

Call for papers:

Charting an alternative imaginary: Re-thinking "progress" for a globalizing India.

A one day conference organized by the Globalization and Society in India working group
George Mason University

Date: Thursday, April 12th, 2012

Keynote Address: Mr. Chidanand Rajghatta, Foreign Editor, The Times of India

In 2009, the Globalization and Society in India (GSI) working group organized a one-day conference to unpack the implications of globalization on India. Various panelists addressed the tangled nature of the elements of “shining India” and the underbelly of globalization and development especially in light of India’s growing desire to be seen as a world player on the global stage. Panelists and attendees asked many critical questions, troubled many assumptions, and ruptured perceived conceptions of India’s neo-liberal dream. However, over the past two years as the world economies and India (to a certain degree) enter a new phase, where the unbridled economic growth of the past two decades comes to a staggering halt, it becomes pertinent to have the second part of the conversation that began two years ago. What now?

As the world changes and awakes to the growing chasm between the haves and the have-nots, the working group commits itself to the project of asking whither which way India? While some argue that capitalism as a model for sustainable growth and equitable human rights has failed and others put forward the crumbled imagery of the exploitative communist state we ask what is the way ahead? The current historical juncture makes visible the seams of corrupt crony capitalism and state-run monopolistic communism; thus, providing us the opportunity to imagine an alternative future that learns from failed projects and imagines an egalitarian humane future. We think it is vital to begin conversations that imagine and engage concrete alternative options for a vibrant and equitable India in the 21st century.

We seek papers that engage these themes and bring either empirical or theoretical perspectives to the debate on the future of India. The one day conference will be an interdisciplinary critical exploration of factors that both promote and hinder the equitable opportunities for growth and the broader idea of “progress” in India with an aim to suggest an alternative future.

Papers on topics as varied as those outlined below will be of interest:

- The rhetoric of globalization within the context of India
- The changing educational and curriculum of India
- Alternatives to educational development
- The crisis of energy demands and alternative options
- The politics, problems, and promises of a nuclear future for India
- Commodification of health in post-liberalization India
- Medical and pharmaceutical culture in contemporary India
- Re-imagining medical cultures in India

- Women and empowerment in contemporary India
- The practice of sex-selection and female feticide in present day India
- Farmers suicides in contemporary India
- GDP growth, corruption and its implications for participatory democracy in India.

Please send abstracts of less than 200 words outlining the significance, theoretical framework, methods (if applicable), and conclusions to Nayantara (Tara) Sheoran (nsheoran@gmu.edu) by Thursday, December 22nd, 2011. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by January 5th, 2012.

For further information, you can also contact the conference organizers at the Globalization and Society Working group:

- Supriya Baily (sbaily1@gmu.edu)
- Chaitanya Ravi (c@gmu.edu)
- Nayantara (Tara) Sheoran (nsheoran@gmu.edu)