

SOUTH ASIA



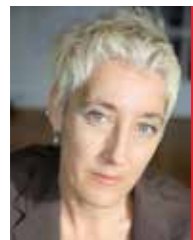
SOUTH AS

Bangladesh



South Asia Centre

Established in 2015, the South Asia Centre marks a step-change in LSE’s engagement with Bangladesh and the wider region. LSE has more than 80 subject experts whose teaching and research interests concern South Asia: the Centre harnesses this world class inter- and multi-disciplinary expertise to underwrite the School’s fundamental mission of impacting public awareness through informed knowledge. We are proud to count among our faculty Professors Katy Gardner, Naila Kabeer and David Lewis who are world-leading experts on Bangladesh, along with several Fellows, doctoral and graduate students currently conducting research on Bangladesh – on social policy, gender, development, culture, cuisine, political economy, and anthropology, amongst other issues.



Kat Gardner
Professor of Anthropology
Head of Department



Naila Kabeer
Professor of Gender and
Development at
the Gender Institute



David Lewis
Professor of Social Policy
and Development
Head of Department

The South Asia Centre is committed to engage with all sectors of society through capacity-building collaborations, research activities and events both in Bangladesh and in the United Kingdom. All activities of the Centre focus on public engagement and impact, human and skills development, and the creation of a global platform to engage with South Asia — whose particularities constantly challenge social science thinking about the region. Bangladesh figures prominently on this map as one of the most complex countries in the region: a dynamic democracy challenged with a political past of military rule; a volatile economy heavily dependent on exports and foreign investments; a geo-strategic nation subject to the whims of richer nations whose callousness has made the country vulnerable to global warming; a strident youth made fragile by the rise of conservative Islam — in short, a complex powerhouse in an important geo-political area in what promises to be the Asian century.

Bangladesh: Macro Credits

There is currently no academic research programme focused on contemporary Bangladesh in the UK. The South Asia Centre is committed to develop a dedicated community of researchers to examine issues of concern in modern-day Bangladesh, making the Centre the hub for Bangladesh-related events and research in the UK & Europe.

Establishing a new programme on Bangladesh that breaks new ground is a formidable challenge. Most current research focuses on issues of development, ready-made garments & the economy, export fragility, gender violence, climate, and more recently, extremism. The South Asia Centre seeks to

incorporate all these concerns into a wider programme that at once acknowledges the current challenges confronting Bangladesh, and looks to the future to explore new, interdisciplinary arenas of research. Most importantly, the Centre wants to reach out to experts in Bangladesh with grassroots experience to create a more informed and bottom-upwards approach to understanding the complex problems that confront the nation today.

Select themes include:

- Youth & Capacity-Building
- Democracy & Populist Futures
- Living Heritage & Sustainable Livelihoods
- Food & Energy Security
- Urbanisation & the Middle Class
- Citizenship, Diaspora & Identity
- Aspirational Bangladesh
- Bangladesh between South Asia & Southeast Asia

The Bangladesh programme will comprise multiple elements of cross-cutting research and academic enterprise, including

- focused research themes and clusters;
- visiting Professorships and Senior Fellowships;
- Junior Fellowships;
- seminars, conferences, public lectures and other academic events;
- diffusion programmes for visiting students from Bangladesh.

The Centre also aims to work with private institutions, international organisations, non-government organisations, and individuals to develop capacity for leadership amongst new-age, younger generation Bangladeshis; create international networks of academics, business leaders and community professionals to link-up and debate Bangladesh globally; develop policy-focused analysis; and curate collaborative events in the UK and in Bangladesh.

A central aim of the South Asia Centre is to engage with the central and local governments through capacity-building initiatives and research-based policy planning.

RECENT VISITS & EVENTS (2015 – 16)

- Hon. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the UK HE M. Hannan (pictured, on left).
- Panel discussion on ‘Tales of the Unexpected: Gender Equality & Social Progress in Bangladesh’ (with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, Juli Huang, Naila Kabeer, David Lewis).
- Conversation on The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War & Its Unquiet Legacy (with author Salil Tripathi and journalist Martin Woollacott, who covered the 1971 War of Independence for The Guardian).
- Book Discussion on Nayanika Mookherjee’s The Spectral Wound: Sexual Violence, Public Memories and the Bangladesh War of 1971.

