



Photo by J. Mark Kenoyer

# 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia

October 21-23, 2021

University of Wisconsin-Madison



**WISCONSIN**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



October 1, 2021

Dear Conference Participants,

We would like to welcome you all virtually to Madison, Wisconsin for the 49th Annual Conference on South Asia! This year, we are delighted to host more than 900 registered participants, 15 symposia, 126 panels, 17 roundtables, and several special events via Canapii for our online conference, October 21-23.

The theme of the conference this year is “resistance,” a term that has taken on multiple meanings as we emerge from a global pandemic.

We would like to remind you that the safety and well-being 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.

We ask that all participants help us to create a safe virtual space for learning and exchange, and engage respectfully and professionally with the speakers and other participants during the conference. Conference organizers reserve the right to remove any disruptive participants from shared spaces.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for the purposes of supporting future conference attendance for graduate students, contingent faculty, and early career scholars, you can do so by visiting the [Center for South Asia website](#) and clicking the “[Support Us](#)” button. You can also send a check to the address listed on the back cover of this program.

Please visit the [Annual Conference on South Asia website](#) for more information on the conference. If you have general questions or concerns, e-mail us at [conference@southasia.wisc.edu](mailto:conference@southasia.wisc.edu). We very much hope that you will enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Viren Murthy  
Associate Professor, History  
Chair, Annual Conference on South Asia

Rikhil Bhavnani  
Associate Professor, Political Science  
Director, Center for South Asia

Thursday, October 21, 2021

**Conference Registration**

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

**Program Book**

Program Books are available for download on the Conference website and on the Canapii virtual conference website. Cover photo courtesy of Professor J. Mark Kenoyer.

**Abstracts**

Abstracts are available online.

**Conference Chair**

Viren Murthy, UW-Madison

**Conference Committee**

Teri Allendorf, UW-Madison  
 Andrew Amstutz, University of Arkansas  
 Sumudu Atapattu, UW-Madison  
 Sarah Beckham, UW-Madison  
 Gudrun Bühnemann, UW-Madison  
 Anthony Cerulli, UW-Madison  
 Benjamin Cohen, University of Utah  
 J. Mark Kenoyer, UW-Madison  
 Elizabeth Lhost, Dartmouth College  
 Sarah Pierce Taylor, University of Chicago  
 Maryam Wasif Khan, LUMS  
 Darshana Mini, UW-Madison

**Conference Team**

Andrea Fowler, Coordinator  
 Anubhav Kumaria, Conference Assistant

**Sponsored by:**

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Rikhil Bhavnani, *Director*  
 Sarah Beckham, *Associate Director*  
 Andrea Fowler, *Assistant Director*

Center for South Asia Program Assistants:  
 Anubhav Kumaria, Ujaan Ghosh, Shatrunjay  
 Mall, Hannah Rifkin, & Abdullahi Ahmed

## Daily Break Schedule



Morning Break

10:15-10:30 AM CST



Lunch/Midday Break

12:15-1:45 PM CST



Afternoon Break

3:30-3:45 PM CST



## Conference Events

### **Thursday, October 21, 2021**

Symposia	8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Filmmaker Round Table	10:30 AM-12:15 PM
Film Screenings begin	7:00 AM

### **Friday, October 22, 2021**

Panel Sessions	8:30 AM-5:30 PM
Round Table: How to Get Published	12:15-1:45 PM
Networking Drop-In Session	12:15-1:45 PM
Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address	6:00-7:00 PM
Radhika Desai	
Musical Performance	8:00 PM
Arun Luthra	

### **Saturday, October 23, 2021**

Panel Sessions	8:30-5:30 PM
Round Table: Area Studies and International Education at Minority-Serving Institutions and Community Colleges	12:15-1:45 PM
Plenary Address	5:45-6:45 PM
Nira Wickramasinghe	

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

<b>Time</b>	<b>Symposium Title</b>
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Agrarian Urbanization: Emerging Entanglements of Land, Labor, and Capital
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Material Texts in Post-Print South Asia: Approaches to “History of the Book”
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Mind the Gap: Queer Erasure and Abundance
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Muslims and Resistance in South Asia: History, Culture, and Politics
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Mutations of Sovereignty: Perspectives on Sanjib Baruah’s <i>In the Name of the Nation</i>
8:30 AM-12:15 PM	New Directions in the Study of the Vernacular Millennium
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Print, Representation, and Formation of Bhakti in the Long Nineteenth Century
8:30 AM-1:30 PM	Science, Technology, and Medicine (STM) in South Asia Symposium: Interruptions and Failures
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	Seals and Sealings of South Asia: Indus to Early Historic Period
8:30 AM-12:15 PM	Sources and Subjects of Mughal History
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	South Asia in Motion: Mobility   Movement   Bodies
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	South Asia Translation Workshop
8:30 AM-3:30 PM	Time, Scale, and Method in South Asian History
8:30 AM-5:30 PM	World History in Urdu: The 2020 Urdu Symposium

**Agrarian Urbanization: Emerging Entanglements of Land, Labor, and Capital**

8:30 AM-12:15 PM

Organizer – Sai Balakrishnan (Harvard University)

Organizer – Shubhra Gururani (York University)

**8:30-10:15 AM – New Landscape of Labor and Livelihoods**

Vijay Baskar (Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai)

Barbara Harriss-White (Oxford University)

Carol Upadhyay (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore)

**10:30-12:15 PM – Class, Identity and Belonging**

K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University)

Asher Ghertner (Rutgers University)

Shubhra Gururani (York University)

**12:15-1:45 PM – Break****1:45-3:30 PM – Land and Displacement**

Sudeshna Mitra (Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bangalore)

Sarasij Majumder (Kennesaw State University)

**3:45-4:30 PM – Dominance and State Power**

Francine Frankel (University of Pennsylvania)

Gilles Vernier (Ashoka University)

Sai Balakrishnan (Harvard University)

**4:45-5:30 PM – Concluding Discussion**

**Material Texts in Post-Print South Asia: Approaches to “History of the Book”**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania)

Organizer – Pranav Prakash (University of Iowa)

**8:30-8:45 AM – Welcome and Opening Remarks****8:45-10:15 AM – Manuscripts in the Age of Print**

A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Madras Institute for Development Studies)

Ronit Ricci (Australian National University)

Nur Sobers-Khan (British Library)

**10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-11:30 AM – Material Texts in Social Contexts**

Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa (Occidental College)

Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania)

**11:30-1:00 PM – Break****1:00-2:30 PM – Reconstituting Textual Traditions**

John Cort (Denison University)

Christine Marrewa-Karowski (Columbia University)

Charlotte Gilles (University of Texas at Austin)

**2:30-2:45 PM – Break****2:45-3:45 PM – Scribal Agency and Critical Editing**

Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)

Pranav Prakash (University of Iowa)

**3:45-4:00 PM – Break****4:00-5:00 PM – Keynote Address**

Yasmeeen Khan (Library of Congress)

**5:00-5:30 PM – Closing Remarks**



**Mind the Gap: Queer Erasure and Abundance**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Jeff Roy (Cal Poly Pomona)

Organizer – Themal Ellawala (University of Illinois at Chicago)

**10:00-10:30 AM – Opening Roundtable Session and Breakfast with Symposium Co-Organizers****10:30-11:45 AM – Historical Gaps /Sexual Liminalities**

Themal Ellawala, moderator

Anjali Arondekar (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Durba Mitra (Harvard University)

**11:44-1:15 PM – Break****1:15-2:30 PM – Imagined Gaps / Gaps in Imaginaries**

Pavithra Prasad (California State University, Northridge) moderator

Medha Asthana (Brandeis University)

Rumya Putchu (University of Georgia)

**2:30-2:45 PM – Break****2:45-4:00 PM – The Queer Life of the Gap**

Jeff Roy, moderator

Aniruddhan Vasudevan (Princeton University)

Shakthi Nataraj (King's College London)

**Mutations of Sovereignty: Perspectives on Sanjib Baruah's *In the Name of the Nation***

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Amit R. Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

**8:30-8:45 AM – Welcome and Introductions**

Amit R. Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

**8:45-10:15 AM – The Nation-Form and Its Margins**

Sean Dowdy (University of Chicago)

*In the Name of the Father: Northeast India and Problems of National Kinship*

Soibam Haripriya (Ghent University)

*Rehabilitation Camps, Hybrid Regimes and the Making of the Ethnic Nation*

Sneha Khaund (Rutgers University)

*In the Name of National Literature: Multilingual Literary Mobilities in Northeast India***10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Sovereignty and Its Mutations**

Mona Bhan (Syracuse University)

*Emptiness, Forever Assets and the Production of National Time*

Lydia Walker (Leiden University)

*Northeast India as Ground Zero: Statehood, Sovereignty, and Citizenship in the Postcolonial World*

Abhilash Medhi (Mt. Holyoke College)

*Itinerancy, Tirni, Usury: A Counter-history of sovereignty on the Indo-Afghan Frontier*

Amit R. Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

*“What the Temporary ‘State of Emergency’ is to Time, Elastic Geographies are to Space”: Baruah’s Considerations of Emergency and Ad-Hoc Space in His Oeuvre***12:15-1:30 PM – Break**

**1:30-3:00 PM – Resource Frontiers**

Bengt Karlsson (Stockhom University)

*Destroying One's Own Home: Resource Frontiers and Indigenous Governance in Northeast India*

Alf Nilsen (University of Pretoria)

*Contesting Resources, Contesting the Nation*

Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University)

*Seeing Through the State in Northeast India*

**3:00-3:15 PM – Break****3:15-4:45 PM – Antinomies of Citizenship; Matters of Migration**

Ahona Panda (University of Chicago)

*Politics Through Other Means: Moral Sovereignty and Citizenship Practices in South Asia*

Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

*Citizenship in the Time of Aspirational Development*

Mabel Gergan (Vanderbilt University)

*The Entanglements of Frontier-Making and Racialization in the Eastern Himalayas*

**4:45-5:00 PM – Break****5:00-6:00 PM – Response by Sanjib Baruah and concluding discussion**

**New Directions in the Vernacular Millennium**

8:30 AM-12:15 PM

Organizer – Ilanit Loewry Shacham (Tel Aviv University)  
Organizer – Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)**8:30-8:45 AM – Introductions****8:45-9:45 AM – Session 1**

Andrew Ollett (University of Chicago)

*The Return of the Repressed*

Ilanit Loewry Shacham (Tel Aviv University) and Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)

*Vernacular Beginnings: Perspectives from Classical Telugu Literature*

Jamal Jones (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*The Poetics of Tradition in Fourteenth-Century Telugu Literature***9:45-10:00 AM – Break****10:00-11:00 AM – Session 2**

Elaine Fisher (Stanford University)

*Internal Multilingualism and the Telugu Vernacular at Srisailam*

Sarah Pierce Taylor (University of Chicago)

*Loving at a Distance: Andhra Through the Eyes of Old Kannada Poets*

Ofar Peres (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*The Devotional Eroticism of the Sneaky God in Seventeenth-Century Tamil Nadu***11:00-11:15 AM – Break****11:15-12:15 PM – Session 3**

Sivan Goren Arzony (Harvard University)

*Your Moon Face: Astrology and Aesthetics in Maḷamaṅgalakavi's The Naiṣadha in Our Language*

Anand Venkatkrishnan (University of Chicago)

*Sensitive Readings: Nārāyana and the Art of Commentary in Premodern Kerala*

Aleksander Uskokov (Yale University)

*The Black Sun That Destroys Inner Darkness: Or How Bādarāyana Became Vyāsa*

**Muslims and Resistance in South Asia: History, Culture, and Politics**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

Organizer – Yasmin Saikia (Arizona State University)

**8:30-10:15 AM – After 1971: Bangladesh and Pakistan**

Dina M. Siddiqi (New York University)

Aasim Sajjad (Quaid-e Azam University, Pakistan)

Discussant: Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins University)

**10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Resisting Disappearance: Muslims in Sri Lanka and Nepal**

Peter Gill (Journalist, Nepal)

A.R.M. Imtiyaz (Temple University)

Mohna Ansari (Human Rights Lawyer, National Human Rights Commission, Nepal)

Discussant: Sharika Thiragama (Stanford University)

**12:15-1:45 PM – Luncheon Panel: Kashmir After August 2019**

Mohamad Junaid (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts)

Mona Bhan (Syracuse University)

Ather Zia (University of Northern Colorado, Greeley)

**1:45-3:30 PM – NRC and CAA: Muslim Resistance in Assam and Shaheen Bagh, Delhi**

Yasmin Saikia (Arizona State University)

Faizan Mustafa (NALSAR University of Law)

Syed Tahseen Raza (Aligarh Muslim University)

Discussant: Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

**3:30-3:45 PM – Break****3:45-5:30 PM – Books Discussion, SAMSA Inaugural Book Award Ceremony and Wrap-Up**

Moderator: Tahir Naqvi (Trinity University)

SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Mashal Saif (Clemson University)

Respondents: Simon Fuchs (University of Freiburg) and Katherine Lemons (McGill University)

**Print, Representation, and Formation of Bhakti in the Long Nineteenth Century**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Jon Keune (Michigan State University)

Organizer – Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)

**8:30-8:45 AM – Welcome, Thematic Introduction****8:45-10:15 AM – Formations**

Tyler Williams (University of Chicago)

*Producing a Past by Printing Paeans: Publishing Devotion in Hindi Genres*

Jon Keune (Michigan State University)

*Compiling and Printing Marathi Poet-Saint Gathas*

Peter Friedlander (Australian National University)

*Images of Kabir and Ravidas and the Interaction of Manuscript and Print Cultures*

Bhakti Mamtara (College of Wooster)

*Oral Teachings to Print Publications: The Making of the Svāmīnī Vāto in the Swaminarayan Sampraday***10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Debates**

Venu Gupta (University of Florida)

*From Sanskrit Tantra to Gujarati Bhakti: Exploring the Emergence of Bhakti Literature in Gujarati on the Jaina goddess Padmavati*

Arun Brahmbhatt (St. Lawrence University)

*Debates in Gujarati Between Followers of the Swaminarayan Sampradaya and the Sankaracarya of Dwarka Pitha, 1907-1908*

Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)

*The “Modern” Reconfiguration of the Vachanas and Subsequent Public Debates***12:15-1:45 PM – Break**

**1:45-3:30 PM – Boundary Crossings**

Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)

*Orientalist/Missionaries, Tamil Bhakti and Dravidian Nationalism*

Arun Jones (Emory University)

*Christian Missions and the Publication of Bhakti Literatures*

Afsar Mohammad (University of Pennsylvania)

*Sufi-Bhakti Culture in 1880-1930s Telugu Print*

**3:30-3:45 PM – Break****3:45-5:00 PM – Technologies**

Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

*Rasik Bihari and Lithographic Texts*

Richard Davis (Bard College)

*Bhakti Enters the Age of Mechanical Reproductions*

Allan Life (University of North Carolina)

*Depictions of Hindu Murtis and Puranic Narratives in Picture Postcards of the Raj*

**5:00-5:30 PM – Reflections and Discussion**

**Seals and Sealings of South Asia: Indus to Early Historic Period**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – J. Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**8:30-8:40 AM – Introduction****8:40-10:20 AM – Session 1**

Marta Ameri (Colby College)

*The Power of Multiples? Form, Function, and Iconography of the Small Molded Artifacts of the Indus Civilization*

Dennys Frenez (University of Bologna, Italy)

*There and Back Again: Deconstructing the Indus-Related Seals Found Beyond the Harappan World*

Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha)

*Inscribed Seals from Gujarat: New Insights into Carving Styles, Production Techniques, Chronology and Regional Variation in the Indus Civilization*

Sareeta Zaid (University of Sydney, Australia)

*Seals of the Indus Valley Civilization: A Contextual Approach to Script*

J. Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Changes and Continuities in Seal Carving Techniques: Function and Artistry of the Indus and Indo-Gangetic Traditions***10:20-10:40 AM – Break****10:40-12:00 PM – Session 2**

A. Konosukawa (Kyoto University)

*The Chronology of Indus Seal Production in the Ghaggar Basin: Microscopic and Experimental Analyses*

Randall Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Observations on the Manufacture and Raw Material Provenience of Indus Civilization Seals*

Geoffrey Ludvik (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Hard Stone Seal Carving Technology: Comparing Mycenaean and Indo-Greek Techniques*

Qasid Mallah (Shah Abdul Latif University, Pakistan)

*Lakhan-Jo-Daro Seals, Sealing, and Inscribed Objects***12:00-1:20 PM – Break**



**1:30-2:20 PM – Session 3**

A. Pottentavida (Maharaja Sayaji Rao University, India)

*Harappan Seals and Sealings from Bagasra and Shikarpur: Preliminary Observations*

V.N. Prabhakar (IIT Gandhinagar and ASI, India)

*Inscribed Materials from the Harappan Site of Karanpura, Rajasthan*

Abdul Samad (Peshawar Museum, Pakistan)

*Seals from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Indus to Early Historic Period*

Shakirullah (Hazara University, Pakistan)

*Bactro-Margiana Seals and Indus Motifs: A Unique Seal from Pakistan*

**2:40-3:00 PM – Break****3:00-3:30 PM – Closing Discussion**

**STM (Science, Technology, Medicine) in South Asia Symposium: Interruptions and Failures**

8:30 AM-12:15 PM

Organizer – Victoria Sheldon (University of Toronto)

Organizer – Lisa Brooks (University of California, Berkeley)

**8:30-8:40 AM – Welcome and Introductory Remarks****8:40-9:45 AM – Revelation**

Lisa Brooks (University of California, Berkeley)

Sabrina Dato (University of Chicago)

Shireen Hamza (Harvard University)

Dagmar Wujastyk (University of Alberta)

Moderator: Victoria Sheldon (University of Toronto)

**9:45-9:55 AM – Break****9:55-11:20 AM – Rupture**

Deepa V.K. (Institute of Public Health, Bangalore)

Anisha Chadha (New York University)

Kaushiki Das (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Rovel Sequeira (University of Pennsylvania)

Arafaat Valiani (University of Oregon)

Discussant: Anthony Cerulli (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**11:20-11:35 AM – Break****11:35-12:50 PM – Repair**

Aidan Seale-Feldman (University of Notre Dame)

Lily Shapiro (University of Washington)

Victoria Sheldon (University of Toronto)

Tawni Tidwell (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Bharat Venkat (University of California, Los Angeles)

Discussant: Lisa Brooks (University of California, Berkeley)

**12:50-1:00 PM – Break****1:00-1:30 PM – “Interruptions and Failures” Synthesis Discussion**

Moderator: Lisa Brooks (University of California, Berkeley)

**Sources and Subjects of Mughal History**

8:30 AM-12:15 PM

Organizer – Emma Kalb (University of Chicago)

Organizer – Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)

**8:30-8:45 AM – Welcome and Introductory Remarks****8:45-10:15 AM – Session 1**

Yael Rice (Amherst College)

*What's in a Name? The Identification of Painters, Calligraphers, and Other Specialists of the Book in Mughal Sources*

Emma Kalb (University of Chicago)

*A Eunuch at the Threshold: Understanding Intimacy in Image and Text*

Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)

*The Economy of the Sacred: Reliquary Shrines in Mughal India*

Rajeev Kinra (Northwestern University)

*Ascertaining the Truth in Obedience to King Reason: Tahqiq in Mughal Intellectual Thought***10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Session 2**

Divya Cherian (Princeton University)

*Witchcraft and Statecraft: Law and Magic in an Eighteenth-Century Rajput Polity*

Elizabeth Thelen (University of Exeter)

*Daftar Copies and the Creation of State Archives in Eighteenth-Century Marwar*

Nandini Chatterjee and Leonard Hodges (University of Exeter)

*Household Archives in the Mughal Empire*

Simon Leese (Utrecht University)

*Contested Poetic Terrains and Multilingual Love in Eighteenth-Century Hindustan and Deccan*

Nicholas Roth (Harvard University)

*Reading Recipes: Exploring Nuskhajāt as Genre and Source*

**South Asia Translation Workshop**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Aliya Ram (Princeton University)  
Organizer – Meher Ali (Princeton University)

This is a practical workshop-style symposium on South Asian translation to take place in three sessions, each focused on a text from a different South Asian language. The aim of the symposium is for participants and attendees to collaborate on translating and discussing South Asian literature, texts and culture. Each workshop session will focus on a pre-circulated 20th century text. In the first half of the session, the workshop leader will introduce the selected text, and the members of the roundtable will present their translations and provide a short comment for 10 minutes each. In the second half, the panelists will lead the audience members in an informal, dynamic translation exercise – to allow them a chance to try their hand at translating the text themselves, followed by discussion and Q&A.

**8:30-10:30 AM – Hindi**Text: साँपों के बीच (*Saapon Ke Beech*) by Anita Bharati

Workshop Leader: Snehal Singhavi (University of Texas at Austin)

Robert Phillips (Princeton University)

Joya John (Krea University)

Akhil Veetil (University of Pennsylvania)

Aliya Ram (Princeton University)

**10:30-1:00 PM – Break****1:00-3:00 PM – Bangla**Text: বাঙালি মুসলমানের মন (*Bangali Mosulmaner Mon*) by Ahmed Sofa

Workshop Leader: Asif Iqbal (Michigan State University)

Ahona Panda (Claremont McKenna College)

Calynn Dowler (Boston University)

Sourit Bhattacharya (University of Glasgow)

**3:00-3:30 PM – Break****3:30-5:30 PM – Urdu**Text: گنرف.شوقن (*Naqsh-i-farang*) by Qazi Abdul Ghaffar

Workshop Leader: Matt Reeck (Princeton University)

Seton Uhlhorn (Harvard University)

Zain Mian (University of Pennsylvania)

Ishan Mehandru (Northwestern University)

Meher Ali (Princeton University)

**South Asia in Motion: Mobility | Movement | Bodies**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Aditi Aggarwal (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Organizer – Sneha Annavarapu (University of Chicago)

Organizer – Daniel Dillon (University of Texas at Austin)

**8:30-10:15 AM – Introductory Session**

Aditi Aggarwal (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Sneha Annavarapu (University of Chicago)

Daniel Dillon (University of Texas at Austin)

**10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Senses in Motion**

Tarini Bedi (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Michele Friedner (University of Chicago)

Jon Anjaria (Brandeis University)

Shahana Ghosh (Brown University)

**12:15-1:45 PM – Break****1:45-3:30 PM – Borders in Motion**

Ishani Dasgupta (University of Pennsylvania)

Shelby Ward (Virginia Tech University)

Heather Hindman (University of Texas at Austin)

**3:30-3:45 PM – Break****3:45-5:00 PM – (Re)Production in Motion**

Ajapa Sharma (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Ina Zharkavich (Oxford University)

Sidra Kamran (The New School)

Sharvari Shastry (University of Chicago)

**5:00-5:30 PM – Closing Session**

**Time, Scale, and Method in South Asian History**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Matthew Shutzer (University of California, Berkeley)

Organizer – Meghna Chaudhuri (Boston College)

**8:30-10:15 AM – Political Imaginaries of Decolonization**

Aditya Balasubramanian (ANU)

*N.G. Ranga, Dinah Stock and Afro-Asian Solidarity in a New World Order*

Jessica Namakkal (Duke University)

*Settler Utopianism and the Post-Colony*

Sneha Annavarapu (University of Chicago)

TBD

**10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Material Economies**

Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)

*Appraising Weather*

Johan Mathew (Rutgers University)

*Children of the Poppy: Opium and the Proletarian Family in Industrial Bombay*

Matthew Shutzer (University of California, Berkeley)

*Nationalist Energies, Machines of Development: Ecology and the Limits of Liberal Economism***12:15-1:45 PM – Break****1:45-3:30 PM – Scales of Accumulation**

Sunil Purushottam (Fairfield)

*A Free India Can be Nothing but a Republic: Jawaharlal Nehru and Indian Republicanism in Late Colonial India*

Viren Murthy (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Back to the Future?: Reflections on Marxism, Anti-colonial Nationalism and Identity Politics*

Meghna Chaudhuri (Boston College)

*Big Bombay Boys: Anti-colonial Nationalism and the Appropriation of Capital*

**World History in Urdu**

8:30 AM-5:30 PM

Organizer – Walter Hakala (University of Buffalo)

**8:30-10:15 AM – Session 1**

Fran Pritchett (Columbia University)

*The World of Languages, According to Aab-e Hayaat*

Walt Hakala (University at Buffalo)

*'The Initial, Intermediate, and Final Language of Mankind' by Sayyid Ahmad Dihlavi*

Maryam Fatima (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)

*Mythologies of Arab Preeminence and Indo-Muslim qaum-making: Selections from Abdul Halim Sharar's Mazāmīn***10:15-10:30 AM – Break****10:30-12:15 PM – Session 2**

Zahra Sabri (IBA-Karachi)

*A History of Philosophy in Islam through Urdu's Eyes - Shibli Nu'mānī's 'Ilm ul-Kalām*

SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

*Rationalizing the Miraculous: Hindu-Muslim Polemics in Colonial India*

Osama Siddiqui (Providence College)

*Between akhlaq and daulat: Urdu and the History of Economic Thought*

Max Bruce (University of California, Berkeley)

*Encountering Philology in Late Qajar Iran***12:15-1:45 PM – Break****1:45-3:30 PM – Session 3**

Sumaira Nawaz (McGill University)

*Reporting from the Battlefield: The Warring Ottomans in Modern Urdu Fiction*

Jaideep Pandey (University of Michigan)

*Of Expulsions and Exiles: Reading Spain, 1492 in Nasim Hijazi's Medieval Spain Trilogy***3:30-3:45 PM – Break****3:45-5:30 PM – Roundtable Discussion**

## 2021 ACSA Film Festival

All films are available to view on our Conference Canapii site.

Conference attendees may view the films at their convenience between

**7:00 AM CST, Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>, and 7:00 PM CST, Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Please join us for a round table discussion with the filmmakers, led by Darshana Mini (Assistant Professor, Communication Arts, UW-Madison) on Thursday, October 21 at 10:30 AM. Q&A to follow.



**Don Palathara** is a film director, screenwriter, and documentary filmmaker from Kerala, India. Known for working on shoestring budgets and new or inexperienced actors, his films are expositions of local Kerala culture and study on the human nature. Palathara's films have gained accolades at several international film festivals.



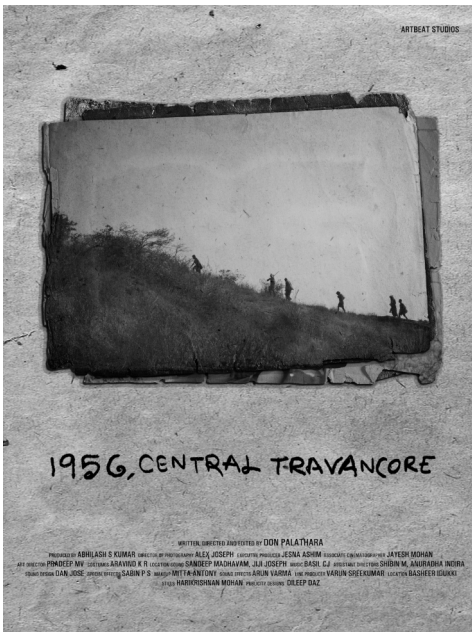
**Sikuma Rai** is a multimedia storyteller based in Lalitpur, Nepal. She has also been working as a multimedia journalist for the past four years. अरक चाना बानाओ, सीमा” or “Come over for a drink, kanchhi” is her debut documentary where she confronts the popular narrative that alcoholism is the main cause of the Rai community’s backwardness. For Sikuma, the process of storytelling and documentary is a way to enrich her life with experiences and come closer to the realities around her, and in that undertaking, shaper her identities. She aspires to see stories through a sociological lens and create an analytical understanding of our diverse communities.



**Ramdas Kadavallur** is a film maker from India, and the founder of Clone Cinema Alternative, an independent film organization based in Delhi. Started his career as a journalist in a leading newspaper in India publishing in a regional language, he was a news reader in All India Radio, Delhi since 2003. A Post Graduate in Mathematics, he later completed his post graduate diploma in Mass Communication. He has authored a book, penned several articles on human rights issues, and also assisted several documentary film projects. He has often faced opposition from conservatives for speaking out against fascism and dealing with human right issues.

‘Mannu : Sprouts of Endurance’ is his debut feature film as a director.





**1956, Central Travancore**

Written and Directed by Don Palathara

Kora and his brother Onan gather four men to go on a gaur hunt in order to make some quick money. Their journey progresses through their dreams, desires, fears, fantasies and struggles. Distanced from their families and loved ones, sharing stories help them remember and appreciate their inescapable pasts and make bonds. When the real and imagined nature turn out to be larger than their will and strength could handle, they learn the harsh realities of the endeavor they have taken up.

**Come over for a drink, kanchhi**

Director, Writer, Cinematographer/Cameraman and Editor by Sikuma Rai

“Come over for a drink, kanchhi” is the director's confrontation with the popular narrative in Nepal, that alcoholism is the main cause of the Rai community's backwardness. In the journey to find the truth, we are exposed to the untold stories of Rai women of Sikteltar, Bhojpur who cannot go a day without a single sip of liquor, in contrast to the generational old myth that Rai should drink because it is the gift and norm passed onto them by their ancestors.



**Mannu: Sprouts of Endurance**

Directed by Ramdas Kadavallur

The Munnar Plantation Strike in 2015 was a labour strike organized by the women plantation workers in tea estates of Kerala (India) obviating the existing trade unions from syndicating the movement, which resulted in the formation of a labour organization called Pempilai Orumai ( Women’s Unity). The plantation workers are often meted out discrimination on the basis of language besides caste and thus feel alienated. Most of them belong to the backward community and were brought to the plantation estates by the British during pre-independence period. Being the cheapest, but productive, women’s labour is the bedrock of economy of production. The agitation led by the women plantation workers in Munnar, was an attempt to demarcate the economical and gender disparities in plantation sector. This documentary is an attempt to measure the gradient of demands corroborated by women workers, taking stock of the pursuance of movement in a political dimension and also an enterprise to berth the life of plantation workers in Munnar.

<b>Session 1: 8:30-10:15 AM</b>
Splintered on Caste Lines?: Dalit Legislators in the Indian States
Art and World-Making in Modern South Asia
Regimes of Surveillances and Spaces of Subversions: Locating Intimacies, Pleasures and Solidarities
Community and Individual Impacts on the Environment
Fifty Years in the Making: Decolonizing Bangladesh Studies
Recent Analytical Developments in the Archaeology of South Asia
Disruption and Subversion: Negotiating Health Regimes in Colonial and Post-colonial South Asia Across the Twentieth Century
Governing Body-Minds: Practices of Science in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia
Identity and Nationhood in Pakistani Literature, Part 1 of 2
Gender and Religious Studies
Unseen Labor: Caring For Households and Reputations in Sri Lankan Families
Beyond the Frames of Cultural Nationalism: Revisiting the Centers and Margins of Musical "Classicization" in Twentieth-Century India
Producing Commonplace Sacred Geographies in India
Hidden Meaning: Absence, Obscurity and Invisibility in the Tamil Temple
Cultures of Protest: The Question of Democracy in South Asia
Colonial Constitutionalism in South Asia: Beyond Nationalist Paradigms
Women Voters and Politicians in South Asia
Territory, Jurisdiction, and the Significance of Space in the Sovereignty of Nepal: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives

## Morning Break - 10:15-10:30 AM

<b>Session 2: 10:30 AM-12:15 PM</b>
New Perspectives in Dalit Studies
Gender, Visual Culture, and Contemporary South Asia
Political Utopias: Minority Histories, Radical Futures
Environmental Issues Across South Asia
Class, Gender, Sexuality: Bangladesh Through Its Literary, Performative, and Visual Cultural Practices
Cinema of Fragments/Cohesions: Musical, Comic, Progressive, and Corporate Impulses in Contemporary Indian Cinema
Archaeology of South Asia: New Perspectives
Weather, Risk and Knowledge Production in Colonial India
Knowledge in Motion: State, Science and Medicine in and beyond South Asia
Late Literary Modernisms: Experiments in Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali
Exploring Gender in Colonial South Asia: A Round-Table Discussion on "Women, Islam, and Familial Intimacy in South Asia" (2021) and "Governing Gender and Sexuality in Colonial India: the Hijra, c. 1850-1900" (2019)
Bodies in Resistance: The Politics of Vulnerable Women's Resistance Movements in India
Dance, Music, and the Politics of Time and Tradition
Trajectories and Tensions in South Asian Islamic Modernism
Contested Sovereignties : Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in India in Comparative Perspective
Ideals Enacted: Transitions to Socio-Political Modernity in South Asia, c. 1930-1970 C.E.
Speculative Futures: Economic Imaginings and the Making of Modern South Asia
New Forms of Political Engagement and Resistance in 21st Century Pakistan
Princely Parables: The Making of Cultural Heritage in Colonial-Era Princely States

<b>Session 3: 1:45-3:30 PM</b>
The 'Indescribable Country': Historical and Contemporary Narratives of Maithili Identity
Commodities & Crises in Agrarian-Urban India
Post-Disaster Experiences in Sri Lanka
Making and Unmaking Lives: Thresholds and Ethical Agency in Northeast India
New Investigations in Media Studies
Institutions and Their Records: Tracing Modern Allahabad
Self: Indian Philosophical Thought for Contemporary Issues
Echoing the Philosophical: Poets and Theological Contemplation in Kashmiri Sanskrit Mahākāvya
Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Ather Zia's Resisting Disappearance: Military Occupation and Women's Activism
The Matter of Sex: Materialist Analyses of Love, Sex, Care, and Labor in India
Song, Sound and the Reproduction of Identity in South Asia
Global Hinduism Beyond "The Diaspora"
Building Power: Political Ambitions and Patronage of Sacred Spaces in Eighteenth-Century South Asia
Agencies of Power in Early Modern and Modern Indian States and Societies
Immigration and Imagination in the Indian Ocean World
New Studies in Economy and Society
Identity and Nationhood in Pakistani Literature, Part 2 of 2

**Afternoon Break - 3:30-3:45 PM**

<b>Session 4: 3:45-5:30 PM</b>
Identity and Resistance in South Asia through Oral Histories
Presence, Prescience, and Re-Presentation in Photographic Afterlives
Afterlives of Technologies of Improvement in Agriculture
Engineering Worlds
Crossroads of Peace-Building: Kartarpur Corridor and the New Era of Culture and Diplomacy in South Asia
New Perspectives in South Asian Film and Theatre
Interpreting the Margins: Textual Peripheries in Early Modern and Modern South Asia
Reexamining Traditions of Service and Charity in South Asia
Resistance and Agency in Language and Literature in South Asia
Pious Creatures: Religiosity and Nonhuman Animals in South Asian Literary Cultures
Gender and Politics in India
Movements and Their Still Forms: The Methodological and Epistemological Challenges of Studying Performance
Memorializing the Prophet and His Shaykhs in South Asian Islam
Global Garment Workers, Entrepreneurship, and Neoliberal Family Dynamics in Rural Sri Lanka
Policing Thought, Surveilling Bodies: Everyday Operations of State Power in Colonial India
Questioning Integration and "the Nation"
Contradictions of Subjectivity in Colonial India
Religion, Conversion, and Violence in Modern South Asia

**Splintered on Caste Lines? Dalit Legislators in the Indian States**

Organizer – Sharik Laliwala (Independent Researcher)

Chair – Saloni Bhogale (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Giles Verniers (Ashoka University)

*Between Transformation and Fragmentation: Dalit Mobilizations in Uttar Pradesh*

Sandeep Badole (King's College London)

*Paradoxes of Dalit Politics: Social Profile of Dalit Legislators in Maharashtra*

Shantanu Kulshreshtha (Ashoka University)

*Immunity from Bloc Fragmentation: Madhya Pradesh's Dalit Legislators***Art and World-Making in Modern South Asia**

Organizer – Allan Life (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Allan Life (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

*M. V. Dhurandhar and the Art of Strategic Resistance: Picture Postcards by an Indian Artist of the Raj*

Gemma Sharpe (Sarah Lawrence College)

*"I suppose the Asians must suffer." South Asian Art and MoMA at the Midcentury*

William Bamber (University of Washington)

*Picturing the World: Late Nineteenth Century Visual Consumption and the Lithographed Muraqqa*

Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran (Columbia University)

*Isamu Noguchi and the Anonymous Artists of Ancient India***Regimes of Surveillances and Spaces of Subversions: Locating Intimacies, Pleasures and Solidarities**

Organizer – Shivani Gupta (National University of Singapore)

Chair – Vineeta Sinha (National University of Singapore)

Nayanika Mookherjee (Durham University, UK)

*The Everyday Self of Activists in a Hybrid Bangladesh*

Amrita Ibrahim (Georgetown University)

*No Revolutions in the Home: Women, Journalism, and Surveillance in India*

Sidharthan Maunaguru (National University of Singapore)

*Momentary Intimacies and Friendships in the Time of War: Rethinking Political Possibilities*

Shivani Gupta (National University of Singapore)

*Blindspots in Banaras: Momentary Pleasures, Desires and Intimacies*

**Community and Individual Impacts on the Environment**

Organizer – Ramesh Sunam (Waseda University)

Ramesh Sunam (Waseda University)

*Are Young People in Nepal Leaving Farming and Rural Areas? Understanding the Interconnections Between Transnational Labour Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Global South*

Charles-Alexis Marie P. Couvreur (University of Oxford)

*The Making and Unmaking of the Coast in Thiruvananthapuram District: Erosion(s), Accretion(s), and New Development Trajectories*

Aghaghia Rahimzadeh (The Ronin Institute)

*Socio-economic and Environmental Changes Leading to Chilgoza Pine Nut Decline in Kinnaur, Western Himalaya***Fifty Years in the Making: Decolonizing Bangladesh Studies**

Organizer – Dina Siddiqi (New York University)

Farhana Sultana

Farida Khan (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

Nayma Qayum (Manhattanville College)

Nafisa Tanjeem (Lesley University)

Hana Shams Ahmed

Elora Shehabuddin (Rice University)

**Recent Analytical Developments in the Archaeology of South Asia**

Organizer – Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Chair – Teresa Raczek (Kennesaw State University)

Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Advancements in the Experimental Study of Iron Microstructures in Northwestern South Asian Archaeometallurgy*

Krishnan Nampoothiri (Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda)

*Understanding Ceramic Identities: A Microstructural Approach*

Sneha Chevali (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Faience Beads at Harappan and Late Harrapan Sites in Gujarat: New Insights on Regional Bead Styles and Variations in Production*

Teresa Raczek (Kennesaw State University)

*Chronometric Hygiene in South Asian Archaeology*

**Disruption and Subversion: Negotiating Health Regimes in Colonial and Post-Colonial****South Asia Across the Twentieth Century**

Organizer – Gourav Krishna Nandi (Yale University)

Chair – Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth College)

Sohini Chattopadhyay (Columbia University)

*Death by Starvation: Comparative Enumeration of Pauper Deaths in a Colonial Economy in Nineteenth-Century Bombay and Twentieth-Century Bengal*

Ala Uddin

*Man, Medicine, and Foods: The Healing Power of Traditional Foods in Indigenous Communities of Southeastern Bangladesh*

Modeen Hussain (University of Cambridge)

*Subversion and Hybridity as Praxis: Health and Beauty Advertising and Transmission in Colonial India*

Gourav Krishna Nandi (Yale University)

*Removing Stray Cattle and Adulterated Food: Public Health in Early Postcolonial Calcutta***Governing Body-Minds: Practices of Science in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia****(Panel 1 of 2)**

Organizer – Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)

Chair – Kavita Sivaramakrishnan (Columbia University)

Bharat Venkat (University of California, Los Angeles)

*A History of Thermal Discomfort*

Rovel Sequeira (University of Pennsylvania)

*Scandals of the State: Prison Architecture and the Sciences of Pederasty in Late Colonial India*

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan (Columbia University)

*After Outbreaks: The Politics of Epidemics, Immunity and Compromised Bodies in India (1930-90s)*

Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)

*Ayurveda in the (Mis)Information Age***Identity and Nationhood in Pakistani Literature (Part 1 of 2)**

Organizer – Mushtaq Bilal (Binghamton University)

Chair – Ulka Anjaria (Brandeis University)

Muneeza Shamsie

*The Pakistani English Novel: Influence, Impact, Identity*

Zain Mian (University of Pennsylvania)

*No Country for Errant Pens: Hasan Askari, Sāqī, and the National Writer in Early Pakistan*

Ambreen Hai (Smith College)

*H. M. Naqvi's Home Boy as a Response to 9/11 and to Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Rajender Kaur (William Paterson University)

*Mapping Peshawar in Deep Time: Decentering Islamic Nationalism in Kamila Shamsie's A God in Every Stone*

**Gender and Religious Studies**

Organizer/Chair – Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)

Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)

*The Rise of Veiling in Rural Bangladesh : A Negotiation between Patriarchy and Women Social Mobilization*

Rishi Gune (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Gendering Women's Proper Conduct in Pakistan: Mujra Dancers, Adab, and Explorative Islam***Beyond the Frames of Cultural Nationalism: Revisiting the Centers and Margins of Musical "Classicization" in Twentieth-Century India**

Organizer – Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Chair – Katherine Butler Schofield (King's College London)

Anna Morcom (University of California, Los Angeles)

*The Classical as Popular: Mobility and Class in Hindustani Music*

Gianni Sievers (University of Pennsylvania)

*Defending Islamicate Culture in Modernity: The "Classicization" of Hindustani Music and the Question of Muslim Pasts in South Asia, 1857-1960*

Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

*Vernacular Voices: South Indian Raga-Based Music as a Tamil Christian Expressive Form*

Praveen Vijayakumar (University of Pennsylvania)

*Protestantism, Printed Pedagogies, and the Performing Arts in Early Twentieth-Century Tamil Nadu: The Work of Abraham Pandithar and T.C.R. Johannes***Unseen Labor: Caring For Households and Reputations in Sri Lankan Families**

Organizer – Jeanne Marecek (Swarthmore College)

Chair – Vidyamali Samrasinghe (American University)

Asha Abeyasekera (University of Colombo)

*Women's Homemaking: Labour, Work, and Political Action as Everyday Life in Urban Sri Lanka*

Jeanne Marecek (Swarthmore College)

*Mothers' Labor in the Aftermath of Daughters' Suicide-like Acts*

Tharindi Udalagama (University of Colombo)

*Blaming the House: Women's Efforts in Constructing and Preserving Family Life in a Rural Sinhala Village*

Michele Gamburd (Portland State University)

*Daily Doses: Elder Care, Consumption, and the Crafting of Medical Identities in Sri Lanka*

Bambi Chapin (UMBC), Discussant

**Producing Commonplace Sacred Geographies in India**

Organizer – Atreyee Majumder (National Law School of India)  
 Chair – Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)

Atreyee Majumder (National Law School of India)

*A Vehicular Map of Sacrality Across the Braj Region*

Bhoomika Joshi (Yale University)

*The Sacred Geography of Death Before Its Time in the Kumaon Himalayas*

Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington at Seattle)

*Sacred Geographies for Sacred Cows: Religion, Ethics, and Nature in India's Central Himalayas*

Sarover Zaidi (Max Planck Institute)

*The Ordinary Sacred: Tracking Minarets, Courtyards and Corners in Bombay*

**Hidden Meaning: Absence, Obscurity and Invisibility in the Tamil Temple**

Organizer/Chair – Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)

Padma Kaimal (Colgate University)

*Inscriptions and Invisibility at the Kailasanatha temple in Kanchi* Padma Kaimal

Leslie Orr (Concordia University)

*Text Out of Sight: Absences, Interruptions and Obscurity in Tamil Temple Inscriptions*

Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)

*The God in the Mirror: (In)visibility and Intimacy in Lay Temple Devotion*

Anna Seastrand (University of University)

*Seeing in the Dark: On Modes of Perception in the Tamil Temple*

**Cultures of Protest: The Question of Democracy in South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Gurbeer Singh (University of California, Riverside)

Tejpaal Baniwal (University of California, Riverside)

Sara Grewal (Macewan University, Canada)

Harjeet Grewal (University of Calgary)

Hafsa Kanjwal (Lafayette College)

Mohamed Junaid (University of British Columbia)

Prabhsharanbir Singh (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts)



**Colonial Constitutionalism in South Asia: Beyond Nationalist Paradigms**

Organizer/Chair – Arudra Burra (Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi)

Arudra Burra (Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi)

*Constitutionalism before the Constitution: Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law, 1946-50*

Arvind Elangovan (Wright State University)

*Towards Political Histories of the Indian Constitution*

Donal Coffey (Max Planck Institute)

*Towards Political Histories of the Indian Constitution*

Tejas Parasher (University of Cambridge)

*“The Characteristic Indian Formations”: B.N. Seal’s 1923 Constitution for Mysore***Women Voters and Politicians in South Asia**

Organizer – Aliz Toth (Stanford University)

Chair – Rikhil Bhavnani (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sarah Thompson (Stanford University)

*Roadblocks Remain: Constraints to Women’s Political Participation and Mobility in Pakistan*

Aliz Toth (Stanford University)

*Are Quotas In Two Dimensions Better than One? Intersectional Representation & Group Relations in India*

Rehan Jamil (Brown University)

*Being Seen by the State: Cash Transfers and Women's Political Participation in Pakistan*

Komal Preet Kaur (University of Colorado Boulder)

*The Localized Effects of Institutional Change: A Quasi-Experiment on Gender Quotas and Civic Engagement in India***Territory, Jurisdiction, and the Significance of Space in the Sovereignty of Nepal: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives**

Organizer/Chair – Amy Johnson (Yale University)

Amy Johnson (Yale University)

*Setting the State in Stone: Arranging Territory and Consolidating Sovereignty in 21st Century Nepal*

Sanjog Rupakheti (College of the Holy Cross)

*Customary Rights & State Sovereignty in Early Modern Eastern Nepal*

Dannah Dennis (New York University)

*Claiming ‘Gorka’: Nationalist Affects on Nepali Facebook*

Andrew Haxby (University of Michigan)

*A Brief History of Valuation in Nepal*

**New Perspectives in Dalit Studies**

Organizer/Chair – Alya Ansari (University of Minnesota)

Alya Ansari (University of Minnesota)

*Caste and Class in Indian Fiction: Dalit Representation and “Women’s Work” in the Short Stories of Mahashweta*

Anupriya Pandey (State University of New York at Buffalo)

*Reframing Emergent Dalit Resistance: Against the Teleology of Political Success*

Shamali Umakant Jadhav (University of Michigan)

*Outsider to The Outsider: Kumud Pawde’s Thoughtful Outbursts*

Suresha KC Suresha

*Dialogue breaks caste resistance: A Case Study of the Temple Entry of Dalits in Mangalore in the 1980s*

Drishwadwati Bargi (University of Minnesota)

*On the Rejection of Ram Rajya, the City of Destruction and Parrhesiastic Belonging: Reading Bhanwar Meghwanshi’s Autobiography in Times of Fascism***Gender, Visual Culture, and Contemporary South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Barbara Grossman (California State University, Long Beach)

Barbara Grossman (California State University, Long Beach)

*Adolescent Girls’ Perceptions of Gendered Social Messaging in Public Art in Nepal*

Jessica Gibson (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

*Queering the Brahmanical Hindu Canon: Chitra Ganesh’s “Eyes of Time” as a Revelation of Hidden and Erased Voices and Bodies in the Hindu Diaspora Narrative*

Haripriya Narasimhan (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad) with Saloka Sengupta

*A Difficult Bridge to Cross for Folk Art: Nachni Nach and Digital Media in West Bengal, India***Political Utopias: Minority Histories, Radical Futures**

Organizer – Anupama Rao (Barnard College)

Chair – Ania Loomba (University of Pennsylvania)

Ali Raza (Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan)

Auritro Majumder (University of Houston)

Chinnaiah Jangam

Chris Moffat (Queen Mary University of London)

Suvir Kaul (University of Pennsylvania)

**Environmental Issues Across South Asia**  
Organizer/Chair – Hanna Werner (University of Erfurt)

Hanna Werner (University of Erfurt)

*Walking a Fine Line: The Cultural Politics of Environmentalism in India*

Tapoja Chaudhuri (Seattle University)

*Development Dreams and Conservation Conundrums: A Decade-Long Glimpse at a Kerala Tiger Reserve*

Christopher LaMack (University of Pennsylvania)

*Poor Land, Rich Land, Big Land, in Brief: Exploring South Indian Land Use in the Early Company Raj*

Samuel Frantz (George Washington University)

*Companies as Donors: How the Rise of Corporate Funding Undermines Development Accountability in India*

**Class, Gender, Sexuality: Bangladesh Through Its Literary, Performance, and Visual Cultural Practices**

Organizer/Chair – Elora Chowdhury (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Nadine Shaanta Murshid (University of Buffalo)

Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

Munjulika Tarah (Williams College)

Manosh Chowdhury (Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh)

**Cinema of Fragments/Cohesions: Musical, Comic, Progressive, and Corporate Impulses in Contemporary Indian Cinema**

Organizer/Chair – Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)

Amrutha Kunapulli (Michigan State University)

*Interludes and Interruptions: The Evolution of the Cine-Music in Contemporary Tamil Cinema*

B. Geetha (IIT-Bombay)

*“Enna Vechu Comedy Keemedy Panlaye?”: The Cinematic Representation of the Comedian Vadivelu in Tamil Films*

Sushmita Banerji (IIT-Hyderabad)

*Riding the White Tiger Calmly: Netflix in India*

Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)

*Globalization and the Ghats: Displacement of a Community/Culture*

### **Archaeology of South Asia: New Perspectives** Organizer/Chair – Swathi Gorle (Rutgers University)

Sarafaz Khan (University of Swat)

*Sacrality Continues: The Presence of Pre-Islamic Times' Traditions in Muslim Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa*  
Pradeep Sangapala (University of Alberta)

*Terra Incognita to Anuradhapura: The Production of a New Spatial Consciousness of the Holy City in Later Nineteenth-Century British Colonial Incorporation of Lanka*

Swathi Gorle (Rutgers University)

*Andhra After Amarāvathī: Colonial Influence on Approaches to Cultural Heritage in India*

Mark Hauser (Northwestern University)

*Colonial Tranquebar Archaeological Survey*

Arvin Raj Mathur (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*The Impact of Tempering and Exterior Vessel Appliqués on the Efficiency of Indus Cooking Pots*

### **Weather, Risk and Knowledge Production in Colonial India** Organizer/Chair – Baishakh Chakrabarti (University of Pennsylvania)

Sarah Carson (Northwestern University)

*Meteorological Moralities: Explaining Weather in Panjika Predictions and Cyclone Poetry*

Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)

*Hedging Risks: Piloting and Wrecks in the Bay of Bengal*

Siva Prashant Kumar (University of Pennsylvania)

*“Why should we not have an Observatory of our own?”: The Jyotisa Chintamani and Vernacular Scientific Modernity at Madras Observatory, c.1874*

Baishakh Chakrabarti (University of Pennsylvania)

*From Rain To Grain: Shifting Contents of Prognostication*

### **Knowledge in Motion: State, Science and Medicine In and Beyond South Asia (Panel 2 of 2)**

Organizer – Marjan Wardaki (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Chair – Bharat Venkat (Princeton University)

Banu Subramaniam (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

*A Universal Botany? Tagore's Shantiniketan and his Experiments with the Natural*

Projit Bihari Mukharji (University of Pennsylvania)

*Between the Yogi and the Commissar: Parapsychological Exchanges Between India and the Soviet Bloc*

Nikhil Menon (Princeton University)

*Mastering Calculation: Computers and Science in Postcolonial India*

Marjan Wardaki (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Between Berlin and Edinburgh: South Asian Students and the Making of Medical Knowledge, 1898-1952*

**Late Literary Modernisms: Experiments in Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali**  
Organizer/Chair – Preetha Mani (Rutgers University)

Jennifer Dubrow (University of Washington)

*A Mirror of Life: Redefining Tradition and Experimentalism in the Urdu Progressive Writers' Movement*

Gregory Goulding (University of Pennsylvania)

*Urdu After Hindi in the Work of Shamsheer Bahadur Singh*

Preetha Mani (Rutgers University)

*Half a Smile: Desire and Writerly Authenticity in Late Hindi Modernism*

Supurna Dasgupta (University of Chicago)

*Flagrant Aesthetics: Bengali Radical Modernism in the 1960s*

**Exploring Gender in Colonial South Asia: A Round-Table Discussion on “Women, Islam and Familiar Intimacy in South Asia” (2021) and “Governing Gender and Sexuality in Colonial India: The Hijra, c. 1850-1900” (2019)**

Organizer/Chair – Rupali Warke (University of Texas at Austin)

Anshu Malhotra (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Rochisha Narayan (University of Central Florida)

Asiya Alam (Louisiana State University)

Jessica Hinchy (Nanyang Technological University)

Nicholas Abbott (Old Dominion University)

**Bodies in Resistance: The Politics of Vulnerable Women's Resistance Movements in India**

Organizer – Nidhi Shrivastava (University of Western Ontario)

Chair – Lopamura Basu (University of Wisconsin-Stout)

Nidhi Shrivastava (University of Western Ontario)

*What Has Happened to The #MeToo Movement In India?*

Ruma Sinha (Syracuse University)

*#Dalitwomenfight and the Resistance Against Caste and Gender-Based Violence*

Sumitra Thoidingjam

*Soldiers in Sarong: Resistance, Peace Building and the Mother's Associations of Northeastern India*

**Dance, Music, and the Politics of Time and Tradition**

Organizer/Chair – Natalia Hildner (Roehampton University)

Mark Whitaker (University of Kentucky)

*Trance, Familiarity, and the Consolation of Dancing Gods in Pre-War and Post-War Hindu Batticaloa, Sri Lanka*

Natalia Hildner (Roehampton University)

*“If something is delicious ultimately it will win – maybe not immediately because it will have to fight through cultural walls, but over time deliciousness wins” – (Dave Chan, Ugly Delicious, Netflix)*

Rohini Acharya (The Ohio State University)

*Virtual Festivals: Examining Aesthetic and Thematic Changes to Bharata Natyam Practice within US-based Online Platforms*

Mallika Yeleswarapu (Santa Clara University)

*Dancing Into the Future: Gendered Bodies, Identity Formation, and Coming of Age in Silicon Valley’s Telugu Diaspora***Trajectories and Tensions in South Asian Islamic Modernism**

Organizer/Chair – Maria-Magdalena Pruss (ZMO Berlin)

Gregory Maxwell Bruce (University of California, Berkeley)

*Instruction Embodied: The Dars-e Nizami in the Nineteenth Century*

SherAli Tareen (Franklin &amp; Marshall College)

*Encountering the ‘Other’: Power, Politics, Political Theology*

Khurram Hussain (Lehigh College)

*Freedom and Finitude: The Modernist Reformulation of taklif in Sayyid Ahmad Khan’s Thought*

Maria-Magdalena Pruss (ZMO Berlin)

*European Orientalism, South Asian Modernism and the Academic Study of Islam in Colonial North India***Contested Sovereignities: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in India in Comparative Perspective**

Organizer/Chair – Shubh Mathur

Dibyesh Anand (University of Westminster)

Pritam Singh (Brookes University, United Kingdom)

Amina Mir

Felix Padel

Rev. Tezenlo Thong

**Ideals Enacted: Transitions to Socio-Political Modernity in South Asia, c. 1930-1970 C.E.**

Organizer – Brian Cannon (University of Pennsylvania)

Chair – John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

Michael Dodson (Indiana University)

*A New Architecture for a More Modern Delhi*

Juned Shaikh (University of California, Santa Cruz)

*Transitions and Primitive Communism: An Indian Story*

Radha Kumar (Syracuse University)

*Caste, Capitalism, and Democracy in Tamil Nadu*

Brian Cannon (University of Pennsylvania)

*Claiming Caste: Re-defining Lineage in Late Colonial North India***Speculative Futures: Economic Imaginings and the Making of Modern South Asia**

Organizer – Elizabeth Lhost (Dartmouth College)

Chair – Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth College)

Osama Siddiqui (Providence College)

*The Empire of Management: Crisis and Change in Late-Colonial India*

Meghna Chaudhuri (New York University)

*Wagering on the Future: Cotton, Credit and Contract Law in Colonial Bombay*

Elizabeth Lhost (Dartmouth College)

*The Uneven Politics of Thrift: War Bonds, Chit Funds, Lotteries, and Sweepstakes in 19th- and 20th-Century South Asia*

Mireca Raianu (University of Maryland)

*From Trusteeship to Social Responsibility: Ethical Capitalism in Modern India***New Forms of Political Engagement and Resistance in 21st Century Pakistan**

Organizer/Chair – Nida Kirmani (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Ayesha Khan (University of Sussex)

*'We have to be everywhere': Women and Protest Politics in Pakistan*

Mariam Durrani (Hamilton College)

*Navigating Performances of Respectability and Dignity in the Imperial University*

Aslam Kakar (Rutgers University)

*Turkish Kurds and Pakistani Pashtuns: A Comparative Analysis of Social Movements in Response to State Violence*

Nida Kirmani (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

*Exploring the Possibilities and Limits of Everyday Resistance in Lyari, Karachi*

**Princely Parables: The Making of Cultural Heritage in Colonial-Era Princely States**

Organizer – Amanda Lanzillo (Princeton University)

Chair – Ramya Sreenivasan

Sonali Dhanpal (Newcastle University)

*Contracting for a New Bangalore*

Amanda Lanzillo (Princeton University)

*Making Rampuri Knives Rampuri: Princely Heritage and Artisan Labor*

Radha Kapuria

*Musicians in the Archives: Tracking Resistance and Princely Patronage in Colonial Patiala*

Swati Chawla (University of Virginia)

*The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and Sikkim's Resistance to Merger with India*

**Lunchtime Special Events:**

**Round Table Discussion: How to Get Published**

Chair – Anthony Cerulli (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Kama Maclean (South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg)

Lorri Hagman (Executive Editory, University of Washington Press)

B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Anthony Cerulli (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Networking Drop-In Session 12:15-1:45 PM**





**The 'Indescribable Country': Historical and Contemporary Narratives of Maithili Identity**

Organizer – Christopher Diamond (The Australian National University)

Chair – Pranav Prakash (University of Iowa)

Christopher Diamond (The Australian National University)

*The Songs of Our Forefathers: Maithili Literary Cosmopolitanism Amongst the Mallas of the Kathmandu Valley*

Ian Woodford (LaTrobe University, Australia)

*On the Attempts to Recover 'Bidapat Naach': A Maithili Performance Genre*

Coralynn V. Davis (Bucknell University)

*Power Shifts in the Recontextualization of Maithil Women's Oral Tales*

Mithilesh Kumar Jha (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)

*Language Politics and the Making of the Maithili Movement***Commodities & Crises in Agrarian-Urban India**

Organizer – Sai Balakrishnan (University of California, Berkeley)

Co-Chair – Swati Chattopadhyay (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Co-Chair – Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University)

Sai Balakrishnan (University of California, Berkeley)

*Caste and Cooperatives: Property, Populism, and Provincial Capitalism in Western India*

Sheetal Chhabria (Connecticut College)

*From Famine to Hunger: Localizing and Nationalizing the Agrarian Question*

Ateya Khorakiwala (Connecticut College)

*The Colonial and Postcolonial Landscape of Public Works*

Aarti Sethi (University of California, Berkeley)

*Caste and Hybrid Cotton in Vidarbha***Post-Disaster Experiences in Sri Lanka**

Organizer – Narayani Sritharan (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Chair – Amita Shastri (San Francisco State University)

Sree Padma Holt (University of Chicago)

*When Identities are Threatened: Narratives of "Lineage Medical Practitioners" in Sri Lanka*

Dhammika Herath

*Family in Post-Conflict North and East: The Role of Social Work*

Elizabeth Bittel (SUNY Cortland)

*Visit Rural Lanka: Re-making "Home" on Shifting Sands*

Narayani Sritharan (University of Massachusetts)

*The Role of Aid on Peace Consolidation in Postwar Sri Lanka*

**Making and Unmaking Lives: Thresholds and Ethical Agency in Northeast India**

Organizer – Rishav Kumar Thakur (Columbia University)

Chair – Amit Baishya (University of Oklahoma)

Dhriyoti Kalita (University of Minnesota)

*Eating and Eatability: Guilt and Rotten Onions in Jehirul Hussain's "Mrigaya"*

Soibam Haripriya (Ghent University)

*Living in the Life of Language: Fiction and Poetry as Social Document*

Rishav Kumar Thakur (Columbia University)

*Ethical Boundary Work in Bodoland and Enlisting Others in Moral Communities, One at a Time*

Akshaya Tankha (Yale University)

*The Naga Memorial Monument and the Aesthetics of Indigenous Presence in Contemporary South Asia***New Investigations in Media Studies**

Organizer/Chair – Afroz Taj (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Afroz Taj (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

*'Beghairat!': Masculinity and (Dis)Honor in Contemporary Pakistani Teleplays*

Sucheta Kanjilal (University of Tampa)

*Manic Pixie Desi Girl: Rebellion, Tradition, and Censorship in Bollywood*

Lia Wolock (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

*Streaming While Brown: The Racialized and Gendered Politics of South Asian American Media Representation*

Hugo Ribadeau Dumas (EHESS, France)

*Streets in the Streets. Gendered Experiences of the Urban Space in India as Portrayed by Hindi Cinema: A Quantitative Analysis*

Lauren Ruhnke (Temple University)

*Creating Virtual Community: Queer Indian Media and Digital Emergences***Institutions and Their Records: Tracing Modern Allahabad**

Organizer – Sanjukta Poddar (University of Chicago) &amp; Alastair McClure (University of Hong Kong)

Chair – Eric Beverly (State University of New York, Stony Brook)

Alastair McClure (University of Hong Kong)

*Going to Court: Unpublished Appeals from the Allahabad High Court*

Prakash Kumar (Penn State University)

*From Peasants to Farmers: Allahabad Institute's Modernist Maneuver*

Sanjukta Poddar (University of Chicago)

*Becoming Professional in Allahabad: Institution-building and Educational Strategies of the Hindustani Kayasthas*

Kunal Joshi (Johns Hopkins University)

*Memory, Genealogy, and the Custodians of Tradition*

**Self: Indian Philosophical Thought for Contemporary Issues**  
Organizer/Chair – Lorillai Biernacki (University of Colorado at Boulder)

James Madaio (Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)

*A Cartography of the Self: Yogic Inwardness in Medieval Advaita Vedānta*

Lorillai Biernacki (University of Colorado at Boulder)

*The Light-Touch of Consciousness: Abhinavagupta's 11th Century Dual-Aspect Monism*

Geoff Ashton (University of San Francisco)

*Sāṃkhya's Impersonal Actor*

Ana Bajzelj (University of California, Riverside)

*On Identity and Difference: The Nature of Liberated Selves in Jaina Philosophy*

**Echoing the Philosophical: Poets and Theological Contemplation in Kashmiri Sanskrit Mahākāvya**

Organizer – Sloane Geddes (University of Toronto) & Chiara Livio (Sapienza University of Rome)  
Chair – Luther Obrock (University of California, Berkeley)

Peter Pasedach

*Echoes of Echoes: Ratnākara, Śāntaraksita and Āstika Philosophies*

Sloane Geddes (University of Toronto)

*Adapting Avadāna for the Court: Śivasvāmin's Engagement with Buddhism in the Kapphiṇābhyudaya*

Daniele Cuneo (Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3)

*Philosophical Praising. Eulogistic Doxography in Avadhūtasiddha's Bhagavadbhaktistotra*

Chiara Livio (Sapienza University of Rome)

*Philosophising the Poetic. Considerations on Vertical Doxographical Hymns in Mahākāvya*

**Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Ather Zia's Resisting Disappearance: Military Occupation and Women's Activism**

Organizer/Chair – SherAli Tareen (Franklin & Marshall College)

SherAli Tareen (Franklin & Marshall College)

Ather Zia

Deepti Misri

Abdul Manan Bhat (University of Pennsylvania)

**The Matter of Sex: Materialist Analyses of Love, Sex, Care, and Labor in India**

Organizer – Shakthi Nataraj (King's College London)  
 Chair – Svati Shah (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Shilpa Menon (University of Illinois at Chicago)

*Does Sex Work Matter Anymore? The Inarticulability of Sex Work in Kerala's Transgender Rights Movement*

Aniruddhan Vasudevan (University of Texas at Austin)

TBA

Shakthi Nataraj (King's College London)

TBA

Gowri Vikayakumar (Brandeis University)

TBA

**Song, Sound and the Reproduction of Identity in South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Inderjit Kaur (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Inderjit Kaur (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

*What the Punjabi Tumbi Sings: Schismatic Soundings, Fragmented Identities*

Tomal Hossain (University of Chicago)

*Intimate Collectivity in the Global Circuit of Rohingya Tarana Song*

Sneha Khaund (Rutgers University)

*An Evening in Shillong: Inhabiting the City in Bhupen Hazarika's Shillong Songs*

Ronit Ghosh (University of Chicago)

*Sound-Recording in Bengal and the Production of Gendered Space*

**Global Hinduism Beyond "The Diaspora"**

Organizer – Tracy Pintchman (Loyola University of Chicago)

Discussant – Jennifer B. Saunders (Independent Scholar)

Tracy Pintchman (Loyola University of Chicago)

*New Wine, New Wineskins: The Translocal Templescape of the "Hindu" Goddess in Pontiac, Michigan*

Diana Dimitrova (University of Montreal)

*Hinduism Beyond the Diaspora: "Multi-Hybrid Cultural Identities" of Radhasoami Members in Canada*

Aditya Bhattacharjee (University of Pennsylvania)

*Discovering Divine Diasporas: An Investigation of the Mammoth Ganeśas of Thailand*

Jennifer B. Saunders (Independent Scholar)

## **Building Power: Political Ambitions and Patronage of Sacred Spaces in Eighteenth-Century South Asia**

Organizer – Dominic Vendell (University of Exeter)  
Chair – Richard Eaton (University of Arizona)

Elizabeth Thelen (University of Exeter)

*Gold Coins and Marble Steps: State-Building through Religious Patronage in Eighteenth-century Rajasthan*

Dominic Vendell (University of Exeter)

*Making Friends at the Ghazi's Doorstep: Sub-Imperial Diplomacy and Architectural Patronage in the Eighteenth-Century Deccan*

Cathleen Cummings (University of Alabama at Birmingham)

*The Remaking of Ramtek Hill under Raghuji I and the Bhonsles of Nagpur*

Heeryoon Shin (Vanderbilt University)

*Rivaling the "City of Shiva": The Sumeru Devi Temple and the Making of Ramnagar*

## **Agencies of Power in Early Modern and Modern Indian States and Societies**

Organizer – Rochisha Narayan (University of Central Florida)  
Chair – Juned Shaikh (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Jyoti G. Balachandran (Penn State University)

*Revisiting the 'State' of Early Modern Gujarat*

Nicholas Abbott (Old Dominion University)

*A Rule of Property for Late-Mughal North India: Zabt ("escheat") in Eighteenth-Century Awadh*

Rochisha Narayan (University of Central Florida)

*The Gender and the Politics of 'Culture' in 19th-century Colonial India*

Madhavi Murty (University of California, Santa Cruz)

*State, Society, Publicity: Profit-seeking and the Individual in Public Discourse*

## **Immigration and Imagination in the Indian Ocean World**

Organizer – Bani Gill (University of Oxford)  
Chair – Sanmugeswaran Pathmanesan (The Open University of Sri Lanka)

Bani Gill (University of Oxford)

*African Migrants in India: 'Illegality', Racialization and Cultures of Microsurveillance*

Alexandra Sundarsingh (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

*"I have come to complain...": Indian Indentured Labourers and the Culture of Complaint in Natal, 1885-1916*

Yoshina Hurgobin (Kennesaw State University)

*"India's Peaceful Revolution": Perceptions of India's Independence in Mauritius, 1947*

Kelvin Ng (Yale University)

*Currents of Radicalism: Claiming the Tamil Political in a Transoceanic Setting, c. 1920–1940*

Sanmugeswaran Pathmanesan (The Open University of Sri Lanka)

*Indian Ocean as a Place: Geo-Religious Interactions and Village Religious Pluralism in Post-War Jaffna, Sri Lanka*

**New Studies in Economy and Society**

Organizer/Chair – Thomas Timberg

Shadmaan Ahmed Siddiqui (North South University)

*Policy Impact on Loan Default of Banking Sector in Bangladesh*

Thomas Timberg

*Development in the Delta: How Bangladesh has led West Bengal on the Road to Growth*

Vijayeta Singh (Northeastern University)

*Politics of Dispossession in States with 'Resource Curse'***Identity and Nationhood in Pakistani Literature (Part 1 of 2)**

Organizer – Mushtaq Bilal (Binghamton University)

Chair – Ulka Anjaria (Brandeis University)

Cara Cilano (Michigan State University)

*Destroying to Build: Pakistan's Built Environment and Religious Identities*

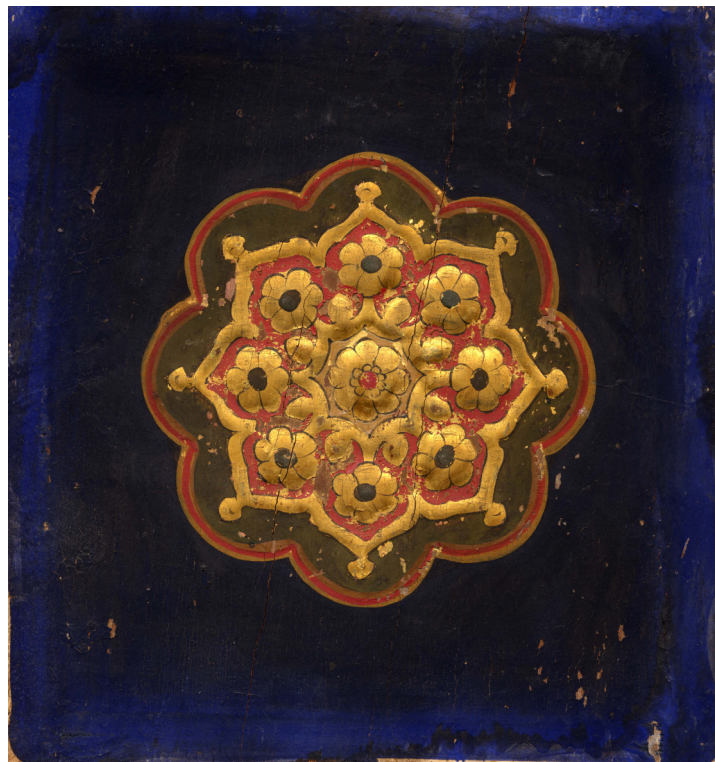
Sameera Abbas (University of Buffalo)

*Allegory and Ruin as tools of De-mythification in Mohammad Hanif's A case of Exploding Mangoes*

Nasir Nayyar

*Nationalism and the Modern Urdu Nazm*

Mushtaq Bilal (University of Binghamton)

*Impure Identities in the Land of the Pure: Portrayal of Chuhras in Mohammed Hanif's Fiction*

**Identity and Resistance in South Asia through Oral Histories**

Organizer – Maria Ritzema (College of DuPage)

Chair – Daniel Bass (Cornell University)

Adrienne Lee Atterberry (Syracuse University)

*Border Crossing and Blurred Ethnic Boundaries: Transnational Indian American Youth Redefine Identity*

Ruvani W. Fonseka (Harvard University)

*"You have to do a lot of good deeds in this life, so that you can become a man in your next life": - Gender-nonconformity Among Youth in Urban Sri Lanka*

Kalinga Tudor Silva

*Sinhala Nationalist Discourse and the Popular Interpretations of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in an Affected Rural Community in Sri Lanka*

Maria Ritzema (College of DuPage)

*Resisting Ethno-nationalism: Marginalized Narratives of Tamil, Burgher, and Sinhalese émigrés, 1956-1978***Presence, Prescience, and Re-Presentation in Photographic Afterlives**

Organizer – Sophia Powers (University of California, Los Angeles)

Chair – Annu Palakunnathu Matthew (University of Rhode Island)

Rahaab Allana

*Exhibiting the Past: Photography and Cultural Display*

Alka Patel (University of California, Irvine)

*The "Kandahar Album" Then and Now*

Rashmi Viswanathan

*An International Education in Photographs*

Annu Palakunnathu Matthew (University of Rhode Island)

*The UNREMEMBERED: Indian Soldiers from the Second World War***Afterlives of Technologies of Improvement in Agriculture**

Organizer – Amrita Kurian (University of California, San Diego)

Discussant – Aarti Sethi (University of California, Berkeley)

Xan Chacko (Wellesley College)

*Overtaking (bio)Control: Rice, Pests, and Resistance to the Chemical Lure*

Amrita Kurian University of California, San Diego()

*Transparency Via Opacity: The Impact of Digital Technology on State-Regulated Tobacco Auctions in Andhra Pradesh, India*

Ursula Münster and Daniel Münster (University of Oslo)

*Chemical Afterlives in South India: Making and Unmaking Small-scale Agriculture with Pesticides and Pharmaceuticals*

Fizza Batool and Julia Poerting (University of Bonn)

*Farming of/for the Future? Negotiating Seeds, Subsidies and Social Reproduction in Northern Pakistan*

**Engineering Worlds**

Organizer – Nafis Hasan (University of Pennsylvania)  
 Chair – Curt Gambetta (Princeton University)

Curt Gambetta (Princeton University)

*Soil as Pedagogy: ASTRA Engineers and the Ethics of Material Revival*

Nafis Hasan (University of Pennsylvania)

*Engineering Bureaucracy, Bureaucratizing Engineering*

Sarandha Jain (Columbia University)

*Manufacturing Politics in Refineries*

William F. Stafford Jr. (University of California, Berkeley)

*Meters, Apps, and a Public Ethics of Bargaining: Engineering the Autorickshaw Fare Receipt in Delhi*

**Crossroads of Peace-building: Kartarpur Corridor and the New Era of Culture and Diplomacy in South Asia**

Organizer – Bilal Aslam (University of the Punjab)  
 Chair – Shandana Waheed (Stanford University)

Bilal Aslam (University of the Punjab)

*Unity in Diversity: A Metaphysical Principle Reflected in the Punjabi Sufi Poetry of Fariduddin Ganjshakar as Recorded in Guru Garanth Sahib*

Asifa Jahangir (University of the Punjab)

*Unintended Consequences of Religious Tourism on Cultural Harmony: A Case Study of Kartarpur Corridor and India-Pakistan Relationship*

Aleena Khan (Information Technology University, Lahore)

*Media Framing of Opening of Kartarpur Corridor: A Comparative Analysis of Indo-Pak*

Shandana Waheed (Stanford University)

*Kartarpur Corridor: A Sight of Heritage Diplomacy- Connecting Heritage Initiatives to Politics of Heritage and Regional Politics*

**New Perspectives in South Asian Film and Theatre**

Organizer/Chair – Rini Tarafder (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Rini Tarafder (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Cosmopolitan Circuits: The Voyages of the Victoria Theatrical Company*

Anila Gill (New York University)

*Upar di Burbur: Official Discourse and Cinematic Governance in Partitioning South Asia (1941-1948)*

Pragya Trivedi (University of California, Irvine)

*Formula Films of the 1970s: Spectatorial Desire, Daydreams and a Nightmares in "Maqaddar Ka Sikander"*



**Interpreting the Margins: Textual Peripheries in Early Modern and Modern South Asia**

Organizer – Akshara Ravishankar (University of Chicago)

Chair – Eduardo Acosta (University of Chicago)

Zoë High (University of Chicago)

*An Elixir from the Pure Dust of Bijapur: Translation across Media in Zuhūrī's Prose*

Vipin Krishna (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Carceral Lexicography: The Case of Maulana Jaffar Thanessari and Linguistic Ethnography in the Andaman Islands*

Eduardo Acosta (University of Chicago)

*A Hidden Textual History? Bengal's Many Bidyāsundars*

Akshara Ravishankar (University of Chicago)

*Genre, Function and Meaning in Vernacular Gita Traditions***Reexamining Traditions of Service and Charity in South Asia**

Organizer – Ved Patel (Emory University)

Chair – Filippo Osella (University of Sussex)

Christopher Taylor (George Mason University)

*Hiding in Plain Sight: Islamic Charity and Ethical Obligations to Secrecy*

Tine Vekemans (Ghent University)

*Religious Duty or Social Engagement: Discussions on Proactive Ahimsa in the Jain Diaspora*

Lauren Nippoldt (University of California, San Diego)

*Worthy of Care: Sevadars and Recipients of Seva*

Ved Patel (Emory University)

*Choosing to Serve: Women Lifelong Volunteers in BAPS***Resistance and Agency in Language and Literature in South Asia**

Organizer – Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)

Chair – Aneeqa Wattoo (Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan)

Aneeqa Wattoo (Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan)

*'Mad' Women in the North Indian Muslim Home: A Study of Social Transgression in Ismat Chughtai's Longer Fiction*

Huda Imitaz (Lahore Grammar University, Pakistan)

*Gandhi and Manto: A Contrasting Articulation of Resistance*

Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)

*Subverting Binaries and Stylistic Conventions: A Study of Fakhruddin 'Irāqī's Poetry*

**Pious Creatures: Religiosity and Nonhuman Animals in South Asian Literary Cultures**

Organizer – Sreyashi Ray (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

Chair – Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)

Kedar Kulkarni (FLAME University, India)

*In Pursuit of Deer*

Geoff Barstow (Oregon State University)

*Contextualizing Buddhist Perspectives on Animal (Un)intelligence*

Sreyashi Ray (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

*Comical Tigers and Miraculous Saints: Interspecies Communication in Early Modern Bengal*

Justin Fifield (Trinity College)

*Beyond Compassion: The Animality of Spiritual Cultivation in South Asian Buddhist Traditions***Gender and Politics in India**

Organizer – Tanushree Goyal (Harvard University)

Chair – Tarini Bedi (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Tanushree Goyal (Harvard University)

*Female-led Party-building and the Making of the Women's Vote in India*

Surili Sheth (University of California, Berkeley)

*Seeing Like a State or Seeing the State? Government-mobilized Women's Self-Help Groups in Madhya Pradesh*

Rithika Kumar (University of Pennsylvania)

*Left-Behind or Left-Ahead? Implications of Male Migration on Women's Political Behavior in India*

Komal Preet Kaur (University of Colorado at Boulder)

*Whose Upward Mobility?: An Intersectional Analysis of the Spillover Effects of Political Quotas***Movements and Their Still Forms: The Methodological and Epistemological Challenges of Studying Performance**

Organizer – Eleonore Rimbault (University of Chicago)

Chair – Davesh Sonjeji (University of Pennsylvania)

Pranathi Diiwakar (University of Chicago)

*Music for a Crisis: Virtual Technologies, Caste, and the Politics of Place*

Eleonore Rimbault (University of Chicago)

*Self-narration and Storytelling among Circus Professionals: Notes on the Picture Books of Malayali Circus Artists*

Sharvari Sastry (University of Chicago)

*Saved by Surveillance: Censorship, Archives and the Regulation of Performance*

Susan Seizer (Indiana University)

*Notes on a Corpus: Body, Memory, Archive*

**Memorializing the Prophet and His Shaykhs in South Asian Islam**

Organizer/Chair – Simon Leese (Utrecht University)

Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)

*Memorializing the City of the Prophet in Mughal India*

Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

*The Auspicious Rise of the Shaykh: Remembering the Advent of Islam in Bengal*

Simon Leese (Utrecht University)

*Facing Medina, Seeing the Prophet: Visuality and Memory in North Indian Devotional Poetry*

Adil Mawani (University of Toronto)

*Muhammad's Memory in Colonial India: Muslim Biographers, and their Views of European Scholarship on Islam***Global Garment Workers, Entrepreneurship, and Neoliberal Family Dynamics in Rural Sri Lanka**

Organizer/Chair – Michele Gamburd (Portland State University)

Michele Gamburd (Portland State University)

Ann Kingsolver (University of Kentucky)

Caitrin Lynch (Olin College)

Dennis McGilvray

Lamia Karim (University of Oregon)

Sandya Hewamanne (Cornell University)

**Policing Thought, Surveilling Bodies: Everyday Operations of State Power in Colonial India**

Organizer – Shaivya Mishra (University of California, Berkeley)

Chair – Michael Silvestri (Clemson University)

Uponita Mukherjee (Columbia University)

*Policing Beyond Surveillance: Crime and Detection in British India, 1868-1920*

Shaivya Mishra (University of California, Berkeley)

*The Adventures of Detective Luck and Sergeant Chance: The Advent of Political Surveillance in 20th Century India*

Neelum Sohail (Tufts University)

*A Tale of Two Sentries: Everyday Incarnations of Police Power in 20th Century Colonial Punjab*

Zak Leonard (University of Chicago)

*The Mansfieldian Moment: Defending Free Speech in Late-Colonial India*

**Questioning Integration and "the Nation"**

Organizer/Chair – Subhajt Debnath (Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, India)

Akshaya Tankha (Yale University)

*The Naga Memorial Monument and the Aesthetics of Indigenous Presence in Contemporary South Asia*

Zarnain Manzoor (National Institute of Advanced Studies)

*Negotiating the Minority Identity: The Case of Kashmiri Pandits*

Subhajt Debnath (Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, India)

*Continuity and Change - Reflections on Law, Culture, and Society in Sikkim*

Shruti Mukherjee (SUNY, Stony Brook)

*Love in the Times of AFSPA: Stories of Everyday Lives under Militarization in Manipur, India*

**Contradictions of Subjectivity in Colonial India**

Organizer/Chair – Nilanjana Paul (University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley)

Ujaan Ghosh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Ghosts, Roads and Urban Anxieties: Spectrality and The Improvement Trust in Late Colonial Calcutta*

Zoya Sameen (University of Chicago)

*Anti-Discipline and the Archive: Rethinking the Governance of Sexuality in Colonial India*

Nilanjana Paul (University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley)

*Missionary Education in Nineteenth Century Calcutta: The Clewer Sisters*

Shareena Jasmin (Mes Kalladi College, India)

*Adaptation and Accommodation : The Emergence of Lunatic Asylums in Colonial Kerala*

Arnav Bhattacharya (University of Pennsylvania)

*Categorizing the Kamasutra as the Urtext of Indian Sexology: Understanding Orientalism, Race, and Sexual Science in India*

**Religion, Conversion, and Violence in Modern South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Michael Philip Brunner (University of Münster)

Michael Philipp Brunner (University of Münster)

*'From Converts to Cooperation': Protestant Internationalism, US-Indian Missionary Relations, and Social Work in British-India (c. 1920-1940)*

Maharshi Vyas (University of California, Santa Barbara)

*Comparative Resistance – A Study in Bhili Religious Literature*

Himanshu Sekhar Mishra (Sambalpur University, India)

*Dialogue as the Means of 'Secularization of Religious Conversion': The Case of India*

Thakshala Tissera (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

*The Elephant in the Unitary State: The Non-human and Sovereignty in The Mahavamsa*

Geethika Dharmasinghe (Cornell University)

*Whose Force is Violence? Sangha, Governance, and Authority*



## Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address



### **Hindutva and India's International Posture: A Geopolitical Economy**

Friday, October 22, 2021, 6:00-7:00 PM

Radhika Desai is Professor at the Department of Political Studies, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. She is the author of *Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire* (2013), *Slouching Towards Ayodhya: From Congress to Hindutva in Indian Politics* (2nd rev ed, 2004) and *Intellectuals and Socialism: 'Social Democrats' and the Labour Party* (1994), a New Statesman and Society Book of the Month, and editor of *Revitalizing Marxist Theory for Today's Capitalism* (2010) and *Developmental and Cultural Nationalisms* (2009).

She is also the author of numerous articles in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *New Left Review*, *Third World Quarterly* and other journals and in edited collections on parties, political economy, culture and nationalism. She is now working on another book, *The Making of the Indian Capitalist Class*.

She co-edits the Future of Capitalism book series with Pluto Press with Alan Freeman. She serves on the Editorial Boards of: *Canadian Political Science Review*, *Critique of Political Economy*, *E-Social Sciences*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Global Faultlines*, *Research in Political Economy*, *The World Review of Political Economy*, *International Critical Thought*, and *Revista de Economía Crítica*.

## Performance



### **Arun Luthra's Konnakol Jazz Project**

**Featuring UW-Madison School of Music Faculty**

**Arun Luthra - konnakol and saxophone**

**Johannes Wallmann - piano**

**Matt Endres - drum set**

**Nick Moran - bass**

**Todd Hammes - percussion**

Friday, October 22, 2021, 8:00 PM

Hamel Music Center's Collins Recital Hall and Canapii Livestream

Saxophonist, composer and konnakol artist Arun Luthra is an American musician of Indian heritage who fuses modern post-bop Black American Music with elements of Indian classical music – especially konnakol (South Indian classical music vocal percussion). He connects a wide range of modern and classic musical influences to create a vibrant new sound and style.

He is the leader of the Konnakol Jazz Project, who have performed across the Americas, Asia, Europe and Australia. Luthra has studied and performed with notable Hindustani and Carnatic music masters and also shared the stage and recorded with many of the greatest Black American Music, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, pop and world music artists. He is also a faculty member of the School of Jazz and Contemporary Music at the New School's College of Performing Arts in New York.

Friday, October 22, 2021

<b>Session 5: 8:30-10:15 AM</b>
Recasting Caste: Contemporary Articulations of Group Identities and Practices
In Famine and War: 'Small Voices' from South Asia
Bovine Politics and Agrarian Change: Hindutva, Violence and the Indian Cattle Economy PART I
Life after Impact : The Re-making of Post-conflict/Disaster Worlds in South Asia
Sociologies of Global South Asia
The Cultural Production of Dissent: Imagining Publics in South Asia
Sanskrit Grammar in Early Modern Contexts
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on South Asian Marginalized Communities
Resistance in South Asian Literature
Geographies of Affect: The Lessons of Ronit Ricci's Banishment and Belonging: Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon for the Study of Sri Lanka and South Asia
Between the Marathas and the Mughals: Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Modern South Asia
Working with Vulnerable Communities in South Asian Performance Contexts
Hindu Ritual in the Domestic Sphere
Intensification vs. Sweetening? New Patterns in Contemporary Hindu Representation and Practice I
Forms of Dissent in Twentieth-Century South Asia
Politics and Displacement at Empire's End
Social Movements, Subalternity, and Resistance
Negotiating Labor and Land
Caste, Indigeneity, Region, and Settler/ Colonialism in Modi's India

Morning Break - 10:15-10:30 AM

<b>Session 6: 10:30 AM-12:15 PM</b>
Book Roundtable: Partisan Aesthetics: Modern Art and India's Long Decolonization (Stanford University Press, 2020) by Sanjukta Sunderason (Leiden University)
Bovine Politics and Agrarian Change: Hindutva, Violence and the Indian Cattle Economy PART II
Landscapes, Waterscapes, and Relationalities in South Asia
(Post)Pandemic Pedagogy- New Approaches to Teaching Hindi-Urdu and LCTLs
Media, Power and the Libidinal Imagination: Interrogating Sexual Imaginaries in India
New Directions in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies
Exploring the Intersection of History and Literature
Violence, Mobility and Belonging in South Asia's Borderlands
Authority and its Contradictions: Expressive Traditions and Contested Futures in Kerala, South India
Religion, Place and Political Practice
Intensification vs. Sweetening? New Patterns in Contemporary Hindu Representation and Practice II
The Design and Impact of the 'Fourth Branch' in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal
Citizenship Regimes: Tracking Mobility, Law and Identity in Post-Colonial India
Voting Publics and Political Ideas



<b>Session 7: 1:45-3:30 PM</b>
Centering Caster in the Cast of Academia
Beyond the Sanskrit Epics: Reading an Epic Consciousness in the Indian Subcontinent
Clearance Raj?: Land, Environment, and the Politics of “Assessments” in India Part 1
Decolonization, Class Struggle and Accumulation in Rural Pakistan: Revisiting the Agrarian Question
South Asia in Flux: Conversations Between South Asia Studies and Indian Ocean Studies
Hindu Nationalism and the Politics of Mediation
Vernacular Intellectuals and Genres in Early Modern India
Linguistic Ecologies of South Asia
Reframing Narratives of Bhakti in South Asia and the Diaspora
Exploring Form in South Asian Literature
Textual Territories
New Investigations in Gender and Sexuality Studies
Caste and the Performing Arts of South Asia
Sacred Spaces, Holy Tongues: South Indian Temple Legends Revisited
Islam, Space, Place
Contested Citizenship: Politics, Identity, and Expression in the 2019-20 Anti-CAA Protests
Rethinking Political Culture and Political Economy in Eighteenth-Century South Asia
Political Ideologies and Legacies of Dissent
Law and the Reproduction of Religion in India
Issues in Education Across South Asia

Afternoon Break - 3:30-3:45 PM

<b>Session 8: 3:45-5:30 PM</b>
Contestations of Pakistani National Identity: Are We Moving Toward a Less Religious More Inclusive Identity?
Clearance Raj?: Land, Environment, and the Politics of “Assessments” in India Part 2
Environmental Studies: Investigating Policy's Impact
South Asian Visions of Afghanistan
Digital Tools, Citizenship, and Resistance
Himalaya as a Contact Zone
Identity, Culture, and Nation in Literature
Gender and Resistance
Religious Practices and Identities Across Boundaries
The Politics of Domination and Resistance in Nepal
State-building: Politics, People, Institutions

## **Recasting Caste: Contemporary Articulations of Group Identities and Practices**

Organizer/Chair – Victoria Gross (University of Chicago)

Joel Lee (Williams College)

*How To Conceal Your Caste*

Victoria Gross (University of Chicago)

*Hail to the Hero: Authority, Identity, and Recognition in Contemporary South India*

Jusmeet Singh Sihra (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*The Urban Caste Hierarchy: Evidence from Ulajhpur\* (Rajasthan)*

## **In Famine and War: ‘Small Voices’ from South Asia**

Organizer – Priyanka Basu (King’s College London)

Chair – Yasmin Khan (University of Oxford)

Annu Palakunnathu Matthew (University of Rhode Island)

*The UNREMEMBERED: The Indian soldiers in the Second World War*

Priyanka Basu (King’s College London)

*‘Lest We Forget’: Bulbul Chowdhury’s Literary and Artistic Responses to War and Famine*

Urvi Khaitan (University of Oxford)

*‘My body costs five hundred rupees’: Women in the Labour Corps in Second World War Bengal*

## **Bovine Politics and Agrarian Change: Hindutva, Violence and the Indian Cattle Economy**

### **PART I**

Organizer – Jostein Jakobsen (University of Oslo)

Chair – Jens Lerche (SOAS University of London)

Johan Fischer (Roskilde University, Denmark)

*Green Ideology and Meat Modernity in India*

James Staples (Brunel University London)

*Situating Hindutva: Bovine Politics and the Changing Cattle Economy in South India*

Richard Axelby (SOAS University of London)

*“A Community in Chamba”: The Politics of Cow Protection for Muslim Buffalo-Herders in Himachal Pradesh*

Jostein Jakobsen (University of Oslo)

*Ekeing Out an Existence in the Age of Cow Protection*

**Life after Impact : The Re-Making of Post-Conflict/Disaster Worlds in South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Kazuya Nakamizo (Kyoto University)

Kazuya Nakamizo (Kyoto University)

*The Politics of Recovery in Post-Conflict Worlds in India*

Sanae Ito (Kyoto University)

*Gorkha Earthquake and Holy Cities A Study of the Politics of Urban Reconstruction in the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal)*

Udeni Appuhamilage

*Mourning the Disappeared : Making Sense of Death, Disappearance and Mourning in Post-War Sri Lanka*

Rohan D'Souza

*Anthropocene Rain and Soaked Concrete Can Policy-Making Rescue the 'Flooded Asian City'?***Sociologies of Global South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Smithra Radhakri (Wellesley College)

Poulami Roychowdhury (McGill University)

*Between Women and the State: Rights Brokers and Capital Accumulation in West Bengal*

Prashanth Kuganathan (Columbia University)

*Of Tigers and Temples: The Jaffna Caste System in Transition During the Sri Lankan Civil War*

Manjusha Nair (George Mason University)

*Global Markets, Afro-Asian Solidarity, and the Developmental Project: Indian Textile Making in Ethiopia*

Shruti Devgan (Bowdoin College)

*"Give in, cut your hair...or it makes you a very strong person": Diasporic Sikhs, Transnational Racialization and Embodied Identity***The Cultural Production of Dissent: Imagining Publics in South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Swarnim Khare (University of Michigan)

Moderator – Sanjukta Poddar (University of Chicago)

Drew Kerr (University of California, San Diego)

*Anti-CAA Publics: Protest Poetry and the Saffron Public Sphere in India*

Upasana Dutta (University of Chicago)

*"The World is Full of Paper, Write to Me": Agha Shahid Ali's "Sources"*

Jaideep Pandey (University of Michigan)

*Alternate Landscapes of the Literary and the Political - Eliding Realism and Producing Imagination in Khadija Mastur and Ismat Chughti*

Swarnim Khare (University of Michigan)

*Reading Political Prisoners in India: Revolutionary Subjectivity in Public Spheres*

**Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on South Asian Marginalized Communities**

Organizer/Chair – Sunny Sinha (Marywood University)

Sunny Sinha (Marywood University)

Indulata Prasad (Arizona State University)

Sameena Azhar (Fordham University)

Ankita Deka (Augsburg University)

Sandeep Kindo (O.P. Jindal Global University)

Vandana Chowdhry (CSI-CUNY)

**Themes of Resistance in South Asian Literature**

Organizer/Chair – Komal Nazir (Oklahoma State University)

Komal Nazir (Oklahoma State University)

*Mundane Violence, Affective States and the Question of Resistance in Arundhati Roy's The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Pujarinee Mitra (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

*Women and Anti-fascist Resistance in India: Personal Documentation in Arundhati Roy's The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Ishanthi Dissanayake (University of Toronto)

*Anil's Ghost and Cracking India: Decolonization via Epistemic Resistance*

Anwasha Maity (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Science, Pseudo-science and Imaginary Science: Genre Transmutations in South Asian Popular Fiction***Geographies of Affect: The Lessons of Ronit Ricci's Banishment and Belonging: Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon for the Study of Sri Lanka and South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Charles Hallisey (Harvard University)

Charles Hallisey (Harvard University)

V.V. Ganeshanathan (University of Minnesota)

Deborah Philip (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)

Kalyani Ramnath (Harvard University)

John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

Ronit Ricci (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

## **Between the Marathas and the Mughals: Women, Gender, and Sexuality in Early Modern South Asia**

Organizer – Kashi Gomez (University of California, Berkeley)  
Chair – Divya Cherman (Princeton University)

Kashi Gomez (University of California, Berkeley)

*Adopted Heirs: Sanskrit Commentarial Anxieties from Eighteenth-Century Thanjavur*

Prashant Prashant (University of Exeter)

*Legal and Social Categories, Concepts of, and Approaches to Rape in Early Modern Marathi Documents*

Anurag Advani (University of California, Berkeley)

*On the Margins of Reason: Women and Madness in Mughal India*

Nandini Thilak (Universität Heidelberg)

*Gardens in the Bazaar: Gulab Rai's Architectural Program in Jodhpur*

## **Working with Vulnerable Communities in South Asian Performance Contexts**

Organizer – Pamela Lothspeich (University of North Carolina)  
Chair – Aparna Dharwadker (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Pamela Lothspeich (University of North Carolina)

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)

Claire Pamment (College of William and Mary)

Jeff Roy (Cal Poly State University)

## **Hindu Ritual in the Domestic Sphere**

Organizer – Michael Fiden (University of Texas at Austin)  
Chair – Patrick Olivelle (University of Texas at Austin)

Michael Fiden (University of Texas at Austin)

*The Development of Vratapati*

Jennifer Ortegren (Middlebury College)

*Class as Dharma: Purusadharma in the Middle-Class Home*

Aarti Patel (Syracuse University)

*A Spatial Analysis of Hindu Domestic Religiosity*

Ashlee Andrews (University of North Carolina Greensboro)

*Labor Negotiations at the Home Shrine: Analyzing Bengali American Hindu Women's Home Shrine Care as Reproductive Labor*

**Intensification vs. Sweetening? New Patterns in Contemporary Hindu Representation and Practice I**

Organizer/Chair – Amy Allocco (Elon University)

Amy Allocco (Elon University)

*When the Dead Will Not Be Denied: Insistence, Persistence, and Resistance in Puṅvaṭaikkāri Pūjās*

Eva Ambos (Universität Tübingen, Germany) and Karththiha Suvendranathan (Independent Researcher, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka)

*Amman's Changing Face – Agency and Power at a Māriyamman Kovil in Eastern Sri Lanka*

Aftab Jassal (University of California, San Diego)

*Playing in the Rain: Gods, Pilgrims, and Affective Homecoming in Uttarakhand*

Brian Pennington (Elon University)

*A Divine Dust-up: Diverging Trajectories of Local Gods in Garhwal***Forms of Dissent in Twentieth-Century South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Ayelet Ben-Yishai (University of Haifa)

Sukanya Banerjee (University of California, Berkeley)

*Of Loyalty and Dissent: Revisiting Swadeshi, circa 1905*

Rotem Geva (Hebrew University)

*In Search of the Right Order: India's Democracy Confronts its Law-and-Order Legacy in 1950s Delhi*

Ayelet Ben-Yishai (University of Haifa)

*"Flying high" with Borrowed Wings: The Prison Memoir as Genre of Dissent*

Sutanuka Ghosh (Jadavpur University)

*"The sheep jumped over the wall": Traveling Beyond Boundaries in Contemporary Travel Writing by Bengali Women***Politics and Displacement at Empire's End**

Organizer/Chair – Mrittika Shahita (University of Dhaka)

Mrittika Shahita (University of Dhaka)

*Cultural Resistance of East Pakistan and Birth of a Nation*

Ashish Koul (Northwestern University)

*For Muslim Unity? Caste in the Electoral Politics of Late Colonial Panjab*

Sarath Pillai (University of Chicago)

*Princely States and the Origins of All-India Politics*

Md Rahaman (Middle Tennessee State University)

*Jogendra's Properties: Displacement and Natural Death of Hope*

**Social Movements, Subalternity, and Resistance**

Organizer/Chair – Hashim Ali (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Hashim Ali (University of Illinois at Chicago)

*Students Strike Back: Youth Life and the Promise of Post-Colonial Pakistan*

Farhana Akther (University of Dhaka)

*Politicisation of a Movement: Comparative Analysis of Quota Reform Movement in Bangladesh & Anti-CAA Movement in India*

Aneri Taskar (University of Louisville)

*Political Humor as Dissent in Contemporary India*

Vidya Venkat (SOAS, University of London)

*Power, Compromise, and the Legitimation of Rule: Notes on India's Right to Information Movement*

**Negotiating Labor and Land**

Organizer/Chair – Lars Aaberg (SOAS University of London)

Mahendra Chalise (NGO/Freelance Journalist)

*Situation of Quarries Child Labor in Nepal*

Chandrabose Ammasy Suppiah (The Open University of Sri Lanka)

*Structural Changes in the Plantation Sector: A Study on the Growth of Small Tea Holdings and Its Impact on Tea Plantation Sector in Sri Lanka*

Lars Aaberg (SOAS University of London) with Mythri Prasad-Aleyamma (Graduate Center, CUNY)

*Materialities of Infrastructure: The Transgender Workers of Kochi Metro*

Pallavi Raonka (Virginia Tech University)

*Understanding Adivasi (Indigenous) Political Imaginaries in the Neoliberal State of Jharkhand, India*

**Caste, Indigeneity, Region, and Settler/Colonialism in Modi's India**

Organizer/Chair – Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

Reema Rajbanshi (Haverford College)

*Who gets to be a Hindu? The Politics and Precarity of Northeast Identities*

Khatija Khader (Journalist)

*Narrating Kashmir and Framing Public Discourse: Locating Resistance in the Pen of a Kashmiri Journalist*

Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

*Cultural Nationalism and the Making of a Hindu Rashtra: Reinventing of the "Secular" in Modi's India*

Santhosh Chandreshekar (University of Denver)

*Respondent*

**Book Roundtable: *Partisan Aesthetics: Modern Art and India's Long Decolonization* (Stanford University Press, 2020) by Sanjukta Sunderason (Leiden University)**

Organizer/Chair – Iftikhar Dadi (Cornell University)

Iftikhar Dadi (Cornell University)

Neilesh Bose (University of Victoria)

Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas at Austin)

Sanjukta Sunderason (Leiden University)

**Bovine Politics and Agrarian Change: Hindutva, Violence and the Indian Cattle Economy****PART II**

Organizer – Jostein Jakobsen (University of Oslo)

Chair – Jens Lerche (SOAS University of London)

Atiya Gopinath

*Lives, Livelihood and Cattle in Contemporary India: A Study of a North Indian District*

Gaurang Sahay (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India)

*Bovine Politics, Rural Violence and Marginal and Small Farmers: A Study of Cattle and Agrarian Economy in India*

Aparna (Nirma University, India)

*Small Livestock Producers amidst Indian Bovine Politics*

Jostein Jakobsen (University of Oslo)

*Bovine Meat, Authoritarian Populism and State Contradictions in Modi's India***Landscapes, Waterscapes, and Relationalities in South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Neelima Jeychandran (Pennsylvania State University)

Pedro Machado (Indiana University)

*Objects of dispersal: Marine Products, Materiality and Indian Ocean Mobilities*

Smriti Srinivas (University of California, Davis)

*Gardens as Archives: Arboricultural Possibilities for South Asia*

Anuj Vaidya (University of California, Davis)

*Of Floods and Forests: Mumbai, 2042*

Jazmin Graves (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

*Devi in Diaspora: Mai Misra in the Sidi (African-Indian) Sufi Tradition of Western India*



**(Post)Pandemic Pedagogy- New Approaches to Teaching Hindi-Urdu and LCTLs**  
Organizer/Chair – Rajiv Ranjan (Michigan State University)

Elliott McCarter (Vanderbilt University)

*Sustainable and Modular Teaching Materials in Hindi-Urdu*

Divya Chaudhry (Vanderbilt University)

*Developing Interactional Competence in L2 Hindi*

Kusum Knapczyk (Duke University)

*Teaching South Asian Languages through Social Justice Topics*

Rajiv Ranjan (Michigan State University)

*(Post)pandemic Pedagogy: Re-evaluating Instructional Materials and Modes*

Muhammad Asif (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Creating Individualized Projects for Advanced Level Urdu Students: Challenges and Success*

**Media, Power and the Libidinal Imagination: Interrogating Sexual Imaginaries in India**

Organizer/Chair – Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Anannya Bohidar (University of Pennsylvania)

*Culturing Bodies: A Study of Female Health Tonics in Late Colonial South India*

Pallavi Rao (Indiana University, Bloomington)

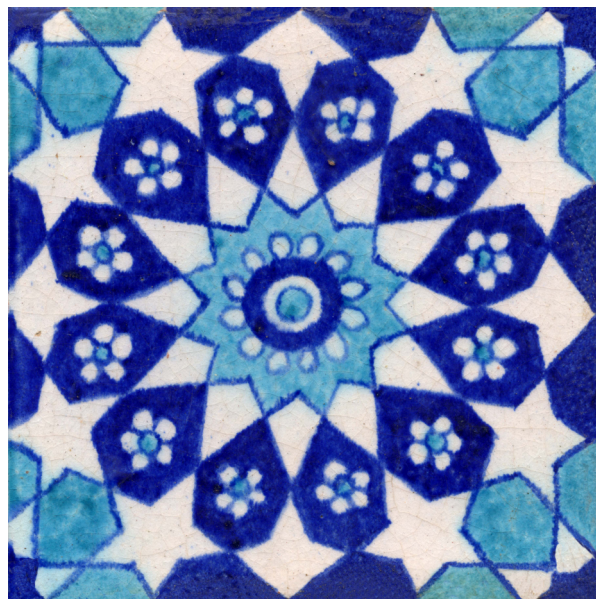
*Lip-Syncing Love and Desire: Performance and Performativity of Caste, Gender, and Sexuality on Tamil TikTok*

Darshana Mini (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

*Cyber Violence and Digital Publics in Kerala*

Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Leaking Bodies, Leaking Phones: Reconceptualizing “Safe-Sex” in Networked India*



**New Directions in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Studies**

Organizer – Ishan Chakrabarti (University of Chicago)  
 Chair – Ravi M. Gupta (Utah State University)

Anandi Silva Knuppel (Lawrence University)

*Seeing through Krishna's Name: Multisensory Darśan in Caitanya Vaishnavism*

Aleksandar Uskokov (Yale University)

*The "Other" Purāṇa and Gauḍīya Doctrine: Jīva Gosvāmin, the Viṣṇu Purāṇa, and the Ontology of Acintya-bhedābheda*

Claire Robison (Bowdoin College)

*Reproducing the Land of Beautiful Groves: Gauḍīya Landscapes in Maharashtra*

Ishan Chakrabarti (University of Chicago)

*The Person of Rāmānanda Rāya: Penetrating Insight in Biographical Memory and Literary History*

**Exploring the Intersection of History and Literature**

Organizer/Chair – Rudrani Gangopadhyay (Rutgers University)

J. Vijay Maharaj (University of the West Indies)

*Gandhian Resistance to Colonial Occupation in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies: The Literary Evidence*

Rudrani Gangopadhyay (Rutgers University)

*Exploring Post 91 'New India': Images in Uday Prakash's 'Paul Gomra and his Bajaj'*

Monika Bhagat-Kennedy (University of Mississippi)

*"The Tragedy of the 'Last' Hindu King in K.K. Sinha's Sanjogita, or the Princess of Aryavarta"*

Radhika Prasad (University of California, Santa Cruz)

*Empathy in Translation: The Cosmopolitanism of Hindi in Nirmal Verma's Ve Din*

Abhimanyu Acharya (University of Western Ontario)

*Gandhian Nationalism and the Emergence of New Aesthetics of Gujarati Drama: Chandravadan Mehta's 'Iron-Road'*

**Violence, Mobility and Belonging in South Asia's Borderlands**

Organizer/Chair – Sidharthan Maunaguru (National University of Singapore)

Sidharthan Maunaguru (National University of Singapore)

Jason Cons (University of Texas at Austin)

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Radhika Moral (Brown University)

Dina Siddiqi (New York University)

Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington at Seattle)

Swargajyoti Gohain (Ashoka University)

Malini Sur (Western Sydney University)

## **Authority and its Contradictions: Expressive Traditions and Contested Futures in Kerala, South India**

Organizer – Helena Reddington (McGill University)  
Chair – Keely Sutton (Birmingham Southern College)

Helena Reddington (McGill University)

*The Power and Perils of Satire in the Tuḷḷal Genre of Kerala*

Victoria Sheldon (University of Toronto)

*Health as Expression: Historicizing the Present through Nature Cure Revivalism in Kerala*

Leah Lowthorp (University of Oregon)

*Folk-Colonial Critique: Legendary Pasts and the Present in Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theater*

Vincent Brilliant-Giroux (University of Toronto)

*Ritual Changes in Process: Embodying Authority as Possession is Questioned in Ancestor Worship Rituals of Kerala*

## **Religion, Place and Political Practice**

Organizer – Harini Kumar (University of Chicago)  
Chair – Kalyani Menon (DePaul University)

Anusha Hariharan (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

*Place-making Through Political Action: Tamil Christian Activism and Solidarity Building*

Harini Kumar (University of Chicago)

*Prayer, Protest and Place: Political Practice and the ‘Protesting Muslim Woman’*

Sharik Laliwala (Independent Researcher)

*Between Negotiation and Withdrawal: Pro-democracy Agitation by Muslims Living in a Ghettoised Ahmedabad*

Shaunna Rodrigues (Columbia University)

*The Pluralism of Place: Azad’s Challenge to the Nation and Nationalism*

## **Intensification vs. Sweetening? New Patterns in Contemporary Hindu Representation and Practice II**

Organizer/Chair – Xenia Zeiler (Faculty of Arts)

Xenia Zeiler (Faculty of Arts)

*Pilgrimages as Facilitators for Sweetening Currents: Mainstreaming through Shared Yātrā Practices*

Dheepa Sundaram (University of Denver)

*Tarapith.com and Resisting the “Vedicizing” Enterprise of the Hindu Online Ritual Industry*

Shravana Borkataky-Varma (University of North Carolina-Wilmington)

*WhatsApp Bagalāmukhī: Religious Spaces and Religious Experiences Reassessed*

Jeremy Saul (Mahidol University)

*The Sweetening of Bhairava: From Blood Sacrifice to Jain Miracles*

**The Design and Impact of the 'Fourth Branch' in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal**

Organizer/Chair – Iain Payne (University of Melbourne)

Tarunabh Khaitan (University of Oxford)

*The Guarantor Branch*

Michael Pal (University of Ottawa)

*Constitutional Design of Electoral Governance in Federal States*

Dinesha Samararatne (University of Melbourne)

*The 20th Amendment, the Guarantor Branch and Sri Lanka's Constitutional Ecosystem*

Iain Payne (University of Melbourne)

*Linking Local Government and the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal***Citizenship Regimes: Tracking Mobility, Law and Identity in Post-Colonial India**

Organizer – Haimanti Roy (University of Dayton)

Chair – Sarah Ansari (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Haimanti Roy (University of Dayton)

*The Citizenship Question: Mobility and the Nation after 1947*

Natasha Raheja (Cornell University)

*Minority Citizenship: Pakistani Hindus and the Indian State*

Antara Datta (Royal Holloway, University of London)

*Tracing the History of Indian Citizenship: 1971 as a Moment of Rupture*

M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

*From Belonging to Dispossession: Contours of a Shifting Debate on Muslim Citizenship in India***Voting Publics and Political Ideas**

Organizer/Chair – William Crane (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Sharath Raja (University of Chicago)

*Living in a Kautilyan World: Fear in the Arthashastra and Potential Spaces for Dissent*

William Crane (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

*A Bourgeois Revolution on the Subcontinent, 1921-1947*

Katherine Young (McGill University)

*The Politics of Religion in the 2021 Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu*

Bipin Sebastian (Northwestern University)

*Political modernity and the category of the political: Questions that the success of Twenty20 in Kerala raise*

**Lunchtime Special Event:**

**Roundtable Discussion: Area Studies and International Education at Minority Serving Institutions and Community Colleges**

Chair – Matthew Cook (North Carolina Central University)

Geoffrey Bradshaw (Madison College)

Anisha Saxena (SUNY OCC)

Matthew Cook (North Carolina Central University)



**Centering Caste in the Cast of Academia**

Organizer/Chair – Santhosh Chandreshekar (University of Denver)

Santhosh Chandrashekar (University of Denver)

*What ‘presstitute’ and ‘baazaru’ Tell Us about the Sexual Politics of Hindutva*

Gowthaman Ranganathan (University of Texas at Austin)

*Dear Ekalavya – A Performance Script*

Sanober Umar (Queens University)

*Caste and Islamophobia in the Age of Secularizing Terrorism*

Trevor J. Raj

*The Intimacy of Violence and ‘Subjectivity’: Analyzing the Abject in Fandry and Article 15***Beyond the Sanskrit Epics: Reading an Epic Consciousness in the Indian subcontinent**

Organizer/Chair – Ujaan Ghosh (UW-Madison)

Shruti Amar (KIIT University, India)

*Sita as “Folk-Heroine” in Maithili Oral Songs*

Amrita Chowdhury

*From Abduction to Seduction: The Evolution of Subhadra’s Harana across the Mahabharatas*

Shreya Sangai (York University, Canada)

*What is “Eklavya” Doing: Same Colours, Different Stories*

Preethi Ramprasad (University of California, Riverside)

*Nandanar: Visibilizing Caste in Bharatanatyam***Clearance Raj?: Land, Environment, and the Politics of “Assessments” in India (Part 1 of 2)**

Organizer – Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo)

Chair – Sattwick Dey Biswas (National Law School of India University)

Anwasha Dutta (Ghent University) with Vijay Ramesh &amp; Mridula Paul

*Is EIA Engineered to Fail? A Critical Exploration of the Environmental Protection Architecture in India*

Mihika Chatterjee

*Assessing the State through Its ‘Assessment’ of the Environment: The Politics of ‘Assessment’ Reports in Maharashtra, India*

Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo) with Jade Comely

*Environmental Impact Assessments, Inditement, and the Authorization of Iron Ore Mining in Goa*

Chiara Arnavas (University of Oslo)

*EIA Politics in New Town, Kolkata: Environmental Degradation, Crime and Marginalization of Muslim Communities*

## **Decolonization, Class Struggle and Accumulation in Rural Pakistan: Revisiting the Agrarian Question**

Organizer – Kasim Tirmizey (Queen's University)  
Chair – Jan Breman (University of Amsterdam)

Kasim Tirmizey (Queen's University)

*Decolonization and the Post-Colonial State: The Agrarian Question in Early Pakistan*

Hadia Akhtar Khan (University of Toronto)

*Fraternal Strife: Kinship and Property in Migrant Household in Rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

Shozab Raza (University of Toronto)

*Landlord Theory: Estates, Empire and the Reconceptualization of Balochiyat on a Punjabi Frontier*

Noaman Ali (Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan)

*Suturing Subalternity: Contingency and Political Struggle in the Formation of Peasant Agency in Northwestern Pakistan, 1968-1978*

## **South Asia in Flux: Conversations between South Asia Studies and Indian Ocean Studies**

Organizer/Chair – Smriti Srinivas (University of California, Davis)

Ketaki Pant (University of Southern California)

*Island Histories, Itinerant Belonging: Gujaratis in Mauritius*

Ishani Saraf (University of California, Davis)

*Operationalizing the Littoral: The Container, the Dry Port, and the Shrine*

Nidhi Mahajan (University of California, Santa Cruz)

*Monsoon Mobilities: Patronage, Kinship, and Labor in the Dhow Trade from Kachchh*

Neelima Jeychandran (Pennsylvania State University)

*Material Histories: African Memoryscapes in Coastal Kerala and Indian Ocean Relationalities*

## **Hindu Nationalism and the Politics of Mediation**

Organizer – Raka Shome (Villanova University)  
Chair – Jyoti Puri (Simmons University)

Purnima Mankekar (University of California, Los Angeles)

*The Dangerous Erotics of the (Missing) Foreskin: Love Jihad and Anti-Muslim Racism in Digital India*

Sriram Mohan (University of Michigan)

*Whose Kural Is It Anyway? Language, Identity and The Networked Media Logics of Hindutva Appropriation*

Raka Shome (Villanova University)

*Cleaning 'Bharat Mata': The Clean India (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) Movement, Gender, and Hindu Nationalism*

Sahana Udupa (LMU Munich)

*Policy Policing: Internet Platform Governance and Hindu Nationalism*

**Vernacular Intellectuals and Genres in Early Modern India**

Organizer/Chair – Tyler Williams (University of Chicago)

Michael Allen (University of Virginia)

*The Reluctant Translator: Keśavdās and the Ambivalent Adaptation of a Sanskrit Classic*

Steven Vose (Colorado College)

*The Virtuous Vernacular: Mediating Jain Women's Soteriology through Caste Prestige in an Old Gujarati Didactic Story Collection*

Dalpat Rajpurohit (University of Texas at Austin)

*Teaching and Curriculum: Banaras-Educated Sants in Seventeenth-Century Rajasthan*

Tyler Williams (University of Chicago)

*Pandits for the People: Multilingual Monks and Everyday Scholarship in the Seventeenth Century***Linguistic Ecologies of South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Jessica Chandras (George Washington University)

Jessica Chandras (George Washington University)

*Teaching through Humor: Mother Tongue Reported Speech in English Medium Classrooms*

Garrett Field (Ohio University)

*Poetry for Linguistic Description: The Maldives Inside and Outside the Arabic Cosmopolis in 1890***Reframing Narratives of Bhakti in South Asia and the Diaspora**

Organizer – Sohini Pillai (Kalamazoo College)

Chair – Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)

Sophia Nasti (Harvard University)

*The Nature of the Garland: Narrative Quality and Function in Manikkavacakar's Tirukkovaigar*

Sohini Pillai (Kalamazoo College)

*The Pandavas as Bhaktas: Two Devotional Mahabharata Retellings*

Anna Lee White (McGill University)

*Representations of Women in Ramanandi Hagiographies*

Priya Kothari (University of California, Berkeley)

*From Katha to Seva: The Politics of Storytelling in the Vallabha Devotional Community*



**Exploring Form in South Asian Literature**

Organizer/Chair – Labanya Unni (CUNY)

Shankar Nair (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

*Moral Knowing through Aesthetic Knowing: Ethics, Landscape, and Aesthetics in Three Versions of the Ramayana*

Roberto Morales-Harley (University of Málaga, Spain)

*Kāla-viphalāni astrāṇi te santu: Story-time in Karṇa's Defeat as Depicted in the Mahābhārata and in Bhāsa's Karṇabhāram*

Labanya Unni (CUNY)

*History as Reparative Reconstruction: Raja Rao's Kanthapura and Mulk Raj Anand's Coolie*

Suhaan Mehta (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

*Settling Scores: A Comparative Analysis of Jamil Ahmad and Daniyal Mueenuddin's Short Fiction***Textual Territorialities**

Organizer/Chair – Rahul Parson (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Rahul Parson (University of Colorado, Boulder)

*Cartographies of Belonging in Kolkata's Hindi Novels*

Peter Valdina (Albion College)

*Elements of the Past's Return: Establishing the Place of Translation*

Nora Melnikova (University of California, Berkeley)

*Prague se Prayag: Nirmal Verma and Hindi Out of Station*

Luther Obrock (University of Toronto)

*Layered Geographies of Piety and Trade: The Jain Vijñaptivenī in Medieval Sindh***New Investigations in Gender and Sexuality Studies**

Organizer/Chair – Madhurima Guha (Arizona State University)

Themal Ellawala (University of Illinois at Chicago)

*The Erotics of Violence: Imagining the Utopic and Intimate Possibilities of Queerphobia*

Madhurima Guha (Arizona State University)

*Masculinities and Their Resistances: The Untold Story of Indian Partition*

Andrea Gutierrez (University of Texas at Austin)

*Recipes for Resistance: Culinary Anti-Colonialists in Tamil-Land*

**Caste and the Performing Arts of South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Zoe Sherinian (University of Oklahoma)

Vivek Narayan (Ashoka University, India)

Jason Busniewski (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Janani Comar (University of Toronto)

Eshantha Peiris (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)

Immanuel Karunakaran (Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago)

Vivek Virani (University of North Texas)

Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

**Sacred Spaces, Holy Tongues: South Indian Temple Legends Revisited**

Organizer – Jonas Buchholz (Heidelberg University)

Chair – Dominic Goodall (EFEO, The Pondicherry Centre, India)

Ute Huesken (Heidelberg University, Germany)

*The Ritual Role of a Māhātmya Text in Kanchipuram*

Malini Ambach (Heidelberg University, Germany)

*Dividing a City: Spatial Concepts of Kanchipuram in the Place's Sanskrit Māhātmya Kāmākṣīvilāsa*

Ofer Peres (University of Naples, Italy)

*Unfaithful Adaptations: On the Making of Early Modern Tamil Talapurāṇams*

Jonas Buchholz (Heidelberg University, Germany)

*A Tamil Text and its Sanskrit Source: Reading the Māhātmyas and Talapurāṇams in Conjunction***Islam, Space, Place**

Organizer/Chair – Dolly Daftary (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

Dolly Daftary (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

*Recovering Resistance to Hindutva: Religion, Caste, and Relatedness in Rural India*

Maria Amir (University of Buffalo, SUNY)

*Saeen Marx Qalandar – Mapping Left Politics in Pakistani Sufism*

Zahra Shah (LSE)

*Rulers, Ulama and the Wazir Khan Mosque: A Comparison of Genres and Narratives*

Syeda Beena Butool (Florida State University)

*A Muslim Historian on the Collapse of the Byzantine Empire: Historicizing the Past or the Future?*

Sheba Tejani (University of Birmingham)

*Saffron Geographies of Exclusion: The Disturbed Areas Act of Gujarat*

**Contested Citizenship: Politics, Identity, and Expression in the 2019-20 Anti-CAA Protests**

Organizer – Jaclyn Michael (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

Chair – Richard Bownas (University of Northern Colorado)

Jaclyn Michael (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

*Performance, Embodiment, and Testimonies to Muslim Citizenship in the Anti-CAA Protests*

Rumela Sen (Columbia University)

*The Legacy of Shaheen Bagh: Protest Dynamics and State Response in Nonviolent Campaigns in India*

Sadaf Jaffer (Princeton University)

*Hum Kaghaz Nahin Dikhayenge: The Anti-CAA Movement, Urdu Poetry, and Secularism*

Richard Bownas (University of Northern Colorado)

*Discussant***Rethinking Political Culture and Political Economy in Eighteenth-Century South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Tiraana Bains (Dartmouth College)

Tiraana Bains (Dartmouth College)

Abhishek Kaicker (University of California, Berkeley)

Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)

Christina Welsch (College of Wooster)

Naveena Naqvi (University of British Columbia)

Vidhya Raveendranathan (New York University)

**Political Ideologies and Legacies of Dissent**

Organizer/Chair – Anushay Malik (Simon Fraser University)

Jeffrey Key (Sweet Briar College)

*Reinterpreting the Maoist Rebellion: Nepal's Contested Public Memory*

Anushay Malik (Simon Fraser University)

*How the War of 1965 Blunted Radical Politics in Lahore*

**Law and the Reproduction of Religion in India**

Organizer/Chair – Naveen Farhan (University of Oxford)

Janice Protopapas (Punjabi University)

*Singing in a Million Voices: Heterophony and the Sikh Worship Soundscape at the Golden Temple*

Peter Samuels (State University of New York at Geneseo)

*The East Indian Railway and the Making of the Land Acquisition Act*

Naveen Farhan (University of Oxford)

*Nawab Wajid Ali Shah as a Shia Symbol: Contesting Piety and Passion***Issues in Education Across South Asia**

Organizer/Chair – Soumya Mishra (Columbia University)

Soumya Mishra (Columbia University)

*Turf Wars: Formulating Higher Education Reforms in India*

Parin Somani (Saurashtra University)

*The Impact of Globalization on Education in India and Resistance to Change*

Akanksha Misra (State University of New York Plattsburgh)

*Sexual Bodies, Moral Minds: Creating Global Citizens in Hindu Urban India*

Leya Mathew (Ahmedabad University)

*Familiar Futures: Testing, Anticipation, and Precarity in Middle Class India*

## **Contestations of Pakistani National Identity: Are We Moving Toward a Less Religious More Inclusive Identity?**

Organizer/Chair – Raja M. Ali Saleem (Forman Christian College)

Ryan Brashar (Forman Christian College)

*Religion, Religiosity, and Ethnicity, and Its Impact on National Attachment and Political Attitudes among University Students in Pakistan*

Umber bin Ibad (Forman Christian College)

*Redefining Nationalistic Heritage: Religion, Diaspora and the Politics of Memory in Pakistan*

Raja M. Ali (Forman Christian College)

*Pakistan Army Museum: Site of Identity Contestation*

Charles Ramsey

*Imagining a Post-Islamist Future: Javed Ahmad Ghamidi's Reformist Remix*

## **Clearance Raj?: Land, Environment, and the Politics of “Assessments” in India (Panel 2 of 2)**

Organizer – Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo)

Chair – Sattwick Dey Biswas (National Law School of India University)

Manju Menon (Centre for Policy Research, India) with Kanchi Kohli

*The Politics of Accommodating Environmental Violators*

Shruti Dhaundiyal (University of Cambridge) with Shailaja Fennell

*The Indian State and the Politics of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): From the Art of the Possible to Recognising Participation as a Demand for Democratisation*

Sony Pellissery (National Law School of India University) with Neel D'Souza

*What Do Judicial Interventions Do to Environment Assessment?*

David Singh (University of East Anglia)

*'This is all waste': Emptying, Clearing and Cleaning Land for Renewable Energy Dispossession in Borderland Kutch*

## **Environmental Studies: Investigating Policy's Impact**

Organizer/Chair – Vaishali Kushwaha (Northeastern University)

Laurel Panser (Riverland Community College)

*Water Insecurity in India Requires Action Now*

Iris Yellum (Harvard University)

*The Unpredictable Pulse of Improvement: Legume Research in India*

Vaishali Kushwaha (Northeastern University)

*Institutional (Dis)Arrangements and Urban Water Governance in India: Case Study of Ahmedabad using Social Network Analysis*

Aliz Toth (Stanford University)

*Why Do Infrastructure Projects Stall? Theory and Evidence on Eminent Domain Conflict from India*

**South Asian Visions of Afghanistan**

Organizer – Mejghan Massoumi (Stanford University)

Chair – Marjan Wardaki (University of California, Los Angeles)

Mou Banerjee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*A Bengali in Afghanistan: Syed Mujtaba Ali and Writing the Self at the Limits of History, 1920-1930*

Nicole Ferreira (University of California, Berkeley)

*Before Him, No Afghan Was of the Throne: Memory, Territory, and Mobility in Visions of Afghan Kingship, 1572-1667*

Nicolas Roth (Harvard University)

*King of the Cities of the Seven Climes: Kabul in the Mughal Imagination, 1500-1800*

Mejghan Massoumi (Stanford University)

*The Radio in Afghanistan: Connecting History, Song, and Sound in and Beyond South Asia, 1960-79***Digital Tools, Citizenship, and Resistance**

Organizer/Chair – Sanchita Dasgupta (Brandeis University)

Sanchita Dasgupta (Brandeis University)

*Turning Anger into Art: A Digital Trail of Resistance*

Ahmed Afzal (California State University, Fullerton)

*Beyond "Hooking Up": Grindr and Reconfigurations of Sexuality among Men who have Sex with Men in Urban Pakistan*

Vipulya Chari (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

*The Rhetoric of Netizenship: Narendra Modi and the Vision of a "Digital India"*

Mashal Saif (Clemson University)

*Tradition and Technology: Islamic Legal Pronouncements in the Computer Age***Himalaya as a Contact Zone**

Organizer/Chair – Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University)

Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University)

*Cartographies of Himalaya in a Japanese Tradition of Ecological Anthropology*

Chihiro Nakayashiki (Hiroshima University)

*Transformation of Ethnicities in the Contact Zone: The Cases of the Tibetan Societies of Northern India*

Kei Nagaoka (Kansai University)

*The Dilemmas of Professionalizing Tibetan Medicine*

Yuka Nakamura (National Museum of Ethnology)

*Subjectivity and the Sociality: A study of Medical Encounters in Endocrinological Clinics in Nepal*

**Identity, Culture, and Nation in Literature**

Organizer/Chair – Muhammed Farooq (Kent State University)

Muhammad Farooq (Kent State University)

*The Tropes of Tour and Terror: The Question of Pashtun Identity in Pakistani Fiction*

Sreemoyee Dasgupta

*Bengali Children's Periodicals: Genre and Nationhood in Colonial India*

Fizza Joffrey (University of Toronto)

*The Art of Marsiyā Recitation: Adab (Etiquette), Tahzīb (Culture), and Urdu Prowess in the Marsiyā Genre*

Saumya Lal (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

*Empathy in Flux: Encountering the Unforeseeable in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West*

Medha Bhattacharyya (Bridgewater State University)

*Food, Rituals and Garb—A Quest for Desiness in Shani Mootoo's Fiction***Gender and Resistance**

Organizer/Chair – John Caldwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Leena Taneja (Zayed University)

*Gendered Asceticism: New Forms of Feminine Bhakti in Chaitanya Vaishnavism*

John Caldwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

*“And We Shall See”: The Gendered Life of a Protest Song in Modern India and Pakistan*

Aditi Malik (College of the Holy Cross)

*Mobilizing Public Protests against Sexual Violence in India*

Sophie Mae Berman (Skidmore College)

*Gender, Violence, and Nonviolence in Kashmir***Religious Practices and Identities Across Boundaries**

Organizer/Chair – Nathan McGovern (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)

Nathan McGovern (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)

*The Vānaprastha as Representing a Conservative Mainstream in Ancient Indian Religion*

Sujata Chaudhary (McGill University)

*Variations of Judicialization of Religion in India – A Case of Animal Sacrifice in Himachal Pradesh*

Shweta Krishnan (George Washington University)

*Pigs for the Ancestors*

Krishna Narayanamurti (University of Southern California)

*Amma's Earth: The (Non)Dualist Philosophy and Ecological Practices of India's "Hugging Saint"*

Benu Verma (Indian Institute of Technology)

*Seva and Sanskar: Everyday Religious Ethics and Political Behaviour Among the Devotees of Amma (Mata Amritanandamayi Devi)*

**The Politics of Domination and Resistance in Nepal**

Organizer/Chair – Mahendra Lawoti (Western Michigan University)

Pramod Kantha (Wright State University)

*Nepal's Madhesi Movement and the Nepali "Nation-State", A Reappraisal*

Pramod Mishra (Lewis University)

*Culture as Resistance*

Pupsa Damai (Marshall University)

*Subalterns, Rape Culture and Justice*

Mahendra Lawoti (Western Michigan University)

*Manipulating Participatory Processes, Maintaining Ethnic Domination: Regressive Constitution-Crafting in Nepal***State-building: Politics, People, Institutions**

Organizer/Chair – Rohail Salman (George Washington University)

Erum Haider (Georgetown University)

*Privatization and Patronage: The New Politics of Doing Business in a Developing Megacity*

Nandini Deo (Lehigh University)

*Religion and Civil Society Organizations in Development*

Yasser Kureshi (University of Oxford)

*Policemen as Political Entrepreneurs: Institutional Interface, Bureaucratic Resistance and Police Autonomy in Pakistan*

Rohail Salman (George Washington University)

*"Pakistan Must Know Its People and Their Strength": State Practices and Problems in Conducting the Population Census of 1951*

Kirsten Sellars (Australian National University)

*'Imperialism's Final Frontier': India's Interventions on Law of the Sea*



Plenary Address**The Work of Forgetting: A Slave Revolt in Colombo, 1723**

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 5:45-6:45 PM

Nira Wickramasinghe is Chair and Professor of Modern South Asian studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Before taking up her post in the Netherlands in 2010, she worked in the Department of History at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Her research centers on issues of belonging, everyday life under colonialism and the relationship between state and society in Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean. Trained as a historian she has written on late colonial and modern Sri Lanka using a variety of archives. Her books include: *Slave in a Palanquin: Colonial Servitude and Resistance in Sri Lanka* (Columbia University Press 2020); *Sri Lanka in the Modern Age. A History* (Oxford University Press 2015); *Metallic Modern. Everyday machines in Colonial Sri Lanka* (Berghahn 2014), *L'Invention du Vêtement National au Sri Lanka* (Karthala 2006), *Dressing the Colonised Body* (Orient Longman 2003), *Civil Society in Sri Lanka* (Sage Publ. 2001). She has been, inter alia, a Fellow at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University (2008-2009), British Academy Visiting Professor (2005) at the University of Oxford and Fulbright Senior Scholar at ICAS, New York University (2003-2004). Her current research on enslaved people detaches Lanka from the subcontinent to insert the island in the Indian Ocean world. Nira Wickramasinghe studied at the Université de Paris-IV Sorbonne and received her D.Phil in modern history from the University of Oxford. She is presently involved in setting up a small academic press in Sri Lanka called Tambapanni Academic Publishers.

## How the Annual Conference on South Asia Began

By Robert Eric Frykenberg, Emeritus Professor of History & South Asian Studies

Among many memories of the early years of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, perhaps none are more vivid than recollections of how the Annual Conference on South Asia first began. During the 1970-71 academic year, when I was chair the Department of South Asian Studies and director of the South Asia Center, we were told by Washington, in quite explicit terms, that our three-year Center 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. But how, with our then very meager resources, were we going to demonstrate that we were, indeed and in fact, reaching out to wider constituencies? That was our challenge.

It was at that time that we devised a shell-in-shell, or box-in-box, 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 while they could not provide over night accommodations for conference participants, 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 wherever they might be located, but especially in the Midwest. We were astounded at the response. Scholars came from near and far. Most South Asianists from Chicago came. So did scholars from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Missouri, as well as from Pennsylvania and UC-Berkeley.

The very first Wisconsin Conference of South Asian Studies took place at Wingspread on the first weekend of November, 1971. At that time, we decided that it would be good for all prospective future participants to easily remember that the event would always be held on the first weekend of November. But such was the constant and coincident advent of snow and bitter weather on that very weekend that, eventually, the date was moved up to mid-October. 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. Lest there be any invidious omissions, no further attempt is made here at listing names of those who were present at that event. 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. While this event, convened and organized by John Richards, was also a success, we quickly realized that, henceforth, future annual conferences should be held on the campus of UW-Madison. There were a number of reasons for this: efficiency and regularity. 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. Over the years, successive refinements of procedures came into being, dealing with various difficulties as these came up and setting precedents for future conferences. Eventually, campus facilities became inadequate, so that in 2001 the venue was moved to the Concourse Hotel, one block from the magnificent Wisconsin State Capitol.



#### **Indian Studies Department – December 1964**

*Left to right around the table: MG. Krishnamurthi, Robert Miller, Usha Nilsson, G.C. Narang, Dr. Sharma. Richard Robinson, Henry Hart, Robert Frykenberg, Alex Wayman, Joseph Elder, and Ripley Moore*

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 six hundred 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. Only one other event is comparable. This is the European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies. This wonderful event, just about as old (if not older), takes place every other year, with each being convened in a different European city. This conference is just as popular but has never attracted quite as many participants; and hence, tends to be more close-knit.

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. Rikhil Bhavnani (Director), Sarah Beckham (Associate Director), together with Andrea Fowler (Assistant Director) and other staff, 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.

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