

Dear All,

We are writing to announce a new phase in the life of LASSnet. We are delighted that LASS will now be anchored at the SOAS South Asia Institute (SSAI) and the School of Law at SOAS, with Dr Mayur Suresh as its anchor.

Most of you may not need any introduction to Dr Mayur Suresh (Senior Lecturer in Law at SOAS). He read Law at the National Law School of India, Bangalore (2006), and Columbia Law School (2006) with a PhD in Law from Birkbeck, University of London (2017). We had the pleasure of hosting a discussion on his path breaking book, titled, *Terror Trials: Life and Law in Delhi's Courts* (Fordham University Press, 2023). And we look forward to his research after he was awarded the Leverhulme Research Leadership Award for a project titled *The Social Life of Law in Authoritarian India*. In its new journey, Mayur has generously committed time to anchoring LASSnet at SOAS.

This move reflects the international success of LASSnet, thanks in no small part to the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, which initiated the establishment of the "Law and Social Sciences Research Network" (LASSnet) in 2007. After four international conferences, 5 Delhi Chapter Workshops and nearly 20 webinars, LASSnet has marked a broad field of scholarship from the region, enhanced the circulation of our work and curated many important conversations.

Having met these initial goals, we now need to expand and re-structure the network. This means a shift in our institutional home. It is our hope to make the network truly global, and representative of South Asia; and find newer ways of collaborating in the region.

LASSnet aimed to bring together scholars, lawyers and doctoral researchers engaged in research and teaching of issues of law across social sciences in contemporary South Asian contexts. The first conversations among 14 academics about setting the network, naming it, working out its framework and all that we achieved over almost two decades would not have been possible without the vision, hard work, inspiration, and generosity of then Chairperson of the Centre, Professor Niraja Gopal Jayal, who continues to support and energise us. To all distinguished colleagues and many generations of students of the Centre of the Study of Law and Governance, a huge bouquet of thanks for nurturing LASS.

We would also like to extend our deep appreciation to the outgoing webinar coordination committee especially to Prof. Mani Shekar Singh (JGU), Dr Deblina Dey (JGU); and Dr Manpreet Singh Dhillon (NLSIU, Bangalore) for helping us host and curate the LASS webinars. And to Tejaswi Chhatwal, doctoral student at CSLG, for helping out, as the student coordinator.

Personally speaking, it has been a privilege and honour to anchor LASSnet, since its inception. Thanks to the hard work of so many colleagues and friends in LASS, the network grew and flourished to a current membership of 570 academics and lawyers across South Asia and the world. As a non-funded and informal network of scholars, LASSnet has gathered intellectual energy and inspiration across jurisdictions, disciplines, and methods, imbuing every conference with a unique charisma, generosity, and reciprocity.

Sadly, we lost many friends in this journey – we would especially like to salute Dwijen Rangnekar, Priya Thangaraj, Peter Fitzpatrick, and Sally E. Merry whose vitality and vision drove us forward. The passion and energy they brought to LASS lives on.

As LASS moves to its new home at SOAS, I would like to thank each one of you for bringing life, energy, laughter, and creativity to LASS.

With warm and sincere thanks,

Pratiksha Baxi

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**Law and Social Sciences Research Network is anchored at:**

SOAS South Asia Institute (SSAI) and the School of Law at SOAS

**Anchor: Dr Mayur Suresh**

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