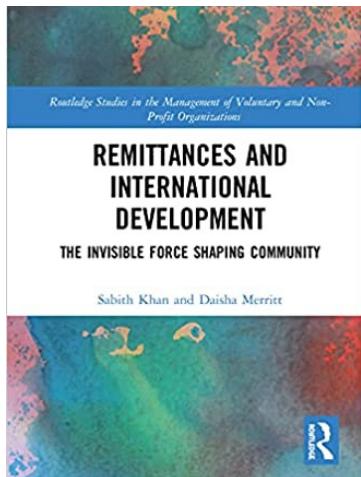
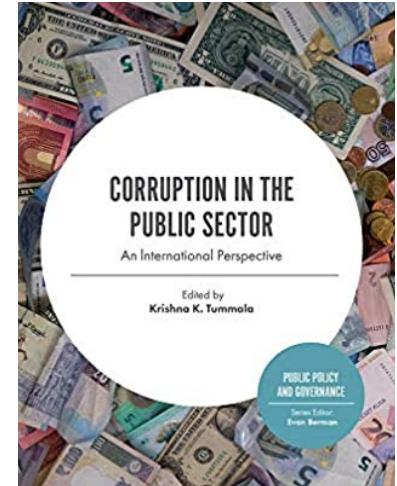
Finalist for the 2018 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History "A luminous biography." —Rafia Zakaria, *Guardian* Four centuries ago, a Muslim woman ruled an empire. Nur Jahan, daughter of a Persian noble and widow of a subversive official, became the twentieth and most cherished wife of the Emperor Jahangir. Nur ruled the vast Mughal Empire alongside her husband, leading troops into battle, signing imperial orders, and astutely handling matters of the state.

# BOOKS WE ARE READING



*After the COVID-19 disaster, 'old' frailties and inadequacies in agriculture and industrial productive capacities, in public health and transport systems have evinced sharply in the open, reopening the debates over public policy reforms as never before. An important and timely contribution, this book will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of public administration, public policy, political theory, globalization and global democracy.*

*This edited collection examines corruption in the public sector, assessing case studies from across the globe in order to provide an international perspective on this worldwide issue. Case studies include an examination of how corruption has been minimized in Singapore and Hong Kong; an assessment of corruption in India under Modi, who was elected on a promise to reduce corruption; a study of corruption in Bangladesh, and an evaluation of attempts to curb corruption in South Africa. This collection also includes a comparative study of corruption in Brazil and Chile, and a global perspective on the development of ethical privacy policies in e-government.*



*This is a first of its kind book which examines the remittances in the two largest corridors in the World: India-Saudi Arabia and Mexico-U.S.A. This book aims to treat remittances as an act of social norm involving individuals, nation-states, and diaspora communities. It treats remittances both as an act of individual obligation as well as a social fact that needs to be understood from the perspective of the actors, i.e., the givers and recipients. Using theories of motives of giving, policy analysis, international development, and international relations, the authors offer a compelling narrative of how and why remittances occur and the impacts on both the giver and recipient.*

# BECOME SASPA'S MEMBER

## SASPA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Benefits of membership to SASPA include :

- Access to members, who are spread throughout the USA, Canada, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and beyond.
- Access to events and online forums organized by SASPA
- Summer fellowship for Doctoral and Masters students
- Scholarships for students and young professionals
- Connections and access to sources of data from administrative, nonprofit and other agencies
- Professional development support from mentors
- Connecting practitioners with academics

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## ASPA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As an ASPA member, you will get access to the following:

- **Networking:** The most important benefit we can offer you is the ability to connect with your peers, both in your geographic area as well as within your part of the discipline. Local Chapters, topic-based Sections and our national Annual Conference offer you in-person and digital ways to connect with other public administrators, on your own time and in your own way.
- **PAR:** Public Administration Review is the most prominent public administration journal in the field. Membership with ASPA gives you automatic access to the journal as well as its online archives.
- **Professional Development:** ASPA offers year-round e-learning so you can stay informed about a wide range of subjects. We also provide an Annual Conference that gives you access to pre-eminent scholarship within the discipline. Choose one, choose both - either way you'll receive the education you need to stay up-to-date.
- **PA TIMES:** This hard-copy and online publication provides the public administration community with weekly and quarterly news, articles and columns on a variety of issues. Click here for in-depth information about this benefit.

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## BECOME A MEMBER

To join SASPA, you will have to become a member of ASPA and also join the SASPA section, when you sign up.

Information on how to sign up can be found here :

<https://www.aspanet.org/ASPA/Membership/ASPA/Membership/Membership.aspx?hkey=2db0086f-9a0b-49fc-b83f-4bc1b0dbb965>

**Contact:** Sabith Khan | Email: khanpgg@vt.edu.



Are you a member of SASPA ASPA yet? Or if you are, have you renewed your membership? Now is a good time to check on this. If you're interested in becoming a member, DM us for more info!

Email Sabith Khan at: [khanpgg@vt.edu](mailto:khanpgg@vt.edu).



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