



NEWSLETTER

A warm hello from the Nordic Centre in India. It has been an eventful half a year with us and we would like to share with you the various tasks that have kept us engaged and enthused till August of 2017.

NCI for the first time hosted an intern over the summer to manage our summer programmes in India. It was a great success and we hope to make this a regular activity of ours so that we meet more fantastic students from the member universities who can contribute to our collaborative goals. You can read more about it on Page 2. You can also read about our new residence on the same page. We have moved to a larger residence in Delhi so as to accommodate more member university guest stays and also to increase our capacity to host smaller academic events.

In 2017 we held two summer programmes on 'Contemporary

India; and on 'Human Rights in India' with our partners: University of Hyderabad and National Law School of India University. To tell you more about the strengths of our summer programmes we have a short writeup on Page 3. On Page 4 you can read more about the successful symposium on Global Social theory that was organized by Linnaeus University in cooperation with NCI in April 2017.

On Page 5 you can read about news from our GA meeting. NCI had a successful GA meeting in May 2017 at Oslo and we now have many new members on our Board. We also are concluding our stay at Umeå University at the end of 2017 and we will be moving to Aarhus University with Dr. Uwe Skoda as our new Chairperson. We whole heartedly thank Umeå University for generously supporting us since January 2014 and we are looking forward to working with Aarhus University in fulfilling our objectives and our responsibilities towards member universities. We also have overhauled our communication strategy with a new website that is

more interactive and which facilitates greater transparency, and we also now have a more active Facebook page where information about NCI activities, member university events, relevant news about Indian higher education policy, Indo Nordic initiatives, etc, will be easily available.

We thank all of you for your constant support and for your engagement with us... it is the members on the Nordic side and the partners in India that are our source of strength. We are working towards making NCI more vibrant and relevant in the immediate future. Happy Reading!

Christabel

Acting Director, NCI



Christabel Royan, Program Manager of NCI took over as Acting Director from May 1st, 2017 as the present Director of the India Liaison Office, Dr. Samrat Schmiem Kumar, is on maternity leave.

Experiencing the Indian work culture with an NCI internship



A communication student from Finland, Mirna Aho, had the chance to work for NCI in summer 2017. During a two month long internship she truly got to experience Incredible India.

"I wanted to do my internship abroad to gain more international experience. Before I travelled to India I was really excited and just trying to prepare myself for basically everything... I thought that it was better to think that anything can happen."

In the end Mirna was extremely happy she decided to take advantage of the opportunity to work in India.

"NCI is a very flexible organization and the management is open to all new ideas and proposals. I got to develop their communication strategy together with other staff members and this gave me excellent experience for future reference.

Besides working Mirna had a chance to travel around in India. She got to observe the summer programmes in the big South India cities of Bangalore and Hyderabad. She also travelled to Goa and (of course) to see Taj Mahal.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH US?

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.NORDICCENTREINDIA.COM/INTERNSHIP-OPPORTUNITY/

Come stay with us in Delhi!

After seventeen years of staying at C7 Nizamuddin East in New Delhi, we decided to move to a larger space in the same locality in June this year to better serve our members in terms of offering free space for their stay while in Delhi and providing them a venue to meet and network with stakeholders on the Indian side. The Director's Residence in New Delhi includes three bedrooms with attached bathrooms for guests, a large hall that acts as a common meeting and working area, a dining area, and a modern kitchen. The residence includes two NCI employees that address the needs of members – a housekeeper who can also cook meals for guests and the Director's Assistant who handles room bookings and most requests for practical assistance. It is a calm, comfortable and safe space, ideal for researchers visiting India and for those coming for networking.

The residence is open to all staff, students and researchers of NCI member universities.

Book your next stay in India by writing to
naveen@nordiccentreindia.com



2017 SUMMER

Spending a Summer with NCI

NCI has, for over a decade, run four week summer programmes on various themes located in India including 'Demography, Gender and Reproductive Health', 'Contemporary India', Approaching the Environment in India', 'Contemporary India', etc. at our various partner institutions including University of Hyderabad, Institute for Social and Economic Change, National Law School of India University, International Institute for Population Sciences, etc. All NCI summer programmes aim to deliver undergraduate and graduate summer programs onsite to meet the needs of a diverse and geographically dispersed student population from the Nordic region. The emphasis is on innovation and continuous transformation in course structure so as to provide the student value for the money they spend on the course and the travel to India. A summary of the strengths of these programmes are listed below:

Affordability: NCI programmes are among the cheapest run Study abroad programmes based in India.

Facilities and Infrastructure: Student safety and well-being is given utmost priority with all students being provided good quality clean housing and hygienic boarding. All NCI partners have modern classrooms, well stocked libraries, WiFi, and health care facilities on campus. ATMs, post offices, banks, etc. are all within walking distance from the student residence.

Security: All NCI partners have a robust, round the clock security system in place. This is especially important for NCI due to the significant number of women students that come for our programmes.

Selection of resource persons: NCI's summer courses have become a forum to gather resource persons from various institutions across India. Students benefit from this exposure to different perspectives. They not only get to hear academicians but also from practitioners from various relevant fields. This makes the academic content rich and more relevant to students who hear (and see through field trips) real issues and practical considerations while discussing academic topics.

Fieldtrips: The growing emphasis of the summer courses is on experiential learning with all summer programmes having a good number of fieldtrips thrown in that are relevant to the academic theme. In a new and diverse geographic setting such as India field trips help students learn about themselves while building their capabilities in strategic thinking; communication; flexibility and adaptability; tolerance; and how to identify, set and achieve goals—all of which are extremely valuable and which can only be realized outside of the traditional classroom.

Networking opportunities: Since students are introduced to a wide variety of resource persons across various fields, there is a growing interest among students to come back for internships or field studies. The summer courses foster connections among faculty in India and student as interaction between the two is encouraged.

NCI encourages more students from member universities to apply for these programmes and learn more about India.

To know more about the programmes go to www.nordiccentreindia.com



As part of the Contemporary India summer programme, students visited Pochampally, a weaver's village where they try and understand how age old crafts survive in the face of mechanisation.



As part of the Human rights in India programme, students visited a local police station manned by a lady police officer to better understand how the criminal justice system works at the ground level and the gender implications that come along with it.



At the valedictory programme of the Human Rights in India programme, the students opted for ethnic wear which made for some delightful photographs

Symposium on Post-Colonial Theory held in Delhi



A workshop was organized by Dr. Henrik Chetan Aspengren from Linnaeus University in cooperation with the Nordic Centre in India on the title, 'Towards Global Social Theory? Possibilities and Tensions' in New Delhi from the 18th to the 20th of April. The workshop was funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and LNU Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies.

The workshop aimed to address the current debates regarding the dominance of Northern thought in social theory. The role of modern European Empire and European modernity, as well as the structure of current knowledge systems in marginalising theory from the South has been discussed in this connection. The workshop was organized with an aim to discuss the following theme: What could a move towards active

engagement with Southern theory – without shedding the contributions of Northern theory – actually imply for social movements, to academic disciplines, and to applied research on both the North and South?

The workshop proceedings were organised as a series of conversations between the invitees, running over two days. During the third day of the workshop, two separate panels took place at Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Observer Research Foundation, respectively.

List of invited participants

- Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Warwick
- Aakash Singh Rathore, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney
- Stefan Jonsson, Linköping University
- Manuela Boatca University of Freiburg
- Sanjay Seth, University of London
- Ananta Kumar Giri, Madras Institute of Development Studies
- Sujata Patel, University of Hyderabad
- Gennaro Ascione, University of Naples
- Syed Farid Alatas, National University of Singapore



PARTNER WITH NCI FOR YOUR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

NCI PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IN CONDUCTING ACADEMIC EVENTS IN INDIA. MEMBER UNIVERSITIES CAN AVAIL THE SERVICES OF NCI FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN EVENT AND TO PARTNER WITH UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA FOR JOINT EVENTS. PLEASE CONTACT NCI FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU.

NCI's General Assembly Meeting at University of Oslo held on May 16, 2017

NCI held a successful General Assembly meeting on the 16th of May, 2017 at the University of Oslo with 19 delegates representing our various member universities.

At this meeting a decision was made with regard to moving the NCI Secretariat to Aarhus University, Denmark. Umeå University has been hosting NCI since January 1, 2014, and in 2018 the Secretariat has to move to another member university. NCI is grateful to Aarhus for their generosity in hosting us. Aarhus has been a founder member of NCI and has been actively engaged with NCI since 2001, and has a sustained interest in the South Asian region with several tangible initiatives established. It is with great excitement that NCI is looking forward to its move to Aarhus University while heartily thanking Umeå University, Sweden for all the support they have given us through an eventful four year period, and for the stellar leadership provided by Mr Per Nilsson who continues on in the Board representing Sweden from 2018.



At this meeting the board composition was also approved. NCI thanks its outgoing board members and welcomes its new Board members.

Country	Board member	Deputy Board member
Denmark	Aradhna Aggarwal Copenhagen Business School	Stine Simonsen Puri University of Copenhagen
Sweden	Per Nilsson Umeå University	Linda Lane University of Gothenburg
Finland	Mikko Ruohonen University of Tampere	Sirpa Tenhunen University of Helsinki
Norway	Anne Waldrop Oslo and Akershus University College	Bjørn Erik Andersen University of Bergen
Iceland	Krishna K Damodaran University of Iceland	Hafliði Sævarsson University of Iceland



NCI will also have a new Chairperson from 2018 when we locate to Aarhus University. Dr. Uwe Skoda, is Associate Professor of India and South Asian Studies at the Department of Global Studies at Aarhus University, Denmark. He is presently the Coordinator for Erasmus Mundus Interdisciplinary bridges in Indo-European Studies and the Chairperson of the Contemporary India Study Centre at Aarhus University. Uwe has been actively associated with NCI and has been a board member in the recent past. NCI looks forward to achieving new heights under his able leadership.

The General Assembly meeting also was very productive in terms of approving policy documents for the internal rationalisation of the organisation so as to make NCI a more professional organisation in service of the member university India interests.

NCI LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE

NCI NOW HAS A NEW WEBSITE: WWW.NORDICCENTREINDIA.COM. IT WAS MADE LIVE ON THE 21ST OF AUGUST AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS FUNCTIONALITY. IT IS BASED ON WORDPRESS AS ITS CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THE EMPHASIS HAS BEEN TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE INTERNAL PAGES AND MAKE THE NEWS SECTION MORE VIBRANT, ACTIVE AND CONNECTED TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. CHECK US OUT AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NORDICCENTREINDIA/. PLEASE LIKE, COMMENT AND FOLLOW US!!!

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SUMMER



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