Editorial:
A message from the new editorial team

This double, special issue of Contributions to Indian Sociology marks a change in the journal’s editorial team. While Deepak Mehta and Sanjay Srivastava take over as joint editors, Janaki Abraham and Yasmeen Arif will take charge as book reviews editors. An element of continuity is provided through Aradhya Bhardwaj’s position as Editorial Associate. We thank the outgoing editors Amita Baviskar and Nandini Sundar and the reviews editor Veena Naregal for their efforts in maintaining the high standards of the journal and extending its role as a forum for both established and emerging scholars. The new team will continue to be attentive to these aspects.

While building upon what has already been achieved, we wish to signal an additional direction for the journal. We are of the opinion that the time is ripe for Contributions to widen its scope and explore the possibility of including publications that may relate to regions outside the Indian subcontinent but might address topics of interest to Indianists (as well as South Asianists). We have in mind, for example, analyses of urban issues, consumer cultures and contemporary intersections of religion and politics across the so-called Global South. Hence, we are keen to explore the possibility of special issues that address one or more of these topics for, say, China, India and South Africa. What might a collection of articles on such issues tell us about the analytical valence of the term Global South? And, how might sociological and anthropological analyses contribute towards an understanding of non-Western modernities beyond economists’ and policy pundits’ formulations on Brazil–India–China–South Africa (BRICS)? India and South Asia related scholarship, needless to say, would remain the key focus of the journal. However, we believe that a sociological dialogue across BRICS walls holds great potential.

This issue also inaugurates a new, occasional section titled ‘Conversations’. The editorial team expects to invite and consider requests for comments and responses to published book reviews which address general
concerns within disciplinary purview; record conversations and interviews with sociologists and others significant to the discipline and propose thematic discussions.

Sanjay Srivastava and Deepak Mehta