



FONDATION
DE L'INNOVATION
POUR LA DÉMOCRATIE



Centre for Asian Studies
in Africa

Sentrum vir Asiatiese Studies in Afrika
Senthara ya Dithuto tsa Asia ka Afrika

Mapping democratic decline, imagining democratic futures

Transregional dialogues
across Asia and Africa

Pretoria
14-16 February
2024

MAPPING DEMOCRATIC DECLINE, IMAGINING DEMOCRATIC FUTURES:
TRANSREGIONAL DIALOGUES ACROSS ASIA AND AFRICA

Centre for Asian Studies in Africa
Innovation Foundation for Democracy

14-16 FEBRUARY 2024 – UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

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DAY 1: EXPLORING THE DEMOCRATIC CONJUNCTURE IN ASIA AND AFRICA

Venue: The Javett Arts Centre

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Adam Hanieh
(University of Exeter)

***Democratic Struggles at a Time of Global Crises:
What Can We Learn from the Middle East?***

Keynote Lecture

Respondents:

Nivedita Menon (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

William Shoki (Africa is a Country/Wits University)

Chair: Alf Gunvald Nilsen (University of Pretoria)

Drinks reception 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

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DAY 2: MAPPING DEMOCRATIC DECLINE

Venue: The Lounge, Old College House

PANEL 1: ARCS OF AUTHORITARIANISM

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Dae-oup Chang (Sogang University) – The Rise of Authoritarian Neoliberalism in South Korea

Sefika Kumral (UNC Greensboro) – Global Crises and Populist Authoritarianism in Turkey

Jason Love (University of Pretoria) – Authoritarian Populism as Ideological Language in South Africa

Chair: Fabio Luis (Federal University of São Paulo)

PANEL 2: AUTHORITARIAN PEOPLES, AUTHORITARIAN SUBJECTIVITIES

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Siphiwe Dube (Wits University) – African Christian Nationalism: A Typology

Smriti Upadhyay (Dartmouth College) – Dull Compulsions, Sharp Edges: Class and Political Subjectivity in a Hindu Nationalist Stronghold

Boaventura Monjane (Grassroots International) – Resisting Neoliberal Authoritarianism in Southern Africa

Chair: Joel Quirk (Wits University)

LUNCH: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION: BOOK PANEL

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

Nivedita Menon

(Jawaharlal Nehru University)

***Secularism as Misdirection:
Critical Thought from the Global South***

Discussants:

Jonathan Okeke (University of Pretoria)

Alf Gunvald Nilsen (University of Pretoria)

Chair: Srila Roy (Wits University)

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DAY 3: IMAGINING DEMOCRATIC FUTURES

Venue: The Lounge, Old College House

PANEL 1: RIGHTS CULTURES AND DEMOCRATIC IMAGINARIES

9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Janjira Sombatpoonsiri (Chulalongkorn University) – Civil Resistance amidst Thailand's Autocratisation:
Digital Repression and Possibilities of Pushback

Alf Nilsen (University of Pretoria) – Place-Making and the Politics of Rights and Belonging in Rural India

Third speaker TBC

Chair: Thula Simpson (University of Pretoria)

PANEL 2: GENDER AND SEXUAL POLITICS ON THE FRONTLINES OF DEMOCRACY

11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Reem Abbas (Independent researcher) – Discriminatory Laws as Class Control: Gender and Class Politics in the Aftermath of Sudan’s 2019 Uprising

Debjyoti Ghosh (University of Pretoria) – The Politics of Marriage Equality in Modi’s India

Ruby Lai (Lingnan University) – De/Coupling Feminism and Democracy? Gender Politics in Social Movements in Hong Kong

Chair: Neo Mohlabane (University of Pretoria)

LUNCH – 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION: FILM SCREENING/DISCUSSION WITH FILMMAKER

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Venue: The Javett Arts Centre

#GoHomeGota – The Story Behind Sri Lanka’s Hashtagged Protest Movement

The screening will be followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, Sulochana Peiris.

Discussants:

Julian Brown (Wits University)

Nisa Paleker (University of Pretoria)

Chair: Alf Gunvald Nilsen

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BIOS – SPEAKERS, CHAIRS AND DISCUSSANTS

ADAM HANIEH is professor of political economy and global development at Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, and joint chair at the Institute of International and Area Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

ALF GUNVALD NILSEN is the director of the Centre for Asian Studies in Africa and professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria.

BOAVENTURA MONJANE is a journalist, scholar-activist, and solidarity programme officer for West Africa and Haiti with Grassroots International.

DAE-OUP CHANG is professor in the Department of Global Korean Studies at Seoul University.

DEBJYOTI GHOSH is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Sociology and the Centre for Asian Studies in Africa at the University of Pretoria.

FABIO LUIS is professor of Latin American Studies at the Federal University of São Paulo.

JANJIRA SOMBATPOONSIRI is assistant professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University and an associate at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies.

JASON LOVE is a master's student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria.

JOEL QUIRK is professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

JONATHAN OKEKE is associate professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Pretoria.

JULIAN BROWN is associate professor in the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

NEO MOHLABANE is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria.

NISA PALEKER is a senior lecturer in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria.

NIVEDITA MENON is a professor at the Centre for Comparative Politics & Political Theory at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

REEM ABBAS is a Sudanese feminist activist, journalist, writer, researcher, and independent communications expert.

RUBY LAI is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at Lingnan University

SEFIKA KUMRAL is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

SIPHIWE DUBE is a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

SMRITI UPADHYAY is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at Dartmouth College.

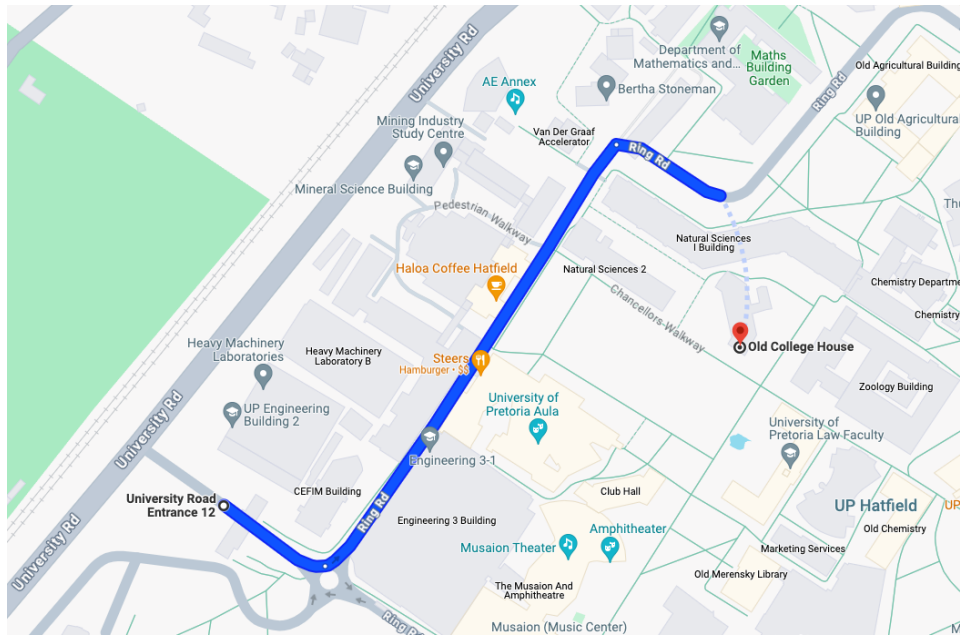
SRILA ROY is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

SULOCHANA PEIRIS is a freelance documentary maker and writer based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

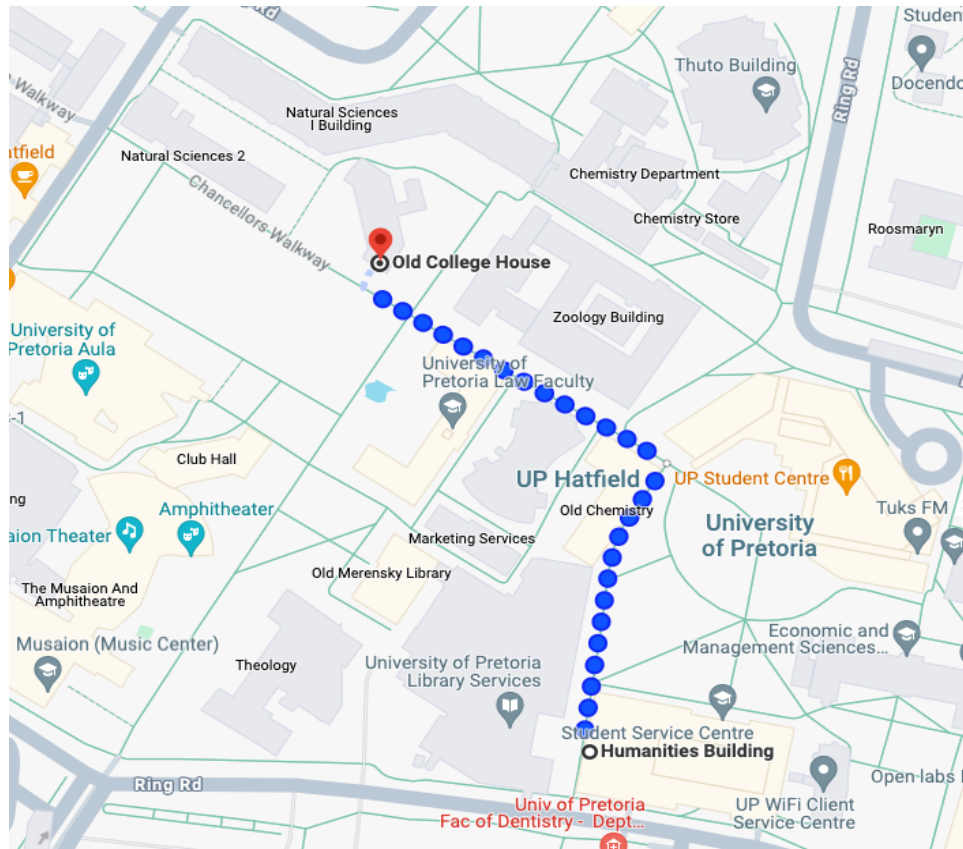
THULA SIMPSON is an associate professor in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria.

WILLIAM SHOKI is editor of *Africa Is a Country* and a PhD student in the Department of Philosophy at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Old College House from University Road entrance to UP Campus



Old College House from Lynwood Road/Humanities Building



JAVETT ARTS CENTRE – ADJACENT TO UP CAMPUS

