

## ENQUIRIES

### Telephone

+44 1202 965068

### Email

globalbu@bournemouth.ac.uk

### Leela Palace

Adyar Sea Face, M.R.C Nagar,  
Chennai

### British Council Chennai

737 Anna Salai  
Chennai 600 002

### Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Symbiosis Campus, S No. 227,  
Plot 11  
New Airport Road  
Viman Nagar,  
Pune

### British Council

17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
New Delhi

### India Habitat Centre

Lodhi Road  
New Delhi

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/global-fof](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/global-fof)

8165-03/17



Bournemouth  
University

A graphic consisting of several overlapping, colorful geometric shapes (yellow, red, pink, purple, teal, blue) arranged in a fan-like pattern. The text 'FESTIVAL of LEARNING' is overlaid on the shapes in white, with 'FESTIVAL of' in a smaller font and 'LEARNING' in a larger font.

FESTIVAL of  
LEARNING

## Festival of Learning – India 2018

Leela Palace and British Council,  
Chennai

12 and 13 February 2018

Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune

14 February 2018

India Habitat Centre and  
British Council, New Delhi

15 and 16 February 2018

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/global-fof](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/global-fof)

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## Photography & filming

Photographs and video footage will be taken at the Festival of Learning India for use in promotional material. If you do not want to be featured, please let us know at the registration desk.



## Introduction

**The Festival of Learning is our way of celebrating learning and knowledge, and what better way to start our Festival season than to be here with our international partners in India?**

The Festival of Learning India (FOL-I) builds on some of the more pressing issues that are being faced in India and the UK. Our theme this year is **Global Education 2050: The Future of Learning in India and UK**, and across five days, in Chennai, Pune and New Delhi, we will explore change in the areas of media, health, technology and education.

Together with the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Asian College of Journalism, and Ashoka University, we have arranged a fantastic programme of keynote speakers, lectures, and panel discussions, covering topics ranging from fake news, futurology,

talent development, and EdTech. We look forward to engaging and sharing thoughts with partners and other collaborators during the Festival.

The Festival of Learning is more than just an event – it is how BU works closely with our valued partners to co-create impact with communities and regions across the globe. We are confident that you will meet like-minded people, create new ideas, share common professional ground, inspire others and celebrate the joy of learning so that the Festival is both stimulating and rewarding.

**Dr Sonal Minocha**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement),  
Bournemouth University

**Professor John Fletcher**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and  
Innovation), Bournemouth University

## The FOL – India venues

### Chennai: 12-13 February

FOL-I 2018 will be held in Chennai, at the Leela Palace, and the British Council Chennai. Collaborating with representatives from the Indian industry, and colleagues at the University of Madras and Asia College of Journalism (ACJ), Chennai we will hold a series of panels, workshops and public lectures at the Leela Palace on Monday 12 February and at ACJ and the British Council on Tuesday 13 February.

### Pune: 14 February

The third day of the FOL-I 2018 (Wednesday, 14 February) will be hosted in Pune by the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA) in Viman Nagar. Part of the Symbiosis International University (SIU), SSLA is a premier liberal arts institution that promotes a comprehensive education to prepare students for career advancement and leadership. SSLA believes that through a liberal and broad-based education, students can adapt to different requirements and thus fulfil the urgent need for creative individuals in society.

At SSLA and SIU, students are encouraged to embody the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the idea that the world is one family. Creativity and independent thought are encouraged, as well as analytical and communication skills. A key mission of SSLA is to nurture students into sensitive, ethical and critically conscious citizens who will contribute responsibly to communities and society. Towards this, all students contribute to a one-year community project during their study.

### New Delhi: 15-16 February

The third and last part of the FOL-I 2018 will take place in New Delhi, at the India Habitat Centre (IHC), Lodhi Road, and the British Council (BC), KG Marg. Collaborating with representatives from Indian industry and colleagues at Ashoka University, Sonapat and at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, we will hold a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions and presentations at the India Habitat Centre and the British Council. The programme will culminate with a ceremonial evening event at the British Council on Friday, 16 February.

## DAY 1 PROGRAMME

### Monday, 12 February 2018, Chennai

9:00 am **Coffee and registration | Leela Palace**

9:30am **Welcome remarks**

Dr Sonal Minocha, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Bournemouth University

Chief guest: Sashi Kumar, Chairman, Media Development Foundation and Asian College of Journalism

10:00am **Keynote address**

Shankar Vanavarayar, Entrepreneur and President, Kumaraguru College of Technology

10:45am **Refreshments**

11:00am **Panel discussion**

**Developing Indian talent for the global world: What should education look like in the future?**

Dr Samantha Leahy-Harland (Chair), Bournemouth University

Professor S Armstrong, University of Madras  
Bindu Bhaskar, Asian College of Journalism



- 
- 12:00pm **Keynote address**  
Mahalakshmi Saravanan, Founder,  
Women Entrepreneurs India
- 
- 12:45pm **Networking lunch and close of morning session**
- 
- 3:00pm **Registration**
- 
- 3:30pm **Public lecture | British Council**  
**Futurology, media, and cultures of innovation**  
Dr Einar Thorsen, Bournemouth University
- 
- 4:30pm **Recruitment event**
- 
- 7:30pm **Policy report release | Leela Palace**  
Release of *Global Talent in India: Challenges and Opportunities for Skills Development in Higher Education*, followed by networking dinner
- 

**Panel discussion****Developing Indian talent for the global world: What should education look like in the future?**

Chair: Dr Samantha Leahy-Harland,  
Bournemouth University

**🕒 11:00am**

This discussion will focus on education and employability, considering in particular the skills and attributes that Indian youth need to succeed in an internationalised world. What do employers look for in new graduates? Is a skill-based education the need of the hour, or would that take the new generation away from knowledge competencies and be counterproductive in the long run? Where lies the balance, and what challenges does Indian education face in this context? This panel will discuss these questions.

**Public lecture****Futurology, media, and cultures of innovation**

Dr Einar Thorsen, Bournemouth University

**🕒 3:30pm**

Today's society is saturated with technological innovations that promise to transform every aspect of how we live our lives. But how do we make sense of these disruptions in an already chaotic media and communication landscape? How can we begin to better understand our possible, plausible and probable futures? In this public lecture, Dr Thorsen will explore these questions through the concepts of futurology, trends and predictions. He will examine societal conditions that gave rise to a range of technological innovations throughout history, and how their forms of use rather than technological properties have transformative potential. Dr Thorsen will highlight cultural characteristics of organisations, corporations and leaders that are particularly successful at fostering innovation - from Elon Musk at Tesla to Steve Jobs at Apple. Finally, the lecture will offer insight into how different uses of the same innovation can lead to opportunities and threats - ranging from different use of big data in sports reporting, via the use of drones, to Facebook and Google's experimentation with Artificial Intelligence through a computer game engine playing Go and chess.





**DAY 2**

## DAY 2 PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 13 February 2018, Chennai

10:00am **Panel discussion**  
**Fake news, populist politics and the need for another education**  
 Vidya Subrahmaniam, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy  
 Dr Anastasia Veneti, Bournemouth University,  
 Sampath Kumar, Asian College of Journalism,  
 Devadas Rajaram, Asian College of Journalism,  
 Dr Einar Thorsen, Bournemouth University

11:15am **Tour of Asian College of Journalism campus**

12:30pm **Lunch**

### Panel discussion

#### Fake news, populist politics and the need for another education

Chair: Dr Anastasia Veneti,  
 Bournemouth University

 10:00am

Fake news has gained considerable momentum in public and academic discourses, both around the much-contested use of the term, as well as the fairly self-evident dangers it bears upon democracy. The democratic political process depends upon reliable information for citizens to make robust political decisions. Politicians have often used false claims or even blatant lies for populist gains. In a post-truth era characterised by fabricated stories designed to manipulate, the circulation of reliable information has been further jeopardised. New practices afforded by media technologies, where anyone can produce and publish fake news, makes this landscape all the more difficult to navigate. To combat these phenomena, academics around the world argue for strengthening media literacy. This panel aims to discuss the future of journalism education in these uneasy times, reflecting on the role of media literacy as an antidote to the contemporary information malaise.





**DAY 4**

**DAY 4 PROGRAMME**

**Thursday, 15 February, New Delhi**

- 3:00pm **Registration**

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- 3:30pm **Public lecture | British Council**  
**Studying in the UK: Insights into business and management degrees**  
 Dr Milena Bobeva, interim Associate Dean (Global Engagement), MBA Director, Faculty of Management, Bournemouth University

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- 3:30pm **Recruitment event | British Council**

**Studying in the UK: Insights into business and management degrees**

 **3:30pm**

We live in exciting times, characterised by increasing globalisation, big data and the proliferation of information, the rise of artificial intelligence and digitisation. The landscape of learning and professional development is now an exciting and, often confusing, mixture of study options including academic degrees, degree apprenticeships and Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC). Environmental, social and political changes are also affecting career development values and preferences. With this in mind, older generations are no longer the best informed advisers on which opportunities

will deliver the best value for money for an individual considering the next stage in their education.

In this public lecture, Dr Bobeva will offer an insight into business and management degree programmes in the UK. She will explore the value of academic degrees and the importance of the student ecosystem for nurturing skills that will help them succeed in the future world of work. The talk will also address the increasing competition amongst and between traditional and new university degree providers and the curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities offered by universities in the UK. The session will be of help to prospective university candidates and their families and friends when taking their decision on one of the most significant investments steps in one's life.



**DAY 3**

**DAY 3 PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 14 February 2018, Pune**

- 10:00am **Coffee and registration**  
SVC Auditorium, Symbiosis International University

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- 10:30am **Welcome remarks**  
Dr Sonal Minocha, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Bournemouth University  
Prof Anita Patankar, Director, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

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- 10:50am **Cultural presentation**

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- 11:15am **Panel discussion**  
**Developing Indian talent for the global world: What should education look like in the future?**  
 Chair: Jana Kuncova, Bournemouth University

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- 12:15pm **Lunch and close of morning session**

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- 2:00pm **NGO presentation**

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- 3:00pm **Lectures**  
Dr Shanti Shanker, Dr Anastasia Veneti and Prof Edwin van Teijlingen, Bournemouth University

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- 7:00pm **Networking dinner at the Hyatt Regency**



## DAY 5 PROGRAMME

Friday, 16 February 2018, New Delhi

- 9:30am **Coffee and registration | India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi**
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- 10:00am **Welcome remarks**  
 Dr Sonal Minocha, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), Bournemouth University  
 Chief guest: Major General Neeraj Bali, SM (retd) Educator and business leader
- 
- 10:40am **Keynote address**  
 Priyank Narayan, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Ashoka University
- 
- 11:15am **Refreshments**
- 
- 11:30am **Gamified learning: the future of cross-national education?**  
 Dr Einar Thorsen, Bournemouth University
- 
- 12:00pm **Panel session**  
**EdTech: the next step**  
 Dr Mark Readman (Chair), Bournemouth University  
 Shalini Nambiar, GEMS Education  
 Yaz El Hakim, Kortext, UK  
 Prof Vaiju Naravane, Ashoka University  
 Pratik Dattani, Managing Director, Economic Policy Group.

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- 1:00pm **Lunch**
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- 2:00pm **Panel discussion**  
**Cinema and the world of education**  
 Professor Hariharan Krishnan, Ashoka University  
 Tisha Srivastav, TV documentary filmmaker  
 Sita Menon, Scriptwriter
- 
- 3:00pm **Panel discussion**  
**Rate my lecturer: the student as consumer**  
 Chair: Dr Tauheed Ramjaun, Bournemouth University
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- 4:00pm **End of programme at IHC**
- 
- 6:30pm **Guests arrive for closing ceremony | British Council**
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- 7:30pm **Closing ceremony and the Connect India Awards dinner (by invitation only)**

**Panel discussion**  
**EdTech: the next step**  
 Chair: Dr Mark Readman, Bournemouth University

**🕒 12:00pm**

Digital technology is changing at an unprecedented rate and its impact on education in the last decade has been significant. E-learning and blended learning, for example, are now commonplace, and most learners take for granted their access to educational resources and information from anywhere and at any time. To what extent, then, are traditional notions of teaching and learning being accommodated or challenged by such innovations? What is the future likely to hold? This panel provides a timely opportunity to take stock of the current situation, to examine the educational affordances of particular technologies, and to subject some of the assumptions about educational technology to critical scrutiny.

**Panel discussion**  
**Rate my lecturer: the student as consumer**  
 Chair: Dr Tauheed Ramjaun, Bournemouth University

**🕒 3:00pm**

Universities across the globe are facing increasing pressures from the market and the student is more and more seen as a 'consumer' who needs to be seduced and satisfied. The notion of 'student experience' is today a significant factor in raising the competitive advantage of higher education institutions. In a world where user-reviews and student ratings are all-important, it is crucial for us to understand how the marketisation phenomenon is affecting students' expectations as well as their current campus experiences. This panel brings together students and academics from the UK and India for a discussion on this topic.


 SPEAKER  
PROFILES

### Dr Armstrong

Dr Armstrong is Professor and Head of Department of English, and the Chairperson of the School of English and Foreign Languages at the University of Madras. He is also the director of the university's publication division.

The recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Associate Professorship at the University of California, he has been a Shastri Conference Fellow at the McGill University, Montreal in 2007. He is the author of *Voices of the Voiceless: Canadian Native Women's Autobiographies* (Creative Books, 2006), and has edited three books: *Survivance Beyond Canons: Mapping Canadian Literature* (Emerald, 2008), *Multicultural Inclusivity in Literary and Social Media* (Department of English, UoM, 2016), and *Critical Explorations in Canadian Literature* (Centre for Canadian Studies, UoM, 2016). His critical essays and articles have appeared in peer-reviewed international journals and he has presented at more than 30 international conferences.

### Major General Neeraj Bali, SM, (retd)

Neeraj is a military veteran with a varied career spanning defence, education, and business. Formerly the CEO of Pravara Rural Education Society, he is now the CEO of Rodic Consultants Pvt Ltd, a leading engineering and infrastructure consultancy.

A decorated officer, Neeraj taught in the Infantry School at Mhow, where his charter was the latest trends in science and technology relating to the education of newly commissioned officers. Later he taught leadership, strategy, and tactics at the prestigious Defence Services Staff College at Wellington and Army War College at Mhow. He also served in Lesotho, Southern Africa (SA), as Security Advisor and Leader of the Indian Army Training Team, mandated with training SA's Armed Forces.

Neeraj has delivered talks on leadership at various prestigious institutions – which include, IIM Ahmedabad; XLRI and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Mumbai; Leaders of Rotary Club, Pune; Punjab University; University of Madras; College of Defence Management; and the Army War College. He has also been an invited speaker at several corporate entities including Tata Sons, Wipro, and Kirloskar Brothers. Last year, he spoke in Atlanta and Portugal on Competitive Intelligence at events organised by the Strategic and Competitive Intelligence Professionals.

As CEO of Pravara Rural Education Society, he oversaw Maharashtra's oldest education society which runs 92 schools, colleges and institutes, with more than 40,000 students on its Registers. He is a member of the Global Business Executive Council of Strategic and Competitive Intelligence Professionals.

### Dr Milena Bobeva

Milena is a key advocate of education innovation through staff-student collaboration and Technology Enhanced Learning. She is a Chartered Manager and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute in the UK, and a Senior Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy (HEA).

Over the past 10 years Milena has taken a number of programme management and External Examiner positions for Business and Management programmes. Since 2014, in her role as the Director for the BU MBA programme, she has introduced a number of changes that have revitalized this prestigious programme. Milena's latest contribution to the innovation and enhancement of the education provisions at Bournemouth University is through her roles as interim Associate Dean (Global Engagement) in the Faculty of Management and an Academic Lead for the university's student-facing Global Engagement activities. Milena is a member of BU Senate.

Applied research features prominently in Milena's professional practice. Her work is multi-disciplinary, focused on experiential project-based learning, developing student employability through co-creation and co-production with staff, reverse mentoring as a strategy for cross-generational learning and learning gains. The outcomes have been reported through a variety of channels, including academic journal articles, contribution to a book on #EdTechRations, and numerous conference publications and workshops.

### Pratik Dattani

Pratik is the Managing Director at EPG Economic and Strategy Consulting and was additionally, until August 2017, UK Director for FICCI. He is also the co-founder of a tech start-up in the CSR space. Previously he worked in Economic Consulting at FTI Consulting and Deloitte in London and Abu Dhabi, with a focus on public policy and arbitration. He was Chairman for a not-for-profit membership organisation with several thousand members for three years.

He studied Economics at Warwick University, where he was awarded the Prize for Excellence, and LMU University of Munich. His dissertation won a prize at an international economics conference at Georgetown University, Washington DC. He has published academic research on behavioural economics and social impact and is a regular commentator on public policy and India across print, TV and online media.

### Yaz El Hakim

Yaz El Hakim has worked in Higher Education for over 15 years, starting as an hourly paid lecturer in Sport Psychology. He later held the roles of Director of Learning and Teaching and Student Engagement. Yaz held leadership roles in over £800,000 worth of other nationally funded research projects, including TESTA ([www.testa.ac.uk](http://www.testa.ac.uk)). Yaz advocates that personalised learning and associated analytics will transform learning experiences, enhancing student retention, progression and success.

### Dr Dean Hristov

Dean is Global Talent Research Analyst at Bournemouth University. He has been engaged in the co-delivery of global HE projects and provides research outputs related to the employability agenda, internationalisation, higher-level skills development and global talent. Dean has been playing an active role in supporting the development and launch of successful employability projects and programmes such as Practice Weeks at the University of Bedfordshire Business School and the Global Talent Programme at Bournemouth University. Dean has published over 15 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. He is also a peer reviewer for the International Journal of Management Education and Current Issues in Tourism. He has contributed to, and has been featured in, various publications in popular HE outlets, such as Times Higher Education, Guardian Students, University World News and QS Digital. Dean is a member of the British Academy of Management and the Society for Research into Higher Education. Dean recently completed his PhD in distributed leadership and organisational change at the Faculty of Management, Bournemouth University. His research is focused on emerging business-led destination leadership networks in England within a shifting funding and governance landscape.

### Professor Hariharan Krishnan

A graduate of the Film & TV Institute of India, Hariharan made his debut in 1978 with a cooperative venture titled 'Ghashiram Kotwal' which was screened at the Berlin International Film Festival. In 1983 he made 'The Seventh Man' in Tamil which won the national award for the best Tamil film and the Solidarity award at the Moscow film festival. He later directed three feature films for the Children's Film Society and scores of informational documentaries for Doordarshan and several other educational agencies.

His passion for teaching started in 1995 at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a visiting faculty teaching critical courses on Indian Cinema and Society. In 2004 he founded and directed the LV Prasad Film & TV Academy in Chennai and mentored several young filmmakers and technicians working successfully in the Indian film industry. A decade later he decided to embrace cinema as a liberal arts professor teaching courses about the impact of cinema at Ashoka University in Sonapat near New Delhi.

### Sashi Kumar

Sashi Kumar is a print and broadcast journalist, filmmaker and media entrepreneur. He founded and chairs the Media Development Foundation which administers the Asian College of Journalism.

He was among the earliest Newscasters in English on the national television Doordarshan, and the Middle East Correspondent of The Hindu and news anchor on Radio Bahrain in the mid-1980s. He has anchored and produced numerous shows, documentaries and features for national television in India. In 1992 he founded and launched Asianet, India's first satellite TV channel in a regional language (Malayalam), and the country's first statewide cable TV network in Kerala. In 2004 he scripted and directed 'Kaya Taran', an award-winning Hindi feature film based on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the 2002 Gujarat riots. He has acted in a few Malayalam feature films.

Sashi writes a regular fortnightly column titled 'Unmediated' in Frontline; it is also the title of the book comprising his essays and articles published by Tulika Books in 2013. He has received many awards for his work in journalism and films.

### Dr Samantha Leahy-Harland

Samantha is Head of Operations (Global Engagement) at Bournemouth University and provides operational leadership for delivering the University's strategy for global engagement. Samantha has held a variety of senior management positions at BU and previously worked for over 10 years in the Home Office, a central government department in the UK, specialising in police research and policy development. Samantha read Psychology at Dundee University, Criminology at Cambridge University and completed her PhD on the Police Interviewing of Serious Crime Suspects at the University of Leicester.

**Dr Sonal Minocha**

Sonal has over 15 years of senior management experience across the public and private sectors in global HE. Sonal started her career as a business graduate from the University of Delhi before moving into an academic career which started at University of Northumbria, UK. Since then Sonal has worked in both public and private sectors of Higher Education globally. In recent years, she held the position of Executive Dean at the University of Bedfordshire Business School before joining Bournemouth University in the summer of 2014. Her appointment as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) brought with it a re-energised institutional approach towards internationalisation and the creation of a long-term vision for a Global BU that is anchored to, and complimentary of, the University's wider strategic vision. Amongst the key areas of work that Sonal has led at Bournemouth University have been the fusing of employability with internationalisation through the pioneering Global Talent Programme. Her main academic interests lie in exploring global higher education, graduate employability, management education and practice, strategic creativity and organisational learning.

**Professor Vaiju Naravane**

Vaiju is Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Media Studies at Ashoka University. For the past three decades she has held senior positions covering Europe, notably for The Times of India, Radio France Internationale, AITV and The Hindu. Prof. Naravane has taught Journalism and Contemporary Indian Literature at Sciences-Po, both in Paris and Le Havre and was the Director of Information of the Geneva-based World Health Organization. She is Foreign Fiction Editor at Albin Michel in Paris and is currently working on her second novel. Prof. Naravane obtained degrees in the Humanities and Journalism from Pune University and spent a year travelling and writing in the USA as a Fellow of the World Press Institute, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

**Priyank Narayan**

Priyank is the Founding Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship at Ashoka University, a leading liberal Arts University based in Delhi NCR, India. As an educator, researcher, eco-system builder and an entrepreneur, he has contributed significantly in building a culture of entrepreneurship in India.

Priyank started his career with IBM. Prior to Joining Ashoka University, he was an entrepreneur and continues to mentor a number of startups. As an educator, he has held a teaching position at the IIT Delhi and been a guest faculty in a number of management institutes in the country. Priyank has been instrumental in bridging global entrepreneurship eco-systems with India. In the last few years he has represented India in a number of global forums on entrepreneurship and education.

An alumnus of AIM, Manila and IIM Ahmedabad, Priyank is an avid golfer and a licensed scuba diver. He is also trained in Indian classical music.

**Professor Anita Patankar**

An educator for three decades, Anita has had a multi-hued career. She has been involved in teaching, counselling, consultancy and corporate education, in addition to the creation of innovative and need-based educational programs.

She headed the Department of Marketing at the Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce where she taught for 26 years. She was instrumental in establishing India's first institute for liberal arts (Symbiosis Centre for Liberal Arts) in 2006, and is now the Director of the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts which offers India's first four year bachelor programme in liberal arts.

She also serves as the Deputy Director of the Symbiosis Centre for International Education, the central office for all internationalisation initiatives across Symbiosis.

**Dr Tauheed Ramjaun**

Tauheed is a Brand Demystifier. His mission is to help people make sense of branding theories and concepts. For several years, he has been assisting students, managers, entrepreneurs, and non-profit activists in using branding approaches to tackle diverse organisational and communication issues in an ethical and sustainable way. He is actively looking for cross-cultural research collaboration in the areas of brand history, brand culture and brand community. He is originally from the island of Mauritius where he worked for the United Nations Development Programme and within the local affiliate of the Foote, Cone and Belding (FCB) worldwide advertising network.

**Dr Mark Readman**

Mark is a Principal Academic in Media Education. He supervises a range of doctoral projects and, as Programme Leader for the Media Faculty's Master's-level Short Course Framework, oversees a range of courses for media professionals, which have attracted students from the BBC, Channel Four, Star TV and Pearson. His research interests and publications include work on creativity, scriptwriting and practice-based research, and his recent edited collection, *Teaching and Learning On Screen: Mediated Pedagogies* (2016), explores the significance of representations of teachers and teaching in films and TV programmes, and includes chapters from the USA, South America, Australia and Europe.

### Mahalakshmi Saravanan

Founder of Women Entrepreneurs India, Mahalakshmi has a passion to create better opportunities for women. With her indomitable optimism and can-do spirit, she has become a role model for thousands of aspiring women entrepreneurs today.

She recently launched Kidpreneurs India, an initiative to nurture young minds and foster creativity in children by offering them multiple opportunities for experiential learning.

Her vision is to create opportunities for the underprivileged in the field of education in particular, and in the overall society as well. She juggles being a wife, mother and proactive thinker, along with her professional roles.

She has been invited as a motivational speaker at major national and international conferences, industry events, corporates, schools and other forums (among others, at the Reserve Bank of India; Coromandel-Murugappa; NIT, Trichy; MIT Chennai; Anna University; Stella Maris; and the University of Madras). Her interviews have been featured in leading south Indian television channels.

Mahalakshmi is also an SEO specialist and digital marketing strategist and has been instrumental in guiding several businesses to acquire high rankings online. She has taught this technique to more than one hundred women entrepreneurs and aspiring students. She has more than 9 years of experience in business.

### Dr Shanti Shanker

Shanti is a Chartered Psychologist and is a Lecturer in Psychology at Bournemouth University. Shanti is associated with the Ageing and Dementia Research Centre (ADRC) ([www.bournemouth.ac.uk/adrc](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/adrc)). Shanti is also a Visiting Scientist at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge. Her main research focuses on the brain mechanisms of cognitive control, memory and forgetting. Shanti employs methods such as diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), fMRI/lesion analysis approaches and electrical stimulation (tDCS/TMS) in patients and healthy controls to answer her research questions. She has worked as Clinical Psychologist at various well-known hospitals in Mumbai, India. Her aim is to translate empirical findings into rehabilitative strategies in people diagnosed with neurological disorders and to create more awareness about mental health and cognitive decline especially in people with neurological disorders and in society. She is keen to work with public engagement and is currently collaborating on a few projects in India. She tweets @Sitnahs

### Dr Chindu Sreedharan

Chindu heads Connect India, Bournemouth University's global outreach arm for engaging with the Indian subcontinent. He is Principal Lecturer in the School of Journalism, English & Communication, and his research interests include conflict reportage, social media, and longform. He is particularly fascinated by the intersection of journalism and literature. A journalist who has covered the Kashmir conflict, the Kargil war, and the Maoist People's War guerrilla movement in India, he was an associate editor of the Mumbai-based [rediff.com](http://rediff.com) and the New York-based [India Abroad](http://India Abroad). Dr Sreedharan is

an experimental storyteller, interested in digital narratives, particularly in stories on social media. While his current projects relate to 360-degree stories and multimodality, he is known for *Epic Retold* (Harper Collins India, 2015), one of the first works in the Twitterfiction genre. In 2015, he headed *Aftershock Nepal* ([www.aftershocknepal.com](http://www.aftershocknepal.com)), a unique project that chronicled the life of Nepalis after the 2015 earthquake and aimed to provide insights into the challenges and needs of post-disaster reporting. Other works include *India Election 2014: First Reflections* (edited with Dr Einar Thorsen). He tweets @chindu.

### Professor Edwin van Teijlingen

Edwin is a Professor of Reproductive Health Research in the Faculty of Health & Social Sciences at Bournemouth University. He is a sociologist by training with a long experience of multi-disciplinary working on a range of health and development projects in the UK and Nepal. For the last 15 years, he has conducted research in Nepal on topics ranging from Maoist health workers to health services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the community, and improving maternity care to the well-being of migrant workers. Nepal is one of the poorer countries in the world, with a national income which is about one-third of that in neighbouring India. He has published more than one hundred articles on Nepal and/or in academic journals based in Nepal.

In India, he has been involved on the Advisory Board of the International Conference 'Elimination of methodological errors research in developing countries' organised by Mahatma Gandhi University (2013), and is currently working with Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Wardha. He has published more than 250 academic papers many with co-authors from developing countries. He has also published six books and 25 book chapters.

### Dr Einar Thorsen

Einar is Associate Professor of Journalism & Communication, and Head of Research for the School of Journalism, English & Communication at Bournemouth University. His research covers online journalism, citizens' voices, and news reporting of crisis and political change – inextricably linked with protecting freedom of speech, human rights, and civil liberties – especially for journalists, vulnerable people, marginalised groups, and in contexts or countries where such liberties are being curtailed. Dr Thorsen has co-edited several books, including: *Media, Margins and Civic Agency* and *Media, Margins and Popular Culture* (with Jackson, Savigny and Alexander, 2015), *India Election: 2014 First Reflections* (with Sreedharan, 2015) and two volumes of *Citizen Journalism: Global Perspectives* (with Stuart Allan, Volume 1: 2009, Volume 2: 2014). He has also published articles on online communication security, whistleblowers in the digital age, public service media online, Wikinews and WikiLeaks.

**Shankar Vanavarayar**

Shankar Vanavarayar is an accomplished business leader, entrepreneur and educationist. He is the President of Kumaraguru College of Technology.

In a professional career spread over 15 years, he has held leadership positions in the Sakthi business conglomerate, Sakthi education institutions, social development organisations and programs, and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). He has a proven track record in building teams, strategic planning, managing programs and operations in multiple domains.

As the National Chairman of Young Indians (YI) in 2011-2012, Shankar played a key role in the creation of the Commonwealth Asia Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (CAAYE). He also led Indian delegations and has represented India as the Global Young Leader in the BOAO Forum in Hong Kong (2011) and China (2012) and has delivered keynote speeches at the Commonwealth Business Forum London, CHOGM Perth summit (2011), G20 France, and Aspen Institute Seminar, Italy (2010).

As President of KCT and as Vice-Chairman of National Council for Higher Education in the CII, Shankar aims to transform the Indian higher education system through path-breaking reforms in governance, learner-centric academic programs and infrastructure, research & innovation oriented industry partnership, international collaboration among others. Shankar has led strategy, events, publications, communications and policymaking within the CII at the regional (South India) and the national level in areas such as higher education, youth affairs, entrepreneurship, family business and skill building.

**Dr Anastasia Veneti**

Anastasia is Senior Lecturer in Marketing Communications at Bournemouth University. Her research focuses on political communication, media framing, protests and social movements, visual communication and photojournalism. She has written on the use of social media in political communication, political advertising, selfies, the media framing of protests and social movements (Greek Indignados, OWS, Umbrella Revolution etc). Her work has been published in edited volumes and academic journals. She is the author of Political Advertising and Citizens' Perceptions (Nisos, 2009 in Greek) and co-editor of the special issue on Picturing Protest: Visuality, visibility and the public sphere, in Visual Communication (2017) and the Politics, Protest, Emotions: Interdisciplinary Perspective. A book of Blogs.



**Leela Palace**  
**Adyar Sea Face, M.R.C Nagar,**  
**Chennai**

**British Council**  
**17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg**  
**New Delhi**

**British Council**  
**737 Anna Salai**  
**Chennai 600 002**

**India Habitat Centre**  
**Lodhi Road**  
**New Delhi**

**Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts**  
**Symbiosis Campus,**  
**S No. 227, Plot 11**  
**New Airport Road**  
**Viman Nagar,**  
**Pune**