

Democracy's Reach: Political Representation and Elections in India



Illustration by Camilla K. Elmar/Centre for Advanced Study (CAS)

Date: June 8-9, 2026

Venue: Drammensveien 78, Oslo

Contact: Francesca, francesj@uio.no and Ankita

Monday June 8 (Centre for Advanced Studies, 3rd floor):

12:00-13:00 Lunch at Hotel Gabelshus

13:00-13:15 Welcome and introductions

13:15-15:30 Party strategy (chair: Pavithra Suryanarayan, read papers in advance)

Dishil Shrimankar

- *Title:* Do Local candidates reduce ethnic divisions in voting behaviour? Evidence from India

Sameen A. Mohsin Ali

- *Title:* Preserving Power: Party Politics and Bureaucratic Politicization in Pakistan's Hybrid Regime

Neeraj Prasad

- *Title:* Beyond Realignment: Issue Agendas, Electoral Coalitions, and the Strategies of Political Entrepreneurship

15:30-15:45 Coffee and Pastries

15:45-18:00 Gender and Politics (chair: Simon Chauchard, read papers in advance)

Tarsha Vasu

- *Title:* When and How Representation Translates: Women Politicians and Education Across Levels of Government

Surili Sheth

- *Title:* How She Leaves: Marital Violence and Institutional Choice in India

Tanushree Goyal, with Tanisha Mohapatra

- *Title:* Husbands-in-office? Institutional constraints on spousal succession in India's rural local government

19:00 Evening food / hangout at Hotel Gabelshus

Tuesday June 9 (Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, 2nd floor):

9:30-10:00 Coffee and welcome

10:00-11:30 Campaign finance in India (chair: Milan Vaishnav)

- Sukrit Puri
- Ward Berenschot and Vignesh Karthik KR
- Susan Ostermann

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-14:00 Political mobilization beyond parties (chair: Akshay Mangla)

Sumitra Badrinathan, with Adam Auerbach (discussant: Gabi Kruks-Wisner)

- *Title:* The Political Economy of Local Journalism in India

Pranav Gupta (discussant: Adnan Naseemullah)

- *Title:* Mobilization by the RSS

Priyadarshi Amar, with Simon Chauchard and Fernando Mello (discussant: Nick Haas)

- *Title:* Shaping Online Public Opinion: Micro-influencing Strategies in India

14:00-14:30 Coffee and pastries

14:30-16:30 Three new books (chair: Irfan Nooruddin)

Rahul Verma

- *Title:* *Political Families and Democracy in Modern India*

Pavithra Suryanarayan

- *Title:* *Hollowing out the State*

Pradeep Chhibber and Francesca R. Jensenius

- *Title:* *The Reciprocity Trap: Weak parties, Elite Networks, and the Marginalization of the Poor in India*

16:30-19:00 Reception at the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters

List of participants

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