Shifting Landscapes offers a powerful intervention in the growing global urbanisation resulting in new spatial formations. Through an indispensable conversation between education and urban studies, the volume opens up key axes for understanding processes that cut across the Global South. Its robust conceptual richness and multidisciplinary intermixing capture the changes that have occurred in India's educational and urban systems and the critical transformations that are reinforcing dynamics of inclusion–exclusion. Throughout the volume, the chapters weave together a story of the present, where the changing landscapes of education intersect with the complex forms that urban life takes. Using a range of methodological strategies, the volume delineates a genealogy of the urban and schooling in India that, amidst the whirlwinds of change, offers alternatives for imagining other educational futures.

Silvia Grinberg, Universidad Nacional de San Martín

This book breaks new ground in showing how education structures urban transformations and exclusions in India. It is essential reading for anyone interested in cities, in education and in questions of socio-spatial justice. It skilfully combines historical records, policy evidence and rich ethnography to illuminate how education and urbanisation act as two foundational elements of modernisation. It compellingly demonstrates how changes in educational landscapes have both followed and led the broader neoliberal transformations underway in Indian cities since the mid-1990s. By highlighting the profound social exclusions associated with urban transformations and exploring how struggles to improve educational access might address these injustices, it powerfully underscores the potential of educational reforms to advance socio-spatial justice in cities.

Lalitha Kamath, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Shifting Landscapes brings together a rich collection of chapters on the co-constitution of cities and education in diverse regions and cities in India. Beginning with a grounding in the historical context of urban and educational development in India, the authors employ multidisciplinary conceptual and methodological approaches to unpack how economic and social processes are shaping urban and semi-urban spaces and educational sites in specific locales. Focusing on forces of capital accumulation, labour migration, marginalisation, exclusion and resistance, the book is a theoretically and methodologically generative contribution to research that connects social, economic and cultural processes that are redefining cities and urban education globally in context-specific ways – essential reading for scholars and students of urban studies, education policy and politics.

Pauline Lipman, University of Illinois Chicago

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

Shifting Landscapes

Shifting Landscapes is a rich, multidimensional exploration of urban education in the multiverse of India, adding value to the growing scholarship on broader connections between urbanisation and education. As cities have continued to develop, their spatial, social and cultural landscapes have also evolved to adapt to the global capitalist needs. Education has been an integral part of these transformations, and the upheavals within the education sector have given rise to privilege and exclusion in schooling and the growing marginality of the poor. The volume takes on an interdisciplinary approach to examine how the idea of the urban and that of urban education are co-constituted and, more specifically, how spatial and educational inequalities in cities intersect. The chapters bring together diverse contexts to address the heterogeneity of urban social reality in India and similarly document the changes in educational access, provision, aspirations and politics in several parts of the country.

Geetha B. Nambissan retired as a professor from the Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research has focused on marginal groups in Indian society such as Dalits and Adivasis and the urban poor. She has also been interested in the social implications of increasing privatisation of education. She is the 'India' section editor of *Second International Handbook of Urban Education*, vol. 1 (2017) and one of the associate editors of *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of School Reform* (2022).

Nandini Manjrekar retired as a professor from the School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her research interest is located at the intersection of education and gender studies, and addresses issues of contemporary childhoods, conflict and schooling, and analysis of school curricula. Her publications include a reader on *Gender and Education in India* (2021). She has served on the editorial board of the journal *Comparative Education Dialogue* and is currently on the editorial advisory board of the *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*.

Shivali Tukdeo is professor at Indira Mahindra School of Education, Mahindra University, Hyderabad. She is a scholar of education policy. The primary focus of her work has been the ways in which policy ideas are constructed, circulated and translated in diverse contexts. Her book *India Goes to School: Education Policy and Cultural Politics* (2019) looks at the entanglements of policy in recent decades as

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

transnational and extra-national actors along with the state have become partners in producing and furthering policy agendas. Her ongoing research includes new knowledge regimes in education and their connections to the large-scale transformations in India.

Indra Sengupta is a senior research fellow and the head of the India Research Programme at the German Historical Institute London. Her research interests include the history of German Orientalism and Indology, colonial knowledge practices, including colonialism and education in India, monuments, law and heritage making in colonial India, and popular histories. She has jointly edited with Daud Ali the volume *Knowledge Production, Pedagogy, and Institutions in Colonial India* (2011). She is currently revising a book manuscript on law and monument making in colonial India and preparing an edited volume on popular histories.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

METAMORPHOSES OF THE POLITICAL: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

The Series is a publishing collaboration of Cambridge University Press with The M. S. Merian–R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies 'Metamorphoses of the Political' (ICAS:MP). It publishes new books that both expand and de-centre current perspectives on politics and the 'political' in the contemporary world. It examines, from a wide array of disciplinary and methodological approaches, how the 'political' has been conceptualized, articulated and transformed in specific arenas of contestation during the 'long twentieth century'. Though primarily located in India and the Global South, the Series seeks to interrogate and contribute to wider debates about global processes and politics. It is in this sense that the Series is imagined as one that is regionally focused but globally engaged, providing a context for interrogations of universalized theories of self, society and politics.

Series Editors:
- Prathama Banerjee, *Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi*
- Antje Linkenbach, *University of Erfurt, Germany*
- Samita Sen, *University of Cambridge, Cambridge*
- Indra Sengupta, *German Historical Institute London, London*
- Sanjay Srivastava, *SOAS, University of London, London*

Coordinating Editor:
- Debjani Mazumder, *M. S. Merian–R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies 'Metamorphoses of the Political', Delhi*

Advisory Board:
- Martin Fuchs, *University of Erfurt, Germany*
- Jörg Gengnagel, *University of Würzburg, Germany*
- Christina von Hodenberg, *German Historical Institute London, London*
- Shail Mayaram, formerly at *Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi*
- Awadhendra Sharan, *Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi*
- Ravi Vasudevan, formerly at *Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi*

ICAS:MP is an Indo-German research collaboration of six Indian and German institutions funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It combines the benefits of an open, interdisciplinary forum for intellectual exchange with the advantages of a cutting-edge research centre. Located in New Delhi, ICAS:MP critically intervenes in global debates in the social sciences and humanities.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

The research on which this work is based was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the M. S. Merian–R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies and its initiative 'Metamorphoses of the Political: Comparative Perspectives on the Long Twentieth Century' (ICAS:MP).

Books in the Series:

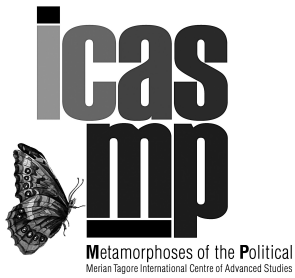
- *Elusive Democracy: Dalit Politics, Elections, and the Dilemmas of Representation*
  Michael A. Collins
- *Women and Colonial Law: A Feminist Social History, 2nd Edition*
  Janaki Nair
- *Through the India–China Border: Kalimpong in the Himalayas*
  Prem Poddar and Lisa Lindkvist Zhang
- *Claiming the People's Past: Populist Politics of History in the Twenty-First Century*
  Edited by Berber Bevernage, Eline Mestdagh, Walderez Ramalho, and Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt
- *Evacuee Cinema: Bombay and Lahore in Partition Transit, 1940–1960*
  Salma Siddique
- *Women, Gender and Religious Nationalism*
  Edited by Amrita Basu and Tanika Sarkar
- *Streets in Motion: The Making of Infrastructure, Property, and Political Culture in Twentieth-century Calcutta*
  Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay
- *Rule of the Commoner: DMK and Formations of the Political in Tamil Nadu, 1949–1967*
  Rajan Kurai Krishnan, Ravindran Sriramachandran, and V. M. S. Subagunarajan
- *Saffron Republic: Hindu Nationalism and State Power in India*
  Edited by Thomas Blom Hansen and Srirupa Roy
- *Properties of Rent: Community, Capital and Politics in Globalising Delhi*
  Sushmita Pati
- *The Secret Life of AnOther Indian Nationalism: Transitions from the Pax Britannica to the Pax Americana*
  Shail Mayaram
- *Debt, Trust and Reputation: Extra-legal Finance in Northern India*
  Sebastian Schwecke

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

Shifting Landscapes

Education and Urban Transformations in India

Edited by
Geetha B. Nambissan
Nandini Manjrekar
Shivali Tukdeo
Indra Sengupta



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009596893
DOI: 10.1017/9781009596886

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009596886

First published 2025

Printed in India

Cover image: Courtesy of Johannes Manjrekar

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-59689-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 16:32:35, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009596886