Bangladesh: Out of Fragility? November 26, 2-5pm, DMS 12110

Hosts: School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) and the Fragile States Research Network (FSRN) of the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), U Ottawa.

Registration: [https://www.eventbrite.com/event/9014728295](https://www.eventbrite.com/event/9014728295). Seating is limited and priority will be given to registered participants. Light snacks provided.

**Description**

Since attaining its independence in 1971, Bangladesh’s experience has been characterized by the significant progress of state-building and human development. Yet recurring natural disasters and governance crises explain why Bangladesh still ranks fairly high on the Failed States Index ([http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable](http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable)). This session will explore the paradox of Bangladesh’s development progress and enduring fragility, the prospects for the future as well as opportunities for appropriate international cooperation, including with Canada.

**Provisional agenda**

2:00 **Welcome and introduction** (S Baranyi, UO)

2:05 **Recent history & current situation in Bangladesh**

  Chair: N Banerjee (UO)

  Post-Independence state-building and development (S Shahnawaz, UO)

  Areas of enduring fragility (T Samy, Carleton U)

  Student commentators (Azfar Khan & Edith Pedneault)

  Moderated discussion

3:20 Break

3:30 **Prospects for the future and international cooperation**

  Chair: A Weston (IDRC)

  The future of development partnerships (Sajjad Rahman, UO)

  Views from civil society (Kate Green, USC Canada)

  Student commentators (Alicia Dobson & Kristen Van Houten)

  Moderated discussion

4:50 **Synthesis and closing** (S Baranyi and P. Régnier)

The event will be filmed so that it can be shared with partners at BRAC.
Bios for speakers, chairs & student commentators

Nipa Banerjee is a professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS). She specializes on aid, policies and programming for development in post conflict, low income countries and fragile states. She was a practitioner for over 30 years, including representing CIDA in Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Afghanistan.

Kate Green is a programme manager at USC Canada, an agency involved in Bangladesh since 1972. For the past 15 years, she has worked on USC’s activities in supporting sustainable livelihoods for female and male youth focussed on organic vegetable production, the vegetable value chain and seed multiplication/exchange and farmer-led varietal selection via the locally staffed liaison office in Dhaka.

Sajjadur Syed Rahman is a professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS). He has held senior positions within CIDA, including as Executive Director of the Development Finance Innovations Working Group and Regional Director General, Asia.

Yiagadeesen (Teddy) Samy is a professor at The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA) of Carleton University. He has worked extensively on trade and labour standards, debt relief, and aid allocation and aid effectiveness in fragile states with a current focus on the role of emerging donors, and the allocation of aid linked to trade.

Shishir Shahnawaz is a professor at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS). He specializes on emerging economies, political risk assessment for private sector finance, capacity building, and governance and anti-corruption measures in extractive industries.

Ann Weston is Director of the Special Initiatives Division at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). She has worked extensively on in international trade, labour mobility and the gendered impacts of trade. As Director of Research at the North-South Institute, she led a seminal study on the potential benefits of trade liberalisation between Canada and Bangladesh.

Alicia Dobson is completing her BA in Development and Global Studies at U Ottawa. She has been to Bangladesh on an exchange and an internship with BRAC.

Azfar Khan is enrolled in the MA program in Development and Global Studies at U Ottawa. He has an MA in development management from BRAC University.

Edith Pednault is enrolled in the MA program in Development and Global Studies at U Ottawa. She has been to Bangladesh on an exchange with BRAC.

Kirsten Van Houten is enrolled in the PhD program in Development at U Ottawa. She has an MA from Dalhousie U and has looked at Bangladesh in her graduate studies.

Stephen Baranyi and Philippe Régnier are professors at SIDGS, U Ottawa. Baranyi coordinates the Fragile States Research Network and Régnier is responsible for the SIDGS-BRAC U partnership.