



The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund

The JU-SYLFF Association invites you to

**JU-SYLFF Lecture Series**  
**Lecture No. 2015-3**

Speaker:

**Dr. Sulagna Maitra**

Lecturer in Humanitarian Action  
UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action  
University College Dublin

Topic:

**Governance Issues in Post Conflict Reconstruction**

Date:

**August 11, 2015 (Tuesday)**

Time:

**4:15pm - 5:15pm**

Venue:

**Global Change Programme,  
First Floor, Biren Roy Research Laboratory  
Jadavpur University**

## Note on the Speaker

Sulagna Maitra (Ph.D. University College Dublin, 2013) is currently a Lecturer and the academic coordinator for the NOHA Joint Masters programme in Humanitarian Action. She joined the Humanitarian Action Programme in UCD in 2010 as a doctoral researcher and coordinator of the NOHA Masters course. Prior to joining UCD, she worked as a researcher on the Global Change Programme in Jadavpur University, India. She has a Masters degree in International Humanitarian Assistance from Uppsala University, Sweden and a Masters in International Relations from Jadavpur University, India. Her research interests include identity and natural resource conflict resolution, intra-State transboundary river water conflicts, regional cooperation in South and Southeast Asia, governance issues in post-conflict societies and professionalization of humanitarian action. She is a recipient of Erasmus Mundus Scholarships and the SYLFF Fellowship.

## Note on the Lecture

The purpose of this paper is to highlight key governance issues in post-conflict societal reconstruction. It focuses on conflicts (both intra-State and inter-State) that have warranted international humanitarian and peace building interventions.

The human and societal cost of conflict is staggering. Conflicts, especially protracted conflicts cost lives and livelihood, displace populations and cause huge setbacks to economic development. They also destroy the very fabric of society by damaging social institutions and fragmenting social groups. It is estimated that today approximately 1.2 billion people live in areas affected by conflicts (The World Bank, 2015). While a majority of them choose to remain in their homes, around 33 million people are internally displaced for an average length of 17 years (World Humanitarian Summit, 2015). In 2011, the World Development Report demonstrated that for every three years a country is affected by a major violence, poverty reduction lags behind by 2.7%.

Post-conflict reconstruction, therefore requires not only rebuilding political, economic and civil society structures but also mending the fabric of society by building trust and communal harmony. This requires a more nuanced approach to the reconstruction and re-building process.

External actors often focus on rebuilding processes and structures of the State but falter while engaging in re-building societies. This paper will review and encourage debate on the findings from over five decades of external humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions in post-conflict reconstruction.