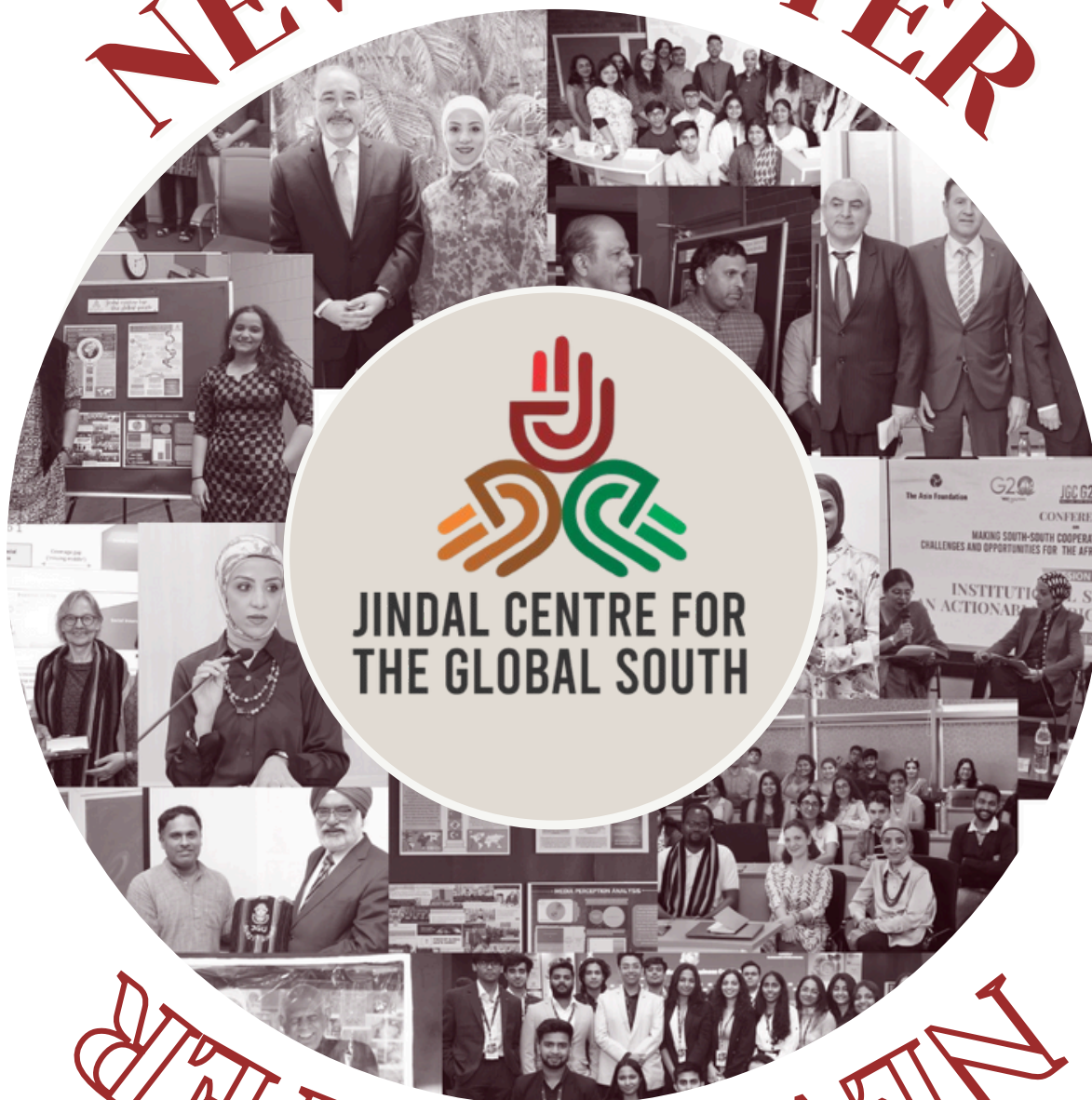


NEWSLETTER



BULLETIN

JCGS'S DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Prof. (Dr.) Hebatallah Adam
Full Professor of Economics
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, JSIA
Founder and Director of Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS)
Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA)
Associate Director at Jindal India Institute (JII)
O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

Dear Readers,

The Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS) was established in February 2020 as a research center affiliated with Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Haryana - India. JCGS is committed to fostering the cohesion of the Southern countries in their efforts to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It acknowledges the varied national interests and priorities that exist within the Global South.

In this edition of the JCGS newsletter, we present a diverse range of perspectives on the critical challenges and opportunities facing the Global South. From the intricacies of the Arab Spring to the pressing issues of climate change and digital inclusion, our discussions and initiatives continue to illuminate the path towards a more equitable and sustainable world.

The launch of our new platform, SouthSight, represents an important move in enhancing the influence of the Global South and promoting well-informed discussions.

We celebrate our achievement in organizing the Voice of the Global South week in collaboration with Jindal India Institute, acknowledging the remarkable commitment and skill of our interns. We really appreciate their important contributions to our work and extend our sincere gratitude for their unwavering devotion to our cause.

JCGS is unwavering in its dedication to capacity building, advocacy, and research. We invite you to join us in our efforts to create a more equitable world for the Global South.

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ABOUT JCGS

The Jindal Centre for the Global South is a think-tank affiliated with the School of International Affairs at Jindal Global University (JGU). The Centre is dedicated to investigating the social, economic, and political challenges facing countries of the Global South. It emphasises South-South Cooperation and its potential to catalyse development in these regions.

Recognising the lack of research on the Global South, the Centre strives to bridge this gap through a multifaceted approach. By conducting rigorous research, fostering dialogue, and providing training, the Centre aims to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To fulfil its mission, the Centre undertakes the following activities:

Academic Engagement: Offers a range of elective courses, such as International Development Finance and South-South Cooperation and the Political Economy of Development in Africa, to graduate and postgraduate students.

Research and Publication: Develop a comprehensive research agenda centred on addressing the challenges of the Global South in terms of development and geopolitics.

Knowledge Sharing: Organizes conferences, seminars, workshops, and public lectures to facilitate knowledge exchange and policy dialogue.

Collaboration: Establishing partnerships with national and international institutions to foster collaborative research, student exchange, and the sharing of expertise.

By adopting a multidisciplinary perspective and respecting the diversity of national interests and priorities, the Centre seeks to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the Global South.

JCGS EVENTS



BEYOND BRICS: A NEW ERA FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH? PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA

Date: April 24th, 2024

Panelists: Professor. (Dr.) Hebatallah Adam, Acting High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to India, His Excellency Cedric C. Cowley and Ambassador (Retd.) Rajiv Bhatia.

The panel discussion, "Beyond BRICS: A New Era for the Global South? Perspectives from South Africa and India," was held by the Jindal Centre for the Global South in collaboration with the Jindal India Institute on April 24, 2024. Moderated by Dr Hebatallah Adam, the panel featured his excellency Cedric C. Cowley, Acting High Commissioner of South Africa to India, and Ambassador (Retd.) Rajiv Bhatia. Attendees included Dr. Sreeram S. Chaulia, Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs, JGU professors, High Commission staff, Jindal Centre members, and JGU students.

Dr. Chaulia's opening address emphasized the panel's focus on the Global South's challenges and the need for collaboration and inclusivity to achieve national goals. H.E. Cowley noted that competitiveness and polarization are shaping inter-state relations, suggesting the evolution of international organizations to address these issues. Ambassador Bhatia highlighted BRICS as a counter-narrative to the G7's dominance and praised its expanding membership and collaboration between India and South Africa.

The discussion also advocated for a "UN 2.0," stressing interconnected global prosperity and South Africa's journey from BRICS invitee to member. Attendees contributed insights on decolonized learning and knowledge-sharing to strengthen BRICS. As a fortunate matter of symbolism, the panel coincided with the 69th anniversary of the Bandung Conference. The event concluded with a focus on shared prosperity and Global South solidarity, followed by a felicitation ceremony.

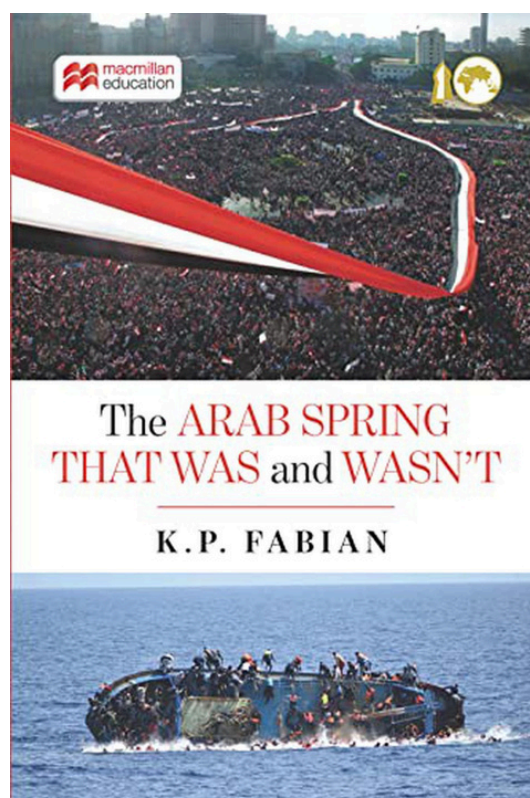
BOOK TALK - "ARAB SPRING THAT WAS AND WASN'T"

Panelists: Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Fattah Ammourah, Ambassador K.P. Fabian

The Jindal School for Global South hosted a compelling panel discussion on Ambassador K.P. Fabian's book, "Arab Spring That Was and Wasn't." Prof. (Dr.) Sreeram Sundar Chaulia initiated the event, praising Fabian's work and summarizing the book's exploration of the Arab Spring's origins. He highlighted the roles of various national and international actors and noted that some post-revolution conditions, such as in Libya, are now worse than before. Prof. Chaulia critiqued the book and encouraged a multi-faceted analysis of the Arab Spring, rebranding it as the 'Dignity Revolution.'

Prof. (Dr.) Abdul Fattah Ammourah offered a provocative perspective, questioning the true intentions behind the uprising. He described the dire situation in Syria and argued that West Asian regimes are manipulated by the Western Hegemonic World Order, presenting the Syrian war as a proxy conflict. He called for increased Arab solidarity to regain control over their own resources and destiny.

Ambassador K.P. Fabian concluded the discussion by clarifying the true nature of the Arab Spring revolts. He criticized the Orientalist view of democracy associated with the uprisings, which he believes undermines genuine democracy in the region. Fabian passionately recounted the uprisings in Tunisia, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Algeria, exposing global leaders' vested interests. He differentiated various decolonization processes and concluded by advocating for a more nuanced critique of the supposed conflict between democracy, modernity, and Islam, emphasizing that humanity's diversity transcends any single race or religion.



GUEST LECTURE: SOCIAL PROTECTION REFORM IN ARAB COUNTRIES

Panelists: Professor. (Dr.) Hebatallah Adam, Ms. Gisela Nauk

On September 6, 2023, O.P. Jindal Global University hosted a guest lecture on 'Social Protection Reform in Arab Countries,' organized by the Jindal Centre for the Global South. The event featured Ms. Gisela Nauk, Senior Social Affairs Officer at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and was moderated by Dr. Hebatallah Adam, Director of the Jindal Centre for the Global South.

Ms. Nauk discussed the evolution and challenges of social protection systems in the Arab world, highlighting their critical role amid socio-political upheavals. She outlined the three main functions of social policy: managing individual risks, stabilizing economic conditions, and fostering social cohesion. Ms. Nauk noted that post-Arab Spring, Arab countries shifted focus from economic growth to social protection, as traditional development indicators proved inadequate. This led to the adoption of alternative metrics like the Human Development Index (HDI) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), transitioning from subsidies to cash transfers.

Key lecture points included:

- Social policy's role in resilience, equality, cohesion, and stability.
- The shift to new metrics post-Arab Spring, such as HDI.
- Implementation challenges, particularly for the informal sector.
- The "missing middle" affected by subsidy removals without social insurance.
- Innovative approaches like Saudi Arabia's minimum income program, blending assistance and insurance.

The lecture underscored the complexity of social protection reform and advocated for policies that uphold human rights and promote resilience.





GUEST LECTURE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS IN AFRICA

Panelists: Professor. (Dr.) Hebatallah Adam, Ms. Chizoba Mzeakor, Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh

Ms. Chizoba Nzeakor, a climate champion and CEO of Climate Tech Solutions and Zoba Advisory, was honored with the African SDG Achievers Award in 2023. In her lecture, "Climate Change and Sustainability Concerns in Africa," she emphasized the urgent need to address climate change.

Although Africa contributes only 7.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it faces severe impacts such as flash floods and droughts in Nigeria and Kenya. Ms. Nzeakor highlighted global initiatives like the Paris Agreement and discussed the consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels and extreme weather.

She advocated for sustainability and the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, such as solar, hydro, and geothermal. Renewable energy offers job creation and energy security, with Africa's significant solar potential being particularly noteworthy. She also stressed the importance of efficient energy use, infrastructure upgrades, and smart grids.

Policy regulation is crucial, yet African policies often encounter bottlenecks. Effective policies, like carbon pricing and emission reduction targets, are essential. Ms. Nzeakor also discussed the need for clean transportation, citing examples from Switzerland and the Netherlands, and emphasized grassroots education for adopting electric buses and trains.

She highlighted the role of businesses in the net-zero transition and the importance of funding and investments in clean energy. Public awareness and behavior change, including education campaigns, are vital. Collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and youth is essential for a just transition. Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh from Jindal Global Law School added that Africa's climate impact and conservation funding disparities necessitate social welfare policies for vulnerable communities. The event underscored the need for collaborative global action and individual responsibility in promoting climate consciousness, in line with the UN SDGs.

MAKING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION WORK FOR AFRICA - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AFRICAN UNION AS A MEMBER OF THE G20

Prof (Dr) Hebatallah Adam participated in the Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies and the Asia Foundation's conference on "Making South-South Cooperation Work for Africa - Challenges and Opportunities for the African Union as a member of the G20." which took place on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the Hotel Taj Mahal in New Delhi.

She presented to the panelists her views on Africa's development and finance challenges and opportunities during the second session, which was brilliantly moderated by Ms. Nandita Baruah, Country Representative – India, The Asia Foundation. Ambassador (ret'd) Shri Rajiv Bhatia, Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies, joined the discourse as a panelist, making the discussion even more enriching and informative.

Appreciation to Ambassador Dr Mohan Kumar and his dedicated team at the Jindal Global Centre for G20 Studies was also doled out by Prof (Dr) Adams, for their inspirational and devoted participation. The Asia Foundation Team was also thanked and held in esteem for organizing the significant event in a timely manner.



CII INDIA NORDIC BALTIC BUSINESS CONCLAVE

A 25-member delegation from the Jindal Centre for the Global South was invited to participate in the 2nd Edition of the India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave 2023 organized in New Delhi. The initiative was in collaboration with the MEA, and GOI, and aimed to foster increased partnership between India and the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden) countries, known for their prowess in innovation and technology.

The conclave was strategically designed to facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders, recognizing India's pursuit of greater market knowledge, specific procedures, and compliance norms, which can be leveraged through the expertise of the NB8 region. Thus, the conclave aimed to bridge these knowledge gaps, offering a platform for information exchange that benefits both Indian businesses and their Nordic Baltic counterparts. It also provided vast opportunities for Indian industries to form partnerships and joint ventures, as well as enter into technology transfer agreements with institutions and enterprises in the NB8 region.

Students had the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions and interact with Ambassadors and Business Leaders from the NB8 belt, engaging in insightful roundtable discussions with NB8 ambassadors and Business Leaders from different corporations (IKEA, Infosys, etc.)

The discussions were focused on exchanging ideas and forging novice partnerships that will drive sustainable development and growth across the globe.

BOOK DISCUSSION: “POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH POST-COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Panelists: Professor. (Dr.) Hebatallah Adam, Ambassador Gurjit Singh, Prof. V. Upadhyay, Former Prof S.K. Dey

Jindal Centre for the Global South acquired the privilege of organizing a book discussion on “Political Economy of Development in the Global South Post-Covid 19 pandemic” by Prof Hebatallah Adam associate professor and director JCGS, (co-editor Prof. Rena) that was published by Springer. The program was scheduled for the 17th of January 2024.

JCGS was honoured to host Ambassador Gurjit Singh, Former Indian Diplomat, Ambassador of India to Germany, Indonesia, ASEAN, Ethiopia, and the African Union; along with Prof. V. Upadhyay, Former Professor, Head of, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi, and the S K Dey Chair Professor ISS, New Delhi, as Panelists at the discussion.

The discussion was launched by Prof. (DR) Hebatallah Adam, Director of JCGS.

The session was moderated by Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor (Economics) at Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) & Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), at O.P Jindal Global University.



INTRODUCED 'SOUTHSIGHT' - ILLUMINATING THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The month of February 2024 was an exciting one for JCGS, due to the launch of 'SouthSight', JCGS's latest venture which promises to be a dynamic platform committed to shedding light on the multifaceted tapestry of issues, events, and achievements shaping the Global South. Unveiling the unseen, 'SouthSight' aims to present engaging segments such as illuminating explainers, riveting Global South facts, meticulously compiled news, insightful podcasts, sharp and informative infographics, interesting video content, and exclusive interviews.

JCGS further presented its first SouthSight explainer on the ICJ 'Genocide' Case brought up by South Africa against Israel. The author, Riddhi Deokar, a Research Intern at the center, dissected the Case, the Verdict, and its larger implications for the Global South. The recent case by South Africa against Israel in the International Court of Justice, accusing the latter of genocide reveals the strenuous history of the Israel-Palestine conflict which has ramifications not only for the players involved in the conflict but also for the larger world order. The Global South is no longer an "afterthought" when it comes to considerations regarding world issues and hence it is pertinent to understand how it plays into this conflict. Along with being a flagbearer of peace and conflict resolution, the Global South is diversely affected by the conflict. This engaging piece discovers the intricacies of the conflict, decoding the verdict and the ramifications it holds for the Global South and its role in the conflict.



RESEARCH EXHIBIT AS PART OF SAMVAAD

The JSIA Student Council and Diplomania organized the 'Samvaad' Conclave on the 12th and 13th of February, to heighten the vigor related to International Relations. This task was accomplished by choosing the integral theme, 'Globalization: The Way Forward'.

Hence, JCGS was glad to participate and showcase its research in connection to the theme, alongside various other JSIA Research Centers at a special exhibit set up for the purpose. On Day One, the JCGS Centre Coordinator Sarthak Mukherjee, alongside Riddhi Deokar, a research intern, showcased the center's work to Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, former Indian Ambassador and Director General of MP-IDSA and Dr. Sreeram S. Chaulia, Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs. On Day Two, the presenters took Professor Mahendra P. Lama, Senior Professor at JNU, through the research posters and explained JCGS's analysis. In the interaction with the dignitaries, crucial insights on the leadership dilemma of the Global South countries, the evolution of the Global South as a concept, and India's role as the 'Voice of Global South' were discussed.

The research posters, which included an explainer on emerging power aspirations for Global South leadership, and an original media perception analysis by JCGS's in-house Global South Policy & Research Lab on India's pledge to be the Voice of Global South, were the result of the effort put forward by a diligent team, comprising of Ria Nair, Nikita Anand & Rehet Bains (Research Assistants), Adi Roy (Head of Ideation, Design & Strategy), Ana S. Thomas (Assistant Manager, GSP & R Lab) Aditya Gulati (Analyst) and Riddhi Deokar, Taneesha Jain and Tanisha Singal (Research Interns), led by Sarthak Mukherjee (Coordinator & Head of Research for JCGS and Founding Manager, GSPR Lab).



JCGS SHORT ESSAY CONTEST

The Jindal Centre for the Global South was delighted to announce the outstanding achievements of the winners of the Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS) Short Essay Contest on the theme: 'Challenges and Future of the Global South'.

The winners are:

1. First place: Vaibhav Kumar (JGLS)
2. Second place: Abhinandita Biswas (JGLS)
3. Third place: Bhavya Bansal (JGLS)

Prof. Dr (Prof). Hebatallah Adams, Founder and Director of Jindal Centre for the Global South, and Prof. Ravi Thapar, Executive Dean of Jindal School of International Affairs, presented the certificates of recognition to the winners on Monday 11th March 2024.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA JUST PEACE DIPLOMACY: EXPERIENCES AND PROSPECTS



JCGS hosted an insightful discussion on "Middle East & North Africa Just Peace Diplomacy: Experiences and Prospects." on the 1st of April 2023. The event was organized by the Centre for the Middle East Studies, Jindal India Institute (JII), and Jindal Centre for the Global South.

The distinguished guests who took the time out from their busy schedules and shared their experiences and insights were :

- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Issa Saleh Alshibani, Oman
- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Bassam AlKhatib, Syria
- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Ali Achoui, Algeria
- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Rabie Narsh, Lebanon

The discussion highlighted the critical role of regional organizations and individual nations in fostering peace in the region. Also, it explored the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue and addressing the root causes of conflict.

THE VOICE OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH WEEK

The Jindal Centre for the Global South, in collaboration with the Jindal India Institute (JII) and the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), was thrilled to announce the "The Voice of the Global South Week" from 6th to 11th March 2024.

The event featured:

1.(Re)discovering the Global South Exhibition: Inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Wael Mohamed Awed Hamed, and Former Ambassador K.P. Fabian, the exhibition showcased the cultural, historical, and socio-economic dimensions of the Global South through interactive displays, storytelling, art installations, and augmented reality, all constructed mainly from recycled materials. Highlights of the exhibition included media coverage and augmented reality, which made it a dynamic, 24/7, student-led event promoting learning and collaboration.

2.Panel Discussions and Guest Lectures: A plethora of panel discussions and lectures were held, to encapsulate the central themes of the Global South Week. Topics for the panel discussions included - Emergence of the BRICS way - A way to a Multipolar Order, Shaping Tomorrow: Exploring the future of democracy and Politics in Asia and its Relevance for the Global South, Beyond Stereotypes - Amplifying the Voices of Women in the Global South, and Silenced Voices, Shared Struggles: Building Resilience in the Global South,

3.Documentary and Film Screenings: Movies and Documentaries like the 'Lumumba' (2000), Directed by Raoul Peck and 'Winners and Losers in World Trade & Profits over People', were screened in order to allow immersive experiences into the world of the Global South. Finally, the event concluded with a panel discussion on "South-South Cooperation: Exploring the Potential of India's Partnerships with Africa, Latin America, and Asia," emphasizing the importance of South-South cooperation for development and India's role in fostering these partnerships.



JCGS FAREWELL FOR 2023-24 BATCH

The Jindal Centre for the Global South, celebrated a bittersweet event on the 30th of May 2024, as it bid farewell to those who have been part of JCGS's journey, and the heartfelt memories created over the semesters were reminisced with fondness.

At this recent farewell event, Prof (Dr). Hebatallah Adam Founder and Director of the center, attended and distributed recognition certificates to graduating interns with outstanding performance. Also, a heartfelt thank you to Sarthak Mukherjee was provided, for his exceptional leadership as the center coordinator during 2023-2024. His commitment and guidance were recognized to have greatly contributed to the center's collective achievements.

Lastly, the event ended with teary eyes of the past and hopeful looks for the future, as the center looks forward with anticipation to welcoming new faces and forging new bonds.



BLOG SNIPPETS

INDIA'S G-20 PRESIDENCY – EFFORTS IN THE REDUCTION OF THE GLOBAL NORTH & GLOBAL SOUTH DIVIDE

By Lakshmi Kotha

India's G-20 leadership, encapsulated in the summit theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth, One Family, One Future,” highlighted interconnectedness and inclusivity. The summit, hosted across 60 cities with over a crore participants, showcased India's cultural richness and commitment to decentralization. Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed it the ‘People’s Presidency,’ emphasizing nationwide participation beyond the capital.

The September 9-10, 2023 summit underscored India's efforts to bridge the Global North-South divide. PM Modi emphasized support for Global South countries, highlighting development and climate initiatives such as the Global Biofuels Alliance and Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre. The Digital Public Infrastructure model aimed to bridge the digital divide in developing countries, while the focus on women-led development marked a narrative shift.

Key achievements included the Green Development Pact and the G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation, which aimed to share climate data globally. Efforts to reform Multilateral Development Banks focused on providing long-term financing for developing nations. Initiatives like Global Skill Mapping and Holistic Health and Wellness systems benefited the global community, reflecting the summit's theme.

India's leadership culminated in the unanimous approval of the G20 New Delhi Declaration, integrating perspectives from the Global South through the Voice of Global South Summit. The inclusion of the African Union as a permanent G20 member exemplified India's commitment to inclusivity, making “Incredible India” a fitting moniker for the host nation.

FEMINIST ART IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: USE OF CREATIVE MEDIUMS IN EXPANDING RIGHTS

By Adi Roy

During the 1980s, the art world in the United States experienced a covert revolution led by the Guerrilla Girls, anonymous feminist artists who exposed gender bias and sexism. Their provocative art and installations sparked a global movement, inspiring artists and activists to use creativity for resistance and advocacy. This wave of artistic activism resonated globally, especially in the Global South. In India, the 'Gulabi Gang,' led by Sampat Pal Devi, used theatrical street performances to combat domestic violence and caste discrimination. In Mexico, the 'Mujeres en Resistencia' highlighted gender-based violence and femicide through street art, murals, and performance art, showcasing the power of art to critique societal norms.

Artists such as Frida Kahlo, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Shirin Neshat address issues of gender, identity, and social justice through their work, incorporating local symbols and cultural contexts to raise awareness about marginalized voices. Movements like the 'Bring Back Our Girls' campaign in Nigeria and Pakistan's Women's Action Forum (WAF) illustrate the intersectionality of feminist art with broader social justice causes, including indigenous rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and environmentalism.

FROM PIGGY BANKS TO INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS: HOW PARENTS CAN SHAPE THEIR CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH MONEY

By Dr. Firdous Ahmad Malik & Owais Ismaeil

Financial literacy is vital for managing personal finances, with parents playing a crucial role in developing their children's financial habits. This essay explores how parents influence saving, budgeting, goal-setting, and delayed gratification. It highlights the transition from early saving mechanisms like piggy banks to complex investment portfolios, emphasizing the importance of establishing a strong financial foundation early. Empirical evidence shows that parental guidance significantly impacts children's financial behaviors, with studies indicating that parents who teach saving and budgeting skills foster responsible money management in their children. Encouraging goal-setting helps children develop a sense of direction in their financial planning. Teaching delayed gratification allows children to prioritize needs over wants and resist impulse buying. Tracking expenses and maintaining open communication about family finances further enhance children's financial literacy. Embracing financial mistakes as learning opportunities and fostering independence are also crucial. Overall, parental involvement is essential in preparing children for a financially capable and independent adulthood.

EGYPT'S ACTIONS TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE

By Anoushka Kashyap

Egypt is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing heat waves, dust storms, rising sea levels, droughts, and water scarcity. The Nile River is particularly threatened by sea level rise, prompting initiatives like 'Egypt Vision 2030' and the 'National Climate Change Strategy 2050' (NCCS). Egypt was among the first to address climate change threats under the 'equity principle of common' in 1994. Key challenges include water scarcity, impacting agriculture and overall livelihood. The 'State of the Climate in Africa 2019 Report' highlights increasing threats to health, food, and water security. Over 95% of Egypt's water originates outside its borders, exacerbating the crisis due to its growing population and limited resources. To combat these issues, the U.S. is collaborating with Egypt. The 'Egypt Vision 2030' aims for sustainable development, energy access, and environmental protection, while the NCCS 2050 focuses on economic growth, resilience, governance, climate financing, and scientific research. Egypt's efforts are crucial, yet international collaboration is essential for broader climate change mitigation and adaptation.

DIGITAL RENAISSANCE: UNVEILING THE DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

By Vaibhav Kumar

The digital revolution is reshaping societies globally, but its benefits are unevenly distributed. While the Global North has largely benefited from advancements in information and communication technologies (ICTs), the Global South faces significant challenges. The digital divide is stark, with only 46% of individuals in the least developed countries using the Internet compared to 87% in developed nations. This gap affects education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Despite these challenges, the digital revolution presents substantial opportunities for development in the Global South. Digital platforms can democratize access to information and foster knowledge-based economies. Examples include Kenya's M-Pesa, which enhances financial inclusion, and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which promotes digital financial services. Telemedicine applications, such as mHealth in Rwanda, are also improving healthcare access in remote areas.

To maximize these opportunities, addressing infrastructure constraints, bridging the digital literacy gap, and creating supportive regulatory frameworks are crucial. Collaborative efforts by governments, businesses, and civil society are essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable digital development in the Global South.

JCGS RECOMMENDS

Music

1. South Asia

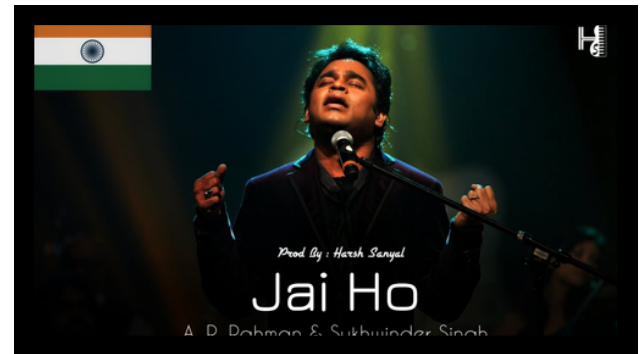
- A.R. Rahman (India) - "Jai ho"
- 2. Ravi Shankar (India) - "Raga Jog"

2. Africa

- Fela Kuti (Nigeria) - "Zombie"
- Youssou N' Dour (Senegal) - "7 seconds".

3. Middle East

- Fairuz (Lebanon) - "Li Beirut"
- Oum Kalthoum (Egypt) - "Enta Omri"



A.R. Rahman (India) - "Jai ho"

Movies

1. The Namesake (2006)

Synopsis: Based on Jhumpa Lahiri's novel, the film explores the cultural assimilation of a Bengali family in America, with the protagonist Irrfan Khan delivering a poignant performance.

2. Crazy Rich Asians (2018)

Synopsis - The movie, though labeled in the rom-com genre of cinema, depicts important themes of development, culture, and migration related to the Global South. Celebrated for its inclusion of diversity into mainstream cinema, it is also analyzed for its illustrations of globalization, economic prosperity, and a clash between traditional Asian values and modern influences.

3. Suspensión (2019)

Synopsis - Suspensión is a documentary by Colombian film-maker Simón Uribe Martínez, which illustrates how unkept promises and corruption across successive governments dramatically impedes the lives of local people, by telling the story around an unfinished bridge at the edge of Colombia's Amazon rainforest.



**Crazy Rich Asians,
2018**

JCGS RECOMMENDS

Art

1. 'Dancing in Colombia' by Fernando Botero (Colombia, 1980)

Synopsis - Fernando Botero's "Dancing in Colombia" is an esteemed artifact that significantly contributes to the representation of the Global South in the world of art. It serves as a commentary on the social and political context of Colombia by depicting scenes of joy and festivity amidst the backdrop of Colombia's complex history. Therefore, Botero invites viewers to understand and appreciate the resilience and vibrancy of Colombian society, while also offering a counter-narrative to the often Eurocentric focus in art.



2. "The Skin Speaks a Language Not Its Own" by Bharti Kher:

Synopsis - The installation features a life-sized elephant, a revered symbol in Indian culture, entirely covered in bindis. The bindis are arranged in an intricate pattern, transforming the elephant into a visually striking and symbolic piece. By using bindis, Kher engages with themes of cultural identity. The elephant, an important figure in Hindu mythology and Indian culture, is reinterpreted through the lens of contemporary art. This blending of traditional and modern elements reflects the ongoing negotiation of cultural identity in the Global South, where historical traditions intersect with global influences.



3. Untitled" by Ibrahim Mahama (Ghana)

Synopsis - "Untitled" by Ibrahim Mahama is a powerful and evocative large-scale installation that utilizes repurposed jute sacks to explore themes of labor, migration, and socio-economic conditions in Ghana. The scale and texture of Mahama's installations create a visual impact that invites viewers to engage with the materiality and history of the work. The worn, patched, and stitched sacks evoke a sense of resilience and survival, symbolizing the strength of the people who handled them.



JCGS RECOMMENDS

Books

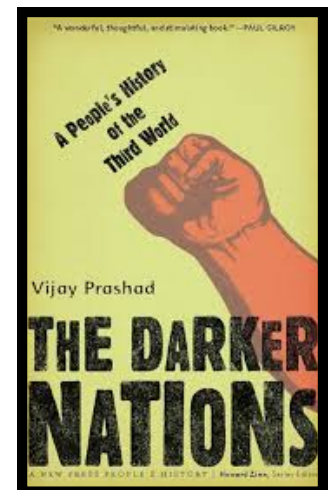
1. **"Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe**

Synopsis - "Things Fall Apart" is not only a powerful critique of colonialism but also an exploration of the complexities of human nature and the resilience of traditional cultures in the face of external pressures. It is widely regarded as a seminal work in African literature, offering insights into the rich cultural heritage and historical experiences of Nigeria and its inhabitants



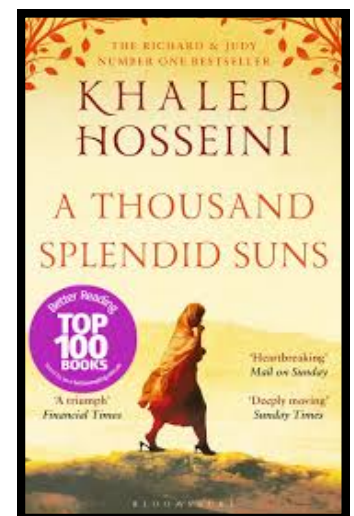
2. **"The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World" by Vijay Prashad**

Synopsis - The book offers a critical perspective on the political agency and aspirations of formerly colonized nations, asserting their rightful place in shaping the course of modern history and challenging Orientalist narratives, along with Western superiority.



3. **"A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini**

Synopsis - "A Thousand Splendid Suns" is an emotionally gripping narrative that sheds light on the human cost of war and the strength of humanity in the midst of unimaginable hardship. There is a special focus on the resilience of Afghan women, highlighting their courage, sacrifices, and unwavering hope for a better future



JCGS TESTIMONIALS



Himakshi
Centre Coordinator

"I have been with JCGS for over a year, initially driven by my motivation to research various developmental issues within the Global South. Over the past year, I have discovered a deepened interest in a broad range of issues, which has led me to focus my current research on climate change and the associated developmental challenges in the Global South.

My previous work involved analysing international peacebuilding missions in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where I examined the factors contributing to the success in Liberia and the shortcomings in the DRC.

This comparative analysis, viewed in the context of contemporary 21st-century challenges, highlights the increasing difficulty of achieving peace due to intertwined socio-economic, political, and environmental problems. Therefore, it is imperative for scholars from the Global South to produce original and high-quality research on issues pertaining to their region to mitigate potential biases and provide more accurate and nuanced insights."



Taneesha Jain
Research Assistant

"Hello, I am Taneesha Jain, 2nd year student of MA DLB and currently I work as Research Assistant at JCGS.

The Global South region with its unique culture and history faces diverse and profound challenges which resonate globally. At JCGS, I find the right opportunity to comprehend the varied aspects of the region with my focus interest on environment and sustainability. These topics, in my opinion have a crucial scope for advancement of the developing nations and discussing them extensively is the need of the hour. Moreover, as for JCGS, the most highlighting moment would be the exhibition which showcased team work, creativity, cooperation and sheer determination in presenting visually the importance of Global South. Thus, while engaging in research, the centre also offers a distinctive way to explore the region."

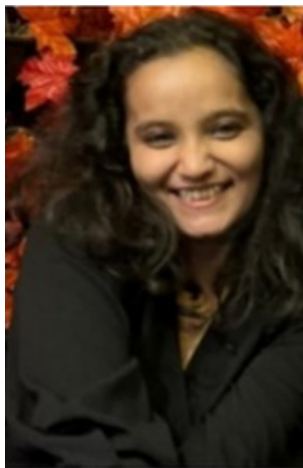
JCGS TESTIMONIALS



Gauravi Bhajanka
Head of
Communications and
Outreach

"I joined the Jindal Centre for the Global South (JCGS) because of its unwavering commitment to inclusive growth, social justice, and sustainable development. Starting as a research intern and now leading the Communications and Outreach team, I've had the opportunity to address critical challenges in the Global South through socio-economic research, policy analysis, and international cooperation. My journey has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to amplify the centre's impact.

There's a pressing need to highlight the intersection of climate change and socio-economic development, as well as the vital roles of women and youth in sustainable development. A standout experience was participating in the 2nd CII India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave, where we explored growth opportunities between the Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) countries and India. My time at JCGS has been transformative, and I'm excited to continue advocating for a more just and sustainable world."



Riddhi
Senior Intern

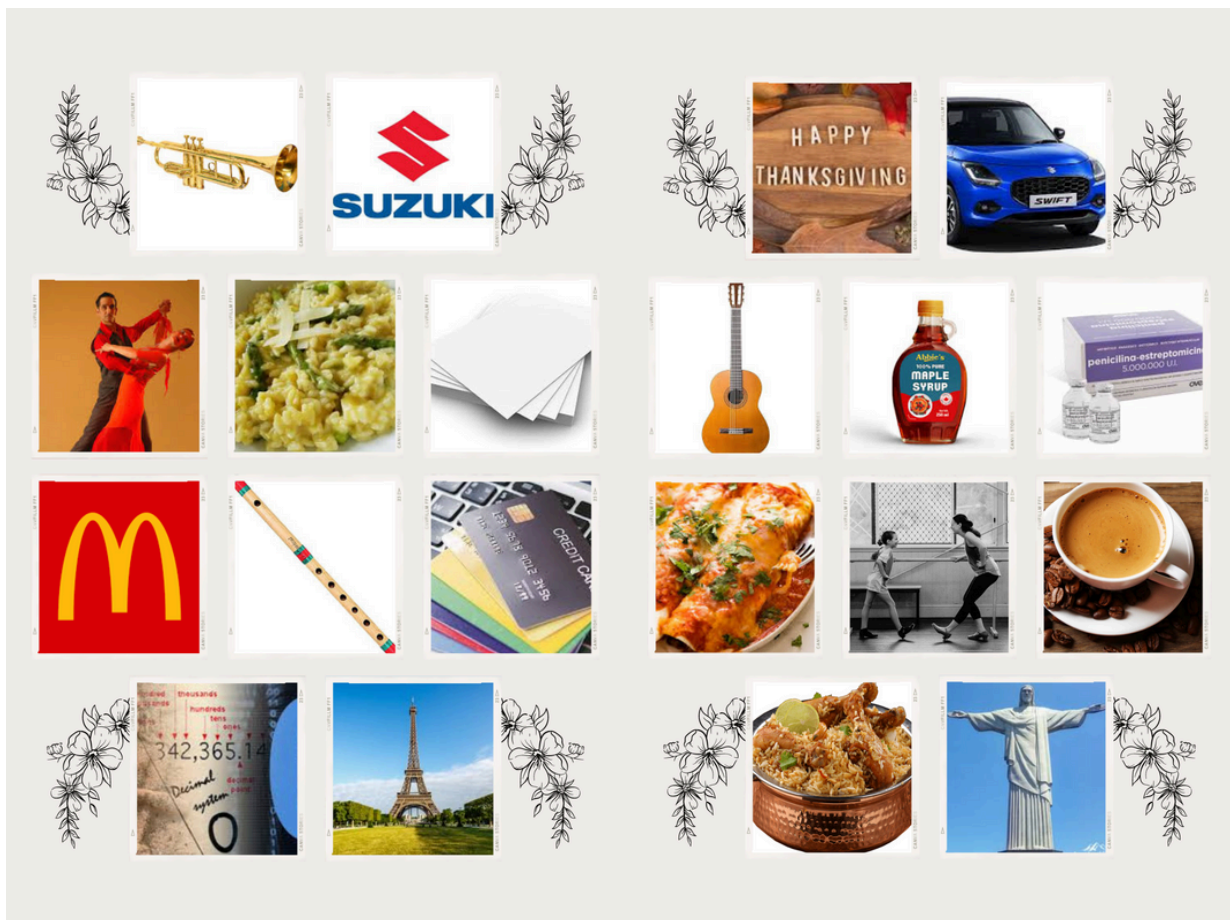
My brief stint as a senior intern with the Jindal Centre for Global South has helped me grow as a student and as a researcher. The centre not only aided me to achieve my endeavour of bringing to the surface the voice of the neglected but also combined my resolve for problem solving by compelling me to leave my biases at the doorstep and embrace a holistic lens of viewing international relations.

The attribute of this centre, due to which it holds a special place in my heart, is the personal touch the previous centre co-ordinator, Sarthak Mukherjee brought along with him and imparted the same values as he left behind his legacy. Working with him and the senior research analysts during the 'Global South Exhibit', I learned how to develop relationships not only with my peers but also with high-ranking officials like ambassadors. The exposure during the exhibit was immense and I will forever be grateful for the family like atmosphere they cultivated for me.

My ambition for the centre is highlighting the data work our research lab undertakes. Our work on international financial subjugation holds vast potential and the same needs to be brought forward. I thoroughly enjoy researching for the centre and the Global South as it allows me to explore my interests while also providing me with the atmosphere to grow.

WHERE'S GLOBAL SOUTH?

In this activity, you will be presented with a collection of 20 items from around the world. Your task is to identify the country of origin for each item and then determine whether it belongs to the Global South or the Global North. This challenge is designed to test your knowledge of global diversity and the economic and cultural characteristics that distinguish the Global South from the Global North.





Special Mention To Our Contributors

Content Contributors

Lakshmi Kotha
Adi Roy
Dr. Fidrous Ahmad Malik & Owais Ismaeli
Anoushka Kashyap
Vaibhav Kumar
Taneesha Jain
Gauravi Bhajanka
Riddhi Deokar
Himakshi Chaudhary

Editors

Himakshi Chaudhary
Gauravi Bhajanka
Sonakshi Garg
Shreyoshi Roy Chowdhury
Ruchi Baid
Shaurya Agarwal
Samriddhi Suresh

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