



Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 18, 11-3:30 pm	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations
Monday, April 20, 1-2 pm	Career Chat with former US Ambassador Timothy Roemer (hosted by the 21st Century India Center)
Wednesday, May 13, 5-6 pm	A Burning Sea: Risk and Geopolitical Arbitrage across the Persian Gulf by Nidhi Mahajan (hosted by UCSD Arts and Humanities, Department of History)
Wednesday, May 27, 5-6:30 pm	Worst of the Worst: From Guantanamo to ICE: The Long War on Rights Annual Uma and Ashis Nandy Lecture Alka Pradhan

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS 2026



*Dr. B.R. Ambedkar mural, Vijayawada, India (2022)
Photo: G. N. Rao*

APRIL 18, 2026
11 AM TO 3:30 PM

**Public Engagement Building,
Room 721, UC San Diego.**

RSVP:
<https://tinyurl.com/ucsdjayanti26>
or scan the QR code:

**Featuring a Keynote Lecture by Dr. Sumeet Mhaskar
“Dr. Ambedkar’s Legacy and Ways Ahead for the Diaspora”**

**• Reading of Babasaheb’s writings • Interactive activities • Fireside chats
Lunch, raffle prizes, and goodie bags for children**

RSVP Required

Sponsored by the Departments of Communication and Ethnic Studies, UCSD Labor Center, and the
South Asia Initiative at UC San Diego



Dr. Sumeet Mhaskar is a Fulbright-Nehru Fellow at Stanford University’s Department of Anthropology for the academic year 2025–2026. He is a Professor of Sociology at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O. P. Jindal Global University. Over the past two decades, Dr. Mhaskar’s research has examined the multifaceted vulnerabilities workers experience at the lower end of India’s rising economy. His primary focus has been on large-scale industrial closures in Mumbai, joblessness, displacement, migration, labour markets, and social and political movements.

UC San Diego

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY
India Center

Career Chat with Former Ambassador Timothy Roemer



Monday April 20th from 1-2pm PT



GPS Building 3, Room 3106



A Burning Sea: Risk and Geopolitical Arbitrage Across the Persian Gulf by Professor Nidhi Mahajan



Nidhi Mahajan is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California-Santa Cruz. Her first book *Moorings: Voyages of Capital across the Indian Ocean* was published by UC Press in June 2025.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 2026-
5:00 - 6:00 P.M.
RANGLAS ROOM 0935**

UC San Diego
ARTS AND HUMANITIES
History



Wooden sailing vessels or dhows have long traversed the Indian Ocean making it what some scholars have called, “the cradle of globalization.” Today, dhows or vahans from Kachchh in western India continue to traverse old Indian Ocean routes, functioning as an economy of geopolitical arbitrage, becoming crucial intermediaries in global shipping. This talk traces how this mobile trade network is anchored or moored in specific places and economic concepts in some moments, and unmoored in others. Focusing on geopolitical arbitrage, long a strategy used by Indian Ocean merchants, I argue that value in the contemporary dhow trade is created through arbitraging across different markets in the Persian Gulf. Tracing the movement of one Kachchhi vahan across the Indian Ocean, I argue that sanctions regimes, and questions of jurisdiction at sea in the Persian Gulf have created a geopolitical climate in which value is produced at multiple scales through the intersection of these logics, the body of the sailor becoming the site for capturing value and crafting sovereignty at sea.



Annual Uma and Ashis Nandy Forum

Uma and Ashis Nandy Annual Forum



WORST OF THE WORST: FROM GUANTANAMO TO ICE: *THE LONG WAR ON RIGHTS*

Alka Pradhan

Alka Pradhan is a human rights lawyer specializing in how counterterrorism practices affect fair trials. She is currently serving as Human Rights Counsel at the Guantanamo Bay Military Commissions and working on the 9/11 case involving Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. She has represented detainees, advocated for victims of drone strikes, and worked with global institutions like the International Criminal Court and the United Nations on issues of torture, war crimes, and human rights accountability. Her work focuses on tensions between national security policies and human rights protections. Her work is also central to debates about agencies like ICE and broader immigration enforcement.



Reception + Talk

**EVENT
REGISTRATION**

<https://forms.gle/6uSgHnHvLRn3WfjA6>



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27TH
5-6:30 PM AT GREAT HALL**

CO-SPONSORED
BY:

UC San Diego
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE



SAS Minor Course Offerings Spring 2026

South Asian Studies Minor Spring 2026 Course Offerings

CORE COURSES

ANSC 190: Yoga Practices: From Benaras to Beverly Hills

ECON 164: The Indian Economy

LTWL 184: Film Studies and Literature: Close Analysis of Filmic Text:
"Bollywood"

TDMV 144: Beginning Dances of the World, Odissi Dance

ELECTIVE COURSES

ANAR 100: Hunter Gatherers and Foraging

ANSC 147: Global Health and the Environment

ANSC 148: Global Health and Cultural Diversity

ANSC 169: Culture and Environment

ANTH 1: Introduction to Culture

CGS 119/LTCS 119: Asian American Film, Video, & New Media: The
Politics of Pleasure (MUST BE PETITIONED)

ETHN 102: Science, Technology, and Society

GLBH 100: Special Topics in Global Health: Demography and Social
Networks in Global Health

INTL 102: Econ, Politics & International Change

INTL 190: International Relations of South Asia: Section C00

ADDITIONAL COURSES FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR CAN BE PETITIONED

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR, PLEASE EMAIL:
LYDIA RAMIREZ - LPRAMIREZ@UCSD.EDU
OR SAIBA VARMA - S2VARMA@UCSD.EDU



South Asian Studies library guide

Working on a paper
or research project
related to South
Asia? Check out our
brand new library
guide



For more information or
for research help, reach
out to UCSD Librarian,
Cristela Garcia-Spitz at
cgarciaspitz@ucsd.edu

Funding and Job Opportunities

IGC



Energy Insights and Innovation Lab (EIIL): open call for research ideas

We invite researchers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for projects that can be developed with EIIL and, where relevant, Tata Power teams.

Early Career Research Fellowships for PhD students and Postdocs in Mumbai

Research Project Proposals



The International Growth Centre's new lab with Tata Power invites new project proposals by May 4, 2026, 5PM BST

Job Opportunities



The Institute for South Asia Studies (at UC Berkeley) is seeking submissions for a new Associate Director.

APPLY BY: MAY 4, 2026

APPLICATION:

<https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF05337>

SAI's 2025-2026 Steering Committee

Prashant Bharadwaj (Economics)
Aniket De (History)
Shermin de Silva (EBE)
Teevrat Garg (GPS)
Gaurav Khanna (GPS)
Aftab Jassal (Anthropology)
Meera Mahadevan (GPS)
Rishika Mehrishi (Theatre & Dance)
Silpa Mukherjee (Literature)
Saiba Varma (Anthropology)

SAI Undergraduate Coordinators (2025-2026)

Krithika Karthik
Tavishaa Vanjani
Bhavika Ailawadi

Have news to share?

Email us: southasiaucsd@gmail.com &
follow us on Instagram: [@southasiaucsd](https://www.instagram.com/southasiaucsd)

