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## JINDAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

### OPEN LECTURE SERIES

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Classroom: XXIV

O.P. Jindal Global University

Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat- 131001, Haryana



**Jindal School of Government  
and Public Policy**  
India's First Public Policy School

# Youth Aspirations and Social Mobility: re-exploring the education, skills and employment gaps



## SPEAKER

**Dr. Shailaja Fennell,**

*Professor*

*Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge*

Dr. Shailaja Fennell is a University Lecturer in Development Studies, attached to the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, Research Director, Cambridge Central Asia Forum at the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge and a fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. She is also a visiting professor at The Graduate Institute, Geneva. She has a UGC-UKIERI grant for a collaborative research initiative with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras for 2014-16, that aims to understand how bottlenecks limit Internet access for rural agricultural production and could improve youth education and employment outcomes. She is also Principal Investigator on a DFID commissioned study on Activity Based Learning (ABL) in India that looks closely at not just what children learn, but how they learn. She was a consultant on inequality and rural development with Oxfam GB (2014-15), and on evidence based policy with the World Bank (2013-15).

### Abstract

Realising educational and employment aspirations is key to the translation of the education outcomes into improving human lives (Brighouse and Unterhalter 2008). The growth in educational institutions is regarded as an opportunity to achieve social mobility through the acquisition of human capital. This has been particularly important in BRICs countries that have been successful in improving their educational levels. This presentation examines the implications of an expansion of access to and completion of secondary and tertiary education for the skills and employment gaps in India and China. It will focus on the ability of youth to achieve their educational and employment aspirations and the implication for social mobility within a community in these countries.

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