Law and Governance

LG1: Policy and Governance

The fields of Evaluation and Implementation Analysis are witnessing a renewal in India with new initiatives from the government, foundations and civil society organizations. We are interested in supporting this renewal by generating historical and analytical accounts of the literature and practice in these fields in India. These studies will highlight the disciplinary and political motivations, the institutional contributions of important actors and highlight innovation (both social and technological) in the theory and practice in these fields in the last six decades.

Further, we will support Governance Reform studies that go beyond the case study method to explore the political economy of policy change, critically analyze the role of technology in governance innovations and the transformation of citizen-state interactions through this process.

LG2: Law and the Legal System in India

The relationship between Law and Development in India is under explored. We will support theoretical or empirical studies that explore this relationship in India and situated within the emerging global scholarship in this field. We are interested in proposals that examine the instrumental or constitutive relationship between law and development or propose a new model to understand this relationship. Such studies may investigate substantive law (for eg the law of contract) or the effect of the legal system as a whole.

Further, we will support new approaches to studying crime in India that seek to explain high levels of public concern with safety and order but low levels of reported and prosecuted crimes. While the National Crime Records Bureau data may be useful in such an enquiry, we encourage proposals that go beyond an exclusive reliance on this database.

We particularly encourage research designs that combine a legal-doctrinal and social-scientific method of inquiry but are open to proposals that adopt any one of these methods.