

**Panel 6:** Uttar Pradesh: Development Failure and Identity Politics

**Conveners:** Jens Lerche, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London  
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**Abstract:** Since 1990, the two main issues that have dominated the politics and economics of social change in UP are

1. Dalit and Muslim anti-social discrimination / identity politics; and
2. UP as an on-going part of what used to be BIMARU, i.e. UP as a development failure.

In this panel we shall invite speakers who can deepen our understanding of both these themes and their interrelationships, as well as challenging the underlying premises of this picture, in comparative terms within and beyond India. We shall ask panellists to show how their research can illumine not only the general processes we identify but also the responses of groups and individuals; and to look at them both at a macro-level (at the State) and the micro-level (village, urban mohalla, lineage or household). To what extent should this overall picture be questioned? Is agrarian growth really that poor in UP right now? How far have the policies of either the Mayavati Government in Lucknow or the UPA in Delhi made a difference? To what extent are people's initiatives and the work of NGOs integrating with such national or state policy initiatives?

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