King's India Institute Graduate Conference 2021
# Understanding Contemporary South Asia
## Belonging, Functioning, Renegotiating
29th & 30th June 2021


## Call for Papers



Image: https://www.flickr.com/photos/boklm/25888755010/

Contemporary South Asia is witnessing a churning, be it in matters of geopolitics, identity, the claiming of human rights, electoral patterns, or climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic, emerging forms of cooperation, dependencies, and strategic reorientation, are creating new opportunities and challenges in the region. The persecution of communities, and the resultant influx of refugees in neighbouring countries such as the Rohingyas of Myanmar; the polarisation of societies through violent rhetoric and attacks on people professing alternate beliefs or sexuality as seen in Bangladesh; and the reshaping of the welfare state through the use of new technologies such as Aadhaar in India, are a few examples of this churn.

The imagination of nations, institutions, and legitimacy; norms of governance and the assertion of citizenship; as well as environmental change, are influential characteristics of contemporary South Asia. Understanding the reshaping of the region necessitates studying tensions related to questions of belonging and functioning, and associated renegotiations. Belonging, i.e. who constitutes and influences the polity; functioning, i.e. the institutional architecture and related processes; and renegotiation, i.e. attempts to reframe and redefine identities, norms, and values.

Given this, we are pleased to invite abstracts for the King's India Institute Graduate Conference 2021 *Understanding Contemporary South Asia: Belonging, Functioning, Renegotiating* to be held online from 29th & 30th June 2021.

We welcome papers that interrogate contemporary South Asia through a wide range of disciplines and topics, including the redefinition of borders, whether physical, legal, and social; the welfare state; regional and marginalised identities; centre-periphery relations; as well as local level politics. In addition to these themes, the conference encourages interdisciplinary works and abstracts that utilise other understandings of belonging, functioning, and renegotiation.

Interested doctoral students should submit a 300-word abstract along with a brief bio (max 150 words), and five keywords via the following form by 2nd May 2021. Only one abstract may be submitted per person. Selected participants will be notified of acceptance by 10th May 2021.

Three best papers will be selected by a committee consisting of King's College scholars, and awarded £300, £200, and £100 respectively.

For any further information please email kiigc2021@gmail.com.