Opportunities for NCI Member University Researchers for 2019

Deadline: October 31st, 2019
Email: contact@nordiccentreindia.com
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NCI
ACADEMIC ACTIVITY GRANT

EXCLUSIVELY FOR RESEARCHERS AT NCI MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

FOR MORE INFO: GO TO WWW.NORDICCENTREINDIA.COM OR WRITE TO CONTACT@NORDICCENTREINDIA.COM

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TOWARDS ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

A glance at this newsletter that highlights NCI activities between January to August 2019 is a testament to potential that NCI always has had. NCI has increasingly shown a capacity to grow and meet member university requirements satisfactorily. There are new initiatives constantly being considered and worked on, and as we move forward we will grow from strength to strength matching our member universities interests in India.

A good example of this is the first ever General Assembly meeting of the NCI that will be held in New Delhi, which will be followed by a Nordic India Higher Education Summit that would address the many opportunities for collaboration to stakeholders from both India and the Nordic region. A workshop follows on the topic, India and the Nordics: Building Synergies & Deepening Ties' to further introduce the Nordic region and academic landscape to an engaged Indian audience and vice versa. This will be the highlight of Fall 2019 among other initiatives including the Internship Bank that we have been working on which will provide curated internship opportunities for member university students who want to experience working life in various sectors in India. NCI will also soon announce its Winter Schools for 2020 that will further increase our study options specifically directed towards doctoral level scholars.

NCI is excited about the near future and we hope that all our members, partners, friends and well wishers are excited as well. We sincerely thank you all for you support!
ACTIVITIES SPRING 2019

We are extremely grateful to Professor Kathinka Forystad of University of Oslo's Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages for picking NCI’s Delhi residence as the venue for a Writer's Workshop, held in late March, 2019, which was the concluding event of the Indian Cosmopolitan Alternatives Project that was funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The project deals with ritual intersections and the regulation of religious offense in the context of India with the purpose of developing a nuanced approach to religious plurality in India while contrasting the same with the scholarship of religious plurality in Europe.

The project members travelled from various parts of the world to work together for a week to push for joint writing projects and enhance research communication. NCI thoroughly enjoyed having the group over and we wish more Nordic member university researchers would consider using our space for such endeavours.

The 7th Whabiz Merchant Memorial Lecture was convened by Professor Hoshang Merchant from the University of Hyderabad and the lecture delivered by Professor Emeritus Birgit Schlyter from Stockholm University in cooperation with INLANSO, on the 4th of April 2019. The topic of the lecture was, ‘Grassroots Philosophy for a Top Diplomat: The Career of Ambassador Gunnar Jarlings (1907-2002)

NCI can host small academic gatherings in a cost effective and efficient manner. NCI can also identify and coordinate with local academic partners to host academic events in an economical fashion. Interested member university researchers can write to contact@nordiccentreindia.com for more information on the same.
ACTIVITIES SPRING 2019

We were happy to have a student group from University of Copenhagen led by Professor Ravinder Kaur of the Centre for Global South Asian Studies on the 8th of April 2019. The meeting enabled the students to interact with Jakob Williams Ørberg, the Innovation Officer, Embassy of Denmark in India, who held a seminar on innovation and trade between Denmark and India.

NCI was happy to have a study group visiting from the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages at University of Oslo. The study group was led by Ina Marie Lunde Ilkama and Professor Claus Peter Zoller who are from IKOS. Students were informed of the various opportunities available at the Nordic Centre in India. We hope to see them continue on in their academic interest in the region.

NCI was happy to visit the Danish Cultural Institute India in Delhi. The newly opened institute aims at strengthening the cultural ties between Denmark and India so as to encourage the development of new ideas benefiting both countries. NCI hopes to be able to work with the Danish Cultural Institute in the near future given the similarities in our larger objectives. Many thanks to Janne Meier and Thomas Sehested for meeting with us.

NCI was very happy to revisit our partner - the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS). We met with the very inspiring Director-General of AIIS Purnima Mehta and we discussed ways to collaborate in a meaningful manner. AIIS's bouquet of language programmes can be immensely useful for Nordic scholars working in India. NCI members can avail of the opportunities via AIIS since the MoU will be renewed later this year.

NCI is happy to support student and other types of university delegations to India. We provide assistance in networking meetings, arranging field visits, and also in practical matters including printing of marketing material :). Please write to contact@nordiccentreindia.com for more information on how we can help in addressing your specific need.
On the 10th of December 2018, NCI was happy to meet with a delegation from Linkoping University, Sweden. Our guests included Dr. Helene Elvstrand, Ms. Lena Ornestrand and Dr Monica Sandlund. A happy outcome of our discussions was that NCI supported LiU’s preexisting teacher training partnership for their students at Silver Oaks School, Hyderabad in June 2019. We were excited to be part of this endeavour and to add value to the same by adding a field element to the programme. NCI arranged a lecture on Society and Culture in India by Professor Aparna Rayaprol at the University of Hyderabad followed by an interaction with a students and faculty members of St. Ann’s College of Education, and visits to two NGOs that work with educating children from urban and rural lower income communities by supporting local government schools. We are hoping to continue working with LiU to support the students and enrich their stay in India, while also opening up this opportunity to other member university students.
SPRING SEMESTER 2019

One of the larger goals that NCI had for student programmes in 2018 was to create study opportunities in New Delhi for undergraduate NCI member university students. Pursuant to that we came up with two options at Delhi University - St. Stephen's College (SSC) and Sri Venkateswara College (SVC).

Depending on student interests and their budget, students could choose one or the other. We were lucky to have interested students almost immediately with Maja Engelbreth Henriksen from Aarhus University and Håvard Norli Rensvold from University of Oslo, choosing to participate in spring 2019. Maja went to SVC and Håvard went to SSC, and while both experienced different academic environments, they were both in agreement about how much they enjoyed their time studying in India.

To know more about the two semester programmes in Delhi, please visit http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/semester-at-ssc/ and http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/semester-at-svc/

Our long running association with University of Hyderabad, an Institution of Eminence as recognised by the Government of India, continued this spring semester as well with Ida Marie Grønnestad from Oslo Metropolitan University taking part in the semester programme at the Study India Programme of the University of Hyderabad.

This option is a tried and tested one with a decade old partner. Here third year Bachelor level students and Masters students get an opportunity to pick courses within a wide variety of high quality academic programmes. With boarding and lodging included in the programme, and an opportunity to mix both with international students alongside Indian students, this programme is one of our most robust semester programmes. To know more about the the semester opportunity you can go to http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/semester-program-at-university/
On 5 April 2019, we had a follow up of a February meeting held with the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. The purpose of the meeting was to customise a semester programme with a strong Hindi language component for their students. Accordingly, we worked with our new partner at Delhi University, Sri Venkteswara College, to create this programme where students could take two courses in Hindi and two courses in social science. Consequent to this we now have three students from UCPH, Mads Berg, Kevin Pandey and Jeannon Sejer Larsson, who are currently enrolled in this customised programme.

We sincerely thank Professor Ravinder Kaur and Associate Professor Elmar Josef Renner for thinking of NCI to assist in fulfilling this objective.

Our association with University of Hyderabad is continuing this Fall semester too with Charlotte Yttergård from Oslo Metropolitan University taking part in the semester programme at the Study India Programme of the University of Hyderabad. Charlotte says, ‘I come from Norway, and I am currently doing my semester abroad at the University of Hyderabad. Before this I’ve studied in Vietnam, Ghana and Canada. I love traveling and learning about new cultures. Hyderabad is so amazing, and people are very nice and welcoming. I live in Tagore International House where we get three meals a day: and the food is so yummy! I’ve chosen two courses from Political Science, one from Sociology and Hindi. It is very cool to have classes with Indian students, and the SIP Hindi-class is also very good.... I look forward exploring more and learn even more about Hyderabad in the following months. So grateful for being here!'
In late 2018 we advertised four summer programmes for 2019 and ended up running three: - Contemporary India, Gender and Society in Contemporary India, and Exploring the Environment in India. Students from all the five countries participated in the programmes and there were a lot of happy faces by the end of the summer. NCI hopes to attract more students to the summer programmes as they are a cost effective way to experience and learn how to see India and all its contemporary dynamics.

To know more about our regular and customised short term courses, language courses, semester programmes, and internship opportunities please write with your specific interest to contact@nordiccentreindia.com

NCI offers two students from NCI member universities annually a chance to spend two months at the India office in the spring and then in the summer to be a part of NCI’s work environment in Delhi and other cities where active partnerships exist. A generous opportunity with travel, board and lodging covered, it has been a great experience for students who have had the chance to experience working with an organisation having international goals in cooperation and collaboration while also experiencing the reality of India’s diverse higher educational landscape and its concomitant working culture. To know more, please write to contact@nordiccentreindia.com
University of Bergen graciously played host to Nordic Centre in India (NCI) for its first physical Board meeting in early March 2019. Many thanks to Bjørn Erik Andersen for being such a fantastic host. NCI was happy to be in Bergen, arguably one of the most picturesque cities in Norway. Many thanks to Board members Per Nilsson, Krishna Kumar Bjørn Erik Andersen Aradhna Aggarwal, Mikko Ruohonen, Chairperson, Uwe Skoda and our Secretariat's Lise Hansen! Many apologies to our dear Board member, Per Nilsson, as he is unfortunately cropped out from this picture.

NCI had the good fortune of visiting the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway which is the world’s northernmost university in March 2019. This was preceded by the visit of Ms. Hege Kristin Widens ito the Delhi office in late 2018. The research interests at UiT are certainly very relevant to NCI’s work and we are hoping to have UiT as our newest member soon. Fingers crossed!

NCI reached out to our Indian partner, Jawaharlal Nehru University as we are renewing our MoU with them. On the 1st of November 2019 the School of International Studies in cooperation with NCI will conduct a workshop on India and the Nordics: Building Synergies & Deepening Ties. This hopefully is the first step for greater cooperation. Many thanks to Prof. Bhaswati Sarkar for her cooperation!

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NCI was happy to catch up with Prof. Himadri Das, formerly Director of MDI, who is now the Director General of the International Management Institute (IMI) New Delhi. We are hopeful that this would lead to fruitful collaborations in the area of Business Management and Economics in a short span of time.
NCI GRANTS 2019

NCI announced its two new grant opportunities in 2018, the NCI Academic Activity Grant and the NCI Travel grant, followed by another grant opportunity in spring 2019, the NCI Ganga Mahal visiting Scholar Grant.

The NCI Academic Activity grant makes available 7000 euros for the purpose of funding projects or academic events. The specific requirement here is that the application must include researchers from at least two NCI member universities. More information is available at http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/nci-academic-activity-collaboration-grant/

The NCI Travel Grant offers travel support of 500 euros each to 6 scholars annually so as to subsidise their travel to India for academic purposes. More information is available at http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/nci-travel-grant/

The NCI Ganga Mahal Scholar in Residence programme offers travel support and one month’s stay at Karlstad University’s India Study Centre, Ganga Mahal, located at Assi Ghat in Varanasi. More information is available at http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/nci-ganga-mahal-resident-scholar-programme/

All these opportunities are available to doctoral level and above researchers based at NCI member universities.

NCI TRAVEL GRANT (2018 AND SPRING 2019 RECIPIENTS)
Akram Hossain - University of Bergen
Ambuj Kumar - Aarhus University
Elin Thorsen - University of Gothenburg
Riya Raphael - Lund University
Mika Letonsaari - University of Helsinki
Ekaterina Mikhailova - University of Eastern Finland
Linda Sólveigar Guðmundsdóttir - University of Iceland
Rishi Kumar Jha - Lund University

NCI ACADEMIC ACTIVITY GRANT (2018 AND SPRING 2019 RECIPIENTS)
Annelie K Johansson - Karlstad University
Kjell Daniel Enstedt - University of Gothenburg
Ashwini Kumar - University of Helsinki
Janet Anand - University of Eastern Finland
Linda Lane - University of Gothenburg

NCI GANGA MAHAL SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME (SPRING 2019 RECIPIENT)
Kundan Kumar - Karlstad University
An interaction with the President and Secretary of the Delhi Chapter of the Sweden Alumni Network India in early 2019 has resulted in NCI being involved with the Delhi Chapter’s meetings and events. The NCI residence became the host for the Delhi Chapter’s first event that was a Midsummer celebration with an Eco fika on the 22nd of June 2019. The alumni shared their expertise and knowledge on the current topics in sustainability and environmental issues. Since there was an agreement that the event was a success, NCI will be hosting a second event on the 28th of September, 2019 which will be a screening of a documentary titled The Moon Inside Us by Diana Fabianova, which will be followed by a discussion.

For NCI, engagement with the alumni from Nordic universities is a useful strategy for not only increasing our visibility but to harness the alumni to help increase Nordic university visibility in India. The Indian alumni are undoubtedly the best brand ambassadors for our member universities and working with them is a natural choice.
Lovely Mrs. Kanta Bai who was with the NCI’s India office from 2005 retired on the 1st of January 2019. After 14 years of loyal service to all the member university scholars, it was not easy to let her go. Despite speaking only in Hindi, she managed to welcome all our guests and made them feel at home. Many a Nordic member university researcher would still remember the aloo ghobi she served with dollops of affection. We wish Kanta bai all the best for her retirement years as she spends time with her lovely granddaughters.

Mrs Laxmi Rai takes over as the housekeeper of NCI and she continues the fine tradition that Kanta Bai established at NCI’s Delhi residence.

Ms. Ilika Jimo continues on as Office and Residence Manager at NCI’s Delhi office. She is a doctoral student in Sociology working on completing her thesis which focuses on ’Women and Work in the Informal Sector- with focus on Street Vendors in Nagaland’.

Together Nilu and Ilika are working together to make NCI’s Delhi presence a more hospitable and happening space.

The NCI Director’s residence continues to be a warm and welcoming space for Nordic guests coming to India. The number of visitors and guests have increased manifold in the past couple of years and we are hoping for greater engagement with members through the space. The three bedrooms and the large hall open up many possibilities for short stays and conducting small academic programmes and networking events. We would be happy to have more member universities use the space as it promises safety, economy, and the access to assistance through our wonderful Delhi office staff.

Ms. Christabel Royan who has been Acting Director since mid 2017 will continue on as NCI Director working under the leadership of the NCI Board, led by Chairperson, Dr. Uwe Skoda. Members are encouraged to reach out to Christabel (christabel.royan@nordiccentreindia.com) with any demands or queries and she will try her best to make NCI useful in the context. Christabel is excited to continue on in the role of Director and is looking forward to strengthening NCI. She looks forward to working with the Board and cooperating with the members to better understand their needs so that NCI can satisfactorily address them.