



COUNTEROPPRESSION

ANNEX

Alpa Shah

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ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION PART A
Behind the Indian Boom Exhibition in the UK raises public awareness and understandings

Please find in this Part A of Annex for COUNTEROPPRESSION visitor numbers to the exhibition at the Brunei Gallery. Please also find a report on the changes in awareness of the public who visited as well as their general comments.

The youtube video with Alpa Shah on the key issues raised by the research filmed in the exhibition can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8Xp2aVGDQQ>

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- 1) The figures outlining the number of visitors to the ‘Behind the Indian Boom’ exhibition, held at the Brunei Gallery between October and December 2017 (page 3).
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Behind the Indian Boom, Brunei Gallery Visitor Figures, October – December 2017.

Please find an email trail below outlining visitor figures for 'Behind the Indian Boom' from the Head of Galleries and Exhibition, John Hollingworth. He estimates that together with the events the Gallery organised, the number was 9k. But this excludes the numerous events organised by our Programme of Research over the course of the exhibition, the figures for which were at least another 1000. So we predict that we had at least 10,000 visitors in total. The average number of visitors for a similar length of period for exhibitions in the gallery is 7-8000, as John Hollingworth states in the emails below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Hollingworth** <jh35@soas.ac.uk>
Date: 25 April 2018 at 15:11
Subject: Re: Behind the Indian Boom - last details To:
Jens Lerche <jl2@soas.ac.uk>

Dear Jens

My apologies your original email got lost in the traffic of setting up the new exhibitions, visitor figures were in the region of 8.5k not including events so in total more like 9k

Regards

John

On 23 April 2018 at 16:25, Jens Lerche <jl2@soas.ac.uk> wrote:
Dear John

I am resending this email from late March. It would be great if you were able to send me these numbers,

best

Jens

On 29 March 2018 at 09:53, Jens Lerche <jl2@soas.ac.uk> wrote:
Dear John

Would you be able to send me an email stating the number of visitors to the Behind the Indian Boom exhibition please? I know that you have given me the number, orally, but it would be good to have it in writing, for our 'Impact case study'.

Also, it would be great if I could have a photocopy of the entries into the visitor's book. We intend to be typing up all comments next week.

Best

On 23 Nov 2017, at 16:59, John Hollingworth <jh35@soas.ac.uk> wrote:

Hi Alpa

The visitor figures have been good at just over 6,000 so far with 3 and half weeks to go and our average is 7 to 8,000 so a little above, that doesn't include those attending events as they are not recorded but you must be looking at another 1,000 attending events in total.

The Un Secretary General didn't provide any sound bite or quotes I'm afraid as he was whisked through by the Director.

Regards

John

On 23 November 2017 at 12:40, Shah,AM <A.M.Shah@lse.ac.uk> wrote: Dear John,

I'm going to do a media drive this weekend to get publicity for the exhibition. Jens mentioned yesterday that we have seen almost double number of people than one normally get so far. It would be great if you could provide me with the figures and how they compare to the average exhibition of this length of time. I would use this as part of my call to journalists. Also, if there is any other useful information that could help, do let me know. For instance anything the UN Secretary General said, that would be great to know.

Thanks.

All best

Alpa

--

John Hollingworth MBE AMA
Head of Galleries & Exhibitions

Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG E:

jh35@soas.ac.uk

Tel: [+44 \(0\)20 7898 4023](tel:+44(0)2078984023)

FEEDBACK REPORT

The feedback of the exhibition was compiled in two ways – the feedback forms completed by visitors and post-it notes on the feedback board at the exit of the exhibition. A total of **281 feedback forms** and **236 post-it notes** were received.

The forms required the visitor to rank on a scale of one to five – Strongly agree to strongly disagree – their response to two questions: “Economic growth is good for everyone” and “caste is a thing of the past”. The impact the exhibition had on visitors was captured in their response to the same questions at the end of their visit on the flip side of the form. Reasons were to be recorded in the ‘after’ section for their change in views. The main findings of the responses received are given in Tables 1 and 2.

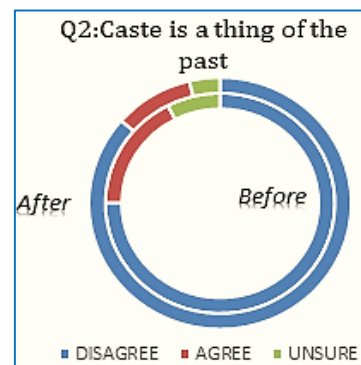
Table 1: Average difference before (1-5) and after (1-5)

Total forms	281
Complete forms	265
Q1	0.6
Q2	0.4

On the question of economic growth, after the exhibition more people (65%) recognised growth as not



having benefited all equally or to Dalits and Adivasis than before. Reasons for the change in view attributed mainly to their discovery India is achieved at the cost of Dalits and Adivasis broadly; degradation the repercussions of



be detrimental (42%). were that growth in rights of environmental which are

borne by the poor; displacement and distressed migration of workers and unequal distribution of the gains from growth. After viewing the exhibition 23% of visitors, as opposed to 43% before, still opined that growth is good for all mainly for reasons such as improper redistribution and not growth itself is

Table 2	1: Economic growth is good for everyone			2: Caste is a thing of the past		
	Agree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
Before	43%	42%	15%	17%	75%	8%
After	23%	65%	12%	10%	86%	4%

the problem and better jobs is a way out for communities forced into menial and degrading jobs.

An overwhelming 86% of visitors deemed caste to be

‘present’ after viewing the exhibition and 10% of the visitors still considered caste a thing of the past. However, the reasons provided by the 10% for their views correspond more to the opposite view. Most visitors expressed that the exhibition reinforced their belief that caste is still prevalent and it provided fresh evidence of its present forms.

The last section of the feedback forms required the visitor to select three pieces from the exhibition to be

displayed at the House of Lords and reasons for their choice. The 'Ekalavya' sculpture of the hand with bleeding broken thumb emerged as a clear favourite for its symbolic portrayal of the continued discrimination faced by Dalits in education. Linked to this, another top choice is the suicide note of Rohit Vemula, a Dalit scholar at Hyderabad University. It was described as 'touching' and as highlighting the sad reality of caste discrimination in higher education. Secondly, the photograph of the Adivasi woman murdered by the security forces accused of being a 'Maoist' is also a leading choice for its shocking portrayal of the brazen police brutality against Adivasis. Several comments called the Maoist insurgency a result of skewed development and inequality and discrimination against Dalits and Adivasis. Pieces related to Vedanta, the mining company and the Korba Chimney collapse were favoured for their ties to the UK as the multi-national companies involved are listed in the London stock exchange with leading investors of Vedanta being UK nationals. Pieces that highlight the environmental impact of economic development was also a prominent choice.

POST-IT FEEDBACK

A total of 236 notes were received. Overall, there was a positive response to the exhibition. Several comments described their experience as 'eye opening', 'informative' and 'shocking'.

APPRECIATION FOR THE EXHIBITION

What a thought provoking exhibition. Thank you, Varun

I wish I could say incredibly shocking but in fact so credibly true. A brave and committed testimony. Thank you. GS

Brilliant photography portraying the sad dark side of a fascinating and wonderful country we are all responsible and should be ashamed

Thanks for a sensitive and beautiful exhibition. Great communication of message

Very good work in preparing and presenting the Topics covered. I think we need many more such events / exhibitions and discussion

I found this provocative and also very harrowing - it brought home aspects of Indian life in stark imagination

Two comments provided critical views of the exhibition. The lack of involvement of Dalits and Adivasis in the preparation and presentation of the exhibition rendered it less credible and another that expressed it was a biased and one-sided view of India.

Visitor Comments left on post-it notes in the exhibition

What a thought provoking exhibition. Thank you, Varun
Thank you very much for putting together such an eye opening exhibition - BG
Indians should start looking after their own instead of making money then thinking they're white
Power to the locals
Ojoba India lati se daada. Aisan yi o da
Thank you for bringing this information to us
It is an eye opener. Low paid workers should be paid a good wage in line with the economic progress
Open your eyes. Wake up!
This is as much about the UK as it is about India...So what do we do?
Support Foil Vedanta. Be active!!
Vedanta resources. London need taking to task for exploiting death
<i>illegible</i>
Great work Alpa - In solidarity
India is built on abuse of minority rights - past and present #FreeJaggiNow
Amitabh Bachan is a war criminal. #neverforget84
#Pray4INDIA
Tali, Carys, Nnendah, Sophie were here
#Pray4INDIA
<i>In Chinese</i>
Sadly no one in India cares. They say its western jealousy. Its sad.
Expose the whole mess to the world to shame all vested interests exploiting the classes everywhere
The world should help each other
The world is full of contradictions. Exhibiting voices of the unseen/unheard is a stimulus for changing the way we live as individuals and as societies. No answers/ rights / wrongs - only strive for better
I love India. Mehmet Ketin was here
Educate your damn self. Preach self
This is why I hate humanity
I, living in Delhi as a foreigner for 4 years, I see a lot of something like this everyday. This exhibition is something that Indian upper class has to see and care to change its country. They enjoy their luxury life never care for lower classes
Great exhibition. Very interesting eye opener
Sell any Vedanta shares you hold
Why do you keep creating such exhibition if you are not going to mention main problem- the British !
<3
Oppressed people of the world much unite = A. Biney
Amandla to the people
My name is Jeff
Get out of this - on to the streets

India needs the London stock exchange to do this
Change is all around us
Please can we include some Adivasi photograph next time?
Shaming and shameful
An excellent exhibition. An eye opener. We are all part and parcel of the effects of the rapid economic boom of India
India is progressive and positive. There are a certain areas to be answered
<i>empty</i>
Be light, be the light, be love be the love
Our wealth in UK depends on us exploiting these people
Thank you. This will only get better if I stop enjoying pretty decorative images of bollywood
London tax shelter
An insightful exhibition
Only question is why? And no answer. Love love
Be strong India
Moving, thought provoking, educational
The most beautiful + humble people are the ones bearing the brunt of modernisation
Insightful and powerful! Anthropologists could make some changes.
Ambedkarism (quantum mechanics) + Marxism (Einstein's relativity) = revolution. Solve contradictions in practice (not in theory)
Adivasi will not dance
Care in the face of terror is beautiful
Im leaving today angry and shameful - that this exists in our society. Thank you for making me feel
an amazing insight into the darker side of India. Thank you for exposing another reality which is the complete polar opposite of the stereotype people have in mind
India 1. let there be no more suffering 2. Indian government has to take note of those sufferings of the poor and take suitable action early
I will never forget my privilege
Quite an eye opener! It was always been around - educate yourselves and react - give
Wake up!
The truth is not always beautiful but it is most important
Dalit workers building roads in Bhutan
Thanks for a sensitive and beautiful exhibition. Great communication of message
Terrible! Sickening! Unsurprising!
Very moving exhibition needs to be seen by Indians from India
Laal Salaam (<i>red salute</i>)
Modi murderer
Are LSE / SOAS investing in companies that perpetrate this violence?
The rise of the right wing Hindutva nationalism is highly divisive. India should unite and take care of its own. DO not copy imperial divide + conquer
A lovely exhibition. Really enjoyed my time here. Will definitely be returning
Fantastic exhibition, powerful images that depict the horrors of capitalism
Save my home land. We have to go through this every day m8

India is colonising its own people - the poorest people. Why isnt this story being told in the mainstream media?
So important to show the impact of capitalism + greed + discrimination = Sad but true. Thanks
These photos would be similar in Africa and Latin America. Whether it is castes or tribes the majority get exploited
This exhibition makes the Indian establishment hanging its head in shame!!! The material on display just makes the bloodboil!!! Thank you for exposing the truth
There is no democracy in INdia. 99.99 % people are poor
The truth is a mad thing
All the pictures should be seen by parliament members and all over the world, pictures should be shown so that people who are aware rich rule in India
Amazing, heartbreaking, moving. Makes me angry
Laal Salaam, Zindabad India (<i>red salute, longlive India</i>)
Very good work in preparing and presenting the Topics covered. I think we need many more such events / exhibitions and discussions
The truth hurts sometimes
Same in it
I am weak and sick to my belly
Very informative. Indian economy has boomed. Adivasi and Dalits have made it for the rich and what about them..same after 75 years?
A foundation needs to be set up to help the D+As and everntually pull in a few who succeeded at their expense. Nothing venured nothing gained
In times of sadness stay strong - Jake st. Ange
Lies! If you go to India and open your eyes you will know this exhibition speaks the truth!
Unbelievable that all these things are happening in the Land of the Gods. Superb photographs! Thank you
Let Pakistan help you
A sad legacy of traders from Europe
Jai Bhim! Inkalab Zindabad (<i>longlive revolution</i>)
SC Active trik - We love India
SC Active trik
<i>illegible</i>
quite deperessing! Though its extremely relevant to make such phenomenon public to inspire some improving actions in order to change the situation. Great job! To all those people who brought up such an exhibition very well done
Very educational
I am so sorry India. Love from humanity. PS: mother earth is always with you
Moving!
Fantastic !
Interdependent origination. No I not you
India will never be forgotten - YR
Bella exposicao! Forte, instigante e reflexeva parabains e salve a India!
Serve India
Such a great idea for communicating anthropological analysis to a wider public. Lets keep doing this. So inspiring! Thanks!

Very interesting + these peoples stories need to be told!
<3 it
Fascinating but - why do we give money when those are so many wealthy Indians.Somone needs to stand up to insincere sharing
This made me so sad. Thank you
I thought that the exhibition was really good and had great photos
I cant believe that we are living so happily when so many others are suffering. I want a solution to their unfair lives. Really moving exhibition. Help them
Be aware of bias
Super interesting. Capitalism is so bad #Marxism #stop! #communist no caste
Enjoyed the varied angles portrayed to the issue in the photos, videos and dialogue
I had no idea how brutal India is. Educating and harmonising. Thank you
Eye opening. A country of incredible divisions
Eye opening exhibition. Shocking but necessary. Yes, Brilliant! Awakens all in love. We are all equal
Until we recognise the internal colonialism of India, it will never be developed - an important and thought provoking exhibition - thank you
Good exhibition ! Thank you for showing these stories
Why are we not told of these cruel event. Who cares?
The revolution will not be televised
The exhibition was really good
A really important exhibition to give a voice to those who are often unheard and a powerful message of justice, dignity and human rights for all
Beautiful but very depressing
Great to raise awareness of these issues
Need the message heard beyond SOAS!
India is cool
Man's inhumanity to man. Vedanta should be boycotted
I need to come back and look at these images with more time
Why is nothing done about the abuse of all these people. Does the world not care. No! Because power and control rule
Incredible ! Scary similarities in countries across America, Africa and elsewhere. Thanks!
We should support more poor people around India. 31.10.17 Simon Tam
<i>empty</i>
Question is how can we change (stop) all the brutalities in India? A real eye opener
Poverty in India is based on social / political. This is the hidden reality
Thank you for the powerful speech opening the exhibition. I work for an environmental consultancy and I wish more critical perspective was present in our day to day work, like the one this exhibition conveys! Thank you !
Evil is everywhere. This is not an Indian problem but a human one. We are all responsible
Very moving, really opens your eyes to the horrors that are often ignored
I found this provocative and also very harrowing - it brought home aspects of Indian life in stark imagination
Amazing exhibition

Interesting. But some poverty porn. More Dalits / Adivasis need to be included in making of a project like this. Right now lacks credibility
A lot of effort put in the exhibition. It must have taken ages to put it together. Excellent photos, videos and an eye opener about behind the Indian boom. V well presented. Great exhibition
Gives an insight into the history that many people do not know of India. Makes you think + appreciate the country + culture more
A great exhibition to view
I love the photos of the communities working together - sharing labour
Quite disturbing - more explanation / narrative of the context would be beneficial
A most excellent exhibition highlighting important issues that we would otherwise not learn about - Thank you very much
Eye opening. Beautiful and haunting photographs
Enlightening and a bit depressing / learned something
India will be unequal until people in the West stop supporting industries over here
Very interactive. Powerful, thoughtful, devastating. Everyone should see this!!
Brings to light and documents what people in power would like to hide under the carpet
Yes shocking, you are next
A very eye opening exhibition showing insight into the side of India not many people are aware of
Brilliant photography portraying the sad dark side of a fascinating and wonderful country we are all responsible and should be ashamed
Very provocative. Makes one ask: can a country every truly develop of the progress is built on suffering
Shocking, a different picture. A call for action
Why has no one mentioned caste? This is at the heart of structural inequality in India
Shocking, moving, emotional, informative
I think its not important to decolonise SOAS but its necessary to decolonise the world
Amazing photos footage. It's a shame that economic growth seems to depend on slave labour - is a different model possible? Thanks for sharing a light
Thank you! Jai Bhim. Laal salaam. Long live the revolution !
It's a terrible contrast. The beauty of pictures and the harshness that's in some of them. Makes you want to look away and look longer at the same time. Even worse is the dates they were taken
Makes the world seem much smaller and much bigger at the same time
Nice
illegible
Enjoyed the historical portraits and items
Thank you Michela for being such an informative guide/ 10/10 would come again
Very important exhibition - to spread knowledge about these horrors, invisible to most of us here in Europe
Thank you for reminding us that this is all still going on
The unheard story that affects so many
Justice for professor Saibaba - Jailed - no human rights
We must challenge the incredible India narrative of the thousands travelling to India for tourism each year

Open your eyes world!
I have visited India over 60 times over 20 years - This is all happening it is true!! Women are still building roads + cleaning shit. Our government needs to act!
Depressing. The world is moving fast but not doing enough to help. Too many wars and corruption going on. For what!!
Honest and strong. Thank you
Thank you for telling us the story. The voices of the Dalits + Adivasi people must be heard!
Nice pics, well done. Its good. I like it
Bring on the revolution - Inqilab Zindabad
Nice to see India explored and explained within modern society
It is eye opening and this pictures should be seen around more
Do more of this! Anthropology and its knowledge should reach the masses
Inqilab Zindabad!!!
India = Capitalism on steroids
I came from such a situation - Now retired I work for a Dalit uplift NGO - glad to see the situation is depicted so truly - applaud the work behind this event - R. Ratna
Needs to be seen and discussed - Thank you!
Indian economy highlighted in a very one sided manner. I don't believe it is true. Biased !!!
Amazing, vibrant photographs depicting misery and inequality
Thank you for the amazing exhibition! Striving to make the world better
Thank you for these photos - 13/12/2017
Another illustration of how cruel humans are for money. Not unique to India, unfortunately this happens elsewhere too!
Disturbing, depressing, total exploitation, so much pain and suffering people in power have a lot to answer for
Fidget spinner
Eye opening. Just because its not happening in your country does not mean its not happening!!
Jai Adivasi
I wish I could say incredibly shocking but in fact so credibly true. A brave and committed testimony. Thank you. GS
And the Indian middle classes closes both eyes on this.
हमे क्रांति चाहिए (<i>we want revolution</i>)
Insightful , honest, heart-breaking, real. Like, Love
And they tell us that slave trade ended years ago!!!
Terrible - pull it together - science beats religion
Thank you for this. Amazing and informative exhibit
<i>In Urdu / Arabic</i>
The voices of the Dalit and Adivasis must be heard. Thanks for this exhibition
I learned so much! Just wow #Pray4India
What is the way of peace and justice?
Namaste?
Revealing truth
Leave your ivory tower. Check your behaviour as a consumer (food, clothing) and investors. Change it

Utterly disturbing
Eye opening
Where is Brunei Gallery? #endeduphere
<i>illegible</i>
Thank you! For showing the "normal" world to others - Privileged "SC"
You cant keep blaming colonialism. Look to yourself
This is all because of colonialism
I agree
Such a poignant exhibition! Telling the unheard / unseen stories hopefully acts as a catalyst for changing the way consumerist and selfish societies function. Such a shame that the divide seems to be unbridgeable. Powerful exhibit! (in awe of Alpa Shah's photos too)
My grandfather worked in Bhilai steel plant, look where I ended up. The divide is large, what can we do to narrow it? - PhD student, Imperial college, London
जै भीम - perhaps a revolution is required
Raise awareness in the western world! Perhaps those in the West need to do something to challenge oppression
Indians! You still live in the dark ages. Maybe another 1000 years will show progress.. But don't see it now
All these lectures by capitalists, politicians and super-rich class (including actors) mean nothing! Not even Gods can help India
Thanks a lot - the unseen
I love India
An eye opening exhibition and holds a great value
Eye opening exhibition. My trip to Bihar made me aware of brutality but nothing like this. Hail to Adivasi and Dalits - Jai Hind
Oh well, some things may not look nice but that's the truth
Hi
Educational! I did not know how brutal Indians can be. Thanks for exposing the truth. Some like Martin Luther King in the US should rise up from the Dalit caste and tell Modi this is not acceptable
Stay awake! Eye opening!
Eye opener! Thanks for sharing
Make up your mind when you experience and understand both sides of the story

Visitor Comments written into the survey of the exhibition

I had already reached this conclusion through my own research journey but your exhibition helps to strengthen my own conclusion

Since caste is linked to economies answer same as above

Yes, some people who do not have social capital do suffer

Trickle down effect doesn't always work - its like leaving things up to chance

I do wonder how religion plays into this

In an individual or national level, economic growth to have a lot of people exploited, alienated, where I temper my answer is that economic growth is already happening and people suffer from it and economic growth can actually help the situation of some people. Moderate economic growth

Nothing changed in my point of view. I believe castes are still a strong part of Indian culture and political and economic environment

It has given me examples in which to base and challenging my thoughts. Humanising statistics

In a situation where power and influence and capitalists influences are used via corruption, growth cannot be fair. Under the right circumstances it can be right

I know caste differences in India were strong but was not aware of the extreme violence and adversity that these groups face

Study cases from Adivasi people strongly been pushed by mainstream economic development

Makes you realise that what benefits some relies on the suffering of the others

Brought it to life with photos and explanations

Although economic growth may look good for India from afar, we need to consider the real implications and those voices being silences

You have shown me the reality of caste in India and the real violence that this system has caused

Yes, About global inequality - the fact that 1 in 25 people in the world are Dalit/Adivasi

Undoubtedly such a statement should be addressed with attention and awareness from all the social strata of a country

Images make visible in an attractive way what you already know intellectually. The visibility makes you feel this in a stronger way. Image is a strong political weapon. A possible way to transcend academic contradictions

I always thought about economic growth as encompassing everyone, I did not think of it being premised on the toiling and exploitation of many people.

The impact of caste and local elitism its remnants from colonialism, next to the impact of neoliberal western capitalism on current inequalities in India

The economic boom in India is very superficial

I think economic growth is for future generation

I think economic growth is for future generation

New and more specific examples

Not really sure if economic growth is going in all directions or just keeping the privilege parts

It is definitely not good for everyone, but in some cases it has the power to be beneficial to some lower income population

It has strengthened by beliefs proving the Indian caste system case study that reflects that economic growth not necessarily fosters wealth for everyone

Gave a detailed outlook of labour practices and differences among the different class

Some communities want to maintain traditional livelihoods and I am appalled at the lack of implementation of securing land rights of Adivasis by the government. Policy cannot only support business owners whilst allowing exploitation of the most oppressed communities

It has given me light about the indigenous /caste/Maoist leftist political protests and struggles against inequality in India (and how it resembles certain aspects of guerrilla warfare in Colombia)

Caste is a thing of today's world too!

Caste is a thing of today's world too!

The measures taken aren't to incorporate Dalit and Adivasi people in the government and universities might result in an even greater discrimination

Same, new and more specific examples

This bit is sadly still present in some parts of the world even in this country

Yes, I began to understand how conservation can be a negative impact

Hard numbers have been brought to life, a reality that seems very distant sometimes

I was not familiar with the caste system. This exhibition has given me a broad perspective on this issue

It is so deeply rooted in the society that it is very difficult to phase out

Caste is much more deeper than I had thought. It appears to be getting deeper and as the economy increases so does inequality due to caste divisions. I believe in stronger affirmative action and oversight on implementation

I didn't know that these segments suffer so much more

I have always been concerned about how rapid growth increases inequalities and this exhibition helped me understand better

Personally I already have a lot of context (being from India). The exhibition has definitely given me more depth on some topics but overall from my own experience, my answer still remains the same

Economic growth if distributed equally is useful for everyone

Economic growth is important. The key is redistribution policies and mechanisms. Trickle down is too slow. The concentration of wealth in the few is a problem

Economic growth never touch the very bottom of the pyramid

How the research done and the reality faced by India is replicated in development countries

It has evidenced the reinforcement of my initial position

Yes, I wasn't aware of this massive problem. I'm very moved

Yes, the importance of living with locals for long periods of time in order to holistically understand the problem

No, caste is definitely a thing of the present

This exhibition made me think about the ways I am a part of the larger system that encourages caste

How can the caste system in India be abolished in order to promote inequality in the people of Dalits and Adivasis?

It is still highly entrenched in Indian society

The direct effects of corporations in reinforcing the negative elements of the caste system

Caste is the terminology used in India; to what extent is the problem faced by indigenous populations in South America which are also minorities of the country

The exhibition was highly educational to learn about castes and how they now manifest in "modern" times

It helped illustrate how pressing poverty and inequality issues are for these specific people in India and the responsibilities of the private and public sectors

Yes, thinking about inequality

Economic growth for everyone is needed for caste based poverty to go down. I feel it is interlinked and is very much the need of the hour for Adivasis and Dalits

I strongly agree because caste as a form of inequality was very strong until feudalism. Now with increasing literacy I think caste based differences should come down

Economic growth is always a double edged sword, brings along with it dreams and its related evils

The situation is much worse than I imagined

Very much existing even now in the 21st century

I had some overarching ideas/ knowledge of the intersection of inequality, caste and race / ethnicity in India, but the exhibition gave it in much needed detail

I did not know about the Adivasis = interesting to see the nuances between them and the Dalits in terms of the "self-sufficient" living mode does not prevent some repression

It should be a thing of the past, it made me convinced of that evermore by allowing me to discover facts detailed there

Simple economic growth in free market conditions will not lead to universal betterment. It is more linked to the type of economic growth and wider influences

Yes - how to make changes in our daily lives to reduce the impact. But inequality gap is so far apart. The challenge is how

Yes made me aware about doing business more ethically. I think question assumes economic growth Vs culture and I still think you can have economic growth

Proves rich getting richer, poor getting poorer. The statement you made of education as little / no impact is profound. Underlying caste is so strong

made me realise that the companies we invest in (eg Vedanta) do not produce accurate CSR reports

It has made me realise that caste will never disappear - unless there is revolution like the French revolution (which is unlikely in India)

Growth is good, redistribution is required

How can I personally and practically do something to implement what I feel or believe in improving the situation

Yes, the range of photos complement the lecture and in a very productive way strongly deems a message that the issues of inequality in India (and abroad) should be taken more seriously

Because the benefits from economic growth only apply to a few people

Not really I already know about corruption in India

There is still a lot of discrimination in India

Not really. This age old system of caste is not leaving the people of India. It is like chained to everyone

No! All through time immemorial the rich have exploited the poor! It will not change!

Without growth Adivasi and Dalit would be worse off

Confirmed

Where else are caste system present?

Does this happen in all countries

Majority of population especially poor / backward class have not benefitted from economic growth

Caste system shouldn't be in existence but in India who then is going to do such tasks

How do you choose spouses for your own children?

This exhibition makes me question the role of governance in India

Eye opening, however, unfortunately it still looks like the future is bleak

This is the similar growth in many developing countries. The question to me is not new but answers are not there after 1/2 a century

Caste has been there for a long time. But to change such a society it is a term solution are major upheaval. Even in spite of Gandhiji, the Indian and international minds have not changed

Clearly without protection of the rights of vulnerable people, there are victims of development

I know caste was still an issue but I hadn't realised the extent of the economic exploitation of the Adivasi and Dalit

<p>Yes the photographs about their life express comprehensively about their condition</p>	<p>Yes, as always felt its not right the caste system</p>
<p>Think of future generations when making decisions. Your choice may question where your wealth has come from ethical sources</p>	<p>Yes, clearly capitalism uncontrolled does not benefit all</p>
<p>Need the growth but not at the expense of suffering + unfair treatment poverty for workers</p>	<p>It exists because without it development (boom) cant take place</p>
<p>Need to include all races and castes otherwise they will feel cheated and become revolutionised</p>	<p>Legislative law to be brought to fix minimum wage policy</p>
<p>EG good for everyone provided the people who do the work properly looked after, they often get forgotten. Only regulations and laws in place would prevent the companies who take advantage of their poverty</p>	<p>Gap between rich and poor</p>
<p>It would be good for everyone if it is distributed among all people</p>	<p>People need to be educated more on the issues facing India. They need to look inward rather than look at the West</p>
<p>However lack of genuine democracy + ethics is the problem</p>	<p>yes, how progress is always on the backs of minorities and tribal</p>
<p>Some parts but mostly the problem is with peoples ethics and greed which leads to the inequality. Economic growth does not cause the issues for people</p>	<p>Poor people are still suffering this is due to lack of education and proper training. Life in India is very different compared to the West</p>
	<p>Caste system will not go away until the leaders do something about it</p>
	<p>It is wealth that creates castes. Reduce disparity and one will reduce the injustices in the caste system</p>
	<p>Yes as have not had much exposure to this inequality</p>
	<p>Change habits of shopping - recycle and reusing things reduce production</p>

Very tough

But without jobs these people will starve!
They need better working conditions

Yes with reference to caste inequality

Used to dispossess people of land /
dehumanise

The exhibition has lead to wonder whether the cost
of growth is falling too much on the poorest

This highlights the terrible plight of so many
people. We in the UK need to get together
and do something to effect change

Truly because if people can move on to doing better
work the "menial" work to improve their livelihood

I'm sure to a certain extent it still remains in
certain parts of India

It is an eye opener

Yes, it made me think about the world in India

Yes definitely when the same human beings are
treated like animals

We all are one colour, caste is not most
unfortunate

Yes low paid workers should be paid in line with the
...

Yes there should be no caste system

I knew about Dalits! I never knew about
Adivasis

The Dalits and Adivasis have been left behind

Yes, now I am aware of the thing

I think the government of India can change the
situation to make more people happy and
satisfied to change their life without suffering

Yes it has been an eye opener. I never thought the
workers would be exploited so much

Caste is very much prevent today. What can
we do - how can we help

Strengthened my beliefs that I need to take action
in my own life

No, reaffirmed the problem and need to
reform

Yes, I think set up a social media to raise awareness
and plant seeds of thought and possibly action to
help the D+A communities

Yes set up groups social medias involve the
successful D+A communities and tag it on to
politicians who are now social media savvy eg.
Shashi Tharoor

Mineral extraction and brick building causes
suffering and slavery to the poorest of the
people. Dalit and Adivasi tribal "economic
growth" benefits rich
Its reinforced my beliefs about "economics"
the economy should work for the people but
its more usual to find people for the economy.
In this situation life for the very few gets even
better; life for the majority becomes worse.
For some even surviving is a challenge

Yes it was very touching to experience the
oppression through the pictures

Caste is a reality and economic development
cannot address it completely

Made it even more clear that the way growth is achieved and distributed depend on a variety of factors. Understanding this is curtail

The powerful images and facts make you feel this more strongly - it is important to tell things in this way and more often

The exhibition shows how it is not good for everyone

It didn't made me change my mind but definitely reinforced my belief that growth should be inclusive

It painfully drew my attention for those whom growth is bad. We know these people exist but hearing their stories and seeing their pictures is even more powerful

Behind the scenes of economic growth we have lots of groups that are left behind and are not being involved in the benefits of economic growth

It has reminded me how development is often not growth people are lured who but rather forced through displacement etc

In particular, how those who form sustainable / collaborative non exploitative forms of living in nature are those ones that are the most docile and exploited under capitalistic relations of nature

yes. I have struggled with this question for a while and this exhibition made matters clearer for me

Its way more complicated than this question allows! I would like to know more what life was like pre India shining to answer this question. But overall its obvious that growth doesn't benefit everyone let alone everyone equally

I knew it was bad but it is still shocking to see the degree to which this is true

Some are above a perhaps better understanding of caste in India than before

Interesting to see how it was reinforced by exploitation by corporations

Its even worse than I thought

It helped me t understand the principles behind caste system which I know about but not so deeply

From the pictures we can learn that caste is alive as ever and there are different dimensions of impacts regarding poverty and inequalities

There might be more rights more awareness and more political power in some castes but the extent of structural oppression was previously understood by me
The aspect about conjugated oppression there was something I found very useful

Many thoughts - but one is about the diversity of different groups and why they don't come together under one labour banner

I was exposed to pictures / videos and stories that I didn't know of but I have always felt the caste very much still matters and influences experiences of inequalities and intersectionality

I didn't know the difference between Adivasi and Dalits and their struggle

I was already sceptical about growth being an engine of equality

Interesting to think further about the ways in which caste and racism do seem to predate capitalism and how capitalism exacerbates their effects

As it apparently hasn't been good for all

Localised simplifications of inequality is curtail (perhaps the most important) to enable an understanding and appreciation of the urgency to address inequality

Social conditions behind economic growth determines how benefits and wealth is shared

Caste is a condition that still determines millions of persons, conditions, diluting citizenship and threatening democracy

Economic growth can be good for everyone, It isn't necessarily so

A direct relationship between achieving growth at the expense of huge exploitation and stealing away livelihoods

Economic growth relies on the labour of these least with the power to control their own labour

Really made me think about the relationship between caste and economic justice - not just social justice

I need 3000 words here

My current understanding hasn't changed but its more complex than any of the responses

Not necessarily different but the cleavage between ideas of trickle down economics / prosperity and the reality for those of lesser castes

put a human face to caste system and how it is a complicated set of factors that create discursive structural inequalities

Yes. It made me consider the implications of race / ethnicity and class in new ways looking at the specificities of Indian case

yes - A picture tells a thousand words (and statistics help!)

Because I witnessed this destruction as a person

I didn't know a lot about how caste played out in India. Linking with forms of capitalist oppression, so I learned a lot

It helped contextualize previous knowledge and enrich it by providing strong evidence of the Indian example

I knew very little about caste before though aware of its continuing existence, but this has very much solidified that thought with vivid detail

Not so much. I come from a region which was very poor and I have experienced myself poverty and exclusion

No. I come from a very stratified society and I can fairly understand what happens in India

Before this exhibition I knew about this question.
What this exhibition did - it gave me different dimensions of economic growth

Yes, because some countries only consider how it affects richer lifestyles instead of poorer and the backward mindset of people

I have changed my mind because the rich are grabbing anything of any value from the Adivasis

Growth of the economy is also good if its distributed to all citizens

Economic prosperity benefits are not trickling down to the poor

Yes, many of the things are not covered by mainstream press. Poverty and unemployment is interesting

Though there is a direct relationship between growth and human development in economics growth might disposes Adivasis and Dalits from their livelihoods

It has given me an overview of the other side of the Indian boom which I had lacked somewhat. I don't believe in trickle down economics

The poor are kept poor and exploited

Wealth produced by economic growth goes to a tiny minority at the expense of the poorest people

I believe this but this exhibition pushed me to think that yes, caste is a thing of present till now indeed

I still think the same - strongly disagree

Shining India has darkness too which outer world needs know

They are still using caste to keep Dalits down under

Showed the reality of our people

Yes, CBD needs to be outlawed and properly adhered to

It is interesting to see changes in the nature of power dynamics

Caste is in the mind of the upper caste people who don't want it to end at all

It is certainly not the thing of the past but the forms of its practice has changed and have become less intense than past

I knew that condition of Indian people was harrowing. I did not know that it was this bad

It has brought stories from the areas which are least reported thus helped a lot

Migrant workers are even more disadvantages and isolated

So depressing that this continues to be an issue

Its told me that caste is alive and kicking in India

ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION Part B

Behind the Indian Boom Exhibition promotes new cultural engagement understanding and collaboration in Ita

ontents:

- 1) Report by Daniela Bezzi on the 'Behind the Indian Boom' exhibition in Turin (page 26)
- 2) Figures on visitors' attendance to the exhibition
- 3) Testaments from Italian organisers:
 - Professor Domenico Francavilla, Director of ISA – Istituto di Studi sull'Asia, Università di Torino
 - Luigi Buson, Chief Operations Officer, UN-International Labour Organisation, International Training Centre, Torino
 - Maria Cassella (Director, Norberto Bobbio Library)
 - Angela Dogliotti (Centro Studi Sereno Regis)
 - Roberto Ardissoni (Jarom Cultural Association)
 - Paolo Manzone (Yatra Associazione Onlus)
- 4) A selection of comments from the Visitors' Book at Piedmont Region Gallery
- 5) An account of one particularly successful guided tour at ILO
- 6) An account from Kaushal, trainee lawyer at UN- ILO ITC

Daniela Bezzi

Journalist, Event Curator

Via Matteotti 55/9c, Peschiera Borromeo

20068 Milan - Italy

FAO Dr Rachel Maddlemass (LSE) and Dr Silvia Guizzardi (SOAS)

**A final Report about the exhibition “*Behind the Indian Boom*” in Turin:
how a project of re-edition was turned into a platform
of shared knowledge and participatory learning.**

It was mid-december 2017, during the One Day Public conference and Book launch that concluded the 1st edition of “*Behind the Indian Boom*” Exhibition at the Brunei Gallery, that an idea was floated with the Research project curators Dr Alpa Shah and Dr Jens Lerche about the possibility of a re-edition somewhere else after London. For example what about Italy, and the city of Turin, that in the previous years had hosted a series of Summer Schools on contemporary India organized by Dr. Matilde Adduci and with the participation of scholars from India, the Netherlands and of course the Uk - and among those, Dr Jens Lerche as well... (<http://www.to-asia.it/to-india/>)

In due time an **Organizing and Scientific Committee** was formed within the **University of Turin**, with the involvement of :

- Prof Domenico Francavilla (Department of Law) with Dr. Chiara Correndo (at that time Phd student, now a teacher in the same Department)
- Prof Alessandra Consolaro (Department of Humanities - Hindi Language and Literature)
- Prof Tommaso Bobbio (Department of Humanities - Culture, Politics, Society)

contributing to the almost immediate endorsement from :

- the **International Training Center of ILO** in Turin (in the person of its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Giuseppe Casale, Director also at the Turin School of Development; with his close collaborators Prof. Benedetta Magri and Dr Luigi Buson), whose participation reflected the commitment to Art 8 of the UN Agenda of Sustainable Development on Decent Work, not to mention the imminent 100th Anniversary of ILO’s foundation in 1919;
- the **Turin Town Hall** and **Piedmont Region** Administrations, whose officials expressed appreciation for a Research project whose aim was to outreach beyond the academic boundaries, on issues of increasing inequality and poverty so relevant at a global level.

It was clear since the beginning that, somehow mirroring the participatory quality of the process that led to the making of the ***BtIB (Behind the Indian Boom)*** exhibition in London, even its re- edition in Turin would have envisaged a similar ‘modus operandi’ with the involvement of individuals and cultural associations already engaged (at a cultural or more active level) with the issues in focus.

It was already the end of June 2018 when a manifestation of interest came from a rather important Cultural Event for the city of Turin, called ***Biennale Democrazia*** - that in our opinion could offer the best platform of visibility for the ***BtIB exhibition*** as well. And since Piedmont Region had

already secured its **Gallery in Piazza Castello** for two weeks from the end of May, we envisaged the possibility of a period of time between the end of March (Opening of *Biennale Democrazia*) and the end of May/mid June, during which the Exhibition could be the thematic center piece of a larger program of initiatives (documentaries, seminars, workshops, guided tours) with the objective of drawing attention to a side of India that rarely makes news in the Italian press: an *Invisible India*, as we decided to title this larger program, that would provide a continuum of attention to the variety of issues in focus with the exhibition.



A series of consultations with a number of cultural organizations well rooted in the city of Turin (like *Centro Studi Sereno Regis*, well known also as a cineforum-cum-library; and a youth association called *Jarom*, quite popular among the University students for its summer camps in Jharkhand), led to a rather spontaneous distribution of tasks, over a period of four months between mid-February and mid-June. In a relatively short time, a program of dates and events was finalized, under the sub-categories “seeing/listening/understanding” as listed in the leaflet that was ready by early February. It featured a series of documentaries, selected by Prof. Alessandra Consolaro and Dr Chiara Correndo in collaboration with Dr Elena Camino (*CSSR*), as pertinent to the theme of the exhibition - and would continue until mid-June, culminating with an International Conference in partnership with the Academic Journal “Alternate Routes”.

The films

We had a very promising debut with the screening of the documentary *Sangharsh* by Nicholas Jaoul: not an easy choice, both for its length (with no Italian subtitles) and for the rigorous style of filming on the Dalits struggle in Uttar Pradesh. And it was a great success: full house inside the Main Venue at Palazzo Nuovo, and many people keen to listen to the author (who came from Paris) until the Venue had to close. We had a similar success for the following dates and films: *Cowboys in India* by Simon Chambers on March 26th, with the presence of Dr Alpa Shah and Dr Jens Lerche (and that was the evening preceding the inauguration of the exhibition); *Machines* by Rahul Jain, presented by Dr Benedetta Magri (ILO) in dialogue with Tommaso Bobbio; and so on.

All this contributed to the best possible framework of reception for the Exhibition's opening at the end of March, with daily feeds on the various social channels of *India Invisible* (care of the group of students/members of *Jarom* Association) and with reference to day-to-day news from India, whenever possible during that crucial period preceding the recent elections.



Biennale Democrazia 2019 took place between March 27 and March 31, and the *BtIB exhibition* was its opening event within a wide-ranging calendar of talks and seminars in various venues of Turin. The Official Inauguration at the Main Hall inside the University Campus Luigi Einaudi (known as CLE) enjoyed the added attraction of the Big Hand that had been brought all the way from London - and which even now that the exhibition is over, is once again displayed at the *ILO International Training Center*.

A public presentation/seminar of the research project that led to the exhibition followed in the same morning, with Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche in dialogue with Tommaso Bobbio.





A similar presentation was hosted in the late afternoon of the same day by Dr Benedetta Magri at the *ILO International Training Center*, with presentations by Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche in dialogue with a selected audience.

And it was particularly striking for all of us to witness the unexpected contribution from a Bihari student called Kaushal, a young lawyer recently enrolled at ILO for a particular training course, who declared himself literally

moved to see displayed at the **ITCILO in Turin**, an Exhibition documenting what he was trying to fight in his own country: marginalization, injustice, systematic exploitation... A few days later he expressed his feeling with a poem (enclosed with this Report with a more recent letter - See: Student's statements).

A very interesting Seminar took place the following morning once again at the Campus Luigi Einaudi: under the title *"Seeing the Hidden, The Praxis of Counterhegemonic Writing in India"*, it provided the framework for a very stimulating interaction with Dr Itay Noy and Dr Thomas Herzmark as well, alongside Prof Alpa Shah and Prof Jens Lerche, on some methodological aspects of Ethnography in the practice of Fieldwork.

Beyond Biennale Democrazia...

... the program went on as planned: as a widespread event. Although our initial preoccupation regarding the segmentation of an exhibition that had been conceived as a single discourse, the solution of "evento diffuso" that would foresee the exhibition displayed in more than one venue, worked quite well, in particular for the chapter documenting the Naxalite insurgency that found its ideal setting at Bobbio Library: the entire stock of pictures taken by Alpa Shah over several years of fieldwork in Jharkhand created a coherent

illustrated landscape around a rich display of books (on Naxalism, Human Rights struggles, Insurgency and Resistance in India), which attracted a continuous flow of attention for weeks. Feedbacks from visitors of the exhibition almost invariably converged on the comment "how little we know about this militant India..."





Interestingly, the staff at Bobbio Library contributed to this bibliographic display with some rare books (from the same Library collection) by a 17th century philosopher whose work has been recently re-discovered in Italy, Antonio Genovesi, and whose solution for the problem of human suffering related to poverty was a “civil” economy, aiming to the wellbeing “of the many and not of the few...” - and this provided a further trajectory of comparative reflection, on issues so evidently enduring across time and space.

From April 3rd also the chapters on display at the Campus Luigi Einaudi joined those already hanging on the walls of ILO’s Gallery.



As for the Big Hand, it was shifted to Bobbio Library as well and became a further element of attraction during every guided tour that the Library regularly receives from the schools of Turin: its Director, Dr Maria Cassella, never missed an opportunity for pointing out its significance for Dalit’s India.

Attendance

Being a non-ticketed event, we knew from the beginning that it would have been difficult to provide a precise count of attendance for each of the venues involved.

And contrary to our best intentions, a counter person (or device) could not be adopted within the UniTO premises for various (and quite inexplicable) reasons. Also the filling of Questionnaires (that we conceived in two different versions: as evaluation of feedbacks after the screening of the films; and as evaluation of feedbacks specifically related to the exhibition) was quite erratic, mainly left to the good will of the receptionists at the various entrance venues, or to the irregular presence of some of us, whenever possible. It must be said that Questionnaires (like Quiz) are not a favorite way of expressing comments for an Italian audience, normally more inclined to a Visitors' Book...

However, a limited number of Questionnaires has been collected and analyzed (by the student Stefano Negri) and the results are enclosed in this Report.

As for the attendance figures, we can rely on the numbers received from the various venues (as described in the document "at a glance"), but even by imprecise estimates (in the case of the Main Hall and Bobbio Library at Campus Luigi Einaudi) we can confidently say that the exhibition has been seen, visited, commented, sometime re-visited in the region of thousands.

At Campus Luigi Einaudi, several members of the public (non students) felt compelled to reach the Main Hall after a large article on the daily **La Stampa** was published on the opening day of Biennale Democrazia (<https://www.lastampa.it/2019/03/27/cronaca/il-volto-pi-povero-dellindia-pi-ricca-I330AWyxZ4xDQCqaIOjvRM/pagina.html>); and as mentioned previously, the display at Bobbio Library proved to be particularly successful over several weeks, despite the almost complete lack of information in Italy about a 'Maoist India'.

As for the ILO premises, the entrance, the lounge and the corridors that are normally used as venues for similar exhibitions, provided enough space for displaying the whole **BtIB exhibition** in all its chapters and in their original presentation in English, considering the international attendance of the ILO Campus.

The audience here was more specialized and better informed than at Campus Luigi Einaudi (considering how important is the Art 8 on 'Decent Labour as condition of Sustainable Development within the UN Millennium Goals 2030).

In addition to this kind of highly professional 'visitors', a few and well attended Guided Tours were organized in collaboration with the *CSSR* (see statement by Angela Dogliotti). One in particular, organized in mid April by a very enthusiastic Prof Barberis (from a High School in Grugliasco, in the outskirt of Turin) was so successful that she spontaneously organized a second tour (with different students) around the beginning of May.

Dr Buson from ILO welcomed the group on that occasion, and in the due time we received a long series of comments from the students (See among Further Statements).

The coincidence with the Turin Book Fair...

From May 9th and 13th, the annual Book Fair in Turin provided another and very successful opportunity for another side event within the *BtIB/India Invisibile* program, coinciding with the book launch of the Italian edition of Alpa's Shah *Nightmarch*, which had just been released from Meltemi Publishing Co.



The Book enjoyed a well attended presentation at the **Trebisonda Book shop** (on Sunday 12th in the evening) that became the stage for an exploration in areas of **Indian Invisibility** rarely in focus within the Italian cultural (and also political) landscape.



The following morning another event took place on the same topics, with a Guided Tour conceived as a 'walkabout' within the exhibition display at Biblioteca Bobbio: with the author going through the pictures illustrating her past (and in so many moments thrilling) fieldwork in Jharkhand, in dialogue with the audience.

A number of earphones, one for each person in the Tour, helped to convey the unique immersive dimension of that experience, as an anthropologist, a writer and a human being





The final and most successful chapter: Palazzo Regione

From May 29 until June 16, the *BtIB exhibition* found a new and final ‘home’ at **Palazzo Regione**. This location provided the unprecedented opportunity to test the Exhibition in its potential of communication vis à vis a “general” public, not necessarily well informed.

The test proved 100% successful. Among the 1110 people who visited the exhibition during the display period, a few returned for a second time with partners or friends. Many left their email address and passionate comments on the Visitors’ Book, expressing the desire to receive the catalogue in PDF format, and to “stay in touch” in case of further initiatives in the future.

Including these notes (end of June), I am receiving emails from visitors who renew their congratulations, possible dates and venues...



Concluding remarks

An Exhibition envisaging so many preparatory steps and moments of public presentation within a program spanning a period of several months and in so many moments conceived in interaction with its audience, has certainly created, in our opinion, an unprecedented interest on areas and discourses that in Italy are only vaguely known or considered as fields of research. This is certainly true at a more general level of audience, and at an Academic level as well: never before has a University in Italy been engaged in a similarly intensive course of documentation and debate on the most disadvantaged communities in India, and on the reasons, the causes, the socio/economic pre- conditions of their discrimination.



It is clear from the statements left by the students more closely involved in the project, that for them (as for some visitors who left a written comment) this exhibition worked as a unique learning experience. And we did our best to engage new audiences and capture the kind of qualitative impact that we intended to promote in terms of better awareness and understanding - as many comments left on Post-It notes or in the Visitors Book, can confirm.

... like an **Akhra**, the meeting point typical of Adivasi villages, where people find the pleasure of sharing whatever they want - in our case we shared passages of our lives and possible future projects. And when we had to start packing in the late afternoon we were joined by people who could not come before, but who had been advised by friends of relatives to visit. ... success.

Where and how to proceed from here, and what/how we will decide to develop from the many seeds that we planted... is something that will probably become clear in the following months, certainly after the summertime.

Meanwhile, some possible invitations to the exhibition are looming ahead, that we will be more than happy to explore. But certainly as someone who has been interfacing with **LSE/SOAS** and the **University of Turin** and all its partners for such a long period of time, within this project of re- edition, I would like to express my most sincere appreciation (and Thanks as well) for the quality of this collaborative endeavor, that I immediately sensed at the Brunei Gallery's display and that somehow found its way in this re-

edition in Turin as well.

It was indeed a journey, it was sometime demanding and it was worthwhile.

Location	number of days	estimated attendance	remarks
<p>CLE (Campus Luigi Einaudi) Main Hall</p> <p>Opening Event cum Conference within Biennale Democrazia 2019</p>	<p>5 days (March 27th / April 2nd, excl the week end)</p>	<p>1.000 people at least</p> <p>(between 500 and 1000 people is the average attendance x day @ the University Campus in that busy period of the academic year</p> <p>+ the extra attendance in coincidence with Biennale Democrazia 2019)</p>	<p>Biennale Democrazia is a major event within the Cultural calendar of Turin and takes place every two years with an intensive preparatory process.</p> <p>An overall attendance of 40.000 presences was the figure officially registered by Biennale Democrazia this year.</p> <p>“Behind the indian Boom” was the opening event at the University Campus on March 27th morning.</p> <p><i>Statement from Prof. Domenico Francavilla</i></p>
<p>Same venue, Aula Magna: 27th March, at 11 Conference Event with Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche in dialogue with Tommaso Bobbio, focusing on the project and methodology that led to the exhibition</p>		<p>200 registered by Biennale Democrazia Organizers</p>	<p><i>Statement from Prof. Domenico Francavilla</i></p>

<p>CLE (Campus Luigi Einaudi) Norberto Bobbio Library</p>	<p>34 days (March 27th / May 17th, excl week ends and several national holidays)</p>	<p>between 1000 and 1500 is the average daily attendance at the library; we could say that between 25.000 and 40.000 have 'seen' the exhibition</p>	<p>The Norberto Bobbio Library is the main University Library in Turin and considered one of the best in Italy, beside the reputation of its rare books repository (access only by appointment).</p> <p>Seats available in the three levels of the library: 870, with a turn over of at least 1500 on busy days.</p> <p>The exhibition site in the library has the advantage of immediate visibility from the entrance at the Ground Floor, and of being situated next to the lift to the upper floors and on the way to the beverage machines: literally impossible to ignore the exhibition chapters on display there. In fact there was rarely a moment when the site was not visited.</p> <p><i>Statement from Dr Maria Cassella (Norberto Bobbio Library Director)</i></p>
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<p>International Training Center of ILO</p> <p>In coincidence with the Opening Event of Biennale Democrazia 2019 but in the late afternoon</p>	<p>45 days (March 27th / May 17th, excl Easter period and national holidays)</p>	<p>1.200 students</p>	<p>The significantly lower number in comparison with the other venues is due to the typology of the courses on offer at ITCILO: highly professional and with a rather exclusive (and specialized) attendance. We can therefore say that although smaller than in other venues, attendance at ITCILO was relevant in qualitative terms.</p> <p><i>Statement from Dr Luigi Buson (ILO Director of Logistic related to the Academic Programs)</i></p>
<p>Gallery Space @ Regione Piemonte</p>	<p>19 days (May 29th / June 16, incl week end and holidays)</p>	<p>1.110</p>	<p>Beside the opportunity for a display as much as possible similar to the original display at the Brunei Gallery, this event space (right at the heart of the city that is also a tourist destination) provided an interesting test vis à vis a general audience, not necessarily well informed on the issues of the exhibition. Several people visited the exhibition twice, often bringing friends or partners. The number and relevance of the comments recorded in the Visitors' s book, or on Post-It Notes, was perhaps the best feed back that the exhibition could receive, in terms of Impact.</p>



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO



Report on the impact of the project *India Invisibile* and the exhibition *Behind the Indian Boom* in Torino

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing as the Director of ISA – Istituto di Studi sull'Asia, which had a leading role in the organisation of the exhibition in Torino and the organisation of connected events.

ISA is the Institute of Asian Studies at the University of Torino, an interdepartmental research centre established in May 2018 by seven Departments: Department of Cultures, Politics and Society; Department of Economics and Statistics "Cognetti de Martiis"; Department of Law; Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Modern Cultures; Department of Management; Department of Historical Studies; Department of Humanities. The Institute has the objective of increasing the interdisciplinary interaction and scientific collaboration among scholars dealing with Asia in various departments of the University of Torino in order to increase the research, teaching and public engagement capacity of the University in the field of Asian studies.

Three Departments taking part in the Institute have had a prominent role in the project, as reflected in the composition of the academic part of the scientific and organising committee: the Department of Law (Dr. Chiara Correndo and myself), the Department of Humanities (Prof. Alessandra Consolaro), and the Department of Culture, Politics and Society (Dr. Tommaso Bobbio).

When we started to work on this project, following an initiative by Daniela Bezzi, we were aware that the University of Torino was an appropriate environment for the

exhibition and connected activities. In fact, studies on India in Torino have an established tradition, which is reflected in the teaching programmes of many Departments, at different levels (three-year programmes, master programmes, summer schools), and in research activities, from doctoral schools to research projects and publications.

In other words, we were sure of the attractiveness of the exhibition and other activities for many of our students and colleagues. However, at the end of the project, also on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to highlight that the interest and the impact were even larger than expected.

The exhibition, in its several venues, provided a constant presence at the Campus Luigi Einaudi and elsewhere. This presence permeated many teaching activities taking place in the second semester. For instance, for the students of the course I was teaching on Comparative Legal Systems, lectures on India were strictly connected this year to the subject of the exhibition and the underlying research, and most importantly connected to global issues involving also other world legal systems in order to prompt a critical reflection on notions of race, caste, equality and mechanisms for the protection of rights. Unfortunately the course I teach specifically on Indian Law was held in the first semester. Nonetheless, former students were invited and some of them took part in the project activities. Some students from several programmes (Law; International Sciences; International Cooperation) asked for additional research-related activities to pursue a deeper understanding of the subject. Additional seminars, not included in the official programme, were organised also with the participation of visiting professors.

Alessandra Consolaro made India Invisibile one of the modules of the course in Modern and Contemporary History of South Asia (undergraduate level). Most of the students were completely unaware of these issues and they were very interested to explore with a historically oriented focus the various chapters regarding caste and ethnic discrimination, issues of citizenship in the nation state, precarious lives in neoliberal India, gender, and others. The lecture connected to Biennale Democrazia was part of the course and students visited the exhibition at CLE. Students were invited to attend the film festival, and a few of them participated to all events even when the course was over and the exam period was approaching.

Notwithstanding the fact that many students in different courses are keen to learn about India and might have some preliminary understanding of discrimination issues in the Indian context, one of the merit of the exhibition and related activities has been to push students beyond simplistic representations and to involve them intellectually and emotionally.

Even as regards my experienced research colleagues and myself, this initiative has prompted new research insights in content and in methodological perspectives. I was

specifically in charge of the academic workshop “*Seeing the Hidden, The Praxis of Counterhegemonic Writing in India*” (28th March), including presentations by Alpa Shah, Jens Lerche, Itay Noy and Thomas Herzmark. I was particularly pleased by the attendance of about 40 people, students and colleagues, from very different background as evidence of the capacity of this project to create a fruitful environment connecting people at different levels.

As regards the public at large, in addition to students and researchers, the exhibition *Behind the Indian Boom* opened in Turin on the 27th of March 2019 as the inaugural event of Biennale Democrazia, the biennial initiative proposed by the Department for Culture of the Municipality of Turin (<http://biennaledemocrazia.it/the-project-2/>). The theme of the 2019 edition was “Visible/Invisible” (Torino, 27-31 March) and the aim was to reflect on the lights and shadows of nowadays reality, which seems to be in full light like never before, and where society seems to obey the logic of transparency, which doesn’t involve the public authorities nor those accustomed to find refuge in secrecy: “the world seems to have become available, yet democratic societies must face increasing threats and seem unable to authentic visions of the future. Seeing is not enough. Tools to understand, choice spaces, objectives to pursue are needed”. Given the adherence of the Invisible India initiative to the issues raised by the ‘Biennale’, the organisers decided to “adopt” the exhibition as the opening event and invited Dr. Alpa Shah and Dr. Jens Lerche to address the opening lecture on the morning of Wednesday 27 March. The conference, which was introduced by the Dean of the University Prof. Gianmaria Ajani, was titled “Invisible India: the other face of the miracle” and was attended by 200 people. During the five days of events of Biennale Democrazia, the exhibition in the main hall of the Campus Luigi Einaudi and in the University Library received an estimated 1000 visitors.

In the same perspective, the film/documentary festival was meant to allow a further deepening of the issues and a platform for discussion. The program consisted in 5 meetings: three took place within the university premises (h.16-19: 26/02 Sangharsh by Nicolas Jaoul, France 2018; 16/04 Nero’s Guests by Deepa Bhatia, India 2009; 14/05 Dam’ned by Saraswati Kavula, India 2013), while the remaining two (26/03 Cowboys of India by Simon Chambers, UK 2009; 2/4 Machines by Rahul Jain, India, Germany, Finland, 2016) were shown at Centro Studi Sereno Regis in the evening, in order to reach a wider and general audience. Each projection was introduced by experts and followed by a discussion with the audience, and a survey was distributed in order to get a feedback both on the film and the presentation. All meetings had a strong participation with an average of 85 persons. The feed-back was very positive, showing that the documentaries promoted a higher awareness on issues that are often not well known even by students of the South Asia focused programs of the Italian universities. One of

the aspects that we appreciated is that these events catalyzed the attention of students and colleagues from many different departments and programs and also of general audience.

Finally, the project has had a positive impact on research activities. The academic workshop “Seeing the Hidden”, taking place at the start of the project has been followed by an international conference that marked the conclusion of the project. The Conference “The Globalization Project: Falling Behind or Failing Forward?” organized in partnership with *Alternate Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research* took place from Wednesday June 12 to Friday June 14, 2019 at Università degli Studi di Torino, thanks to cofunding by Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. The Conference was meant as an opportunity to discuss at a global level issues that are part of the India Invisibile project, such as informal labour, development models, capitalism and democracy, the neoliberal state, and others. The keynote speech by Jan Breman and the Round Table on “Adivasis in 21st Century India: Invisibility, Progressive Inequality and Resilience” were open to general audience and were well attended; the academic panels were only for registered participants (35, from EU and Canada). Particularly the Round Table, chaired by Jan Breman, was meant as a platform for discussion on Adivasi issues by the (few) scholars in Italy that do research on that area. In fact, in Italy sometimes scholars from different institutions work isolated and it is not easy to create a network. The result has been very positive, insofar the outcome of this meeting has been a project for a common academic publication and two future workshops (in Rome and Venice), and the creation of a national research network on Dalit and Adivasi issues. As for the conference, the final discussion showed that there is a possibility of future collaboration with our Canadian partners and we will investigate possible common project in the next future.

As a conclusion, also on behalf of my colleagues, the exhibition and the overall project may be seen as having an enduring impact, and we are confident that it will raise new activities in Torino and will facilitate new collaborations.

To whom it may concern

In my role of Chief Operations Officer, I also oversee the security and logistic processes of the ITCILO. Therefore, we provide on a weekly basis every new group of students enrolled and visitors with several services both to allow them to come to the Centre and to enjoy our accommodation offer.

According to the presences registered in the period March 27th - May 17th, 2019 when the exhibition "Behind the Indian Boom" was displayed, I can say that no less than 1.200 people have visited it.

Considering the space where the event was located at the ground floor of the main residential premises, among all common services, it was almost impossible for our guests missing it

That said, hosting the exhibition represented a very interesting opportunity for our organization as part of the celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of ILO's commitment to promote social justice by creating decent work conditions all over the world.

Several students coming from sub-Saharan countries expressed their dismay in front of the chapters that documented the exploitative conditions of migrant labour in India. A few Indian students, including one young lawyer from Bihar, publicly expressed their gratitude to and discussed with the curators Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche during the inauguration.

Finally, I would like to mention the series of guided tours of students and other visitors promoted by Centro Studi Sereno Regis. Through that, we've got the opportunity to further communicate our mission and values across a wider community.

Thanks again for this opportunity; we look forward for renewing this collaboration in the future .

Luigi Busan

Responsabile St

ervizi Interni

Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10
10127 Torino, Italy

Phone: +39 0116936111
Fax: +39 011 663 8842
E-mail: communications@itcilo.org



UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO
Biblioteca "Norberto Bobbio"

To whom it may concern

It was a real pleasure for all of us here at Biblioteca Norberto Bobbio to host part of the 'Behind the Indian Boom' exhibition within the widespread 'India Invisibile' initiative that the University of Turin conceived for the Italian re-edition. An exhibition in focus on an Indian reality rather unseen in Italy, and that raised a great deal of interest among our library users, especially around the time of the launch of the Italian translation of Alpa Shah's *Nightmarch*, when she offered a splendid guided tour of the exhibition - indeed delightful to see people wearing headphones and listening with great attention to the details of her anthropological adventure.

Furthermore, our staff was particularly pleased to be part of the exhibition, by including a corner of rare books written in the 17th century by the Neapolitan philosopher Antonio Genovesi, who is considered the 'father' of so-called Civil (or Ethical) Economy, and whose works are the object of a growing interest in Italy and abroad. This inclusion came about as a response to an input that came from Prof. Domenico Francavilla (Head of the Research of the Law Department as well as the main figure within the Organizing Committee of the 'India Invisibile' Program), who suggested this kind of participatory involvement from our Library, and thus provided a rare opportunity of exposure for books that are normally inaccessible to the public.

In terms of attendance, I would say in the region of thousands. In fact, there are 870 seats available on the various floors of Biblioteca Bobbio, with an average turn over of about 1500 people every day, in particular during busy moments of the academic year. Counting the 34 days during which the exhibition was on display (between March 27th and May 17th, excluding the week-ends and national holidays) we can easily say that the exhibition *has been seen* by a number of visitors ranging between 30.000 and over 40.000 people. We can't be sure that all of them visited the exhibition, but it is reasonable to assume that a good majority surely did, at the very least passing through or near the exhibition site, which enjoys the additional advantage of being situated next to the elevator and on the way to the coffee break area.

In fact, there is rarely a moment when the exhibition site was empty of visitors,

Warmest regards and again congratulations,



From Norberto Bobbio Library,

The Director, Dr Maria Cassella

Maria Cassella

Torino, 23 giugno 2019

An important moment of awareness, on present-day India and beyond...

Since its founding date in 1982, our Research Center has been working towards a sustainable and non-violent world. The center draws its name from Domenico Sereno Regis, a man who spent his life working in processes of conflict resolution at every level, from labour and human rights struggles in Italy, to more international collaborations, in strategic links with *IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation)* and *WRI (War Resistance International)*. With its sister organization *ASSEFA India* (an NGO operating in the South of the Indian continent among the most marginalized rural communities), the CSSR has always been characterized by a strong interest for the problematic reality of present-day India. The dramatic exploitation and marginalization of entire sections of its population, in an intertwining of collusions and responsibilities that certainly has a global dimension, has been a recurrent focus of our initiatives and seminars, and constantly in focus on our newsletter.

That's why we were obviously happy to be part of this project, promoted by the *University of Turin* under the title "*Invisible India*", as a way to present the Exhibition "*Behind the Indian Boom*" within an articulated program of events and initiatives over a period of four months.

Our role in particular was to promote a series of guided tours, especially during the period of display of the Exhibition at *ILO International Training Center*.

With this objective, we hosted a series of presentations during the month of January, that resulted in a calendar of visits (four in total) among which the most successful one was with a High School of Grugliasco (a locality in the immediate outskirt of Turin): a visit that developed into a further moment of awareness for the students, as documented in their written comments (see Statement from Prof. Barberis, enclosed in this dossier).

The CSSR was also pleased to host the screening of some of the documentaries in the program, namely *Cowboys in India* by Simon Chambers (at the presence of Dr Alpa Shah and Dr Jens Lerche - March 26th); and *Machines* by Rahul Jain (at the presence of Dr Benedetta Maggi in dialogue with Dr Tommaso Bobbio - April 2), both of which were well-attended events followed by very interesting interaction with the audience.

Beyond the quantitative assessments (number of students who visited the exhibition, attendance at the film screenings, participants at the seminars and debates within the University), this program of events and initiatives that the public of Turin had the opportunity to receive around the Exhibition '*Behind the Indian Boom*', has certainly created an unprecedented opportunity (at least for Italy) of learning and reflection on aspects of India rarely debated or reported by mainstream media. Indeed we can say that, thanks to the variety of opportunities - exhibitions, events, videos, debates - aiming to different types of audiences, this initiative has fostered a new awareness on the present reality of a country so hugely overlooked despite the many ways in which it plays a role in determining future balances (or rather imbalances) worldwide.

We are therefore very satisfied with the stream of attention that has been created around this Exhibition re-edition, and with the participatory quality of this cultural production: drawing from such a well-conceived research project directed by Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche, it has exceeded (so to say) both the borders of the academic world and the Anglo-Indian geographical boundaries.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Italian curator, Daniela Bezzi, in collaboration with the *Organizing Committee* within the University, and thanks to the involvement of so many NGOs and Associations in Turin (*Jarom, Yatra, Assefa*, alongside our *CSSR*) we believe that some important seeds have been sown for future initiatives that will continue to have a positive impact in the future.

We believe that the only way to contrast, that structural violence that prevents the affirmation of social/environmental justice all over the world, is through a concerted strategy of bottom-up commitment and good will. This Exhibition and everything that has been conceived around it, or any seed of new awareness that resulted from it, was certainly a valuable contribution in that direction.

The President of the *CSSR*

Angela Dogliotti

Centro Studi Sereno Regis
Via Garibaldi 13 - 10122 Torino
tel. +39-(0)11-532824 - fax 5158000





ASSOCIAZIONE JAROM ONLUS

C.F. 97772510018

Via Principi d'Acaja, 27 – 10138 Torino

Torino, 03/07/2019

To whom it may concern

A unique opportunity of learning for the city of Turin and for us in particular

Since the year of its foundation, in 2011, our Association JAROM has been committed to the mission of promoting awareness on the socio-economic problems suffered by the Adivasi population in India: promoting summer camps in the state of Jharkhand, preceded by seminars, events, moments of reflection, for the students that will travel with us.

Needless to say, when we were asked to actively participate in the initiative of bringing to Turin the “*Behind the Indian Boom*” Exhibition, within a larger project focusing on everything we have been involved with for years, under the title “*Invisible India*”, we enthusiastically decided to participate, not only because of the overlap with the focus of our Association, also but for the in-depth quality that this learning opportunity had to offer, on so many crucial issues of present India.

We can certainly say that our contribution, essentially pertaining to the online communication and the dissemination of the many initiatives in the program, facilitated the network between scholars, activists, journalists, students and general public, who became “followers” of the social channels that we launched and managed, during the four months of “*India Invisible*”. And our commitment will not end with the conclusion of the event, since we will certainly continue to feed this community, with posts and updates on what is going on in India, well beyond this program.

Without a doubt, this initiative was the most important moment of learning on the realities of Adivasi and Dalit conditions in India, to ever have landed in our city.

Roberto Ardisone

President of Jarom Cultural Association


ASS. JAROM ONLUS
Via Principi D'Acaja 27
10138 TORINO
C.F. 97772510018



Our *Yatra Association* was started in 2005 with the mission of improving at least a bit the quality of life of Adivasi families displaced from their ancestral lands in Jharkhand. Over the years we succeeded in the building of a school in a village called Jareya (not far from Ranchi), in various programs of professional training (tailoring, IT) and health provisions around some villages.

We were therefore delighted to know about the project of bringing to Turin the *exhibition "Behind the Indian Boom"*, that we considered a very important contribution to the objective of awareness-raising that has always been so important for our work.

It is difficult in fact to imagine a project better conceived than this, combining the in-depth quality of academic research with the ambition of reaching a wider audience, while focusing on issues and situations that are difficult to perceive even in India - let alone Italy, thousands of kilometers away and more than ever engulfed in its own emergencies.

Our contribution to the success of the exhibition was in the promotion of a couple of Guided Tours, at ITC/ILO (13/4), and in Spazio Regione (8/6), both led by our Adivasi friend Father Binay, with considerable interest from the participants. Both these visits provided the members of our association with an opportunity of learning regarding a variety of situations in India, that we could never have imagined were possible, with our Seminars of Reports from our fields of action.

We can surely say that this exhibition was like opening several windows on a reality that is already the focus of our engagement - and that deserve to be seen over and over again.

Another aspect that we all greatly appreciated in this exhibition is the fact that beyond the aim of documenting, it takes a stand, in such a way that is designed to foster reflections in the visitors, so that they will also feel obliged to take a stand. The fact that all this comes from two prestigious institutions like LSE and SOAS - and that in Turin it has been presented by three university departments within UniTO - makes this production even more special.

A small deficiency that may be noted is the taking for granted that everyone knows the geography of India by heart. In this regard, it would perhaps be useful to add to the captions some small maps of India, that would help to localize the various situations.

Overall, we can only hope that this will not remain an isolated event, and that similar initiatives could continue in the future, in a similar participatory format.

With most sincere congratulations,



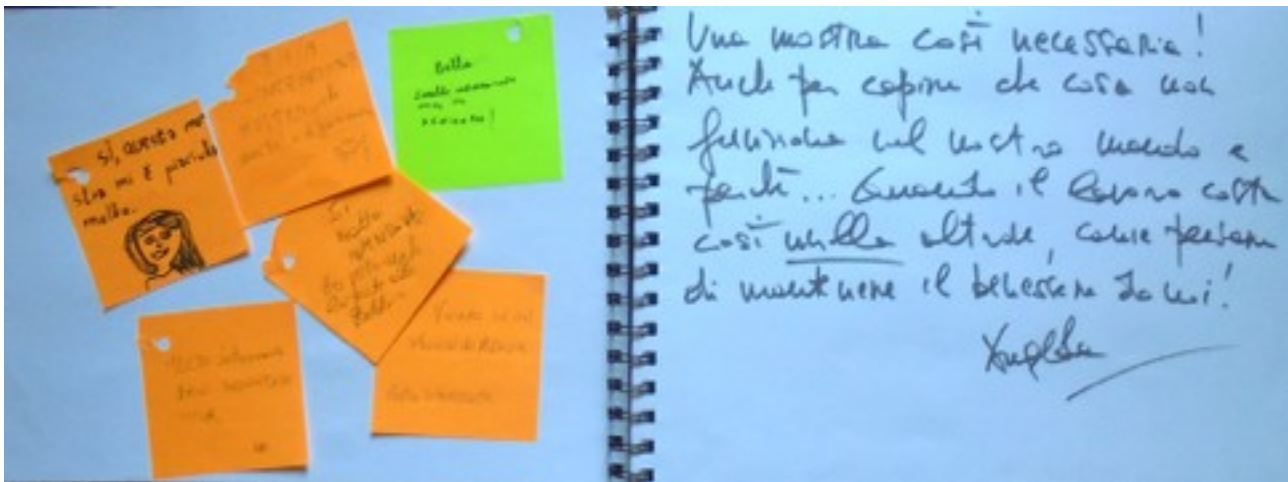
Paolo Manzone Yatra

Onlus

Per Yatra Onlus Il presidente Pa

A selection of comments from the Visitor's Book at Piedmont Region Gallery

(May 29th - June 16th)



An exhibition so necessary! So needed if you want to understand what is not working in our world and why ... When labor costs so little elsewhere, how can we possibly imagine to defend our comfort zone here! Angela

Impressive! Carlo

Beautiful and scary! ... how the "progress" can become annihilation! Federico

As the words say at the beginning of the exhibition, what happens in India is not so different from what happens in other places of the world, it is just the magnified picture... which doesn't mean that we should lose our strength and desire for revolt. These peoples like the Guarani communities in Mato Grosso, like the Mapuche in Patagonia, like the people in militarily occupied Palestine, are the victims of the colonization of the liberal capitalist system. But we must revive our strength and foster other people defense, resistance. It is a common struggle. It is the multinationals of our West that make agreements with powers and subject territories, (...) in order to create conflicts and diminish the strength in the communities themselves. I CERTAINLY WANT TO RECEIVE THE PDF BOOKLET OF THIS EXHIBITION ... (no signature)

(Los pueblos unidos ... Jamas sera vencido ...)

I am currently a volunteer at the *CINEMAMBIENTE Filmfestival*. Even there the messages and testimonies that we receive speak about the increasing land grabbing everywhere, indigenous peoples are deprived of their lands in many parts of the world, in order to speed up the exploitation of the few resources still available! WE MUST REACT! There is not much time left to do it! Beppe

Thank you, for this important exhibition, Elisa and Matteo

It is an interesting project! Thank You! from Germany *(a couple of tourists, signature illegible)*

Thank you for this wonderful show, I lived in Jharkhand for five months and it remained in my heart. These images helped me to revive and better understand my emotions. Federica

Beautiful and interesting. I've never been to India but I've read a lot. Very touching! Aspects that testify a millenary civilization in real struggles! Barbara

Thanks for this beautiful show ... we need more moments and occasions like this. Viola

An exhibition that makes you think! (illegible signature)

Beautiful and important, Dario

Beautiful Show (illegible signature)

Very important exhibition, Thanks! Giorgio

The future of humanity depends on climate justice. We must fight against poverty and inequalities. Beautiful Show! (illegible signature)

Congratulations! Images that denounce and express so much. You have created so much food for thought ... Very important project, Chiara

Thank you for letting us know about this often unseen part of the world, Simona and Vittorio

A really interesting exhibition for people at every level and above all for our University Students in turin, Polytechnic in primis (Georesources) and Environmental Sciences. Absolutely worth visiting! Prof. Mauro Fornaro

But in what kind of world do we live? What these photos are telling us is not acceptable! (illegible signature)

Thank you for this important initiative that makes us enter the heart of so many unresolved and unknown questions! Francesco Brunelli

A different perspective, a necessary story. Orlandina

Really very interesting (illegible signature)

Bhopal didn't teach us anything... Maurizio

I wish these information will make the world understand what is really going on, behind the scenes of what they call growth...

Thank you for this important testimony. Stefano Piano

Very interesting! Claudio Melli

Excellent and interesting!

A very good initiatives that deserve max thoughts and reflection!

Very beautiful and interesting! Federico Interesting

show that makes us think! Caterina Testa

I felt the smells of this incredible country! and "seen" the scenes described by Arundhati Roy, and others that I observed there with my eyes ... Thank you because you taught me things that I could not see during my last three months visit. Federica Balbi

Beautiful show, congratulations to the organizers! I hope there will be many similar projects towards a change in the conditions of oppression and exploitation, for the liberation of all humanity from suffering! Flavia Fornari

The mirror of the entire world: India!

Very interesting! Sergio Anselmi

"Do-goodism" hides the exploitation of poverty (illegible signature)

The development of a country must be for its own interests and for the well being of its people, and not for the benefit of the rich part of the world. (illegible signature)

Very very interesting. It is important to disclose information that we do not receive from the media. People must know and must take initiatives. Thank you! Piercarla

Wonderful exhibition. Pictures are so powerful ... (no signature)

Beautiful photos of great significance for all the peoples of the world. Inequality and poverty are the evil of the world. (no signature)

An exhibition that basically makes you reflect on the lack of information we have from India. It opens my eyes to an unknown world. (no signature)

Very touching photos of an unknown reality. (no signature)

Thank you for your showing the truth behind the shining!

Thank you!

Very eloquent series of photos and well presented overall. Very interesting show. Francesca

"... latest news: 170,000 hectares of forest will have to be sacrificed to the mining sector in Chhattisgarh ..." Incredible India!

Always "Incredible India" when it shines and when it's hard. Pls send the booklet. Sergio

If anthropology can become a fundamental tool for critically reading the world, it is time to adopt it. Definitely this kind anthropological approach makes a great contribution. Francesco Vivalda

An interesting overview of the facets and contradictions of Indian development.

Interesting exhibition: how to discover a truly unknown world. Exceptional photos!

I visited this exhibition twice. Great show. (illegible signature)

It would be particularly useful for school children to see this exhibition, to understand where the problem we all suffer come from and who pays for their well-being of the few. Very interesting and devastating images. Anna

Very clarifying and interesting, this show demonstrates the arrogance of powers that do not hesitate to impose an idea of development at the cost of populations that could live in self-sufficiency. Thank you! Ernesto

Thank you! You must show this exhibition as much as possible! Alessandro

It is good to reveal what happens to some remote people, beyond the big boom

Very interesting if you want to understand something more about our world, this show speaks about our world as well. Thank you! Lidia

A very distant truth, that at the same time touches us in depths. This is the information that should pass through the media! Thank you very much, Fatima

A world still little known and unexplored... Serious fault from all of us not to see such realities!
Elena

Sharing these images should be a priority, especially to young people: these are very sad realities that they do not know! or do not want to know (...) Thank you for the work presented. (illegible signature)

Thank you, an unknown India, rarely shown by the media (illegible signature)

Beautiful Exhibition. Patrizia Viano

The media do not tell us anything or almost anything of what happens in India, to the detriment of the local populations in the name of "progress", which is nothing but an uncontrolled exploitation of the territories by multinationals that are totally unconcerned about their impact. The goods produced by them should be considered undesirable by us because they are the result of suffering, atrocities and destruction. It would be good to have the names of the brands who are involved in these dirty business of "progress". Thank you! Rita e Roberto Berra

I fully share what is written above. Thank you ! Rita

I fully agree, give us more information on the companies that exploit. Luca

I visited India and it remained in my heart. There is a spirituality there, that we completely ignore. I really hope that they will find a way out from the greed of us Westerners , Paolo e Anna

Interesting exhibition, a cry that rises in the silence, Chiara

An interesting window that makes you think! Thank you! Angela

Very interesting show, because it draws the attention on the unknown social realities of a "developing" country and the social gap is very clear. Susanna

The photographs of the exhibition present an unequivocal world of social inequalities. they also show the possibility of smiling even in situations of extreme suffering. Piera

Very important show, where we see an India that could be the world. I look forward to visiting shows like this more often. Good collection of photos and very interesting documentation.

A very interesting exhibition for the issues addressed which should be studied in depth, especially those concerning the production of goods that we consume.

The exhibition brings visibility to a part of India that is so little known and that deserves max attention. Gisella



April 13th: A particularly successful Guided Tour at ILO

During the months preceding the Exhibition's display in the various locations, a particular care was given to the planning of a series of Guided Tours - and in this respect it has been crucial to rely on the contacts list of *Centro Studi Sereno Regis* and its network of dedicated teachers and educators.

Two presentations were held at the CSSR during the months of January and February, that in due time resulted in four different guided tours, during the weeks between March 27th and May 17, coinciding with the Exhibition display at ILO's International Training Center.

Among these tours, one in particular with an entire Class coming from the High School of Human Sciences, "Curie Vittorini" of Grugliasco (in the immediate outskirt of Turin) proved very successful for several reasons:

- for the personal interest expressed by the educator, Prof. Barberis, since the presentation, when she interacted several times with the tutor Elena Camino;
- for the teaching that she imparted to the students in preparation to the tour;
- for the follow up that she was keen to foster in the class afterwards.

One additional element of success was that in the same morning, with no previous planning, a small group of visitors from *Yatra Association* decided to visit the Exhibition as well, led by Father Binay, an Adivasi and a close friend of a few activists in Jharkhand - and therefore a very lively source of information.



All that resulted in a very interesting interaction, with students attentively listening to Father Binay, taking notes, asking questions, and keen to debate and elaborate in the following weeks what they received, as we can see in the following comments recorded by the same Prof. Barberis.

Here below the comments from the students of Class II H,
High School of Human Sciences, I.I.S. "Curie Vittorini" of Grugliasco(Turin),
after the guided tour organized by CSSR at ILO ITC - 13/4/2019



With this exhibition I understood many things, but a fundamental one is that “appearances deceive”. India has always been a very rich developing country in my eyes, but there is another side to all this: destroyed lands, dispossessed people forced to leave the lands to which they are linked... Such poor people are therefore condemned to work in the worst possible conditions for very little money, sometime as outcastes, forced to stay in that situation of discrimination and social inequalities for no other reason than their “wrong” birth. So unfair!

This very exploitive society is dictated by greed, and this means: violence. There are so many episodes of violence, in India, due to the informality of work. That means: work with no rights, without protection. For example, I learned that only in 2014 there were 47,000 cases of violence. There were several strikes and people who died for the defense of their rights. The bricks that make up buildings in big cities are made in the most appalling conditions, by people who have nothing, and fight to survive. This is the truth.

The problems that afflict this part of the earth are very serious indeed. Pollution, unemployment, the construction of large dams and the existence of disadvantaged classes. All these problems must be solved. I was very impressed to see those images that represent a reality "without filters", that do not hide anything, such direct images that help us to understand the psychological condition of these oppressed people even from a single glance. I hope that solutions to these problems can be found. But I am also aware of the fact that similar problems are increasing in our country as well, and should not be underestimated. Above all, they should not be ignored just because we think that they don't concern us.

My thoughts on progress have changed a lot after attending the exhibition. I always considered economic development as an opportunity of improvement of society, and not as a cause of dispossession and destruction. Unfortunately, when we hear of these cases of far-away destruction, many of us do not care, thinking that this does not concern us. I have never agreed with all this. Each of us should see and be concerned with all the problems that affect every population,

because even if we live in opposite hemispheres we live on the same planet and the same problems can happen to us. The image that struck me most is the one in which the Adivasis celebrate the new season by throwing colored powders to each other. It struck me because these people, even with the obstacles they face every day, manage to find beauty and also joy in their life.

The exhibition was very interesting. These situations were not foreign to me, but surely, thanks to this experience, I have deepened my knowledge. I was very impressed by the detailed explanation of the caste subdivision and the images presented to us. The show made me understand even more that our society dwells too much on appearance. We are used to judging peoples different from ours only for what we feel and make us believe; in fact most of us are not aware of the true conditions of the Indian population. This exhibition helps a lot to understand them.

This exhibition was very interesting because it clarified many aspects of the working conditions in India. I was very struck by the fact that workers are paid so little, even though they work so hard and with no rights; and by the fact that they have to leave their homes in the forest, in order to work in factories at the other end of the continent, or forced to extract minerals - and this would be bearable only if they had money in exchange and another place to live, but this does not happen and they are only scammed. Another situation that I thought had been overcome, but that clearly is not, is that of the castes. This caste system causes discrimination and even those who succeeded to access higher level of education and want to continue in their studies, are hindered - only because they belong to the lower castes, this is most unfair!

Going to this show helped me to understand how relevant is the domain of labour in a country. I was also very shocked by the fact that even children are exploited as workers, instead of going to school. We must not complain about going to school, because there are so many boys who dream of going there but are not allowed. So unfortunate!

Through this meeting at ILO/International Training Center, I realized how disastrous the economic and social situation in India is. The population suffers from very serious level of poverty and the caste division influences the division of labor. The photographs displayed represented this poverty and aroused in me a sense of anger at the conditions in which people still live today.

Thanks to this exhibition I was able to better understand the reality that we sometimes try to ignore because it does not affect us in the first place. Unfortunately in India there is a really critical situation and most people are forced to work in pitiful conditions in order to bring something to eat on the table. In particular, I was struck by the comments of that father born in India: he provided us with so much information drawn from his own experience and from everyday life. But what moved me more than anything else was the story of that Indian student who was rejected from his University and failed to complete his studies because of his humble origins. Very unfair that he was bullied and decided to commit suicide.

This exhibition left me with different emotions and touched me very deeply. Indeed I came out from this exhibition like I had discovered a new reality. I discovered aspects of India of which I was not aware. I was impressed by some photos that showed us situations that I would define inhuman, such as the condition of working in the cotton economy, a particularly touching subject, since many indebted people commit suicide. Other pictures represented the persistence of divisions in castes, the role of the most disadvantaged communities, such as Adivasi and Dalit: the growth of the Indian economy, vis à vis the growth of poverty is indeed unacceptable. It was very interesting to listen to

the explanations of Father Binay, an Adivasi who had the opportunity to live in Italy for sometime and who could explain how life is in India.

Being passionate about photography, I found this exhibition very interesting also from an artistic point of view: I was literally struck by some particular photos, so close to “pure” reality. Despite the passing of the years the situation in India remains tragic, I would say - as under the thumb of a cruel dictatorship. Incredible to believe that there is a society that dictates the rules of division, in terms of castes! Surely it left me speechless to look at some photos and testimonials, and I think these experiences should happen more often.

The exhibition on India set up at the UN campus of Turin impressed me a lot, as it opened my eyes to a new reality hitherto unknown to me. Even simple photos taken and hung on a wall, managed to convey strong feelings of sadness regarding the difficult life of these people. I also found the testimony of Father Binay very interesting and touching. The way he conveyed to us the current living conditions of his country of origin was so detailed and so evidently enriched by his personal experience.

The exhibition that we visited at the UN campus made me think a lot. It would take so little to improve the situation of the inhabitants of India without damaging ours. I believe that if each of us made a small gesture the situation would improve a lot. He made me realize that we should be happy with what we have and we must always fight for our freedom.

The exhibition on India was very interesting because it opened my mind to problems different from those of our country. I found Father Binay's speech very significant.

The exhibition on India struck me very much and interested me because it managed to open my eyes to how life can be, in a country very different from mine. I really liked the intervention of Father Binay, who made us understand the problems of those who live in the poorest part of India. The chapter that struck me most was the one in which thousand of working women went on strike to get a higher salary. Very brave!

I found the show very interesting because it made me see and learn about aspects of life that I never imagined. Many things surprised me and even shocked me a little bit, like the fact that, despite India being an important developing country, there is so much poverty. Through simple photos of everyday life, it has been represented how these populations manage to live in a society so different from ours.

The division into castes, pollution and low-paid work have horrified me and made me feel very sorry. I was especially horrified at a state that is not at all concerned about the population's discontent and misery. The part I preferred was the testimony of Father Binay, because in an engaging way he told his story and I found it really interesting.

The “Behind the Indian Boom” exhibition showed us some very important problems of India, of which we are not aware. It was very shocking to come into contact with the real and harsh reality of India. The images on the walls showed us so many interesting aspects, such as the conditions of cotton cultivation, or in the tea plantations - and the most appalling environmental situations of living, right next to the most polluting industries. Many years ago, India was divided into castes and

unfortunately those belonging to the lowest ones, do not have much choice. I liked this show for its important information.

Personally, I liked this exhibition on India because it was interesting and well conceived, but above all it made me think. Thanks to this exhibition, I understood how different the society of India is compared to ours. We often complain about small and trivial things, but we do not think that in these countries there are much more serious problems, for which a solution must be found as soon as possible! An example is the division into castes. It is terrible to think that there are people living in poverty, in shacks or in degraded places. I was also struck by the exploitation of labor, the fact that most people work all day in the sun, and are paid so little. Another very serious problem is environmental pollution. In fact, I was impressed by photos in which many people lived or worked in the middle of waste.

I think our society is not aware of what is happening in India, but thanks to this exhibition I am now better informed, or at least a bit. However, I think that once one is aware of this situation, one should act and make everyone understand that this type of society is wrong and must be changed.

Dear Daniela,

you ask me to explain why I wrote those lines after seeing the exhibition *Behind the Indian Boom* that was presented at ILO ITC at the end of March... It was a great experience for me. I am from a very small town, Khagaria, Bihar, India. My childhood days were full of struggle. I worked as child labour and many nights I went to bed without food.

My father worked as laborer in my early days. Later he managed to start a business and with all ups and down finally he managed to run a good business.

My father left school in order to earn enough bread to survive, this is the bitter reality of many villages of India.

When I arrived here at the International Training Center of ILO, I faced so many challenges. I never been in such school or college before, I always attended simple government school or colleges in Bihar. It was the first time in my life that I found myself in such a large and rich classroom.

And so many students from all around the world. It was amazing to find myself among them. They were from great colleges and universities. Very often I felt inadequate and also sad, because of my background that was very simple.

Sometimes I felt quite inferior, and struggling with unforeseen situations because of some misunderstanding. And then suddenly, I met with that exhibition at ITC ILO centre that was about the story of informal labour - and with so many pictures taken from Bihar and Jharkhand, documenting a story that I witnessed and also lived.

I grew in those areas and I easily connected myself to everything that was displayed in that exhibition.

It was very kind that your team invited me to say a few words that evening at the Opening. I felt very emotional, somehow I felt that I am the part of those stories.

That day I realized that my background is my strength. I am here to give voice to untold stories. It inspired me very deeply and I worked hard to clear all those problems in the pathway of the master (LLM)

It was never easy for me, who graduated Bachelor from a college of Bihar and pursuing a Master from UNICRI, United Nation Inter-regional crime & Justice Research Institute, Turin, Italy.

I am really thankful to the organizing team of this exhibition, to highlight those stories that are really hard to imagine by the people here.

Until we go and see we can never imagine, what is life and how hard is the battle of survival.

Thank you
With regards
Kaushal



*"under the sky of Hope,
in the lap of earth*

*the life grows
and the eyes dream
for the better world"*

The stories of the people that are unheard and untold.
The people who never complained and never argued for anything.
The challenges that impose themselves as un-circumnavigable odds of life.

People whose everyday reality is defined by the effort to adapt to challenges that nonetheless continue to deteriorate their lives.

Although the odds never loosen their tight grip, their spirit and belief remain firm to fight these emerging threats, some of which are even putting their existence into question.

The basic question of survival, every day they struggle to survive.

I grew up in that area (village of Khagaria, Bihar, India). I have seen. I ask myself: what does life mean? What are those challenges of survival?

I have seen them exposing their lives to danger to obtain coal stones from dead coal mines. I have seen them paddle those heavy stones on their bicycles to sell in another town almost a hundred kilometers away.

Every year I see, how they leave behind their town and villages for work in cities where they are strangers living in inhumane conditions.

Do they ever know what does life mean?

Is life earning the bread for themselves and family? – or is it winning every day anew the battle of survival in a world that is not theirs?

What do we know about injustice, when we talk about their lives and rights inside meeting rooms? How can we even analyze their situation on the paper.

After 70 years of independence, we had achieved so much in the world of economic graphs and data. We are one of the fastest emerging economies of the world and we can claim and argue, the things are getting better.

But these people? Their community feels disconnected from this data not because it is unreal but because these economic indicators are irrelevant for them.

The mines and minerals of their land helped many companies and corporations to make their balance sheets stronger. But somehow, they remain ignored by the system, by the process of new systems that keep ignoring the weak and make the strong stronger.

Even government institutions failed to reach those people and to provide basic necessities for human life. Even after living in these miseries they never complain and celebrate their life by singing their own songs and worshipping the unconditional love of nature and earth.

Kaushal

(written in response to the Opening of 'Behind the Indian Boom' Exhibition at ITC-ILO, April 1st; an Italian translation was then published on the newsletter of Centro Studi Sereno Regis, care of Elena Camino)



ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION PART C **House of Lords Influence**

Context:

Alpa Shah and her team were invited to present their research in the House of Lords to the APPG for Dalits every year from 2014 to 2017. After the last meeting, where the 'Behind the Indian Boom' exhibition (based on *Ground Down by Growth and Nightmarch*) was presented to the House of Lords in November 2017, Baroness Amos, who Chaired the meeting, made a formal request to extend the mandate of the APPG for Dalits to Adivasis. She also sent two questions to be raised in the House of Lords which were raised by Lord Harries (Chair of the APPG for Dalits) in December 2017.

Contents:

- 1) The correspondence between Lord Harries of Pentraeth (Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits) and Baroness Amos of December 2017 where the latter requests the name of the APPG Dalits be extended to Adivasis and for the tabling of the two parliamentary questions (page 28 and 29)
- 2) The basis of the questions raised in the House of Lords by Lord Harries (page 30 and 31).
- 3) A Letter from Lord Harries to Dr Shah acknowledging her contributions in raising the concerns of Adivasis at the APPG for Dalits in an earlier meeting in May 2017 where Dr Shah first made the case for the need for this APPG to think about Dalits and Adivasis because of the similar yet different challenges they faced (page 32)
- 4) Letter from Lord Harries to Dr Shah acknowledging the contribution of the research after Dr Shah's presentations in 2014 (page 33).



Begin forwarded message:

From: "HARRIES OF PENTREGARTH, Lord" <HARRIESR@parliament.uk>
Subject: Dalits and Adivasis
Date: 9 January 2018 at 17:00:09 GMT
To: "'th42@soas.ac.uk'" <th42@soas.ac.uk>
Cc: "'a.m.shah@lse.ac.uk'" <a.m.shah@lse.ac.uk>, "'jl2@soas.ac.uk'" <jl2@soas.ac.uk>

Dear Valerie,

Thank you for your letter and in particular for chairing the meeting. We miss you in the Lords.

I will certainly raise the issue of changing the name of the group to include the Adivasis.

Thank you also for the two draft questions and briefings which I will put in as either a written or an oral question.

May 2018 bring you some good things

Richard

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Soas Director <director@soas.ac.uk>
Subject: A Letter from Baroness Amos SOAS University of London
Date: 22 December 2017 at 13:49:05 GMT
To: "contactholmemb@parliament.uk" <contactholmemb@parliament.uk>
Cc: "Shah,AM" <A.M.Shah@lse.ac.uk>, Jens Lerche <jl2@soas.ac.uk>

Dear Lord Harries of Pentregarth,

Please find attached a letter and briefing.

All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,
Valerie Amos



Baroness Valerie Amos, CH
Director

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7898 4014
Email: director@soas.ac.uk

Lord Harries of Pentregarth
House of Lords London SW1A 0PW

Sent by email only

22nd December 2017

Dear Richard,

Thank you again for hosting the APPG for Dalits event on 'Behind the Indian Boom'. Some very important points were raised both in the presentations and in the discussion that followed. One particular issue, that I would like to follow up on, is the suggestion that the APPG for Dalits considers formally extending its mandate to Adivasis and that this is reflected in a change of name from 'APPG for Dalits' to 'APPG for Dalits and Adivasis.'

Jens and Alpha at the meeting made the case for the extension of the mandate of the APPG. The concerns of Adivasis are amalgamated into those for Dalits by many political and policy forums but while the two communities face many similar issues of oppression, exploitation and discrimination, there are also significant differences with Adivasis being much worse off than Dalits. Since Dalits are educationally and politically more advanced, forums which deal with Dalits and say they include Adivasis within the Dalit category usually focus only on Dalits. This means that the issues faced by Adivasis are at best marginalized, at worst silenced.

Formally extending the APPG mandate to Adivasis will enable the APPG to consider the issue of land grabs, which are today leading to gross human rights abuses of Adivasis. This is often done by and for companies listed on the London Stock Exchange but it is rarely raised because Dalits have historically been landless (while Adivasis have depended on land and forests). The specific issues of Adivasis are internally connected to British business interests and a formal inclusion of Adivasis in the mandate of the APPG for Dalits will help create the forum for increased engagement in the UK.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you in the New Year.

All best wishes for 2018

Valerie Amos



Question: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to prevent mining companies listed on the London Stock Exchange from engaging in illegal land grabs in protected tribal lands in India

Background:

With 100 million Adivasi (tribal) people, India has the largest indigenous population of any country in the world. The areas in which they live – primarily the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have in recent years become very attractive to Indian domestic and foreign mining companies.

Indian Adivasis have traditionally lived very simple lives, close to nature, depending on hunter/gatherer and agricultural lifestyles which are now often supplemented by seasonal migration work in other states.

Despite laws which are enshrined in the constitution to protect the land which the Adivasis live on – namely the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and the Forest Rights Act – the government has been encouraging Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between mining companies and state governments for mining leases on Adivasi lands. In proceeding with these agreements, the state governments are often circumventing their own laws.

There are several mining companies from India which have based themselves in the UK in order to raise funds on the London Stock Exchange with which they can carry out these illegal activities.

Vedanta Resources Limited is 69% owned by the Indian business tycoon Anil Agrawal and has most of its operations in India, but is listed as a British company and listed on the LSE in 2003.

Vedanta has tried over many years to overturn opposition from the Dongria Kondh tribe in the state of Odisha so that it can mine for bauxite on their sacred Niyamgiri mountain. Because of an intervention by the Supreme Court of India they have so far not succeeded in gaining permission. However, they have built a 2 billion dollar bauxite refinery at the foot of the mountain in preparation for the day when they get permission. This refinery at Lanjigarh is built on illegally acquired forest and tribal land. Tribal leaders opposed to the mining are regularly harassed and imprisoned on trumped-up charges in an attempt to remove resistance to the mining project. This has been well documented by Amnesty International, Action Aid and Survival International.

In 2016 Vedanta signed an MOU with the government of Jharkhand to build a 1 million ton per annum steel plant on tribal land in Saranda.

The British based company Essar has developed a steel refinery on Adivasi land in Bastar in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Rio Tinto was to mine on Adivasi land in Madhya Pradesh but has recently withdrawn for financial reasons.



"To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British businesses have taken action and reported back on their efforts to prevent modern slavery in supply chains from India"

Follow-up questions:

How many British businesses have reported back on their initiatives on the ground and, especially, whether or not their initiatives have had positive outcomes?

How many have reported that they have implemented policies to safeguard against modern slavery through labour contractors? What are the safeguards that they have put in place? Have they reported on the success of these safeguards?

Background:

With an estimated 18 million modern slaves, India has the highest number of modern slaves in the world, according to the Walk Free Foundation. Modern slavery in India is tied in with social oppression of the groups at the bottom of India's social and economic hierarchies, as the majority of them are Dalit or Adivasi (tribal) internal labour migrants.

In India, it is well documented by Anti-Slavery International and academic research that modern slaves are found in all low wage, low skill, manual labour-based sectors, such as agriculture, brick kilns, mines and stone quarries, construction, power looms and the garment sector.

The modern slaves are bonded through advance loans forcing them to work till the loan has been paid off. Once the loan is paid back they still have to stay on till the end of the working season in order to be paid the remaining balance of their paltry wage. They and/or their family will face, sometimes violent, consequences if they abscond.

Bonded labour are most often employed through labour contractors. This enables the actual end-employers (factories, quarries etc.) to claim that they have no knowledge of the modern slavery conditions even though they often supply the funding for the advance needed to bond the modern slaves. This recruitment and employment system is common in low wage, low skill, manual labour-based sectors and for all employers. The produce from these sectors such as cotton, garments, quarried stone and footwear is common on the shelves of British high street retailers.

The main retailers (Marks and Spencer, Primark, Homebase, Tesco etc.) have all submitted their modern slavery statements to the Modern Slavery Registry. Many of them outline that they work to eliminate modern slavery in the supply chain through various means (e.g. Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Primark).

However, none of the retailers specify how these means are to reach modern slaves working for labour contractors. In fact, to deal with modern slavery, companies need to change how the present system of advance payment through labour contractors work. As it stands, end-employers will often claim that they have no specific knowledge of the conditions under which labour is hired since this is done through their main labour contractors.



Begin forwarded message:

From: "Richard Harries" <richard.d.harries@googlemail.com>

Subject: Thank you

Date: 13 May 2017 at 15:55:13 BST

To: <A.M.Shah@lse.ac.uk>

Dear Alpa

Re: Dr B. R. Ambedkar

Thank you for your contribution to the conference marking the 126th Birth Anniversary of Dr Ambedkar at the House of Lords on 26 April 2017 organised by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO). It was good to see you again.

I found your presentation on your latest field study and research on Caste, tribe and inequality in contemporary India really informative. The particular challenges and inequality faced by Tribal people in a fast moving economy in India should be of huge concern to us all. I look forward to receiving and sharing the report of your research with members of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dalits when it's published. It will help the APPG's work.

In the meantime, it would be helpful to have a copy of your presentation for my records and inclusion in a document of speeches FABO UK is collating from the meeting for wider circulation.

With good wishes,

Richard

Lord Harries of Pentregarth

Copy: Ms Santosh Dass, MBE, President, FABO UK



House of Lords

From Lord Harries of Pentregarth

Dr Alpa Shah

Associate Professor (Reader)
Department of Anthropology
Director of Inequality and Poverty Research Programme
London School of Economics

May 12, 2014

Dear Alpa,

Dr Ambedkar - Life and Works 8 May 2014

I wanted to pass on my thanks on behalf the All Party-Parliamentary Group for Dalits on your really helpful contribution to the debate at the first annual Dr Ambedkar conference at the House of Lords.

Your thoughts on India's Constitution and the impact of Dr Ambedkar's Affirmative action measures from the time they were introduced to the issues arising in the present day context were very enlightening.

I wish you ever success in the future and look forward to further engagement with you.

Regards

Lord Harries of Pentregarth

cc. Santosh Dass MBE, President FABOUK, Vice Chair ACDA



ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION PART D

ILO Impact:

- 1) **Letter from Igor Bosc, Chief Technical Adviser of the ILO Work in Freedom Programme, outlining impact of research on ILO, how it led to an ILO round table workshop of practitioners and policymakers in Jan 2020 in Delhi and how that has led to an ILO reference guide on migrant labour discrimination (which our team helped prepare).**
- 2) **Email from ILO to show inclusion of Ground Down by Growth policy brief for the information of their experts on C111 application.** Please find correspondence from Cecile Balima, Head of Unit, Equality and Migration Workers, International Labour Organisation, Head Quarters in Geneva to Jens Lerche (ERC team member).



► **Regional Office for Arab States**
Work in Freedom Programme

To Whom It May Concern:
22 December 2021

Subject: Re: Research Excellence Framework: LSE: impact as key contributor to work on labour anti-discrimination

I'm the Chief technical Adviser of the Work in Freedom (WIF) programme in the International Labour Organisation. Previously I worked in senior positions for other UN agencies and human rights organisations. WIF is one of the UK's flagship programme to address modern slavery. It is a technical cooperation programme funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and implemented by the International Labour Organisation. The programme focuses on male and female migrant labour in South and West Asia. Since ILO considers freedom from discrimination as a fundamental principle and right at work, the programme sought to review different patterns of structural labour discrimination affecting migrant workers.

In a round table presentation organized in May 2018, I came across Dr. Alpa Shah's and Dr. Jens Lerche's research and their co-authored book *Ground Down by Growth; Tribe, Caste, Class and Inequality in Twenty- First-Century India*. It was a unique updated reference to frame the topic and enable the ILO to deconstruct the meaning of caste and class in relation to migrant workers in India and the specific forms of discrimination related to Dalits and Adivasis. Dr. Alpa Shah, Dr. Jens Lerche, the Human Development Institute and ILO organized a round table 'Labour at the Margins: Action for Non-discrimination and Inclusion' on 27-28 January 2020 in New Delhi. The round table gathered 35 practitioners, academics and policy makers to reflect on policy challenges and recommendations to address migrant worker discrimination. An important outcome of the workshop was that the ILO's WIF programme would develop a reference guide on migrant labour discrimination. It was then agreed that Dr. Alpa Shah and Dr. Jens Lerche were to prepare key sections of the guide including policy recommendations on different dimensions of migrant worker discrimination. The consolidation of the paper was delayed as the Covid-19 pandemic forced me to focus on Covid-19 related responses of the programme. Nevertheless, the paper will be completed by February 2022. It is expected to play an important role in informing ILO's staff in the region covered by the programme on the gaps and opportunities for more effective application of anti-discrimination standards (ILO Convention No 111 on discrimination and Nos 107 and 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations). In addition, the paper will articulate recommendations that will assist officials in UN Agencies and international organisations to refer to existing evidence to support the application of international labour standards related to discrimination.

Sincerely,

Igor Bosc, Chief Technical Adviser



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Balima, Cecile** <balima@ilo.org>

Date: Fri, 14 Dec 2018 at 20:54

Subject: INDIA - C.111

To: jl2@soas.ac.uk <jl2@soas.ac.uk>

Dear Jens,

Thank you for the valuable information provided to us (policy brief 'Ground Down by Growth: Oppression, Discrimination and Exploitation of Adivasis and Dalits in 21st century India) that I have inserted in India file on its application of C.111 for the information of our experts as background material and my ILS Specialist colleague based in the Region.

Kind regards.

C. Balima

Cécile Balima-Vittin

Head of Unit

Equality and Migration Workers - APPL

International Labour Standards Department

Email: balima@ilo.org

Tel : +41 22 799 75 58





ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION PART E
Anti-slavery International

Email from Sarah Mount of Anti-Slavery International

To show their use of Ground Down by Growth in their work/report on bonded and child labour in the brick kiln industry in India.

From: Sarah Mount <S.Mount@antislavery.org>

Subject: Paragraph and use of room

Date: 18 September 2017 at 11:54:09 BST

To: "Jens Lerche (jl2@soas.ac.uk)" <jl2@soas.ac.uk>, "Shah,AM" <A.M.Shah@lse.ac.uk>

Cc: Debbie McGrath <d.mcgrath@antislavery.org>, Sally Kilner <s.kilner@antislavery.org>

Dear Jens and Alpa

Thank you once again for reviewing the research report and providing your book for me to read and reference.

Please find below a paragraph that you could use in reporting use by NGOs:

Ground Down by Growth: Tribe, Caste, Class and Inequality in Twenty-first-century India has been very useful in Anti-Slavery International's work in India. Anti-Slavery International works to address forced and bonded labour in various informal employment sectors in India. We try and address the root causes of forced and bonded labour in these sectors which includes: entrenched social exclusion, informal recruitment and payment of workers (including a high number of inter-state migrant workers), payment below minimum wages and as a family unit (in a piece rate system) and lack of implementation of relevant laws. Ground Down by Growth is very relevant to our work, and has been extremely useful in enhancing our understanding of the factors causing on-going labour exploitation of particular marginalised groups in India. We recently published a report on bonded and child labour in the brick kiln industry in Punjab, India, and how the recruitment and payment systems that are used in this industry keep workers poor, under the control of employers and highly vulnerable to debt bondage and child labour. In preparing this report Ground Down by Growth was the key text referred to for understanding and analysis. As an NGO working with partners to implement projects on the ground, it is critical that we have the best understanding possible of the factors underpinning forced and bonded labour. Without this understanding our project would not be as effective in addressing these issues.

Please let me know if this is sufficient.

In relation to the photographic exhibition launch, unfortunately Debbie and Sally will be in India on October 13th, however they would like to come and visit the exhibition at another time and perhaps have a conversation about using the space for an event related to the research report. They will be back in late October and will be in contact then.

Kind regards Sarah

Sarah Mount | Asia Programme Manager

T: +44(0)207 501 8920

D: +44(0)207 501 8936



ANNEX COUNTEROPPRESSION PART F AAJEVIKA BUREAU

Email from Priyanka Jain, Aajeevika Bureau

To show their use of Ground Down by Growth in their work on labour migration – in both training field staff, advocacy work and in discussions with Government of India - in particular in demonstrating the structural oppression and discrimination faced by Adivasi labourers, how this takes place, and that this is a national (not just a local) problem.

On 28 May 2020, at 11:57, Priyanka Jain <priyanka.jain@ajeevika.org> wrote:

Dear Jens

Hope you are doing well, or as well possible in these tumultuous times!

I am writing to share a few thoughts about our work at Aajeevika Bureau, and the many ways it has benefited from the intellectual contribution that Alpa and you have made.

We came across your work when a colleague of ours, Nivedita, met you at the Indian Society for Labour Economics conference in December 2017. She picked up a copy of Ground Down by Growth for our research team. This was fortuitous, as we were at that point trying to deepen the debate in the country on seasonal, circular migrants, focusing on the particular experiences of Adivasi labourers. While many more people today are willing to accept that this group faces structural oppression and discrimination which is reproduced in their migration journeys, a few years back this was a much harder position to assert. Your book strengthened our effort to demonstrate this empirically and to base our advocacy from this stance. It helped not just conceptually, but also to generalise our findings beyond our location of work, and claim it as a larger national trend.

Our search at that point was to develop a political economy account of the type of migration we witnessed in our area of work - to tease out its underlying processes that are both historical and social, as much as they are economic. Ground Down by Growth was very helpful in this regard. While there are many studies on migration, very few delve into the processes that lead to disenfranchisement in a structural and multi-dimensional way.

Since then, this perspective has percolated and informed our work, not just our research and publications, but also the perspectives of our field teams and our policy, advocacy work. At Aajeevika, we approach research as the starting point of these pathways. Therefore the perspectives we cultivated through our interactions with Alpa and you, also seamlessly integrated into various aspects of our work.

Focusing on the experiences of Adivasi and Dalit migrants, as both of our work does, has been important in bringing visibility to the differentiated experiences that exist within the world of migration. This has also informed our teaching and training, both internally and externally. We have been conducting a short but intensive course on labour migration for practitioners and activists for a few years now. In the last two rounds, since the germination of these perspectives,



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POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

we integrated the political economy frame with particular attention on Adivasi and Dalit communities, into the course curriculum. The lockdown has made the structural violence inflicted on these communities much more visible. Many of the participants from these rounds are giving us feedback that these perspectives have helped them deconstruct the systemic causes of the current crisis and shape their advocacy work accordingly.

Internally too, Aajeevika has always attempted to invest in the capacity of its members to perceive ground realities in a robust way. The Hindi translation of your book was very helpful in this regard. It is a pity that such resources and content is typically restricted to English. This poses a significant barrier in its absorption into the work on the ground. The translation of your book has helped our effort in making knowledge more accessible for our field teams and union members.

The conversations we had with both of you on stigmatisation of Adivasi and Dalit workers was yet another important dimension that opened up for us. It triggered us to pay greater attention to these processes. The research team went on to discuss this with various members of the organisation. This has now become a part of how we approach a question. For instance, while researching the intersections of urban governance with the living conditions of migrant workers in cities, we paid particular attention to how discrimination and stigma might be operating in these contexts to shape the behaviour of various stakeholders. This has helped our field teams evolve their relationship with migrant communities by understanding their experiences better. It has also become a critical point in our advocacy work on housing rights of migrants.

Today the central government is taking interest in the issue of migration, and we are having many policy conversations with them on migrant rights. The build up of these ideas, knowledge and insights over the years is shaping our engagements on multiple fronts in this critical moment. Your visit earlier this year, Jens, was also helpful in integrating these ideas in our approach towards worker agency and collectivisation processes.

Our association has been wonderful and very useful. I hope it grows further, and continues to open up new dimensions for us to explore together.

Thank you.

Warm regards

Priyanka

Research and Knowledge team

Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions

Aajeevika Bureau

Tel: +917073520222

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