

48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH ASIA

October 17-20, 2019
University of Wisconsin-Madison



October 1, 2019

Dear Conference Participants,

We would like to welcome all of you to Madison, Wisconsin for the 48th Annual Conference on South Asia, October 17-20, 2019! This year we are delighted to host over 1000 registered participants, 23 symposia, 141 panels and roundtables, 13 association meetings, 7 exhibitors, and multiple special events.

This year's conference theme is Artistry. We are delighted how the theme has been embraced this year by participants, whose presentations boldly demonstrate that current research on literary, artistic, and social cultures of South Asia, both past and present, is diverse, rigorous, and groundbreaking. We are also thrilled to host more special events this year than ever before, each of which speaks directly to the theme of Artistry. We have a stand-up comedian on Thursday night, a theatrical production on Saturday night, and pioneering film screenings on Saturday evening as well as, on Sunday morning, a special screening of Anand Patwardhan's *Vivek/Reason: The War Between Faith and Rationality*, followed by a Q&A with the director. David Shulman's Keynote Address on Friday evening will explore the artistry of poetics in Sanskrit and south Indian literatures and, at the Plenary Address on Saturday afternoon, Ananya Vajpeyi and Iftikhar Dadi will speak about the artistry of free speech in South Asia and South Asian Studies.

To foster interdisciplinary conversation and interaction among conference attendants about the many sides of Artistry in South Asia, we are happy to host multiple tea and coffee breaks throughout the conference and a networking event on Sunday morning, with a special focus on our graduate student attendees.

We would like to remind you that the safety and wellbeing of all visitors to the Annual Conference on South Asia is very important to us. In accordance with UW-Madison policy, the Annual Conference aims to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment to everyone and does not condone discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnicity; sex, gender, and gender identity or expression; marital status; age; sexual orientation; country of origin; language; disability; socio-economic status; and affiliations that are based on cultural, political, religious, or other identities.

Please download our conference app – 'ACSA Madison' – from the app store on your phone to see the schedule, receive live announcements, interact with other guests, and more! If you have general questions or concerns, feel free to drop by the registration desk. If there is an urgent matter that requires immediate and personal attention, please call (608) 287-9918. We very much hope that you will enjoy the conference

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Cerulli'.

Anthony Cerulli, Associate Professor
Department of Asian Languages & Cultures
Chair, Annual Conference on South Asia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Venkat Mani'.

B. Venkat Mani, Professor
Department of German, Nordic and Slavic
Director, Center for South Asia

Conference Registration

All participants and attendees must register. The on-site registration rates are \$230 for regular registration and \$120 for students.

Staff is available at registration:

Wednesday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Program Book & Mobile App

A select number of printed program books are available at registration for pickup.

This year, we've launched a mobile app of our schedule, "ACSA Madison," available for download for Apple and Android

Abstracts

Abstracts are available online.

Taxi Companies

Badger Cab Company, (608) 256-5566
Green Cab, (608) 255-1234
Madison Taxi, (608) 255-8294
Union Cab, (608) 242-2000

Conference Chair

Anthony Cerulli, UW-Madison

Conference Committee

Teri Allendorf, UW-Madison
Andrew Amstutz, University of Arkansas
Anjali Arondekar, UC Santa Cruz
Sumudu Atapattu, UW-Madison
Gudrun Bühnemann, UW-Madison
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Lalita du Perron, UW-Madison
Mitra Sharafi, UW-Madison
Davesh Soneji, U of Pennsylvania
Stephen Young, UW-Madison

Conference Coordinator

Bradley Grochocinski, UW-Madison

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A Concourse map is inside the back cover.

The All-Gender Bathroom is outside Parlor 629.

Conference Help Line: 608.294.3085
(for technical issues & non-emergency questions)

Emergency Phone: 608.287.9918 (Sarah)

Sponsored by:

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B. Venkat Mani, *Director*
Lalita du Peron, *Associate Director*
Sarah Beckham, *Interim Associate Director*
Center for South Asia Program Assistants:
Andrea Fowler, Chen Sun, & Nanette Kelsey

The Annual Conference on South Asia provides the following complimentary breaks with snacks and refreshments

Daily Break Times



Morning Coffee, Tea, & Snacks

7:30 - 8:30 am

University Foyer (second floor)



Coffee/Tea Break & Snacks

10:15 - 10:30 am

University Foyer (second floor)



Lunch

12:15 - 1:45 pm

University Foyer (second floor)



Coffee/Tea Break & Snacks

3:30 - 3:45 pm

University Foyer (second floor)

Meal Options

Meal tickets must be purchased ahead of time.

Both meat and vegetarian lunch options are available.

Once picked up in the University Foyer on the second floor, you may take your lunch to any applicable special lunch events, any open location in the Madison Concourse Hotel, or outside.

Thursday Lunch

Meat: Asian chicken salad w/mixed greens/roasted vegetable/sesame lime vinaigrette

Vegetarian: Ancient grain salad w/edamame/roasted corn/tomato/orange ginger vinaigrette

Friday Lunch

Meat: Grilled chicken salad w/napa Cabbage /red cabbage/carrot slaw/curry vinaigrette

Vegetarian: Chickpea salad w/mixed greens/roasted tomato/peas/cucumber/lemon tahini dressing

Saturday Lunch

Meat: Sesame tuna salad/chopped romaine/radish/cilantro/scallion vinaigrette

Vegetarian: Black bean lentil salad w/tomato/bell peppers/cumin lime vinaigrette

All-Conference Buffet Dinner (Friday, October 18 at 8pm - Capitol Ballroom)

A select number of dinner tickets are available for purchase on-site at registration

Romaine hearts/garbanzo beans/tomato/red onion/feta/mint avocado vinaigrette; Baba ghanoush/smoked paprika/evoo/pita bread; Tabbouleh salad/lemon/parsley; Chicken makhani
Vegetable jalfrezi; Aloo matar; Turmeric coconut basmati rice; Naan bread

All conference events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Reception <i>Madison Ballroom (Book Exhibit Room)</i> Cash bar	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Performance Sapna Kumar <i>Wisconsin Ballroom</i>	9:00 - 9:45 pm

Friday, October 18, 2019

Reception <i>Madison Ballroom (Book Exhibit Room)</i> Cash bar	5:30 - 6:30 pm
Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address David Shulman , <i>"How to Wake Up in Sanskrit (or Tamil or Telugu)"</i> <i>Wisconsin Ballroom</i>	6:45 - 7:45 pm
All-Conference Buffet Dinner <i>Capitol Ballroom</i> <i>A select number of dinner tickets are available for purchase on-site at registration</i> Cash bar	8:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, October 19, 2019

Plenary Address Ananya Vajpeyi, & Iftikhar Dadi , <i>"The Artistry of Free Speech in South Asia and South Asian Studies"</i> <i>Wisconsin Ballroom</i>	1:45 - 3:30 pm
Performance <i>Play Circle Theater (Memorial Union, 800 Langdon Street)</i> One Day in the Season of Rain (Mohan Rakesh's Hindi play, <i>Ashadh ka ek din</i>)	8:00 - 10:00 pm
Film Night <i>Capitol Ballroom B, Wisconsin Ballroom University A/B, University C/D</i> South Asia-focused films followed by audience Q&A with the filmmakers. Popcorn provided.	8:00 - 10:00 pm

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Film Screening Anand Patwardhan , <i>"Vivek/Reason: The War Between Faith and Rationality"</i> (followed by Q&A) <i>Capitol Ballroom</i>	8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Networking Events <i>Madison Ballroom</i> Organized networking events will close the conference with a special focus on graduate students	9:30 - 11:00 am

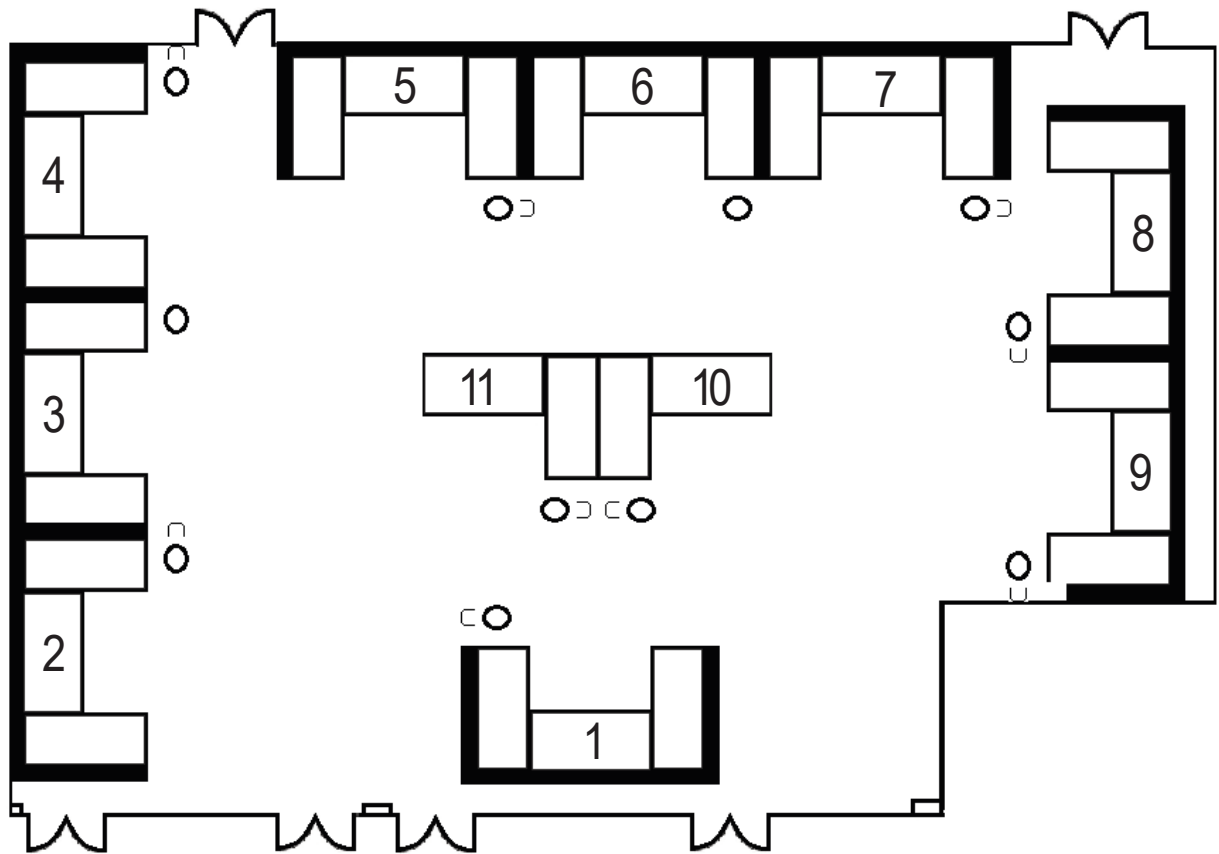


Exhibit Hours

Thursday, October 17 2:00 - 6:30 pm*

Friday, October 18 9:00 am - 6:30 pm*

Saturday, October 19 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

**Thursday and Friday evening Cash Bar Receptions are held in the Exhibit Room*

Please be sure to pick up any materials you have purchased before 6pm on Saturday.

Exhibitors Attending the Conference

University of Washington Press	Booth 2
Ethnic Arts Foundation	Booth 3
Asian Languages and Cultures	Booth 4
Oxford University Press	Booth 5
Cambridge University Press	Booth 6
"In Memoriam"	Booth 7
"In Memoriam"	Booth 8
South Asia Projects at UW-Madison	Booth 9
The Scholar's Choice	Booths 10 & 11

All meetings will be held at the conference venue unless otherwise noted. Please be aware that some meetings are open for general attendees, while some are closed board meetings.

Thursday, Oct 17, 2019

AISLS Graduate Student Workshop

Pyle Center (UW-Madison Campus)

American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies

1:00 - 5:30 pm

South Asia @ Yale Reception

University A/B

South Asia Studies Council, Yale University

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Cambridge History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent

Parlor Room 1409 (key card access required)

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Kampan Translation Workshop

Parlor Room 1219 (key card access required)

8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Friday, Oct 18, 2019

SASLI Board of Trustees Meeting

Private Dining Room

South Asia Summer Language Institute

7:00 - 8:30 am

Introducing South Asia Open Archives

University A/B

South Asia Open Archives

12:15 - 1:45 pm

AIBS Board Meeting

Private Dining Room

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies

12:15 - 3:30 pm

SAMSA Business Meeting

Conference Room 1

South Asian Muslim Studies Association

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Saturday, Oct 19, 2019

AIPS Executive Committee Meeting

Private Dining Room

American Institute of Pakistan Studies

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

AISLS Board of Directors Meeting

Conference Room 4

American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies

12:15 - 1:30 pm

ANHS Member Meeting

Parlor Room 627

Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

12:15 - 3:45 pm

AIAS Annual Meeting

Parlor Room 629

American Institute of Afghanistan Studies

12:30 - 3:30 pm

AIPS Board Meeting

Assembly Room

American Institute of Pakistan Studies

6:00 - 8:00 pm

AIPS Reception + Memorial

Senate Room

American Institute of Pakistan Studies

8:00 - 10:00 pm

AISLS General Meeting & Reception

Capitol Ballroom

American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies

8:00 - 11:00 pm

*Please note the times of Symposia as there are both Full Day and Half Day sessions.

Room & Time	Symposium Title
Assembly, 1:45pm-5:30pm	Getting the Band Back Together: Reuniting the Kanchi Yoginis
Caucus, 8:30am-12:15pm	Film and Diaspora and a Globalizing India
Caucus, 1:45pm-5:30pm	Digital Humanities and South Asian Studies
Senate A, 8:30am-12:15pm	South Asian Graphic Narratives
Senate A, 1:45pm-5:30pm	Public Intimacies in Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art
Senate B, 8:30am-5:30pm	AIIS Workshop: Transforming Your Dissertation Into A Book
Conference 1, 8:30am-5:30pm	Conceptual Paradigms in South Asian Film & Media Studies
Conference 2, 8:30am-5:30pm	Mofussil Moderns: Colonial Modernity and the Non-Metropolitan
Conference 3, 8:30am-5:30pm	Himalayan Policy Research Conference
Conference 4, 8:30am-5:30pm	Interrogative Infrastructure: Interdisciplinary Conversations Across History, Anthropology, and Science & Technology Studies
Conference 5, 8:30am-5:30pm	Writing Sri Lanka: Futures Past
Capitol Ballroom A, 8:30am-5:30pm	Religion at Work: Gods, Goddesses, and Occult Powers in the Lives and Livelihoods of India's Artisans, Technicians, and Manufacturers
Capitol Ballroom B, 8:30am-5:30pm	AIIS Workshop: Transforming Your Dissertation Into A Book
Wisconsin Ballroom, 8:30am-3:00pm	Postcolonial Archives: Networks, Objects, Collaborations, Absences
University A/B, 8:30am-5:30pm	Journeys ↔ Queer Elsewheres: A Symposium on South Asian Imaginaries
University C/D, 8:30am-12:15pm	Vulgarity and Power
University C/D 1:45pm-12:15pm	On Bangladesh's Recent Pasts and Immanent Futures: Commemorating 30 Years of AIBS
Parlor 627, 8:30am-12:15pm	Urdu Insiders, Outsiders, and In-Betweeners
Parlor 627, 1:45pm-5:30pm	South Asian Islam and the Question of 'Minorities': Religion, Pluralism, Violence, and Peace
Parlor 629, 8:30am-5:30pm	Bhakti Visualities: Imaging Devotion in the Visual Arts
Parlor 634, 8:30am-5:30pm	Shifting Sites, Spaces, and Selves: Analyzing Ethnographic Practices in South Asia Over Time
Parlor 638, 8:30am-5:30pm	From Space into Property: Urban South Asia Symposium
Private Dining Room, 8:30am-5:30pm	Body Borizons: Expressive, Sensory, and Material Negotiations Across South Asian Scientific and Medical Traditions (STM)

*Schedule details unavailable at the time of printing.

Getting the Band Back Together1:45-5:30pm; Assembly Room

Organizer – Katherine Kasdorf (Detroit Institute of Arts)

Organizer – Padma Kaimal (Colgate University)

1:45-2:00pm – Welcome and Introductory Comments*Starting a Collaboration to Reunite the Kanchi-region Yoginis*

Katherine Kasdorf (Detroit Institute of Arts)

Reflections on Scattered Goddesses

Padma Kaimal (Colgate University)

2:00-3:30pm – Yoginis in their Tenth-Century Contexts*Siting the Yoginis: Where did they come from? And why were they there?*

Emma Natalya Stein (Freer|Sackler, Smithsonian)

The Melcheri statue: A god for the “Kanci” yoginis?

Charlotte Schmid (École Française d’Extrême-Orient)

Kindred Goddesses: What Yoginis from Central India may reveal about their South Indian Counterparts

Kimberly Masteller (Nelson-Atkins Museum)

3:30-3:45pm – Break**3:45-4:45pm – Collecting Yoginis in the Twentieth Century***Collecting Religious Sculptures from South Asia in the Early Twentieth Century*

Laura Weinstein (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

Dealers of Lore and the Contemporary Audience: C.T. Loo and Mia’s Arts of South Asia Gallery

Pujan Gandhi (Minneapolis Institute of Art)

4:45-5:30pm – Exhibiting Yoginis Today

Debra Diamond (Freer|Sackler, Smithsonian) will coordinate discussion on options, narratives, and challenges of bringing together the yoginis and related sculptures in a museum exhibition, considering both conceptual and logistical questions

Film and Diaspora and a Globalizing India8:30am-12:15pm; Caucus Room

Organizer – Sikata Banerjee (University of Victoria)

8:30-8:50am – Welcome and introductions

Sikata Banerjee (University of Victoria) & Rina Williams (University of Cincinnati)

8:50-10:15am*(Indian) Girl Rising? Challenging Traditional Femininity in Contemporary Bollywood Films*

Faiza Hirji (McMaster University)

South Asian Celebrity in Contemporary American Public Life

Nitin Govil (University of Southern California)

Bollywood and the Construction of Hindu Femininity in the Diaspora

Anjali Ram (Roger Williams University)

Responses:

Ruma Sen (Ramapo College of New Jersey)

Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

Samhita Sunya (University of Virginia)

10:15-10:30am – Break**10:30-11:55am***Bollywood in the Indo-Fijian World: Visual culture and identity construction*

Ruma Sen (Ramapo College of NJ)

An Elusive Essence: Filmfare Middle East and the “Glocalization” of Bollywood

Samhita Sunya (University of Virginia)

Speculative Melodrama

Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

Responses:

Faiza Hijri (McMaster University)

Anjali Ram (Roger Williams University)

Nitin Govil (University of Southern California)

11:55am-12:15pm – Closing Remarks

Sikata Banerjee (University of Victoria) & Rina Williams (University of Cincinnati)

Digital Humanities and South Asian Studies

1:45-5:30pm; Caucus Room

Organizer – Rini Bhattacharya Mehta (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

1:45-2:00pm – Introduction to the Panel, Informal discussion

2:00-2:20pm

Digital Tools for Film History: Metadata from the South Asian Archives

Rini B. Mehta (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

2:20-2:40pm

Mapping a Movie Metropolis: “Big Data” and Bombay

Matthew E. Nelson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

2:40-3:30pm – Discussion and Workshop

3:30-3:50pm

The Protocols of Transmigration in Transliteration, Transcription and Translation: Searching for Sanskritized Hierarchies in the HathiTrust Repository across Writing Systems

Christi Merrill (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor)

Sayan Bhattacharyya (Singapore University of Technology and Design)

3:50-5:20pm – Discussion and Workshop

5:20-5:30pm – Wrap-up

South Asian Graphic Narratives8:30am-12:15pm; Senate Room A

Organizer – Kavita Daiya (George Washington University)

Organizer – Amit Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

Organizer – Sreyoshi Sarkar (Ball State University)

8:30-9:00am – Opening Remarks

Kavita Daiya, Amit Baishya, Sreyoshi Sarkar

9:00-10:30am – Panel 1: Art, Nation, and Histories of Dissent

Chairs: Sreyoshi Sarkar & Amit Baishya

The Artisanal Turn in Graphic Media: Bhimayana's Historiography of the Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate

Nandini Chandra, (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

States of Humour: Drawing Dissent in Political Cartoons on Indira Gandhi's Emergency

Preeti Singh (Ohio State University-Columbus)

Precarious Masculinity: Comics, Men, and the Nation in Sarnath Banerjee's New Graphic Narratives and Art Exhibits

Lopamudra Basu (University of Wisconsin-Stout)

Crafting Art and Life: Poetics, Personhood, and Politics in Venkat Raman Singh Shyam and S. Anand's Finding My Way

Ruma Sinha (Syracuse University, NY)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break**10:30-11:30am – Panel 3: New Ecologies of Crisis and Hope**

Chair: Lopa Basu

Free-Range Canines: Representations of Stray Dogs in Vidyun Sabhaney's Dogs: An Anthology

Amit R. Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

The Triptych Map: Reconfiguring the Narmada Dam Crisis from a Multispecies Standpoint in Orijit Sen's The River of Stories

Sreyoshi Sarkar (Ball State University, Indiana)

Drawing Migration: Women and Ecologies of Displacement in the Postcolonial State

Kavita Daiya (George Washington University)

Priya's Mirror: Rethinking The Ethics of Representation in Augmented Reality Comics About Acid Attack Survivors

Nidhi Shrivastava (University of Western Ontario)

11:30am-12:15pm – Participants' Roundtable: "The Aesthetic and Political Futures of South Asian Graphic Narratives"

Public Intimacies in Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art1:45-5:30pm; Senate Room A

Organizer – Sophia Powers (UCLA)

1:45-2:00pm - Welcome and Introductions**2:00-3:30pm** - RoundTable discussion on Pedagogy of South Asian Art in a Global Context**3:30-3:45pm** - All Conference Break**3:45-5:30pm** - Public Intimacies

Discussant: Ajay Sinha (Mount Holyoke College)

KCS Paniker's Intimate Archive

Rebecca Brown (Johns Hopkins University)

Abby Weed Grey: A Private Project of Diplomacy through Arts

Rashmi Viswanathan (University of Hartford)

Aesthetics of Intersubjectivity in the Photographic Practice of Sheba Chhachhi, Dayanita Singh, and Guari Gill

Sophia Powers (University of Auckland)

"When was 'Indigenous' in Indian art?" - Questioning the Ethics of Umbrella Terms in Contemporary 'Folk and Tribal' Art

Katie Lazarowics (University of Texas at Austin)

Conceptual Paradigms in South Asian Film & Media Studies8:30am-5:30pm; Conference Room 1

Organizer – Lotte Hoek (University of Edinburgh)

Organizer – Usha Iyer (Stanford University)

Organizer – Debashree Mukherjee (Columbia University)

8:30-10:15am – Disciplines*The Shifting Paradigms of South Asian Cinema Studies*

Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh)

Intermedial Histories of South Asian Cinema, Music, and Dance

Usha Iyer (Stanford University)

Thinking Spatially about Cinema

Priya Jaikumar (University of Southern California)

Televisual Drag: Interrupting South Asian Film and Media Studies

Aswin Punathambekar (University of Michigan)

10:30am – 12:15pm – Histories*“Are you an Indian or a Pakistani?”: Writing a Cross-border Film History through Reflexive Encounters*

Salma Siddique (Ludwig Maximilians-Universität, Munich)

The History of Art Cinema, Art Cinema as History

Rochona Majumdar (University of Chicago)

Doing Material History of Cinema: Transmutations of Materials, Methods, Models

Madhuja Mukherjee (Jadavpur University)

Highway Automobility and the Promise of Colour Cinema

Ranjani Majumdar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Mixed Media: History and Women Filmmakers in India

Sangita Gopal (University of Oregon)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch**1:45-3:30pm – Anthropologies***(Un)Covering Coverage: Media Ecologies in Cultures of Uncertainty*

Rahul Mukherjee (University of Pennsylvania)

Views: Spectatorship in Anthropology and Film Studies

Lotte Hoek (University of Edinburgh)

Re-telling the Field: Ethnographic approaches in South Asian Film and Media Studies

Darshana Sreedhar Mini (University of Southern California)

Rethinking and Redefining “Indian Cinema”: The Production of Dubbed Films in Mumbai

Tejaswini Ganti (New York University)

3:45-5:00pm – Materialisms*Media Studies after New Materialism*

Debashree Mukherjee (Columbia University)

Media Mutations: Bollywood’s New Media Afterlives

Kuhu Tanvir (University of Pittsburgh)

The Infrastructural Trace and the Analysis of Film

Kartik Nair (Temple University)

Informality after Formalization, or: Bollywood as Method

Nitin Govil (University of Southern California)

5:00-5:30pm – Closing Discussion

Mofussil Moderns: Colonial Modernity and the Non-Metropolitan8:30am-5:30pm; Conference Room 2

Organizer – Sanjukta Poddar (University of Chicago)

Organizer – Thomas J. Newbold (University of Chicago)

8:30-8:45am – Introductions & Opening Remarks**8:45-10:15am – Panel One: Times of the Non-Metropolitan**

Chair: Jon Wilson

Grand Themes and Lived Realities: Assessing Modernity as Viewed from Colonial Indian Qasbahs

Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

Rajesh Babu's Library and the Claim of Modernity in Colonial Chittagong

Thomas Newbold (University of Chicago)

Mofussil Landscapes: Mapping the Past of Colonial Krishnanagar

Eduardo Acosta (University of Chicago)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break**10:30-12:15am – Panel Two: Cosmopolitanisms of the Non-Metropolitan**

Chair: M. Raisur Rahman

Bound for Home: Books and Community in a Bihari Qasba

David Boyk (Northwestern University)

Multilingualism and Contesting Imaginations of Literary Public Culture: Adib in the World of Journals at the Turn of Century Allahabad (1890-1920)

Sanjukta Poddar (University of Chicago)

Pandas, Pilgrims, and Bazaars: Provincial Cosmopolitanism among Pilgrimage Priests in a North Indian Tirtha

Kunal Joshi (Johns Hopkins)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch**1:45-3:30pm – Panel Three: Spaces of the Non-Metropolitan**

Chair: David Boyk

Capital's Mofussil Birth: Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Banking in Madras Presidency

Jon Wilson (King's College London)

Metropolitan Ambitions and Mofussil Belonging in South India

Harini Kumar (University of Chicago)

The Calcutta Improvement Trust, Paras, and the Multiple Meanings of Property in Calcutta (1911-1930)

Nabaparna Ghosh (Babson College)

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break**3:45-4:15pm – Round Table Consideration****4:15-4:30pm – Thanks and closing remarks****4:30-5:30pm – Joint Session with "From Space into Property: Urban South Asia Symposium"**

Himalayan Policy Research Conference

8:30am-5:30pm; Conference Room 3

Organizer – Sakib Mahmud (University of Wisconsin-Superior)

Organizer - Alok Bohara (University of New Mexico)

8:30-11:00am – Session 1: Health outcomes and mitigation strategies

Chair: Kesana Srinivasa Rao (Social Science Baha)

Diffusion of Health Innovations for Nepali Adolescents: A Pilot Study on Indirect Mental Costs and Cultural Context Considerations

Siobhan Yilmaz (University of New Mexico)

Mothers' vs Daughters' Intentions to Vaccinate Against HPV and Their Willingness to Pay in Nepal

Mandy Liu (University of New Mexico)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break*Effect of Social Networks on the Emotional Well-being of Cancer Patients*

Disha Shende (University of New Mexico)

Discussants: Disha Shende, Siobhan Yilmaz

11:00am-2:15pm – Food Security, employment and Human Capital

Chair: Anisha Bhattarai (Social Science Baha)

Food and Nutrition Security in Nepal

Keshav Bhattarai (University of Central Missouri)

Mahmoud Yousef

Nabina Nepal

Does Microfinance Increase Food Security? Evidence from Nepal

Muhammad Adnan Shahid (University of New Mexico)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch Break*Skill development and employment prospects in india: a case study of uttar pradesh*

Kesana Srinivasa Rao (Giri Institute of Development Studies)

Hypergamy and Human Capital: An Inquiry into the Indian Marriage and Labor Markets

Soumyajit Chakraborty (University of New Mexico)

Discussants: Srinivasa Rao, Soumyajit Chakraborty, Muhammad Adnan Shahid, Keshav Bhattarai

2:15-4:45pm – Session 3: Environment, Natural Disaster, and Adaptation

Chair: Siobhan Yilmaz (University of New Mexico)

Can access to natural capital, public programs, and remittances influence private defensive strategies of vulnerable coastal communities against natural disaster? Evidence from the coastal areas of Bangladesh

Sakib Mahmud (University of Wisconsin-Superior)

A.K. Enamul Haque (East West University)

Kolpona E. Costa (East West University)

Zahir H. Khan (Transparency International Bangladesh)

Geographic variations in climate adaptation strategies: From the foothills of the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal

Sakib Mahmud (University of Wisconsin-Superior)

Veeshan Rayamajee (North Dakota State University)

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break*Estimating the preference for a better solid waste management system using Choice Experiment Method; A case of Siddharthanagar Municipality, Nepal*

Mohammad Mashiur Rahman (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussants: Mohammad Mashiur Rahman, Sakib Mahmud

Interrogating Infrastructure: Interdisciplinary Conversations across History, Anthropology, and Media Studies

8:30am-5:30pm; Conference Room 4

Organizer – Chandana Anusha (Yale University)

Organizer – Meghna Chaudhuri (New York University)

Organizer – Ayesha Omer (New York University)

8:30-9:00am – Opening Remarks

Leo Coleman (CUNY)

9:00-10:15am – Infrastructure Grounds: Space, Politics, and Ecology

Commentator: Nikhil Anand (University of Pennsylvania)

Living Coasts: The Construction of India's Largest Port in Gujarat
Chandana Anusha (Yale University)

Dust and the Digital Borderland: China's Fiberoptics in Gilgit-Baltistan
Ayesha Omer (NYU)

The Knot of Ecological Time: An Outlet, An Election and an Irrigation Office
Maira Hayat (Stanford University)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break

10:30am-12:15pm – Infrastructure Flows: Labor and Circulation

Commentator: Andrea Wright (College of William and Mary)

Intimate Capital: Gujarati Merchants, Indentured Labor and Itinerant Belonging in Colonial Mauritius
Ketaki Pant (University of Southern California)

Crafting channels and global markets for alternative commodity production in Gujarat
Aditi Halbe (UCLA)

The Truth of Numbers and the Lies of Local Cable Operators: Formalizing Cable Television in South India
Padma Chirumamilla (University of Pennsylvania)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch

1:45-3:30pm – Material Entanglements: Political Economy, Science, and the State

Commentator: Leo Coleman (CUNY)

Colonial Infrastructure and Land Rights in Rural Punjab
Mubbashir Rizvi (Georgetown University)

Financializing Life: Development and the Postcolonial Indian State
Meghna Chaudhuri (NYU)

UID and Technologies of Fixing the Ideal Indian Citizen
Vijayanka Nair (University of Madison-Wisconsin)

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break

3:45-5:00pm – Contested Publics: Technologies, Mediation, and Citizenship

Commentator: Francis Cody (University of Toronto)

Un-fare: Informal public transport in peripheral Bengaluru, India
Jananie Kalyanaraman (UCLA)

Media Infrastructures of Urban Public Space
Tupur Chatterjee (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Coding Kinship: Making Genealogical Infrastructures
Zehra Hashmi (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

5:00-5:30pm – Roundtable: Power Matters- Questions of Race and Caste

Nikhil Anand (University of Pennsylvania) & Andrea Wright (College of William and Mary)

Writing Sri Lanka: Futures Past

8:30am-5:30pm; Conference Room 5

Organizers – Tyler Lehrer (University of Wisconsin–Madison), Luc Bulten (Radboud University)
 Bente de Leede (Leiden University), Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal (Radboud University)
 Deborah Philip (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)

8:30-8:45am – Opening Remarks (Organizers)**8:45-10:15am** – Panel 1: Of Places and Persons: Questions of Identity

Discussant: Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Sri Lanka, the Island State: The Cartographic Violence of Nation Building in South Asia
 Shelby E. Ward (Tusculum University)

Town Planning in Colombo by Sir Patrick Geddes
 Ramla Wahab-Salman (American Institute for Lankan Studies)

Becoming Burgher: Creole Pasts and Diasporic Imaginaries in 19th Century Ceylon
 Deborah Philip (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)

Enduring Identifications?: Examining Durabilities of Colonial Identifications in Post-war Sri Lanka
 Andi Schubert (Open University of Sri Lanka)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break**10:30am-12:15pm** – Panel 2: Religious Contacts: Collaboration, Conflict and Negotiation

Discussant: Satish Kolluri (Pace University)

Children Between Company and Church: Subject-Making and Negotiation in Dutch Colonial Sri Lanka, ca. 1650-1790
 Bente de Leede (Leiden University)

'This State Owed Much to the Jaffna Tamil:.' Religion and Migration of Tamils Between Jaffna and Malaysia, 1867-1932
 Kristina Hodelin Ter-Wal (Radboud University)

Phra Upāli and Maritime Monks in Eighteenth-Century Dutch Colonial Southern Asia
 Tyler A. Lehrer (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch Break**2:00-3:30pm** – Panel 3: Colonial Interactions: Loca Agents Through the Lens of Imperial Documentation

Discussant: Kalyani Ramnath (Harvard University)

The Deep Dive: Race, Labour and Technology in Ceylon Pearl Diving 1850-1907
 Tamara Fernando (Cambridge University)

Reconsidering Colonial Registration: Documenting People, Property and Labour in Eighteenth Century Dutch Sri Lanka
 Luc Bulten (Radboud University)

Creating 'Native' Jury Trials: Public Participation and Ethnic Differentiation in Sri Lanka, 1812-1833
 Paul Halliday (University of Virginia)

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break**3:45-5:15pm** – Panel 4: Scholarly Encounters: Learning Buddhism, History and Power

Discussant: Anne M. Blackburn (Cornell University)

Locating the 'self' Between Historical and Ahistorical Critical Traditions in Ananda Coomarswamy's The Living Thoughts of Gotama the Buddha
 Samitha Senanayake (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

The Mahābodhivamsa and the Formation of Buddhist Identity in Medieval Sri Lanka
 Stephen Berkwitz (Missouri State University)

Doing History in the Dēvālaya: Buddhist Deities and the Devolution of Power
 Alex McKinley (Colgate University)

5:15-5:30pm – Closing Remarks

John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

Religion at Work: Gods, Goddesses, and Occult Powers in the Lives and Livelihoods of India's Artisans, Technicians, and Manufacturers

8:30am-5:30pm; Capitol Ballroom A

Organizer – Ken George (Australian National University)

Organizer – Kirin Narayan

8:30-9:00am – Welcome & Introductions

Ken George & Kirin Narayan

8:00-10:15am – Session 1: Sciences and Occult Technologies

Presenters: Renny Thomas; Prashant Kumar; Projit Mukharji

Discussion Moderated by Ken George

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break

10:30-11:45am – Session 2: Infrastructures, Machines, Technicities

Presenters: Miho Ishii; Vineeta Sinha; Ken George

Discussion Moderated by Projit Mukharji

11:45am-12:15pm – Session 3: Vocabularies of Description and Analysis

Discussion: All

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch

1:45-3:30pm – Session 4: Artisanship, Art, Myth, and Material

Presenters: Vijaya Ramaswamy; Sowparnika Balaswaminathan; Anthony Lovenheim Irwin; Mahesh Sharma

Discussion Moderated by Kirin Narayan

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break

3:45-4:30pm – Session 5: Artisanship, Art, Myth, and Material (continued)

Presenters: Cynthia Packert; Kirin Narayan

Discussion Moderated by Anthony Lovenheim Irwin

4:30-5:30pm – Session 6: Reflections and Directions: Religion at Work

Discussion: All

Postcolonial Archives: Networks, Objects, Collaborations, Absences

8:30am-5:30pm; Wisconsin Ballroom

Organizer – Anjali Nerlekar (Rutgers University)

Organizer – B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Organizer – Francesca Orsini (SOAS, University of London)

8:30-8:45am – Opening remarks**8:45-10:15am – Panel 1: Writerly Archives: Objects***The Alter-Archive: The Salman Rushdie Papers at Emory University*

Deepika Bahri (Emory University)

The Sisyphean Effort of Adil Jussawalla's Collection in the Cornell Bombay Archives

Anjali Nerlekar (Rutgers University)

Archiving the Modern: the Ravi Dayal and Sagarmoy Ghosh Papers

Abhijit Gupta

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break**10:30am-12:15pm – Panel 2: Theory and Politics of Archives***Revolutionary Archives*

J. Daniel Elam (University of Hong Kong)

Indian Nationalism and the Anti-colonial Archive: Exploring Metropolitan Locations

Neelam Srivastava (Newcastle University)

Postcolonial Records, Refugee Realities: The UNHCR Archives in Geneva

B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Our Library is a Colonial Entity: The Postcolonial Realities of Libraries and Efforts to Decolonize Them

Todd M. Ambelang (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch**1:45-3:30pm – Panel 3: Archives and Locations of Activism***The Archive of Literary Activism: The Magazine, the Short Story, and the World in 1950s India*

Francesca Orsini (SOAS)

'The Archive of Minority: 'little' Magazines and the Politics of Friendship in Postcolonial Bombay

Laetitia Zecchini (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)

'These Eyes Can Peek into the Future: Women's Print Periodicals in 1960s Pakistan

Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania)

Authors, Activists, Archivists: Reading Dalit Literature Across Languages, Genre, Media

Christi Merrill (University of Michigan)

3:30-3:45pm – Coffee Break**3:45-5:15pm – Panel 4: Beyond Print: Material and Visual Archives***Material Archives: Excavating History through Archaeological Sites*

Tamara Sears (Rutgers University)

When the Movies Couldn't Talk: Archives and Archival Research on Silent Cinema in India

Anupama Prabhala Kapse (Loyola Marymount University)

Thinking through the Films Division of India Archives: Three Scenes of Disillusionment

Vikrant Dadawala (University of Pennsylvania)

Journeys ↔ Queer Elsewheres: A Symposium on South Asian Imaginaries

8:30am-5:30pm; University A/B

Organizers – Jeff Roy (Cal Poly Pomona), Omar Kasmani (Freie Universität Berlin)
Pavithra Prasad (California State University, Northridge)**8:30-10:15am – Opening Roundtable Session and Breakfast with Symposium Co-organizers**Omar Kasmani (Freie Universität Berlin)
Pavithra Prasad (California State University, Northridge)
Jeff Roy (Cal Poly Pomona)**The When + Where of Queer South Asia***Decoloniality and Queer Time in South Asia*
Rumya Sree Putcha (University of Georgia)*Queer technologies of Online Spaces and Offline Places: The Also-here-ness of Queer South Asian Online Elsewheres*

Zoey Martin-Lockhart (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Queer Performativities in Contemporary Pakistan: A Genealogical Approach
Fawzia Afzal-Khan (Montclair State University)**10:15-10:30am – Break****10:30am-12:15pm – Intimate Elsewheres / Queer Phantasms**

Omar Kasmani, moderator

Blue
Momina Masood (University of the Punjab, Lahore)*Nani's Room*
Asad Alvi (Independent Artist)*Searching for the Next Intifada: Exercises in Queer Muslim Futurism*
Zulifkar Ali Bhutto (Visual and Performance Artist)*Indeterminacies, Intimacies, Inseparabilities: Queer Tales of Love and Suffering*
Themal Ellawala (University of Illinois at Chicago)**12:15-1:45pm – Lunch****1:45-3:30pm – Spectral Elsewheres / Queer Archives**

Pavithra Prasad, moderator

Curating Queer South Asian (and Beyond) Pasts, Presents, and Futures
Aziz Sohail (University of California, Irvine)*Outwhere: The Politics and Poetics of a Slow Arrival*
Noor Bhangu (Ryerson University and York University)*Translation, Untranslatability and Desire*
Sadiah Shirazi (Cornell University)*The Eunuch's Body as Discursive Subject: Intimacy, Desire, and Sexual Violence in the Mughal World*
Emma Kalb (University of Chicago)**3:30-3:45pm – Break****3:45-4:45pm – Transnational Circuitries + Queer Borders**

Jeff Roy, moderator

Performing Borderline Memories in Queer Sri Lankanstan
Dinidu Karunanayake (Centre College)*Locating the Queer in Nepal: The "New Queer" vs. "Old LGBTT" School*
Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz (Penn State University)*The Sound of (Queer) Music: Abida Parveen, Falguni Pathak, and South Asian Soundscapes*
Sara Shroff (University of Toronto)**4:45-5:30pm – Symposium Wrap-up Roundtable**

Vulgarity and Power

8:30am-12:15pm; University C/D

Organizer – Shailaja Paik (University of Cincinnati)

8:30-8:50am – Introductions**8:50-10:15am** – Session 1*Gandhi, Brahmacharya and Sexual Science, 1920-1938*

Douglas E. Haynes (Dartmouth College)

Think of the Monkey” and Other Censored Lines: The Co-constitution of science and vulgarity in the Illustrated Joys of Marriage

Ishita Pande (University of Toronto)

Sex in an era of scarcity: Population control and the ‘small family’ in the mid-20th century

Mytheli Sreenivas (OSU)

“Tough Titties”. The Vulgar Production of Settler Sex

Shefali Chandra (Washington University at St. Louis)

10:15-10:30am – Break**10:30-11:55am** – Session II*Indian Sex Life*

Durba Mitra (Harvard University)

Respectability and Strategies of Elite Exclusion

Asiya Alam (Louisiana State University)

Purging Sexual ‘Vulgarity’ with Science: The Socio-Cultural Politics of Sexology in Modern South Asia

Arnav Bhattacharya (University of Pennsylvania)

Performative egalitarianisms and a genealogy of the human in mid-nineteenth century Travancore, south India

Vivek Narayan

12:00-12:15pm – Closing Remarks

Shailaja Paik and Shefali Chandra

On Bangladesh's Recent Pasts and Immanent Futures: Commemorating 30 Years of AIBS

1:45-5:30pm; University C/D

Organizer – Golam Mathbor (Monmouth University)

1:45pm – Opening Remarks

Golam M. Mathbor, AIBS President

2:00pm – Bangladesh's Recent Past

Chair: Sufia Uddin

Three Decades of Bangladesh Politics: The Emergence and Collapse of the Political Settlement

Ali Riaz (Illinois State University)

Bangladesh and its Internationalism: From Democracy to its Foreign Policy

Jessica Tartila Suma

Obydullah Al Marjuk (Independent University)

Democracy in Bangladesh as Aspiration or Chimera

Harry Blair (Yale University)

Investigating Visual Political Allegory in Current Art and Activists Movements in Bangladesh

Amena K. Sharmin (University of Victoria)

3:30-3:45pm – Afternoon Tea Break**3:45pm – Bangladesh's Imminent Future**

Chair: Sanchita Saxena

Rohingya Refugees in the Borderland: Rethinking State Sovereignty of Bangladesh

Sharif Wahab (Indiana University)

Thirst for Energy: Where does Bangladesh Go?

Azmal Hossain (Colorado State University)

The Razor's Edge: Gender Politics and Structural Violence in the Work of Bangladesh Artist Tayeba

Begum Lipi

Melia B. Bose (University of Victoria)

4:30pm – Round Table with AIBS Grantees

Moderator: Frank Korom

Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)

Michael Bowler (Winona State University)

Calynn Dowler (Boston University)

5:15pm – Closing Remarks**5:30-6:30pm – AIBS Reception**

Urdu Insiders, Outsiders, and In-Betweeners

8:30am-12:15pm; Parlor Room 627

Organizer – Walter Hakala (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

8:30-8:45am – Opening Remarks

Walter Hakala (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

8:45-10:15am – Panel One*Delhi's Mastery in Persian and Urdu: Notes from Amīr Khusrau*

Zahra Sabri (McGill University)

Rekhtah as a Language of Translation

Sara Grewal (MacEwan University)

Non-Muslim Voices in Urdu Poetry

Mustafa Menai (University of Pennsylvania)

10:15-10:30am – Coffee Break**10:30am-12:15pm** – Panel Two*The Historical Novel in Urdu (through Abdul Halim Sharar) and its relationship to Arabic and English (through Jurji Zaidan and Walter Scott)*

Maryam Fatima (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Mashriq o maghreb ke naghme: On World Literature and the Songs of Others

Fatima Burney (SOAS, UCL)

Metapoesis in 20th Century Urdu Ghazal: The Case of Firaq Gorakhpuri

Abdul Manan Bhat (University of Pennsylvania)

Jadīdiyat in the Time of Journals: Shabkhūn in Context

Zain R. Mian (University of Pennsylvania)

12:15-1:45 pm – Lunch

South Asian Islam and the Question of 'Minorities': Religion, Pluralism, Violence, and Peace

1:45-5:30pm; Parlor Room 627

Organizer – Laura Dudley Jenkins (University of Cincinnati)

Organizer – SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

1:45-2:00pm – Conference Welcome, Introductions, and Theme Description

2:00-3:30pm – Panel 1: Towards a Genealogy of the “Minority” in South Asian Islam

Respondent: Laura Dudley Jenkins (University of Cincinnati)

The Politics of Dalit Recognition in Pakistan

Ghazal Asif (Johns Hopkins University, Anthropology)

The Rohingya Crisis as the State of Exception

Navine Murshid (Colgate University, Political Science)

Anchoring Constitutionalism in Islam: Abul Kalam Azad, pluralism and public reason in India

Shaunna Rodrigues (Columbia University, MESAAS)

3:30-3:45pm – All Conference Break

3:45-5:15pm – Panel 2: Author-meets-critics session and book discussion

Simon Fuchs' *In a Pure Muslim Land: Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East* (UNC Press, 2019)

Respondent: Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania); Rizwan Zamir (Davidson College)

Electronic copies of select chapters for discussion will be sent to symposium participants ahead of time.

Please email Laura.Jenkins@uc.edu if you are not on the list below and are planning to attend, so you can receive these pdfs.

5:15-5:30pm – Closing Roundtable: Engaging as a public intellectual on the question of minorities

7:30pm – Dinner and continuing discussion at a local restaurant

Bhakti Visualities: Imaging Devotion in the Visual Arts

8:30am-5:30pm; Parlor Room 629

Organizer – Karen Pechilis (Drew University)

Organizer – Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)

8:30-8:45am – Symposium Meet and Greet**8:45-9:00am** – Symposium Opening Remarks**9:00-10:15am** – Performing New Bhakti Social Messages*Contemporary Performing Arts, Bhakti and Social Justice*
Karen Pechilis (Drew University)*Expanding Meanings of Bhakti Through Bengali American Women's Home Shrine Image-Making*
Ashlee Andrews (University of North Carolina Greensboro)*The Popularization of Royal Hanumans: Visually Reconfiguring Bhakti for Modernity*
Jeremy Saul (University of Michigan)**10:15-10:30am** – All Conference Break**10:30am-12:15pm** – Materiality as Bhakti Presence*Imagining the Blind Poet—and through Him*
Jack Hawley (Columbia)*The Visual Expression of Bhakti in a Vaiṣṇavite Community: Paintings in the Devotional Life of the Puṣṭi Mārga*
Shandip Saha (Athabasca University)*Temple Padams on Copperplates: Visual Imageries of a Telugu Bhakti Poet*
Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)*Darshan in Twelve Ways: Visualizing Godhead in the Early Swaminarayan Tradition*
Ankur Desai (University of Wisconsin-Madison)**12:15-1:45pm** – Lunch**2:00-3:30pm** – Unexpected Portraits of Bhakti*Devotional Songs of India's Mona Lisa*
Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)*'Neither am I Hindu, nor Muslim': The Legacy of Poet-Saint Kabir in the Visual and Literary Culture of Early Modern Muslim South Asia*
Murad Khan Mumtaz*Visual Affirmations: Guru Nithyananda's Self-Portraits in Film and Sculpture*
Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)**3:30-3:45pm** – All Conference Break**3:45-5:30pm** – Mass Production and Circulation of Bhakti Images*The Beginnings of Mass-Produced Devotional Prints*
Richard Davis (Bard College)*The Agency of Digital Images of Krishna within the ISKCON Movement*
Nicole Karapanagiotis (Rutgers University)*Hashtag Devotion: Re-imaging Bhakti on Instagram*
Emilia Bachrach (Oberlin College)**5:00-5:30pm** – Identification and discussion of overarching connections and generative ideas from and across presentations

Shifting Sites, Spaces, and Selves: Analyzing Ethnographic Practices in South Asia Over Time

8:30am-5:30pm; Parlor Room 634

Organizer – Jennifer Ortegren (Middlebury College)

Organizer – Amy Allocco (Elon University)

8:30-8:45am – Introductions

Amy Allocco and Jenn Ortegren

8:40-10:15am – Session I – Crossing Time, Crossing Disciplines

Discussion led by Amy L. Allocco

Old Fieldwork, New Memories, Mixed Feelings

Ann Gold (Syracuse University)

When a Hometown Boy Studies Its Religious Life: Some Complications of Moving Back In

Dan Gold (Cornell University)

Tracking the Rhythms of Religion: Practicing Ethnography, Studying Religion

Carter Higgins

10:15-10:30am – Break**10:30am-12:15pm – Session II – Shifting Forms of Self and Other**

Discussion led by Jennifer D. Ortegren

Ethnographic Turning

Joanne Waghorne (Syracuse University)

Musings on the Ethics of Self-Representation in Ethnographic Research

Emilia Bachrach (Oberlin College)

Ethnography in the Interim: Selves and Others at the Fieldsite Between Fieldsites

Drew Thomase (San Diego State University)

Surprised by Awkwardness: The Art of Field Conversations Over Time and Space

Corinne Dempsey (Nazareth College)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch**1:45-3:30pm – Session III – “So Call Me Maybe?”: How Email and Phones in the Change Research and Relationships**

Discussion led by Amy L. Allocco

Dis/Connect: Fieldwork in a Technological Age

Lauren Deonnie Moodie (Oklahoma University)

App-otheosis: texts and contexts

Carla Bellamy (Baruch College, City University of New York)

Email as Archive: Approaching the Self as Ethnographic Subject

Jennifer D. Ortegren (Middlebury College)

3:30-3:45pm – Break**3:45-5:00pm – Session IV – Digital Fieldsites***Chainpur, the Virtual Village, and Challenges of Depicting Multiple Dimensions of Rural Life*

Peter Gottschalk (Wesleyan University)

@PorousGeographies: Insider-Outsider Dynamics in the Twenty-First Century

Luke Whitmore (University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point)

Shifting Technologies of Reflection: Gendered Realities, Everyday Religion and Lessons for Feminist Mentoring

Amy Allocco (Elon University)

5:00-5:30pm – Discussion

Jennifer D. Ortegren

From Space into Property: Urban South Asia Symposium

8:30am-5:30pm; Parlor Room 638

Organizer – Eric Beverley (State University of New York, Stony Brook)

Organizer – Nikhil Rao (Wellesley College)

Organizer – Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)

8:30-9:00am – Introductions and Thematic Overview**9:00-10:15am – Panel 1. Agents of Urban Property: Brokers, Fixers, Activists**

Chair & Discussant: Svati Shah (University of Massachusetts)

Tacit Knowledge and Stated Claims: The Protean Forms of Urban Property

Anant Maringanti (Hyderabad Urban Lab)

Bombay Brokers

Lisa Bjorkman (University of Louisville)

Petitioning the Corporate Sovereign: An Activist's Story

Mircea Raianu (University of Maryland)

10:15-10:30am – Break**10:30am-12:15pm – Panel 2. Public Planning: Private Building**

Chair & Discussant: Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)

Urban Informality in Postcolonial Delhi

Divya Subramanian (Columbia University)

A Tale of Two Real Estate Firms: Speculative Construction in Delhi, 1947–59

Anish Vanaik (Jindal Global Law School)

Rental Properties: The Role of Materiality and Aesthetics in Informal Retail in Islamabad

Faiza Moatasim (University of Southern California)

Marble Finish: Images of Home and Materials in Post-liberalization Bangalore

Curt Gambetta (Princeton University)

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch**1:45-3:30pm – Panel 3. Friction & Flows across Scales**

Chair & Discussant: Eric Beverley (SUNY–Stony Brook)

Recombinant Urbanization: Agrarian–Urban Landed Property and Uneven Development in India

Sai Balakrishnan (Harvard University)

A Scaffolding for Real Estate: Confluences of Industry, Family, and National Development in the Indo-Gangetic Belt

Namita Dharia (Rhode Island School of Design)

Populating Post-colonial Rangoon: Planning, Moving, and Satellite Towns from the 1940s through the 1980s

Michael Sugarman (Bristol University)

Nehruvian Development at the Urban Scale: Life Insurance, Income-tax, and the Ownership Flat in Bombay

Nikhil Rao (Wellesley College)

3:30-3:45pm – Break**3:45-4:30pm – Roundtable: Contemporary Urban Property & its Lineages**

Moderator: Svati Shah (University of Massachusetts)

*Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)**Svati Shah (University of Massachusetts)**Eric Beverley (SUNY–Stony Brook)***4:30-5:30pm – Panel 4. Joint Session with “Mofussil Moderns” Symposium**

STM in South Asia- Body Horizons: Expressive, Sensory, and Material Negotiations Across South Asian Scientific and Medical Traditions

8:30am-5:30pm; Private Dining Room (PDR)

Organizer – Lisa Brooks (University of California, Berkeley)

Organizer – Victoria Sheldon (University of Toronto)

8:30-8:40am – Welcome and Introductory Remarks

8:40-9:45am – Session 1: Creation and Generation

Dwai Banerjee

Martha Selby

Bharat Venkat

Moderator: Sarah Pinto

9:45-10:15am – Session 2: Making and Unmaking

Anthony Cerulli

Sondra Hausner

Lily Shapiro

Moderator: Martha Selby

10:15-10:30am – Tea/Coffee break

10:35-11:10am – Session 2 Discussion

11:10am-12:15pm – Session 3: Sense and Sense-abilities

Lisa Brooks

Sabrina Datto

Arafaat Valiani

Moderator: Bharat Venkat

12:15-1:45pm – Lunch

1:50-2:55pm – Session 4: Minds, Bodies and the Multiple

Sarah Pinto

Victoria Sheldon

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan

Moderator: Anthony Cerulli

2:55-3:25pm – Session 5: Translation

Andrew Amstutz

Sree Padma Holt

Moderator: Kavita Sivaramakrishnan

3:30-3:45pm – Tea/Coffee break

3:45-4:20pm – Session 5 Discussion

4:30-5:30pm – Synthesis Discussion: Body Horizons

Performance



Sapna Kumar Stand-Up Comedian

Thursday, 9:00 pm - 9:45 pm

Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)

Sapna Kumar was featured at the Olivia Travel's 40th Anniversary celebration in the Dominican Republic, with headliner Wanda Sykes. Other stand-up credits include LOGO TV's One Night Stand-Up 9, as a regional finalist for NBC's Last Comic Standing 4, and clips on ComedyTime.TV.

Sapna is also active in independent film. Her self-produced short "Sapphic Press" screened at the Reeling International Film Festival in Chicago, the Queer Women of Color Arts Project in San Francisco, and America's Rainbow Film Festival in New York. She is also a part of the cast of the hit web series Easy Abby (Season 2) on revry.tv.

This event is free and open to the public.

Room		Session 1, 8:30am - 10:15am		Session 2, 10:30am - 12:15pm
Assembly Room	Coffee Break — 8:00 am - 8:30 am — University Foyer (second floor)	Movements in the 'After': Crafting Responses to New Political Imperatives	Coffee Break — 10:15 am - 10:30 am — University Foyer (second floor)	Empire and Liberalism in Colonial India
Caucus Room		Stone Bead Technologies of Harappa, the Indus Tradition, and Beyond		Regional Styles of Indus Seals, Faience Ornaments, and Pottery of the Indus Cities
Senate Room A		Imaging Identity: Discourses and Technologies of Caste and Color in South Asia		5 Years of Swachh Bharat: A retrospective on caste, power and governance through the lens of sanitation
Senate Room B		Imagining Rural Futures Through Land and Power		Between Disparity and Despair: Labor as a New Site of Claim-making
Conference 1		Mādhva Vedānta in Context: Charisma, Critique, and the Legitimation of a Religious Movement, 1300-1600		Southern Style: Parallel Developments across Kannada and Telugu Poetics
Conference 2		Reframing Literary Traditions in Precolonial Contexts		Reframing Literary Traditions in Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts
Conference 3		'Mapping the world and self': travel and geographical imagination(s) in South Asia and the Empire		Environmental Histories, Politics, and Management
Conference 4		Art, Citizens, and the State in Nehruvian India		Arts of the body: Visions of Exceptional Bodies in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia
Conference 5		From Devotional Sentiment to Science: Innovations in Chaitanya Vaishnava Epistemology		Eating in and out of South Asia: dynamic histories of food in modernity
Capitol Ballroom A		Abundant Events, Present Pasts and Future Imaginings: Robert Orsi's Metric of Presence in Hindu Contexts		Challenging the Boundaries of Pilgrimage in South Asia
Capitol Ballroom B		Marking Heteronormative Masculinity : Possible Directions to Theorize Neoliberal, Visual, Literary, Digital Representations of South Asian Masculinities		The Importance of Being 'Educated': Women, Learning, and Mobility in Modern India
Wisconsin Ballroom		Mediating Multiplicities: Examining the Politics and Aesthetics of Indian Media Industries		The Subjects of "Reality": Celebrity, Performance and Value on the South Asian Small Screen
Madison Ballroom		Book Exhibit Room		Book Exhibit Room
University A/B		Vicarious Creation: Histories and Ethnographies of Economic Sublimation in India		Translating the Sciences in Modern South Asia, 1848-1951
University C/D		Contesting Narratives: Representations of South Asian Urbanism		Communal Marginalization, Displacement and Citizenship in South Asia/India
Parlor Room 627		Metaphors and Ideology in the Works of V S Naipaul		Lying as a Tool of Governance: Con "Artistry" in Sri Lanka's Political Economy
Parlor Room 629		Contesting Memories of Muslim South Asia: Myth, Hagiography, and Narrative		At the Margins: Muslims in India
Parlor Room 634		Hungry Translations: Relearning the World Through Radical Vulnerability. Author Meets Critics RoundTable		Songs of Exchange: Music and Identity in South Asia
Parlor Room 638		Vishwakarma and the Art of Crafting		Technologies of Control, Dissent and Conformity: Traversing Colonial and (Post)Colonial Visual Cultures

Room	Session 3, 1:45pm - 3:30pm	Session 4, 3:45pm - 5:30pm
Assembly Room	The Forties: The Past and Future of India's International Engagements	South Asia from its edges: border-subjects and the fashioning of empires and nations
Caucus Room	The Foundations of South Asian Cuisine: Indus Foodways in Urban and Rural Settlements	Recent Advances in the Archaeology of South Asia: Regional Surveys, Excavations, and Analyses, PART 1
Senate Room A	Arts of governance, criminality and identity: Rethinking the 'criminal tribes' in colonial and postcolonial India	Caste, Distributive Politics, and Preferential Policies in India in a Comparative Perspective
Senate Room B	Caste, Labor and Transnational solidarity activism	New Directions in South Asian Labor History
Conference 1	History and Collective Memory in South Asia's Many Pasts	The Ethics of Aesthetics in Mahābhārata Commentaries and Retellings
Conference 2	Adaptiveness in Urdu Across Fields and Genres	Book Roundtable: Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh (Stanford University Press, July 2019) by Nusrat S Chowdhury
Conference 3	The Human-Elephant Boundary in South Asia: Interspecies Conflict, Conflicts of Interest, and Coexistence	Creative Practices of Coolie and Former Coolie Populations in the Indian Ocean
Conference 4	Rethinking the Political in and through the North Indian Public Sphere (c.19th-20th centuries)	Complicating Narratives of "Reform" and "Reformers" in Colonial India
Conference 5	Energy Transitions at Home: Cooking, Lighting, Cooling, Building	Study Abroad in India: Facilitating American students' critical reflections on positionality and 'location'
Capitol Ballroom A	Corporate Gods and Sacred Development: Toward a Genealogy of Market Religion	Placing Rāmānuja within the Intellectual History of the Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition
Capitol Ballroom B	Marrying for a Future: Marriage as Artistry in South Asia	Online Lives, Offline Lives: Women and Digital Platforms in Contemporary India
Wisconsin Ballroom	The Space of the Studio: Caste, Gender, Labor, and Technology Practices in the Prabhat Film Company	
Madison Ballroom	Book Exhibit Room	Book Exhibit Room
University A/B	The Art of Record-Keeping in South Asia: Beyond the Colonial Archive	Virtual Piety, Networked Theology: Making Digital South Asian Religious Communities
University C/D	Keeping Cities in Motion: Building, Repairing and Maintaining Urban South Asia	Hyderabad and the Nineteenth Century
Parlor Room 627	The Art of Kinship: Re-making Family in Sri Lanka	The histories and afterlives of dispossession: a comparison of Lahore and Colombo
Parlor Room 629	Muslims and Encounters with the Indian State	Borders and Boundaries in South Asian Islam
Parlor Room 634	A Midsummer Night's Bollywood Dream in Hawaii	Sound Cultures, Sound Disruptions
Parlor Room 638	Artistic Constructions: The Treal, The Virtual, and The Dream World(s)	Jahaan tedi yeh nazar hai! Theories of the gaze beyond darshan

University Foyer (second floor)
Coffee Break — 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Movements in the 'After': Crafting Responses to New Political Imperatives

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Vithya Subramaniam (University of Oxford)

Sushmita Sircar (NYU)

Aftermaths of the World War: Claiming Military Identity in India's Northeastern States

Vithya Subramaniam (University of Oxford)

Memory after Bluestar: Creative Cartography as Strategic Memory Work

Nizar Ahmad (University of Peshawar)

Pakhtun Hujra: A Peace Friendly Space

Simona Vittorini (SOAS)

#GandhiMustFall – Statues, the politics of memory and the rewriting of history

Ishani Dasgupta (University of Pennsylvania)

*Collateral Damage: Implications of the "Global War on Terror" on the Tibetan Resistance Movement***Stone Bead Technologies of Harappa, the Indus Tradition and Beyond**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Randall W. Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair - Gregg M. Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Randall Law

The geologic provenience and exchange of Harappan steatite beads: Part 1 - Building a new geologic INAA database to source heated, low-weight beads

Brad Chase (Albion College)

Geologic provenience and circulation of Harappan steatite beads: Part 2 - Developing a database of published collections

Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Stone Bead Technology and Artistry at Harappa: New insights on shaping and perforation of soft stone beads and hard stone beads

Geoffrey E. Ludvik (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

*From the Indus to the Aegean: New Evidence for Indus Style Carnelian Beads at Mycenae, Greece***Imaging Identity: Discourses and Technologies of Caste and Color in South Asia**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Victoria Gross (Columbia University)

Helena Reddington (McGill University)

Poets, Princes, and Soldiers with Dutch Guns: Caste and Social Satire in the Tullal Genre of Kerala

Rumela Sen (Cornell University)

Richard Bownas (University of Northern Colorado)

Caste Inequality and Class Politics: The Revolutionary Left in India and Nepal

Victoria Gross (Columbia University)

Resurgent Heroes and Resistance to State Power: Caste and Politics in South India

Ketaki Jaywant (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

The 'shudra-artisan' in anti-caste discourse in nineteenth-century western India

Anirban Baishya (University of Southern California)

Selfies and the Epidermal Politics of Fairness in India

Imagining Rural Futures Through Land and Power

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Andrew Flachs (Purdue University)

Andrew Flachs (Purdue University)

Creative rural solutions amid agrarian crisis and cotton capitalism in Telangana, India

Sadaf Javed (Rutgers University)

From Chipko to Baranaja: Untangling the politics around agroecology in Uttarakhand (North India)

Pallavi Raonka (Virginia Tech)

Munda and Land- Understanding Indigeneity in the Neoliberal Jharkhand, India

Vivekananda Nemana (Princeton University)

*The Inheritance of Uncertainty: Coming of Age after the End of Farming in Rural India***Mādhva Vedānta in Context: Charisma, Critique, and the Legitimation of a Religious Movement, 1300-1600**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Jonathan Peterson (University of Toronto)

Discussant / Chair - Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)

Anusha Sudindra Rao (University of Toronto)

Madhva's Draupadi: Deification and The Question of Qualification in Madhva's Theology

Valerie Stoker

In Charisma's Wake: Madhva's First Disciples get Organized

Nabanjan Maitra (University of Chicago)

The Ends Justify the Meanings

Jonathan Peterson (University of Toronto)

*Critique and Catharsis in Western Kanara: The Anti-Jain Polemics of Vādirāja***Reframing Literary Traditions in Precolonial Contexts**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer - Jason Smith (Harvard Divinity School)

Discussant / Chair - Srilata Raman

Nicole Ferreira (University of California, Berkeley)

Writing Afghan History, Writing Afghan Mobility: Imagining an Afghan Community in Mughal India

Kashi Gomez (University of California, Berkeley)

Ghanaśyāma, his Co-wives, and their Linguistic Division of Labor

Sophia Nasti (Harvard)

Exploring the Contours of a Śaiva Landscape in Māṇikkavācakar's Tīruvācakam and Tīrukkōvaiyār

Jason Smith (Harvard Divinity School)

The Tacit Literary Strategies of the Tīrukkura!

‘Mapping the world and self’: travel and geographical imagination(s) in South Asia and the Empire

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer - Rajashree Mazumder (Union College)

Discussant / Chair - Subho Basu (McGill University)

Tapsi Mathur (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

In the Service of Empire: Natives and Trans-frontier Exploration in Colonial India

Rajashree Mazumder (Union College)

‘In Search of Mammon’s Treasure Trove’: Hemendrakumar Roy’s ‘Artistry’ in Use of Travel in Bengali Children’s Adventure Literature

Subho Basu (McGill University)

Drum Beats of Death: Nonviolent Masculinity, War and Anti Imperial adventures of Bengali Men

Emma Alexander (University of Winnipeg)

Imperial Subject Youth: Challenging Exclusions on ‘Asiatic’ ‘Travel’

Art, Citizens, and the State in Nehruvian India

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Nikhil Menon (University of Notre Dame)

Discussant / Chair - Arvind Rajagopal (New York University)

Isabel Huacuja Alonso (California State University San Bernardino)

All India Radio and the “Sound Standards” of a Newly Independent India

Nikhil Menon (University of Notre Dame)

Performing Development: Art and ‘Democratic Planning’ in the Nehruvian State

Anthony Acciavatti

Design in the Age of Domes

Ateya Khorakiwala (University of British Columbia)

Filming Roads at the Peripheries of the State: Spatial and Aesthetic Logics of the Films Division of India

From Devotional Sentiment to Science: Innovations in Chaitanya Vaishnava Epistemology

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Aleksandar Uskokov (Yale University)

Discussant / Chair - Gary Tubb (University of Chicago)

Kiyokazu Okita (Sophia University)

Who Experiences Bhakti-rasa? The Nature of Devotional Practice According to Jīva Gosvāmī

Aleksandar Uskokov (Yale University)

Conceptualized, Immediate, and Yogic – Jīva Gosvāmin’s Theology and Epistemology of Perception

Travis Chilcott (Iowa State University)

“Conceptualized Perceptions of the Learned”: Theorizing Historically-Embedded References to Direct Perceptions of Kṛṣṇa

Abhishek Ghosh (Grand Valley State University)

Modern Hinduism, Natural Sciences, and Civilizational Difference

Abundant Events, Present Pasts and Future Imaginings: Robert Orsi's Metric of Presence in Hindu Contexts

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Nancy M. Martin (Chapman University)

Nancy M. Martin (Chapman University)

Troubling the Boundaries of Past and Present: Indira Devi's Extraordinary Encounters with Mirabai

Mark McLaughlin (College of William and Mary)

A Samādhi and Its Matrix of Presence

Patrick Beldio (Bard High School Early College)

The Abundance of the Integral Yoga: A Case Study of Robert Orsi's Theory of Presence in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram

Vijaya Nagarajan (University of San Francisco)

The Kolam, Bhudevi, and Climate: "Intersubjective Receptivity" and "Presence" in Hindu Mythology, Ritual and Everyday Life

Marking Heteronormative Masculinity : Possible Directions to Theorize Neoliberal, Visual, Literary, Digital Representations of South Asian Masculinities

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Amrita De (SUNY Binghamton)

Amrita De (SUNY Binghamton)

Of 'Videshi' Interlocutors and Desi Encounters: Where Lies the Post in "Post-Colonial" Masculinities?

Poonam Singh

Redefining the Contours of Dalit Masculinity in Indian Social System

Daniel Dillon (University of Texas at Austin)

Unremarked Difference: Gender and Sexuality at a Jaffna Auto Stand

Mediating Multiplicities: Examining the Politics and Aesthetics of Indian Media Industries

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Nidhi Shrivastava (University of Western Ontario)

Nidhi Shrivastava (University of Western Ontario)

Blurred Lines between Politics and Cinema in the "New" India: The Censorship of Partition Films (1990s – Present)

Anu Thapa (University of Iowa)

Ressurections and Remediations: Digital Technology and Hindu Fundamentalism in Contemporary Hindi Sci-fi/Fantasy Films

Sreenidhi Krishnan (Washington State University)

A Manifesto for Mise-en-scène: Understanding Lives and Livelihood on the Sets of Hindi Soap Operas

Darshana Sreedhar Mini (University of Southern California)

Rhetorics of Labor in Malayalam Film Industry

Vicarious Creation: Histories and Ethnographies of Economic Sublimation in India

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Sean Dowdy (University of Chicago)

Chair - William Mazzarella (University of Chicago)

Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University)

Fueled by Politics: Theaters of Extraction in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley

Aarti Sethi (Brown University)

The Trial of Bodhayana Krishna Shastry: Gold, Sovereignty and the Revolt of 1857

Sean Dowdy (University of Chicago)

Blood and Money: Or, the Gendered Transposition of Sorcery in Mayong

Anand Taneja (Vanderbilt University)

*Demonetization and the Bazar of Love: The Economics of Indian Muslim Political Imaginaries in the Age of Hindutva***Contesting Narratives: Representations of South Asian Urbanism**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer - Paroma Wagle (University of California, Irvine)

Discussant / Chair - Shelby Ward (Virginia Tech)

Matt Husain (The University of British Columbia)

Who Reaps the Benefit? – Dual Hegemony and Politics of Development in Bangladesh

Paroma Wagle (University of California, Irvine)

Narratives about Water-Access from City of Mumbai: Understanding Contestation in terms of Values, Perceptions, Perspectives, and Preferences of Key Actors

Alisa Weinstein (Syracuse University)

Doctors of Clothing: the art and science of tailors in Jaipur, India

Aman Banerji (Cornell University)

Contested Urbanization in Bangalore: Legitimizing De-industrialization & Speculation

Shelby Ward (Virginia Tech)

Ranitri Weerasuriya (Columbia University)

*The right to (map) the city: collective mapping practices of 'Downtown Colombo'***Metaphors and Ideology in the Works of V S Naipaul**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - J. Vijay Maharaj (The University of the West Indies)

J. Vijay Maharaj (The University of the West Indies)

Figurative Language and Ideology in V S Naipaul's Oeuvre

Serikha Singh

Translating the Ramayana: A V. S. Naipaul Project

Meghan Cleghorn (The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)

Kinky Metaphors: Painted nipples and Political overtones

Kerry-Ann Abdool-Ramjattan

A Literary Indo-Caribbean Port of Spain: Ismith Khan's and V S Naipaul's

Contesting Memories of Muslim South Asia: Myth, Hagiography, and Narrative

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Hunter Bandy (North Carolina State University)

Hunter Bandy (North Carolina State University)

Recovering the Marghub al-qulub of Ṣadr Jahañ Ṭabasī: Iranian Sufism, Deccan Shī'ism, and the Destiny of a Sultanate

Anabelle Suitor (Brown University)

Pir Badr and His Genre: Narrating the Bay of Bengal's Fisheries in Chittagong, Bangladesh

Daniel Morgan (SALC)

Controversial dreams: the oneiric afterlives of Shāh Walī Allāh of Delhi

Fuad Naeem (Gustavus Adolphus College)

*Shāh Walī Allāh of Delhi as philosopher and Sufi: revisiting his legacy through his earliest interpreters***Hungry Translations: Relearning the world through radical vulnerability. Author Meets Critics Roundtable**

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer - Sangeeta Kamat (UMASS Amherst)

Chair - Madhumita Dutta (The Ohio State University)

Richa Nagar (University of Minnesota)

Nimanthi Rajasingham (Colgate University)

Christine Garlough (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sirisha Naidu

Sangeeta Kamat (UMASS Amherst)

Vishwakarma and the Art of Crafting

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Vijaya Ramaswamy (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Sowparnika Balaswaminathan (University of California San Diego)

Performing Authenticity: The Aesthetics and Labor of South Indian Bronzecasting

Vijaya Ramaswamy (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Crafts versus Consumerism: Reflections on Indian Craft History

Renny Thomas

The Grammar of Crafting: An Ethnography of Tools, Tool Worship and Tool Makers

Jaya Jaitly

*Jaya Jaitly The Place of Abhyasa in Crafting***End of Session 1**

Empire and Liberalism in Colonial India

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Cynthia Farid (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair - Mrinalini Sinha (University of Michigan)

Jon Wilson

The Illiberalism of Empire

Nazmul Sultan (The University of Chicago)

Empire, Popular Sovereignty, and the Dilemma of Colonial Liberalism

Cynthia Farid (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*High Politics in Low Places: Institutional Conflicts and Separation of Powers in Colonial Bengal (1858-1935)***Regional Styles of Indus Seals, Faience Ornaments and Pottery of the Indus Cities**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Discussant / Chair - Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Marta Ameri (Colby College)

Practice makes perfect? Craft and artistry in the production of Indus seals

Gregg M. Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Inscribed Seals from Dholavira: A Comparative Analysis of Carving Styles and Techniques

Sneha Chavali (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Faience Beads from Bagasra, Gujarat: A regional perspective on faience production during the Harappa Phase (2600-1900 BCE)

Heidi J. Miller (Middlesex Community College)

*Form and Function of ceramic vessels from the Indus Valley Civilization***5 Years of Swachh Bharat: A retrospective on caste, power and governance through the lens of sanitation**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Lindsay Vogt (University of California Santa Barbara)

Kelly Alley

Beyond the state: emergent forms of household governance for wastewater treatment and reuse in India

Shreyas Sreenath (Emory University)

Making and unmaking a manual scavenger: sanitation and caste power in India's IT capital

Lindsay Vogt (University of California Santa Barbara)

Calling all psychologists, trainers, and market specialists: Development as a Culture Industry

Between Disparity and Despair: Labor as a New Site of Claim-making

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer - Simanti Dasgupta (University of Dayton)

Discussant / Chair - Purnima Bose (Indiana University)

Mona Bhan (DePauw University)

No Work, No Pay: Curfewed Days and the (un)making of National Time

Sirisha Naidu

Reflections on Land, Gender and Social Reproduction in India

Maura Finkelstein (Muhlenberg College)

The Vitality of Anachronism: Time and Labor in Mill Land Mumbai

Simanti Dasgupta (University of Dayton)

*The Labor of Risk: Sex Work Movement and HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Sonagachi***Southern Style: Parallel Developments across Kannada and Telugu Poetics**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)

Discussant / Chair - Srilata Raman

Sarah Taylor (University of Chicago)

The Speed of Prose in Old Kannada Campū

Gil Ben-Herut (University Of South Florida)

Devotional Meters and Translation from Kannada to Telugu and Back (and Back Again?)

Jamal Jones (University of California, Davis)

How to Write on Two-Foot in Telugu

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)

*A Guide for Poets: The Artistry of Prosody and the Controversy of Telugu Beginnings***Reframing Literary Traditions in Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer - Jason Smith (Harvard Divinity School)

Discussant / Chair - Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)

Christopher Diamond (University of Washington)

*Singing the Archives: the Mediating Force of Popular Maithili Music and Film in Reading**Vidyāpati's Lyric Poetry*

Priya Kothari (University of California, Berkeley)

Vessels for the Divine: Notes from the Preaching Throne in the Vallabha Community of Western India

Jesse Pruitt (University of Toronto)

Combing the Canon for Beauty: Tiru. Vi. Ka.'s selective citation in Murukaṇ allatu aḷaku

Kristina Rogahn (University of Toronto)

Where is the Tamil Literary Critical Archive?

Environmental Histories, Politics, and Management

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Leah Renold (Texas State University)

Shruthi Jagadeesh (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Changing Natures: Soliga knowledge and conservation in South Indian tiger reserves

Priyanshu Gupta (Indian Institute of Management Calcutta)

Rajesh Bhattacharya

Inter-ministerial Conflict in Forest Governance in India: Rethinking Anticommons

Anthony Szczurek (Virginia Tech)

The Hindutva Imaginary of Climate Change During the Modi Administration (2014-2019)

Leah Renold (Texas State University)

*Sagar Island: Sacrifice by Drowning, British Interference, and the Descent of the Ganga***Arts of the body: Visions of Exceptional Bodies in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Kate Imy (University of North Texas)

Satyasikha Chakraborty (The College of New Jersey)

'My Kala': Colonial racialization of the bodies of lower-caste gendered care-givers

Madihah Akhter (Stanford University)

An Experiment in Unveiling: Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal

Kate Imy (University of North Texas)

Representing the Post-Colonial 'Gurkha': Interracial Closeness and Nepali Bodies in the Malayan Emergency

Teresa Segura-Garcia (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

*The traveling princely body in India and the world, c. 1900-1970***Eating in and out of South Asia: dynamic histories of food in modernity**

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Benjamin Siegel (Boston University)

Jayeeta Sharma (University of Toronto)

Street Vendors, their Vending Cries & Actions: Local & Global Food Histories from South Asia & Beyond

Siobhan Lambert-Hurley (The University of Sheffield)

'Human or not, everyone has their own habits and tastes': Food, Identity and Difference in Muslim South Asia

Sanchia deSouza (University of Toronto)

City as Slaughterhouse: Writing the Spatial Politics of Vegetarianism in Colonial India

Challenging the Boundaries of Pilgrimage in South Asia

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Caley Smith (Young Harris College)

Sadaf Jaffer (Princeton University)

"The Future is Feminist": Pakistan's Aurat March Movement as a Pilgrimage of Aspiration

Jason Schwartz (Stanford University)

Sovereign Journeys: Precedent and Sacred Performance in the Deccan

Elizabeth Angowski (Earlham College)

Envisioning Valleys and Virtues in Oḍḍiyāna, Birthplace of Guru Padmasambhava

Caley Smith (Young Harris College)

*Tales of the Dammed: The Effects of the British Dams on Toḍa Myth***The Importance of Being 'Educated': Women, Learning, and Mobility in Modern India**

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer - Archana Venkatesh (The Ohio State University)

Discussant / Chair - Mytheli Sreenivas (Ohio State University)

Sri Devi Thakkilapati

Caste Feelings: Neoliberal Identity and Caste in Andhra Pradesh

Suzanne Schier-Happell

Decolonizing Disciplines: Reconsidering Gender and the Arts and Humanities at Indian Colleges and Universities

Renaë Sullivan (The Ohio State University)

Marital Educator or Development Envoy: Transnational Home Scientists in India, 1964-1971

Archana Venkatesh (The Ohio State University)

*Are Women Students Welcome here?: 'Lady Doctors' and Medical Education in 20th century Madras***The Subjects of "Reality": Celebrity, Performance and Value on the South Asian Small Screen**

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Amanda Weidman (Bryn Mawr College)

Discussant / Chair - Gwendolyn Kirk (Lahore University of Management Systems)

Anaar Desai-Stephens (University of Rochester)

'Face value' and changing logics of musical celebrity in contemporary India

Rodrigo Chocano (Indiana University)

Media-worthy traditions: Musical collaboration, nation building and neoliberal logics in Coke Studio Pakistan

Kristen Rudisill (Bowling Green State University)

Who's the Next Prabhudeva? Tamil Identity, Style, and Dance

Amanda Weidman (Bryn Mawr College)

Stigmas of the Reality Stage

Translating the Sciences in Modern South Asia, 1848-1951

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Andrew Amstutz (University of Arkansas, Little Rock)

Organizer - Charu Singh (University of Cambridge)

Sarah Qidwai

Identifying Science Popularizers in British India: A Case-Study of Sayyid Ahmad Khan

Osama Siddiqui (Cornell University)

An Indian Science of Society: Reading John Stuart Mill at Aligarh

Charu Singh (University of Cambridge)

A Lexicon of Science: Debating Technical Terms in the Hindi Public Sphere, c.1900-1960

Andrew Amstutz (University of Arkansas, Little Rock)

*"Urdu as Medium of Science Education": Refashioning Science Education for Pakistan***Communal Marginalization, Displacement and Citizenship in South Asia/India**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer - Shailja Sharma (DePaul University)

Discussant / Chair - Huma Ahmed-Ghosh (San Diego State University)

Huma Ahmed-Ghosh (San Diego State University)

Religion in Self-identity of Young Muslim Women: Contradictions and Insecurities

Shailja Sharma (DePaul University)

Violence and the State in India

Kalyani Menon (DePaul University)

*Shahid/Shahed, Witness/Martyr: Making Muslim Place in Contemporary**India Shahid/Shahed, Witness/Martyr: Making Muslim Place in Contemporary India*

Mania Taher

*Refugee Rohingya Women and Their Change of Spatial Identity in Trans-national contexts***Lying as a Tool of Governance: Con "Artistry" in Sri Lanka's Political Economy**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer - Stanley Samarasinghe (Tulane University)

Discussant / Chair - Sumudu Atapattu (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Neil DeVotta (Wake Forest University)

Chuckers and Suckers: Explaining Sri Lanka's Duplicious Politics

Stanley Samarasinghe (Tulane University)

Economic Growth and Social Welfare in Sri Lanka, 2010-2018: Gap Between Promise and Delivery

Sandya Hewamanna

Conning Their Way To Justice: Marginalized Actors within Sri Lanka's Global Production Responding to Neoliberal Development

At the Margins: Muslims in India

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer - Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

Discussant / Chair - M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

Whatever happened to Bengali Nationalism? Marginalization of Bengali Muslims in West Bengal

M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

UP Muslims: From Separate Electorates to Sachar Committee Report and After

Nagesh Rao

*Schrödinger's Kashmiris: Colonized subjects as fifth columnists in the metropole***Songs of Exchange: Music and Identity in South Asia**

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Julian Lynch (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Julian Lynch (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Labor and Politics in Mumbai's Festival Economy

Aaron Sherraden (University of Texas at Austin)

India Tastes the Bitter Truths of Strange Fruit

Hamzah Saif (George Washington University)

Reading rap, writing rhymes: Transmissions and translations of rap in Pakistan

Brian Bond (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)

*'Naqālī (Imitation)': Pakistani Media, Islamic Knowledge, and the Transborder History of Sindhi Sufi Music in Kachchh, Gujarat***Technologies of Control, Dissent and Conformity: Traversing Colonial and (Post)Colonial Visual Cultures**

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer - Amrita Ghosh (Linnaeus University)

Discussant / Chair - Nandini Dhar (Florida International University)

Peerzada Raouf Ahmad (OP Jindal Global University)

Maps and Desires: Insurgent Cartography and Affective Contours of New Kashmiri Social Media Art

Nandini Dhar (Florida International University)

"Know Your Army": Militarized Masculinity, Indian Nationalism and Contemporary Cultural Productions

Amrita Ghosh (Linnaeus University)

Visual Digital Culture and Women in Kashmir's Conflict Zone

Apurba Chatterjee (The University of Sheffield)

*Political Authority and Imperialism in Early British India: A Study in Imagery***End of Session 2**

The Forties: The Past and Future of India's International Engagements

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Pallavi Raghavan (Ashoka University)

Pallavi Raghavan (Ashoka University)

The Making of a 'Minority' Identity: A Diplomatic History

Bérénice Guyot-Réchar (King's College London)

The post-colonial sea: Indian visions of the Indian Ocean's geopolitical space, ca.1940-1980

Maria Framke

Indian humanitarianism as foreign policy tool: The Indian National Congress' relief work in South East and East Asia, 1946-1953

Sandeep Bhardwaj

*An Affair to Remember: India, Britain and the Commonwealth in Southeast Asia***The Foundations of South Asian Cuisine: Indus Foodways in Urban and Rural Settlements**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Chair - Richard Meadow (Harvard University)

Jennifer Bates (Brown University)

Indus Foodways: Exploring the Implications of New Theoretical Perspectives Beyond 'Diet' and 'Subsistence'

Abhayan GS (University of Kerala)

The Role of Fish in the Food Economy of Harappans in Gujarat, India

Arvin Mathur

Cuisine and urbanization in the Indus Tradition: preliminary results of organic residue analysis at Harappa

Richard Meadow (Harvard University)

*The Study of Ancient Foodways in Northwestern South Asia – Is There Hope for the Future?***Arts of governance, criminality and identity: Rethinking the 'criminal tribes' in colonial and postcolonial India**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Jessica Hinchy (Nanyang Technological University)

Jessica Hinchy (Nanyang Technological University)

Gender, family and the policing of the 'criminal tribes' in nineteenth century north India

William Gould (University of Leeds)

Labour and penal control in the criminal tribes 'industrial' settlements in early 20th Century western India

Sarah Gandee (University of London)

Performing equality: 'Criminal tribes' and the Constitution in 1950s India

Caste, Labor and Transnational solidarity activism

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer - Madhumita Dutta (The Ohio State University)

Chair - Richa Nagar (University of Minnesota)

Madhumita Dutta (The Ohio State University)

Shailaja Paik

Chaumtoli Huq

Suraj Yengde (Harvard)

Mubbashir Rizvi (Georgetown University)

History and Collective Memory in South Asia's Many Pasts

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Sumit Guha (University of Texas at Austin)

Discussant / Chair - Daud Ali (University of Pennsylvania)

Richard Davis (Bard College)

Religious Cultures of Ancient Vidisha: Buried Yakshas, Displaced Garudas, and Buddhist Burial Mounds

Samira Sheikh (Vanderbilt University)

Remembering the nawab

Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)

Bedil's Ghosts: Emotive Memoryscapes and the Spectral Presence in Tazkirah Writing

Sumit Guha (University of Texas at Austin)

*The Social Frame of Collective Memory***Adaptiveness in Urdu Across Fields and Genres**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Shahid Khan (Georgetown University)

Mustafa Menai (University of Pennsylvania)

The Adab (Etiquette) of Guidance: Intimacy and Pedagogy between Two Master Poets

Afroz Taj (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

The Boy Who Flew: Artistry and Fantasy in Urdu Children's Comics from the 1950s

Fizza Joffrey (University of Toronto)

Ghalib, Tawaifs, Bollywood, and Faiz: The Dynamism of Urdu Shi'i Mourning Poetry

Gianni Sievers (University of Pennsylvania)

Sounds, Concepts, Emotions: Urdu Conversations about Music, c. 1900-1930

Shahid Khan (Georgetown University)

Epiphanies of Muslim Krishna-Bhakta in Early Twentieth Century Urdu Literature

The Human-Elephant Boundary in South Asia: Interspecies Conflict, Conflicts of Interest, and Coexistence

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Andrea Gutierrez (Univ. of Texas at Austin)

Shibani Bose

Prey, Ally, Adversary: Chronicling the Human-Elephant Interface in Ancient India

Matthew Milligan (Trinity University)

The Dvipendra Who Punctured Bhūmi: Cross-Pollination between Heaven and Earth in the Buddha's Biography

Andrea Gutierrez (Univ. of Texas at Austin)

Gajāśiksā: Elephant Education, Punishment, or Linguistic Articulation? Interspecies Communication in the Mānasollāsa and Other Texts

Thomas Trautmann (University of Michigan)

Orwell's "Shooting an elephant": the archaeology of a masterpiece

Rethinking the Political in and through the North Indian Public Sphere (c.19th-20th centuries)

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Niharika Yadav (Princeton University)

Sikandar Maitra Kumar (University of Michigan)

The Politics of Devotionalism: The Devotee in the Late-Colonial Hindi Public Sphere

Justin Smolin (University of Chicago)

Revelations Translated and Confirmed: Reflections on the Evolution of Inter-Religious Debate in Nineteenth-Century North India

Sunny Kumar (University of Delhi)

J. F. Stephen and the Emergence of Colonial Jurisprudence on Free Speech

Niharika Yadav (Princeton University)

The Language of Socialism in Postcolonial North India

Energy Transitions at Home: Cooking, Lighting, Cooling, Building

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Meena Khandelwal (University of Iowa)

Organizer / Chair - Deepti Chatti (Yale University)

Meena Khandelwal (University of Iowa)

The Nada Chulha

Deepti Chatti (Yale University)

What's in a name? Troubling dichotomies underpinning energy access efforts in India

Jerry Anthony

Can we resolve India's Acute Urban Residential Energy Crisis?

Nandita Badami

Governing the Alternative: The Paradoxes of India's Solar Policies

Corporate Gods and Sacred Development: Toward a Genealogy of Market Religion

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer - Deonnie Moodie (University of Oklahoma)

Discussant / Chair - Brian Hatcher (Tufts University)

J. Barton Scott

Translating Self-Help: Toward a Genealogy of 'Economy' in Victorian India

Christopher Fleming (University of Southern California)

Beyond the Grip of the Hands Invisible and Dead: Fiduciary Relations in Sanskrit Jurisprudence

Deonnie Moodie (University of Oklahoma)

India's IIMs and the Institutionalization of a Hindu Model of Management

Namita Dharia (Harvard University)

*Unruly cities and citizens: religion and the urban development politics of Gurugram, India***Marrying for a Future: Marriage as Artistry in South Asia**

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Amrita Ibrahim (Georgetown University)

Jonathan Spencer (University of Edinburgh)

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Sahana Ghosh (Brown University)

Farhana Ibrahim (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)

Megha Sharma Sehdev (Tufts University)

Ammara Maqsood (University College London)

Veena Das (Johns Hopkins University)

Sidharthan Maunaguru (National University of Singapore)

The Space of the Studio: Caste, Gender, Labor, and Technology Practices in the Prabhat Film Company

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer - Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh)

Discussant / Chair - Philip Lutgendorf (The University of Iowa)

Hrishikesh Arvikar (University of Queensland)

Studio as World, Backlot as Production: Indic Imaginations of Space, Touch and Caste in Prabhat

Rachel Ball-Phillips (Southern Methodist University)

The Prabhat Touch: Labor and Distribution Practices in Marathi Cinema

Anupama Kapse (Loyola Marymount University)

Shanta Apte and the Aesthetics of Anger

Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh)

"When the Industry is Standing on its Ear:" Prabhat Studios' Entry into Sound Cinema

The Art of Record-Keeping in South Asia: Beyond the Colonial Archive

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Nandini Chatterjee (University of Exeter)

Fahad Bishara (University of Virginia)
*Into the Bazaar: On Mobile Histories*Zoé Headley
*Village Archives and Digital Dilemmas*Elizabeth Thelen (University of Exeter)
*Papers Gathered across Regimes: Family Archives of Petty Officials in Early Modern Rajasthan*Dominic Vendell (University of Exeter)
*Archiving in the Scribal Household: The Chitnises of Borgaon***Keeping Cities in Motion: Building, Repairing and Maintaining Urban South Asia**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer - Nausheen Anwar (IBA)

Discussant / Chair - Nikhil Anand (University of Pennsylvania)

Organizer / Chair - Malini Sur (Western Sydney University)

Adeem Suhail (Emory University)
*Community Health and Infrastructural Violence in Lyari Town, Karachi, Pakistan*Nikhil Anand (University of Pennsylvania)
*After Breakdown: Infrastructures and the Labor of Maintenance*Nausheen Anwar (IBA)
*Demolition men, bulldozers and the endless cycle of making infrastructure*Malini Sur
*Taal Bhaanga: Repairing Bicycle Wheels, Balancing Cities***The Art of Kinship: Re-making Family in Sri Lanka**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer - Jeanne Marecek (Swarthmore College)

Discussant / Chair - Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)

Vidyamali Samarasinghe (American University)
*Analyzing Gender Configurations in Sri Lankan Households When Migrant Housemaids Become the Primary Income-Earners*Michele Gamburd (Portland State University)
*Aging in Place and the Art of Kinship: Social Reproduction and Family Relations in Sri Lanka*Bambi Chapin (UMBC)
*Re-making Family: From Childhood Longings to Unconventional Reproductions*Cynthia Caron (Clark University)
Making relocation villages in Sri Lanka: Social networks, leadership and kin relations in the aftermath war and natural disaster

Muslims and Encounters with the Indian State

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer - Meredith McLaughlin (Yale University)

Discussant / Chair - Filippo Osella

Meredith McLaughlin (Yale University)

Standing for the State: The Politics of Muslim Officials in Rural Rajasthan

Catherine Larouche (McGill University)

Alternative development strategies? Muslim charitable organization workers' perspectives on state social welfare responsibilities in Uttar Pradesh, India

Aditi Saraf (Johns Hopkins University)

Ecology, Inalienability, and Article 35A

Pierre-Alexandre Paquet (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Loosing Faith in the Developmental State : Muslims Gujjars Moving Out of their Traditional Jungles in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand***A Midsummer Night's Bollywood Dream in Hawaii**

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer - Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Chair - Paul Mitri

Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawaii at Manoa)

Maile Speetjens

Christian Londres

Kripa Bhagat

Christine Lamborn

Ike Webster

Artistic Constructions: The Treal, The Virtual, and The Dream World(s)

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Anwesha Maity (UW Madison)

Jacob Boss (Indiana University)

Virtual Asuras and Ascetic AI: Pedagogy and Digital Media Arts for the South Asian Religions Classroom

Anwesha Maity (UW Madison)

Artistry in narrative worldbuilding: Science Fiction (SF) from Bangladesh in the Global South

Pujarinee Mitra (University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee)

Of the artistry in Zoya Akhtar's Made in Heaven: A close reading of select scenes

Harshit Rathi (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

A Vulgar Art: Standup comedy and the critique of everyday life in India

Olga Sooudi (University of Amsterdam)

*Making Husain in Mumbai: Creating art's value through action***End of Session 3**

South Asia from its edges: border-subjects and the fashioning of empires and nations

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Tania Bhattacharyya (Columbia University)

Sayantani Mukherjee (Columbia University)

An Expert in the Field: Native Surveyors and the Cartographic Creation of Tibet

Abhishek Bhattacharyya (University of Chicago)

Naxalbari, Nepal and the Nation: Indian Revolution at/across the Border with Nepal

Tenzin Yewong Dongchung (Columbia University)

Through the autobiography of monastery architect Chö Püntso: Renovation of monasteries as a Tibetan state-building measure (1917-1959)

Tania Bhattacharyya (Columbia University)

*"Patriotic citizens of Aden and Bombay": mercantile self-fashioning and a vision of the nation from the ocean***Recent Advances in the Archaeology of South Asia: Regional Surveys, Excavations and Analyses: Part 1**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Brett Hoffman (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics)

A Survey of Megaliths in Sindh- Pakistan

Rajesh Sasidharan Vasanthan (University of Kerala)

Archaeological Excavations at Juna Khatiya (2018-2019): An Early Harappan Cemetery in Kachchh District, Gujarat, Western India

Brett Hoffman (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Indus Tradition Copper and Bronze Metallurgy: A Model from Harappa

Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

*Connecting Form and Function with Material Analysis of Iron Artifacts from Bhamala Stupa, Pakistan (250-500 AD)***Caste, Distributive Politics, and Preferential Policies in India in a Comparative Perspective**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Narendra Subramanian (McGill University)

Discussant / Chair - Gilles Verniers (Ashoka University)

Pavithra Suryanarayan

Social-Status and Redistributive Politics

Christophe Jaffrelot

Gilles Verniers (Ashoka University)

For whom do reservations work? The unequal empowerment of Dalit jatis in North India

Jusmeet Singh Sihra

Who Gets Affirmative Action? Urban Space and Social Mobility of Dalits in an Indian City

Narendra Subramanian (McGill University)

From Bondage to Citizenship: Dalit and African American Mobilization in Two Deeply Unequal Regions

New Directions in South Asian Labor History

Senate B, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Titas Chakraborty (Duke Kunshan University)

Titas Chakraborty (Duke Kunshan University)

Controlling Labor Mobility as a State Building Process: The Ascendancy of the English East India Company State in Bengal 1700-1819

Vidhya Raveendranathan (New York University, Shanghai)

Between Land and Sea: The Case of Coastal labour in late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century Madras

Zachary Sell (Brown University)

Permanent Settlers and Permanent Settlement: Remaking Land and Labor between Colonial India and British North America, 1775-1800

Partha Pratim Shil

*The Cast(e) of the Colonial Police: Constables, Chaukidars and the Security Labour Market of Colonial Bengal***The Ethics of Aesthetics in Mahābhārata Commentaries and Retellings**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Christopher Fleming (University of Southern California)

Discussant / Chair - Robert Goldman (University of California)

Christopher Fleming (University of Southern California)

A Hall the Like of Which Has Never Been Seen Before?: Locating Mayāśura's Sabhā in the Sanskrit Architectural Tradition

Timothy Lorndale (University of Pennsylvania)

On the Ethics of Winning: Rewriting the Sautikaparvan in Old Kannada

Sohini Pillai (University of California, Berkeley)

Bhakti and the Bhārata: Draupadī's Prayer in Two Regional Mahābhāratas

Vishal Sharma

*Svargakāmo Garheta: Reading Bhagavannindā and Dveshabhakti in the Mahābhārata***Book Roundtable: Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh (Stanford University Press, July 2019) by Nusrat S Chowdhury, (Amherst College)**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Nazmul Sultan (The University of Chicago)

Rohit De (Yale University)

Poulomi Saha (University of California, Berkeley)

Francis Cody (University of Toronto)

Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas at Austin)

Nusrat Chowdhury (Amherst College)

Creative Practices of Coolie and Former Coolie Populations in the Indian Ocean

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Yoshina Hurgobin (Kennesaw State University)

Crispin Bates (University of Edinburgh)

Policing Intimacy and Queering the History of the South Asian Overseas Migration in the Colonial Era

Arunima Datta (Idaho State University)

Crafting Their Survival: Indian Coolie Women in Japanese Occupied Malaya

Julia Haines (University of Virginia)

Curation in Everyday life: The Archaeology of South Asian Indentured Laborers

Yoshina Hurgobin (Kennesaw State University)

*Coolie Children, Orphans, and "Incorrigible Vagrants"***Complicating Narratives of "Reform" and "Reformers" in Colonial India**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Ved Patel (Emory University)

Discussant / Chair - Brian Hatcher (Tufts University)

Darry Dinnell (McGill University)

Night Birds and Nauseous Associates: Dalpatram, Forbes and their Reformist Critique of Gujarati Goddesses

Katherine Blank (University of Washington)

Definitions of Health and Wellness in Women's Urdu Journals in the Twentieth Century

Iva Patel (University of Iowa)

Redefining Domesticity: Gender Propriety in Women's Writings from Bombay, 1857-1950

Ved Patel (Emory University)

*Reform Amidst Difference in 19th-Century Gujarat***Study Abroad in India: Facilitating American students' critical reflections on positionality and 'location'**

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Bonnie Zare (Virginia Tech)

Discussant / Chair - Suchitra Samanta (Virginia Tech)

Bonnie Zare (Virginia Tech)

That I may Reciprocate: the Positionality of Giving & Receiving

Umme Al-wazedi (Augustana College)

"The Boy with No Shoes:" Ecotourism, liberal arts and Lutheran Higher Education mirrored through Augustan-India (AINA) Study Abroad Trip

Lisa Eck

The Politics of Hospitality, Class and Indigeneity in Kalimpong, West Bengal

Suchitra Samanta (Virginia Tech)

Bringing an insider/outsider perspective to studying religious diversity in Kolkata: a cultural anthropologist's retrospective

Placing Rāmānuja within the Intellectual History of the Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer - Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (Cornell University)

Discussant / Chair - Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)

Sucharita Adluri (Cleveland State University)

The Making of a Textual Culture: The Legacy of Rāmānuja in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hermeneutics

Shiv Subramaniam (Columbia University)

Rāmānuja on Bhakti and Vivid Remembering

Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (Cornell University)

Rāmānuja and the Rise of Self-Surrender

Srilata Raman

*Rāmānuja and Śrīvaiṣṇava Daily Ritual: the Impact of the Nityagrantha***Online Lives, Offline Lives: Women and Digital Platforms in Contemporary India**

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Rachel Rothenberg (University of Washington)

Shreenita Ghosh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Kruthika Kamath (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

#Metoo in Indian News Media and Twitter: an Intermedia Agenda-Setting Perspective

Thalia Gigerenzer (Princeton University)

Love in a Bad "Mahaul": Cautious Intimacy in Delhi's Working-Class Muslim Neighborhoods

Rachel Rothenberg (University of Washington)

What Can't Our Girls Do?: Publicity, Gender Anxiety, and the Politics of Domestic Resistance in a Rajput Community

Zeltzyn Rubi Sanchez Lozoya (University of Texas at Austin)

Lipstick Revolution

Sagnika Chanda (University of Pittsburgh)

*"No one Killed Jessica": Gendered violence and Cellphone activism before #Metoo in India***Virtual Piety, Networked Theology: Making Digital South Asian Religious Communities**

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer - Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

Discussant / Chair - Rob Rozehnal

Bhakti Mamtara (College of Wooster)

Mobile Modalities: Digital Applications and Devotional Publics in the Swaminarayan Sampraday

Steven Vose (Florida International University)

Making Globalized Jainism Online: Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur's Networked Theology

Justin Henry (Georgia College & State University)

Social Media and Birth of Buddhist Ravana

Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

Weaponized Ritual, Tyrannical Hashtags: Social Media Capitalism and the Making of a Political, "Branded" Hinduism

Hyderabad and the Nineteenth Century

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Benjamin Cohen (University of Utah)

William Bamber (University of Washington)

Self-Fashioning and Ottoman Influence in Late Nineteenth-Century Hyderabad

Gayatri Reddy (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Siddi Chronicles: A Historical Ethnography of a 'Racial' Category in Hyderabad, India

Amanda Lanzillo (Indiana University)

Technical education and artisan adaptation in Hyderabad State, 1870-1910

Benjamin Cohen (University of Utah)

*The Hydrosocial World of Hyderabad City: Water, Recreation, Leisure and Beyond c. 1880-1908***The histories and afterlives of dispossession: a comparison of Lahore and Colombo**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Ammara Maqsood (University College London)

Asha Abeyasekera (University of Colombo)

'We must learn to live here' – repertoires of (dis)possession

Jonathan Spencer (University of Edinburgh)

Pakistan and Sri Lanka: Regimes of Dispossession Compared

Fizzah Sajjad

Victim, broker, activist, fixer: surviving dispossession in working class Lahore

Iromi Perera (Independent Researcher)

*"We don't feel the earth underneath our feet anymore": Dispossession and high rise living in Colombo***Borders and Boundaries in South Asian Islam**

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Zunaira Komal (University of California, Davis)

Misrecognition of a Calamity: Azad Kashmir, Psychiatry and the Hold of the Secular

SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Utopic Strivings: Jihad, Sovereignty, Territory

Mustafa Menai (University of Pennsylvania)

Qalandaran-e-Sarkash: Sufism and the Urdu Progressive Writers Movement

Rajbir Judge (Columbia University)

Formations of the Corridor: Toward a Reading of 'Limit' and 'Border'

Sound Cultures, Sound Disruptions

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Praseeda Gopinath (Binghamton University, State University of New York)

Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)
Indian Sound Cultures, Indian Sound Citizenship

Aswin Punathambekar (University of Michigan)
Interruption: Sound Art and Escape Routes to New Public Spheres

Pavitra Sundar (Hamilton College)
Listening, Loving, Longing: The Sound of Desire in Aligarh

Praseeda Gopinath (Binghamton University, State University of New York)
Sounding Lives and Sounding Nature in Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide

Jahaan tedi yeh nazar hai! Theories of the gaze beyond darshan

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer - Megha Sharma Sehdev (Tufts University)

Organizer - Niharika Dinkar

Discussant / Chair - G.S. Sahota (UC Santa Cruz)

Rebecca M. Brown
Reflections on Words and Symbols: KCS Paniker's Painterly Deflections

Swayam Bagaria (Johns Hopkins University)
Medium Theory From the Natyashastra

Niharika Dinkar
Seeing the elephant: Animality and the autopsic gaze

Megha Sharma Sehdev (Tufts University)
Lishkaar and Landscape in Rani Tatt

End of Session 4

Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address



David Shulman

“How to Wake Up in Sanskrit (or Tamil or Telugu)”

Friday, 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)

A tantalizing and remarkably rich poetic genre in Sanskrit and other South Asian languages is the suprabhatam “wake-up-call”. Usually it is sung at dawn, or sometimes a bit earlier, by bards, courtiers, or priests in order to wake up a royal personage or a deity. These wake-up-calls, rarely studied in their own right, reveal a characteristic set of themes and modes such as detailed naturalistic observation, attempts to blackmail the addressee to get out of bed, mostly melancholy erotic notes, grammar exercises, riddles meant to get the listener’s mind into gear, and probing explorations of various mental states (sleep, half-sleep, insomnia, piercing insight) and of the crucial mental faculty of attentiveness. The lecture will offer a taste of these poems in Sanskrit, Tamil, and Telugu— in lieu of an evening lullaby.

David Shulman is Professor Emeritus at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He was trained in Tamil by John Marr at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (1972-1976). He has authored twenty-some books, several of them in close and fruitful collaboration with Velcheru Narayana Rao, Yigal Bronner, Don Handelman, and S. Ramakrishnan. A specialist in the languages, literatures, and cultural history of south India, he is now heading a European Research Council five-year grant on “The New Ecology of Expressive Modes in Early-Modern South India” (NEEM).

This event is free and open to the public.

Room		Session 5, 8:30am - 10:15am		Session 6, 10:30am - 12:15pm
Assembly Room	Coffee Break — 8:00 am - 8:30 am — University Foyer (second floor)	Post-Development in contemporary South Asia: politics of mediation and association	Coffee Break — 10:15 am - 10:30 am — University Foyer (second floor)	Explaining the outcome of India's 17th General Elections
Caucus Room		Recent Advances in the Archaeology of South Asia: Regional Surveys, Excavations, and Analyses, PART 2		Revisiting the Archaeology of Medieval South Asia: Environment, Epistemology, and Ladsapes, PART 1
Senate Room A		Caste & Capital Redux: Hierarchies of Labor & Property in South Asia PART 1		Caste & Capital Redux: Hierarchies of Labor & Property in South Asia PART 2
Senate Room B		The Administration of Everyday Life		After Rana-Plaza: The impact of international interventions on the garment industry in Bangladesh
Conference 1		Navigating Semiotics, Aurality, and Identity through South Asian Texts and Diaspora Communities		Policing and surveillance beyond the state in contemporary South Asia
Conference 2		Artistry and Craftsmanship in Second Millennium Poetry		Author Meets Critics: Brannon Ingram's Revival From Below (2018) and SherAli Tareen's Defending Muhammad in Modernity (2019)
Conference 3		Ethnographic Approaches in South Asia		Interactions across the Indian Ocean World
Conference 4		Governance Challenges in Bangladesh: Critical Perspectives		The Nation and the Identities in Literatures from Nepal
Conference 5		Site-Specificity: The Role of Place in Artistic Production		The Aesthetics and Atmospheres of Construction in Pakistan
Capitol Ballroom A		Sacred Landscapes of Pilgrimage in India: Patterns and Practices		Social and Cultural Critique in Early Modern Bhakti
Capitol Ballroom B		The Academic Caste System: Race and Gender in the Study of South Asia		The Sex of History, or Object/Matters
Wisconsin Ballroom		Transgressive Expressions, Normative Contexts: (Re)Productions of Gender and Sexuality Within Hegemonies		Cinematic Maps: Exploring New Histories of India's Filmic Spaces
Madison Ballroom		Book Exhibit Room		Book Exhibit Room
University A/B		Recoding Violence, Injury and the Law		Poison and Toxicity in Modern South Asia
University C/D		Urban Space(s) in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia		South Asian Materialities: Materializing urban change in South Asia
Parlor Room 627		Unmaking Sri Lanka at Home and Abroad—Visual Cultures and Politics of Resistance		Gender, Language and Conflict at Work: New Books on Post-war Sri Lanka
Parlor Room 629		Transitioning towards a Human Rights Framework in Pakistan?		State-Making as War-making: Delusional States in South Asia
Parlor Room 634		Projecting Power in Urdu Ghazal, Marsiya, and Dastan Performances		Sounding Śaivism: Tamil Music, Modernity, and Neo-Saivism in Twentieth-Century South India
Parlor Room 638		Changing Perspectives on Mithila Paintings		Postcards: Unique and Overlooked Sources of Historical Material and Insights

Room		Session 7, 3:45pm - 5:30pm		Session 8, 5:45pm - 7:30pm
Assembly Room	Coffee Break — 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm — University Foyer (second floor)	The moral state: conceiving corruption in colonial and postcolonial South Asia		
Caucus Room		Revisiting the Archaeology of Medieval South Asia: Environment, Epistemology, and Ladsapes, PART 2		Borderland Permeability and Himalayan Territoriality
Senate Room A		Minoritarian Accounts: Political narratives, moral artistries and refracted solidarities of digital South Asia		Caste, Commodity, and Migration: Reappraising the History of Northern Sri Lanka through Labor
Senate Room B		The Political Economy of Development in South Asia		
Conference 1		Negotiating language, identity, and power in the Punjabi belt		Landscapes of Language: Philology in Social Context
Conference 2		The Self in Regard: Autobiography and the Making of Indian History		Mañkha and his Śrīkanthacarita: The Poet's (Re-)Conception of his World
Conference 3		Forgotten Pasts, Imagined Futures: Environment, development, and governance in the Sundarbans		Nonhuman potencies: Taking "superstition" seriously in the Sundarbans delta
Conference 4		The Aerial View: Imperialism and the Art of War		Crafting Property in South Asia: Objects and Forms, Histories and Futures
Conference 5		Polarized Politics in Bangladesh: The Role of Elite, Ideology, and Social Movements		Dalit Movement's Next Steps: Solidarity and Interaction With Others
Capitol Ballroom A		The Primacy of Experience: Bhakti Imagery and the Ritual Performer		Debating Religion: Traditions and Their Publics
Capitol Ballroom B		Embodied Norms Past and Present - Intersectional Examinations of Women's Status from Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka		
Wisconsin Ballroom		Exploring Gender in Tamil Cinema		My Still Unrealized Expression: Muktibodh and his Legacy in Hindi Literature and Cinema
Madison Ballroom		Book Exhibit Room		Book Exhibit Room
University A/B		Historical Trajectories and Complex Realities: Law and Politics in South Asia		Money-use in precolonial South Asia
University C/D		Cartography of Imaginations: Artistry as Space in Postcolonial South Asia		Newar Identity Between Centre and Margin
Parlor Room 627		Anagarika Dharmapala, Sri Lanka and the Wider World		Foundations and Legacies of B.R. Ambedkar: Reconfiguring a Buddhist homeland and the politics of belonging
Parlor Room 629		Building Nations & Forming Identities Through Work: Ethnographies and Histories from South Asia		Afghanistan and Changing Regional Dynamics
Parlor Room 634		Entangled Histories: Indian Classical Dance and the Artistry of Nation Making and Moral Belonging		Artists of New Capital in Contemporary India
Parlor Room 638		Ritual and Art in the Kathmandu Valley		The Politics of Representation in Popular Art: Examining Graphic Narratives and Identity in Comic Books, Murals, and Animation South Asia

Post-Development in contemporary South Asia: politics of mediation and association
Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Aya Ikegame (The University of Tokyo)

Aya Ikegame (The University of Tokyo)

Guru Governance: Devotional Citizenship and Rural Development in Southern India

Shinya Ishizaka

Glocalization of Natural Farming

Yoshiaki Takemura

The Arts Power On!: the development of Indian performing arts and the germ of cultural policy in the early 1960s in Singapore

Recent Advances in the Archaeology of South Asia: Regional Surveys, Excavations and Analyses: Part 2
Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Muhammad Hameed (University of the Punjab)

Question of Archaeo-Historical Profile of Punjab, Pakistan and Significance of Excavation at Shorkot

Namita Sugandhi (Hartwick College)

Tekkalakota through the long-term lens: Recent research and future plans

Muhammad Ashraf Khan (Quaid-i-Azam University)

Stone Craft of the Modern Taxila: An Intimate Relationship with Buddhist Sculpture of the Past

Hadiqa Imtiaz

The Reproduction of Stucco Art of Ancient Gandhara: A Case Study of Taxila Valley-Creativity, Techniques and Materials

Caste & Capital Redux: Hierarchies of Labor & Property in South Asia (Part 1)
Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer - Sheetal Chhabria (Connecticut College)

Discussant / Chair - John Harriss (Simon Fraser University)

Pinky Hota

Money, Value and the Racialization of Adivasi Indigeneity

Mishal Khan (University of Chicago)

The Hari Movement in Sindh: Anatomy, Failure, and Legacy

Chandra Bhanu Murthy Nalamala (George August Universität Göttingen)

Untouchability, Agrarian Issues and Political Power: The Agendas of the Adi-Andhra Movement in Early Twentieth Century South India

Juned Shaikh (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Caste, Capital, and Bombay City, 1900-1940

The Administration of Everyday Life

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer - Andrew Haxby (University of Michigan)

Discussant / Chair - Katharine Rankin (University of Toronto)

Elsie Lewison (University of Toronto)

Roads, Responsibilities and the Public Good: Negotiating the bureaucratic space of road users' committees

Andrew Haxby (University of Michigan)

Legibility as a Dimension of Class: Income and Private Finance in Kathmandu

Sara Shneiderman (University of British Columbia)

Equivocating households: kinship, materiality, and the bureaucracy of everyday life in post-earthquake Nepal

Heather Hindman (University of Texas-Austin)

*Language Classes for Fishing: Everyday Bureaucracy of the EPS (Employment Permit System) in Nepal***Navigating Semiotics, Aurality, and Identity through South Asian Texts and Diaspora Communities**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Christabel Devadoss (Middle Tennessee State University)

Shubham Arora (The University of British Columbia)

Materializing Sensuality, Exchanging Consent: The Art of Jargon and Semiotics in the Nāgarasarvasvam

Christabel Devadoss (Middle Tennessee State University)

Sound, Othering, and Discrimination: Aural Politics of the US Indian Tamil Diaspora

Anamitraa Chakraborty (Indiana University Bloomington)

Inter-dialectal variation and code-switching among the immigrant speakers of Bangla from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) settled in Kolkata, India

Varun Khanna (University of Pennsylvania)

*(D)evolution of Gender Roles in Sanskrit Grammar: A Case Study of the Nāḍī Saṃjñā***Artistry and Craftsmanship in Second Millennium Poetry**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer - Ilanit Loewy Shacham (Tel Aviv University)

Discussant / Chair - Thibaut D'Hubert

Sivan Goren Arzony (Harvard Society of Fellows)

Loan Verses as Ornaments: Adaptive Reuse in Punam's Manipravalam Ramayana

Ilanit Loewy Shacham (Tel Aviv University)

Describing Changing Times: Varnana in the Telugu Prabandhas

Michal Hasson (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Poetic Craftsmanship in Dakani

Natalia Di Pietrantonio (Bard Graduate Center)

Image and Text: Sihr-ul Bayan

Ethnographic Approaches in South Asia

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Pearly Wong (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair - Vijayanka Nair (University of Madison-Wisconsin)

Caitlin Benedetto (UW-Madison)

Beyond Reflexivity: Ethnographic Research and Feminist Responsibility in Nepal and Myanmar

You Bin Kang

The Bangladesh Experiment: regulating workers rights in the garment industry after Rana Plaza

Ujaan Ghosh (UW Madison)

A Tale of Two Tourism: Spatiality, Temporality and traveling to Puri

Pearly Wong (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Participant Conversation: Bridging Development Theory and Practice in Nepal***Governance Challenges in Bangladesh: Critical Perspectives**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Zunaid Almamun (Illinois State University)

Discussant / Chair - Ali Riaz (Illinois State University)

Md. Shahriar Islam (Binghamton University)

The Myth of Development: Implications for Political Conflict and Governance in Bangladesh

Md Harun Or Rashid (Kent State University)

Rethinking Relationship between Violent Extremism and the Education System

Rashed Mosharref (Illinois State University)

The Irony of Digital Bangladesh

Zunaid Almamun (Illinois State University)

*The Aftermath of Political Settlement in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: Actors and Interests***Site-Specificity: The Role of Place in Artistic Production**

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Debashree Mukherjee (Columbia University)

Organizer - Anooradha Siddiqi (Columbia University)

Discussant / Chair - Vazira Zamindar

Anooradha Siddiqi

Writing, Teaching, Thinking Architecture in Batley's Bombay and Bose's Shantiniketan

Debashree Mukherjee (Columbia University)

Monsoon Media: Climate and the Making of Bombay Cinema

Zirwat Chowdhury

Lévi-Strauss and the Form of Partition

Saloni Mathur

Site-Specificity in/and the Museum

Sacred Landscapes of Pilgrimage in India: Patterns and Practices

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Amita Sinha (Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India)

Minal Sagare (VIT's Padmabhushan Dr. Vasantdada Patil College of Architecture, Pune)
The Sacred Landscape of River Confluences: The Case of Sangam Mahuli, India

Vaishali Latkar
The Sacred Landscape of Panduranga, India Transferring Sanctity and Ritual Re-enactments

Saloni Chawla
Walking the Panchkroshi in Varanasi, India: Reclaiming the Landscape of Pilgrimage

Shubhada Kamalapurkar
The Cultural Landscape of Ayodhya: Pilgrim and Resident Perceptions

The Academic Caste System: Race and Gender in the Study of South Asia

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Anand Venkatkrishnan (Harvard University)

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)
 Jazmin Graves
 Rumya Putcha
 Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)
 Santhosh Chandrasekhar
 Reema Rajbanshi (Haverford College)

Transgressive Expressions, Normative Contexts: (Re)Productions of Gender and Sexuality Within Hegemonies

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Rishika Mehrishi (Stanford University)

Themal Ellawala (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Kin and Queer, Not Kin or Queer? On Queer Intimacies and Desires at the Heart of the Familial in Sri Lanka

Rishika Mehrishi (Stanford University)
Sinner Scorpions and Erotic Women Inter-species Sexual Imaginaries in Indian Dance-Song Sequences

Salwa Tareen (Boston University)
Mother India's Daughters: Gendered Re-imaginings of Indian History through Bollywood

Phil Lagace (Concordia University)
Ardhanārīśvara, Durgā Pūjā, and Third Nature Identities

Recoding Violence, Injury and the Law

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer - Aparna Devare (University of Hyderabad)

Discussant / Chair - Vinay Lal

Ashwini Tambe (University of Maryland)

The Girl Question in India: Contemporary Feminist Age of Consent Debates

Srimati Basu (University of Kentucky)

The Habitus of Violence: Indian Men's Rights Activists, Law and Representation

Naren Kumarakulasingam

Zero Civilians Killed: The Absence of Collateral Damage and Languages of Death Dealing

Aparna Devare (University of Hyderabad)

Poetics as Politics: D.R. Nagaraj and the Possibilities/Limits of Contemporary Dalit Politics

Urban Space(s) in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Maryam Fatima (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Sohini Banerjee (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Modernity/Modernization: The Global South City as Late-Postcolonial Surface

Maryam Fatima (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Intersections of Genre and Geography in Intizar Husain's work

Ragini Jha (UMass Amherst)

The Changing Monument in Colonial Delhi

Noor Habib

Cities, Empire, and the Poetics of Estrangement: Reading Rashed's "A Stranger in Iran"

Unmaking Sri Lanka at Home and Abroad—Visual Cultures and Politics of Resistance

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Nalin Jayasena (Miami University)

Sumathy Sivamohan (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)

Unmaking the Nation: Cinema as Counter Word

Nalin Jayasena (Miami University)

From Refugees to Exiles: Screening Trauma in the Sri Lankan Diaspora

Sandamini Ranwalage (Miami University)

Re-thinking the Re-performances of the Sri Lankan Postcolonial Play

Dinidu Karunanayake (Centre College)

Performing Borderline Memories in Queer 'Sri Lankanstan'

Transitioning towards a Human Rights Framework in Pakistan?

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer - Anita Weiss (University of Oregon)

Discussant / Chair - Christophe Jaffrelot

Aqil Shah (University of Oklahoma)
Pakistan's Hybrid Regime and Human Rights

Anita Weiss (University of Oregon)
Pakhtuns Gaining a Voice and Speaking Out

Lubna Chaudhry (Binghamton University)
Are Pakistani Christians' Experiences of Structural Violence Changing?

Yaqoob Khan Bangash (Information Technology University)
Upholding the Rule of Law? Rights and the Legal System in Pakistan

Projecting Power in Urdu Ghazal, Marsiya, and Dastan Performances

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Pasha Khan (McGill University)

Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)
Risk to Life and Reputation in Eighteenth-Century India's Persianate Literary Scene

Peter Knapczyk (Wake Forest University)
Rivalry in Urdu Literary Culture: Performance and Historiography

Sara Grewal
Contemporary Ghazal Performance and the Musha'ira Imaginary

Pasha Khan (McGill University)
The Last Storyteller of Delhi: Mir Baqir 'Ali and Knowledge in the Dastan after 1857

Changing Perspectives on Mithila Paintings

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Paula Richman (Oberlin College)

Pranjali Sirasao (UC Berkeley)
Passing the Baton: Different Generations of Mithila Painters

Paula Richman (Oberlin College)
Mithila Paintings and the Ramayana Narrative

Davud Szanton (University of California, Emeritus)
The Politics of Mithila Painting

Lina Vincent
Mithila painters and the Contemporary Indian Art World of Galleries and Exhibitions

End of Session 5

Explaining the outcome of India's 17th General Elections

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Gilles Verniers (Ashoka University)

Chair - John Harriss (Simon Fraser University)

Amrita Basu (Amherst College)

Sanjay Ruparelia (New School for Social Research)

Gilles Verniers (Ashoka University)

John Harriss (Simon Fraser University)

Tariq Thachil (Yale University)

Revisiting the Archaeology of Medieval South Asia 1: Environment, Epistemology and Landscapes

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Mudit Trivedi (University of Chicago)

Andrew Bauer (Stanford University)

Archaeological Context and Archival Content: Toward an Historical Archaeology of Medieval Period Donative Practices on the Raichur Doab

Anne Casile (IRD [French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development])

Between Nature and Society in the archaeological landscapes of Mandu (Central India)

Eduard Fanthome (Stanford University)

*Politics in the margins – Hegemony across Space, Representation and Social Reproduction in medieval north Karnataka***Caste & Capital Redux: Hierarchies of Labor & Property in South Asia (Part 2)**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer - Sheetal Chhabria (Connecticut College)

Discussant / Chair - Rupa Viswanath (University of Göttingen)

Aparna Gopalan (Harvard University)

A State of Evasion: Playing Defense with Class-Caste power in Rural Rajasthan

Navyug Gill (William Paterson University)

Specters of Indebtedness: The Logic and Illogic of Caste, Discipline and Capital in Panjab

Sheetal Chhabria (Connecticut College)

*Racial Capitalism in India?***After Rana-Plaza: The impact of international interventions on the garment industry in Bangladesh**

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair - Sanchita Saxena (UC Berkeley)

Chaumtoli Huq

Opportunities and limitations of the Accord/Alliance: Need for a worker-centric model

Dina Siddiqi (New York University)

Spaces of exception: Transnational solidarity, labor organizing and 'seditious' acts

Meenu Tewari

Place based contracting, decent work, and new forms of relational sourcing at the base of global garment value chains: Lessons from Mewat, India

Sanchita Saxena (UC Berkeley)

How do we understand the Rana Plaza disaster and what needs to be done to prevent future tragedies

Policing and surveillance beyond the state in contemporary South Asia

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Sahana Ghosh (Brown University)

Chair - Farhana Ibrahim (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)

Amrita Ibrahim (Georgetown University)

Mona Bhan (DePauw University)

Aniruddha Dutta (University of Iowa)

Nusrat Chowdhury (Amherst College)

Farzana Haniffa (University of Colombo)

Ghazal Asif (Johns Hopkins University)

Author Meets Critics: Brannon Ingram's *Revival From Below* (2018) and SherAli Tareen's *Defending Muhammad in Modernity* (2019)

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - J. Barton Scott

Brannon Ingram (Northwestern University)

SherAli Tareen (Franklin & Marshall College)

Marcia K. Hermansen

David Gilmartin

Megan Adamson Sijapati (Gettysburg College)

Interactions across the Indian Ocean World

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer - Mekhola Gomes (University of Toronto Mississauga)

Discussant / Chair - Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)

Mekhola Gomes (University of Toronto Mississauga)

Inscribing Power: Copper-plate records in early South and Southeast Asian Indian Ocean Worlds

Jyoti Balachandran

Nodes of Circulation and Identity Formation in the Early Modern Indian Ocean World

Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)

*Transmitting Tradition: Islamic Knowledge Systems in the Early Modern Indian Ocean World***The Nation and the Identities in Literatures from Nepal**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Pushpa Acharya (University of Toronto)

Discussant / Chair - Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto)

Pushpa Acharya (University of Toronto)

The State and the National Space in Girish Ballav Joshi's Bir Charitra

Kritish Rajbhandari (Reed College)

Language Consciousness and Durga Lal's Children's Poems

Khem Guragain (York University)

Annihilation of Caste or Proletarianisation?: Aahuti in the Making of Nepali Dalit Literature

Tulasi Prasad Acharya

Disability and Sexuality: Nepali Disabled Women Writers and Their Quest for the Self

The Aesthetics and Atmospheres of Construction in Pakistan

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Chris Moffat (Queen Mary University of London)

Discussant / Chair - Ammara Maqsood (University College London)

Chris Moffat (Queen Mary University of London)

Thinking with Unfinished Buildings: Between Construction and Ruination in Lahore

Nishat Awan

Aesthetics of Infrastructural Development in Gwadar

Yaminay Chaudhri (self employed artist)

That on which our houses stand, yours and mine — architectures of aspiration in Karachi

Timothy Cooper (University College London)

*The Possibilities of Building Again: "New Heritage" in Lahore***Social and Cultural Critique in Early Modern Bhakti**

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - David Lorenzen (El Colegio de Mexico)

David Lorenzen (El Colegio de Mexico)

Rival Theodicies in Early Modern North India

Purushottam Agrawal (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Jan Gopal's Early Modern Critique of Child Marriage

Rohini Shukla

*When Krishna Writes Jani's Songs: Gendered Authorship in Early Modern Maharashtra***The Sex of History, or Object/Matters**

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer - Anjali Arondekar (UCSC)

Discussant / Chair - Indrani Chatterjee (University of Texas at Austin)

Ishita Pande (Queen's University)

Law's Temporality as History's Sex

Anjali Arondekar (UCSC)

Musafir Sex as Queer Historiography: An Indian in Pakistan

Durba Mitra

Surplus Woman: Female Sexuality and the Study of Indian Society

Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

*History as Translation: Miraji's Sexed Archive***Cinematic Maps: Exploring New Histories of India's Filmic Spaces**

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Kartik Nair (Temple University)

Priya Jaikumar (University of Southern California)

Film Licenses and the Making of Sociospatial Realms

Kartik Nair (Temple University)

Cinemateriality: The Infrastructural Experience of Film

Ranjani Mazumdar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

The Bombay Slum: Aerial Views and Embodied Memories

Rahul Mukherjee (University of Pennsylvania)

Speculative Mediations: Crowd, City, and Infrastructural Violence

Poison and Toxicity in Modern South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Mitra Sharafi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Projit Bihari Mukharji (University of Pennsylvania)

Death by Chemistry: The Chemical Everyday and Colonial Cultures of Poisoning, British India, c.1857-1918

Mitra Sharafi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Poison and Falsity in Indian Forensics

Tom Widger

Banning Glyphosate: Poisons, Sovereignties, and Crisis States in Sri Lanka and Europe

Upul Wickramasinghe

*Multiple toxicological traditions around CKDu and water: an ethnographic study of an affected community in rural Sri Lanka***South Asian Materialities: Materializing urban change in South Asia**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer - Siddharth Menon (University of Wisconsin Madison)

Discussant / Chair - Nikhil Rao (Wellesley College)

Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)

Shifting Sands: On Matter and Time in Contemporary Mumbai

Adam Sargent

"If Not then How Would Delhi be Built?": The Material Attunements of Urban Development

Ned Dostaler

City of Sand: Urban Ecologies and Uncertain Life in Chennai

Thomas Oommen

*Monkeying with New Delhi: Notes towards a Post Human, Post Natural Urban History***Gender, Language and Conflict at Work: New Books on Post-war Sri Lanka**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Daniel Bass (Cornell University)

Dennis McGilvray (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

Daniel Bass (Cornell University)

Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)

Christina Davis (Western Illinois University)

State-Making as War-making: Delusional States in South Asia

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Zunaira Komal (University of California, Davis)

Chair - Ayesha Omer (New York University)

Nosheen Ali (Aga Khan University)

Mohamad Junaid (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts)

Madiha Tahir (Columbia University)

Ayesha Omer (New York University)

Zunaira Komal (University of California, Davis)

Hafsa Kanjwal (Lafayette College)

Sounding Śaivism: Tamil Music, Modernity, and Neo-Śaivism in Twentieth-Century South India

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer - Daves Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant / Chair - Sascha Ebeling (University of Chicago)

Indira Peterson (Mount Holyoke College)

Performing Tamil Śaiva Selfhood: The Ōtuvār Singer of Hymns in Modern Tamilnadu

Daves Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Sound Beyond "Syncretism": The Modern Musical Interface between Tamil Islam and Śaivism

Praveen Vijayakumar (University of Pennsylvania)

*From Tamil Songs to Tamil Sermons: The Life of Cāyīmātā Civa Printātevī (1927-1998)***Postcards: Unique and Overlooked Sources of Historical Material and Insights**

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer - Omar Khan (Paper Jewels)

Discussant / Chair - Catharine Asher

Aditi Chandra (University of California, Merced)

The Traveler's Archive: Postcards as Partial Souvenirs

Sandria B Freitag (NC State University)

Picturing Place: Visualizing a City's Identity

Omar Khan (Paper Jewels)

Once Upon a Postcard

Allan Life (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

*South Indian dance in picture postcards from the Raj: Kumbakonam Balamani, Panchapakesa Nattuvanar, and their fellow artists***End of Session 6**



Plenary Address

“The Artistry of Free Speech in South Asia & South Asian Studies”

Saturday, 1:45 - 3:30 pm

Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)



Ananya Vajpeyi

Ananya Vajpeyi is a Fellow and Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi. In 2019-2020, she is a Visiting Fellow at CRASSH – Cambridge University, working at the intersection of intellectual history, political theory and critical philology. Her book, *Righteous Republic: The Political Foundations of Modern India* (2012) won the 41st Thomas J. Wilson Memorial Prize from Harvard University Press, the Crossword Award for Non-Fiction (2013) and the Tata First Book Prize for Non-Fiction (2013). It was listed as a ‘Book of the Year’ (2012) by The Guardian and The New Republic. Her latest book is a Festschrift for Ashis Nandy, *A Life in Dissent*, co-edited with Ramin Jahanbegloo and published by Oxford University Press (2018). She is working on an intellectual biography of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. She was educated at Jawaharlal Nehru University; Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and the University of Chicago, where she earned her PhD in South Asian Languages and Civilizations. She has taught at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; the History Department of the University of Massachusetts (Boston) and in South Asian Studies at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, Italy. She has been a Kluge Fellow at the John W. Kluge Centre in the Library of Congress, a Global Ethics Fellow with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, New York and a Charles Wallace Fellow at CRASSH, Cambridge University (2017-18). She writes regularly for The Hindu newspaper, and occasionally for Foreign Affairs, World Policy Journal and the Los Angeles Review of Books. She is the current guest editor of *Aroop: Journal of Arts and Ideas* of the Raza Foundation, 2019-2021.



Iftikhar Dadi

Iftikhar Dadi is Associate Professor of History of Art, and Director of the South Asia Program at Cornell University. He is also co-director of Cornell’s Institute for Comparative Modernities and has served as Chair of Cornell’s Department of Art (2010-2014). Dadi teaches and researches modern and contemporary art from a global and transnational perspective, with emphasis on questions of methodology and intellectual history. His writings have focused on modernism and contemporary practice of Asia, the Middle East and their diasporas. Another research interest examines the film, media, and popular cultures of South Asia. His publications include *Modernism and the Art of Muslim South Asia* (2010), which received the 2010 Book Prize from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. Informed by postcolonial theory and globalization studies, the work traces the emergence of modernism by selected artists from South Asia over the course of the twentieth century. Other publications include the edited monograph *Anwar Jalal Shemza* (2015), the co-edited catalog *Lines of Control* (2012), and the co-edited reader *Unpacking Europe* (2001). Dadi currently serves on the editorial and advisory boards of *Archives of Asian Art* and *Bio-Scope: South Asian Screen Studies*, and was member of the editorial board of *Art Journal* (2007-11). He is advisor to the Hong Kong-based research organization Asia Art Archive. Co-curated exhibitions include *Lines of Control* on partitions and borders (Herbert F. Johnson Museum, 2012 and Nasher Museum, 2013). Iftikhar Dadi received his PhD in history of art at Cornell University.

The moral state: conceiving corruption in colonial and postcolonial South Asia

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Anubha Anushree (Stanford University)

Discussant / Chair - Anand Yang (University of Washington)

Anubha Anushree (Stanford University)

The corrupt or the corruptible? Corruption in colonial South Asia

Melissa Turoff (UC Berkeley)

Throwing Pearls before Swine': The Strange and Long Life of Buchanan's Bengal Survey

Feisal Khan (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

Unable to Stem the Rot: The Beginning of Systemic Corruption in Pakistan, 1947 - 1958

Nicholas Wilson (Stony Brook University)

*Modernity's Corruption: The Emergence of a Modern Category within the English East India Trading***Revisiting the Archaeology of Medieval South Asia 2: Material culture and premodern concepts**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Mudit Trivedi (University of Chicago)

Discussant / Chair - Anne Casile (IRD [French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development])

Mannat Johal (University of Chicago)

Matter of time: Ceramics and historicity in medieval south India

Hemanth Kadambi (Shiv Nadar University)

Pastoralism, archaeology and religion in the southern Deccan: contextual understanding of Early Chalukya landscapes (c. 550-750 CE)

Brian Wilson (Independent scholar)

The City as Facade: Recognizing enduring forms of urbanism in the early modern Konkan

Mudit Trivedi (University of Chicago)

*The Magnetism of Error: Towards an Archaeology of the Qibla***Minoritarian Accounts: Political narratives, moral artistries and refracted solidarities of digital South Asia**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer - Salma Siddique (Ludwig Maximilians-Universität, Munich)

Discussant / Chair - Pallavi Rao (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Max Kramer (Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich)

Online Ethics and the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind

Salma Siddique (Ludwig Maximilians-Universität, Munich)

The Importance of Being Modest: Social Influencers of the British Indian Diaspora

Sriram Mohan (University of Michigan)

Dreaming of #DravidaNadu: Subnationalism and Social Media in South India

Lia Wolock (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Whose South Asian America?: Debating Diasporic Identity through Digital Media Activism

The Political Economy of Development in South Asia

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer - Gareth Nellis (University of California, San Diego)

Discussant / Chair - Pavithra Suryanarayan

Saad Gulzar

How Does Civil Conflict Affect Political Selection? Evidence from Nepal's Maoist Revolution

Pavithra Suryanarayan

The Upper-Status Backlash: Legislation, Mobilization and Voting Behavior in the Madras and Bombay 1917-1920

Aditya Dasgupta

Weapons of the Weak: The Violent Consequences of Biased Technological Change

Gareth Nellis (University of California, San Diego)

*Voter Registration and the Political Participation of Urban Migrants: Evidence from a Field Experiment***Negotiating language, identity, and power in the Punjabi belt**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Gwendolyn Kirk (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Sarah Beckham (University of Wisconsin)

Umar Anjum (BULPIP)

Phonological Features of Language Shift in Pakistani Punjabi

Tej Bhatia (Syracuse University)

Punjabi in Emotional Branding Discourse

Hannah Carlan (University of California Los Angeles)

(De)Politicizing Language Shift and/as Rural Development in India's Western Himalayas

Gwendolyn Kirk (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

*Filmi Punjabi: Dialect Leveling and the Ideal Cinematic Punjab***The Self in Regard: Autobiography and the Making of Indian History**

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Mou Banerjee (Clemson University)

Mou Banerjee (Clemson University)

"What is my work in this world?": Autobiography, Transgression and the Self-Fashioning of Bengali Women, 1876-1920

Nicolas Roth (Harvard University)

I Have Not Visited Kashmir, Yet I Have Seen Saffron Bloom: Self-Fashioning Through Horticultural Anecdotes in Eighteenth-Century Indo-Persian

Bronwen Gulkis (Harvard University)

"This Precious Album Given to my Dearest Friend": on self-fashioning and subjectivity in the Mughal album

Thomas Newbold (University of Chicago)

'Āmi ke?': Selfhood and the Challenge of Autobiographical Writing in the Bengal Renaissance

Forgotten Pasts, Imagined Futures: Environment, development, and governance in the Sundarbans

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer - Calynn Dowler (Boston University)

Discussant / Chair - Aditya Ghosh (Jindal Global University)

Amites Mukhopadhyay (Jadavpur University)

The Heritage Site and Its History: Remembering and Forgetting Marichjhanpi in the Indian Sundarbans

Raka Sen (University of Pennsylvania)

Hungry Tides, Thirsty People : The Material and Socioeconomic Dehydration of Women in the Sundarbans

Aditya Ghosh (Jindal Global University)

Unlocking risk governance and climate (in)justice nexus: A governmentality approach

Silvia Pergetti

*Charged: Distributed generation and imagined futures in the Sundarbans, India***The Aerial View: Imperialism and the Art of War**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Vazira Zamindar (Brown University)

Discussant / Chair - Gyan Prakash (Princeton)

Joppan George

Airplanes at the jirga: The vertical remove of frontier governmentality

Madiha Tahir (Columbia University)

Stealing the Body: Surveillance, Terror, & Drone Visuality

Inderpal Grewal (Yale University)

Photojournalism and aerial visuality: Between the imperial, the communal and the geopolitical

Vazira Zamindar

*On Grounding The Aerial View***Polarized Politics in Bangladesh: The Role of Elite, Ideology, and Social Movements**

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)

Discussant / Chair - Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

Tahmina Rahman (Georgia State University)

Trading pluralism for electoral stability: Origin and consequences of elite driven political polarization in Bangladesh

Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)

The Implications of the Ideological Contestations within Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami

Fahmida Zaman (University of Delaware)

Social Movements in Bangladesh and Implications for Democracy and State Capacity

Krishna Kumar Saha

Understanding Local Electoral Violence through Narratives

The Primacy of Experience: Bhakti Imagery and the Ritual Performer

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer - Amy-Ruth Holt (independent scholar)

Organizer - Karen Pechilis (Drew University)

Discussant / Chair - Shruti Patel

Discussant / Chair - Patton Burchett (College of William and Mary)

Kalpesh Bhatt (University of Toronto)

Nityapuja, an Image-Centered Bhakti Ritual: The Etical Formation of the Self Through Devotion

Jodi Shaw (University of Florida)

Gold, Bangles, Powders and Flowers: A Sensory Experience of Ritual Devotion at Citamparam

Hanna Mannila (University of Helsinki)

Dancers as Exemplary Bhaktas: Performing Bhakti Rasa and Guru Bhakti in Contemporary Kathak

Sravani Kanamarlapudi (University of Texas at Austin)

Model Bhakta Vidura: A Study of Bhakti Image Emulation for Social Mobility

Embodied Norms Past and Present - Intersectional Examinations of Women's Status from Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Carmen Britton (University of Connecticut)

Carmen Britton (University of Connecticut)

Women's Experiences of Disability and Community-based Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka

Rupali Warke (University of Texas at Austin)

When Zenana Baffled Empire: Baizabai Shinde and the opium of Central India

Nimisha Thakur (Syracuse University)

River Song: Caste, Indigeneity and Embodied Pollution in the Brahmaputra River Valley, India

Mariam Chughtai (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Entrepreneurship Education for Women in Post-Conflict Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Exploring Gender In Tamil Cinema

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Vasugi Kailasam (University of California Berkeley)

Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)

Tamil Cinema and Its Tropes: Men and the Abalaippen/Forlorn Woman

Perundevi Srinivasan (Sienna College)

Discourses of Masculinity and Dialogue with Hegemonic Caste Groups: Dalit Politics in Pariyerum Perumal

Amrutha Kunapulli

Building Temples for Nayanthara: The "Women-Centric" Film of Contemporary Tamil Cinema

Vasugi Kailasam (University of California Berkeley)

Becoming an engineer, becoming a Tamil man: The mass hero in post-millennial Tamil cinema

Historical Trajectories and Complex Realities: Law and Politics in South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Patricia Barton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)

Salman Hussain (University of Massachusetts , Amherst)

Civil Disobedience and the 'Long March' in South Asia: The Mobilization of Emotion, Memory and Space in the 'Lawyers' Movement' (2007-09) in Pakistan

Sujata Chaudhary (McGill University)

"Bureaucratization" to "Judicialization": A Case Study of religio-legal cases in Himachal Pradesh, India

Patricia Barton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)

Artistry, Symmetry, Smuggling and Law: When Scots and English Law clashed on Intoxicant Smuggling in Colonial South Asia, 1900-1920

Baishakh Chakrabarti (University of Pennsylvania)

*Bringing Down the House: Gambling and the Art of Evasion***Cartography of Imaginations: Artistry as Space in Postcolonial South Asia**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Titas De Sarkar (University of Chicago)

Titas De Sarkar (University of Chicago)

The Space of the Obscene: Linguistic Incursions in Postcolonial Calcutta

Asif Iqbal (Michigan State University)

The Rhizomatic Sites of 1971 in Noroshundor / The Barbershop (2009)

Sayanti Mondal (Illinois State University)

Multiple Narratives: Reading Do! As a Textual Heterotopia

Madiha Ghous (Michigan state university)

*The Language of Loss-- Engaging with Exile in Aamer Hussein `s Short-Fiction***Anagarika Dharmapala, Sri Lanka and the Wider World**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

Anne M Blackburn

Neilesh Bose (University of Victoria)

Mark Whitaker (University of Kentucky)

Steven Kemper

Building Nations & Forming Identities Through Work: Ethnographies and Histories from South Asia

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University)

Aniruddha Bose (Saint Francis University)

Shunting the Nation: India Railway Workers and the Making of Free India and Pakistan

Hasan Mahmud (Northwestern University in Qatar)

Remittance as Belonging: Immigrants incorporation and family relations among Bangladeshi immigrants in Los Angeles

Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University)

Living in a world without autonomous state: Tharu activists' engagements with new local governance in Nepal

Kristina Nielsen (University of Pennsylvania)

Being from a Good Family: Modern Avoidance Registers in the NCR BPO Sector

Entangled Histories: Indian Classical Dance and the Artistry of Nation Making and Moral Belonging

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer - Sitara Thobani (Michigan State University)

Discussant / Chair - Daves Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Pallabi Chakravorty (Swarthmore College)

Artistry and the Moral body: Yoking Bharatnatyam with Kalbelia

Hari Krishnan (Wesleyan University)

Celluloid Classicism: Intertwined Histories of Bharatanāṭyam and the Early Tamil Ceinam

Sheema Kermani

Identity, Performance and Gender in Pakistan

Sitara Thobani (Michigan State University)

Indian Classical Dance and The Golden Age of Nationalism: The Im/perfections of Classicising Discourses

Ritual and Art in the Kathmandu Valley

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Gudrun Buhnemann (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Gudrun Buhnemann (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Royal Likenesses in 17th-century Nepal

Andrea Wollein

Provincializing "Mesocosm"

Miroj Shakya

Overcoming Obstacles: The Tradition of Recitation of the Grahamātrkā Dhārani in the Newar Buddhist community in Nepal

Austin Simoes-Gomes (University of Toronto)

Decentering the Shaman: An Exploration of the Role of the Audience in Newar Healing Rituals

End of Session 7

Borderland Permeability and Himalayan Territoriality

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer - Nadine Plachta (Heidelberg University)

Discussant / Chair - Emily Yeh (University of Colorado Boulder)

Rupak Shrestha (University of Colorado Boulder)

Extraterritoriality, Intimacy, and Dissensus: Tibetan refugee subjectivities in the Nepal-China borderlands

Nadine Plachta (Heidelberg University)

Shifting villages, shifting allegiances: Framing boundaries, sovereignty, and citizenship at the Nepal-China border

Galen Murton (James Madison University)

Tibetan trains, dry ports, and accumulating stuff at the Nepal-China border

Phurwa D. Gurung (University of Colorado Boulder)

*Food (in)security and other infrastructural orthodoxies in the Himalayan borderlands***Caste, Commodity, and Migration: Reappraising the History of Northern Sri Lanka through Labor**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer - Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal (Radboud University)

Discussant / Chair - Rupa Viswanath (University of Göttingen)

Tamara Fernando (University of Cambridge)

Pearl Diving in the Gulf of Mannar 1880-1925: Mannar as a Labour Frontier

Mark Balmforth (Columbia University)

Tobacco Rāṇi: Addiction, Caste, and Slavery in the Indian Ocean

Dominic Esler (University College London)

Obligatory service and caste in Mannar during the Dutch and British periods

Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal (Radboud University)

*From Jaffna to Malaysia: Tamils as agents of the British empire, 1867-1918***Landscapes of Language: Philology in Social Context**

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer - Christine Marrewa Karwoski (Columbia University)

Discussant / Chair - Linda Hess (Stanford University)

Dalpat Rajpurohit (The University of Texas at Austin)

Language and Register in Sundardas' Poetry

Julie Vig (University of Toronto)

Prosody and Meters in Gurbilās Literature: Performance and Intertextuality

Christine Marrewa Karwoski (Columbia University)

The Language of Proselytization: Multilingualism in the Hindustani Nāth Oeuvre

Elaine Fisher (Stanford University)

Languages of Devotion: Internal Multilingualism in Vīraśaiva Commentarial Texts

Maṅkha and his Śrīkaṇṭhacarita: The Poet's (Re-)Conception of his World

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer - Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)

Discussant / Chair - Sarah Pierce Taylor (Concordia University)

Hamsa Stainton (McGill University)

Beyond Poetry: The Poetics and Devotionalism of Maṅkha's Śrīkaṇṭhacarita

Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)

The Past is Another Country: Geography, Genealogy and Autobiography in Maṅkha's Kashmir

Luther Obrock

The Goṣṭhī and Politics: Maṅkha's Poetry in 12th Century Kashmir

Sloane Geddes (University of Toronto)

*Resounding Dawn: Intertextual Continuities and Innovation in Maṅkha's Śrīkaṇṭhacarita***Nonhuman potencies: Taking "superstition" seriously in the Sundarbans delta**

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer - Megnaa Mehtta (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Discussant / Chair - Sufia Uddin (Connecticut College)

Annu Jalais (NUS)

Understanding tiger-charming, ritual healing and mental suffering in deltaic Bengal from the ontology of the nonhuman

Calynn Dowler (Boston University)

Storied Waters: Narrative practice and human-nonhuman agency in the Sundarbans delta

Megnaa Mehtta (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Laws of the Jungle: Ethics as politics in the ecological imaginations of the Sundarbans delta

Sufia Uddin (Connecticut College)

*Discussant's commentary***Crafting Property in South Asia: Objects and Forms, Histories and Futures**

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer - Zahra Hayat (UC Berkeley)

Discussant / Chair - Rohit De (Yale University)

Zahra Hayat (UC Berkeley)

Itineraries of Intellectual Property – The Story of Sovaldi

Tariq Rahman (University of California, Irvine)

The Properties of Property: Patwaris, Digitization, and Land Records in Lahore

Mehtab Khan (University of California, Berkeley)

Copyright Law in Context: The Construction of 'Fair Use' in South Asia

Oviya Govindan (UC Irvine)

Liminality and Fixity: Property Relations along the South Coromandel Coastline

Dalit Movement's Next Steps: Solidarity and Interaction With Others

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer - Suraj Yengde (Harvard Kennedy School)

Discussant / Chair - Kristina Garalyte (Vilnius University)

Balmurli Natrajan

Dalits in Hindutva Neoliberalism

Kevin Brown

How the Limits of the African-Americans International Perspective Limited Their Ability to Unite with Dalits and How to Overcome It

Akhil Kang

Finding the 'Gay' in Ambedkar

Prema Ann Kurien

*The Transnational Anti-Caste Movement and the Racial Paradigm: Dalit Rights Activists in the United States***Debating Religion: Traditions and Their Publics**

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Yogesh Chandrani (Colorado College)

Nathan McGovern (UW Whitewater)

Aśvaghoṣa's Buddhacarita and Mapping the Relationship Between Buddhism and Sāṃkhya

Samina Hossain (University of Wisconsin - Madison)

The challenges and ways forward for examining the fraught career of secularism in India

Yogesh Chandrani (Colorado College)

Piety and Politics at the Margins of the Nation

Shweta Krishnan (George Washington University)

*The Art of the Prayer: The Role of Creativity in the Production of an Ethical Subject of a Religious Discourse***South Asian Literature in the 20th Century**

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Mehreen Jamal (University of Arkansas)

Not One of the Family: The Representations of Domestic Servants in Pakistani Women's Writings

Samira Musleh (University of Minnesota - Twin Cities)

*Love in the Time of Colonialism: Re-Reading a Dual Narration of Civilizational Intimacy from Colonial Bengal***My Still Unrealized Expression: Muktibodh and his Legacy in Hindi Literature and Cinema**

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Gregory Goulding (University of Pennsylvania)

Gregory Goulding

Blue Sparks: Electricity in the Poetry of Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh (1917–1964)

Vikrant Dadawala (University of Pennsylvania)

Birds, Termites and Brahmins: The Cultural Cold War and the Ethical Work of Hindi Literature

Ashish Chadha (University of Rhode Island)

Mani Kaul and Muktibodh and the making of discursive cinema

Aditya Mohan Bahl (Johns Hopkins University)

Specters of Mukti: The Work of Epic in the Age of Nation-State

Money-use in precolonial South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer - Sudev Sheth (Harvard Business School)

Discussant / Chair - Hannah Archambault (UC Berkeley)

Jawan Rasikh

A Plundering Medieval State? Economics of the Ghurid Polity in the Tabaqat-i Nasiri

Pushkar Sohoni (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune)

Strike Two: Afterlife of Bahmani Coinage

Sudev Sheth (Harvard Business School)

Money use, proto-chartalism, and barriers to capital accumulation in Mughal India

Faisal Chaudhury

*Beyond Sharia and Oikonomia: Akhlaq Texts and the Constitution of Mughal Money in the Imaginary of Islamic Law and Economy***Newar Identity Between Centre and Margin**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair - Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto)

Michael Baltutis (University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh)

Ritual Revival: Goddesses in Three 19th-century Nepalese Indra Festival Texts

Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto)

Natibajra Bajracharya and the Bookshop as Literary Event

Ian Turner (University of Toronto)

*Facebook Farmers and Urban Entrepreneurs. The Politics of the Sacred in the Place-Making and Place-Claiming of the Kathmandu Valley***Foundations and Legacies of B.R. Ambedkar: Reconfiguring a Buddhist homeland and the politics of belonging**

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer - David Geary (University of British Columbia [Okanagan])

Discussant / Chair - Sraman Mukherjee (Presidency University)

Douglas Ober

Conversion, Reversion and Revival: History and Historiography among the Buddhist Bahun

Mallory Hennigar (Syracuse University)

Ambedkarite Young Women and a Global Buddhist Movement: Balancing the Local, the National, and the International in Anti-Caste Activism

David Geary (University of British Columbia (Okanagan))

"Beggars in robes," "Sly monks" and the limits of Ambedkar at the place of Buddha's enlightenment

Afghanistan and Changing Regional Dynamics

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Marium Kamal (University of Cambridge)

Marium Kamal (University of Cambridge)

Af-Pak Strategy: Pakistan's Proactive Approach towards Afghanistan in the Context of Changing Regional Dynamics

Asifa Jahangir (University of the Punjab)

Kabul Peacemaking Process: Pakistan's Role and its Concerns

Rubeel Jawaid

Furqan Khan (National Defence University, Pakistan)

*Post-US withdrawal from Afghanistan: Kremlin's Strategic Imperatives***Artists of New Capital in Contemporary India**

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer - Ipshita Ghosh (Syracuse University)

Discussant / Chair - Heather Hindman (University of Texas-Austin)

Ipshita Ghosh (Syracuse University)

From Rebels to Elites: How Private Investment shaped Entrepreneurship in India

Katie Lazarowicz (The University of Texas at Austin)

"But what will they do with their hands?" : Perspectives on social responsibility, (alternative) literacy, and education in the handicrafts industry

Tara Nair (Gujarat Institute of Development Research)

Recasting Development in the Mould of Financialization: A Feminist Perspective

Jaclyn Michael (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

*Space, Place, and the Politics of Artistic Representations of Delhi's Muslim Past***The Politics of Representation in Popular Art: Examining Graphic Narratives and Identity in Comic Books, Murals, and Animation South Asia**

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Chair - Jasleen Kandhari (University of Oxford)

Barbara Grossman (California State University, Long Beach)

Charlotta Salmi

Street Art as Offering: Public Murals and the Celebration of Subaltern Heroes in Nepal

Jasleen Kandhari (University of Oxford)

Sikh Popular Art & Socio-Religious Identity: Hagiography of Guru Nanak in Sikh Comics Art

Sourav Chatterjee (Columbia University)

The Effete, the Artist, the Superhero: The Changing Body of the Bengali in the Bengali Comic Strips of the 1960s

Pragya Ghosh (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Animating Desire: Apocryphal Myth and Desire under India's New Censorship***End of Session 8**



The 48th Annual Conference
on South Asia Presents

one day in the season of rain

A Staged Reading of
Mohan Rakesh's Hindi
Play, *Ashadh Ka Ek Din*
(1958)

In a New Translation by
Aparna Dharwadker and
Vinay Dharwadker
Department of English,
UW-Madison

Directed by
Joshua Thomas Kelly

Saturday, 19 October 2019, 8 p.m.
Play Circle Theater,
Wisconsin Memorial Union
800 Langdon Street,
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

A classic of postcolonial modernism and the only *kunstlerroman* of its kind in contemporary world theatre, this play reimagines the troubled life of India's greatest classical poet, Kalidas, and Mallika, the muse he abandons in a futile pursuit of literary and political ambition.

The performance is free, but seating at the Play Circle is limited. To reserve tickets (limit 2 per request), please contact Professor Aparna Dharwadker at adharwadker@wisc.edu, no later than Monday, 14 October 2019. Tickets will be emailed to patrons after this date.



One Day In The Season of Rain *Ashadh ka Ek Din*

By Mohan Rakesh
Translated by Aparna and Vinay Dharwadker

A Staged Reading by Students in the Interdisciplinary Theater Studies Program and
the Department of Theater and Drama, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Directed by Joshua Thomas Kiley

Saturday, 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Play Circle Theater (Memorial Union)
800 Langdon Street, Madison WI 53706

One Day in the Season of Rain is Aparna Dharwadker and Vinay Dharwadker's new English translation of *Ashadh ka Ek Din*, the Hindi play by Mohan Rakesh (1925–1972) that transformed modern Indian theatre and founded a transnational paradigm of postcolonial drama in 1958.

Set entirely in fifth-century India, the play's action centers on the Sanskrit poet Kalidas and his muse, Mallika, who have grown up together in an impoverished village in the foothills of the Himalayas. When Kalidas is appointed the court poet in the royal capital of Ujjain, he abandons Mallika for his literary and political ambitions, with disastrous consequences for both.

Since nothing certain is known about the historical Kalidas, Rakesh reconstructs him brilliantly in three dimensions from his poems and plays and from the history of classical India, using an innovative array of modernist dramatic and theatrical techniques. The result is a dazzling portrait of the times, with a large cast of fully imagined characters, and an equally unforgettable love story of romance, fulfilment, abandonment, agony, cruelty, betrayal, and commitment.

Ashadh ka Ek Din is unique because it is the only play in world drama that takes a major historical artist in his maturity as its subject, and dramatizes not only the social, political, and intimate spheres of his life but also the conflicts that drive his career and his creativity. As its author, Rakesh won the Best Playwright award of the Sangeet Natak Akademi (national academy of performing arts) in 1959. Since then, the play has acquired an illustrious history of some fifty productions on the regional, national, and international stage, and has also entered the history of cinema with Mani Kaul's award-winning arthouse film of 1970, based on Rakesh's screenplay.

The English translation featured here was authorized by Rakesh's estate, and has been published in the Penguin Modern Classics series (2015). It premiered in a production directed by Neil Scharnick at the Department of Theatre, Carthage College (Kenosha, Wisconsin), in March 2010. The production was chosen subsequently for the Kennedy Center's American College Regional Theatre Festival at Michigan State University in January 2011. The staged reading at the 48th Annual South Asia Conference will be its debut performance in Madison

The staged reading is free, but seating in the Play Circle Theater is limited. Tickets will be available for pick up at the registration desk on a first-come-first-served basis.

This event is free and open to the public.



Capitol Ballroom B

Puththu Saha Piyavaru (Sons and Fathers)

95 min - 8:00-9:50pm (Q&A to follow)

Sumathy Sivamohan

The Tamil musician, Rex Periyasamy, is the lead composer of Sinhala films. At the height of his career he marries Kanthi, a Sinhala woman, in keeping with the multicultural milieu of the country's film industry. They settle down to a life of prosperity, hopes, and dreams for themselves and their son, Lucky, and daughter, Mala. Sons and Fathers turns the creative lens upon the history of the film industry in Sri Lanka and its chequered path, by narrating the story of two generations of musicians who are caught in the whirlpool of political turbulence, the Tamil separatist war in the north and growing anti-Tamil sentiments in the country.

Walking the Walk

30 min - 9:50-10:20pm

Moses Tulasi

In India, the most visible face to the queer community – the Hijra community – also is the most victimised: rape, violence, discrimination, and even death are motifs of their daily existence. The film also brings attention to these gruesome acts of violence to raise awareness within the mainstream society. Walking as a form of protest against discrimination and exclusion has a long history in India. Dr. Ambedkar's historical "Mahad Satyagraha" walk in 1927 protested caste-based discrimination at one of its fundamental levels: access to water. Since then countless anti caste and anti colonial marches have galvanised the masses to fight for freedom – but these struggles must be kept vitally alive today. It is important to not only fight the British colonial residue in the form of an archaic Sec. 377 (that criminalizes homosexual behaviour) but also to fight the deep rooted stigma in the society and bring it to understand and accept alternate genders and sexualities. A public walk aims to do just that. Queer Indians have learned not to hesitate to talk the talk. This film shows how they also walk the walk.

1984, When The Sun Didn't Rise

57 min - 10:20-11:17pm

Teenaa Kaur

The film is a narrative of three Sikh women living in Widows Colony wherein they lost their homes and men in the violent killings of 1984 when over 2733 Sikhs were killed in Delhi and over 30,000 in India. It is based on the lives of women and how they negotiate their memories on day to day basis while still earning their livelihoods. The socio-political times are visited through the eyes of the women. I have done first hand research and it has taken me 5 years to make the film and it has traveled to prestigious film festivals the details of which are in the Dossier here.

Naked Wheels

29 min - 11:17-11:46pm

Rajesh James

The film is about the journey undertaken by a diverse group of people comprising males, females and transgenders across South India in a truck. The film seeks to explore many compelling thoughts on life, love, and gender. The film hopes for a society where none have to crush their desires because the majority does not understand it...

Wisconsin Ballroom**Where Do The Children Play**

63 min - 8:00-9:18pm (Q&A to follow)

Arvind Rajagopal

On the night of December 2, 1984, an accident at the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, released at least 30 tons of a highly toxic gas called methyl isocyanate, as well as a number of other poisonous gases. The pesticide plant was surrounded by shanty towns, leading to more than 600,000 people being exposed to the deadly gas cloud that night. The gases stayed low to the ground, causing victims' throats and eyes to burn, inducing nausea, and many deaths. Estimates of the death toll vary from as few as 3,800 to as many as 16,000, but government figures now refer to an estimate of 15,000 killed over the years. Toxic material remains, and 30 years later, many of those who were exposed to the gas have given birth to physically and mentally disabled children. For decades, survivors have been fighting to have the site cleaned up, but they say the efforts were slowed when Michigan-based Dow Chemical took over Union Carbide in 2001. Human rights groups say that thousands of tons of hazardous waste remain buried underground, and the government has conceded the area is contaminated.

Salam - The First *** Nobel Laureate**

75 min - 9:18-10:33pm

Zakir Thaver

Salam – The First ***** Nobel Laureate' is a feature length documentary about Abdus Salam, the first Muslim to win the Nobel prize in Physics for the Standard Model—a holy grail in 20th century physics that postulated the Higgs Boson ('The God Particle') and was a step towards fulfilling Einstein's dream of unifying the laws of nature. The film captures his dramatic and ultimately tragic life's journey—from a small village in Pakistan to worldwide scientific acclaim—and his fraught relationship with his homeland, where he faced persecution for being a member of the "heretical" Ahmadiyya sub sect of Islam. Salam's legacy continues to be at the center of hard-fought culture wars in Pakistan between progressive segments and the religious right wing in a fundamental argument to define the constitutional nature of the state. At the cross roads between science and religion, Salam's story has huge relevance to contemporary Pakistan and the Muslim world beyond.

Chidra

40 min - 10:33-11:13pm

Arik Moran

Every couple of years, Ram Nath leaves his fields and buffaloes to play the part of human sacrifice in a hitherto undocumented mysterious ritual of purification in the Himalayan Valley of Kullu, North India. During the ritual, Ram Nath transforms from a highland peasant into the master of ceremonies, a powerful redeemer who cuts holes (chidra) in the fabric of society, collecting sins into a cosmic trap that only he can operate. Chidra follows Ram Nath through the ritual, revealing how men, gods, and mediums handle the dangerous substance of actions (karma) at the frontier of the Hindu cultural sphere.

University A/B**The Journey Within (the Coke Studio origin story)**

78 min - 8:00-9:33pm (Q&A to follow)

Mian Adnan Ahmad

The 'Coke Studio' Origin Story – In a post 9/11 Pakistan faced with challenges of war and conflict, a quest for self-identity leads the inspirational journey of a music show to help reclaim the rich and vast musical heritage of this region. In doing so it has become one of the biggest music initiatives from this side of the world, bringing together unique cultural experiences and genres, including but not limited to folk, sufi, rock, pop and rap music. We explore this important period in music by discovering the show from its humble beginnings, living through its spirit to reach the heart of the experience, as artists unify eastern and western sounds to make music that will resonate across the globe; impacting all involved and planting the seeds for an ongoing inward reflection towards who we are as individuals and as a people.

In Thunder, Lightning, and Rain

40 min - 9:33-10:13pm

Rajesh James

In Thunder Lightning and Rain depicts the endurance of three women against their ostracisation in the society. The three women- a footballer, a fisher and a cremator-tells their sagas of woes and weal, resistance and endurance in the film. These three contemporary Shakespearean witches are etched against the carnivalesque urban space of Fort Kochi. They visit the masculine space of carnival. The camera intently listens to them with an intense zeal to film their identity.

Sweet Tassa: Music and Tradition of the Indian Caribbean Diaspora

60 min - 10:13-11:13pm

Chris Ballengee

I am an ethnomusicologist working on Indian music in the Caribbean, largely focusing on tassa drumming in Trinidad & Tobago. I am nearing completion of a new film about tassa and work very closely with a number of professional tassa bands.

University C/D**The Forgotten People of Kashmir**70 min - 8:00-9:25pm (Q&A to follow)

Anne Leigh Cooper

A documentary following the filmmaker going undercover into a conflict zone called Jammu & Kashmir where she documents the human rights abuses that are being committed against the people of Kashmir. A human rights organization under constant threat shows us a glimpse of what is like to fight for justice and a voice in a place forgotten by the world. A deeper look into the suffering of the people of Kashmir who have been enduring human rights violations for the past several decades. Anne Leigh Cooper and her crew go undercover in the conflict zone of Jammu and Kashmir to finally give a voice to the people.

On Hands70 min - 9:25-10:50pm (Q&A to follow)

Lajwanti Waghray

In a time when our experiences of the world are mediated through technology, this poetic film brings our attention to an essential way of experiencing it, by using our hands. Pursuit of Silence meets Koyaanisqatsi but within an immersive auditory experience. By documenting their work with hands, we explore the satisfaction it provides, and how they are redefining what success means. A simple change in the focus of our daily processes can have a positive effect, and we are not thoroughly exploring it. Calling attention to the work of hands is even more relevant today, as we are surrounded by a virtual world.

Two Flags

65 min - 10:50-11:55pm

Pankaj Rishi Kumar

'Two Flags' chronicles the life and politics of a quaint French town: Pondicherry. As the 4600 Tamil French people belonging to the Tamil ethnic community, gear up for the French Presidential elections (2017) the film explores the idea of identity, citizenship and home in the post colonial era. 'Two Flags' is a chronicle of a legacy that is not easily evident, but manages to shine through ordinary events and occasional mishaps, and which brings together this tiny population in celebration, in grief, in anxiety and in serene acceptance

Vivek / 'Reason'

By Anand Patwardhan

Followed by Q&A with filmmaker Anand Patwardhan

Snacks and refreshments will be provided

Sunday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Capitol Ballroom (second floor)



Those who witnessed the scientific spirit fostered by the Enlightenment would scarcely believe that over 400 years later, Faith would still have an upper hand over Reason. Today as technologically advanced nations still debate the merits of Creationism and Evolution, the developing world falls prey to blind faith and religious war. Everywhere privatization and a rush to corner ever-depleting natural resources has catapulted corporates and their extreme right wing storm-troopers into power.

With the collapse of egalitarian values, democracy itself is under siege. That we, the temporarily comfortable, rarely notice, is because an embedded media controls both information and entertainment. We see what they want us to see and quickly tire of seeing anything that matters.

Reason takes us to a macrocosm – India, the world's largest democracy. Its eight chapters are a chilling account of how murder and mind control are being applied to systematically dismantle secular democracy in a country which once aspired not just to Liberty, Egalite and Fraternity, but to lead the post-war world out of its mindless spiral of violence and greed.

And yet the battle for Reason is not lost. Even as Brahminism (a priest ordained caste hierarchy that withheld knowledge from the working castes) drapes itself in the national flag and sends out its hit squads, resistance has not ended. For every brave rationalist gunned down or driven to suicide, many more take up the mantle.

Reason is then both a warning and a promise.

This event is free and open to the public.



Special Sunday Event

Sunday Morning Networking

Sunday, October 20 , 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

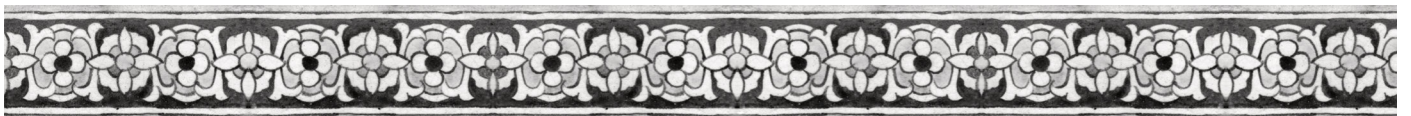
Madison Ballroom (second floor)

The Annual Conference on South Asia was started in 1971 in part as an effort to increase community engagement as well as foster stronger relations amongst members of the South Asian intellectual community.

We welcome all conference attendees to come together Sunday morning to discuss the previous days' proceedings, future scholarship, and panels for next year's conference!

This is a particularly salient opportunity for graduate students and younger scholars to interact with one another and get to know everyone else in attendance.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.





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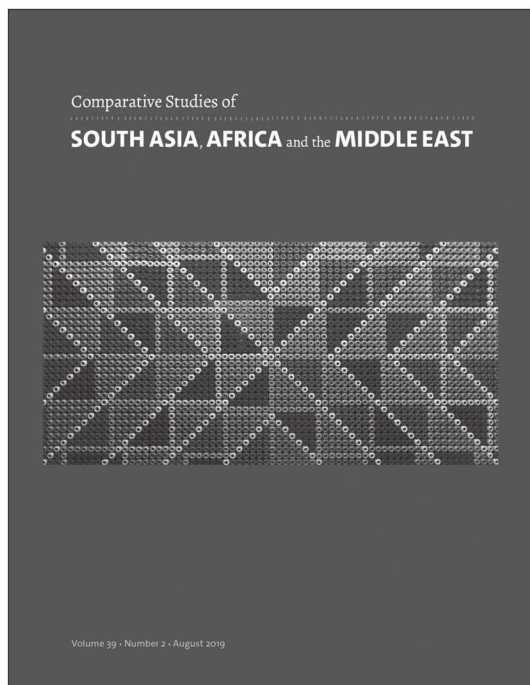
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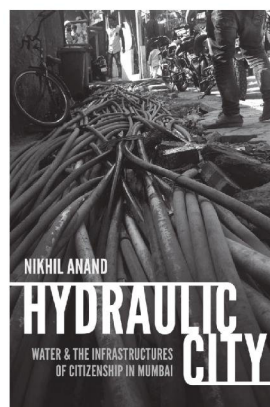
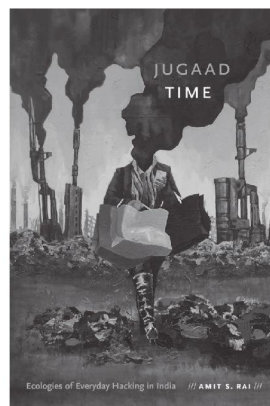
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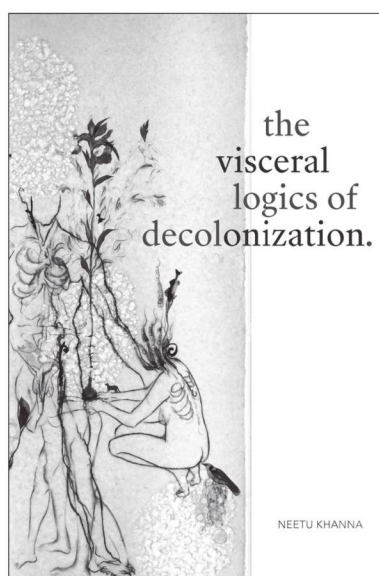
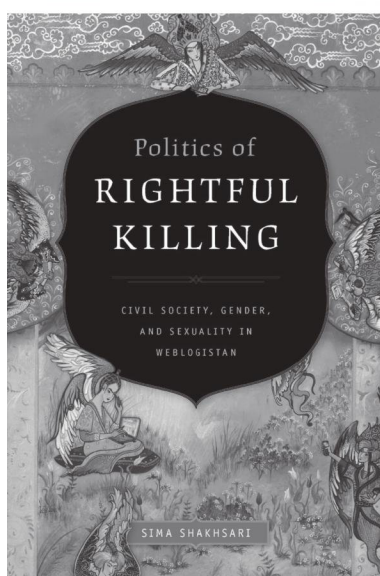
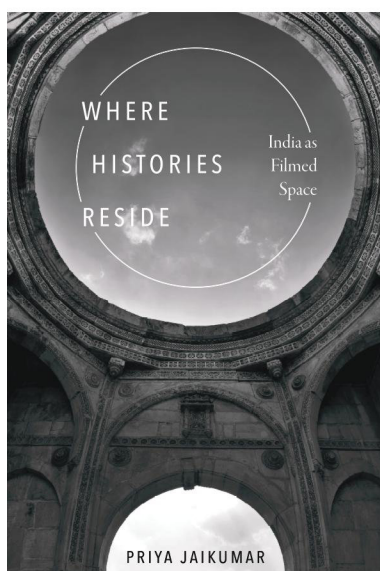
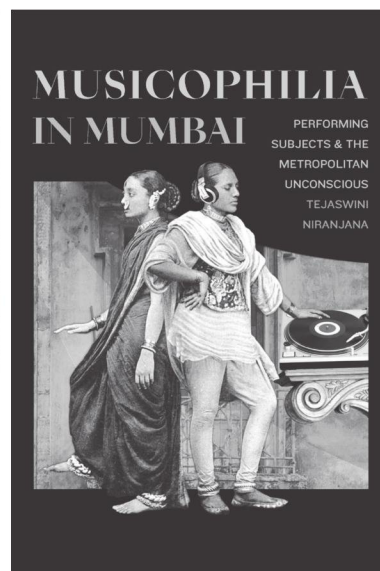
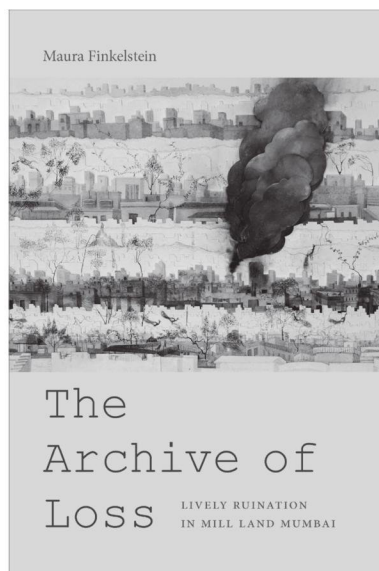
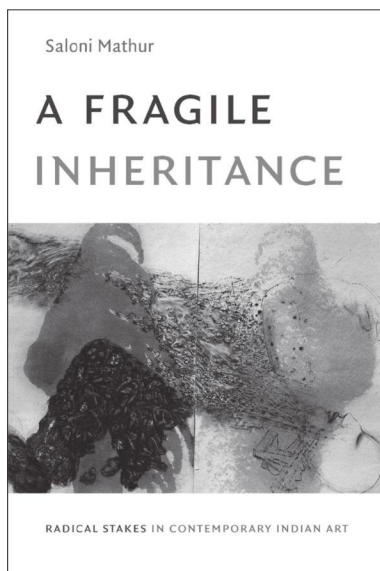
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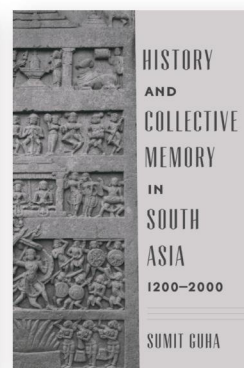
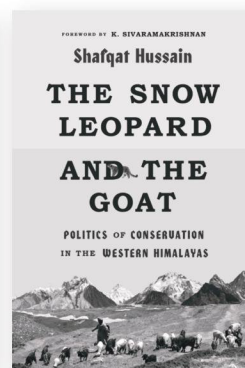
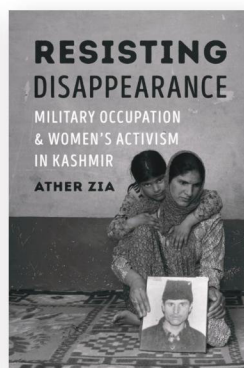
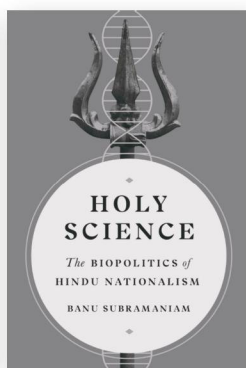
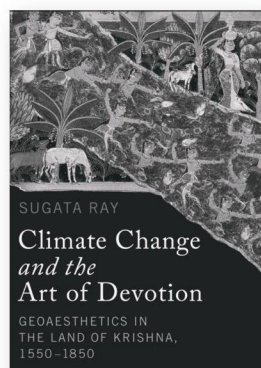
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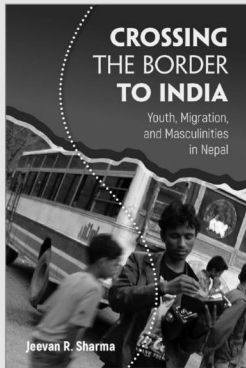
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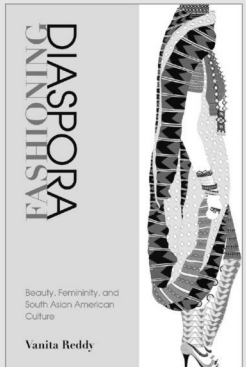
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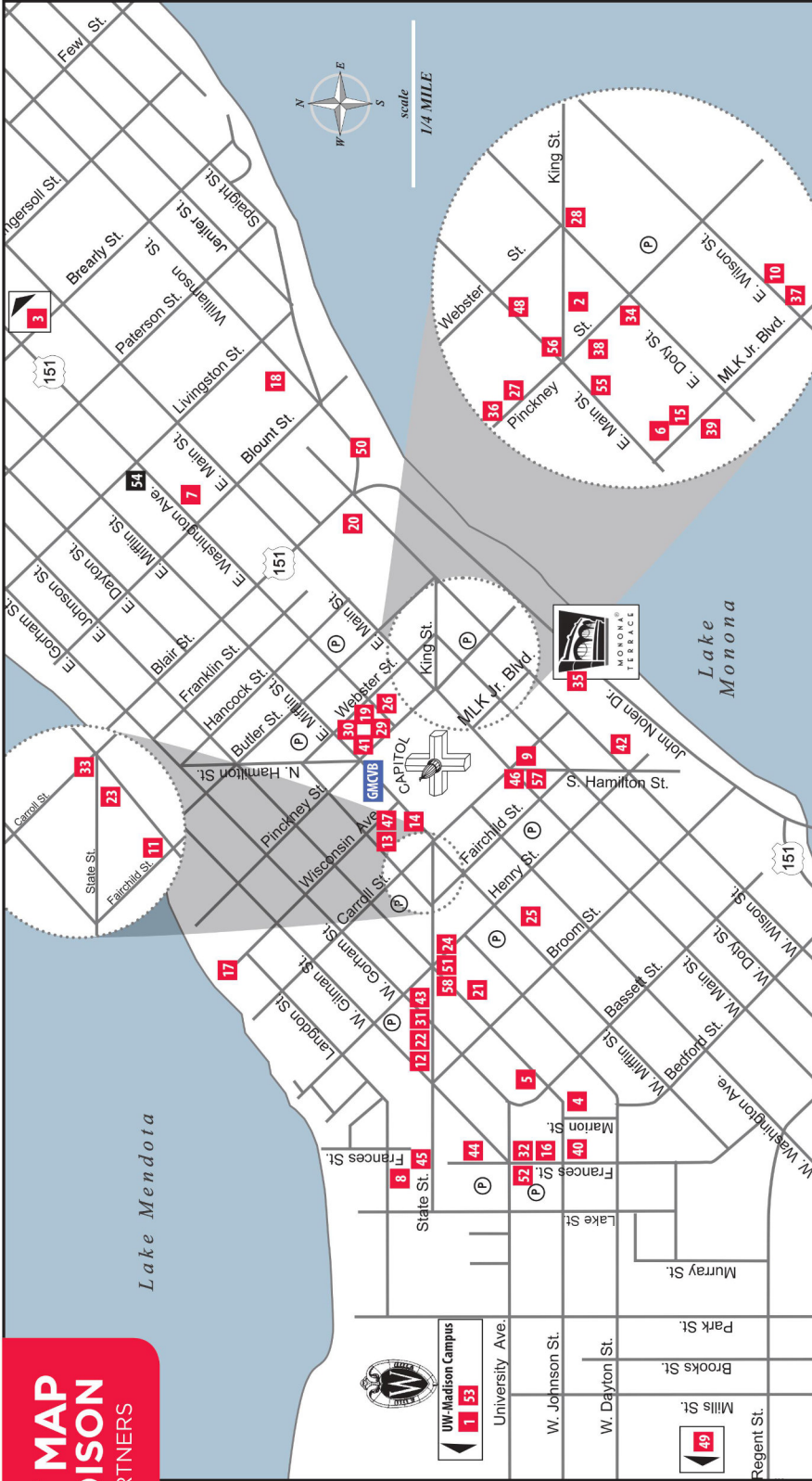
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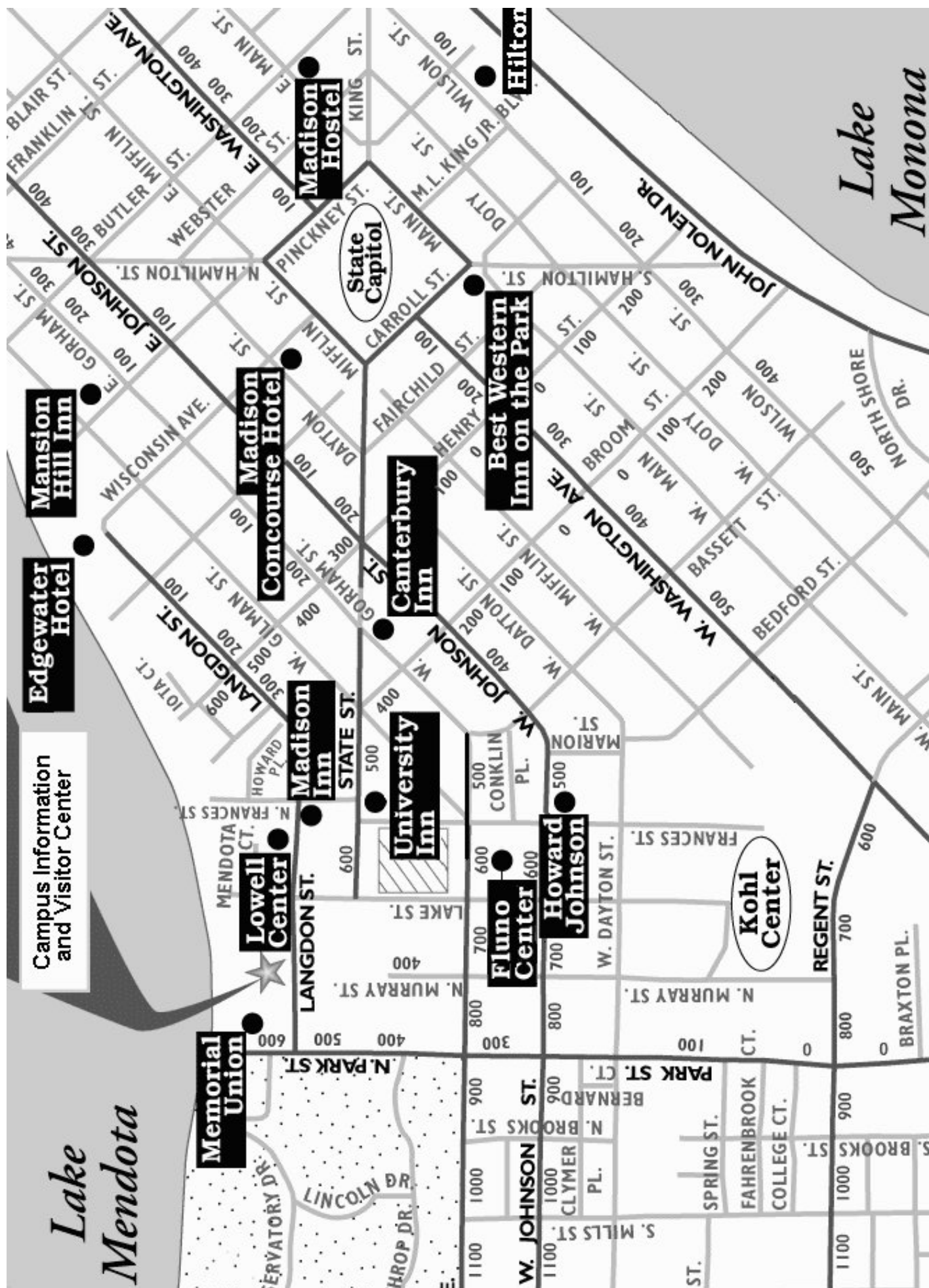
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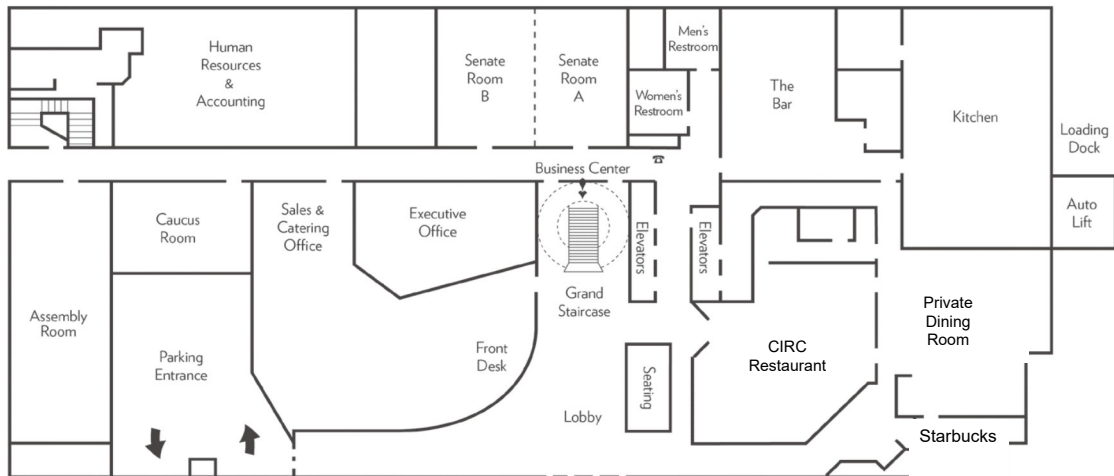
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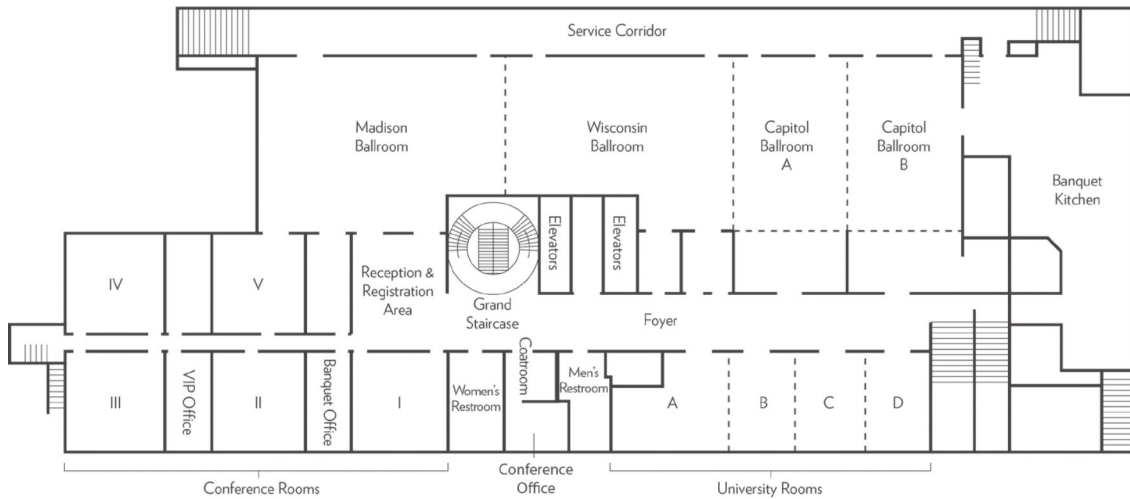


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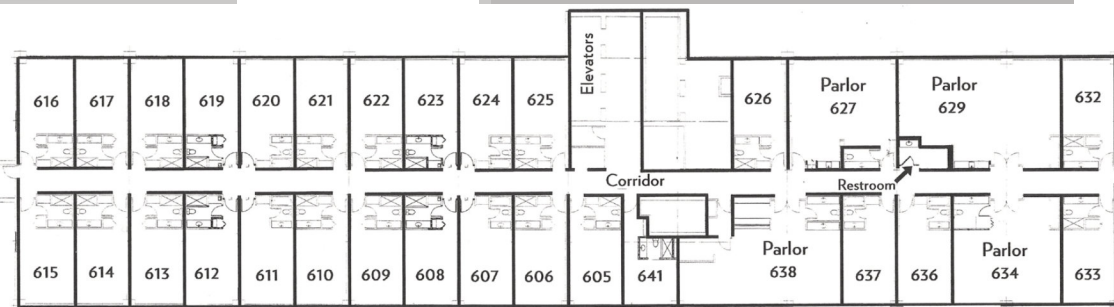
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THE
MADISON
CONCOURSE
HOTEL
and Governor's Club

How the Annual Conference on South Asia Began

By Robert Eric Frykenberg

During the 1970-71 academic year, we were told by Washington that our three-year Center for South Asia grant would not be renewed unless we could give evidence showing how South Asian Studies at UW was reaching out to other institutions and providing services to the general public.

It was at that time that we devised a paradigm of seven concentric “spheres of outreach” whereby the benefits of understandings of South Asia could be disseminated more widely. Circles, or constituencies, of possible influence were demarcated as : (1) the department; (2) the college; (3) the UW campus; (4) campuses of the state; (5) campuses of the Mid-West; (6) campuses of North America; and (7) campuses of the whole world, especially in South Asia itself, as well as in Europe, Australia, Africa and the Far East. To this end, we decided to hold a major conference in Wisconsin. We contacted executives of Wingspread, the Frank Lloyd-Wright-designed conference center near Racine, Wisconsin, run by the Johnson Foundation. Describing what we wished to do, we asked for their help in hosting a path-breaking event. They replied in the affirmative, indicating that they would gladly provide such meeting rooms as we needed, together with some food and refreshments. With this generous invitation in hand, we set about organizing panels and sending out invitations – to any and all South Asian scholars. We were astounded at the response, with scholars coming from near and far.

The very first Wisconsin Conference of South Asian Studies took place at Wingspread on the first weekend of November, 1971. The event was truly memorable. Among those who participated, revealing his scholarly prowess for the first time, was Velcheru Narayana Rao. His remarkable performance made a considerable impact upon the minds of all who heard him. Among others who were there was the late and noted Sanskritist J.A.B. (“Hans”) Van Buitenen who gave his film production on Vedic Sacrifice in Pune. So also were Susanne and Lloyd Rudolph, as well as A.K. Ramanujan. Suffice it to say, there were some eighty to one hundred esteemed colleagues and scholars at that first conference.

The Second Annual Wisconsin Conference on South Asian Studies was held on the UW-Madison campus. This too was a resounding success, attracting many more participants. Then, because South Asia Center at Wisconsin wanted to demonstrate the wish, and fulfill the promise, of “reaching out” beyond the Madison campus, the Third Wisconsin Conference was held on the campus of UW-Oshkosh. Slowly, conference policies and procedural conventions were evolving so as to assure continuity, and some measure of control over the quality and quantity of panels for each conference. Each year’s event was to be organized by a conference committee in which a blending of old and new members combined a sense of continuity with fresh energy and insights. Eventually, campus facilities became inadequate, so that in 2001 the venue was moved to the Concourse Hotel.

What has astounded all Center for South Asia faculty and staff at UW-Madison, and continues to astonish them to this day, is the reach of the Annual Conference on South Asia. With participants now coming from every continent, and numbering over one thousand each year, the event has obviously fulfilled a need that was felt world-wide. In metaphorical terms: it was as if a match were thrown onto a floor covered with gasoline. Fires that flare up among South Asianists who come to Wisconsin each year have continued to attract more and more onlookers and participants. While there are now many other South Asia Conferences, in different regions of North America and different regions of the world, the Annual Conference on South Asia remains the most well-attended and among the most attractive.

The role of many colleagues in bringing the Wisconsin Conference to its current level of quality and prestige can hardly be exaggerated. Joseph W. Elder and Manindra K. Verma both served on the first organizing committee. During his long tenure as department chair and center director, Manindra patiently and carefully developed the Annual Conference. Joe’s continuing presence, throughout these years, has been ever ubiquitous. During the early years, staff work was done by Judith Paterson. Sharon Dickson, who took her place, also served for many years. B. Venkat Mani (Director), Lalita du Perron (Associate Director), Sarah Beckham (Interim Associate Director), and Bradley Grochocinski (Conference Organizer) carry on the day-to-day planning and administration. Many others, too many to mention, have faithfully served in bringing this annual event to its current level.

Announcing the
**49th Annual Conference
on South Asia**

October 15 - 18, 2020

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