

Title:

Global Challenges in Local Contexts: Specific Issue Area Policy-making at Sub-National levels (Jammu & Kashmir or Kerala in India) or in Small States (Bhutan).

Name of the lead academic or academics (we encourage working in teams if that suits you better)

Dr Nitasha Kaul

Research centre studentship would come under:

Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD)

No more than 100-150 words on your proposed focus (including description of project and pathway to impact)

This studentship is meant to encourage work on specific south Asian polities that face unconventional challenges of development and democracy, either at sub-state levels or in small state contexts. I have previously worked on British Academy funded projects on Kerala and Kashmir, and on AHRC-GCRF and British Academy funded projects on Bhutan. My previous work has revealed the peculiarities of these contexts, such as the absence of substantive democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, the ideological dominance of communist party in Kerala, or the tensions between development and foreign policy in democratised Bhutan. The studentship would enable an in-depth understanding of the determinants of policy-making in one of these contexts in a specific issue area (for example, environment). It would be a valuable and focused account of the policy process disaggregated at a subnational level, or in a small state context. This micro level of analysis during the successful candidate's doctoral work combined with my previous research and network linkages would generate a clear pathway to impact through identifying emerging challenges and finding evidence-based means to address them.

Any issues to be aware of with your project (e.g. linked projects/funding):

I do not anticipate any problems with any linked projects.

No more than 50 words on how your proposed focus promotes university's priorities around Sustainable Development Goals and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

My previous work on Biodemocracy and Resilience has focused on SDGs and the high-profile deliberations I organised were appreciated at cabinet level in Bhutan. Going beyond the conventional macro picture, the project will develop a local understanding of policy-making in a specific issue area for populations that live under the burden of problematic developmental or democratic practices. This disaggregated approach to understanding policy-making is most useful in providing a fine-grained account of what obstructs or promotes initiatives for greater good such as SDGs or EDI.

Brief 2 sentence description of the project that can be used for advertisement later on.

This project will focus on global challenges in local contexts, seeking to understand what drives policy in smaller South Asian polities. The successful candidate will work with the investigator to develop a fine-grained account of the dynamics of policy-making in a specific issue area in any one of the following contexts: small state (Bhutan) or at sub-national level in India (Jammu & Kashmir or Kerala in India).