

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
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CENTRE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES  
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3.	Aftab Alam	Prof. Vidhu Verma	Discrimination and Recognition: A Case Study of Dalit- Muslim in Bihar
4.	Andrew Jacob	Prof. Valerian Rodrigues	The Idea of Nationalism in the Writings of Renan and Ambedkar: A Comparative Study

## APPENDIX I

International Workshop on **Urban India and New Forms of Democratic Politics** on 25-26 October 2012.

In recent years the city has emerged as a central trope in scholarly, policy, and popular debates on contemporary India. Accompanying this new discursive emphasis is an analogous “urban turn” in political, institutional, symbolic, and resource allocation priorities. Replacing earlier spatial conceptions of India, whether the idea of village India or the notion of unitary national space, the Indian metropolis dominates and defines the twenty-first century national project, at once the site and the means for realizing India’s dreams of global greatness.

This workshop examines the political consequences of this urban turn, focusing specifically on the rise of informal politics and extra-electoral democracy that have widely been associated with urban politics both in India and elsewhere. From Partha Chatterjee’s discussion of “political society” to Ravi Sundaram’s discussion of urban “pirate modernities;” from scholarship on the anti-electoral politics of urban middle-class activism to studies of the informal, transactional politics and contingent political agency of the urban poor, the idea that urban politics is constituted by informal and extra-electoral institutions, agents, and practices has gained wide currency. Our workshop critically engages this idea, that urban politics and Indian democratic politics more broadly speaking is marked by the proliferation of practices and ideologies of politics outside the domain of formal, electoral democracy, what we term the *political outside* or *extrapolitics*.

We ask, first, about the empirical evidence: is urban politics primarily informal? Has there been an informal, extra-electoral turn in democratic thought and practice in recent years that parallels and accompanies the urban turn? Second, we turn to theoretical and normative questions: What are the implications of informal and extra-electoral politics for the practice and pursuit of democracy in urban and other settings? To what extent do these various critiques and rejections of electoral democracy constitute a new, *non-representational politics of democracy*, and what relationship does this have to direct or radical democracy? Does the conduct of politics beyond the ballot box—the growing importance of the political outside or extrapolitics—deepen or constrict democracy?