

The College of Communication and Information's
South Asian Media and Cultural Studies Conference,
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy's
Ruth K. & Shepard Broad International Lecture Series &
The Center for Global Engagement's
Engage Your World Speaker Series present

UNLOCKING SOUTH ASIA'S POTENTIAL:

Diplomacy, Development, and Diversity

Closing Keynote by Farwa Aamer, the Director of
South Asia Initiatives at the Asia Society Policy Institute

Friday, January 31

1 p.m. Lecture | The Globe Auditorium



Farwa Aamer is the director of South Asia initiatives at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York, where she oversees the institute's policy work and projects in South Asia.

In the closing keynote, Aamer will discuss how South Asia, home to nearly a quarter of the world's population, is a rising nexus of global geopolitics, economic growth, and climate resilience. Aamer will explore the region's strategic importance, addressing challenges such as great-power competition, climate change, and socio-economic hurdles. She will highlight the transformative potential of South Asia's youth, the critical role of gender equity, and the need for cross-border collaboration to drive inclusive and sustainable development.

Previously, Aamer worked at the Stimson Center, where she led research on the security, political, and socio-economic dimensions of transboundary river governance in the Himalayan region. Her work has focused on facilitating inter- and intra-regional cooperation on issues such as water, energy, climate change, and sustainable development across South Asia, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Aamer has also highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change and water insecurity on women.

From 2017 to 2021, Aamer served as director of the South Asia program at the EastWest Institute, where she promoted nontraditional diplomacy and created multi-stakeholder platforms to align economic, financial, and geopolitical interests. Her initiatives brought together policy shapers, media influencers, thought leaders, and business experts from South Asia and beyond.

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