



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

CENTER IN DELHI

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



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Introduction



Foreword from Faculty Director

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi celebrated its 10th anniversary in December 2024 in Delhi, simultaneously with the India launch of the UChicago Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth. Our alumni network in India have always been there for the Center, and the anniversary was attended by almost 100 participants, including over 20 distinguished alumni, in addition to current faculty and employees of the university. The university's academic interactions through the Center remain strong. For the year 2024-2025, we had 11 projects completed that were funded with the Provost's Global Faculty Awards. For the year 2025-2026, we have been able to fund 13 projects. One of my objectives as the Center's Faculty Director has been to increase our interactions in science and engineering without compromising the foundation the Center has established in the liberal arts and social sciences. We have been able to accomplish this: for example, between July 2024-July 2026, the Provost's Global Faculty Awards will have gone towards 6 projects in the physical sciences, engineering and innovation; 6 in biology, medicine and health; and 12 in the liberal arts, social sciences, and public policy. Science and engineering's contributions from the past decades—pronounced developments in computing, genomics, electric vehicles, and energy production—are changing the way we live, work, and interact. There is global opportunity (and need) for stronger engagement between the social sciences and arts with science and engineering than there has been historically. And India, soon expected to emerge as the world's 4th. largest economy, is one of the most important regions to explore these connections. The University of Chicago's multidisciplinary strengths, and the Center's network of intellectual connections put us in a great position to pursue these directions.

Professor Supratik Guha
*Faculty Director, Professor, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering,
University of Chicago and Senior Advisor to the Physical Sciences and Engineering
at Argonne National Laboratory*



Foreword from Executive Director

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi Annual Report for 2024-2025 provides a comprehensive overview of our achievements, initiatives, and impact throughout the year through our faculty grants, high-level programming in the form of conferences, seminars, workshops, book launches, alumni and student focused programs cutting across various disciplines, enriching dialogues and discussions, engagement with stakeholders across the University and in India and media engagement.

This has been an exciting year from the University of Chicago Center in Delhi, as faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of UChicago took pride in the shared pride in the University's rich legacy and reaffirmed their commitment to continue advancing stellar academic work.

The Center has played a major role in contributing towards the University's global mandate on supporting faculty research and academic engagement in South Asia. We were honored to support 11 faculty members who received the Provost Faculty Grant Awards for conducting programs on a range of issues including data science, quantum computing, medicine and public health, economics and public policy, language and the humanities, as well as history, law, and sociology. The Conferences such as "South Asia Cycles" and "Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South" brought together scholars from all over South Asia, United States, Europe, and Lebanon to participate in it.

We had the privilege of working with faculty members and distinguished alumni who have guided us in designing programs such as the Chicago School of Thought: A Virtual Workshop Series on Research Methodologies in the Social Sciences and Humanities, and Lab to Life: UChicago Women Advancing STEM Research. With a series of thoughtfully crafted virtual programs, the Center has been able to bridge the geographic distance between scholars in India and United States, while facilitating rich academic discourse.

Working alongside our Faculty Director, Prof. Supratik Guha, the Center has been able to initiate dialogues with leading Science and Technology Institutions in India and are preparing to forge new collaborations between Institutions in India and United States.

All this good work was possible because of a great team. Thanks to strong support from our operations, compliance, finance and program teams, we were able to expand our virtual programming and bounced back with several in-person conferences, workshops and book launches.

We are hopeful that the next phase of UChicago's presence in India will be marked with enhanced engagement between the University and its regional partners and co-creation of academically rich and impactful ideas.

Dr. Leni Chaudhuri
Executive Director

About the Center

Since 2014, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi has served as a base for research, teaching, and dialogue among scholars from the University, India and the world. It builds on a rich history of intellectual collaboration between Chicago and India.

Mission

- To support the academic initiatives of the University of Chicago's faculty, researchers, alumni, and students in South Asia.
- To deepen and expand the University of Chicago's research scholarship in India in collaboration with academic institutions, civil society, and government.

The Center in Delhi is designed to serve scholars at all levels and across all disciplines. It serves as a convening space for UChicago faculty and students, a gathering place for alumni, and a nucleus for rekindling existing relationships and the forging of new ones. It also provides opportunities for interaction with the University's main campus in Hyde Park, Chicago; global campus located in Hong Kong; its centers in Beijing and Paris; Chicago Booth campus in London; and other programs and facilities around the world.

India is a growing force in geopolitics and global markets. Like its sister city of Chicago, Delhi is a national and global crossroads. Delhi's concentration of academic, scientific, government, and cultural institutions, as well as its thriving business and professional communities, makes it an ideal location for the University's growing engagement with scholars and institutions around the globe.

Programming at the center is focused on three core areas: Science, Energy, Medicine, and Public Health; Business, Economics, and Policy; and Culture, Society, Law, and the Arts. Through academic and public programs, and outreach and collaboration, scholars use the Center to address scientific, political, social, and cultural issues that are important to India and the world.

History

The University of Chicago opened a major academic hub in Delhi in 2014, supporting and expanding opportunities for collaboration across disciplines between scholars and students from India and Chicago. The Center has become an intellectual destination, a place to explore ideas across institutions and disciplines. It fosters collaboration with Indian universities, research institutes, and cultural organizations; and it serves as a focal point for engaging alumni across India and South Asia.

The Center in Delhi is a hub for research and education for University of Chicago faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates working in India and South Asia, as well as Indian researchers and students representing a wide array of institutions, and scholars from around the world. Since its founding in 1890, the University of Chicago has embraced a tradition of international exploration and collaboration. Scholars have traveled the world to connect with colleagues and international experts in every discipline.

Leadership in 2024-25



Professor Supratik Guha

Faculty Director

Professor, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering,
University of Chicago and Senior Advisor to the
Physical Sciences and Engineering at Argonne
National Laboratory



Dr. Leni Chaudhuri

Executive Director

2024-2025 Delhi Faculty Steering Committee

Nishant Agrawal | Surgery

Elizabeth Chatterjee | History

Amir Jina | Harris School of Public Policy

Constantine Nakassis | Anthropology

Amitabh Chaudhuri | Computer Science

Marianne Bertrand | Booth School of Business

John Mark Hansen | Political Science

Andrew Ollett | South Asian Languages & Civilizations

Peter Littlewood | Physics

Sandeep Gurbuxani | Pathology

Center's Team



**Mr. Aniruddha
Bhaduri**

Director –
Programs &
Operations



**Ms. Shilpa
Chadha**

Associate Director
– Compliance &
Company Secretary



**Ms. Jubakshi
Chakravorty**

Program Manager



**Mr. Devnidhi
Joshi**

Facilities Manager



**Mr. Manoj
Sharma**

IT Manager



**Mr. Vijay
Kumar**

Facilities and Tech
Support



Facility & Location

Located in the vibrant cultural and commercial district of Connaught Place, the 17,000-square-foot center includes seminar rooms, a lecture hall, study areas, offices for faculty, staff, and graduate students, as well as spaces for hosting conferences, exhibits, alumni events, receptions, and public gatherings.

Impact

The Center in Delhi is an intellectual destination, a place to explore ideas across institutions and disciplines. It expands opportunities for collaboration with Indian universities, research institutes, and cultural organizations; and it serves as a focal point for engaging faculty and alumni in India and South Asia.

METRICS

44

Events, Conferences,
Meetings, and Workshops

1932

Event
Participants

6230

LinkedIn
Followers

Highlights



Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, delivering his keynote speech at the 10th Anniversary Culmination Event of the UChicago Center in Delhi.



Shri V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, delivering his keynote speech at the 10th Anniversary Culmination Event of the UChicago Center in Delhi.

The 10th Anniversary Culmination Event of the University of Chicago Center in Delhi

13 December 2024

In 2024, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over the past decade, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi has served as a dynamic hub for collaborative initiatives between the University of Chicago and Indian universities, research institutes, academic

institutions, government entities, and cultural organizations. In celebration of this milestone, the University of Chicago hosted a culmination event underscoring the University's rich history of partnership in the region and catalyzing innovation by turning ideas into impact.

The culmination event featured remarks from UChicago's leadership, including Ka Yee C. Lee, Senior Advisor to the Provost for Global Initiatives, Interim Dean of the Division of Physical Sciences and the David Lee Shillinglaw Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Chemistry,

10TH
ANNIVERSARY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO | Center
in Delhi

IDEA TO IMPACT



Panel on Climate and Sustainability during the 10th Anniversary Culmination Event of the UChicago Center in Delhi. From left: Balaji Srinivasan, Principal Strategic Advisor, UChicago Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth; Michael Greenstone, Founding Faculty Director, UChicago Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth; Praveer Sinha, CEO, Tata Power.

Katie Hrinyak, Associate Vice President, Global Initiatives and Strategy at the University of Chicago, and Supratik Guha, Professor in the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering at the University of Chicago and Faculty Director of the UChicago Center in Delhi. The event featured keynote remarks from V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secretary to the Government of Odisha.

In joint celebration of the India launch of the UChicago Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth, the celebration concluded with a panel discussion on climate and sustainability featuring Michael Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics at the University of Chicago, Director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), and the founding Faculty Director of the UChicago Institute of Climate and Sustainable Growth, Praveer Sinha, CEO of Tata Power, and Bala Srinivasan, Chair of the EPIC Asia Advisory Group.

The event concluded with a networking lunch and was attended by over 90 guests, including distinguished alumni, donors, institutional partners, and long-standing supporters and well-wishers of the UChicago community. Additionally, all UChicago faculty projects conducted in India this year were prominently branded under the Center's 10th Anniversary banner, extending the celebration and recognition of a decade of impactful collaboration. The Center in Delhi acknowledges the dedicated efforts of several visionaries that have led to this moment, as it sets into motion a full array of globally impactful research and programming in the years to come.



The team of UChicago in India and UChicago Global.

Year in Reflection: Academic Collaborations Forged in the Past Year

Strengthening Injury Research and Capacity to Implement Safety Interventions

30 August – 1 September 2024; 22-23 November 2024

In 2024, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted two major events advancing global conversations on public health and sustainable mobility in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), both led by Professor Kavi Bhalla.

On August 31–September 1, the Center hosted the meeting of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics, a global initiative established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Held as part of Prof. Bhalla's 2024 Provost Global Faculty Award (PGFA) Grant and aligned with Safety 2024, the meeting gathered over 60 international experts to address challenges in injury data, measurement, and surveillance—particularly in resource-constrained settings.

Later, on November 22–23, Professor Kavi Bhalla organized South Asia Cycles: A Workshop on the Past, Present, and Future of Cycling in LMICs, supported by the Center and the Provost's Global Faculty Awards. The event convened scholars, planners, and civil society leaders to explore cycling's intersection with equity, public health, gender, and climate resilience in South Asian cities.

Together, these initiatives deepened international collaboration and highlighted innovative approaches to injury prevention and sustainable urban mobility from a South Asian lens.



Participants convening in the Lecture hall of the UChicago Center in Delhi for the Meeting of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics in August 2024.



Participants viewing the poster exhibition during the South Asia Cycles Workshop in the Classroom of the UChicago Center in Delhi in November 2024.



Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja (left), CEO and Managing Director, Central Square Foundation, in conversation with Nobel Laureate James Heckman (right), Professor, University of Chicago, on a panel discussing Strengthening Early Childhood Education in September 2024.



From left: Luis Miranda (MBA '89), Co-Founder, Indian School of Public Policy; Leni Chaudhuri, Executive Director, UChicago Center in Delhi; James Heckman, Professor, University of Chicago; Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja, CEO and MD, Central Square Foundation

Strengthening Early Childhood Education: Fireside Chat with Nobel Laureate James J. Heckman

23 September 2024

On September 23, the Center hosted Nobel Laureate Dr. James J. Heckman for a fireside chat on *"Strengthening Early Childhood Education,"* in collaboration with the Centre for Civil Society (CCS) and the Central Square Foundation (CSF). Dr. Heckman, renowned for his groundbreaking work in labor economics and early childhood development, engaged in a thought-provoking conversation with Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja, CEO and MD of CSF.

The session drew a diverse audience of educationists, policymakers, researchers, and government officials, and explored the Indian context of early childhood education, including the NEP 2020. Dr. Heckman highlighted the critical role of parental support and called for a broader, more holistic understanding of skills development in early education.

We thank our partners and Luis Miranda for their support in making this event a success.

Virtual Panel Discussions

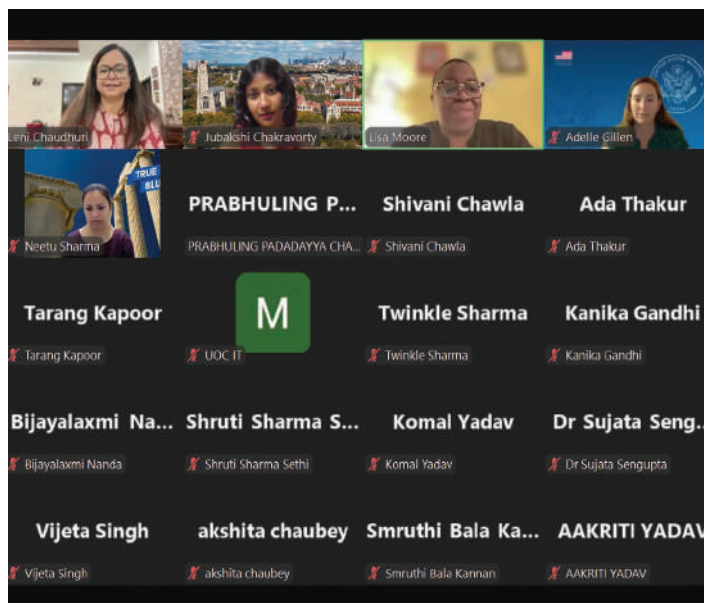
October 2024

In October 2024, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted two powerful virtual panel discussions addressing gender equity in academia and STEM fields.

On October 4, *Beyond the Tenure Track: Women's Roles in Higher Education*, co-hosted with Miranda House, University of Delhi, convened leading voices to discuss women's roles in academia beyond traditional tenure paths. Panelists included Dr. Lisa Moore (University of Chicago), Adelle Gillen (U.S. Embassy, New Delhi), and Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda (Miranda House), moderated by Dr. Leni Chaudhuri. The conversation highlighted systemic challenges, intersectionality, and strategies to make higher education more inclusive.

On October 7, *STEMing the Tide: Representation, Resilience, and Recognition of Women in STEM*, focused on advancing gender equity in science and technology. Speakers included Dr. Maanasa Raghavan (University of Chicago), Dr. Geetanjali Sachdeva (ICMR-NIRRH), and Dr. Debjani Paul (IIT Bombay), moderated by Latika Sharma. They shared their journeys and explored issues of access, recognition, and representation in STEM.

Together, these events fostered meaningful dialogue and cross-sector collaboration, amplifying the need for inclusive practices and policy shifts in academic and scientific spaces.



Participants attending the virtual panel discussion "Beyond the Tenure Track: Women's Roles in Higher Education" in October 2024.



Participants attending the lecture by UChicago faculty Tyler Williams in St Stephen's College, New Delhi.



Faculty, staff, and scholars from UChicago and St Stephen's College, Delhi, with Professor Tyler Williams.

Commentary as Translation: Interpreting Sanskrit in Precolonial Hindi

16 October 2024

The UChicago Center in Delhi and St. Stephen's College, Delhi co-hosted a lecture by Prof. Tyler W. Williams, Associate Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, titled "Commentary as Translation? Interpreting Sanskrit in Precolonial Hindi." Held on October 16, the session was attended by scholars, students, and faculty from across Delhi. Prof. Williams drew on his newly published monograph *If All the World Were Paper: A History of Writing in Hindi* (Columbia University Press) to delve into commentary writing and literary translation practices in Hindi literature between 1500 and 1800 CE.

His talk explored how Sanskrit texts were interpreted and recontextualized in early modern Hindi, shedding light on the broader intellectual history of the period. We thank Prof. Soofia Siddique, Director of the Center for Translation Studies, and Prof. Sanil Unnikrishnan, Dean of International Relations at St. Stephen's College, for their collaboration to facilitate this session.

Single Cell Experiments at the Epithelial Barrier: Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Host Microbiome Interactions

24 October 2024

On October 24, 2024, Professor Anindita (Oni) Basu from the University of Chicago delivered a lecture at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. Her talk, titled *Single Cell Experiments at the Epithelial Barrier: Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Host-Microbiome Interactions*, brought together faculty and students engaged in cutting-edge medical research. Prof. Basu, who holds a position of Associate Professor in the Section of Genetic Medicine at the Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, presented her ongoing work on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), combining single-cell experimentation with microbiome analysis. The event was facilitated by the UChicago Center in Delhi and included valuable exchanges with AIIMS faculty, including Professor Vineet Ahuja, who also works on IBD. The session highlighted potential avenues for future collaboration between UChicago and leading Indian medical institutions.



Doctors, staff, students, and scholars from AIIMS New Delhi with Professor Oni Basu (UChicago) following her lecture on IBD at AIIMS.

Curating the Commons: Legal Data for India

12 December 2024

On December 12, 2024, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted a landmark event titled *Curating the Commons: Legal Data for India*, organized by Data For India (DFI), a venture that aims to develop shared knowledge and deepen understanding of India using public data generated by the Indian government and global organizations. The session was part of the 2024 Provost's Global Faculty Award India and South Asia won by Professor Anup Malani, Lee and Brena Freeman Professor at the University of Chicago Law School, in collaboration with DFI. The event marked a major milestone in the effort to build a legal data vertical for India. It brought together India's leading legal research organizations to address longstanding gaps in public data on the justice system. A distinguished panel comprising Dr. Saurabh Garg (Secretary, MOSPI), Abhishek Singh (Additional Secretary, MeitY), and Dinesh Pai (Zerodha, Rainmatter) discussed challenges and strategies for building a robust national data ecosystem. The event underscored the role of public data in deepening understanding of India's legal and governance systems, reaffirming the Center's commitment to supporting evidence-based research and policy innovation.



(Left) Anup Malani, Lee and Brena Freeman Professor of Law, University of Chicago, speaking at the Curating the Commons session at the UChicago Center in Delhi.



(Below) Distinguished participants attending the Curating the Commons session organized by Data for India in the UChicago Center in Delhi



Participants of the Analytics Using AI workshop with Professor Sanjog Misra at the UChicago Center in Delhi.

Analytics Using AI: Workshop with Professor Sanjog Misra

2 December 2024

On December 2, 2024, the UChicago Center in Delhi hosted a full-day workshop led by Professor Sanjog Misra, Charles H. Kellstadt Distinguished Service Professor of Marketing and Applied AI at the Booth School of Business, University of Chicago. Titled *Analytics Using AI*, the session was part of the Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence's effort to bring cutting-edge analytical tools to professionals and students in India. The workshop introduced participants to foundational AI and analytics concepts and offered hands-on guidance in applying GPT and large language models (LLMs) to real-world decision-making and predictive modelling. Attendees explored the transformative role AI is playing in the future of business analytics. Designed for participants with varied levels of exposure to AI, the event underscored the Booth School's commitment to interdisciplinary and global learning. Applications for the workshop were open by invitation, with a curated cohort selected for this high engagement learning experience..

Clinitrials: A Medical Training Workshop

10-11 December 2024

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted a two-day medical training workshop on clinical research and trial design on December 10-11, 2024, as part of Professor Rajat Thawani's project under the Provost Global Faculty Awards (PGFA) 2024-2025. The workshop was jointly organized by bcbpf-THE CANCER FOUNDATION, University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS), Delhi, and the UChicago Center in Delhi.

With India now being the world's most populous nation, its potential to lead in global drug development and clinical trials remains underutilized contributing just 1.5% to global trials. A major barrier has been a shortage of well-trained professionals in clinical research. This workshop directly addressed that gap by equipping early-career faculty, consultants, and advanced trainees with practical skills in clinical trial design, logistics, regulatory frameworks, and funding mechanisms.

Led by Professor Thawani and Dr. Sameer Kaul, the sessions emphasized real-world applications and ethical standards essential for expanding India's role in global trials. Participants received certification upon completion, and the organizers shared plans to expand this capacity-building initiative to more cities and similarly underserved regions. The event marked a key step toward developing a robust clinical research ecosystem in India.



Medical researchers, doctors, and scholars attending the Clinitrials workshop in the UChicago Center in Delhi in December 2024.

Anticolonial/Decolonial Text and Print in the Cold War Era: Lives and Afterlives

7-8 February 2025

On February 7-8, 2025, the International Research Network on Postcolonial Print Cultures (IRNPPC) held its annual international conference in Kolkata, titled “*Anticolonial/Decolonial Text and Print in the Cold War Era: Lives and Afterlives*.” Hosted by IRNPPC’s partner institutions—Jadavpur University and the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)—the conference was supported by the CNRS (France), the University of Chicago Provost’s Global Faculty Award, and the Nicholson Center for British Studies at the University of Chicago.

The conference opened with a special event on February 6 at the Jadunath Bhavan Museum and Research Center (JBMRC), where Laetitia Zecchini moderated a thought-provoking conversation between acclaimed writers Arvind Krishna Mehrotra and Amit Chaudhuri, titled “*Living Through and After the Cold War*.”

Over two days, six panels featured 15 papers presented by scholars from India, the US, Canada, the UK, and France. Discussions explored the role of print in anti-colonial resistance, decolonization movements, Cold War alignments, feminist and student uprisings, and the production of activist literature. Topics ranged from socialist print cultures in 1960s India to Soviet picture books for children, and from Bengali little magazines to Cold War-era media in Latin America and the Middle East.

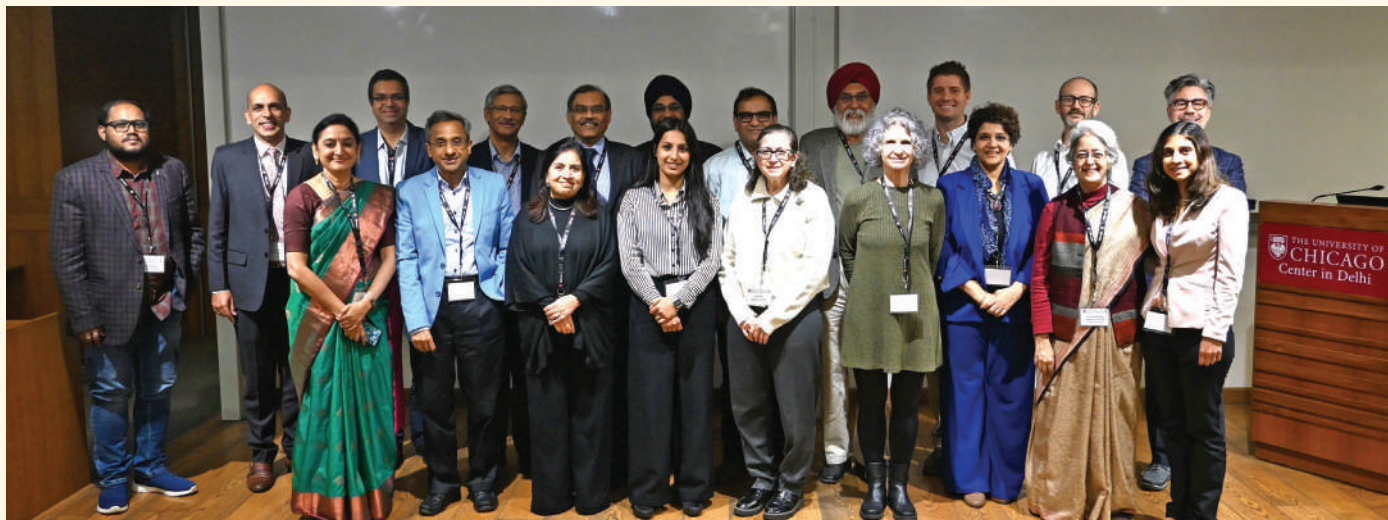
The conference served as a vibrant platform to interrogate the legacies of print, translation, and cultural production across global postcolonial and Cold War histories.



Panelists, organizers, and participants of the Anticolonial/Decolonial Text and Print Conference in Kolkata in February 2025.

Data Sharing and Harmonization (DaSH) Workshop on Pediatric Cancers

8-9 February 2025



Researchers, speakers, organizers, and participants at the 2025 DaSH Workshop in the UChicago Center in Delhi.

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted the India Data Sharing and Harmonization (DaSH) Workshop on February 8-9, 2025, as part of Professor Samuel Volchenboum’s project funded through the Provost Global Faculty Awards (PGFA) 2024-2025. Organized by Data for the Common Good (D4CG) in collaboration with the Indian Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group (INPHOG), the two-day, invite-only workshop brought together 21 participants, including clinicians, researchers, hospital administrators, and regulatory experts.

The workshop addressed the urgent need for secure, scalable clinical data sharing in pediatric oncology, with a focus on building robust governance frameworks and harmonizing existing datasets across Indian and global institutions. Participants included representatives from Tata Memorial

Hospital, Max Super Speciality Hospital, the Cancer Institute, Apar Health, and several disease consortia.

Key speakers included Dr. Samuel Volchenboum (UChicago), Dr. Girish Chinnaswamy (Tata Memorial Centre), Dr. Venkatraman Radhakrishnan (Cancer Institute), and Dr. Pooja Sharma (Apar Health), among others. The event led to exciting developments, including potential collaborations with PCDC disease consortia and plans for a new Wilms Tumor consortium.

The India DaSH Workshop marked a critical step toward enhancing clinical research and outcomes for children with cancer, driven by data-informed, globally connected solutions.

Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South

24-25 February 2025



Panelists, organizers, and participants of the Decolonizing Feminism Conference at the UChicago Center in Delhi in February 2025.

In February 2025, the UChicago Center in Delhi hosted a landmark two-day conference titled *Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South* in collaboration with Miranda House (University of Delhi), the North East Regional Research and Resource Centre, the Policy Centre and Gender Lab, and the Department of Political Science, University of Delhi. The conference featured five dynamic sessions that brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners to critically examine feminist theory, women's movements, decolonizing historical narratives, rights, and citizenship through a Global South lens.

Anchored in rich academic discourse, the interdisciplinary sessions

over the two days of the conference explored the complexities and intersections of feminist scholarship and activism in post-colonial contexts. Discussions unpacked the continued influence of colonial legacies in shaping contemporary feminist debates and underscored the need for reimagining feminism to reflect diverse lived experiences, particularly from the margins. The conference created a collaborative space for academic exchange between institutions and offered a valuable platform to amplify voices from the Global South committed to intersectional, inclusive, and historically grounded feminist frameworks. The event marked a significant step in fostering global dialogue on decolonizing knowledge production within feminist thought.

Quantum Materials Workshop

27-28 March 2025

In celebration of 2025 as the International Year of Quantum, the University of Chicago Center in Delhi hosted an exciting two-day conference on Quantum Materials, led by Professor Peter Littlewood (Department of Physics, University of Chicago) and Professor Arindam Ghosh (Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore). The workshop was held under the auspices of Professor Littlewood's 2024–2025 Provost Global Faculty Awards (PGFA) India–South Asia grant.

The event convened more than ten leading researchers from UChicago and premier Indian institutions to explore new frontiers in quantum materials science and build long-term collaborative research pathways. Participants discussed the remarkable opportunities arising from the ability to control quantum coherence in materials — a development that has transformed our understanding of condensed matter physics and holds immense potential for quantum technologies.

Sessions covered emergent physics enabling robust coherence in real-world materials, and how advances in nano-devices, experimental methods, and theoretical frameworks can support scalable quantum information systems. The workshop served as a significant step toward fostering Indo-U.S. partnerships in foundational and applied quantum science.



Peter Littlewood, Professor, University of Chicago, addressing the participants of the 2025 Quantum Materials Workshop.

Know Your Alumni: UChicago Booth Networking Event

30 August 2024



UChicago Booth School of Business alumni in a panel discussion interacting with prospective students in a networking session.

On August 30, 2024, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business hosted a prospective student and alumni networking event at the UChicago Center in Delhi. The session featured a panel discussion with Booth alumni Pratique Kain, Manik Pasricha, and Akshay Sethi, moderated by Shriya Sethi. Designed to provide an inside look into the Booth experience, the panellists shared personal journeys, reflections on academic and career growth, and advice for incoming students.

Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about Booth's culture, classroom experience, and the transition from student life to the professional world. The discussion was followed by a networking session over high tea, enabling prospective students to connect informally with alumni, learn more about life at Booth, and build meaningful connections with the wider UChicago community. The event reflected Booth's ongoing commitment to fostering strong alumni networks and mentoring opportunities for future students and leaders in business.

A Virtual Webinar Series on Emerging Research Methodologies in the Social Sciences and the Humanities



Leni Chaudhuri, Executive Director, UChicago Center in Delhi (top left), Shewli Kumar, Professor, TISS Mumbai (top right), Lisa Moore, Professor, University of Chicago, in a conversation about research methods in social work during the second session of the Chicago School of Thought series.

Launched in April 2025 by the UChicago Center in Delhi, the *Chicago School of Thought* is a virtual workshop series spotlighting research methodologies across the social sciences and humanities. Featuring faculty from the University of Chicago and Indian academic institutions, the sessions offer nuanced discussions on emerging, interdisciplinary approaches to research. The inaugural session featuring Asha Sarangi explored methodological pluralism in Political Science. The second session, featuring Lisa Moore and Shewli Kumar, focused on the ethical and community-based methods in social work, especially in relation to vulnerable populations.

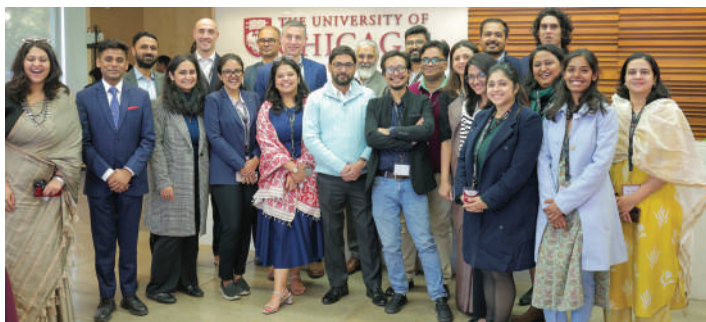


Kaushik Sunder Rajan (UChicago) in conversation with Lawrence Liang (Ambedkar University Delhi) during the fourth session of the Chicago School of Thought series.

The third session featuring Tista Bagchi and Anastasia Giannakidou delved into research methods in linguistics, touching on Indian grammatical traditions, empirical methods, AI, and computational linguistics. The fourth session featured Kaushik Sunder Rajan and Lawrence Liang in a compelling dialogue on constitutionalism in post-apartheid South Africa and postcolonial India, examining how ethnographic research and legal theory intersect. This growing series continues to serve as a vibrant platform for methodological reflection, interdisciplinarity, and scholarly exchange. Recordings of all sessions are available on the UChicago Center in Delhi's YouTube channel.

Supporting India Partners

Epic India



Team EPIC-India in December 2024 at the UChicago Center in Delhi.

The University of Chicago Center in Delhi continues to anchor EPIC-India's mission of evidence-based climate and energy research, under the leadership of Professor Michael Greenstone. Since 2014, EPIC-India has worked closely with governments and private partners across ten Indian states, advancing solutions to critical environmental challenges.

In 2024-25, EPIC-India celebrated a major milestone, 10 years of impactful work in India, marked by the formal India launch of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth at the UChicago Center in Delhi. Throughout the year, the Center provided a platform for key stakeholder engagements including meeting and events. This included four editions of the EPIC India Dialogue series, as well as a convening on 'Reimagining Urban Waste' with the Global Methane Hub (GMH) to advance collaboration on methane reduction strategies in India. The event was attended by 50+ participants, speakers and industry experts.

International Innovation Corps

2024-25 was a milestone year for the International Innovation Corps (IIC) as it celebrated a decade of impact and welcomed its 2025 cohort. The anniversary was marked by a gathering at the University of Chicago Center in Delhi, bringing together alumni, partners, and funders—including the Gates Foundation, Tata Trusts, Rockefeller Foundation, Omidyar Network, and SEWA Bharat—to reflect on IIC's journey of strengthening institutions and building India's next generation of social impact leaders. IIC's India Program places teams of diverse young professionals within the Indian government and leading social enterprises. The Center plays a pivotal role in supporting IIC in organizing and curating engaging conferences and workshops that foster knowledge exchange and drive impact. Over the past decade, IIC has deployed more than 280 fellows across 40+ projects in 15 Indian states, enabling transformation across sectors such as digital health, AI and data governance, gender inclusion, public systems, and climate resilience.



Team International Innovation Corps (IIC) in April 2025 at the UChicago Center in Delhi.

Development Innovation Lab - India (DIL-India)



DIL-India team and collaborators in the UChicago Center in Delhi.

The Center supports the Development Innovation Lab - India (DIL-India) to identify, test, refine and scale innovations with the potential to improve the wellbeing of millions of people.

In the past year, DIL-India collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to disseminate weather forecasts to 9.5 million farmers across five states in 2024. DIL-India also collaborated with Jal Jeevan Mission and the Government of Odisha to pilot the integration of low-cost and open-source inline chlorination technologies in rural drinking water supply systems, to ensure access to safe drinking water. In partnership with the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, DIL-India conducted randomized experiments to inform the scale-up of personalized adaptive learning (PAL) EdTech programs in government schools.

The Center hosts DIL-India staff and provides logistical support for Faculty Director Prof. Michael Kremer— a 2019 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences—to conduct government and partner engagements in India.

The University of Chicago | Office of College Admissions

The Center actively supports the Office of College Admissions by hosting events on “Undergraduate Information Sessions”. These events aim to share detailed information about student life and academics at UChicago, as well as provide guidance on the undergraduate application process and financial aid. The Center promotes these events to students in India who are interested in pursuing higher studies at the University of Chicago.

Becker Friedman Institute for Economics (BFI)

The Becker Friedman Institute for Economics (BFI) at the University of Chicago serves as a central hub for pioneering economic research. It brings together scholars from various UChicago schools, including the Booth School of Business, the Harris School of Public Policy, and the Law School, to address complex global economic issues. BFI is dedicated to translating rigorous, evidence-based research into practical insights for policymakers and business leaders worldwide, aiming to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world impact. The Center supports the research initiatives of Professors Michael Greenstone, Fiona Burlig, and Amir Jina in the field of Energy and Environment.

Harris School of Public Policy

The Center supports the Harris School of Public Policy's work in India by actively supporting and facilitating a multitude of enriching events. Since its founding, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy has been redefining what it means to be a public policy school, shifting the conception of public policy from an ideology reliant on politics and pedigree, to a science rooted in data and impact.

Graduate Student-at-Large

The Center actively supports Graduate Student-at-Large (GSAL) outreach events in India by coordinating and promoting these events, as well as managing other necessary arrangements to ensure their success. A GSAL at the University of Chicago is part of a non-degree program offered through the Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies. This program allows individuals to take graduate-level courses at the University without being enrolled in a specific degree program, provides the purposeful academic advising, faculty support, and academic credentials needed to pursue a future at the University of Chicago or elsewhere. It is designed for those who are prepared for graduate school, professional development, and personal enrichment.

Alumni Club of India

The Center supports the Alumni Club of India in organizing the monthly “Get to Know Your Alumni” sessions as part of the Virtual Alumni Talk series. Each month, different alumni are selected to speak on various topics, providing a valuable opportunity for engagement and reconnection within the UChicago alumni community.

Appendix

Events

EVENT DATE	EVENT NAME	ATTENDEES
August 22, 2024	Graduate Student-at-Large: Virtual Info Session for Shiv Nadar University	15
August 27, 2024	10th Anniversary Celebration of the International Innovation Corps	75
August 30, 2024	Know Your Alumni: UChicago Booth Networking Event	24
August 31 –September 1, 2024	Meeting of the International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics	40
September 9, 2024	Graduate Student-at-Large: Virtual Info Session for Presidency University	6
September 12, 2024	Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions' Virtual MA Info Session for KREA University	15
September 23, 2024	Strengthening Early Childhood Education: In Conversation with Nobel Laureate Professor James Heckman	60
October 4, 2024	Beyond the Tenure Track: Women's Roles in Higher Education	171
October 7, 2024	STEMing the Tide: Representation, Resilience, and Recognition of Women in STEM	36
October 16, 2024	Commentary as Translation: Interpreting Sanskrit in Precolonial Hindi	45
October 24, 2024	Single Cell Experiments at the Epithelial Barrier: Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Host-Microbiome Interactionsting Sanskrit in Precolonial Hindi	30
November 14, 2024	Book Discussion of Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims	25
November 14, 2024	Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions' Virtual MA Info Session for St. Stephen's College	13
November 16-17, 2024	Cheistha Kochhar Anubhav Lecture Series	33
November 22-23, 2024	South Asia Bicycles: A Workshop on the Past, Present, and Future of Cycling in LMICs	72
November 30 – December 1, 2024	Cheistha Kochhar Anubhav Lecture Series	36
December 2, 2024	Analytics Using AI	25
December 4, 2024	EPIC-India Dialogue Series: Session 1	12

EVENT DATE	EVENT NAME	ATTENDEES
December 10-11, 2024	CliniTrials: A Medical Training Workshop	22
December 12, 2024	Curating the Commons: Legal Data for India	45
December 13, 2024	UChicago Center in Delhi 10th Anniversary Culmination Event	93
December 14, 2024	Harris School of Public Policy: Prospective Students' Reception	18
December 18, 2024	University of Chicago Undergraduate Students' Career Trek to India	30
December 23-24, 2024	International Conference on Head and Neck Cancers	64
January 2, 2025	AIIS Junior Fellows Conference	12
January 9, 2025	UChicago Global Asia Centers' Event: Mounting Political Violence in America and What This Means for Asia, Europe, and the World	112
January 14, 2025	International House at the University of Chicago's Event in New Delhi	55
February 8-9, 2025	Data Sharing and Harmonization (DaSH) Workshop on Pediatric Cancer Data	22
February 20, 2025	EPIC-India Dialogue Series: Session 2	15
February 24-25, 2025	Decolonizing Feminism: Perspectives from India and the Global South	76
February 28, 2025	Harris School of Public Policy: Incoming Students' Reception	18
March 9, 2025	Dell Foundation: Dell Aspire Scholars Event	110
March 9, 2025	Dell Foundation: Dell Aspire Scholars Event	110
March 20, 2025	USIEF: Fulbright-Nehru International Education Administrators (IEA) Meeting	18
March 27-28, 2025	Quantum Materials Workshop	16
March 29, 2025	Alumni Event: Arbitration Bar of India - Women's Chapter	40
April 1, 2025	Alumni Event: Quantum Workforce Development Workshop	11
April 21-24, 2025	International Innovation Corps (IIC) Annual Training	36
April 30, 2025	The Chicago School of Thought Interdisciplinarity in Political Science - Methodological Pluralism and Contestations with Professor Asha Sarangi	84
May 1, 2025	Alumni Event: Book Release of the 18th Edition of Dr Avtar Singh's Company Law	26
May 2, 2025	EPIC-India: Reimagining Urban Waste - From Crisis to Opportunity	44
May 12, 2025	The Chicago School of Thought A Discussion on Social Work Research Methods with Professor Lisa Moore and Professor Shewli Kumar	47
May 19, 2025	The Chicago School of Thought A Dialogue on Research Methods in Linguistics with Professor Anastasia Giannakidou and Professor Tista Bagchi	97
June 18, 2025	EPIC-India Dialogue Series: Session 3	9
June 30, 2025	The Chicago School of Thought A Discussion on Studying Legal History Ethnographically with Professor Kaushik Sunder Rajan and Professor Lawrence Liang	79

2024-25 Projects

Provost's Global Faculty Awards - Grants Administered

Academic Events

Anti-Colonial/De-Colonial Text and Print in the Cold War Era: Lives and Afterlives

Josephine Mcdonagh | Department of English

Quantum Materials and Devices: A Workshop

Peter Littlewood | Department of Physics

Strengthening Injury Research and Capacity to Implement Safety interventions

Kavi Bhalla | Department of Public Health Sciences

Supporting Indian Participation in an International Pediatric Cancer Data Sharing Initiative

Samuel Volchenbourn | Department of Pediatrics

The Vidyut Project: Storytelling Through Artistic Endeavors to Encourage Adoption of Technology Alternatives in Rural Areas

Nancy Kawalek | Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering

Exploratory Trips

Abul Mansur Ahmad: A Study of Bangladeshi Nationalism

Dipesh Chakrabarty | Department of History

Empowering the Poor in India through Protection against Wage Loss Due to Illness

Anup Malani | The Law School

Strengthening Community Engagement Through University-Civil Society Collaboration in Post-COVID Urban India

Robert Chaskin | Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice

The Conch and Its Communities: Climate Change and a Hindu Sacred Object

Dipesh Chakrabarty | Department of History

Does Subsidized Insurance Crowd-out Climate Resilience?

Fiona Burlig | The Harris School of Public Policy

Training Initiatives

CliniTrials: Training Clinical Research Staff in India

Rajat Thawani | Department of Hematology and Oncology

Partner Organizations

- ICMR, Delhi
- Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Bhopal
- National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- Michael and Susan Dell Foundation
- American Institute for Indian Studies
- Breast Cancer Patients' Benefit Foundation
- TATA Memorial Hospital, Mumbai
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
- St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi
- Miranda House, University of Delhi
- Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi
- University of Delhi
- Shiv Nadar University
- KREA University
- Presidency University
- Ashoka University
- Jindal Global University
- Centre for Civil Society
- Jamia Millia Islamia
- Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS)
- Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- US Embassy in New Delhi
- TCG Crest, Kolkata
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
- Centre for the Study in Social Sciences (CSSS), Kolkata
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA Bharat)
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore
- Central Square Foundation
- Swansea University
- JusContractus
- Chicago Quantum Exchange
- Arbitration Bar of India
- EBC Publishing
- University of Petroleum and Energy Studies
- Ahmedabad University
- University of Chicago Career Advancement
- UChicago Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth
- UChicago Undergraduate Admissions
- UChicago Graduate Admissions
- UChicago Division of Social Sciences
- UChicago Division of Humanities
- UChicago Harris School of Public Policy
- UChicago Alumni Club of India
- United States-India Educational Foundation
- International House at the University of Chicago
- Alumni Relations and Development (ARD), UChicago



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