

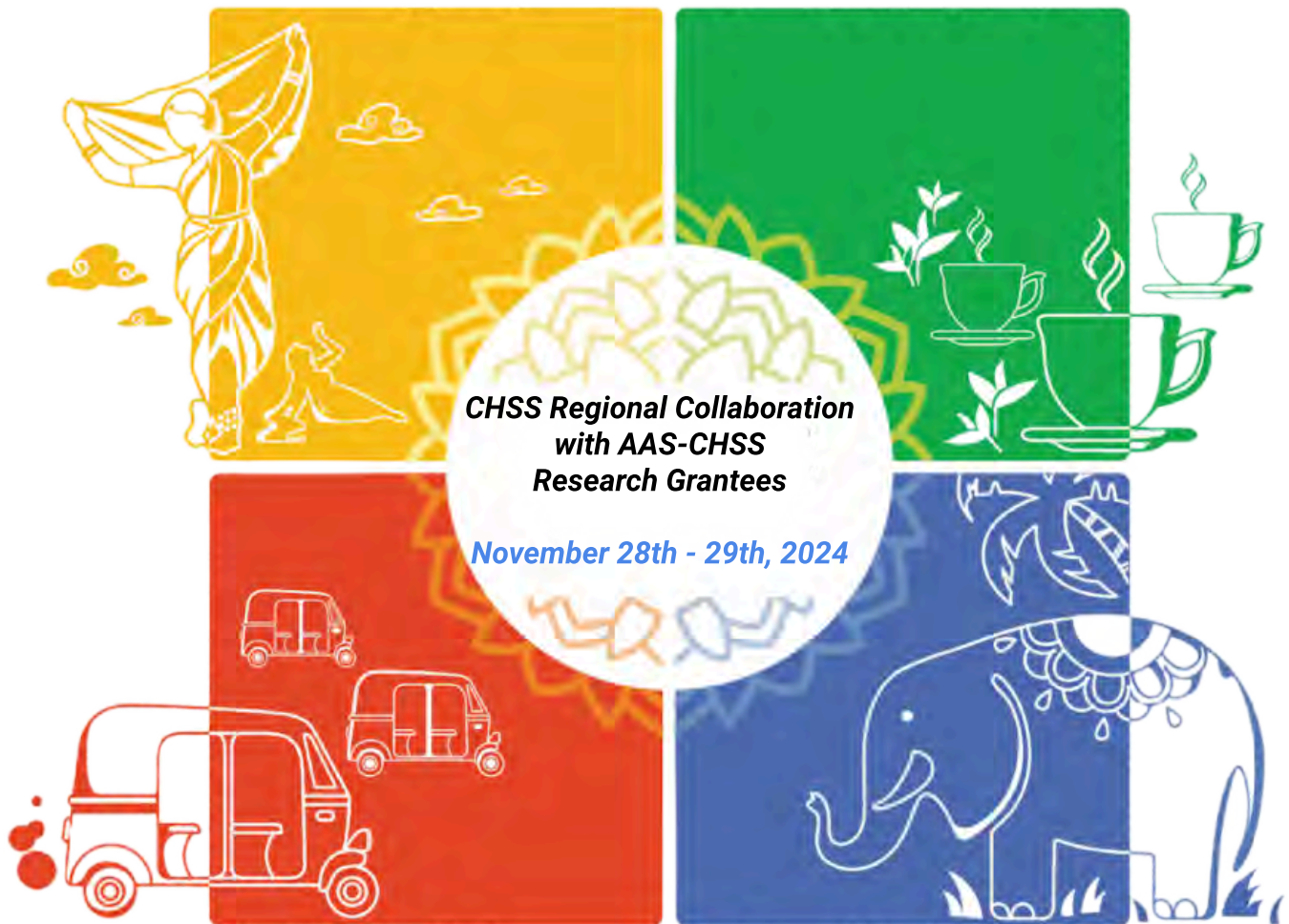


Savitribai Phule Pune University



Association for  
Asian Studies

**'Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences and Supporting  
the Under-Represented Scholars of Asia'**



Sweden

Sverige




# About Us

## SPPU-SIDA-AAS International Project

*'Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences and Supporting the under-represented scholars of Asia'* is an international research project coordinated by Association of Asian Studies (AAS) and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) is one of the South Asian regional coordinating institutions for this project.

The project aims to develop the research capacity of local universities and enhance the academic knowledge, research skills, experience and resources of their scholars in humanities and social sciences, with a particular focus on junior faculty especially from marginal social groups of South Asian regions.

The main activity of the project consists of a series of capacity-building workshops in the span of four years starting from May 2022 to February 2026. This time, we organized the fifth workshop in the series titled *'Researching Marginalities'-November 25th-29th, 2024*. This CHSS Regional Collaboration was hosted simultaneously, for the Year 2 and Year 3 CHSS Research Grantees on 28th and 29th November 2024.





# PROJECT CONVENORS

## RAJESHWARI DESHPANDE




Rajeshwari Deshpande is a professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at the Savitribai Phule Pune University. She was the ICCR visiting professor at the University of Technology, Sydney in 2014 and a UKIERI visiting fellow at King's India Institute, London in 2012. Her research interests are in areas such as politics of the urban poor, urban caste-class realities, women's politics, comparative state politics, politics-policy interface, and intellectual traditions of Maharashtra. She is also associated with Lokniti, located at CSDS, Delhi, and a member of the editorial management team of the Sage journal 'Studies in Indian Politics'.

## ANAGHA TAMBE



Anagha Tambe is Head of the Department of Women & Gender Studies, at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Her areas of research include: gender, sexuality, and caste question, disciplinary histories of Women's Studies in India, and diversity and democracy in higher education. She has published on ritual 'prostitution' and debates on sex work in post-colonial India. She is awarded the Fulbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship for 2018 – 2019. Anagha has edited, translated, and written several teaching and learning resources in women's studies, especially in Indian languages.



# MENTORS

## DR DIVYA VAID



Divya Vaid is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has an MSc and a DPhil from Oxford, UK. She has held postdoctoral positions at the Department of Sociology at Yale University and at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi. Her research interests include the study of social mobility and inequalities, educational attainment, work, economy and the labour market, gendered inequalities, and class and political participation, with an interest in the application of quantitative and mixed methods. Her work has appeared in the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Asian Survey*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, *South Asian History and Culture* and the *Economic and Political Weekly* among others. She is the author of *Uneven Odds: Social Mobility in Contemporary India*, OUP, 2018, and has co-edited a volume on *Marginalities and Mobilities Among India's Muslims*, Routledge, 2023.

## PROFESSOR K K KAILASH



K K Kailash is with the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. He has been associated with the Lokniti since 2007. He is a member of the editorial managing team of *Studies in Indian Politics*. He is an honorary fellow at the Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. Prof. Kailash's research interest focuses on political parties and elections, Parties and Party Systems, Federalism, and State Politics in India. He also contributes frequently to *The Indian Express* and *The Hindu*.



# AAS-CHSS RESEARCH GRANTEES

## **ABHIJIT BHATTACHARYYA**

Abhijit Bhattacharyya is an Assistant Professor of English and Head of Department of English at Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College in Murshidabad, West Bengal. He is a Year 2 AAS-CHS Research Grantee. He is currently researching on the following topic: 'Being bound by Faith: A Study of the Bengali Matua Refugees settled in Andaman Islands'.

## **MD KASIR ALI**


MD Kasir Ali is an Independent Researcher and has a postgraduate degree in English Literature (December 2020 - August 2022) in English from Kolkata, West Bengal. He is currently Year 2 AAS-CHSS Research Grantee. He is currently researching on the following topic: 'The Relationship between Kashmiri Culture and Sunni Religious Traditions, A case study of Charar-e-Sharif'.

## **MADHUMITA BISWAL**

Madhumita Biswal is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Sambalpur University in Odisha. She is a Year 2 AAS-CHSS Research Grantee. She is currently doing research on the following topic: 'Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Everyday Politics of the Marginalized'. Her research focuses on the Niyamgiri movement in Odisha, led by Dongria Kondh Adivasis, opposing bauxite mining.

## **MARY ANN CHACKO**

Mary Ann Chacko is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the School of Arts and Sciences at Ahmedabad University in Gujarat. She is a Year 2 AAS-CHSS Research Grantee. Her topic of research is 'A Multi-sited Ethnography of the Girls Islamic Organization (GIO)'.





## **NIMISHA JOHN**

Nimisha John is a Research Scholar at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology of Gandhinagar (IITG) in Gujarat. She is a Year 3 AAS-CHSS Research Grantee. Her topic of research is 'Ration Card as Invoking Identity Crisis: Narratives from Transgender People in Kerala'.

## **ROLUAHPUIA**

Roluahpuia is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology in Roorkee (IITR), Uttarakhand. He is a Year 3 AAS-CHSS Research Grantee. His topic of research is 'Border Precarity: conflict, migration, and displacement in the Indo-Myanmar borderlands'.

