



ANNUAL SEMINAR
SOUTH ASIA OBSERVATORY

November 29th, 2018

Political Violence and Radical Militancy in South Asia

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome tea & coffee

9:15 - 9:25 Welcome Address

9:25 - 10:05 **KEYNOTE SPEECH:**

Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad, Symbiosis School for International Studies
The 'Othering' of the Indian Muslim and the Challenge of Cross-Communal Radicalisation in India

10:10 - 11:10 **G.S. Bajpai, National Law University, New Delhi**
Anti-Radicalization Strategies in Indian Context : A Case Study of Initiatives in Maharashtra
Discussant: Marc Julienne (INALCO/FRS)

11:15 - 12:15 **Azra Naseem, School of Law & Government, Dublin City University**
A Marriage of (In)Convenience: Dictatorship and Islamism in The Maldives
Discussant: Maai Youssef (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne/Noria)

12:15 - 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:30 - 15:30 **Ali Riaz, Department of Politics and Government, Illinois State University**
Understanding the Radicalization of Bangladeshi Society and Politics
Discussant: Elyamine Settoul (CNAM/Sciences Po Paris)

15:45 - 16:45 **Shakoor Ahmad Wani, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi**
The Radicalization of the Baloch Nationalist Politics: Drivers and Dynamics
Discussant: Loïc Le Pape (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)

16:45 - 17:00 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

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Political Violence and Radical Militancy in South Asia

“Political violence” is a concept frequently mobilized to depict a wide range of political practices in contemporary South Asia. Violence is indeed commonly used by states as a tool to tame opposition, and by political parties as a way to secure more votes and to fulfill their agendas. In recent years, the development of new forms of violence has led most states to introduce major – and sometimes sudden – changes in their internal security policies and their justice system. From these reforms, new levels of coordination have emerged within the state or between states, and so-called “exceptional” or “derogatory” provisions have flourished with significant legal impacts. Meanwhile, non-institutional actors also resort to violence in their opposition strategies. This latter form of violence is typically labelled by states as “terrorism”, and its perpetrators turned into terrorists. The use of such restrictive categories results in the marginalization of political activists and the depoliticization of their claims. From an academic perspective, this state-promoted dichotomy reflects a security-driven approach that occults, among other aspects, the shared use of political violence by both state and non-state actors.

Departing from this binary understanding, the four presentations of the seminar entitled *Political Violence and Radical Militancy in South Asia* aim at exploring the complex relationship that links state and non-state actors when the latter make use of violence. Papers engage the notion of violence not as a raw emotion leading to sudden, irrational outbursts but as a major political resource that either state or non-state actors use for their own interests. Meanwhile, using political violence and “radicalization” are conceived as the result of a relational and multi-scale process in which both state and non-state actors are stakeholders. Exploring these dynamics will not only contribute to the understanding of the South Asian region, but will also provide elements for a reflexive analysis of the current Western context.

PARTICIPANTS BIOGRAPHIES:



Amb. Talmiz Ahmad

Talmiz Ahmad joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974. After postings in Kuwait, Iraq and Yemen, he was Consul General in Jeddah in 1987-90. He has served as Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia twice (2000-2003 and 2010-2011); Oman (2003-04), and the UAE (2007-2010). He holds the Ram Sathe Chair in International

Studies at the Symbiosis International University, Pune. He speaks and writes frequently on Political Islam and trans-national jihad, the politics of West Asia and the Indian Ocean, and energy security issues. He has published three books: *Reform in the Arab World: External Influences and Regional Debates* (2005), *Children of Abraham at War: the Clash of Messianic Militarisms* (2010), and *The Islamist Challenge in West Asia: Doctrinal and Political Competitions after the Arab Spring* (2013).



Prof. G.S. Bajpai

G S Bajpai is a leading Criminologist and a known professional of international repute. Prof G S Bajpai serves as Registrar & Professor at National Law University Delhi. He has authored fifteen books and more than eighty papers, ten project reports and several monographs. He has held many prestigious international

assignments for advanced research in criminal law and criminal justice. Recently, Prof. Bajpai was conferred upon the 'ISC-Kumarappa Reckless award', the highest honour and award of ISC, in recognition of significant contribution to research, teaching and administration in the field of Criminal Justice Administration (2018). He has been elected to the Executive Committee of the World Society of Victimology (WSV) recently.

Marc Julienne

Marc Julienne is currently pursuing a doctoral thesis at the School of Oriental Languages and Civilization (INALCO) ASIA team on China's counterterrorism strategies. Associate Research Fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS), he focuses on security and defense issues and on China's foreign policy. Graduate of the Master of International Studies (HEI) in Chinese at INALCO, he was a researcher at Asia Centre (Paris) for two years, as well as visiting researcher at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS, Berlin) and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS, Shanghai).



Azra Naseem

Azra Naseem defended her PhD in March 2012. Her current research focus is the Islamist radicalisation of the Maldivian population, and its implications for security in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region. She is the author of www.dhivehisitee.com, a website specialising in the analysis of socio-political affairs

and Islamist radicalisation in the Maldives. Prior to joining DCU as a PhD candidate, she worked as a journalist in Dublin for several years and lectured in Media Law and Ethics at Griffith College Dublin. Her research interests also include US foreign policy and the War on Terror.

Maai Youssef

Maai Youssef is a PhD candidate in Political Science at Pantheon Sorbonne University (Paris 1). Her research explores the effects of political contexts on Syrian exiles in Egypt and Turkey, along with political activism and the building of transnational networks in exile within authoritarian contexts. Egyptian public policies towards migrants and refugees provides her with an original material to question the many phases of the Egyptian political transition, and particularly its authoritarian turn since July 2013. Based on an ethnographic approach, her research focuses on local dynamics and daily routines of Syrians migrant populations. Maai Youssef has been conducted fieldwork in Egypt, Sudan, Turkey and Iraq.



Ali Riaz

Ali Riaz is a Distinguished Professor of the Department of Politics and Government, Illinois State University, where he directed the department of political science from 2007 to 2017. His main topics of interest are politics and governance in Bangladesh, as well as political Islam. He has published numerous contributions in English and Bengali, including *Lived Islam & Islamism in Bangladesh* (Prothoma, 2018), *Bangladesh: A Political History since Independence* (I B Tauris, 2016), *Religion and Politics in South Asia* (Routledge, 2010), and *Islamist Militancy in Bangladesh: A Complex Web* (Routledge, 2007).

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Elyamine Settoul

Elyamine Settoul is a lecturer at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (CNAM). After completing his PhD in political science at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) in 2012, he joined the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence (2013-2015) as the Jean Monnet Fellow. His research focuses on issues of security and defense, challenges related to immigration and radicalization phenomena.



Shakoor Ahmad Wani

Shakoor Ahmad Wani is a PhD candidate at the Center for Asian Studies, School of International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research focuses on nationalism and ethnic and / or secessionist movements in Kashmir and Baluchistan. He is currently writing a doctoral dissertation entitled

"Changing Dimensions of Baloch Nationalism, 1999-2015".

Loïc Le Pape

Loïc Le Pape is a lecturer in political science at the Pantheon Sorbonne University (Paris 1). He coordinates, along with Katia Boissevain, a research program on religious circulations in the Mediterranean (ANR CIRELAMNED programme). Also a member of the European Center for Sociology and Political Science (CESSP), his research focuses on the relationship between religion and politics through the prism of singular trajectories (conversions, engagements, radical journeys) and public disputes (controversies and scandals with religious references).