

Joint Roundtable (Via Zoom)

Humanitarianism, Development Assistance, Early Warning and Political Violence in South Asia in a Post-Liberal International Order

24 October 2025 (Friday)
4.00pm – 5.40pm (SGT)



Chairperson

Speakers



Dr Ruth Hanau Santini
Associate Professor
University of Naples
"L'Orientale", Italy



Dr Andrea Novellis
Postdoctoral Researcher
University of Naples
"L'Orientale", Italy



Mr Federico Maciocia
Sant'Anna School of
Advanced Studies, Pisa,
and School of International
Studies, University of
Trento, Italy



Dr Zahid Shahab Ahmed
Honorary Fellow, Deakin
Institute of Citizenship and
Globalization, Deakin
University; and
Non-Resident Fellow
Institute of South Asian
Studies, NUS



Dr Asif M Shahan
Professor, Department of
Development Studies,
University of Dhaka; and
Senior Research Fellow,
BRAC Institute of Governance
and Development



Dr Rajni Gamage
Research Fellow
Institute of South
Asian Studies NUS

About the Joint Roundtable

In recent years, the convergence of conflict, economic instability and climate change has intensified humanitarian crises across regions such as South Asia, where political protests, democratic backsliding and state fragility have led to rising violence and instability. These overlapping crises – often described as ‘polycrises’ – challenge the capacity of individual states and international institutions to respond effectively. Simultaneously, the liberal international order (LIO) and liberal humanitarianism are in crisis, marked by declining multilateral coordination, impunity for starvation crimes and a drastic reorientation of the United States’ (US) aid policy following the election of Donald Trump as president.

This roundtable explores how the unraveling of the LIO is reshaping humanitarian action and early warning systems. It interrogates the erosion of neutrality, the increasing politicization of aid and the limits of predictive tools that often fail to trigger effective responses. The participants will also consider emerging post-liberal humanitarian models – authoritarian, religious, nationalist or solidaristic – and reflect on the broader implications for South Asia and the Global South amid funding cuts, shrinking humanitarian space and growing uncertainty.

REGISTER NOW!



For enquiries, contact:
(65) 6516 4239



isassecc@nus.edu.sg
www.isas.nus.edu.sg