

PERIODICAL

MAY-JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

IDEAS Periodical is the monthly newsletter series that bring you updates on the repertoire of research, news & activities undertaken by each IDEAS constellation and lists all the important 'Save the Date' announcements. Here, we share details of our published scholarly work while featuring In the News & In the Spotlight sections for exhibiting the best of what IDEAS Fellows have to offer.

Here you will also find our team's contributions in knowledge generation endeavours such as op-eds, media engagements, conferences, and also learn more about their upcoming projects! To participate in our online events and discussions with the leading minds of the field, please scan the QR codes or copy the links into a browser. Feel free to get in touch with us at ideas@jgu.edu.in for more information on our current and future work, and to engage with IDEAS.

Events Guide

June 2024



3rd June 2024 (Saturday) 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sāmagāna: Working Paper Series

Fighting over Women: Disputation and Resolution in Colonial Borderlands of Punjab and Baluchistan

This paper examines little-known disputes involving the abduction of women in the Punjab and Baluch borderlands. By focusing on these local conflicts, the work sheds light on the functioning of various practices of jurisprudence - Shariat, customs, and colonial law - that were competing with each other. This paper contributes more largely to the discussions on the questions of state-making and the nature of imperialism in these frontier regions.

Speaker:

Dr. Gagan Kumar

Associate Professor, JGLS Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS

Discussant:

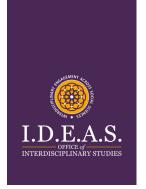
Dr. Vanessa Chishti

Associate Professor, JGLS Assistant Director, IIHED

JOIN ONLINE:

https://zoom.us/j/97386963823? pwd=NE4vOUtkVOITRkJPSTVxeFlpeG96ZzO9

Events Guide *June* 2024



17th June, 2024 (Monday)

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Sāmagāna: Working Paper Series Would you rather be stuck with a man or a bear?

This paper explores the gender discourse on social media surrounding the TikTok trend "Would You Rather Be Stuck with a Man or a Bear?". Through a comprehensive analysis of user-generated content, comments, and reactions, this study aims to understand the underlying themes and societal attitudes about gender roles, stereotypes, and perceptions of safety and danger. By examining the narratives and discussions that emerge, this paper sheds light on how social media platforms serve as arenas for gender discourse and the negotiation of cultural norms.

Speaker:

Poulomi Bhadra

Assistant Professor, JIBS Assistant Director & Research Fellow, IDEAS

Discussant: Dr. Smriti Singh

Assistant Professor, IIIT- Delhi Member Associate, IDEAS

JOIN ONLINE:

https://zoom.us/j/92334576031

or read them here:

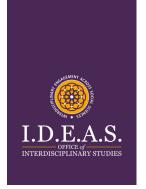
Hard Copies available under the label IDEAS WORKING PAPERS at JGU Reference Library, T2 Ground floor

or

IDEAS Working Papers Preprints https://preserve.jgu.edu.in/in dex.php/preserve/preprints/s ection/ideaswp



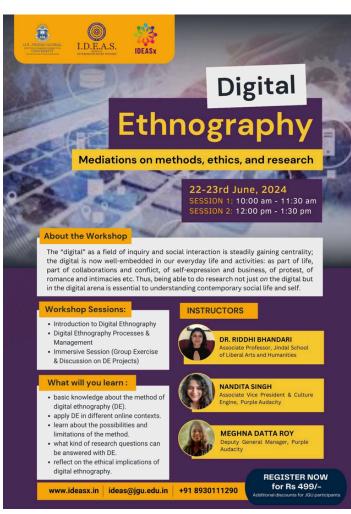
Events Guide June 2024



22nd & 23rd June, 2024 (Sat-Sun) 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

IDEASx Workshop on Digital Ethnography

The "digital" as a field of inquiry and social interaction is steadily gaining centrality; as a research site, the digital- social media, online communities, archived data- came into focus with the pandemic. In this scenario, the digital emerged as the second best, make-do option. But this workshop argues that this is an unproductive approach to the digital as a field of inquiry. As Sarah Pink (2018) states, the digital is now wellembedded in our everyday life and activities: as part of life, part of collaborations and conflict, of self-expression and business, of protest, of romance and intimacies etc. Thus, being able to do research not just on the digital but in the digital arena is essential to understanding contemporary social life and self.



Workshop Topics:

- Introduction to Digital Ethnography
- Digital Ethnography Processes & Management
- Immersive Session (Group Exercise & Discussion on DE Projects)

Instructors:

Dr. Riddhi Bhandari, Associate Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities

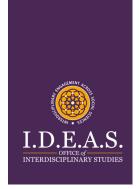
Ms. Nandita Singh, Associate Vice President and Culture Engine, Purple Audacity

Ms. Meghna Datta Roy, Deputy General Manager, Purple Audacity

Registration fee: Rs 499/- only Note: Special discount for JGU participants

Registration closes on:

20th June 2024



Events Guide *June 2024*

29th June, 2024 (Saturday)

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

IDEASx Workshop on Interpreting and Using Visualisations in the Age of Misinformation

Learn how to interpret and effectively use visualizations in today's era of widespread misinformation. This workshop provides essential skills to navigate the visual data landscape with critical thinking and accuracy. Here, you will understand the impact of misinformation on visualizations, develop critical thinking skills for interpreting data visuals and learn how to utilize visualizations responsibly in decision-making processes.

Workshop Topics:

- Introduction to Visualizations
- Introduction to How Charts Lie
- Group Exercise &
 Discussion (Other
 visualisation tools used in
 popular media and
 public communication,
 how can you to interpret
 them? Equivalence
 between graphs and
 tables, when to use/avoid
 what.)

Instructor:

Dr. Tamoghna Halder

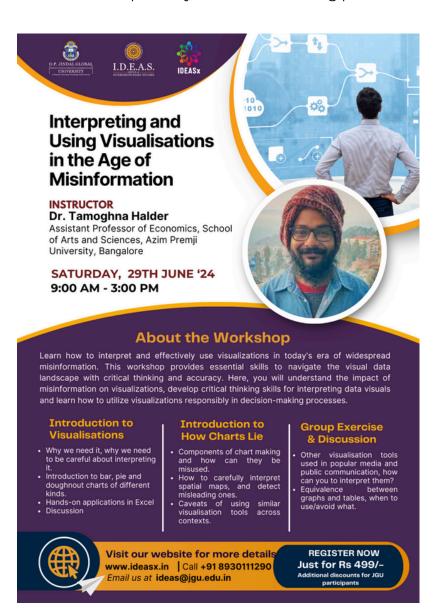
Assistant Professor, Azim premji University, Bangalore

Registration closes on:

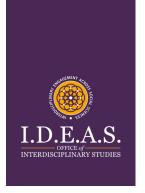
25th June 2024

Registration fee: Rs 499/-

Note: Special discount for JGU participants



Events Archive *May 2024*



Urban Development: Injustices & Resistances in our Cities

4th May 2024

The panel was able to engage critically with urban development as a pathway of injustice and resistance. In the first panel of the symposium, Anuj Behal, Journalist, Researcher and Urban Planner and Dr. Amit Patel, Associate Professor of Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston discussed how evictions worsen the adverse conditions that people live in. The two speakers were able help us understand evictions through the heart-wrenching stories of the evicted and through macro level analysis of policies related to evictions across countries.

In our second panel, Tikender Singh Panwar, Former Deputy Mayor of Shimla City, Rikta Krishnaswamy, Delhi-NCR Coordinator of the All India Gig Workers Union, and Dr. Khalid Wasim Hassan, Assistant Professor, Central University of Kashmir, discussed urban development through a critical lens. Mr. Pawar explained the various elements of understanding how urban planning and city design affects working people particularly in the context of climate change. Dr. Hassan's talk enhanced the conversation with a specific example of the developmental project of Smart City in Srinagar, Kashmir. Ms. Krishnaswamy helped listeners understand the conditions of gig workers and how they organise and challenge those conditions. These discussions were central to the research priorities under JUST and will lead to further engagement and research.

Watch the archived recording of the event here:

Panel 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2q3oDH1q3g&ab_channel=IDEASatJGU Panel 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4Tamv4qz6k&ab_channel=IDEASatJGU

Samagana Working Paper Series - 1

5th May 2024

Paper Title: Anganwadi as a Site for Resistance

Speaker: Dr. Preethi Krishnan Discussant: Dr. Chetan Sinha

Drawing on observational and interview data from a study about the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), a welfare program for children in Tamil Nadu, India, this paper addresses the question: How have Anganwadi workers challenged unequal structures of caste and gender in their daily work as unionised caregivers? The paper argues that the Anganwadi is a social reproduction site where gendered and casteist norms are contested, sometimes with the state, the community, or even among the workers themselves. Three scenarios where workers contest exploitation of their labour, gender, and caste are discussed. First, as a labour movement, Anganwadi workers highlight how the state expands their job responsibilities without adequate compensation. Second, Dalit women, who were also elected as union leaders, used their influence to challenge casteism among workers. Finally, Anganwadi workers support each other to resist norms around widowhood in rural Tamil Nadu. Professor Chetan Sinha noted the potential engagements possible between social movement research and social psychology particularly in the context of emotions and social action.



Understanding Digital Worlds

18th May 2024

Panel 1: Feminism in the Digital Age

The panel comprised of experts from post-colonial and neoliberal studies, gender and culture studies and social psychology. Each brought a very nuanced perspective highlighting the two aspects of digital feminism - an empowering conduit and democratic resource for minorities and victims as well as one susceptible to similar social hierarchies and power dynamics, and susceptible to slacktivism. The digital as a platform for forming network and intimacies beyond one's physical capacities was mutually acknowledged as a transformative knowledge and norm-forming experience.

Panel 2: Youth & Digital Cultures on Social media

Each speaker on this panel captured a very nuanced slice of life in India through the digital ethnographic lens. While Advani explored the construction of stoic masculinities in Pune youths, Chandola spoke of the risks and victimization via a digital presence. Chitra brought an interesting lens to look at online masculinities, which also looking at internalised self identifying with manospheric values. While Sreela Sarkar talked about her ethnographic study in Seelampur technological training centre, and how these sites and technology had become locations of empowerment and redefined social identities. Overall, the panel explored the various socio-cultural relationships between the digital and identity forms in Indian youth.

Watch the archived recording of the event here:

Panel 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE0pXDJmpVk&t=5311s&ab_channel=IDEASatJGU **Panel 2**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lujlw4yiqo8&t=3632s&ab_channel=IDEASatJGU

World in Transition: What are the Major Drivers of Geopolitics in 2024?

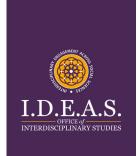
26th May 2024

The inaugural event of the Geopolitics & Strategies constellation addresses multifaceted aspects of global politics, including conflict studies, international relations, security studies, and trade. Professor Madhu Bhalla covered a spectrum of global conflicts, from the intricacies of the Israel-Palestine and Russia-Ukraine wars to the nuances of the US-China rivalry. She highlighted the transformative role of AI and the imperative of energy and economic security, adding depth to the understanding of these critical issues. Ambassador Nalin Surie provided an illuminating discourse on the challenges of radicalization. His insights into China's emerging global role, and Europe's strategies of decoupling and de-risking vis-à-vis China were immensely valuable. Ambassador Ashok Kantha presented on India's geopolitical challenges and issues of economic security amidst ongoing conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars, and the intricate nature of proxy wars. His analysis of the upcoming US elections, the potential outcomes of a Biden reelection versus a 'Trump 2.0,' and their implications for global predictability and stability, alongside his insights into the complexities of the global supply chain and emerging technology provided invaluable perspectives on today's geopolitical landscape. This event provided valuable insights into the evolving geopolitical landscape and its implications for regional and global affairs.

Watch the archived recording of the event here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL2qhOzpp2U&ab_channel=IDEASatJGU

Introducing **Solidarities**



SOLIDARITIES

Solidarities is a space for collaborative partnerships between community organisations and the university where we learn from each other, create peer learning spaces, and develop a consciousness rooted in justice, care, and curiosity in our communities.

Our Vision

As a university, we take pride in developing an intellectual space through research that contributes to a better understanding of the world. Through SOLIDARITIES, we hope to expand the boundaries of knowledge production beyond our university walls to include various communities, activists, and organisers. In the process, we can also challenge the insulated nature of knowledge production in academia to become a more inclusive space.

Who do we work with?

We work with various, community organizations that work in diverse areas. such as -

- Migrant workers' well-being
- youth empowerment & mental well-being
- Workers' rights & wage awareness campaigns
- Reproductive rights and health awareness
- Legal activism





Mehnatkash Association

How can you assist?

We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in helping the grassroots work that these organizations are doing.



Organization Building ActivitiesDeveloping digital presence and social media campaigns that stimulate funding and outreach. Streamlining digital presence.



Research & Documentation
Assistance with data analysis.
Documenting of their work through reports, policy briefs, and video stories to impact advocacy efforts.



Capacity Building

Technical skill development, leadership development, and research skills of organizational team.



Knowledge Dissemination

Facilitating access to thematic lectures and courses, workshops on research & writing skills, proposal & grant writing assistance, publication assistance.

To register your interest in volunteering as a resource person, sign up here:

https://forms.gle/Rs9NuRkgjgpzzwyP7

To know more, connect with our Team



Dr. Preethi Krishnan

Assistant Director (Institutional Partnerships - Civil Society), Co-Lead (JUST) & Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS; Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School EMAIL: preethi.krishnan@jgu.edu.in

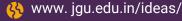


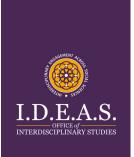
Dr. Swapnil Dhanraj

Assistant Director (Institutional Partnerships - Civil Society) & Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School EMAIL: sdhanraj@jqu.edu.in



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Grassroots Action Program (GAP)

GRASSROOTS ACTION PROGRA

GAP is aimed at empowering the marginalised grassroots communities through long-term and continuous engagement and collaborative action-oriented research. The main idea is to learn from the community and anchor various scalable interventions in a direction that is most impactful for community welfare. We aim to achieve this by collecting empirical data from within the community to design, implement, and evaluate targeted interventions that address issues in education, health, employment, and woman empowerment.





WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

- Community based grassroot organizations.
- · Early-stage doctoral students interested in field work in these areas.
- · Independent scholars and practitioners.
- National & international research institutes & think tanks.
- · Universities with outreach & research initiatives.
- · Government departments and offices responsible for implementation of strategies.
- International organizations working in policy making and implementation.

HOW TO COLLABORATE WITH US?

- Interested scholars, individuals and institutions can share a prospective plan of action and strategies.
- · Doctoral candidates can reach out to us with a short note describing their research interests to join our team as Research Assistants.



TO KNOW MORE, CONNECT WITH:

Dr. Divva Gupta

Assistant Director (Research) & Research Fellow, IDEAS; Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Law School EMAIL: divyagupta@jgu.edu.in



HOW DO WE HELP THE COMMUNITY?

We aim to leverage the access and deep community connections that civil society organisations have, which have been working in different geographical areas, focusing on specific issues.



NEEDS MAPPING

Periodic surveys, focussed group discussions and detailed interviews, as quantitative and qualitative analyses to map and address the larger policy issues through high quality, lowcost and replicable interventions.



INTERVENTION STRATEGY

Understanding of best practices, the nature of interventions will be tailored to address the specific issues. This may vary from more targeted solutions to broader initiatives like information and awareness campaigns.



STAKEHOLDER ADVOCACY

Establish connections with the local government bodies and the relevant government departments for better implementation of the action plan, and for long-term advocacy of the community's

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Book Reviews

Book Review: Colonising Kashmir: State Building under Indian Occupation

Ambreen Agha

In this book, Hafsa Kanjwal delves into the history of Kashmir, tracing the role of two pivotal political !gures - Sheikh Abdullah (1947-1953) and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad (1953-1963) and their relationship with the Indian project of state-building in Kashmir. The author characterizes this as the 'politics of life', where the Indian government and client regimes in Kashmir have normalized occupation with the propagation of 'development, empowerment and progress' along with bureaucratic integration and the forging of affective intimate relationships with the people of the state.

Read more

Review Essay: Beyond Binaries: Discourse on Hindu Muslim Friendship in South Asia

Ambreen Agha

For German Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt, friendship is allied to politics; and is necessary for politics. She believed that discourse provided essence to friendship, and it was through discourse that the world was rendered humane (Nixon 2015). Straddling the power dynamics, friendship can be both a promise or a peril, navigating proximities and boundaries, intimacies and distances, possibilities, and limits in (friendly) encounters between individuals, states, or communities. In this book, Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship After Empire, SherAli Tareen traces the history of friendship between Hindus and Muslims by exploring and engaging with the competing visions of this friendship that often led to intra-Muslim scholarly debates on the limits and boundaries of Muslim/non-Muslim relations. In exploring the theological, philosophical, and political history of Hindu-Muslim friendship, Tareen's book reveals how power operates in intercommunity relationships in (early) modern society.

Read more

Forthcoming Publication

Perspectives on Economics and Management

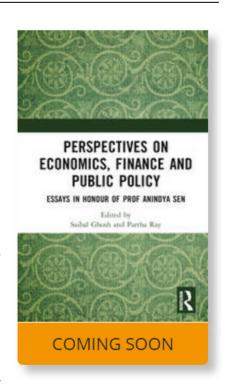
Essays in Honour of Anindya Sen

Edited by Saibal Ghosh, Partha Ray

Chapter 9: Fiscal Policy in India: Trends, Challenges, and Future Directions

Amarendu Nandy, Abhisek Sur

This chapter discusses the contours of fiscal policy, focusing particularly on the developments in the post-liberalization period. Describing the philosophy of expenditure and revenue management and various policy reforms, the analysis underscores the development of fiscal discipline frameworks and the move towards fiscal consolidation. In doing so, the authors emphasize and analyze the issues of persistent fiscal deficit, the role of the political economy and, relatedly, fiscal populism. Towards the end, the study traces the role of fiscal policy during the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in the post-pandemic recovery of the Indian economy. The essay chapter concludes by outlining key imperatives for fiscal policy in India.





Work in Progress

Ongoing projects and working papers

Understanding Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES 2022-23)



Vikash Vaibhav

Since the release of the Gol consumption expenditure survey, it has attracted attention from policymakers, public intellectuals, and economists. There have been a few methodological changes, both sampling and non-sapling ones, which are expected to change its comparability with earlier such surveys, notable of 2011-12. We are working towards gaining a deeper understanding of this survey results, compared with earlier (2011-12 and 2004-05), comparability of surveys, rural-urban changes in comparison, and understanding how household consumption estimate compare with national account estimates. The project will also envision new questions that could be asked, with the arrival of unit-level data.

China-Taiwan Relationships under CPP and DPP



Gunjan Singh

This project will study the China-Taiwan relations, especially under the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) since 2016. In particular, this will study how this has changed the dynamics of the cross-strait relations and how this has affected the peace in the region. The paper will discuss the various factors which have led to the increasing assertion within Taiwan.

Human Development Index (HDI) for Cities



Preethi Krishnan



Vidya Subramanian



Namesh Killemsetty



Chetan Sinha

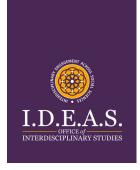
This is a long-term project that proposes a "People's HDI" focusing on resident experiences in urban spaces. Going beyond income and health, it will measure factors like access to technology, accessibility, safety, and community engagement. This resident-centric approach aims to identify thriving urban spaces and inform policies that prioritise well-being for all, especially the marginalised.

Sidestepping Aarogya Setu: Exploring Non-Adoption in India's Covid-19 Tech Landscape



Vidya Subramanian

This project intends to investigate how digital interventions for health play out in an urban space, by studying the nature of non-adoption of Aarogya Setu. As the Covid-19 pandemic raged on in India, and the use of the app became mandatory in several settings (air travel, entry into some offices, etc), several people did not use the app for reasons of privacy and quality of the app, several others did not use or have cellphones and therefore could not use the app, and yet others simply did not need to use it. The use of this app in a tightly controlled situation such as the Covid-19 lockdown can provide useful insights into the public attitudes in India to the politics of technologies.



Welcome to the Team

Additions to the IDEAS Executive Team



Dr. Preethi Krishnan
Assistant Director (Institutional
Partnerships - Civil Society), CoLead (JUST) & Senior Research
Fellow, IDEAS

Dr. Preethi Krishnan is an Associate Professor at Jindal Global Law School. Her research interests include social inequality (particularly intersections of gender, caste, and class), state, social movements, development, and globalization. Dr. Krishnan was co-leading the Constellation on Justice, Urban Systems and Technology (JUST). In her new role, she will be working to identify, explore, develop, and take forward all our conversations and partnership deliberations with civil society partners, social organizations, and research networks. She will also be leading SOLIDARITIES - a newly established, collaborative peer-learning & capacity-building space for organizations, academics, policy makers, and industry professionals.

Dr. Divya is an Assistant Professor & Associate Dean at Jindal Global Law School. Her research interests lie in the areas of development economics, economics of gender, public economics and economics of education. In her new role at IDEAS, Dr. Gupta is joining as a Research Fellow to Constellation 'Understanding Indian Economy'. She will also be working as Assistant Director (Research) in coordinating the execution and collaboration in research and planning within IDEAS, as well as leading the newly launched Grassroots Action Program (GAP), that will anchor various scalable interventions for marginalised grassroots communities through long-term and continuous engagement and collaborative action-oriented research.



Dr. Divya GuptaAssistant Director (Research) &
Research Fellow, IDEAS

New MEMBER ASSOCIATES at IDEAS

Politics, History and Society

Dr. Arun Kumar, Department of History, University of Nottingham

Najam Us Saqib, Department of Politics & Governance, Central University of Kashmir Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Department of Politics & Governance, Central University of Kashmir Ifrah Anjum, Research Analysis, CIDS

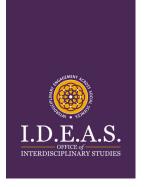
Shyam Kumar, Dr. K.R. Centre for Dalit & Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia

Transitional Spaces, Culture and Media Studies

Dr. Nandini Dhar, Associate Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities

Geopolitics & Strategies
Hamreen Khan

International Collaborations





Prof. Deepanshu Mohan, Dean IDEAS, Professor of Economics at Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities and Director of Centre for New Economic Studies recently embarked on a new role as Visiting Professor at the Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Centre at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). During his term at LSE, he will work towards dissemination of research previously undertaken in different projects across Cambodia-India and develop research collaborations between IDEAS, JGU and LSE think tanks and centres. We are looking forward to collaborating with other UK partners on projects and knowledge exchange that align with IDEAS research vision.



Indo-Pacific Research Centre

The Indo-Pacific Research Centre has been launched at Murdoch University in 2023 to raise awareness of the critical issues facing the region and foster collaborations to address them. The Centre consolidates the research strengths within Murdoch's Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines as well more broadly across the University to address these significant challenges. It builds upon the formative Asia Research Centre's international reputation for high impact research and training and draws in research expertise from the Africa Research Group and the Centre for Responsible Citizenship and Sustainability.

The IPRC plays an important role to the development of academic diplomacy in the region specifically contributing to region-building through the creating of shared-knowledge communities and networks between governments, the private sector and academia throughout the Indo-Pacific, through the production of intellectual and policy-making outcomes. The expertise harnessed within the IPRC will also contribute intellectually to reconsidering what the Indo-Pacific means in terms of the key 21st century issues pertaining to development, governance and security – conceptually, geographically, politically, culturally and strategically.

Prof. Poulomi Bhadra, co-lead of the Transitional Spaces, Culture and Media Studies Constellation, IDEAS is working in collaboration with the Centre for India-Australia Studies, the Center for Media Development & Communication Rights and IPRC scholars towards a collaborative Australia-India Project in Misinformation and Fact-Checking.