

## Speaker profiles:

**Tara Krishnaswamy** is the co-ordinator of non-partisan collective **Political Shakti** which advocates in favour of women's political representation in India. A software engineer by profession and based in Bengaluru, she has organised numerous campaigns to persuade political parties to nominate more women candidates, and to encourage MPs to advocate for women's reservation. She has also produced a TED talk and commissioned a survey and a short film to understand public attitudes toward and raise awareness about women's political participation. She regularly contributes towards media commentary and analysis of women in politics in India. Outside of Political Shakti, she is the co-founder of Citizens for Bengaluru organising local civic campaigns on citizens' issues.

**Kanksshi Agarwal** is the founder of **NETRI**, an organisation aiming to achieve women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making across political, economic, social and public life in India. She has formerly held roles as a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Research at the Technology and Society Initiative, and a Research Associate working with the All India Congress Committee Research Department to co-draft the 2019 Congress' General Election Manifesto. A fellow of LAMP, Citizens for Public Leadership, Lead like a Girl - Shenomics and She Creates Change, as well as a winner of the Karmaveer Chakra silver and bronze awards, Kanksshi has spoken at conferences and forums hosted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the National University of Taiwan, MIT-School of Government, Pune - Symbiosis School of Arts and Law and Rohilkhand University - Bareilly. Her work can also be found in Forbes India, The Wire (India), The Print (India), Feminism in India (FII) and the South Asia Journal.

**Gilles Verniers** is Assistant Professor of Political Science at **Ashoka University**, India, and there he is Co-Director of the Trivedi Centre for Political Data. He completed his Ph.D. in Political Science from Sciences Po, Paris, and has been a visiting scholar at the Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley. He has co-co-ordinated global collaborative projects on the sociology of elected representatives in India and is the co-editor of a forthcoming book on this topic, with Prof. Christophe Jaffrelot and Dr. Sanjay Kumar, CSDS. He is the co-editor of a special issue of the journal Contemporary South Asia on the topic of India's 2019 general election, and regularly contributes analysis and commentary in Indian national media on electoral politics, including on women's representation in Indian politics.

Chair – **Carole Spary**, is Associate Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Asia Research Institute, at the **University of Nottingham**. She is the co-author (with Shirin M. Rai) of Performing Representation: Women Members in the Indian Parliament (OUP, 2019) and the author of Gender, Development, and the State in India (Routledge, 2019).