



**International  
Growth Centre**

# IGC India Research Conference: Evidence for inclusive growth

10th September 2019

Le Meridien Hotel, Delhi

0900 - 0930 **REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

0930 - 0945 **WELCOME SPEECHES**

**Dame Minouche Shafik (Director, London School of Economics and Political Science)**

**Jonathan Leape (Executive Director, IGC)**

0945 - 1100 **SOCIAL PROTECTION TRANSFERS AND THE ROLE OF FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**Chair:**

**Dame Minouche Shafik (Director, London School of Economics and Political Science)**

**Panellists:**

**Kalyani Raghunathan (Research Fellow, Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, International Food Policy Research Institute)**

**Robin Burgess (Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science; Director, IGC)**

**Ramesh Chand (NITI Aayog member)**

**Himanshu (Associate Professor in Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University)**

1100 - 1115 **TEA & COFFEE BREAK**

1115 - 1245 **SHOULD ELECTRICITY BE A RIGHT?**

**Chair:**

**Rahul Tongia (Fellow - Foreign Policy, Brookings India, Cross-Brookings Initiative on Energy and Climate)**

**Panellists:**

**Michael Greenstone (Director, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago; Research Programme Director, IGC)**

**Anant Sudarshan (Executive Director, South Asia, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago)**

**Robin Burgess (Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science; Director, IGC)**

**R. Lakshmanan (Executive Director, Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd)**

1245 - 1345 **LUNCH**

1345 - 1445 **POLLUTION, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GROWTH IN INDIA**

**Chair:**

**Kanika Chawla (Director, CEEW Centre for Energy Finance)**

**Panellists:**

**Michael Greenstone (Director, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago; Research Programme Director, IGC)**

**Nicholas Stern (Chair, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science; Senior Advisor, International Growth Centre )**

**Ulka Kelkar (Climate Director, World Resources Institute)**

1445 - 1500 **TEA & COFFEE BREAK**

1500 - 1615 **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA'S LABOUR MARKET: GENDER, SKILLS, MIGRATION**

**Chair:**

**Yamini Atmavilas (Lead for Gender Equality, India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)**

**Presenters:**

**Farzana Afridi (Associate Professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute in Delhi)**

**Clément Imbert (Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Warwick)**

**Subhalakshmi Nandi (Deputy Regional Director, International Centre for Research on Women Asia Office)**

**Purva Khara (Economist, International Monetary Fund)**

1615 - 1630 **CLOSING REMARKS: DR PRONAB SEN (COUNTRY DIRECTOR, IGC INDIA)**

## Speaker bios



**DAME MINOUCHE SHAFIK**  
DIRECTOR OF THE LSE

Dame Minouche Shafik is Director of the LSE. An economist by training, Dame Minouche Shafik has spent most of her career in public policy and academia. Her early research focused on trade, migration, the determinants of investment, the environment and economic growth and the economies of the Middle East and North Africa. She taught at both Georgetown University and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She was Vice President at the World Bank, Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development, Deputy Managing Director at the IMF and Deputy Governor of the Bank of England from 2014-17.



**JONATHAN LEAPE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IGC

Jonathan Leape is the Executive Director of the IGC and an Associate Professor of Economics at the LSE. He was the founding director of the Centre for Research into Economics and Finance in Southern Africa, which was established at LSE in 1990 as an initiative of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to support the democratic transition in South Africa. He has advised a number of African governments, with a focus on tax and regulatory issues, and he served as Chief Academic Advisor on Taxation to the UK Government Economic Service.



**RAHUL TONGIA**  
FELLOW AT BROOKINGS INDIA, NEW DELHI

Rahul Tongia is a Fellow at Brookings India in New Delhi. He is also an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University and technical advisor for the Government of India's Smart Grid Task Force. An expert in technology, policy and design of infrastructure, his research covers energy, electricity and sustainable development, with additional expertise in information technology and telecommunications.



**MICHAEL GREENSTONE**  
MILTON FRIEDMAN PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Michael Greenstone is the Milton Friedman Professor of Economics and Director of the interdisciplinary Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. His current positions and affiliations, among others, include elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and editor of the Journal of Political Economy. His research estimates the costs and benefits of environmental quality and society's energy choices. Before re-joining the faculty at University of Chicago, he was the 3M Professor of Environmental Economics at MIT, and served as the Chief Economist for President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers from 2009-10.



**ANANT SUDARSHAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH ASIA, ENERGY POLICY INSTITUTE

Anant Sudarshan is the Executive Director for South Asia at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC). He is also a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Economics at the University of Chicago. Anant works at the intersection of environmental economics and engineering. His research is on environmental regulation, air pollution, climate change, energy efficiency, electricity and renewable energy. Prior to working at EPIC, Anant was the Giorgio Ruffolo Post-doctoral Fellow in the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



**ROBIN BURGESS**  
DIRECTOR OF THE IGC

Robin Burgess is a Director of the IGC. He is also a Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Organisation and Public Policy Programme at LSE. He has been a Visiting Assistant and Associate Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, the National Bureau of Economic Research, Ecole Polytechnique, University College London and the University of California at Berkeley. His areas of research interest include development economics, public economics, political economy, labour economics

and environmental economics. Before joining academia, he served as a consultant economist with the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Government of India.



**R. LAKSHMANAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION LTD

R. Lakshmanan is Executive Director for Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd, a Navratna company under the Ministry of Power. Prior to this he was the Managing Director of the South Bihar Power Distribution Company.



**KALYANI RAGHUNATHAN**  
RESEARCH FELLOW IN THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE'S POVERTY, HEALTH AND NUTRITION DIVISION

Kalyani Raghunathan is a Research Fellow in the International Food Policy Research Institute's Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division. Her areas of research focus on development and labour economics, with a specific focus on rural India. She received her Ph.D in Economics from Cornell University in 2015.



**RAMESH CHAND**  
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIA  
AAYOG

Ramesh Chand is a member of the National Institution for Transforming India Aayog, a policy think-tank chaired by the Prime Minister of India. He is also a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India and the Vice Chairman for the Commission on Farmers' Prosperity, State of Uttar Pradesh. His work focuses on agricultural development and food security. Ramesh has chaired several high-level committees of Indian government including the Planning Commission of India and the Prime Minister's Office. He was Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research for six years.



**KANIKA CHAWLA**  
DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER AT  
THE CENTRE FOR ENERGY FINANCE

Kanika Chawla is Director of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water at the Centre for Energy Finance. Kanika is a policy specialist, working at the intersection of renewable energy and financial markets. Her research includes policy issues in developing countries on renewable energy, energy access and climate change. Prior to CEEW, Kanika worked at the REN21 Secretariat in Paris and was one of the authors of the Global Status Report on Renewable Energy.



**NICHOLAS STERN**  
CHAIR OF THE GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Nicholas Stern is Chair of the Grantham Research Institute and the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at LSE. He is also an Associate of the STICERD Economic Organisation and Public Policy programme. He was previously chief economist of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, head of the Government Economic Service and second permanent secretary at HM Treasury. He was the principal author of the report of the

Commission for Africa published in 2005 and led the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, published in October 2006. In October 2007, he was appointed to the House of Lords as a non-party political peer. He became the 29th President of the British Academy in July 2013, in succession to Sir Adam Roberts.



**ULKA KELKAR**  
CLIMATE DIRECTOR AT THE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Ulka Kelkar is Climate Director at the World Resources Institute. Her work is in interdisciplinary research, capacity building and outreach on climate change. Prior to joining WRI, she was a consultant climate assessment specialist for the Asian Development Bank, a Fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment and worked at The Energy and Resources Institute.



**YAMINI ATMAVILAS**  
LEAD FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN INDIA COUNTRY OFFICE AT THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Yamini Atmavilas is the Lead for Gender Equality in India Country Office at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her years of work span research, evaluation and capacity building in gender, health, education and economic development. She was previously a Senior Program Officer in Measurement, Learning and Evaluation at the India Country Office.



**FARZANA AFRIDI**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Farzana Afridi is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Indian Statistical Institute in New Delhi. Her main area of research is in development and labour economics. Her current research interests include female labour force participation, the design of public programmes in developing countries and the effects of social identities on labour productivity. She received her Ph.D. in economics in 2006 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



**CLÉMENT IMBERT**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

Clément Imbert is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick. His research focuses on governance and labour markets, specifically on the implementation and labour market effects of social programs. He was also a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Economics and Nuffield College at Oxford University. Clément received his Ph.D. from the Paris School of Economics.



**SUBHALAKSHMI NANDI**  
DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN ASIA OFFICE

Subhalakshmi Nandi is the Deputy Regional Director of ICRW Asia Regional Office. She is also a member of the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS), Indian Society for Labour Economics (ISLE) and the Association for Women in Development (AWID). She has broad experience in connecting research and action with feminist activism, economic with social policy and grassroots action with policy. Prior to her role with ICRW, Subhalakshmi has worked with various women's rights organizations, UN Women and as a Policy Specialist at the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (UNHLP-WEE).



**DR. PRONAB SEN**  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR IGC INDIA

Dr. Pronab Sen is Country Director for the IGC India. His research is in open-economy macroeconomic systems, international economics and public finance. He has been the Principal Adviser for Power and Energy at the Government of India's Planning Commission, and the first Chief Statistician of India, acting as the functional and technical Head of the national statistical system in India. He was also Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India from 2007-10.



**HIMANSHU**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ECONOMICS

Himanshu is an Associate Professor in Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is also a visiting Fellow at the Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi. His areas of research include issues related to poverty, inequality, employment, food security and agrarian change. He has been involved with various government committees including the Expert Group on Measurement of Poverty (Tendulkar committee), National Statistical Commission and Ministry of Rural Development.



**PURVA KHERA**  
ECONOMIST AT IMF

Purva Khera is an Economist at the IMF. Her research focuses on building macroeconomic general equilibrium models for policy analysis. Purva has deep knowledge of gender analysis in economics, and has been actively engaged in assessing the macroeconomic impact of gender inequality and informality, with a focus on India. She holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in economics from the University of Cambridge.

## About the International Growth Centre

The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is majority funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

## About IGC India

IGC's India-Central and India-Bihar programmes, launched in 2009, merged under a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2018. IGC India generates evidence, builds evaluation capacity, and informs policy for sustaining growth in Bihar and throughout India.

## Contact the IGC

International Growth Centre  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
Houghton Street  
London  
WC2A 2AE

Email: [mail@theigc.org](mailto:mail@theigc.org)  
Website: [www.theigc.org](http://www.theigc.org)