



# CENTRE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES

## CSH SEMINAR (JANUARY - JUNE 2025)

### ABOUT CSH

The Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH, UMIFRE n°20) is part of a network of research units of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). The CSH is a multidisciplinary research unit that covers all disciplines of the social sciences and humanities.

### CSH SEMINAR

The CSH seminar takes place once every month. It offers researchers from different disciplines across social sciences an opportunity to present their upcoming or recently published work. Presentations are followed by a discussion with another scholar and a Q/A session with the audience. The sessions are in hybrid mode. The seminars are coordinated by Laurence Gautier ([laurence.gautier@csh-delhi.com](mailto:laurence.gautier@csh-delhi.com)) and Joël Cabalion ([joel.cabalion@csh-delhi.com](mailto:joel.cabalion@csh-delhi.com)).

### SEMINAR CALENDAR

#### Monday, 13 January 2025

*"The Emergency and the Many Meanings of Freedom"*, by **Gyan PRAKASH** (Princeton University). Discussant: Rajeev **BHARGAVA** (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies).

#### Monday, 10 February 2025

*"Counting and Ranking Caste. The 2023 Bihar Experiment"*, by **Christophe GUILMOTO** (Institut de recherche pour le développement, CSH) and **Himanshu** (Jawaharlal Nehru University). Discussant: **Surinder S. JODHKA** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, CSH).

#### Monday, 17 March 2025

*"The Mutual Entailments of Democracy and Academic Freedom in India"*, by **Niraja GOPAL JAYAL** (King's College London). Discussant: **Apoorvanand** (University of Delhi).

#### Monday, 7 April 2025

*"Revisiting the Kisan Andolan (The Indian Farmers Protest)"*, by **David SINGH** (University of Copenhagen). Discussant: **Joel CABALION** (CSH, University of Tours).

#### Monday, 12 May 2025

*"Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal and Martyrdom"*, by **Aparna VAIDIK** (Ashoka University). Discussant: **Aditya NIGAM** (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies).

#### Monday, 2 June 2025

*"Shikayat to Jawadbedhi: Redeeming Rights and Democratizing the Local State in India"*, by **Anindita ADHIKARI** (National Law School of India University) . Discussant: **Mekhala KRISHNAMURTHY** (Ashoka University)

Timings: 17h00 - 18h30 IST

Venue: Centre de Sciences Humaines

IFI-CSH Conference room (ground floor), 2, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi - 110011

### 13 January 2025: “The Emergency and the Many Meanings of Freedom”, by Gyan PRAKASH

**Abstract:** This talk explores if imprisonment during the Emergency also sparked reflections on the meanings on freedom. It focuses on the Socialist leaders and couple Madhu and Pramila Dandawate. I ask if confinement stimulated them to introspect on the meanings of freedom not only in terms of institutions, not simply as matters of legal and political status but something more profound.

**Speaker:** **Gyan Prakash** is a Professor of History at Princeton University. His field of research concerns urban modernity, the colonial genealogies of modernity, and problems of postcolonial thought and politics. His most recent book is *Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy's Turning Point* (2018).

### 10 February 2025: “Counting and Ranking Caste: The 2023 Bihar Experiment”, by Christophe GUILMOTO & Himanshu

**Abstract:** This paper will provide an overview of the insights gained from the Bihar caste census and its implications for understanding caste and tribe inequality in the state. The preliminary analysis confirms significant heterogeneities both among individual communities and within broader administrative categories, providing an overall ranking of communities across Bihar.

**Speaker:** **Himanshu** is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is also an affiliated researcher at the Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi. **Christophe Guilmoto** is a senior fellow in demography at the French Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD). At CSH he headed the research area Population and Spaces in Transition between 2021– 2024.

### 17 March 2025: “The Mutual Entailments of Democracy and Academic Freedom in India”, by Niraja GOPAL JAYAL

**Abstract:** While the parallels between democratic backsliding and the erosion of academic freedom are compelling, the assumption that academic freedom flourished in a more democratic past needs to be nuanced. This paper will examine the long-standing constraints on university autonomy and governance to analyse both the complex challenges of academic freedom in the present and its likely predicaments in the future.

**Speaker:** **Niraja Gopal Jayal** is Professor of Political Science at the India Institute, King's College London. She undertakes research in the fields of citizenship, democracy, and welfare in India. Her most recent book is *Citizenship Imperilled: India's Fragile Democracy* (2022).

### 7 April 2025: “Revisiting the Kisan Andolan (The Indian Farmers Protest)”, by Christine MOLINER

**Abstract:** The Kisan Andolan or the Indian farmers' protest of 2020–2021 is one of the longest and biggest (and victorious) social movements in the history of independent India. This book adopts a multidisciplinary approach to contextualize the movement in the long run. It engages with the historical, social, and religious roots of the Andolan, examining what makes it so unique and transformative for Indian polity.

**Speakers:** **Christine Moliner** is a social anthropologist at OP Jindal University. She specializes in migration studies and Sikh/Punjab studies.

### 12 May 2025: “Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal and Martyrdom”, by Aparna VAIDIK

**Abstract:** *Revolutionaries on Trial* is a ground-breaking study of the infamous Lahore Conspiracy Case and its principal martyrs—Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, and several of their associates. The book goes beyond the story of this trial as one of miscarriage of justice. It brings to vivid life the people and events of a trial that left an indelible imprint on the history of nationalism and revolution in India.

**Speaker:** **Aparna Vaidik** is a Professor of History at Ashoka University. Her research explores environmental history, labor history, and psychoanalytical history as well as the history of Indian nationalism and the history of the Indian Ocean. *Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal and Martyrdom* (2024) is her most recent book.

### 2 June 2025: “Shikayat to Jawadbedhi: Redeeming Rights and Democratising the Local State in India”, by Anindita ADHIKARI

**Abstract:** This paper will examine the effects of rights-based welfare expansion on local governance and civic action through a comparison between two accountability systems in Bihar: Social Audits and the Right to Public Grievance Redress Act. Based on field research in six districts, it argues that the ritualization of interactions with citizens who have been historically marginalized in rule-based settings builds a new legal consciousness within the bureaucracy and enlivens local democracy.

**Speaker:** **Anindita Adhikari** is Assistant Professor in Social Science at the National Law School of India University (Bengaluru). Her research interests include social movements, bureaucracies, the politics of welfare provisioning and democratic deepening.