

BROWN UNIVERSITY



Saxena Center for  
Contemporary South Asia



NLSIU

National Law School of India  
University, Bengaluru



Madras  
Institute of  
Development  
Studies

A PhD Workshop on

## State, Citizenship and Mobilisations in Contemporary India

**10–11 August 2026** at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

*Jointly Organized by*

National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru  
Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, USA  
and Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai

Applications are invited from doctoral researchers for an interdisciplinary PhD Workshop that will provide a dedicated space for engagement with contemporary questions concerning the state, citizenship, law, governance, and movements in India. The workshop welcomes projects that examine changing forms of governance and political authority; the evolving role of law, public institutions, and democratic processes, questions of citizenship, belonging, rights, and recognition and emerging forms of civic action and social and political mobilisation. The workshop is particularly interested in research that explores how power, identity, and political claims are produced and contested across different social, economic and geographical contexts.

The workshop is designed as an intensive interdisciplinary forum where doctoral researchers can develop their work through sustained engagement with leading scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. It aims to support participants in refining research questions, strengthening theoretical and methodological approaches, and navigating the intellectual and professional challenges of doctoral research. The workshop seeks to foster rigorous

scholarship while encouraging participants to think beyond disciplinary boundaries and engage critically with the broader social and political contexts of their research.

The workshop is designed to be relevant to doctoral researchers at different stages of their PhD journey and to facilitate both faculty mentorship and peer learning. It consists of three core components:

### **Common Sessions**

Common sessions bring together participants with invited scholars and practitioners to discuss key questions in contemporary social science research. These sessions will address topics such as research design, methodology, ethics, writing and publishing and interdisciplinary inquiry. They will also explore emerging debates, methods, and sources relevant to the study of contemporary India.

### **Student Presentations**

Participants will be grouped into small thematic cohorts and will present their ongoing research for discussion and feedback. The workshop will accommodate students at different stages of doctoral research, including those refining research questions and those working towards

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

dissertation completion. Faculty mentors and peers will provide detailed comments intended to strengthen participants' projects.

### Individual Faculty Mentoring

Participants will have opportunities for one-on-one conversations with faculty mentors through dedicated mentoring sessions and office hours. These interactions are intended to provide focused feedback on research design, fieldwork, writing, publication strategies, and broader academic trajectories. Beyond research-specific discussions, the workshop seeks to create a collegial environment in which doctoral researchers

can reflect on the intellectual, practical, and personal dimensions of pursuing a PhD. It aims to foster a community of scholars engaged in collaborative learning, critical inquiry, and sustained dialogue across disciplines.

### Eligibility and Application Process

Applications are welcome from doctoral candidates across disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, law, public policy, planning, geography, history, anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, and related fields.

### Instructions

1. Applicants will be required to submit
  - their curriculum vitae
  - a 500-word abstract or summary of doctoral research project
  - draft of a chapter or proposal
2. Last Date for Receiving Applications
  - **Deadline for submissions extended to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026**
3. The workshop will cover the following expenses for the selected participants:
  - transportation (travel to and from Bengaluru, and local),
  - accommodation, and
  - food for the duration of the workshop.

### Link to Submit Applications

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf49rIQ4GHR\\_8QLHkv-HeTKQXGyLYqtqeMGvSZv7YfwgplI&w/viewform?usp=dialog](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf49rIQ4GHR_8QLHkv-HeTKQXGyLYqtqeMGvSZv7YfwgplI&w/viewform?usp=dialog)

### Enquiries

Please write to the workshop coordinators:

- Anindita Adhikari, [anindita@nls.ac.in](mailto:anindita@nls.ac.in)
  - Assistant Professor of Social Science, NLSIU
- Siddharth Swaminathan, [siddharth.swaminathan@nls.ac.in](mailto:siddharth.swaminathan@nls.ac.in)
  - Associate Professor, Humanities & Social Science, NLSIU
- Kalaiyaran A, [kalaijnu@mids.ac.in](mailto:kalaijnu@mids.ac.in)
  - Associate Professor, MIDS