**REPORT OF WOLFSON’S SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH CLUSTER IN AY 2019-20**

First and foremost members of SARC mourn the passing of EF Nick Allen who, from SARC’s inception in 2012, was a regular and active participant in events far outside what one might have expected was his comfort zone. He will be greatly missed.

Wolfson college’s Sarfraz lecture for 2019 was given by journalist and film maker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy on Pakistani Women on the Frontline.

Wolfson JRF Dr Maryam Aslany capably developed a successful new book discussion series featuring Akbar Zaidi, Rana Dasgupta, Rana Mitter, Joerg Friedrichs together with Wolfson’s GBF Matthew McCartney and EF Barbara Harriss-White, former Wolfson JRF Kaveri Qureshi and former doctoral student Ionut Moise.

Organised by MCR Prof Pritam Singh, the Punjab Research Group held their annual national conference under the auspices of SARC and Wolfson.

SARC reached out to collaborate with Wolfson’s new Earth Emergency Research Cluster and the Green team - especially in the Earth Emergency talks - and with Somerville’s Oxford-India Centre for Sustainable Development’s reading group on India and Climate Change.

Furlough and self-isolation caused by the covid epidemic meant that SARC had to grind to a halt with the notable exception of GBF Imre Bangha’s ‘Old Hindi’ virtual workshop in TT20.

Planning continued undaunted however. Some activities have been postponed to next academic year – including the book discussions on Pakistan with Christophe Jaffrelot and on cricket history with Prashant Kidambi together with the much needed international workshop on agricultural markets, long considered a niche interest but disruptions to which are threatening to generate acute food scarcities in India.

A new stream of post docs is also expected to arrive to put further spring into SARC’s resilient steps! We are, as ever, grateful for the college’s support.

Barbara Harriss-White (EF) and Maryam Aslany (JRF) (co-ordinators)