51st Annual Conference on South Asia

October 18-21, 2023
University of Wisconsin-Madison
October 18, 2023

Dear Conference Participants,

We would like to welcome you to Madison, Wisconsin for the 51st Annual Conference on South Asia! The conference theme this year is “Structure and Spontaneity.” Whether in the arts, politics, or history, we are often surprised and impressed by spontaneous creative acts. However, such acts of creativity would not be possible or even intelligible without overarching structures. Global capitalism is perhaps one of the most prominent of such structures, which simultaneously make possible and undermine various forms of spontaneous action.

We are delighted to host more than 900 registered participants, 18 symposia, 140 panels, 25 roundtables, and several special events during this year’s conference, October 18-21.

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 conference space for learning and exchange and engage respectfully and professionally with the speakers and other participants. 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, independent researchers, and international scholars, you can do so using the QR code on the back cover of this program. This donation link is also accessible through the conference mobile app.

Please visit www.southasiaconference.wisc.edu for more information about the conference and to view the online schedule. If you have general questions or concerns, feel free to drop by the registration desk or e-mail us at conference@southasia.wisc.edu. We very much hope that you will enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

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

Anthony Cerulli
Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures
Director, Center for South Asia
Conference Registration
All participants and attendees must register. The on-site registration rates are $260 for regular registration and $120 for students.

Staff is available at registration:
Tuesday, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Wednesday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM & 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Friday/Saturday, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Program Book
Program Books are available for download on the Conference website and via the mobile conference app. Cover photo courtesy of Professor J. Mark Kenoyer.

Abstracts
Abstracts are available online.

Taxi Companies
Green Cab, (608) 255-1234
Madison Taxi, (608) 255-8294
Union Cab, (608) 242-2000

Conference Chair
Viren Murthy, UW-Madison

Conference Committee
Deepa Badrinarayana, Chapman University
Anirban Baishya, UW-Madison
Sai Bhatawadekar, University of Hawai‘i Manoa
Sarah Beckham, UW-Madison
Rachel Berger, Concordia University
Gudrun Bühnemann, UW-Madison
Mehr Farooqi, University of Virginia
Jamal Jones, UW-Madison
J. Mark Kenoyer, UW-Madison
Gwendolyn Kirk, Indiana University
Darshana Sreedhar Mini, UW-Madison
Kalyani Ramnath, University of Georgia

Conference Team
Andrea Fowler, Coordinator
Risham Parmar, Conference Assistant

Sponsored by:
Center for South Asia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
203 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-4884

Welcome Note
Conference Information
Daily Breaks & Meals
Conference Events
Exhibitors
Association Meetings
Conference Schedule
Wednesday
Thursday
Film Screening
Keynote
Friday
Plenary
Performance
Saturday
Film Screenings
Session Information
Wednesday Symposia
Session 1: 8:30 - 10:15 AM
Session 2: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Session 3: 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Session 5: 8:30 - 10:15 AM
Session 6: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Session 7: 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Session 9: 8:30 - 10:15 AM
Session 10: 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM
Session 11: 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Session 12: 3:45 - 5:30 PM
Index

The All-Gender Restroom is outside Parlor 629. A Concourse map is inside the back cover.

If quiet space is required for personal needs, please speak with ACSA Staff.

Anthony Cerulli, Director
Sarah Beckham, Associate Director
Andrea Fowler, Assistant Director

Center for South Asia Staff:
Shahana Munazir, Risham Parmar, Lucy Merkel, & Abdullahi Ahmed
The Annual Conference on South Asia provides the following complimentary breaks with snacks and refreshments.

**Daily Break Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Break Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Coffee, Tea, &amp; Snacks</td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td>University Foyer (second floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break &amp; Snacks</td>
<td>10:15 - 10:30 AM</td>
<td>University Foyer (second floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:15 - 1:45 PM</td>
<td>University Foyer (second floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break &amp; Snacks</td>
<td>3:30 - 3:45 PM</td>
<td>University Foyer (second floor)</td>
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**Meal Options**

Meal tickets must be purchased ahead of time. Both meat and vegetarian lunch options are available. Once picked up in the University Foyer on the second floor, you may take your lunch to any applicable special lunch events, any open location in the Madison Concourse Hotel, or outside.

**Wednesday Boxed Lunch**
Meat: Grilled chicken with roasted corn and black bean salad lemon vinaigrette  
Vegetarian: Roasted cauliflower with corn and black bean salad lemon vinaigrette

**Thursday Boxed Lunch**
Meat: Grilled chicken with Mediterranean garbanzo salad  
Vegetarian: Roasted red pepper hummus with grilled pita and vegetables

**Friday Boxed Lunch**
Meat: Grilled chicken with Farfalle, grape tomatoes, kalamata olives, and feta  
Vegetarian: Farfalle salad with chickpeas, grape tomatoes, kalamata olives, and feta

**Saturday Boxed Lunch**
Meat: Grilled chicken with ancient grain salad with red wine vinaigrette  
Vegetarian: Roasted vegetables with ancient grain salad with red wine vinaigrette

**All-Conference Dinner** (Thursday, October 20 at 6:45 PM, Wisconsin Ballroom)
A select number of dinner tickets may be available for purchase on-site at registration.

Mixed greens with cucumber, grape tomatoes, shredded carrots; toasted couscous salad with spinach, tomato, kalamata olives, and feta cheese; white wine, garlic, and tomato baked tofu; grilled chicken breast with artichoke hearts and capers; Five grain rice pilaf; Zaatar roasted broccoli and cauliflower; plus Chef’s Choice seasonal desserts.
The following all-conference events are free and open to the public.

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

**Film Screening**
**Joyland**, directed by Saim Sadiq
Capitol Ballroom A (2nd Floor)

**Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address**
Jayati Ghosh
“Data and Its Discontents: Representations of Reality in the New India”
Wisconsin Ballroom (2nd Floor)

**All-Conference Reception**
Madison Ballroom (Exhibit Room)
Cash bar

**All-Conference Buffet Dinner**
Capitol Ballroom (2nd Floor)
A select number of dinner tickets may be available for purchase on-site at registration
Cash bar

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

**Plenary Address**
Subho Basu and Sharika Thiranagama
“Structure, Spontaneity, and the Logics of Political Power in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka”
Capitol Ballroom (2nd Floor)

**Performance**
Kunnakudi Balamurali Krishna, Trichy Sankaran, and Kamalakiran Vinjamuri
Wisconsin Ballroom (2nd Floor)

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**Ethnographic/Documentary Film Screening Sessions**
10:30 AM - 3:45 PM
Please see complete listing on pp. 22-23
Capitol Ballroom A (2nd Floor)
**Exhibit Hours**

- **Wednesday, October 18** 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- **Thursday, October 19** 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM
- **Friday, October 20** 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM
- **Saturday, October 21** 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

*Thursday evening Cash Bar Reception held in the Exhibit Room*

Please be sure to pick up any materials you have purchased before 5:30 PM on Saturday.

**Exhibitors Attending the Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Booth</th>
<th>Exhibitor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>South Asian Studies at UW-Madison</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>South Asia Open Archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Primus Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alhmara Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>AIPS and WISLI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Coherent Digital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scholar’s Choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Scholar’s Choice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meetings and Events

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
American Institute of Pakistan Studies Executive Committee Meeting (CLOSED)
6:00-9:00 PM, Private Dining Room (1st Floor)

Thursday, October 19, 2023
Journal of Critical Pakistan Studies Q&A Session
1:45-3:30 PM, Parlor 634 (6th Floor)

Friday, October 20, 2023
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Executive Committee Meeting (CLOSED) 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Private Dining Room (1st Floor)
Lunchtime Roundtable - A Conversation on Global Health and Medical Humanities in South Asia, moderated by Calyn Ostrowski (Associate Director, Global Health Institute)
12:30-1:30 PM, University A/B (2nd Floor)
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Board of Trustees Meeting (CLOSED) 12:30-2:00 PM, Private Dining Room (1st Floor)
Black Scholars and Friends Dinner Reception (RSVP required)
5:30 PM, University A/B (2nd Floor)
American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies General Meeting and Reception
6:00-8:00 PM, Assembly Room (1st Floor)
American Institute of Pakistan Studies Reception
8:30-10:30 PM Senate Room (1st Floor)
Yale University South Asian Studies Council Reception
8:30-10:00 PM, University C/D (2nd Floor)

Saturday, October 21, 2023
Exploring Transregional & Interdisciplinary Opportunities: A Publishing Discussion with the International Journal of Middle East Studies
12:15-1:45 PM, University A/B (2nd Floor)
Author Showcase: Gemini Wahhaj & Rashi Rohatgi Talk Craft and Community
1:45-3:30 PM, Parlor 638(6th Floor)
American Institute of Pakistan Studies Board of Trustees Meeting (CLOSED)
6:00-9:00 PM, Assembly Room (1st Floor)
Fully virtual sessions can be viewed as scheduled throughout the 2023 ACSA in the following rooms: Conference 1, 2, and 5. These sessions can also be viewed through our mobile app.

Do you have questions about writing an effective proposal for the 2024 ACSA? Join us for a free and prepare for next year’s conference!

**ACSA Abstract Writing Workshop**
Anthony Cerulli (Director, Center for Center South Asia, UW-Madison) and
Viren Murthy (ACSA Chair and Professor of History, UW-Madison)
December 1, 2023, 1-2:30 PM (US Central Time)

Sign up using the QR Code below!
Symposium Sessions are Full-Day Sessions unless otherwise indicated (8:30 AM-5:30 PM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Symposium Title</th>
<th>Detailed Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Material as Method: New Histories of the Built Environment</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Room A (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Queer Failures and Possibilities: Trans Movements in Contemporary South Asia</td>
<td>28-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Beyond Area Studies: Insights from Literary Theory for the Broader Humanities</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room 1 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>New Directions in Bangladesh Studies</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room 2 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Tamil Religion? Contesting &quot;Tamilness&quot; in Religious Domains</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room 3 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Transgression</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room 4 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Delight, Levity, and Play in Urdu</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room 5 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Quotidian Sacreds: Religion, History, and Performance in South Asia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Ballroom A (Floor 2)</td>
<td>South Asia Disability Futures</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Dance and South Asia</td>
<td>36-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>AIIS Dissertation to Book Workshop</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University A/B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Lineage and Caste Through the Eyes of the Gendered Householder</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University C/D (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Love and Intimacy in South Asia</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlor Room 627 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Printing Religion in South Asia</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlor Room 629 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Beyond the Alvars and Acharyas: Rethinking Shrivaishnava Studies</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlor Room 634 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>The Vaisnava Sensorium: Experiencing the Divine in Eastern India</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlor Room 638 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Thinking In and From Telugu: Understanding Connections, Querying Boundaries</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Dining Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Political Contestations in Contemporary India (Morning Only)</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
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<td>Room</td>
<td>Session 1 8:30-10:15 AM</td>
<td>Session 2 10:30 AM-12:15 PM</td>
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<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Emerging Studies in South Asian Archaeology</td>
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<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Religion Beyond Borders</td>
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<td>Senate Room A (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Intellectual Histories of Intoxicants, Medicines, and Other Chemicals in South Asia, 1719-1915</td>
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<td>Senate Room B (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Culture and Sovereignty in the Early Modern Deccan Sultanates</td>
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<td>Conference Room 1 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Ethnographies of Test Preparation in India (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Conference Room 2 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Spaces of Belonging/Unbelonging: Material Histories and Sri Lanka’s Present (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Conference Room 3 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Enchanted Publics: The “Miraculous” in Contemporary Pakistan</td>
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<td>Conference Room 4 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Aesthetics, Forms, and Emergences</td>
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<td>Conference Room 5 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Emerging Studies in South Asian Art and Aesthetics (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom A (Floor 2)</td>
<td>South Asia Literature in Translation</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>A Discussion of Shailaja Paik’s The Vulgarity of Caste</td>
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<td>Wisconsin Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<td>Madison Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Bangladesh’s in Motion: Gender, Place, and Transnationalism</td>
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<td>University A/B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Ramifications of Digitization Projects: Case Studies from Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>University C/D (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Neoliberalism and the Nation</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 627 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Metaphorical Mapping and South Asia</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 629 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>The Structural and Technological Interventions in Communication and Early Childhood Education in Pakistan</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 634 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>COVID-19 pandemic and networks of care: How religious minorities shape welfare and belonging in India</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 638 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<td>Future Beyond Dystopia: Dismantling Power Structures and Reconfiguring Agency in South Asia</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka’s Polycrisis: Retrospect and Prospect, A Roundtable in Honor of Professor S.W.R. De A. Samarasinghe</td>
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<td>Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Slandering the Sacred: Blasphemy Law and Religious Affect in Colonial India</td>
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<td>Landscapes in History: Journeys Through the Wilderness of Medieval South India</td>
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<td>Contesting the Curriculum and Educational Practices</td>
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<td>De/Colonial Perspectives on Health and Medicine in South Asia</td>
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<td>Room</td>
<td>Session 3 1:45-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Session 4 3:45-5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Digital Repatriation in South Asia</td>
<td>Coffee Break, 3:30 - 3:45 PM, University Foyer (2nd Floor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Devotional Visualities and Indic Material Cultures</td>
<td>Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address - Jayati Ghosh</td>
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<td>Senate Room A (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Contestation and Transformation in South Asian Islam</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Room B (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Investigating Nationalism in South Asia: Past and Present</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Room 1 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>South Asia as Home &amp; Field (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Conference Room 2 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>New Studies in South Asian Spirituality - VIRTUAL</td>
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<td>Conference Room 3 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Poetics in South Asia: The Seventeenth Century and Beyond</td>
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<td>Conference Room 4 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Music Sound and Protest in Contemporary India</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom A (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Caste and Indigeneity (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Film Screening - JOYLAND Begins at 1:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>The Labor of Caste/The Caste of Labor</td>
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<td>Madison Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
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<td>University A/B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<td>University C/D (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Political and Philosophical Thought in Bengal: Reflections on Self, Freedom, and Solidarity</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 627 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Sites of resistance, narratives of struggle: the politics of peace and protest in postwar Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 629 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Public Sector Stories: Ethnographies of the Indian state</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 634 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>The Political Ecology of the Anthropocene in South Asia</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 638 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>AIPS Journal of Critical Pakistan Studies Q&amp;A Session</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
|                               | Exploring Labor | **Conference Schedule**
|                               | Lunch Break, 12:15 - 1:45 PM | Thursday, October 19, 2023
|                               | Coffee Break, 3:30 - 3:45 PM, University Foyer (2nd Floor) | 51st Annual Conference on South Asia
Film Screening: Joyland
Thursday, October 19, 2023, 1:15 - 3:30 PM
Capitol Ballroom A

2022 | Drama | 127min | Pakistan | Urdu, Punjabi w/ English subtitles
Written and Directed by SAIM SADIQ

Oscilloscope Laboratories presents the debut feature from writer-director Saim Sadiq — JOYLAND explores the many sides of love and desire in a patriarchal society. Gentle and timid, Haider (Ali Junejo) lives with his wife Mumtaz (Rasti Farooq), his father, and his elder brother’s family in Lahore, Pakistan. Following a long spell of unemployment, Haider finally lands a job at a Bollywood-style burlesque, telling his family he is a theater manager, when in actuality, he is a backup dancer. The unusual position shakes up the steadfast traditional dynamics of his household and enables Haider to break out of his shell. As he acclimates to the new job, Haider becomes infatuated with the strong-willed trans woman Biba (Alina Khan) who runs the show—an unforeseen partnership that opens his eyes and ultimately his worldview, in ways both unexpected and intimate.
Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address
Thursday, October 19, 2023, 3:45 - 5:30 PM
Wisconsin Ballroom

Jayati Ghosh
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Data and Its Discontents: Representations of Reality in the New India

Jayati Ghosh taught economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for nearly 35 years, and since January 2021 she has been Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. She has authored and/or edited 20 books and more than 200 scholarly articles. Recent books include The making of a catastrophe: Covid-19 and the Indian economy, Aleph Books forthcoming 2022; When governments fail: Covid-19 and the economy, Tulika Books and Columbia University Press 2021 (co-edited); Women workers in the informal economy, Routledge 2021 (edited); Never Done and Poorly Paid: Women’s Work in Globalising India, Women Unlimited, New Delhi 2009; co-edited Elgar Handbook of Alternative Theories of Economic Development, 2014; co-edited After Crisis, Tulika 2009; co-authored Demonetisation Decoded, Routledge 2017. She has received several prizes, including the 2015 Adisheshiaiah Award for distinguished contributions to the social sciences in India; the International Labour Organisation’s Decent Work Research Prize for 2011; and the NordSud Prize for Social Sciences 2010, Italy. She has advised governments in India and other countries, including as Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Commission on Farmers’ Welfare in 2004, and Member of the National Knowledge Commission of India (2005-09). She was the Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates (www.networkideas.org), an international network of heterodox development economists, from 2002 to 2021. She has consulted for international organizations including ILO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN-DESA, UNRISD and UN Women and is member of several international boards and commissions, including the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs, the Commission on Global Economic Transformation of INET, the International Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). In 2021 she was appointed to the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All, chaired by Mariana Mazzucato. In March 2022, she was appointed to the UN Secretary General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, mandated to provide a vision for international cooperation to deal with current and future challenges. She also writes regularly for popular media, including newspapers, journals and blogs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Session 5 8:30-10:15 AM</th>
<th>Detailed Information pg 61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Archaeological and Historical Cultural Heritage Documentation and Preservation in South Asia: Foundational Practices and Innovative Solutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Evolving History, Evolving Functions: The Madrasah in South Asia</td>
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<td>Corridor Aesthetics: Hindutva on the Ground</td>
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<td>Emerging Perspectives in South Asian Political Studies (Virtual Ad hoc 5)</td>
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<td>Citing Canons, Contesting Contexts</td>
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<td>Qawwals in Hindustani classical music, c. 1720 to the present</td>
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<td>Of the Body Politic, For the Body Politic: Counting Embodiment, Making Data, Part 1 of 2</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>South Asian Media (Ad hoc 11)</td>
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<td>Female Labor: (Im)Mobility and Resistance (Ad hoc 38)</td>
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<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<td>The Rise of World Literature: Taking Stock of the Dominant Western Narrative and the Production of Counternarratives from the Global South</td>
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<td>Voyage Out: Oceans, Genders, Histories</td>
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<td>Problematizing Depictions of Female Temple/Hereditary/Courtesan Performing Communities vis-a-vis histories of Performativity, Sexuality, Subalternity, and Human Rights Frameworks in Colonial and Postcolonial India</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 634 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Affect, Ecology, and Interpretation in the Anthropocene (Ad hoc 26)</td>
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<td>Transcending Methodological Nationalism: Rethinking South Asia’s History with Japan</td>
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<td>Room 1219 (Floor 12) - Key Access</td>
<td>Local Practice and Traditional Healing (Ad hoc 52)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Session 6 10:30-12:15 PM</th>
<th>Detailed Information pg 68</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Ballroom A (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Exploring Architecture and Industry Through Archaeology</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Material Agency and Spontaneous Assemblages: Understanding Religion Through Objects</td>
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<td>Archives of Encounter in Colonial India</td>
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<td>Hindu Nationalisms, Past and Present</td>
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<td>Affective Attachments: Emotions, Gender, and Urban Life in South Asia (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Gendered Realities Across South Asia (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Language/s of Gender: Post-Independence Vernacular Innovations by South Asian Women Writers</td>
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<td>Critical Arts Pedagogies in India</td>
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<td>Understanding Built Environment: Space Making, Urbanity and Heritage in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century South Asia (VIRTUAL)</td>
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<td>Writing and Researching Disability in South Asia</td>
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<td>Considering Caste: Past and Present</td>
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<td>Future Beyond Dystopia: Dismantling Power Structures and Reconfiguring Agency in South Asia</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka’s Polycrisis: Retrospect and Prospect, A Roundtable in Honor of Professor S.W.R. De A. Samarasinghe</td>
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<td>Author Meets Critics Roundtable on Slauder the Sacred: Blasphemy Law and Religious Affect in Colonial India</td>
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<td>Landscapes in History: Journeys Through the Wilderness of Medieval South India</td>
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<td>Contesting the Curriculum and Educational Practices</td>
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<td>De/Colonial Perspectives on Health and Medicine in South Asia</td>
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<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Stone bead analysis in South Asia and surrounding regions: Evidence for regional and long distance trade networks</td>
<td>Detailed Information pg 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Hinduism and Climate: Topophilia, Ayurveda, Theater, and Divine Ecologies</td>
<td>Detailed Information pg 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Room A (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Religion, Experience, and the Architectures of Identity (Ad hoc 24)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Senate Room B (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Entangled Empires in the Early Modern Indian Ocean/South Asia: Networks, Diplomacy, and Warfare</td>
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<td>River Life and the emergence of ‘nature-as-itself’: Rethinking our frames of reference beyond the nature/culture divide</td>
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<td>Theorizing the Urban from South Asia: Methodologies and Practices</td>
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<td>Translation and its Limits</td>
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<td>Improvisational Practices</td>
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<td>Conference Room 5 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Bodies in Space: South Asian Visual Culture and Affective Intensity</td>
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<td>Challenges Faced by Pakistan's Transgender Community: Addressing Stigma, Discrimination, and Human Rights Abuses</td>
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<td>Nationalist Movements</td>
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<td>Democratic Deepening in South Asia</td>
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<td>Coming of Age in South Asia: Exploring the Event and the Everyday</td>
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<td>Environmental Issues in South Asian Indigenous Communities</td>
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<td>Migration and Urban Futures</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 638 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Textual Worlds and the Worlds of the Texts</td>
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Lunch Break, 12:15 - 1:45 PM
Coffee Break, 3:30 - 3:45 PM, University Foyer (2nd Floor)
Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani’s politics was characterized by seeming conundrums. He was a Congressman, and later he opposed Congress; he was a Muslim Leaguer, but soon after the foundation of Pakistan, he opposed Muslim League; he was the founding member of the Awami Muslim League, and later, he vehemently disagreed with the Awami League’s politics. He was dubbed as Nehru’s agent in East Pakistan in the 1950s, and in the final years of his life, his ecological march for a better share of water for Bangladesh again rebranded him as anti–India. He regarded himself as a devout Muslim, yet, Jamat-e-Islami, a pivotal Islamist organization, declared him a ‘false Muslim.’ Communists claimed him to be one of their own; many called him ‘Red-Mawlana,’ and he met Mao and Castro personally. Yet, he only espoused Islamic socialism and never became a member of any communist party. Did spontaneous revolutionary instincts guide him against structures of colonial neo-feudal institutions and praetorian capitalism? Despite twists and turns in his political career, Mawlana Bhasani played a critical role in shaping the birth of Bangladesh. His pivotal role in the uprising of 1969 and his stand for democratic accountability of ruling elites left a legacy in Bangladesh politics reflected in the popular uprising against General Ershad. His call for the separation of ways in 1957 made him an early advocate of the independence of Bangladesh. Above all, his idea of social justice grounded in Islamic theology remains the moral core of the Left’s political values in Bangladesh. Thus, his quest for social justice shaped the emergence of Bangladesh.

Subho Basu is Associate Professor in History and Classical Studies at McGill University, Canada. His research and teaching interests are South Asian History, History of Bangladesh and Pakistan, Subaltern and Decolonial Studies, International Development Studies, and Democracy and Society in India. He is the author of Does Class Matter: Colonial Capital and Workers’ Resistance in Bengal, 1890-1937 (2004). He has co-authored, with Ali Riaz, Paradise Lost? : State Failure in Nepal (2007) and co-edited, with Crispin Bates, Rethinking Indian Political Institutions (2005).
To Love the Leader? Sri Lankan Tamils and “Military Sublimes”

A plethora of political anthropology, sociology, and historical scholarship on South Asia seeks to examine what is seen simultaneously seen as a “new” and “topical” and “old” and cultural phenomenon: the love of authoritarian male leaders. This talk approaches the love of authoritarian leaders through the Sri Lankan Tamil worlds of the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the now deceased, though now ever-present as image and reference, Velupillai Prabhakaran. I will discuss the centrality of death in the ideological economy of the LTTE, with the leader Prabhakaran as the love object who consecrated and directed such death. In keeping with the theme of structure and spontaneity, versions of which have dominated explanations of leadership in South Asia, I suggest moving away from dominant models and explanations of kingship and charisma towards a more dynamic assessment of the novel economies of love between leaders and followers across South Asia.

Sharika Thiranagama’s research has focused on various aspects of the Sri Lankan civil war. Primarily, she has conducted research with two different ethnic groups, Sri Lankan Tamils and Sri Lankan Muslims. Her research explores changing forms of ethnicisation, the effects of protracted civil war on ideas of home in the midst of profound displacement and the transformations in and relationships between the political and the familial in the midst of political repression and militarization. She has also conducted other research on the history of railways in Sri Lanka, on the political culture of treason amongst Sri Lankan Tamils, the BBC World service in South Asia etc. She is currently undertaking new research in Sri Lanka on post war life in the Jaffna Peninsula mapping new post war social configurations. The second fieldwork project that she is conducting fieldwork on currently is entitled “The Local Level Social Life of Global Ideologies” and will be based in Kerala, South India. It is based in the Palakkad district of Kerala and will examine three generations of transformation among agricultural workers and the rural library movement.”
Musical Performance
Friday, October 20, 2023, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Wisconsin Ballroom

Born in the year 1985, Kunnakudi M. Balamurali Krishna (formerly Master M. Balamurali Krishna) has been one of the rising young vocalists. Music is in his blood. His father, Sri Meenakshi Sundaram, also his first guru, is a musician and an eminent teacher. He also had training under Sri Neyveli Santhanagopalan and Sri V.Sundaresan. He is now under the tutelage of Padma Bhushan Sri P.S.Narayanaswami for the past 14 years. He has enthralled audiences all over India and countries like the USA, Australia, Singapore, Dubai, Bahrain and Sri Lanka. Awards and accolades have followed Balamurali at the right intervals in order to create in him the urge to go further in his musical journey. Being called a child prodigy at a very tender age, Asthana Vidwan title from Sri Kanchi Mutt, Yuvakala Bharathi, Yuvakala Jyothi, Young Star of the year 2008, Gantasala award -2008 etc. are few of the names conferred upon the young Master. He is currently under the Sangeeth Nataka Academy’s Scholarship Scheme after receiving the ‘Advanced Training Scholarship’ from the Dept. of Culture, Govt. of India. Balamurali is an accomplished Mridangist. After training from Nagai Sri Bashyam, he is currently under Guru Kaaraikudi Mani. This rare feature helps him appreciate the intricacies of rhythm from a young age. His Music is totally personal and innovative yet, within the strict parameters of tradition. Balamurali’s music is of a different cadence, rarely found in musicians of his age. His Alapanas are galvanizing efforts, totally personal. His deep involvement in Kriti-rendering and natural flair for laya has made his music enjoyable. His style and content go hand in hand to make him an artiste yearning for the ineffable in Carnatic Music. He is currently pursuing Masters in Music after completing Post-Graduation in Commerce.

Kamalakiran Vinjamuri grew up in the large South Asian community of Northern Virginia and began his musical journey by learning to play the violin from his grandfather, Parthasarathy Iyengar. Kamalakiran subsequently had training from master Carnatic violinist Malladi Vijayalakshmi, who studied under his own father Subhash Vinjamuri at the age of seven. Kamalakiran has been under the tutelage of Sangeethakalanidhi A. Kanyakumari since 2006 and has quickly emerged as a major talent, winning numerous awards from prestigious institutions including Sri Mylapore Fine Arts, Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha in 2010 and 2013, and Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in 2014, just to name a few. In the 2014 Spirit of Youth series, and the 2016 and 2017 music seasons, Kamalakiran was selected as the best violinist in the prestigious Music Academy in Chennai. As both a soloist and accompanist, Kamalakiran has won several accolades and he continues to accompany many leading artists, performing widely across Asia, the US and Europe.
Professor **Trichy Sankaran** is a world-renowned percussion virtuoso, Indian music scholar and composer, and the founding director of Indian music studies at York University. Over the years, Prof. Sankaran has bridged eastern and western pedagogical styles and has influenced generations of students who have become noted performers, composers, and music educators themselves. He has made valuable contributions to many scholarly conferences across North America and has published two major books: one on the theory and techniques of South Indian classical drumming, and the other on the Art of Konnakkol (Solkattu).

Trichy Sankaran has performed at major festivals in India, South-East Asia, Europe, Australia and North America. In his 6 decades of concert experience in Carnatic music, he has accompanied all top rank artists of India. He has performed in jugalbandhis (North-South combo) with famous Hindusthani musicians.

In addition to his usual traditional settings and numerous solo recitals, he has performed with Nexus, gamelan, jazz, electronic, African music ensembles and world drums, as well as his own group, Trichy's Trio. As a composer, Trichy Sankaran has to his credit a number of pieces in the genres of gamelan, jazz, traditional western classical orchestra and world music ensembles. He continues to perform and write compositions for contemporary and world music ensembles. He has received numerous honours and awards for his contributions to University teaching and artistic excellence in the professional field.

In January 2012, Dr. Sankaran received the most coveted honour of 'Sangita Kalanidhi' from the prestigious Music Academy of Madras. He is the first recipient of this award in the Pudhukkottai tradition of mrdangam playing. Dr. Sankaran was the pioneer in starting the Thyagaraja Festival in Toronto, Canada in 1972. Professor Sankaran has published numerous articles, as well as two major textbooks: The Rhythmic Principles and Practice of South Indian Drumming and The Art of Konnakkol.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Session 9 8:30-10:15 AM</th>
<th>Session 10 10:30 AM-12:15 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
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Coffee Break, 7:30 - 8:30 AM, University Foyer (2nd Floor)

Coffee Break, 10:15 - 10:30 AM, University Foyer (2nd Floor)

Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Investigating Structure, Standardization, and Style


A Comparative Analysis of Civil-Military Relations in South Asia: The Case of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh

Tracking Non-Elite Figures in Early Modern South Asia

Textual Practices and Scholarly Communities in Early Modern South Asia

'Subtle, Elusive, and Pervading': The Languages of Language Movements in Modern South Asia

Performing Identities

Peripheries of Excess: Gender, Transgression, and Performance in Punjab

Pedagogy and Politics of Languages

New Explorations of Caste

Adaptation, Translation, and the Politics of Gender

Intimation of Revolution: Global Sixties and the Making of Bangladesh

Identity, Politics, and Citizenship

After 1947: The Politics of Decolonization

Constructing (Post)Colonies: Race, Gender, and Nationhood in the Subcontinent

The Careers of Things: Infrastructural Recursions and Reinventions in South Asia

Political Theologies of South and East Asia

Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to the Study of Craft Technologies in Ancient South Asia

Polemic Structuring and Restructuring in Eighteenth-Century India

Vernacular Worlds in the Arabic Cosmopolis

Hearing and Seeing Media histories Across the Indo-Pakistan Border

Shah Rukh Khan, Stardom, and Neoliberal Politics in Contemporary India

Decolonizing Equity-Diversity-Inclusion Discourses and the Neoliberal University: Lessons from South Asia

Multilingual Interaction in South Asian Spaces of Pedagogy and Practice

Waiting for the People: A Book Roundtable

Violence of Memories: Reclaiming Spaces and Lost Voices from South Asia

Technological (Mis)appropriations

Contemporary Caste and the State

Ethnographic and Documentary Film Screenings

South Asian Political Movements

The Politics of Militarization, Citizenship, and Neighborliness Across South Asia

Constitutional Considerations of Society and Religion

Documenting Protest

Migrations of Modern Spiritualities

Public Health in South Asia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Session 11 1:45-3:30 PM Detailed Information pg 93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Quit India! Decolonizing South Asian Archaeology in Theory or Practice?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucus Room (Floor 1)</td>
<td>(Re)Structuring Savism: The Sivadharma and Its Tamil Transmission</td>
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<td>Contextualizing Christianity</td>
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<td>Senate Room B (Floor 1)</td>
<td>Pakistan: A Devil’s Brew of Political, Economic, and Natural Disasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Room 1 (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Structures and Spontaneity of Economic Life in South Asia: Corporations, Cooperatives, Communities</td>
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<td>Concepts of the Psyche: Ontological Traversals</td>
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<td>Emerging Studies in South Asian Literature and Poetry</td>
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<td>Women’s Voices and Voices of Women in Early Modern South Indian Poetry</td>
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<td>Regional and the Transnational: Specificity, Suffusion, and Resonance</td>
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<td>Global Caste</td>
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<td>Capitol Ballroom B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Ethnographic and Documentary Film Screenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Ballroom (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>University A/B (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Literary Criticism and Languages in South Asia</td>
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<td>University C/D (Floor 2)</td>
<td>Muslim Lives at Home and Abroad</td>
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<td>Parlor Room 627 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Reconstructing the Decolonial Discourse: Critical Examinations of Theory and Praxis of Decoloniality</td>
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<td>Environmental and Sustainability in South Asia: Past, Present, and Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Living Through the Meanwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parlor Room 638 (Floor 6)</td>
<td>Author Showcase: Gemini Wahhaj &amp; Rashi Rohatgi Talk Craft and Community</td>
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<td>Exhibit Room</td>
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<td>The Work of Grief, Sorrow, and Lamentation in South Asian Poetry, Epics, and Ritual</td>
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<td>The Production of News in the Digital Age: Implications for Public Perceptions of Globalization, Citizen Journalism, and Minorities</td>
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<td>Trauma and Care</td>
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<td>Ethnographic and Documentary Film Screenings</td>
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<td>Reading Agrarian Transition Through the Lens of Raymond Williams</td>
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Saturday, October 21, 2023

Coffee Break: 3:30 - 3:45 PM, University Foyer (2nd Floor)

Lunch Break: 12:15 - 1:45 PM

51st Annual Conference on South Asia
Ethnographic and Documentary Film Screenings
Darshana Sreedhar Mini (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Moderator
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 10:30 AM - 12:45 PM
Wisconsin Ballroom

Two Poets and a River, Directed by Richard Wolf

Using the Oxus river as a topos, this film explores themes of love and loss through the lives and musical poetry of the two most prominent and innovative Wakhi musicians in Central and South Asia: Qurbonsho in Tajikistan and Daulatsho in Afghanistan. These two poet-singers share a common language, faith, and family network and yet remain separated by vicissitudes of the 19th c. Great Game in Central Asia. In this struggle for strategic control, the Wakhan homeland of the Wakhi people became a buffer zone between Czarist Russia and the British Empire, and the river Oxus, which became the border, ran right through the center of Wakhan. After the modern nation states of the USSR and Afghanistan shored up their boundaries circa 1930, the communities living along one side of the river were severed from their counterparts on the other side. The specific condition of being separated by a river in the region has been the basis for poetry about the feeling of separation (firāq) in Persian and Wakhi poetry more generally and thereby grounds the poets’ discussions of love and loss in their own lives as well as in their musical arts. The ethnomusicologist-filmmaker Richard K. Wolf shot and produced the film over 2.5 years (2012-2020) with the editorial collaboration of both Qurbonsho and Daulatsho, who narrate the film in Wakhi, Tajik and Dari. It experiments with visual editing techniques to suggest possible relations of identity between persons and other persons or animals, and between emotions and landscapes. It also employs translucent overlays of photographs and moving images to evoke multiplicity and ambiguity, inspired by montage and collage in 20th and 21st century film and art.

Casting Untouchable Beats: The Story of the Drum Makers, Directed by Athula Samarakoon

In the sound of the traditional Sri Lankan drums are rhythmic beats that go back centuries. Mystique of the occult and closely guarded hereditary craft blend to create the instruments that speak of a country’s olden heritage in ritualistic music. Yet the life of the Sri Lankan drum makers, their state of existence, has been a subject that has been ‘cast aside’ from the mainstream cultural and anthropological discourse. Casting Untouchable Beats casts insight on the status of the marginalized drum maker community whose voice has never been carried widely unlike the much-admired beats their creations emanate.
Sama in the Forest, Directed by Carlos G. Gómez and Produced by Coralynn V. Davis

Sama in the Forest explores the power of stories to shape, challenge, and change our understanding of the world. It delves into the subversive role women’s folktales can play in a patriarchal society. Our film is set in Madhubani, a district in India’s state of Bihar, where a rich cultural identity extends from the mythical past into a globalized present. Maithil identity is passed on through its renowned painting tradition, as well as through its lesser known wealth of orally transmitted folktales. Women play a central role in both of these expressions. In a creative collaboration with local community members, we highlight the tale of Sama, a princess who wanders into the forest and befriends a young man, only to be slandered by a muckraking confidante of the king, who is also Lord Krishna, and subsequently cursed and banished by her father. The film combines footage of women telling different versions of the tale, narrative paintings, a dramatization of the story, a yearly festival that celebrates Sama, and in-depth conversations about the morals and meanings of this and other traditional tales. The girls and women at the heart of our film are students and teachers at the Mithila Art Institute, a small school for young aspiring artists. Other participants, community members of different genders, castes, and generations, help paint a fuller picture of the complex social changes happening in Mithila today.

Sent Away Boys, Directed by Harjant Gill

What happens to families in the absence of sons? What happens to land in the absence of farmers? What happens to communities in the absence of men? Sent Away Boys weaves together testimonials of individual ambitions and family biographies from Punjab, India to chronicle the gradual transformation of agrarian landscape and patriarchal traditions through ongoing transnational migration. As the promise of a secure future in agriculture grows increasingly uncertain for young men across the region, escaping India to join the low-wage labor in countries like Canada and USA becomes their sole aspiration. In rural Punjab, being a successful man now entails leaving their village, traveling abroad, and sending money home. Through interviews with men preparing to undertake often risky journeys and women awaiting the return of their sons, brothers and husbands, Sent Away Boys shows how young men’s decisions to emigrate implicate families and communities across North India.
Material as Method: New Histories of the Built Environment
Organizers: Ateya Khorakiwala (Columbia University) & Curt Gambetta (Dartmouth College)
Assembly Room, Floor 1

Schedule
8:30 – 9:00 AM Introductions and Thematic Overview
Curt Gambetta (Dartmouth College) and Ateya Khorakiwala (Columbia University)

9:00 – 10:15 AM Panel 1: Material Boundaries
Thomas Oommenn (UC Berkeley)
Reading the Monsoon: Laterite, Aluminum and Oceanic Histories of the Local
Dwight Carey (Amherst College)
Microscopic Interconnections: The Building Materials That Tie India, Mauritius, and Africa Together
Arijit Chatterjee (Washington University, Steedman Fellow) and Asha Sumra (Aarhus School of Architecture)
Cartographies of Clay
Farhan Karim (University of Kansas)
Title TBA

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Panel 2.: Materials and Institutions
Priya Jain (Texas A&M University)
Indian Research on Black Cotton Soil and Afro-Asian Solidarity Amidst the Cold War
Ateya Khorakiwala (Columbia University)
Surkhi and the Failures of Indigenous Postcolonial Modern Materiality
Siddharth Menon (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
M-Sand, River Sand, and the Extended Political Ecology of Urbanization in India
Anirudh Gurumoorthy (UCLA)
Speculating Spaces and Acclimatization Species: Emplacing the Hevea brasiliensis, 1876- 1906

1:45 – 3:30 PM Panel 3: Material Labors
Priya Joseph (Christ University, Bangalore)
Earth Polemics: Labour, Land and Capitalistic Interpretations of Built Environment in India
Yashada Wagle (UCLA)
Making the Mill Move: The Case of the Oriental Spinning and Weaving Company, Bombay, 1855
Curt Gambetta (Dartmouth College)
The Energopolitics of Labor-Intensive Building Materials
Rachel Sturman (Bowdoin College)
Material Proximities: Possibility, Harm, and Indifference in Construction Labor

3:45 – 5:30 PM Roundtable
Discussant: Namita Dharia (Rhode Island School of Design)
Moderators: Curt Gambetta (Dartmouth College) and Ateya Khorakiwala (Columbia University)

6:00 PM Dinner and drinks
Sri Lanka Beyond Area Studies: Insights from Literary Theory for the Broader Humanities
Organizers: Samitha Senanayake (University of Wisconsin-Madison) & Crystal Baines (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Caucus Room, Floor 1

Schedule
8:15 – 8:30 AM: Registration & Introductions

8:30 – 8:45 AM: Welcome and Introduction to AISLS Literature Reading Group 2023
John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

8:45 – 10:15 AM: Post-Secular Interventions: Buddhism, Gender, and Asceticism (In Memoriam: Punyakante Wijenaike)
Crystal Baines (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Buddhist Women in the Attic: Wijenaike's Amulet as Gothic Rejoinder to the Secular
Samitha Senanayake (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Buddhist or Modernist? Reading Wijenaike’s “Monkeys” Between Historicism and Universalism
Discussant: Kathleen Fernando (Kenyon College)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Reframing the Canon: The Postcolonial Desires of Sarachchandra and Wickramasinghe
Chamila Somirathna (University of Kelaniya)
Revisiting E.R. Sarachchandra’s Maname: A Glimpse on Sri Lankan Postcolonial National Art and Cultural Decolonization
Praveen Tilakaratne (Cornell University)
Title TBA
Discussant: Charles Hallisey (Harvard Divinity School)

1:45 – 3:00 PM: More-than-Human Narratives: Commodification and Spectacle in Multispecies Configurations
Thakshala Tissera (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Bad Elephants: Multispecies Politics of Twentieth-Century Elephant Kraals
Kamil Ahsan (Yale University)
The Reef as Rock: A History of Mining & Ecology in Postcolonial Sri Lanka
Discussant: Sujit Sivasundaram (University of Cambridge)

3:15 – 4:30 PM: Rewritten Narratives: Deciphering Buddhist Folk Literature
Phusathi Liyanaarachchi (Harvard Divinity School)
Alexis Brown (Harvard University)
Discussant: Kristin Scheible (Reed College)

4:30 – 5:00 PM: Concluding Comments on Reading Group
Charles Hallisey (Harvard Divinity School)
Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

New Directions in Bangladesh Studies
Organizer: Elora Shehabuddin (University of California, Berkeley)
Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Schedule

8:30 – 10:15: Roundtable: Ilyas’ Khwabnama, the Coming Community, and the Missing Peasant
Naeem Mohaiemen (Columbia University)  Dina M Siddiqi (New York University)
Humayun Kabir (Queen’s College, CUNY)  Ghazal Asif Farrukhi (LUMS)
Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins University)
Nasrin Khandoker (University of Limerick)
Naeem Mohaiemen (Columbia University)

10:30 – 12:15: Panel: The State, Environment, and Development in Bangladesh
Hana Shams Ahmed (York University)
The State as Obhibhabok: Petitions in the Chimbuk Pahar Resort Project
Camelia Dewan (University of Oslo)
Climate Refugee or Labour Migrant? Women’s Labor Migration from Southwest Coastal Bangladesh
Farida C. Khan (University of Colorado Colorado Springs)
Transformations: Women and Water in the Chittagong Hill Tracts
Nayma Qayum (Manhattanville College)
Social Norms, Disaster, and Access to Resources in Bangladesh
Farhana Sultana (Syracuse University)
Drowned out: Contested Urban Citizenship in Dhaka

1:45 – 3:15 PM: Roundtable: Academic Publishing in and on Bangladesh
Elora Halim Chowdhury (University of Massachusetts Boston)  Camelia Dewan (University of Oslo)
Nayma Quayum (Manhattanville College)  Navine Murshid (Colgate University)
Md. Mahmudul Hasan (International Islamic University Malaysia)
Farida C. Khan (University of Colorado Colorado Springs)
Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins University)

3:45 – 5:30 PM: Panel: Configuring the Sisterhood: Friends, Kins, and Weak Ties (hybrid)
Farida Begum (Colgate University)
The Pleasure of Friendship Rituals: Sociality in the Neighborhood
Nadine Shaanta Murshid (University at Buffalo)
Dialectical Aunties
Navine Murshid (Colgate University)
Sometimes Apa, Sometimes Shokhi: Gaaner Class and the Cultivation of Rabindrik Sensibilities
Elora Shehabuddin (University of California, Berkeley)
‘They tiff like sisters!’: Bangladeshi Women Migrant Workers in Lebanon and the New Kinship Networks That Sustain Them
Nafisa Tanjeem (Worcester State University)
Beyond Transnational Solidarity: Unraveling Feminist Epistemic Friendship in the Transnational Garment Labor Organizing
Tamil Religion? Contesting “Tamilness” in Religious Domains
Organizers: Torsten Tschacher (University of Heidelberg) and Harini Kumar (Princeton University)
Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Schedule

8:30 – 10:15 AM Session 1: Framing and Contesting “Tamil Religion”

Jason Smith (Mercer University)
Tracing Tamil Religion in Early South Indian Buddhist and Jain Narratives

Leah Comeau (Saint Joseph’s University and Universität Hamburg)
Jasmine in Paris: Exploring the Materiality of Tamil Religion

Dennis B. McGilvray (University of Colorado, Boulder)
Islam is not a Tamil Religion in Sri Lanka

Discussion

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Session 2: Caste, Kinship, and Community

Margherita Trento (EHESS, Paris)
Martyrdom, Family and Caste: Creating Lineages in Vadakkankulam, 18th-19th Centuries

Amy L. Allocco (Elon University)
Kinship, Gender, Power, and Place in Tamil Rituals to Domesticate the Dead

Harini Kumar (Princeton University)
What is "Tamil" about "Tamil Islam"?

Discussion

1:45 – 3:30 PM Session 3: "Tamil Religion", Tamil Identity, Tamil Nationalism

Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)
Musicking Tamil Religion: "Tamiḻ Icai" Beyond the Frameworks of Dravidianism

Indira Arumugam (National University of Singapore)
Centering the Feral: An A-Hindu ‘Tamil Hinduism’

Torsten Tschacher (University of Heidelberg)
Mistaking the Garment for the Heart: Replying to Ramanathan in Muslim Literary Legend

Discussion

3:45 – 5:30 PM Session 4
General Discussion of the Symposium’s result and future plans
Queer Failures and Possibilities: Trans Movements in Contemporary South Asia
Organizers: Claire Pamment (College of William & Mary) & Jeff Redding (University of Melbourne)
Senate Room A, Floor 1

Schedule
8:30 – 8:45 AM: Introductions
Jeff Redding (University of Melbourne) and Claire Pamment (College of William & Mary)

Laws and Lives, 8:45 – 10:15 AM: Panel 1
Mehlab Jameel (Independent Scholar) (virtual)
How a Bill Becomes a Law: An Inquiry into Transitions
Diya Bose (College of William & Mary)
Queering Anti-Trafficking?
Danish Sheikh (University of Melbourne) (virtual)
Jurisgenerative Failures: Reparative Trans Engagements with NALSA v. Union of India
Uzma Zafar (University of Virginia)
Legal Documentation and its Others: The Fragmented Authenticity of Transgender Bodies
Commentator: Jeff Redding

Temporalities and Spatialities, 10:30 – 11:30 AM: Panel 2
Vaibhav Saria (Simon Fraser University) (virtual)
Normativity, Liberalism, and Hijra Sexuality
Vanja Hamzic (SOAS) (potentially virtual)
Distemporalizing Khwajasara: Matters of Time and Gender: Nonconformity in Lifeworlds of a South Asian Community
Lucinda Ramberg (Cornell University)
Refusing Desire: On Being and Not Being a Jogappa in Karnataka
Commentator: Anjali Arondekar (UC-Santa Cruz)

Temporalities and Spatialities, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Panel 3
Ahmad Qais Munhazim (Thomas Jefferson University)
Watch Me Live
Rasel Ahmed (Ohio State University)
Refugee Futurism: The Challenges and Possibilities of Failure of Identities in the Context of Making the Film “Who Killed Taniya”
Debanuj Dasgupta (UC-Santa Barbara) (potentially virtual)
COVID-19 as Trans/Regional Assemblages in South Asia
Commentator: Anjali Arondekar (UC-Santa Cruz)
Art, Performances, and Movements, 2:00 – 3:30 PM: Panel 4

**Ranganthan Gowthaman (Brandeis University)**
Tamil Trans Performers in Sri Lanka

**Rishav Kumar Thakur (Columbia University) (virtual)**
Trans Emergences in Movement

**Karin Zitzewitz (Michigan State University)**
Unrealized Trans Possibilities in the Paintings of Bhupen Khakhar

**Lauren Ruhnke (Temple University)**
State Failures, Celebratory Solidarities, Collective Futurities

**Aniruddha Dutta (University of Iowa)**
Laboring Dancers, Ruptured Alliances: Trans Politics and the Changing Terrain of Lagan in North India

Commentator: **Claire Pamment**

3:45 – 5:30 PM Closing Roundtable and Futures: Trans In and Beyond South Asia

**Sarah Suhail**
Thriving Despite Structures of Premature Death: A View of Trans* and Queer Life from Pakistan

**Howard Chiang (UC-Santa Cruz) (virtual)**
Transtopia in Asia

**Benjamin Hegarty (University of New South Wales) (virtual)**
The View of Trans Inequality in Indonesia: A Queer Footnote

**Durba Mitra (Harvard University) (virtual)**
Indian Sex Life

Chairs: **Claire Pamment and Jeff Redding**
Delight, Levtiy, and Play in Urdu
Organizer: Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)
Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Schedule
8:00 – 9:00 AM coffee with casual gossip

9:00 – 10:30 AM Session 1: Populism and Profanity in Early Contexts
Max Bruce (UC Berkeley)
The Ḥikāyat (Moral Story) and Adaptation
Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)
Mirzā Girāmī: Lineages of Delhi’s Loudest Poet, 1710-1749
Syed Baqar Mehdi Rizvi (University of Texas at Austin)
Humor and Censorship: The Case of Naẓīr Akbarābādī

10:30 – 10:45 AM break for trading veiled insults

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Session 2: Anecdotes and Entertainment in the Nineteenth Century
Frances Pritchett (Columbia University)
Āzād on Mīr: A Completely Impossible Anecdote
Ali Altaf Mian (University of Florida)
Humor and Puns in Ashraf ‘Alī Thānavī’s Sermons
Jaideep Pandey (University of Michigan)
Sharar’s Humor and History Writing

12:30 – 2:00 PM Lunch

2:15 – 3:15 PM Session 3: Twentieth-Century Ambivalence and its Joys
Ayesha Rasul (SUNY at Buffalo)
Paṭras Buḵhārī and Translating Urdu Humor
David Boyk (Northwestern University)
Marginal Notes: Bitter Humor in Manṭo’s ‘Siyāh Ḥāshiye’

3:30 – 3:45 PM break for competitive banter

3:45 – 5:00 PM roundtable discussion and literary slugfest
Quotidian Sacreds: Religion, History, and Performance in South Asia
Organizers: Vivek V. Narayan (Ashoka University) & Neilesh Bose (University of Victoria)
Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Schedule
8:30 – 9:00 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks
Vivek V. Narayan (Ashoka University) & Neilesh Bose (University of Victoria)

9:00 – 10:15 AM Panel: Thinking with the Quotidian
Julia Stephens (Rutgers University)
Is Research Secular?: A Historian and Ghost Meet in the Archives of South Asian Migration
Shruti Patel (Salisbury University)
Productive Play: The Smapradaya at Work in Modern India
Anna Schultz (University of Chicago)
Eliyahoo Hannabee: Translation, Sacred Song, and Everyday Bene Israel Life

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Roundtable: Interrogating the Quotidian
Barton Scott (University of Toronto)
Lived Religion and the Politics of the Quotidian Turn
Sadia Saeed
The Cow and the Prophet: Sacred Symbols and Religious Nationalism in South Asia
Brian Hatcher (Tufts University)
Beyond the Last Hut: Lingas, Sadhus, and the Question of What Remains

1:45 – 3:30 PM Keynote
Akeel Bilgrami (Columbia University)
Gandhi’s Critique of Liberal Modernity and the Vexations of Caste

3:45 – 5:30 PM Closing Discussion
South Asian Disability Futures
Organizer: Michele Friedner (University of Chicago) and Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Schedule
8:30 – 9:00 AM: Introductions: Setting the Scenes, Temporalities, Trajectories
Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Michele Friedner (University of Chicago)

9:00 – 10:15: Disability Eradication and Emergence in the Past and Future
Arafaat Valiani (University of Oregon)
James Staples (Brunel University)
Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway (Oberlin College)
Aidan Seale-Feldman (University of Notre Dame)

10:30 – 11:45: Quantifying the Future
Vandana Chaudhry (College of Staten Island, CUNY)
Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Sanghamitra Das (University of Chicago)

11:45 – 12:15: Summary and Discussion of Morning Panels

1:45 – 3:30: The Future of Care
Shruti Vaidya (University of Chicago)
Bindhulakshmi Pattadath (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)
Shubha Ranganathan (IIT-Hyderabad)

3:45 – 4:45: Change, Regeneration, and the Future of Communities and Categories
Mara Green (Barnard College)
Theresia Hofer (University of Bristol)
Michele Friedner (University of Chicago)

4:45 – 5:30: Wrap Up, Final Thoughts, Provocations, Planning for a Special Issue

5:45: Group dinner
AIIS Dissertation to Book Workshop
Organizer: Sarah Lamb (Brandeis University)
Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Schedule
Tuesday evening, October 17, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Private Dining Room
Secrets of Publishing: Introductions and Q&A regarding publishing, next steps, etc. Several faculty mentors with experience recruiting manuscripts for presses and publishing their own books will participate. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday morning, October 18, 8:30 AM – 12:15 PM (with a coffee break from 10:15 – 10:30 AM)
We will divide into three groups of 8 authors and 2-3 mentors. Each project will be discussed for 23-25 minutes. In advance, everyone will read all of the materials for their group. For each 23-25-minute segment, one participant will make a 3-5-minute presentation on someone else’s project, and then the other participants will join in to discuss the project—except the project’s author, who is not allowed to speak. The author of the project under discussion can only listen, take notes, and record if desired, how their project is being understood, misunderstood, stretched, queried, critiqued, and praised by knowledgeable peers with closely related interests but working in varying theoretical perspectives, disciplines, settings, and time periods.

Lunch break (on one’s own) 12:15 – 1:45 PM

Wednesday afternoon, 1:45 – 5:30 PM (with a coffee break from 3:30 – 3:45 PM)
Each author is given a 23-25-minute time slot to respond to the more important queries, issues, and suggestions raised in the morning, and, most important, to seek feedback or further discussion of areas of their project with which they recognize they are having difficulty.

Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM
AIIS will host all participants at a group dinner at the Maharani Indian Restaurant, 380 W. Washington Street (several blocks from the Concourse Hotel) (final restaurant choice to be confirmed).

Conversations can carry over into Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the South Asia Conference!

Author proposals are due by July 31, 2023. For more information, please visit the AIIS website.

For 2023, the senior mentors will include:
Sarah Lamb (convener, Brandeis University)
Ulka Anjaria (Brandeis University)
Shalini Ayyagari (University of Pittsburgh)
Nitin Govil (University of Southern California)
Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington)
Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth College)
Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)
Lamia Karim (University of Oregon)
Anand Yang (University of Washington)
Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Lineage and Caste through the Eyes of the Gendered Householder
Organizer: Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)
University A/B, Floor 2

Schedule
8:15 AM Welcome

8:30 – 10:15 AM Rethinking the Classical Model
Caley Smith
Vedic Political Imagination and the Prehistory of Varna
Jason Schwartz (Stanford University)
Big Men and Better Women: Alternative Models of Political Economy and Inheritance in the Early Medieval Deccan
Ramya Sreenivasan (University of Pennsylvania)
Households, Status, and Wealth in Northern India, circa 1450-1550

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM In the Belly of Empires—the Legal Context of Lineages and Households
Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)
Promise and Precarity: The Gendering of Urban Life in Lahore
Ilsa Abdul Razzak (University of Washington)
Caste through Jurisprudence: Kinship, Purity and Belonging in Early Modern Islamic Texts
Divya Cherian (Princeton University)
Slavery and Untouchability in 18th-Century South Asia: The Baḍārans of Marwar

1:45 – 3:30 PM Gendering Caste, the Household from Plural Perspectives
Mahmood Kooria
Indrani Chatterjee (University of Texas at Austin)
Gendering Jajmani, Re-casting Capital
Anjali Arondekar (UC-Santa Cruz)
Family Interlude: Sexuality’s Caste

3:45 – 4:45 PM Preliminary planning session to discuss common themes, possible publication plans, concluding remarks
Love and Intimacy in South Asia
Organizer: Jonathan Peterson (Stanford University)
University C/D, Floor 2

Schedule
9:15 – 9:30 AM Opening remarks

9:30 – 10:15 AM
**Titas De Sarkar (University of Chicago)**
Love for the Nation, Intimacy of friendship: The Elder Brother in Bengal Cinema

10:30 – 11:15 AM
**Anne Murphy (University of British Columbia)**
Debating intimacy in Waris Shah’s Hir

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM
**Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)**
Dreams, Relics, and the Haptic in Muslim Devotion to the Prophet in Mughal Delhi

1:45 – 2:30 PM
**Jonathan Peterson (Stanford University)**
The Poetics of Interreligious Love in Mughal Benares

2:30 – 3:15 PM
**Rohini Shukla (Columbia University)**
Historicizing the Kuṭumba in ‘the Brahman Raj’: Mahānubhāvs and the Limits of Brahman Homosociality

3:30 – 4:15 PM
**Sarah Pierce Taylor (University of Chicago)**
Jain [Trans]migratory Love Stories

4:15 – 5:00 PM
**Anand Taneja (Vanderbilt University)**
The Kites of Firoz Shah Kotla, the Sparrows of Ahmadnagar, the Falcons of Shaheen Bagh: Political Theologies of Inter-Species Intimacy

5:00 – 5:30 PM Concluding remarks, final discussion

Respondent 1 **Naisargi Dave (University of Toronto)**
Respondent 2 **SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)**
Respondent 3 **Malavika Kasturi (University of Toronto)**
Dance and South Asia
Organizers: Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University), Anusha Kedhar (University of California, Riverside), Kareem Khubchandani (Tufts University), Royona Mitra (Brunel University), Brahma Prakash (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Rumya Putcha (University of Georgia), & Sonja Thomas (Colby College)
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2

Schedule
7:30 – 8:30 AM All Conference Coffee/Tea
8:45 – 9:00 AM Opening Remarks

9:00 – 10:15 AM Roundtable 1: Decentering “Dance”

Biju Toppo (Artist, Activist and documentary filmmaker from Jharkhand)
Meaning of Dance in the Indian Adivasi World

Dakxin Bajrangi (Cultural activist, theater director from Gujarat)
Thinking Dance through the Denotified Tribes in Gujarat

Rakesh Kumar (Launda Dance Artist)
Actions and Perception of Launda Dance of North India

Roundtable Chair: Brahma Prakash (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Roundtable 2: Dancing Diasporas, Embodying (Trans)nationalisms

Nahid Siddiqui (Independent Dance Artist, UK)
The Moving Canvas

Premalatha Thiagarajan (University of Malay)
Lived Experiences of Female Dancers in Indian Classical Dance in Malaysia

Ryan Persadie (University of Toronto)
Sounding Qoolie Diasporas: Queer Indo-Caribbean Performance, Soca Feminisms, and the Politics of Fête in Toronto and New York City

Sandra Chatterjee (Independent Dance Artist, Germany/India)
1926 // 2023 – Intimate Reflections on ‘Indian’ Dance in Europe – One Movement at a Time

Sitara Thobani (Michigan State University)
Global Stagecraft: Race, Space and Indian Classical Dance

Suzanne Persard (University of South Florida)
Provincializing Queer: Notes on Chutney

Pallavi Sriram (Colorado College)
Dance, Circulation, and Methods for Translocal Histories from Early Modern South Asia

Roundtable Chairs: Anusha Kedhar (UC Riverside) and Royona Mitra (Brunel University of London)
2:00 – 3:30 PM Roundtable 3: Pleasure, Desire, and Dance

**Brahma Prakash (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
Pleasure beyond Desire[d]: The Problem of the Undesired ‘Pleasure’ in the Arkestra Naach of Northern India

**Shailaja Paik (University of Cincinnati)**
The Politics of Performance: Caste, Sexuality, and Humanity in Modern India

**Aishika Chakraborty (Jadavpur University)**
Calcutta Cabaret: Politics, Pleasure and Perversion

**Gowthaman Rangahathan (Brandeis University)**
Performing Tamilness in Queer Sri Lanka

**Munjulika Rahman Tarah (Williams College)**
Snigdhota: The Scope of Desire in Bangladeshi Dance

**Dhiren Borisa (Jindal Global Law School)**
Surviving the Dance Floor: Caste, Queerness and Nightlife in Delhi

Roundtable Chairs: **Kareem Khubchandani (Tufts University)** and **Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)**

3:45 – 5:30 PM Session 4: Dance, Race, and Ethnicity

**Debanjali Biswas (King’s College London)**
Blood, Birth, Earth: Not/Knowing the Manipuri Dancing Body

**Meena Murugesan (Independent Dance Artist, US)**
Dravidian Futurities: Speculative Research on Afro-Dravidian Connections, Casteism, Colorism and Non-Vedic Rituals of Possession

**Brinda Guha (Independent Dance Artist, US)**
Contemporary Indian Dance Legacies: What is Contemporary? What is Indian?

**Bradley Shoppe (Kutztown University)**
Globalizing Dance: U.S./India Entanglements and the Politics of Blackface and Jazz Performance in Mumbai, Mid-1800s to Early 1900s

**Ajay Sinha (Mount Holyoke College)**
Indian Classical Dance as Jazz

Roundtable Chairs: **Rumya Putcha (University of Georgia)** and **Sonja Thomas (Colby College)**

6:30 – 8:30: Symposium Dinner
Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Printing Religion in South Asia
Organizers: Megan Eaton Robb (University of Pennsylvania) & Pranav Prakash (Christ Church, University of Oxford)
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Schedule
8:30 – 10:00 AM : Panel 1 – The Impact of Print: Recovering Erasures, Documenting Cultures
Pranav Prakash (Christ Church, University of Oxford)
Unorthodox Printing: A Brief History of Maithili Chapbooks in Colonial South Asia
Sharmeen Mehri (SUNY at Buffalo)
New Ways of Reading: Printing the Khordeh Avesta in Colonial India

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Panel 2 – The Craft of Print: Continuities and Transformations
Anannya Bohidar (University of Pennsylvania)
Hindu Śāstra, Sexual Science or Pornography?: A Study of Printed Sex Books in the Tamil Public Sphere (1900-1940s)
Rick Weiss (Victoria University of Wellington)
Early Tamil Hindu Print Culture: Revolutionary or Merely Reproductive?

2:00 – 3:30 PM : Panel 3 – The Community of Print: Printed Materials as Religious Artefacts
Shobna Nijhawan (York University)
At the Margins of the Hindi Periodical: Marketing Religious Publications
Rushnae Kabir (University of Pennsylvania)
Witnessing Love in the Milād Ritual: Devotion, Orality, and Emotion in the Milādnāma

4:00 – 5:30 PM : Panel 4 – The Power of Print: Crafting Narratives of Identity
Alexandra Kaloyanides (UNC Charlotte)
The Power of the Book in Nineteenth-Century Burma
Megan Eaton Robb (University of Pennsylvania)
The Imperial Constellation of Newspapers
Political Contestations in Contemporary India
Organizers: Krupa Shandilya (Amherst College) and Amrita Basu (Amherst College)
Private Dining Room, Floor 1

Schedule

Invited Speakers
Ali Khan
Tanika Sarkar
Ajay Gehlawat (Sonoma State University)
Debadatta Chakrabarty (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Krupa Shandilya (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Amrita Basu (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
Beyond the Alvars and Acharyas: Rethinking ShriVaishnava Studies
Organizers: Sohini Pillai (Kalamazoo College) & Manasicha Akepiyapornchhai (University of Texas at Austin)
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Schedule
8:30 – 10:15 AM Session One

Preethi Ramaprasad (UC Riverside)
Whose Poem Is It Anyway? Reflections on South Indian Dance and the Divyapraborandham

Ilanit Loewy Shacham (Tel Aviv University)
Religious or Religious-Themed? Thoughts on ShriVaishnava Hagiographies in Poetic Form

Prathik Murali (University of Florida)
An Atheist and a Theologian: A Dravidian Retelling of Ramanuja’s Life
Respondent: Srilata Raman (University of Toronto)

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Session Two

Shiv Subramaniam (Emory University)
Affirming the World: The Realism of Ramanuja

Vishal Sharma
Who Speaks for the Mahabharata? Reading and Protecting the ‘Fifth Veda’ in Early Modern ShriVaishnava Communities

Manasicha Akepiyapornchhai (University of Texas at Austin)
Self-Surrender in the ShriVaishnavas’ Modern Debates
Respondent: Larry McCrea (Cornell University)

1:45 – 3:30 PM Session Three

Morgan J Curtis (Harvard University)
Putting Kampan in His Place: Religious and Literary Networks in South India

Sohini Sarah Pillai (Kalamazoo College)
Villiputturar the Alvar? The Tamil Paratam as a ShriVaishnava Text

Aalekhya Malladi (McGill University)
Bhakti, Yoga, and Vaishnava Dharma in 18th c. Tirupati
Respondent: Steven Hopkins (Swarthmore College)

3:45 – 5:30 PM Group Discussion
The Vaiṣṇava Sensorium: Experiencing the Divine in Eastern India
Organizer: Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Schedule
8:30 – 8:35 AM Introductions

Mapping the Vaisnava Sensorium in Eastern India: Canonical Texts / Chair: Rebeccca Manring (Indiana University)
Aleksandar Uskokov (Yale University)
On the Ontological Ground of Supersensory Perception: Jīva Gosvāmin and the Idea of ‘Pure Being’
Eileen Goddard (UC Santa Barbara)
From Practice to Perfection: The Potency of the 16th Century Devotional Sensorium
Abhishek Bose (University of Calcutta)
Notes towards a Poetics of Chaitanya Vaishnavism: Bitter Margosas and Lovely Mangoes
Jonathan Edelmann (University of Florida)
Hindu and Christian Perspectives Lineage, Being, and Ethics

The Lyrical Sensorium / Chair: Carola Lorea (University of Tübingen)
Christopher Diamond (Australian National University)
Vidyapati, Candidas and the Construction of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Lyrical Memory
David Buchta (Brown University)
Hearing and Sight, Contemplation and Perception: Joining the Mythic and the Immediate through Śleṣa in Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava Poetry
Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Song, Interiority, and the Cultivation of ‘Constant Remembrance’: The Devotional Labor of the Lyrical Sensorium of Prabhātā Samgīta

An Evolving Sensorial Ontology of Vaisnavism: Sectarian Developments from the Early Modern to the Modern / Chair: Eileen Goddard (UC Santa Barbara)
Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)
What Makes a Woman, or, Can We Trust Our Senses?: Visual Testimony in Viṣṇudāsa’s Sītā-guṇa-kadamba
Lucian Wong (Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies)
Sensorial Inversion and the Appearance of the Transcendent Cupid
Robert Czyzykowski (Jagiellonian University)
The Discipline of Sahaja and the Five Arrows of Kāmadeva

Experiencing Bhagnava Through Sound, Touch, and Kinaesthetics / Chair: Jonathan Edelmann (University of Florida)
Carola Lorea (University of Tübingen)
What Would a Sensory Anthropology of Bengali Vaishnavism Look Like, Sound Like, Feel Like?
Eben Graves (Yale University)
Sonic Visions of Devotion: Temporality and Architecture in the Performance of Padābalī Kīrtan Tāl

Experiencing Bhagnavāna Through Orality, Visuality, and Proprioception / Chair: David Buchta (Brown University)
Dhurjjati Sarma (Gauhati University)
The Verbal and the Visual: A Multimedial Reading of the Assamese Gita-Govinda
Pika Ghosh (Haverford College)
Kirtan as Raaslila in the Terra Cotta Imagery of Seventeenth-Century Bengali Temples

4:35–5:00 Closing discussion
Thinking In and From Telugu: Understanding Connections, Querying Boundaries
Organizer: Indivar Jonnalagadda (Miami University), Saina Sri Kambhatla (Columbia University), Abhishek Bhattacharyya (University of Chicago)
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Schedule
8:30 – 10:15 AM Panel 1 – Thinking with Cultural Productions and Form
Afsar Mohammad (University of Pennsylvania)
Title TBA
Gautham Reddy (Emory University)
Shaik Nazar’s Pinjari: The Vernacular Politics of Caste and Identity
Uma Bhrugubanda (English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)
Is there a New Cinema in Telugu?
Rumya Putcha (University of Georgia)
Beauty and Bhanumati
Sneha Annavarapu (Yale-NUS College, Singapore)
Between the Reel and the Road: Traffic Talk and Telugu Cinema

10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Panel 2 – Thinking with Mobilization
Sravanthi Dasari (University of Illinois, Chicago)
Locating the Anti-colonial Movement within the Telangana Armed Struggle: A Study of Intersecting and Conflicting Social Movements
Satyanarayana (English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)
Satyamurthy/Sivasagar: A Dalit-Communist Narrative of Life
Abhishek Bhattacharyya (University of Chicago)
Ethnographic Methods and the Poetics of Revolution: A Translation and Reading of Varavara Rao’s “Samudram (Ocean)”
Lisa Mitchell (University of Pennsylvania)
Communism’s Influences on Democracy: Legacies from the Telugu-Speaking Regions

1:45 – 3:30 PM Panel 3 Thinking with Margins, Precarity, and Belonging
Saila Sri Kambhatla (Columbia University)
Sea Goddess Gangamma: Between Calamitous Nature and Precarious Labor
Kimberly Walters (California State University, Long Beach)
The Material and the Moral: Assuaging Sex Work’s Double Bind in South India
Indivar Jonnalagadda (Miami University)
Kabza in the Hyderabad Imagination: A Multilingual Taxonomy of Urban Unsettlement
Kripanand Komanapalli (Columbia University)
Becoming Telugu Baptists: The Language of Belonging in a Hyderabad Slum

3:45 – 5:30 PM Panel 4 : Thinking with Selves, Lives and Identities
Rama Mantena (University of Illinois, Chicago)
Liberalism, Regionalism and Democratic Culture in Colonial Andhra
Jamal Jones (University of Wisconsin—Madison)
Aesthetics, Identity, and Telugu Classicism
Chinnaiyah Jangam (Carleton University)
Archiving Oppression: Dalit Life Writings in Telugu
Chris Chekuri (San Francisco State University)
Caste and the Telugu Novel: Srirangaraju Caritra and the Emergence of Telugu Modernity
Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

51st Annual Conference on South Asia

Transgression
Organizers: Jon Keune (Michigan State University) & Amanda Lucia (University of California, Riverside)
Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Schedule
8:30 – 8:45 AM Symposium Opening Remarks
8:45 – 9:00 AM Orientation & Introductions

Panel 1: When Transgression Defines Theology
Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)
Beyond Good and Evil: Transgression in Early Kannada Śivabhakti Narratives
Amanda Lucia (University of California-Riverside)
Transgression in the Eye of the Beholder: Revisiting the Maharaj Libel Case of 1862
Jack Hawley (Barnard College)
Treasing Transgression

Panel 2: Transgression and the Body
Sravani Kanamarlapudi (University of Texas-Austin)
Multiple Receptions of a Tribal Hunter’s “Sacrilegious” Devotion
Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)
Beyond the Periya Purana: Imaging the Transgressive Bodies of Modern Tamil Politics
Madhuri Deshmukh (Oakton College)
Figural Transgressions and the Poetics of Exile: Songs of Bhakti on the Grind-Mill
Discussion of guided questions re Panels 1 and 2

Panel 3: Social and Political Mobilizations of Transgression
Patton Burchett (The College of William and Mary)
The Figure of the Yogi as Site of Transgression: Authenticity, Rationality, and Spectacle in India, Britain, & America, c. 1850-1930
Sushumna Kannan (Independent Scholar)
Nuances of Transgression in Bhakti
Tulasi Srinivas (Emerson College)
Rupturing the Social Contract of the Ontology of Belief: Ethnographic Transgressions in the Field
Discussion of guided questions re Panel 3

Panel 4: When Transgression Defines Religious Community
Andrew Kunze (The University of Chicago)
Transgressing the Transgressors?: Two Swaminarayan Schisms and Sectarian Narratives of Reform
Janani Mandayam Comar (University of Toronto)
"Even being born lowly is enough": Transgressive behaviors and modern Tamil Śaiva ethics in the Nataṉār Carittai Kirttaṉai Kīrttaṉai Kīrttaṉai
Jon Keune (Michigan State University)
Entangled Transgressions: Ganesh Maharaj Bhabutkar and the Ajāt Samāj’s Anti-Caste Movement (1920-present)

5:00 – 5:30 Concluding Discussion of “Transgression”

5:30 End of Symposium. Discussions will continue informally over cocktails and food
Session 1: Thursday, 8:30 - 10:15 AM

Emerging Studies in South Asian Archaeology
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Huisheng Tang (Hebei Normal University)

Shaho Tamding (Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies)
A Critical Analyse on Ladakh Alchi’s Tibetan Stone Inscription and Sculptor during the Period of the Tibetan Empire

Baisakhi Sengupta (University of California, Los Angeles)
Ghora Galis, Water Fountains and Western-Himalayan Material Connections

Ghani Ur Rahman (Quaid-i-Azam University)
The Possible Camping Sites in Northern Pakistan: Rock Shelters, Art, and Inscriptions of Alam Bridge in Sai Valley

Huisheng Tang (Hebei Normal University)
Interaction and Influence Between the Archaeological Cultures of the Greater Indus Valley, South Asia and Yellow River Region, China

Religion Beyond Borders
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Christine Marrewa (Columbia University)
Discussant / Chair: Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)

Julie Vig
Poetry, Martialities, and Literary Landscapes: Khalsa Sikhs and Dadupanthi Nagas in Early Modern North India

Christine Marrewa (Columbia University)
Saints, Sacrality, and the Silk Road: Gor Khatari and Tilla Jogian in History and Literature

Anne Murphy (University of British Columbia)
The Place of Desire: Perspectives on Renunciation and the Nath Yogis in Waris Shah’s Hir Anne Murphy

Murad Khan Mumtaz (Williams College)
Crossing a Regional and Historiographical Divide through a Series of Drawings from Punjab

Intellectual Histories of Intoxicants, Medicines, and other Chemicals in South Asia, 1719-1915
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)

Anuj Kaushal (University of Texas at Austin)
Wines of Love: Alcohol and Intimacy in the Indo-Persianate Assembly of Pleasure

Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)
Green Imagination: Chemicals and Sociability Among Delhi’s Poets in the Middle 1700s

Devyani Gupta (OP Jindal Global University)
Criminality and Surveillance: Opium and Colonial State-Building in Nineteenth-Century India

Max Katz (College of William and Mary)
Ustads on Drugs: Addiction and Degeneracy in Urdu Music Texts, 1876-1915
Culture and Sovereignty in the Early Modern Deccan Sultanates
Senator Room B, Floor 1
Organizer: Zoë High (University of Chicago)
Discussant/Chair: Subah Dayal (New York University)

Zoë High (University of Chicago)
The Sultan as Artist: Aesthetic Kingship in Ibrahim II’s Bijapur

Sarah Waheed (University of South Carolina)
Chand Bibi, Warrior Queen of the Deccan: Narrative Motifs and the Power of the Zenana

Roy S Fischel (SOAS, University of London)
Persianising the King: Cosmopolitanism, Locality, and the Conflicting Language of Sovereignty in Bijapur

Mohit Manohar (University of Chicago)
The Status of the Sovereign in the Khuldabad Necropolis

Ethnographies of Test Preparation in India - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizer: Isabel Salovaara (Stanford University)
Discussant/Chair: Craig Jeffrey (University of Melbourne)

Deepika Kumari Meena (Indian Institute of technology, Gandhinagar)
Coaching, Aspiration, and Tribal Girls of Pratapgarh (Rajasthan)

Avinash Ediga (South Asian University)
Precarious Laboring for ‘Secure Jobs’: Young Men’s Imaginations of ‘Adulthoods’ in a Southern Indian Coaching Town

Isabel Salovaara (Stanford University)
Unruly Papers: Disciplining Documents in Bihar’s Exam Raj

Leya Mathew (Ahmedabad University)
I was meritorious: Test-Prep, Personhood, and Professional Education in Western India

Spaces of Belonging/Unbelonging: Material Histories and Sri Lanka’s Present - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer: Deborah Philip (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)
Chair: Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal (Radboud University)

Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal (Radboud University)
For the Community: Spaces of Jaffna Tamil Identity and Place in Colonial Malaya

Shibanee Sivanayagam (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)
Palmyra Politics: Tamil Identities in Northern Sri Lanka

Deborah Philip (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)
The Verandah before the Rebellion: Material Structures and Affective Spaces in a ‘Burgher’ Pettah

Nadia Augustyniak (The Graduate Center, City University of New York)
"Happy Families" and Structural Forms of Exclusion from Divisional-Level Social Services in Sri Lanka’s Central Province

Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)
Discussant
Enchanted Publics: The "Miraculous" in Contemporary Pakistan
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer: Mohammad Nabeel Jafri (University of Toronto)
Discussant / Chair: Katherine Ewing (Columbia University)

Saad Lakhani (Stanford University)
Saint or Blasphemer? Sovereignty, Miracles, and Transgression in Barelvi Public Life

Salwa Tareen (Boston University)
Allah Hi Hafiz Hai: Anxiety and Ambiguity Amongst Karachi’s Miracle Workers

Hafsa Arain (Boston University)
Miraculous Existence: Khwaja Sira Narratives of Survival in Pakistan and the Bargain of Middle-Class Queerness

Mohammad Nabeel Jafri (University of Toronto)
Miracles in the Public Sphere: The Intra-Tradition Contestation in Urdu Shi‘i khiṭābat

Aesthetics, Forms, and Emergences
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Discussant / Chair:

Omar Khan (Harappa.com)
Building Postcards: Rössler’s Calcutta 1896

Haider Shahbaz (University of California, Los Angeles)
Afro-Asian Worldmaking: Shahzia Sikander’s “X”

Pratiti Ketoki (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)
Traveling with Feluda: Mapping Memory and Literature through New Media

Sreerupa Bhattacharya (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)
Gift of Photography: Camera, Photo-Album and Women’s Work

Allan Life (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
South Asia According to Liebig: Trade Card Representations, 1880-1940

New Perspectives in South Asian Art and Aesthetics - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Discussant / Chair:

Shahwar Kibria Maqhfi (University of California, Los Angeles)
Qawwali in a Qasbah: Listening to Muslim Musiciking in Critical Times

Ahmed Afzal (California State University, Fullerton)
Silences, Privileges and Elite South Asian American Experiences in Pakistani Cinema

Payel Ray
Silence Caused by Affective Tussle in Shashi Deshpande’s "That Long Silence": A Dharmic and Rasic Approach

Gisele Cardoso de Lemos (Texas A&M University)
Acid-Attack Survivors, Indian Films, and Aesthetic
South Asian Literature in Translation
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Asif Iqbal (Oberlin College)

Asif Iqbal (Oberlin College)
Translating the Peasant and the Pakistan Movement in Akhteruzzman Elias’ Khwabnama
Sushmita Sircar (Gettysburg College)
Translation and Global Histories of Conscription
Rituparna Mitra (Emerson College)
Environmental and Embodied Figurations in Translated South Asian Literature
Aditi Behl (IIT Bombay)

A Discussion of Shailaja Paik’s The Vulgarity of Caste
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Vivek V. Narayan (Ashoka University)

Anagha Tambe
Dhiren Borisa
Vivek V. Narayan (Ashoka University)
Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)
Shailaja Paik (University of Cincinnati)

Bangladeshis in Motion: Gender, Place and Transnationalism
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Fatima Rajina (Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, De Montfort University)

Fatima Rajina (Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, De Montfort University)
Nadine Shaanta Murshid (University at Buffalo)
Chaumtoli Huq
Nazia Hussein (University of Bristol)
Anushka Chaudhuri (University of Bristol)
Ramifications of Digitization Projects: Case Studies from Sri Lanka
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)

John Rogers (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies)
Crystal Baines (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Ellen Ambrosone (Princeton University)
Jonathan Spencer (University of Edinburgh)
Janice Leoshko (University of Texas at Austin)

Neoliberalism and the Nation
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Anirban Mukhopadhyay (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Vandana Chaudhry (College of Staten Island, CUNY)
Disability and digital regimes in India
Anirban Mukhopadhyay (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
Intimations of Fireside Chat: Radio, Governmentality, and Citizenship in Neoliberal India
Taveeshi Singh (Syracuse University)
On Vulnerability and Researching the Military in Contemporary India

Metaphorical Mapping and South Asia
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Premlata Vaishnava (University of Michigan)

Sounak Dutta
The Case of Reception in the Usage of Metaphors in Modern Bengali Poetry
Sajjad Hussain
Nature Metaphors as Emblems of Excellence Used to Honor Lovers’ Bodies in Urdu Poetry: A Cognitive View
Bairam Khan (University of Michigan)
Metaphorization of South Asian Words in English: A Semiotic Study
Premlata Vaishnava (University of Michigan)
Mythological Metaphors in Hindi: A Conceptual Analysis
The Structural and Technological Interventions in Communication and Early Childhood Education in Pakistan
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Bilal Aslam (University of the Punjab, Lahore)

- Kanwal Ejaz (PMAS Arid Agriculture University)
  Addressing the Learning Disabilities Among the Primary School Students Using Collaborative Team Teaching (CTT) Technique
- Bilal Aslam (University of the Punjab, Lahore)
  Use of Technology Based Intervention for Continuous Professional Development of Primary School Teachers in Pakistan
- Awais Ahmad Chaudhry (Lahore Leads University)
  Social Media as a Tool for Shaping the Political Landscape in Pakistan
- Rabia Aslam (Institute of Social and Policy Sciences, Islamabad)
  Exploring the Impact of Cultural Norms on Transmodal Communication in Pakistan

COVID-19 Pandemic and Networks of Care: How Religious Minorities Shape Welfare and Belonging in India
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer: Catherine Larouche (Université Laval)
Discussant / Chair: Erica Bornstein (University of Oregon)

- Sanam Roohi (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut)
  Reimagining Hyderabadi Tehzeeb: Minority Led COVID Welfare and Its Ambivalent Entanglements with the City Administration
- Leilah Vevaina (Chinese University Hong Kong)
  COVID, Care and Cremation: Shifting Zoroastrian Funerary Practices
- Salah Punathil (University of Hyderabad)
  Religion, Welfare and the Margins of the State During the COVID-19 Crisis in India
- Catherine Larouche (Université Laval)
  Keeping Religion in the Backstage: Christian Associations and COVID-19 Relief in Delhi
**Session 2: Thursday, 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Structuring Stone: Traditions and Transitions in Art History and Archaeology Across South Asia**

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair: Christopher LaMack (University of Pennsylvania)

- **Vaishnavi Patil (Harvard University)**
  Spontaneous Insertions, Structural Disruptions: Understanding “Visual Elasticity” in Early Representations of Buddha’s Parinirvāṇa

- **Ross Bernhaut (University of Michigan)**
  Temples in Transition: Early Medieval Sūrya Shrines in Central India

- **Srinanda Ganguly (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)**
  Between Mughal and Rajput, Muslim and Hindu: The Intertwined Histories of Shah Begum and the Funerary Chhatri

- **Christopher LaMack (University of Pennsylvania)**
  Village Industry in the Colonial Economy: A De/Industrial Archaeology of Nineteenth Century Ballari

**Material Agency and Spontaneous Assemblages: Understanding Religion Through Objects**

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair: Leah Comeau (Saint Joseph’s University)

- **Iva Patel (Augsburg University)**
  Material Matters: Shaping Bhakti Experiences through Cognitive Engagements with Materiality

- **Anne Mocko (Concordia College)**
  Assemblage, Materiality, and Basil Brides

- **Deepra Dandekar (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)**
  The Power of Debris

- **Leah Comeau (Saint Joseph’s University)**
  Material Religion and Material Agents at a South Indian Beach Festival

**Archives of Encounter in Colonial India**

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair: Ujaan Ghosh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- **Avijit Singh (Ohio State University)**
  Constructing the “Heathen”: Sensational Appeals and Contradictions in the American Missionary Periodicals.

- **Ujaan Ghosh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)**
  Punda, Daroga, Sepoy: Reading Muted Histories of Caste in the Colonial Archives of a Hindu Holy City

- **Abinash Dash Choudhury (University of Georgia, Athens)**
  In the Light of the Cross: Situating the Christian Encounter in the Long Nineteenth-century Orissa

- **Bennett Comerford (Harvard University)**
  Religion and Resistance in Modern Bengali Literature
Hindu Nationalisms, Past and Present
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo)

Saarang Narayan (University of Leeds)
Painting Gandhi Saffron: M.S. Golwalkar and the Appropriation of Gandhi by the RSS

Neha Chaudhary (University of Cambridge)
Seva, Swayamsevak, and Sangh Exploring the role of seva in the making of the RSS

Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo)
The Bovine Politics of Contemporary Hindu Nationalism: Cow Protectionism, Beef Exports, and the Neoliberal Restructuring of the Bovine Economy

Affective Attachments: Emotions, Gender, and Urban Life in South Asia - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizers: S. Shakthi (University of Amsterdam) and Sneha Annavarapu (National University of Singapore)
Discussant / Chair: Nida Kirmani (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Sidra Kamran (Lewis and Clark College)
Shaau (Passion) and Majboori (Compulsion): Narratives of Beauty Work in Urban Pakistan

Priti Narayan (University of British Columbia)
Affective Registers of and in an Ooru

Nipesh Palat Narayanan (INRS | Institut national de la recherche scientifique)
Gendered Spatiality of Street-Food Vending in Colombo and Delhi

Syeda Jenifa Zahan
"Maybe This is What a City is Like!": Making Sense of the Urban Through Gendered Violence, Possibilities, and Resistances in Everyday Life

Gendered Realities Across South Asia - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair:

Isha Bhallamudi (University of California Irvine)
What Gig Work Can Tell Us About Women’s Employment Futures: A Study of Women Platform Workers in Mumbai

Wafa Hamid (Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University) and Arunima Ray (Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University)
Women in the Indian Metropolis: Gender, Violence and the Urban Space

Saima Khan (MIT)
Unveiling the Impact of Infrastructures as Social Structures on Women’s Spontaneity: A Case Study of Educated Working Pakistani Mothers
**Language/s of Gender: Post-Independence Vernacular Innovations by South Asian Women Writers**
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer: **Ishan Mehandru (Northwestern University)**
Discussant / Chair: **Supurna Dasgupta (The University of Chicago)**

- **Ziyana Fazal (Northwestern University)**
  Mediating Tradition and Modernity: Twentieth Century Māppila Women’s Short Stories

- **Ishan Mehandru (Northwestern University)**
  Fear, Anxiety and Shame: Masculinity in Geetanjali Shree’s and Annie Zaidi’s Novels

- **Preeti Singh (Dartmouth College)**
  Geological Histories and Vernacular Aesthetics: Reading Gender and Disability in Uzma Aslam Khan’s The Geometry of God

- **Supurna Dasgupta (The University of Chicago)**
  Man/Woman/Widow: Provocations of Gender Deviancies in Postcolonial Fiction

**Critical Arts Pedagogies in India**
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizers / Chairs: **Vishal Khandelwal (Harvard University) & Shanti Pillai (California State University at Long Beach)**

- **Shanti Pillai (California State University at Long Beach)**
  The Spatialization of Technique and Veenapani Chawla’s Adishakti Laboratory for Performing Arts Research

- **Priyadarshini Shanker (University of North Carolina Wilmington)**
  Teaching Caste via Contemporary Dalit-centric Indian Film and Media

- **Vishal Khandelwal (Harvard University)**
  Spatial Documentation and Photography Pedagogy at the National Institute of Design

- **Akshaya Tankha (University of Michigan)**
  The Art of the Contemporary in the Indigenously Inhabited Postcolonial South Asia

**Understanding Built Environment: Space Making, Urbanity and Heritage in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century South Asia - VIRTUAL PANEL**
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizer: **Purbasha Das (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
Discussant / Chair: **Benjamin Cohen (University of Utah)**

- **Purbasha Das (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
  Speed in Modern Cities: An Analysis of Road Transport in Twentieth Century India (c. 1900- c.1960)

- **Harleen Kaur (National University of Singapore)**
  The Indian Idea of New Delhi: Changing Built Environment from Imperial to National Capital , circa. 1930-1950

- **Shubhangni Gupta (Stanford University)**
  'In Service of the Shot’: Heritage Afterlives of the Shekhawati Haveli in Rajasthan

- **Shandana Waheed (Stanford University)**
  From Present to Past, Through Cracks and Crevices: Palimpsest of Heritage in Post-Partition Rawalpindi
Writing and Researching Disability in South Asia
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizers: Jiya Pandya (Princeton University) and Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Discussant / Chair: Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Aparna Nair (University of Toronto)
Tulika Singh (University of Alberta)
Sameer Chaturvedi
Priyam Singapore (National University of Singapore)
Kalpana Mohanty (Harvard University)

Caste in South Asia and the World: Past and Present
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Nico Millman (University of Pennsylvania)
Vatsal Naresh (Yale University)
Globalizing Caste, Globalizing Majoritarianism: Ambedkarite Democratic Theory
Amit Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Representation and the Dilemma of Dalit Politics: A study of Political Pragmatism in Northern India, c. 1932-1991
Nico Millman (University of Pennsylvania)
Dalit Marxism and a Critique of Racial Capitalism
Ali Ahsan (University of Georgia)
Abolitionist and Anti-Caste Critique of Slavery and Brahmanism during British Colonial Rule: Reading the Scriptures with Cugoano and Phule

Negotiating Gender in South Asia
Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Chantal Krcmar (Simmons University)
Chantal Krcmar (Simmons University)
Indian Women Construction Workers' Social Construction of Human Security
Kaushalya Herath (University of Dundee)
Neerja Pathak (University of Edinburgh)
Why Should I Change My Name? Contextualising Resistance in the First Name-change Practice of Women Post-Marriage in India
Future Beyond Dystopia: Dismantling Power Structures and Reconfiguring Agency in South Asia
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Nidhi Shrivastava (Sacred Heart University)

Billie Thoidingjam Guarino
"The Land of Half-Humans": Between Dystopia and Rebellion in India’s Militarized Zones
Ruma Sinha (Syracuse University)
Dalit Precarity and Pro-capitalist Violence in Vauhini Vara’s Dystopian Novel The Immortal King Rao (2022)
Nidhi Shrivastava (Sacred Heart University)
Exploring Feminist Politics and Agency during the rise of Hindu Nationalism in Deepa Mehta’s Adaption Leila (2019)
Shabeeh Rahat (Jamia Millia Islamia)
India without the ‘Other’?: Interrogating ‘Hindu Rashtra’ in Saeed Naqvi’s The Muslim Vanishes (2022) and Maktoob Media’s Erazed (2022)

Sri Lanka’s Polycrisis: Retrospect and Prospect Roundtable in Honor of Professor S. W. R. de A. Samarasinghe
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Neil DeVotta (Wake Forest University)

Vidyamali Samarasinghe
Sumudu Atapattu (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Jeanne Marecek (Swarthmore College)
Mark Whitaker (University of Kentucky)
Sandya Hewamanna (University of Essex)
Arjun Guneratne (Macalester College)
Jude Lucksiri Fernando (Clark University)

Author-Meets-Critics Roundtable on Slandering the Sacred: Blasphemy Law and Religious Affect in Colonial India
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: J. Barton Scott (University of Toronto)

Cassie Adcock (Washington University in St. Louis)
Julia Stephens (Rutgers University)
Mitra Sharafi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Anand Taneja (Vanderbilt University)
Landscapes in History: Journeys through the Wilderness of Medieval South India
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer: Christopher Chekuri (San Francisco State University)
Discussant / Chair: Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)

Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi (Krea University)
Towards a Narrative Geography of the Vachana Movement

Anna Seastrand (University of Minnesota)
Landscape and Environment in Tamil Temple Narratives

Christopher Chekuri (San Francisco State University)
Literary Imaginations of an Imperial Frontier in Sixteenth-Century Sultanate Telugu

Ajay Rao (University of Toronto)
The Forest and the Garden in Two Vijayanagara Campuakayas

Contesting the Curriculum and Educational Practices
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Deepa Nair (Carnegie Mellon University)

Ritika Arora (London School of Economics and Political Science)
Accountability, School Choice and (Ethno-)Politics: Competing Communities and Conflicting Demands in Education Practice and Policy in India

Lisa Weems (Miami University of Ohio) and Taheeram Fatima (Miami University, Oxford, Ohio)
‘New Womanhood’ Among Pakistani Women: Decolonizing Discourses of Gender and Education in South Asia

Deepa Nair (Carnegie Mellon University)
Deleting Mughals, Marx, and Mahatma Gandhi: History Education and Hindu Nationalism

Sudipa Topdar (Illinois State University)
Girlhoods in Public Institutions: (Re)tracing Schoolgirls’ Narratives in Late Colonial India

De/Colonial Perspectives on Health and Medicine in South Asia
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Patricia Barton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)

Sushant Kumar (Northeastern University)
Historical Construction of Two-Child Norm in India: A Story of Putting Cart Before the Horse

Ametasree Bhattacharya (West Virginia University)
Decolonizing Public Health: Ayurveda and Biopolitics in West Bengal (1950-1955)

Patricia Barton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)
Structuring Imperial Legislation: Pharmacy in South Asia, the Colonial British Government and Competing Interests in the First 'War on Drugs', 1900-1920
Session 3: Thursday, 1:45 - 3:30 PM

Digital Repatriation in South Asia
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Christopher Diamond (The Australian National University)

Christopher Diamond (The Australian National University)
Reimagining Repatriation: Decolonising and Digitising Maithili Manuscript Heritage Across the India-Nepal Border

Michael Skinner (University of Hawaii at Hilo)
Image Gandhara: Revitalizing Objects from Gandhara

Stephanie Majcher (The Australian National University)
Whose Veda, Whose Story? Reflections on Digital adhikāra and the Straitening of Sanskrit

Joseph A. Marino III (University of Washington)
Access and Authority in the Study of Gandharan Buddhist Texts: A Reflection on New Digital Resources

Devotional Visualities and Indic Material Cultures
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Karen Pechilis (Drew University)

Shruti Patel (Salisbury University)
Murad Khan Mumtaz (Williams College)
Shandip Saha (Athabasca University)
Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)
Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

Contestation and Transformation in South Asian Islam
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer: Mashal Saif (Clemson University)
Discussant / Chair: Khan Shairani (University of Notre Dame)

Younus Muhammad (National Skills University, Islamabad)
Bridging Science and Religion: Shibli Noman’s Efforts to Reconcile Darwin’s Theory of Evolution

Mashal Saif (Clemson University)
Traversing between a Textual Archive and Oral History: Pakistani Shia Ulama’s memory of the 1980s and Beyond.

Usman Hamid (Hamilton College)
Contesting the Biography of the Prophet in Mughal India

Khan Shairani (University of Notre Dame)
The Sufis and Hadith in the Early Modern Period: Renewal and the Traditionalism of Shah Wali Allah of Delhi (d. 1762)

Abdullah Naveed (Princeton University)
Contesting the Political in 20th Century South Asian Islam: Between Mawdūdī and Vāḥīduddīn Khān
Session 3 Schedule

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Investigating Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: **Yash Sharma (University of Cincinnati)**

- **Ronojoy Sen (National University of Singapore)**
  Inferiority Complex: Nineteenth Century Thinkers in Bengal and the Hindu Quest for Self-Esteem
- **Yash Sharma (University of Cincinnati)**
  Militant Masculinities: Anxiety and Insecurity in Contemporary India
- **Snehal Sharma (University of Kentucky)**
  Divided We Stand: How Hindutva is Thriving Despite Differences in Ideologies and Goals

South Asia as Home & Field - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizers / Chairs: **Shubhangni Gupta (Stanford University)** and **Paras Arora (Stanford University)**

- **Alisha Elizabeth Cherian (Stanford University)**
- **Parag Jyoti Saikia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)**
- **Shantanu Nevrekar (Stanford University)**
- **Md Abdullah All Shakil (University of Connecticut)**
- **Shalini Iyengar (Yale University)**
- **Paras Arora (Stanford University)**

New Studies in South Asian Spirituality - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: **Naimi Patel (Syracuse University)**

- **Naimi Patel (Syracuse University)**
  Affective Economies: The Structures of Relationality within Guru Traditions
- **Anusha Sudindra Rao (University of Toronto)**
  Choosing Between Metonymy and Metaphor: Dvaitins and tat tvam asri
- **Habibeh Rahim (St. John's University, Jamaica (Queens), NY)**
  Shah Abdul Latif, the Sovereign of Spirituality from Sind-- Presentation of the Feminine Paradigms of Spirituality in the Risalo
Rhetoric and Poetics in South Asia: The Seventeenth Century and Beyond
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Syed Shiraz Ali (University of California, Berkeley)

Daniyal Channa (University of California, Berkeley)
'The Gift of India': Indo-Persian Poetics in Early Modern South Asia

Ayelet Kotler (University of Chicago)
Literary Experimentations and Ram-Bhakti in Mughal-Era Persian Rāmāyans

Syed Shiraz Ali (University of California, Berkeley)
Majāz and the Place of Arabic Balāgha in South Asia

Ali Raj (Columbia University)
Euphony and Flow: The Inheritance of Urdu Faṣāḥat in Late Colonial India

Music Sound and Protest in Contemporary India
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Krupa Shandilya (Amherst College)

Pavitra Sundar (Hamilton College)
Shikha Jinghan (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Natalie Sarrazin (The College at Brockport)
Ajay Gehlawat (Sonoma State University)
Shalini Ayyagari (University of Pittsburgh)

Caste and Indigeneity - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Sharanya Dutta (CUNY Graduate Center)

Sharanya Dutta (CUNY Graduate Center)
Caste, Race, and Critical Nostalgia in Vauhini Vara's The Immortal King Rao

Sheetala Bhat (University of Ottawa)
"We Belong Here": Reclaiming Land and Space through Digital Performances by Budhan Theatre

Parboti Roy (The University of British Columbia)
The Lived Experiences of Indigenous Women in Addressing Structural, Gendered and Sexual Violence Against Indigenous women in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), Bangladesh

Labanya Unni (CUNY Graduate Center)
Tactility and Material Consciousness in Mulk Raj Anand’s Untouchable
The Labor of Caste/The Caste of Labor
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Sonal Sharma (Johns Hopkins University)

S. Prashant Kumar (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)
"Machines Without the Certainty of Machines:“ Caste, Religion, and Agency

Sonal Sharma (Johns Hopkins University)
Politicizing Caste in Labor Struggle: Caste and Class in Domestic Workers’ Movement in India

Malvya Chintakindi (University of Oregon)
Informal Labor Blues: Gender, Caste and Resistance

Sweta Xess (Rutgers University)
Claiming Shit, Rejecting Caste: Towards an Alternative Dalit Subjectivity Through Urban Infrastructural Politics

Political and Philosophical Thought in Bengal: Reflections on Self, Freedom, and Solidarity
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer: Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)
Discussant / Chair: Ahmed Shamim (The University of Texas at Austin)

Humayun Kabir (CUNY Queens College)
Liberating Enslaved Humanity: Critiques of Modern Politics and Visions of Islamic Alternatives in the Decolonial Political Thought of Abul Hashim

Md Mizanur Rahman (University of California at Santa Cruz)
Ethical Harmony: Fitrat as a Critique of Liberal Individualism

Parvez Rahaman (Middle Tennessee State University)
Suhrawardy Joining Hands with Gandhi after the Noakhali Riots in 1946

Ahmed Shamim (The University of Texas at Austin)
Lalon’s Idea of the Spiritual

Sites of Resistance, Narratives of Struggle: The Politics of Peace and Protest in Postwar Sri Lanka
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer: Tara Quinn (University of Utah)
Discussant / Chair: Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)

Prateek Srivastava (University of Cincinnati)
Rejecting Development? Resistance, Reconciliation, and GotaGoGama Protests in Sri Lanka

Tara Quinn (University of Utah)
Gender, land and resistance in transitional societies: An Examination of Land Rights Protests in Eastern Sri Lanka

Amali Wedagedara (University of Hawai‘i, Manoa)
Debt and Resistance: A Study on Agrarian Women’s Protests in Sri Lanka

Michelle Michael-Kang (Eastern Connecticut State University)
Reporting to Resist: Practicing Peace Journalism in Sri Lanka
Public Sector Stories: Ethnographies of the Indian state
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer: Vrinda Marwah (University of South Florida)
Discussant / Chair: Rajesh Veeraraghavan (Georgetown University)

Vrinda Marwah (University of South Florida)
Brokering Marginality: The Political Brokerage of India’s ASHAs
Kriti Budhiraja (University of Minnesota)
At the Crossroads of Diversity and Austerity: Crisis of the Public University in India
Anindita Adhikari (Brown University)
Claims, Complaints and Democratization of the Local State in India
Snigdha Kumar (University of Minnesota)
Financial Inclusion and the Poverty Alleviation Mandate

The Political Ecology of the Anthropocene in South Asia
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Sumit Guha (University of Texas at Austin)

Sarah Carson (Dartmouth College)
Debjani Bhattacharyya (Universität Zürich)
Trevor Birkenholtz (Pennsylvania State University)
Rohan D’Souza
Thomas Trautmann (University of Michigan)
Divya Cherian (Princeton University)
Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington at Seattle)

Exploring Labor
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Anusha Sundar (Columbia University)

Yuko Takamichi (Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University)
Pain in Creation: Examining the Experience of Dhaka Weaving in Eastern Nepal
Ilqua Lutfi (University of Chicago)
Intimate Distance and Distant Intimacies: Hygiene, Intimacy, and the Making of the Urban Middle Class in the Domestic Labor Households of Karachi
Siddharth Sridhar (University of Toronto)
Seeking Equilibrium: The Government of India and the Estate Labour Market in Malaya, 1927-1942
Anusha Sundar (Columbia University)
Gasping for Air: Dust, Silicosis and Risk in 20th Century India
Session 5: Friday, 8:30 - 10:15 AM
Archaeological and Historical Cultural Heritage Documentation and Preservation in South Asia: Foundational Practices and Innovative Solutions
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer: J. Mark Kenoyer (UW-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Kaleemullah Lashari

Prabhakar Vellore Nandagopal (IIT Gandhinagar)
Preventive Conservation of a World Heritage Bronze Age Site in India: Learning Outcomes and Case Studies from Dholavira, Gujarat

J. Mark Kenoyer (UW-Madison)
Excavations and Conservation at Harappa, Pakistan: 1986-2023

Kaleemullah Lashari
Conservation of Historical Monuments in Pakistan: Example of the Portuguese and Omani Period in Gwadar

Asma Ibrahim (State Bank Museum)
Conservation of Varun Dev temple, Manora Island, Karachi

Evolving History, Evolving Functions: The Madrasah in South Asia
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Zahra Sabri (IBA, Karachi)
Discussant / Chair: SherAli Tareen (Franklin & Marshall College)

Zahra Sabri (IBA, Karachi)
How Important Were Madāris Really in Producing the Best 'Ulama? A View from Studies of South Asia, c. 1100-1800 AD

Fakhar Bilal (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan)
Building Islam: A Micro-history of Islamic Education and its Economic Base in Multan

Mohammad Waqas Sajjad (University of Management and Technology)
Regulating Madrasahs in Pakistan: Finally and Forevermore?

Usha Sanyal (Wingate University)
Navigating Tradition and Modernity in Muslim Girls’ Religious Education: A Tale of Two Institutions in India and Canada
Structure & Spontaneity in Sufi-nomics
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Discussant / Chair: Quinn Clark (Columbia University)

Harini Kumar (Princeton University)
Sahibs, Saints, and Money: Patron-Client Relations at a South Indian Sufi Shrine

Daniel Morgan (Santa Clara University)
Buried treasure: A graveyard economy in late-Mughal Delhi

Jazmin Graves (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Brokering Barakat: Sidi Women’s Mediation of Ritual Power in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Quinn Clark (Columbia University)
Money and Materiality: Making Sense of Sufism and Caste through the Din-Duniyā Distinction

Corridor Aesthetics: Hindutva on the Ground
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Jack Hawley (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Sarover Zaidi (O. P Jindal Global University)
The Politics of Horizons: Contestations, Continuities and Destructions

Annapurna Garimella
The Temple in the Eminent Domain Regime

Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)
Ekta Nagar: Chronophagic Nature in an Eco-spiritual Corridor

Jack Hawley (Barnard College, Columbia University)
Corridor Raj: From Ujjain to Kashi

Un-Structuring the City: Encounters with Infrastructures, Institutions, and Belonging in Urban South Asia
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizers/ Chairs: Tayeba Batool (University of Pennsylvania) and Shanel Khaliq (Syracuse University)
Discussant: Rashmi Sadana (George Mason University)

Shanel Khaliq (Syracuse University)
Public Transport Infrastructure: Understanding Gender, Class and Environmental Inequality in Pakistan

Sheema Khawar (York University)
Securitizing the Pakistani University

Rini Bhattacharya Mehta (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)
Mapping Cities, Mapping Cinema

Tayeba Batool (University of Pennsylvania)
Foresting the City: Political Ecology and Climatic Urbanism of the Miyawaki Urban Forests in Islamabad
Citing Canons, Contesting Contexts
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer: Manasvin Rajagopalan (University of California, Davis)
Discussant / Chair: Pasha Khan (McGill University)

Manasvin Rajagopalan (University of California, Davis)
Ephemeral Citation: Landscape, Memory, and Sense-Making in Early Modern Tamil Performance

Chandrica Barua (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
Mewar’s 18th Century ‘European Concoctions’: Parody, Performance and Race

Balakrishnan Raghavan (University of California Santa Cruz)
Partitioned by Politics, Sutured by Song - The Border Crossings of the Protest Song from Pakistan to Sri Lanka - Via India

Pasha Khan (McGill University)
Intertextual Transformations in Poetics Manuals

Qawwals in Hindustani classical music, c. 1720 to the present
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Anna Morcom (UCLA)

Katherine Butler Schofield (King’s College London)
Khayāl and the Qawwāls of Delhi, from Muhammad Shah’s Court to the Gwalior Gharānā

Wajiha Naqvi (Kings College London)
Beyond Qawwali - Listening to Songs of the Qawwal Bachche

Irfan Zuberi
The Constituent Lineages of the Qawwāl Bachche Tradition

Anna Morcom (UCLA)
Khyal in the Court of the Saints in Fatehpur Sikri and Salon

Of the Body Politic, For the Body Politic: Counting Embodiment, Making Data (Part 1 of 2)
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizers: Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania), Jiya Pandya (Princeton University), and Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)
Discussant / Chair: Jiya Pandya (Princeton University)

Nivetha Karthikeyan (Yale University)
Datafied Bodies: Postcolonial Extractions and the "Globalization" of Clinical Trials

Kim Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)
Infrastructuring Exclusion Through Data: Disability, Certification and Citizenship in India

Payal Hathi (University of California, Berkeley)
Narratives of Stillbirth and the Production of Stillbirth Statistics in India

Radhika Radhakrishnan (MIT)
Facing Off with the State: Producing Gendered Safety Subjects through Facial Recognition in Policing in India
South Asian Media
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Vipulya Chari (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Thomas Seibel (Concordia University)
Discursive Constructions of Emergent South Asian Deities in News Media During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Vipulya Chari (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Citizenship, Gender, and Entrepreneurialism on Indian Reality TV

Sudipto Basu (Concordia University)
Leapfrogging Modernity: Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) and the Making of Cold War Developmentalism

Sonia Amin (Dhaka University)
Enchantment in Bengali Homes: Kiranmala’s Journey from Fairytale Warrior to TV Heroine

Exploring Dalit Identity
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Anjali Yadav (University of Washington, Seattle)

Sydney-Paige Patterson (Indiana University-Bloomington)
Loving & Writing Towards Liberation: Black and Dalit Women’s Radical Visions in the Black and Dalit Panther Parties

Tarjanee Parmar (The University of Western Ontario)
Challenging traditional Dalit Aesthetics: An Analysis of Structural Elements in Ajay Navaria’s “Hello Premchand”.

Safia Mahmood (Institute of Business Administration)
(Un)guising Casteism in Pakistan: Where are the Dalits in Pakistan’s Literature?

Mittia Nath (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Casteized Filth and Radical Affects in Mulk Raj Anand’s Untouchable

Anjali Yadav (University of Washington, Seattle)
Of Wells, Premchand, and Dalit Feminism: Formation of Dalit Political Identity in Modern Hindi Literature

Female Labor: (Im)Mobility and Resistance
Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Priyanjali Mitra (University of Chicago)

Priyanjali Mitra (University of Chicago)
Outsiders in the City: Women in Informal Work and Everyday Resistance

Jaita Talukdar (Loyola University of New Orleans)
Genealogies of Care: The Role of Women Handlers in School-Based Feeding Programs in Kolkata

Meshal Amin (Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad)
Beyond Financial Success: Examining the Relationship Between Economic and Social Mobility Among Women in Islamabad, Pakistan

Bishudwy Dewan (University of Saskatchewan)
Making a Home Away from Home: Diasporic Experiences of Jumma Indigenous Peoples in Canada
The Rise of World Literature: Taking Stock of the Dominant Western Narrative and the Production of Counternarratives from the Global South

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer: **Gemini Wahhaj (Lone Star College)**
Discussant / Chair: **Zarlasht Niaz (University of Houston)**

**Kartika Budhwar**
Challenging Marco Polo's Narrative of the "Rotten Orient" and Unearthing the Revolutionary Narrative of Queen Rudramadevi

**Zarlasht Niaz (University of Houston)**
Afghan Literature Across the World, Getting Beyond Stereotypical Tropes

**Sehba Sarwar (UCLA Extension Writers Program)**
Examining the Need for More Publishing Opportunities for South Asian Writers to Share Their Complex Narratives Without Succumbing to the “White Gaze” As Described by Toni Morrison

**Gemini Wahhaj (Lone Star College)**
Inserting non-Western Literary References in the Anglophone Novel to Destabilize the Western Narrative: A Discussion of Shabnam, a Bengali Novel about Afghanistan

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**Voyage Out: Oceans, Genders, Histories**

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Chair: **Anjali Arondekar (UCSC)**

**Kalyani Ramnath (University of Georgia)**
Accimar Panam: Transacting Gender Across the Indian Ocean

**Usha I (Stanford University)**
Transoceanic Jamming of Women’s Performance between India and the Caribbean

**Anjali Arondekar (UCSC)**
Les Indes Fabuleuses, or Oceanic Sex

**Aliyah Khan (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)**
The Indo-Caribbean Qasida: Muslim Songs and Gendered Performance
Problematizing Depictions of Female Temple/Hereditary/Courtesan Performing Communities vis-a-vis Histories of Performativity, Sexuality, Subalternity, and Human Rights Frameworks in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizers: Sinjini Chatterjee (University of California, Riverside) and Shriya Patnaik (The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)
Discussant / Chair: Anurima Banerji (UCLA)

Sinjini Chatterjee (University of California, Riverside)
Shriya Patnaik (The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies)
Pratichi Priyambada (University of California, Irvine)
Noble Shrivastava (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Anurima Banerji (UCLA)
Krishnendu Pal (Jadavpur University)

Affect, Ecology, and Interpretation in the Anthropocene
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Upatyaka Dutta (University of Toronto)

Upatyaka Dutta (University of Toronto)
Tejimolā in Transition: Sounding More-than-Human “Becoming-with” in Assamese Songs and Poetry in Burhī Āir Sādhu
Devin Choudhury (University of California, Berkeley)
Notes on Decomposition
Abdul Rehman (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad)
Wretched River? The Affectual Ecology of Urban River Lai in Punjab, Pakistan
Transcending Methodological Nationalism: Rethinking South Asia's History with Japan
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer: Shatrunjay Mall (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Sana Aiyar (MIT)

Shatrunjay Mall (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
India and Japan in the Nuclear Age: Post-War Pan-Asianism (1945-1967)

Adhitya Dhanapal (Princeton University)
Indo-Pacific Entanglement: Japan and the Development of Capitalism in Madras from 1904-41

Francesco Paolo Cioffo (University of Turin)
Academic Contact Zones: Educational Institutions as Sites of Trans-Imperial Cooperation Between Indians and Japanese

Samee Siddiqui (University of North Carolina)
A Religious History of Pan-Asianism: The Case of Rash Behari Bose in Japan, 1915-1945

Local Practices
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Discussant / Chair:

Md Asaduzzaman (Arizona State University)
The Impact of Rootlessness on the Indigenous Healing Practices of Rohingya Refugees: Analyzing Health Outcomes in Refugee Camp Settings in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Kei Nagaoka (The University of Tokyo /Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley)
Transformation of the Relationship Between Alpine Plants, the Body, and Tibetan Medicine: A Case Study of Tawang, Northeast India

Pooja Venkatesh (Central European University)
The Embodiment of Virtue Among Traditional Healers

Donal Thomas (State University of New York - Stony Brook)
Global Knowledge Networks and Native Lives in the Natural World of Western Ghats
Session 6: Friday, 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM

Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen’s Perilous Intimacies: Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship after Empire (Columbia University Press, 2023)
Room 1219, Floor 12 - Key Card Access
Organizer: Rajbir Judge (California State University, Long Beach)
Discussant / Chair: SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Naveena Naqvi (University of British Columbia)
Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania)
Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington at Seattle)
Rajbir Judge (California State University, Long Beach)

Fish, Flake, Food, and Forge: Advancements in the Analysis of South Asian Archaeological Materials
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Huisheng Tang (Hebei Normal University)

Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
Archaeometallurgy and Machine Learning: A Synthesis of Techniques using Early Historic Iron Artifacts from Bhamala and Badalpur Stupas (c. 100 – 400 CE).

Shakir Ullah (Hazara University)
Mineralogical Analysis of Schist Stone Reported from Zar Dheri Buddhists’ Complex Mansehra, Pakistan

William Belcher (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
New Perspectives on Maritime Trade and Seasonality Between the Indus Civilization and Oman: A Fishy Perspective

Abdul Basit (Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan)
Analyzing Organic Compounds in Ancient Pottery Residues: A Methodological Approach for Archaeological Samples from Badalpur Monastery in Taxila Valley, Pakistan

Law and Liberation
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Mark McClish (Northwestern University)

Mark McClish (Northwestern University)
The Yogas of the Supreme Self: An Upaniṣad in the Dharmasūtras

Christopher Framarin (University of Calgary)
Objections to Renunciation in "The Persuasion of Yudhiṣṭhira"

Timothy Lubin (Washington and Lee University)
Agrahāra, Parihāra, Vihāra: Legal Criteria for Marking the Ideal Brahmin Household as a Quasi-Ascetic Space

Amy Langenberg (Eckerd College)
Red Robed and Laughing: Monastic Discipline as Freedom for Young Female Monastics in the Terai
Religion, Gender, and Self-Cultivation in India
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Janaki Phillips (University of Michigan)

Sambhavi Ganesh (University of Edinburgh)
Stridharma as Liberation: The Collective Making of Tamil Brahmin Womanhood

Stephanie Duclos-King (University of Toronto)
Ever in Need?: The Limits of Women’s Empowerment Programs at the Christian Medical College, Vellore

Janaki Phillips (University of Michigan)
Shifting Norms Shifting Futures: Gendered Tarot Reading Practices in Mumbai

Nationalist Streets/Colonial Cities: Visualizing Disobedient Bombay
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer: Avrati Bhatnagar (Duke University)
Discussant / Chair: Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University)

Preeti Chopra (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The Stage of a Disobedient Bombay

Debashree Mukherjee (Columbia University)
Visualizing the Urban Crowd: Disobedient Collective Spectatorship

Abigail McGowan (University of Vermont)
Boycotting Women: The Street Politics of Consumer Activism in Bombay, 1930-31

Avrati Bhatnagar (Duke University)
Hybrid Men, Disobedient Women: Colonial Policing and Gender in 1930s Bombay

Citizenship, Constitution, and Economy - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizer: Diya Deviah (University of Oxford)
Discussant / Chair: Ali Raza (LUMS)

Sagarika Naik (Independent Scholar)
Partition, Evacuation and Citizenship rights in South Asia

Prasanta Dhar
The Global Circulation of Marxism through Calcutta 1920s-1970s

Diya Deviah (University of Oxford)
The Corporation, Colony and Constitution – Examining the Corporation as a Contemporary Centre of Power in the Constitutional post-Colony

Imran Ali Sultan (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Structure and Spontaneity in Making of Private Cities in Pakistan

Nikhit Agrawal (University of California, Los Angeles)
The Interplay of Private Capital and Techno-fixes: An Ethnographic Studies of Agtech Firms in India
Contemporary Social Issues of South Asia - VIRTUAL PANEL
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Thakshala Tissera (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Meena Menon (University of Leeds)
Local State, Patronage and Social Movements in Post-colonial India

Thakshala Tissera (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
From Interspecies Conflict to Multispecies Politics: Narrating Human-Elephant Entanglements in Hambugamuwa, Sri Lanka

Priyasha Kaul (Dr B R Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD))
Covid-19 and the Informal Economy: A Longitudinal Study of the Street Food Vendors in Delhi

Meenakshi N Ambujam (Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
Andāza: Of Land, Survey and Measurements

Tanuj Luthra (University of Oxford)
Thinking through Crisis: Dynamics of Immunity and Suspicion in India during COVID-19

Between Hallucination and Divine Knowledge: Theorizing Māyā’ in Middle Bangla Literatures
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer: Dipanjan Mazumder (Vanderbilt University)
Discussant / Chair: Tony Stewart (Vanderbilt University)

Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)
Magic and Maya in Rūparāma’s Dharma-maṅgala

David Curley (WWU)
Kamalā-kāmini-kuñjara as Māyā

Tony Stewart (Vanderbilt University)
Fantasy, Hoax, or Revelation? Literary Treatments of Extraordinary Visions in Early Modern Bengali Literature

Dipanjan Mazumder (Vanderbilt University)
Godness as Wakil? Annada and the Maya of Property in Jahangir’s Court

Neither Courtly nor Local: Merchant-Patronized Painting and Literature in Early Modern Western India
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer: John Cort (Denison University)
Discussant / Chair: Divya Cherian (Princeton University)

Tyler Williams (University of Chicago)
Merchants: The Renaissance Men of Early Modern India?

Dipti Khera (New York University)
Letters from the Local Bazaar: Unfurling Unseen Memories, Mobilities, and Maps of Udaipur, c. 1795

John Cort (Denison University)
The Muddle in the Middle: Digambar Jain Authors in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Jaipur

Nandita Punj (Arizona State University, Tempe)
Visible Painters, Invisible Patrons: Eighteenth Century Jain Painted Manuscripts from Western India
Morality and Discursive Constructions of the Body in South Asia (Part 2 of 2)
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizers: Kimberley Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania), Jiya Pandya (Princeton University), and Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)
Discussant / Chair: Kimberley Fernandes (University of Pennsylvania)

Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)
Policing Phooka: Bovine Bodies and the Governance of Animal Cruelty in Colonial India

Jiya Pandya (Princeton University)
Unclean Minds and Moral Lepers: Examining Rhetorics of Service and Morality in Gandhian Welfare in India from the 1930s to the 1970s

Shamini Kothari
Death, Desire and Decay: Unpacking the Brahmin Body in U.R Ananthamurthy’s Samskara and Other Texts

Ritu Ghosh
Corporeal (In)Justice: Surrogacy Work and the Law in India

Indian Cinema and Its Publics
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Shumona Dasgupta (University of Mary Washington)

Manjari Mukherjee (Tufts University)
Minor Stories Micro Communities: Indian Jews in Bollywood

Rebecca Peters (Florida State University)
Women Filming Bollywood: How Directors Actively De-Gender Film Sets

Sudhir Mahadevan (University of Washington)
Of Lifeless Humans and Animate Idols: Towards an Atlas of Death and Dying in Hindi Cinema

Shumona Dasgupta (University of Mary Washington)
"Unimagined Communities": Women and the Nation in Early Partition Cinema

Mohimarnab Biswas (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)
‘Marvelization’ of Bollywood?: The Emergence of Shared Cinematic Universes in Post-Pandemic Hindi Cinema

Articulations of Identity in South Asia
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Ruth Ibameri Kharbamon (Assam Don Bosco University)

Ruth Ibameri Kharbamon (Assam Don Bosco University)
Establishing Identity in a Globalized Context

Mohammad Khan (University of Michigan)
Ram, Raj, and Rage: Projected Ideologies of Indigeneity in Rajamouli’s RRR

Dinalo Chakma (University of Florida)
Indigenous Historian(s) Writes Back: Reclaiming Authorship and Decolonizing State Narratives on Kaptai Dam, Bangladesh

Smytta Yadav (University of Sussex)
Politics of Native and Non-Native Anthropology of South Asia
Thinking with Sexology in South Asia: Science at the Boundary
Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Rovel Sequeira (University of Michigan)

Anannya Bohidar (University of Pennsylvania)
Cultivating 'Modern' Intimacies: A Study of Vernacular Sexual Consumerism in Late Colonial South India (1890-1947)
Arnav Bhattacharya (University of Pennsylvania)
Sexology as a Popular and Proliferative Field: Exploring the Methodological and Historical Significance of Sexology in Early to Mid- Twentieth Century India
Darshana Sreedhar Mini (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
"S" Certification and Sex-Education Films in India: Archiving Slippages Between State Narratives and Pirate Histories
Rovel Sequeira (University of Michigan)
Fiction as History: R. D. Karve and the Vernacular Politics of Sexology in Post/Colonial India

Debating 'Development': Planning Economies and Societies in Mid-Twentieth Century South Asia
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer: Yasser Nasser (University of Chicago)
Discussant / Chair: Nikhil Menon (University of Notre Dame)

Yasser Nasser (University of Chicago)
Amna Qayyum (The Brookings Institution)
Islamic Modernism and the Moral Economy of Birth Control in Pakistan, c. 1951-71
Neel Thakkar
Forests, Rivers, and Cities: Attempts at 'Regional Development' in Mid-20th Century India
Tara Suri
Security, Territory, Primate: Rhesus Monkeys, Racial Imaginaries, and the Politics of Population in Postcolonial India

Writing Women's Worlds: Gender, Representation, and its Limits
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer: Calyynn Dowler (Vanderbilt University)
Discussant / Chair: Sarah Carson (Dartmouth College)

Geethika Dharmasinghe
Possibilities and Limits of a Spontaneous Movement: Women's participation in Sri Lanka Uprising
Sarita Mizin (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)
Muzaffarpur 1908 Today: Victimhood, Race, and Martyrdom as Determinants of an Archive
Farida Begum (Colgate University)
The Social Lives of Actresses: Bengali Women's Autobiographies as Archives of Friendship and Ostracization
Bronwen Gulkis (St Andrews)
Aesthetics as Archive: Rediscovering Female Voices in Mughal India
Structural Histories of Femininity in Colonial India and Britain, 1857-1980
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer: Urooba Fatima (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)
Discussant / Chair: Priyanka Zylstra (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)

Zoya Sameen (University of Chicago)
“This Woman is a Most Undesirable Person”: Tajo versus Frontier Crimes Regulation in the Balochistan Agency

Disha Ray (University of Cincinnati)
Pregnancy and Abortion in Colonial India

Priyanka Zylstra (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)
Re-Contextualizing the Virginity Testing Scandal in Global South Asia

Urooba Fatima (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)
Tracing the Menstrual Taboo from British India to Modern-Day Pakistan

Reconfiguring Worlds around Human-Elephant-Conflict: Relationships Between Government, People, Elephants, and Geography
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Sebastian Krueger (University of Nevada, Reno)

Sebastian Krueger (University of Nevada, Reno)
Reconfiguring Worlds Around Human-Elephant-Conflict: Relationships Between Government, People, and Elephants

Seth Freedman-Peel (University Of Nevada, Reno)
Counter-Mapping the Human-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Perceptions of Human-Elephant Space and Territory Near Wasgamuwa National Park

Madison Comella (University of Nevada at Reno)
A Cost-Benefit Analysis: Electric Fences as a Human-Elephant-Conflict Mitigation Strategy

Megha Malik (University of Nevada, Reno)
Reconfiguring Human Narratives: Relationships Between Humans and Elephants
Philosophical and Political Discussions Across South Asian Literature
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Sarah Mohler (Truman State University)

Hamayoon Khan (The University of British Columbia)
Love for Masters or Desire for Death: The Biopower and Necro-Politics of Loyalty in Colonial India

Sarah Mohler (Truman State University)
Changez as Underground Man: The Link between Hamid and Dostoevsky

Uzma Farooqui (University of Karachi, Pakistan)
Insights into the Fusion of Feminism and Progressive Politics in Urdu Literature: A Historical Summary

Mehak Khan (UC Berkeley)
Locating the Ajeeb in Aesthetics

Structures and Infrastructures of Urban Religious Life
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Discussant / Chair: Tashi Ghale (Washington University in Saint Louis)

Tashi Ghale (Washington University in Saint Louis)
Neo-Brahminical Infrastructures: State and Roads in Dolpo, Nepal

Sharmeen Mehri (SUNY University at Buffalo)
Among Karachi’s Dwindling Parsis: The Doongerwadi and its Shifting Structures of the Communal Trust

István Keul (University of Bergen)
Neither Structured nor Spontaneous? Neighborly Interactions in Mixed-Religious Urban Contexts
Session 7: Friday, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Stone Bead Analysis in South Asia and Surrounding Regions: Evidence for Regional and Long Distance Trade Networks
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Randall W. Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Brad Chase (Albion College)

Randall W. Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Using LA-ICP-MS to Trace Agate-Carnelian Trade Networks Across the Indus Region and Beyond

Brad Chase (Albion College)
Reconstructing the Circulation of Harappan Steatite Beads using INAA Analysis

Longhao Tang (Nanjing University)
Bleached Carnelian beads In Early China: Tracing the Links Between South Asia and East Asia

Geoffrey Ludvik
South Asian Connections Among Beads from the Temple Mount Area in Jerusalem

Hinduism and Climate: Topophilia, Ayurveda, Theater, and Divine Ecologies
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Vijaya Nagarajan (University of San Francisco)
Discussant / Chair: David Haberman (Indiana University)

Luke Whitmore (UW-Stevens Point)
Religious Resources vs. Necessary Conditions: The Challenging Landscape of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Uttarakhand Himalaya

Matthew Robertson (Murray State University)
Ayurveda, Karma, Dharma and Anthropogenic Climate Change

Calynn Dowler (Vanderbilt University)
Staging Moral Pollution: Hindu Enactments of Climate Change in the Sundarbans Delta

Vijaya Nagarajan (University of San Francisco)
Wonder and Terror in Climate Perception: Bhudevi and Samudra in Tamil Nadu, India
Religion, Experience, and the Architectures of Identity
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Ankita Choudhary (University of Toronto)

Ankita Choudhary (University of Toronto)
Rethinking Shi'i Religious Life through Devotional Spaces- The Lucknawi Imāmbāras as Embodied Haptic Spaces

Shreya Hari Nurani (Virginia Tech)
The Temples of Kerala's Tamil Agrahāram: An Element of Continuity and Change: A Case Study of the Nurani Village in Palakkad, Kerala, India

Amita Sinha (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)
Mud architecture of Shantiniketan, India

Aparna Ros (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay)
Sculpting an Archive for the 'Silpi': Notes on the Textualisation of Thachusastram in Twentieth Century Print Malayalam

Srishti Sankaranarayanan (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
Not a Temple-Chariot: Reframing the Architectural Envelope of the Sarangapani Procession Chariot

Entangled Empires in the Early Modern Indian Ocean/South Asia: Networks, Diplomacy, and Warfare
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Hannah Archambault (Southern Oregon University)

Hannah Archambault (Southern Oregon University)
Betting on a Winner: A Hyderabadi Succession War in the Coromandel Hinterlands, 1749-1751

Leonard Hodges (Birkbeck, University of London)
Courting Credit: Gesture, Diplomacy and Debt in Early Modern South India

Christina Welsch (College of Wooster)
Negotiated Passage: French Diplomacy and Asian Passengers in the Bay of Bengal, 1738-1763

Naveena Naqvi (University of British Colombia)
New Wine in Old Bottles: The Final Call for a Muslim Emperor in India

River Life and the Emergence of 'Nature-as-Itself': Rethinking Our Frames of Reference Beyond the Nature/Culture Divide
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizer: Benita Menezes (Johns Hopkins University)
Discussant / Chair: Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins University)

Zirwat Chowdhury (UCLA)
Jason Cons (University of Texas at Austin)
Sudipta Sen (University of California, Davis)
Megnaa Mehtta (London School of Economics and Political Science)
Benita Menezes (Johns Hopkins University)
Theorizing the Urban from South Asia: Methodologies and Practices
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer: Sahil Sasidharan (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Raktim Ray (University College London)

Gaurav Mittal (University of Toronto Mississauga)
Nipesh Palat Narayanan (INRS | Institut national de la recherche scientifique)
Sophia Zehra Abbas (Yale University)
Raktim Ray (University College London)
Sahil Sasidharan (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Varun Panickar (University of British Columbia)

Translation and its Limits
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Tyler Williams (University of Chicago)

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)
Sucheta Kanjilal
Steven Vose
Francesca Chubb-Confer (Whitman College)
Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)

Improvisational Practices
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: John Caldwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Alexandra Berger (Syracuse University)
Ahankara to Astitva: Improvisation and Selfhood in Kathak Dance
Ronit Ghosh (University of Chicago)
Mapping Jazz in India and India in Jazz: Improvisations and Encounters
John Caldwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Verbal Structure / Vocal Spontaneity: Improvisation in Ghazal Performance
**Bodies in Space: South Asian Visual Culture and Affective Intensity**

Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Laboni Bhattacharya (University of Southern California)

- **Tania Sarfraz (University of Southern California)**
  Slashing Through Genre: Zibahkhana, Affect, and Transnational Style
- **Anushka Kartha (University of Southern California)**
  Sounding the Anthem: The Nation and Its Theatre
- **Tanushree Sharma (University of Southern California)**
  Bombay’s Contemporary Action Film and Its Urban Cartographies
- **Laboni Bhattacharya (University of Southern California)**
  Monumental Claims: Affective Intensity and New Delhi’s Central Vista Redevelopment

**Challenges Faced by Pakistan’s Transgender Community: Addressing Stigma, Discrimination, and Human Rights Abuses**

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Rashid ali Zafar (Quaid i Azam University)

- **Iqra Saleem (Riphah International University)**
  Breaking Barriers: Examining the Challenges Faced by the Transgender Community in Pakistan
- **Arbaz Haider Khan (Quaid i Azam University)**
  Negotiating Transnational Influences: The Complex Realities of Transgender Activism in Pakistan
- **Asia Batool (Quaid i Azam University)**
  Reassessing Media Representation of Transgender Community in Pakistani Print Media
- **Waqas Irshad (Bahria University)**
  Social Barriers and Mental Health of Transgender Individuals in Pakistan
- **Ikram Ullah Durani**
  Barriers to Education for Transgender Children in Pakistan: Challenges and Solutions

**Nationalist Movements**

University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Nabanipa Majumder (Texas Tech University)

- **Nabanipa Majumder (Texas Tech University)**
  United in war at home and abroad: The Bengalis call for Liberation in Bangladesh
- **Chihiro Kawaguchi (Kyoto University)**
  The Gender-Based Structural Violence in Contemporary Nepal: An Ethnographic Case Study of Social and Political Exclusion against Nepalese Single Mother
- **Girisanker Santhoshkumar Bindu (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**
  Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: The Role of Civil Society in Pursuit of Accountability and Durable Peace
Democratic Deepening in South Asia
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer: Saloni Bhogale (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Varun Varun Karekurve-Ramachandra (University of Southern California)

Shahana Sheikh (Yale University)
Crowds as Content: Party Campaign Strategy during the Digital Age in India
Saloni Bhogale (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Term Lengths and Legislative Performance: Evidence from India
Priyadarshi Amar (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The Impact of Ballot Access Laws on Candidacy in India’s Village Councils
Rithika Kumar (University of Pennsylvania)
Not All Migration is Made Equal Family Structure and Female Political Engagement in Migrant-Sending Communities
Taha Rauf (University of Michigan)
Long-Run Effects of Religious Institutions on Development

Coming of Age in South Asia: Exploring the Event and the Everyday
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer: Sana Malik Noon (Emory University)
Discussant / Chair: Zehra Hashmi (University of Pennsylvania)

Sana Malik Noon (Emory University)
Coming of (r)age: Three Generations of Women’s Rights Activists in Urban Pakistan
Ahona Palchoudhuri (Brown University)
Music as Erotic Education in Rural West Bengal
Faiza Rahman (Emory University)
The Political Period: Discourse and Materiality of Menstruation in Pakistan
Ishanika Sharma (Emory University)
Catastrophic Coming of Age in Khaupur: Bildungsroman, Bhopal, and Beyond

Environmental Issues in South Asian Indigenous Communities
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Discussant / Chair:

Avital Datskovsky (Syracuse University)
“We Seek to Wean the Next Generations Away from Poaching.” Control and Conservation in Ranthambore National Park
Manasvini Rajan (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
Dams, Displacement, Dispossession: Reading Risk and Development
Nimisha Thakur (Syracuse University)
“Our politics is related to erosion”: Land Based Autonomy in the Brahmaputra floodplains
Marginalization, Migration and Urban Futures
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Pearly Wong (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Pearly Wong (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
'Thinking Locally, Acting Globally': Migration and Sustainability in Nepal
Zafar Ullah (The University of Edinburgh)
Navigating Violent Infrastructures: The Everyday Experiences of Hazara Taxi Drivers in Quetta, Pakistan
Kanwaljit Singh (Syracuse University)
Srinagar Smart City Mission: Analysis of the Impact of this Project on Spatial, Temporal, and Food Sovereignty in the Indian-Occupied-Kashmir
Sayan Bhattacharyya (Yale University)
The Ethical Challenge of Rot, Waste and Wastepickers in Fiction and Generative AI
Sayak Roy (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Conceptualizing and Situating the Notion of "Everyday" in South Asian Urbanism

Textual Worlds and the Worlds of Texts
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Nathan McGovern (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)

Nathan McGovern (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)
The Mānava Dharmaśāstra as a Conservative Accommodation of the Innovations of the Mahābhārata
Aditi Jain (University of Texas at Austin)
Jains and Their Interconnected Worlds: Vanijya (Commerce), Tirtha (Pilgrimage), Vidya (Education) in Early Modern Benares c.1600-1800
Tiantian Cai (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
A Survey of the Meaning of Prapañca in the Lankāvatāra Sūtra
Liyu Hua (Bowdoin College)
Everyone Speaks Pali if Left Alone: The Buddhist Language Ideology in the Pali Commentaries Around 500 CE
**Session 9: Saturday, 8:30 - 10:15 AM**

**Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Investigating Structure, Standardization, and Style**

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair: **Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)**

- **Asko Parpola (University of Helsinki)**
  Signs of the Indus Script and Their Variants: Structure, Standardization and Style

- **Debasis Mitra (Florida Tech University)**
  Ancient Script Recognition with Machine Learning

- **Dennys Frenez (University of Bologna)**
  Seal-based Administrative Technology and Procedures in the Indus Civilisation: The Lothal Clay Sealings Archive

- **Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)**
  Searching for Seal Carvers: Comparative Analyses of Iconography and Inscriptions to Investigate the Organization of Indus Seal Production


Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer: **Aman Roy (Graduate Center - CUNY)**

Discussant / Chair: **Nafis Hasan**

- **Nafis Hasan**
  Databasing India – Slow Violence in/of Digital Governance

- **Mila Samdub (Yale University)**
  Maximum Governance as Technocratic Populism

- **Aman Roy (Graduate Center - CUNY)**
  Sensing Home: Security and Social Reproduction in Smart Nagpur

- **Pariroo Rattan (Harvard University)**
  Digitizing Difference: Aadhaar and 21st Century Techno-nationalism in India

**A Comparative Analysis of Civil-military relations in South Asia: the case of Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh**

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Chair: **Zafar Iqbal (Quaid-I-Azam University)**

- **Zafar Iqbal (Quaid-I-Azam University)** and **Khalid Iqbal (National University of Modern Languages)**
  A Comparative Analysis of Civil-Military Relations in South Asia: A Case of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh

- **Hussain Muhammad (International Islamic University Islamabad)** and **Shehla Rahim (Allama Iqbal Open University)**
  Civil-Military Relations in India and Pakistan: Common Legacy and Different Trajectories

- **Asifa Jahangir** and **Mian Ahmed Kabir (University of the Punjab)**
  The Political Role of Pakistan’s Military Establishment in State Affairs: A Case Study of Regime Change

- **Muhammad Zaheer (Informatics Group of Colleges Arifwala)** and **Rahat Iqbal (Center for International Strategic Studies)**
  Civil-Military Coordination in Bangladesh Within the Context Monopolizing State and Society by Awami League
**Tracking Non-Elite Figures in Early Modern South Asia**
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizers: *Ayesha Sheth (University of Pennsylvania)* and *Emma Kalb (University of Bonn)*
Discussant / Chair: *Abhishek Kaicker (UC Berkeley)*

- **Saarthak Singh (New York University)**
  Rajamati’s World: Placemaking, Patronage and Performance in Hindustan, c.1479

- **Ayesha Sheth (University of Pennsylvania)**
  To Be Heard But Not Seen: Musical Labor in Sixteenth-century North India

- **Emma Kalb (University of Bonn)**
  Harem Guards on Strike: Negotiating Asymmetrical Relations in the Imperial Household in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Delhi

- **Nabhojeet Sen (University of Bonn)**
  Punishment, Mobility and Coercion: Western Deccan, c. 1700-1818

**Textual practices and Scholarly Communities in Early Modern South Asia**
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: *Eduardo Acosta (The University of Chicago)*

- **Talia Ariav**
  On Poetic and Economic 'Independence' of Seventeenth-Century Sanskrit Poets

- **Vipin Krishna (UCLA)**
  Grounds of Change: The Stabilization of Language in Eighteenth-Century Indo-Persian Texts

- **Akshara Ravishankar (University of Chicago)**
  Form, Structure, and Narrative in Madhusūdana Sarasvatī’s Gūḍhārthadīpikā:

- **Eduardo Acosta (The University of Chicago)**
  Modern Biographies, Feudal Anxieties: a Prehistory of the Hindu Widow Remarriage Debate in Bengal

**‘Subtle, Elusive and Pervading’: The Languages of Language Movements in Modern South Asia**
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer: *Akhil P. Veetil (University of Pennsylvania)*
Discussant / Chair: *Gregory Goulding (University of Pennsylvania)*

- **Niharika Yadav (Princeton University)**
  Sarkāri vs Samajvādī Hindi: Languages of Democracy in Postcolonial India

- **Soheb Ur Rahman Niazi (Freie Universitat)**
  Democratising Urdu: Muslim Peshewar Birādarīs’ Engagement with the Urdu Public Sphere in Colonial India

- **Daniel Lapinski (University of Chicago)**
  The Language of Integration: W. Yumjao Singh’s Political Reimagination of Manipuri Linguistic History

- **Akhil P. Veetil (University of Pennsylvania)**
  The Perception of the Dominance of English as a Moral Harm Among the Hindi Intelligentsia
Performing Identities
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: **Nikhil Menon (University of Notre Dame)**

**Aruna Kharod (The University of Texas at Austin)**
Notable and Un-noted: Gujarati Luthiers and Hindustani Musical Patronage in the Baroda Gaekwad Court (1873-1939)
**Nikhil Menon (University of Notre Dame)**
Dancing to Diplomatic Tunes: Dancers as Cultural Ambassadors in Postcolonial India
**Abhimanyu Acharya (The University of Western Ontario)**
Theatre and Identity Formation in Colonial Western India: A Case of Parsi and Hindu Gujarati Theatres

Peripheries of Excess: Gender, Transgression and Performance in Punjab
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizer: **Radha Kapuria (Durham University)**
Discussant / Chair: **Anshu Malhotra (University of California, Santa Barbara)**

**Sumera Saleem (University of Sargodha)**
From Spontaneity to Digital Structure: An Autoethnographic Account of Women's Songs & Folklore in West Punjab
**Nicole Ranganath (University of California, Davis)**
Rivers of Desire, Oceans of Separation: Women's Musical Improvisations and Transgressions in California, 1940s-1980s
**Radha Kapuria (Durham University)**
Of Pleasure and Piety: Women’s Songs and the Arya Samaj in late 19th Century Punjab
**Kiran Sunar (University of Toronto) and Ranbir Johal (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)**
Queening Pink: Trinjan Audiotopias & Punjabi Women’s Bhangra in the Work of Jasmine Sandlas

Pedagogy and Politics of Language
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: **Divya Chaudhry (Vanderbilt University)**

**Wilfried Swenden (University of Edinburgh) and Katharine Adeney (University of Nottingham)**
Linguistic Nationalisms in South Asia: Is India Becoming a Linguistically Majoritarian State?
**Mansi Bajaj (Yale University)**
Multimodality to Address Linguistic Nationalism in a Hindi-Language Class
**Divya Chaudhry (Vanderbilt University)**
Towards a More Inclusive Language Curriculum: Case of Hindi-Urdu
New Explorations of Caste
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Meenu Deswal (University of Michigan)

Ashish Koul (Northwestern University)
Caste and Islam for Citizenship: Arains in Early Independent Pakistan

Neelabh Gupta (University of Edinburgh)
Atheism and Rejection of Caste Among Atheists in India

Meenu Deswal (University of Michigan)
The "Intention to Live as Man and Wife:" Marriage and Colonial Legal Practice in Late-Nineteenth Century South Asia

Vaishnavi Kollimarla (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)
Performing Critically: Performance, Pedagogy, and Caste

Adaptation, Translation, and the Politics of Gender
Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2
Organizer/ Chair: Amrita Chowdhury (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Abhinandan Banerjee (University of California, Riverside)
The Housewives of the Uvāsagadasāo: Adaptation and Appropriation of Brahminical Patriarchy in the Early Śvetāmbara Jaina Canon

Corbett Costello (University of Washington)
Sita the Sati: The Politics of Gender in Jain Versions of the Ramayana

Amrita Chowdhury (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Translation as Critique: "Sita's exile" and the Women's Question in Colonial Bengal

Harsha Gautam (The University of Texas at Austin)
Agents of Aesthetics, Defilers of Disciplines: Proscriptions for the Buddhist Nuns

Intimation of Revolution: Global Sixties and the Making of Bangladesh
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer: MM Azizul Islam Rasel (McGill University)
Discussant / Chair: Sandeep Banerjee (McGill University)

Sonia Amin (Dhaka university)
Ali Riaz (Illinois State University)
Yasmin Saikia (Arizona State University)
Auritro Majumder (University of Houston)
Neilesh Bose (University of Victoria)
Subho Basu (McGill University)
Identity, Politics, and Citizenship
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Kristen Zipperer (Harvard University)

Mortaza Hassani (University of California Los Angeles)
Qawm and Ethnicity in Eighteenth-Century Afghanistan: A Study of Mughal Beg’s Sayr al-Bilad

Kristen Zipperer (Harvard University)
Dirty Edges: Space, Purity, and Belonging in Nepal’s Nation-State

Irfan Waheed Usmani (The King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies)
The Origins, Genesis, and Outcomes of the Islamic Socialist Discourse in Pakistan Between 1947 and the 1990s: A Critical Analysis

Shruti Parthasarathy (UW-Madison)
In the Wake of Partition: Navigating Post-Amnesia through Visual Art

After 1947: The Politics of Decolonization
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Anubha Anushree (Stanford University)

Corita Fernando (Washington State University)
Brewing Nationalism: Plantation Tourism and Labor in Contemporary Sri Lanka

Anubha Anushree (Stanford University)
The Students and the States: JP Movement in 1974-1975

Raphaelle Khan (The City College of New York-CUNY/Harvard Asia Center)
Rethinking the Evolution of International Society: India, Sovereignty, Democracy, and the International Order in the 20th Century

Constructing (Post)colonies: Race, Gender, and Nationhood in the Subcontinent
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Iqra Shagufta Cheema (University of North Texas)

Parvez Rahaman (Middle Tennessee State University)
The Commemorative Landscape and the Post-Memory of the 1947 Partition of India in Noakhali

Oishani Sengupta (University of Texas El Paso)
Finding Africa in Benaras: Postcolonial Citation in Jai Baba Felunath (1979)

Poushali Bhadury (Middle Tennessee State University)
A Series of Her Own: Pioneering Female Sleuths in Bengali Children’s Literature

Iqra Shagufta Cheema (University of North Texas)
Promissory Feminism and Women’s Education: Modes of Community Making in Early Urdu Novels
The Careers of Things: Infrastructural Recursions and Reinventions in South Asia
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer: Meghna Chaudhuri (Davidson College)
Discussant / Chair: Debjani Bhattacharyya (Universität Zürich)

- Kartik Nair (Temple University)
  Infrastructures of Gathering in RRR
- Sahana Ghosh (National University of Singapore)
  Soldiers, Families, and Housing Intimacy
- Meghna Chaudhuri (Davidson College)
  Infrastructural Embodyments: Labor to Steel
- Maira Hayat (University of Notre Dame)
  "Bring your foot one step forward! Yes, now you have one foot in Pakistan and one in India!" Sharing a Shrine, Water, and Hate

Political Theologies of South and East Asia
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Justin Smolin (University of Chicago)

- Nabanjan Maitra (University of Chicago)
  The Triumph of the Vedas in the Language of the Jains
- Justin Henry (Georgia College & State University)
  Buddhist Millennialism and Political Prophecy in Sri Lanka
- Ian MacCormack (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
  The King's Remains: Political Theology in Early Modern Tibet
- Justin Smolin (University of Chicago)
  Kṛṣṇa the Emperor
**Session 10: Saturday, 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM**

**Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to the Study of Craft Technologies in Ancient South Asia**
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Sneha Chavali (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Discussant / Chair: Gregg M. Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- **Naveed Usman (Hazara University Mansehra, Pakistan)**
  Provenance Study of Pottery from Kaghan Valley Pakistan Using X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy (XRF) and its Linkages with Ancient Indian Pottery Industries

- **Cole Eckhardt (University of Wisconsin-Madison)**
  Ephemeral Temples: Exploring Indus Valley Ritual Space

- **Sneha Chavali (University of Wisconsin-Madison)**
  Regional Styles of Indus Faience Technology and Bead Production (2600-1300 BCE): A View from Gujarat, India.

- **Michael Gates (University of Wisconsin-Madison)**
  Tracing Textiles in the Indus Valley Civilization and Surrounding Regions: Ethnoarchaeological and Experimental Approaches to Materials Analysis

**Polemic Structuring and Restructuring in Eighteenth-Century India**
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (University of Texas at Austin)
Discussant / Chair: Jonathan Peterson (Stanford University)

- **Michael Allen (University of Virginia)**
  Expanding the Upaniṣadic Canon: The Commentaries of Upaniṣad Brahmayogin

- **Tarinee Awasthi (FLAME University)**
  Strategies for ‘Reconciling’ Rival Views in Aiyyaṇa’s Matatrayaikyaprakāśikā

- **Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (University of Texas at Austin)**
  Reframing Soteriology: The Modern Śrīvaiṣṇava Debate on Self-Surrender

- **Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)**
  Rational Reading: Nyāya Scriptural Exegesis in Viśveśvara Paṇḍita’s Tarkakutūhala

**Vernacular Worlds in the Arabic Cosmopolis**
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)

- **Ihsan Ul-Iththasam Chappangan (The University of Chicago)**
  Sufism in the Indian Ocean: Arabic Hagiographies and Arabicized Vernacular Translations in South India

- **Aditya Harchand (University of Chicago)**
  “Risen from Satan’s Urine”: The Trial Against Tobacco in Sām Śīhāputtīn’s Tampāk Mālai

- **Ilsa Abdul Razzaq (University of Washington, Seattle)**
  Vernacular Poetry for the Momin: Everyday Ritual and Tawḥīd in the Mughal Empire

- **Ayesha Irani (University of Massachusetts Boston)**
  Discussant Comments and Feedback
Hearing and Seeing Media Histories Across the Indo-Pakistan Border
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Iftikhar Dadi (Cornell University)

Isabel Huacuja Alonso (Columbia University)
Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas at Austin)
Lotte Hoek (University of Edinburgh)
Debashree Mukherkee (Columbia University)

Shah Rukh Khan, Stardom, and Neoliberal Politics in Contemporary India
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizers: Megha Anwer (Purdue University), Anupama Arora (University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth), and Kuhu Tanvir (Michigan State University)
Discussant / Chair: Megha Anwer (Purdue University) and Corey Creekmur (University of Iowa)

Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh)
Meheli Sen (Rutgers University)
Kuhu Tanvir (Michigan State University)
Paromita Vohra
Gohar Siddiqui (Clark University)
Praseeda Gopinath (Binghamton University, State University of New York)
Megha Anwer (Purdue University)
Anupama Arora (University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth)

Decolonizing Equity-Diversity-Inclusion Discourses and the Neoliberal University: Lessons from South Asia
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Sneha Gole (Five Colleges Inc)

Balmurli Natrajan (William Paterson University)
Sujatha Subramanian (The Ohio State University)
Chayanika Shah
Swati Dyahadroy
Anagha Tambe
Multilingual Interaction in South Asian Spaces of Pedagogy and Practice
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Prashanth Kuganathan (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Sonia Das (New York University)
Linguistic Landscapes and the Trans/national Politics of Language Loyalty in Little Jaffnas
Prashanth Kuganathan (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
Teaching English in Jaffna Tamil Classrooms
Christina Davis (Western Illinois University)
The Linguistic Landscape of a Trilingual Protest Movement in Colombo, Sri Lanka
Chaise LaDousa (Hamilton College)
The University, Coaching Institute, and Cafe: Reflections on Advertising in North Delhi

Waiting for the People: A Book Roundtable
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Nusrat Chowdhury (Amherst College)

Mrinalini Sinha (University of Michigan)
Thomas Newbold (University of Chicago)
Abhishek Kaicker (UC Berkeley)
Rama Mantena (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Anupama Rao (Barnard College. Columbia)
Nazmul Sultan (University of British Columbia)

Violence of Memories: Reclaiming Spaces and Lost Voices from South Asia
Conference Room 5, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Paulomi Sharma (University of Minnesota)

Kristen Thomas-McGill (University of California Santa Barbara)
Misremembering Macdonald: Sexual Violence Against Children in Ceylon
Ananya Bhardwaj (The George Washington University)
Imprisoning the ‘Enemy’ Citizen: Inversion of the ‘Migrant Crisis’
Sheetal Digari (University of Minnesota)
K-pop as a Cultural Capital: Understanding the Performativity of Race and Nationalism among Northeastern Students in India
Paulomi Sharma (University of Minnesota)
Effaced Memories: The Bangladesh Liberation War and Unpacking the Silence on Wartime Sexual Violence
Technological (Mis)Appropriations
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Shantanu Kulshreshth (University of Melbourne)
Acting Secular: Prefigurative Practice, Making It, and Young People in a North Indian Theatre Group

Hassan Asif (University of Toronto)
Bytes of Blessings: Examining Digital Technology's Influence on Pakistan's Na'at Culture

Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Computational Misogyny: The Networked Redistribution of Hate in Digital India

Nildeep Paul (Concordia University)
Agit-Press: Film India, Interventionist Journalism and its Counterpublics

Sucheta Choudhuri (University of Houston-Downtown)
Other Worlds, Other(ed) Spaces: Domestic Structures and Queer Heterotopias in Nagarkirtan

Contemporary Caste and the State
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Pallavi Raonka (DePauw University)

Saloni Jaiswal (University of Chicago)
To Be or Not to Be a Minority: Recognition and Misrecognition in Pakistan

Bawesh Pradhan (Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh) and Reetu Pradhan
Conflict in Spatial Paradigms: Indigenous Newa Movement against the Nepalese State

Pallavi Raonka (DePauw University)
Elephants, Adivasi Communities, and the Neoliberal State

Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University)
Crafting Constitutional Structure from Below: Federalism, Bureaucracy and the Tharu Self-Governance in Nepal

South Asian Political Movements
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Stephen Graf (The New School for Social Research)

Sagnika Chanda (Georgia Institute of Technology)
Populist Rhetoric and Counter Rhetoric: The Farmer as “Annadaata”

Sanniah Jabeen (The University of Toronto)
Unraveling the Threads of Politics, Identity, and Transformation in Sindhi Ajrak

Stephen Graf (The New School for Social Research)
Dis-/Order Machines: The Action-Centered Organization of Left and Ambedkarite Student Politics in Delhi and Hyderabad
The Politics of Militarization, Citizenship, and Neighborliness Across South Asia
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer: Sahana Ghosh (National University of Singapore)
Discussant / Chair: Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington at Seattle)

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)
Navine Murshid (Colgate University)
Farhana Ibrahim (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)
Madiha Tahir (Yale University)
Malini Sur (Western Sydney University)
Hana Shams Ahmed

Constitutional Considerations of Society and Religion
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Brannon Ingram (Northwestern University)

Brannon Ingram (Northwestern University)
The Queen’s Urdu: Translating Colonial Secularity in Victoria’s 1858 Proclamation
Deepa Das Acevedo (Emory University)
The Battle for Sabarimala: Fluidity and Flux in the Debate Over Women’s Entry
Sandipto Dasgupta (The New School for Social Research)
They, the People: The Absence of the People in the Indian Constituent Assembly

Documenting Protest
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Shreya Singh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Hashim Ali (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Memorializing the Pakistani Student Movement: Sites of Memory and Commemoration
Pinaki Chandra (University of Cincinnati)
Stranded: CAA-NRC, Mobility Narratives and Disenfranchisement in chars of Assam, India
Shreya Singh (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
The Politics of Solidarity and Resistance: Indian Women in the British Suffrage Movement
Radhika Saraf (Independent Scholar)
The Sacrificial Victim: The Figure of the Pathan in the 1928 Bombay Strike
Migrations of Modern Spiritualities
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Syed Eisar Haider (University of Notre Dame)

Afshin Marashi (University of Oklahoma)
Parsi Avatar: Meher Baba (1894-1969) Between Iran, India, and the World

Syed Eisar Haider (University of Notre Dame)
Power of Performance: Shia Ritual Practice at Home and at the Pilgrimage

Smytta Yadav (University of Sussex)
Commodification of Religion, Sacredness, and Neoliberal Subjectivities in India: Inequality and Heritage Touris

Kalpesh Bhatt (University of Mary Washington)
What Matters and Why?: Fusing the Secular, the Spiritual, and the Religious to Develop a Pragmatic Ethos

Public Health in South Asia
Parlor Room 638, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Vishala Parmasad (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Keerti Pendyal (Mahindra University)
Public Health Policy and Governance during COVID-19 – Results from a Natural Experiment

Vishala Parmasad (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Type 2 Diabetes Management in Trinidad: A Question of Scale

Nigar Sultana (University of Alabama), Md Asaduzzaman (Arizona State University), and Rabeya Khatun (Comilla University)
Impact of Social Dynamics in Adolescent Girls’ Reproductive Health Issues: Analyzing Factors of Illness Causation in Bangladesh

Indunil Dharmasiri (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) and Eranga Galappaththi (Virginia Tech University)
Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Sri Lanka and the Consideration of Indigenous Peoples
Session 11: Saturday, 1:45 - 3:30 PM
Quit India! Decolonizing South Asian Archaeology in Theory or Practice?
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Namita Sugandhi (Hartwick College)
Discussant / Chair: Teresa Raczek (Kennesaw State University)

Mudit Trivedi
Uthara Suvrathan (Azim Premji University)
Baisakhi Sengupta (University of California, Los Angeles)
Pushkar Sohoni (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune)
Teresa Raczek (Kennesaw State University)
Namita Sugandhi (Hartwick College)

(Re)Structuring Śaivism: The Śivadharma and its Tamil Transmission
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Eric Steinschneider (Ithaca College)
Discussant / Chair: Srilata Raman (University Of Toronto)

Florinda De Simini (L'Orientale University of Naples)
The Śivadharma as a Source for the Early History of Śaiva Institutions
Margherita Trento (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)
The Śaiva Monastery in the Civatarumōttaram (16th century): Translation, Donations, and Social Order in the Tamil Country
Jesse Pruitt (University of Toronto)
Divine Humiliation: How the Śivadharmottara's Embryological Treatise Concludes the Transmigratory Narrative of Heaven and Hell
Eric Steinschneider (Ithaca College)
Despicable Meat: Vegetarianism in the Civatarumōttaram

Contextualizing Christianity
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Anusha Hariharan (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Joe Evans (Villanova University)
Bridging Identities Through Interreligious Relationships at Marian Shrines in South Asia: Mariamabad and Vailankanni
Anusha Hariharan (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
"From charity to justice": Political Transformation and Ethical Self-Cultivation Among Tamil Catholics in Southern India
George Pioustin (UCLA)
From the Movie Theatre to the Church: A Study on the Vernacularization of Liturgical Music and Cassette Culture Among the Syrian Christians of Kerala
Pakistan: A Devil’s Brew of Political, Economic, and Natural Disasters
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Feisal Khan (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

Mariam Mufti (University of Waterloo)
Uzair Younus (Atlantic Council South Asia Center)
Michael Kugelman (Wilson Center South Asia Institute)
Amira Jadoon (Clemson University)

Structures and Spontaneity of Economic Life in South Asia: Corporations, Cooperatives, Communities
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizers: Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University) and Shantanu Nevrekar (Stanford University)
Discussant / Chair: Matthew Hull (University of Michigan)

Nishita Trisal (Ashoka University)
Kashmir, Inc.: Credit, Collateral, and the Making of the "State Subject"
Jane Lynch (Yale University)
Becoming an "Indian" Company: Collectivity and the Corporate Form After the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act
Shantanu Nevrekar (Stanford University)
Between Association and Community: Cooperatives and Social Life in Maharashtra
Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University)
Porous Social Orders of the Corporation: Historical and Ethnographic Notes on an Indian Oil Company

Concepts of the Psyche: Ontological Traversals
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer: Swayam Bagaria (Harvard University)
Discussant / Chair: Bhrigupati Singh (Ashoka University)

Sarah Pinto (Tufts University)
Sonam Kachru (Yale University)
Nomaan Hasan (Brown University)
Megnaa Mehtta (University College London)
Nikita Simpson (SOAS)
Emerging Studies in South Asian Literature and Poetry
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Morgan Dietz (Northern Arizona University)

Morgan Dietz (Northern Arizona University)
Hunger on the Margins: Food and Violence in Fiction from Northeast India and Bangladesh

Afroz Taj (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
Dark Scars of the Heart: Ghalib, the Body, and Vibrant Matter

Abdul Fahad (Nestle Pakistan)
Exploring the Intersection of Structure and Spontaneity in South Asian Poetry

Women's Voices and Voices of Women in Early Modern South Indian Poetry
Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer: Sabeena Shaikh (McGill University)
Discussant / Chair: Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

Sohini Pillai (Kalamazoo College)
Transforming an Epic Heroine: Draupadi in Villi’s Tamil Paratam

Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)
Vocal Guising in the Shrngara Songs of Tallapaka Annamayya

Aalekhya Malladi (McGill University)
Vengamamba’s Rejection of Widowhood: Distortions of Hagiographical Prisms

Sabeena Shaikh (McGill University)
Courtesans and Counter-Archives: Decoding Gendered Language in Pre-Modern Urdu Poetry

Regional and the Transnational: Specificity, Suffusion, and Resonance
Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer: Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)
Discussant / Chair: Sushmita Banerji (IIIT Hyderabad)

Rutuja Deshmukh (SIMC)
Landscape as a Narrative of Resistance in Regional Cinema

Amrutha Kunapulli (Colby College)
Dabba Beats and Hiphoppari: Local Cine-music and Global Resonances in South India

Sushmita Banerji (IIIT Hyderabad)
Think, Practice Thinking: Ritwik Ghatak today

Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)
Contemporary Tamil Cinema and Cops: Agents of (Social) Injustice
Global Caste
Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)

Suraj Yengde (Harvard University)
The Consciousness of the Subordinated: Kabir, the Prophet of the Outcastes

S. Anand
Brahmanism and Guru Fictions: Ekalavya to Ambedkar
Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)
A Global Caste Lexicon

Ivy Wilson
The Comparative Logics of Race and Caste in 19th-Century African American Writings

Literary Criticism and Languages in South Asia
University A/B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Anirudh Karnick (University of Pennsylvania)

Aditi Behl (IIT Bombay)
‘Ek Bhasha, Do Lipi’: Sayyid Insha Allah Khan’s Rani Ketki ki Kahani (1803) and the Politics of Hindi/Urdu in North India

Qazi Arka Rahman (West Virginia University)
Structural Duality: The State from the Language(s)

Anirudh Karnick (University of Pennsylvania)
From Tikā and Śāstra to ālocanā: The Birth of Close Reading and Literary Criticism in Modern Hindi

Muslim Lives at Home and Abroad
University C/D, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Rubayat Jesmin (SUNY-Binghamton)

Mustahid Husain (University of Toronto)
Islam-Neoliberalism and Suicides in Young Bangladeshi-Canadian Men in the Greater Toronto Area

Asiya Alam (Louisiana State University)
Muslim Women on Japan, 1930-1940

Saumya Lal (Louisiana State University)
The Politics and Aesthetics of Love in Home Fire and Dil Se: An Intertextual Reading

Papia Sengupta (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
Protesting Hate: Muslim Women and Citizenship in Post-Colonial India

Rubayat Jesmin (SUNY-Binghamton)
Female Refugees’ Economic Empowerment: A Win-Win Solution for All
Reconstructing the Decolonial Discourse: Critical Examinations of Theory and Praxis of Decoloniality
Parlor Room 627, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Magna Mohapatra (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Magna Mohapatra (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Tracing Pluriversality: Unlearning the Colonial Matrix of Power in South Asia

Bidisha Mukherjee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Politics of Care in Times of Neo-colonization: Women’s Activism in Kashmir

Kimberly Rooney (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
(De)Coloniality and the School: Lessons from Postcolonial Literature

Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan
Coloniality of Knowledge to Grammar of Knowledge Production: The (Im)Possibility of Decoloniality within Modern Academia

Environmental and Sustainability in South Asia: Past, Present, and Future
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer / Chair: Jason Ludden (University of Nevada, Reno)

Dilruba Shuvra (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee)
Traditional Houses of Munshiganj: A Local Response to River Erosion Reality of Bangladesh

Avash Bhandari (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Forests Between Empires: Sawmills, Kathmahal, and Sales of Sleepers

Nishant Beniwal (The Open University)
My Grass is Greener

Jason Ludden (University of Nevada, Reno)
Rice Fields in the Anthropocene: The Topology of Elephants and Institutions in Sri Lanka’s Breadbasket

Living Through the Meanwhile
Parlor Room 634, Floor 6
Organizer: Sardar Hussain (University of Texas at Austin)
Discussant / Chair: Sarah Besky (Brown University)

Asif Mehmood
CPEC Infrastructure, Technologies, and the Liminal Epistemic Regime

Robayt M Khondoker (University of Texas at Austin)
Navigating the (Un)certain Landscape: Accounts of Former Armed Bandits in the Sundarbans Region of Bangladesh

Uzair Farooq Mir (University of Texas at Austin)
Camp on the Move: Security and Everyday Life in Kashmir

Sardar Hussain (University of Texas at Austin)
Heritage Ordinaire as Infrastructure of Proximal Care
Session 12: Saturday, 3:45 - 5:30 PM

Conservation and Archaeological Survey Across South Asia
Assembly Room, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Ifqut Shaheen (University of the Punjab, Lahore)

- Arslan Butt (Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University)
  Musa Khel & the Indus Tradition of the Northern Punjab
- Farhat Saeed Imran (Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur)
  Preserving the Past for Future Generations: The Excavation and Development of Rewat Fort, Islamabad
- Ifqut Shaheen (University of the Punjab, Lahore)
  Taxila in Pakistani Languages: An Analysis of Indigenous Archaeology
- Mueezuddin Hakal (Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.)
  Gilgit Manuscripts Collection at National Museum of Pakistan, Karachi: A Documentation and Study of Calligraphy
- Muhammad Hameed (University of the Punjab)
  In Search of Sakala, the Lost Capital of Indo-Greeks: An Introduction to the Ongoing Research Work Based on Archaeological, Environmental, and Genetic Evidences in District Sialkot

Performing the Divine: Lived Lives of Bhakti
Caucus Room, Floor 1
Organizer: Atreyee Majumder (National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)
Discussant / Chair: David Buchta (Brown University)

- Debanjali Biswas
  On the Heels of Musicians: Moving Through Congregational Manipuri Nata Sankirtana
- Atreyee Majumder (National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)
  Structure, Sign, and Play: On Musical Discipline in Vrindavan
- Swapna Sharma (Yale University)
  Braj: A living Theatre of Krishna Leela
- Sandeep Banerjee (McGill University)
  Performing Biraha: The Cultural Lives of a Theological Concept

Structure, Spontaneity, and Transmission in Tantra
Senate Room A, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Paul Donnelly (Northern Arizona University)

- Jackson Stephenson (UC Santa Barbara)
  Chaos from Structure: Secret Yogini Teachings in the Trimśaccarccārahasya.
- Guy St Amant (Princeton University)
  Words of God in the Books of Men: Śaiva Commentators and Their Manuscripts
- Shaman Hatley (University of Massachusetts Boston)
  The Wheel of the Navel and Lotus of the Heart: Metaphor, Medical Knowledge, and the Early Tantric Body
- Paul Donnelly (Northern Arizona University)
  The Goddess Kurukullā and Her Rituals of Subjugation
Session 12 Schedule

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer / Chair: Mona Bhan (Syracuse University)

Zehra Hashmi (University of Pennsylvania)
Suvaid Yaseen (Mt Holyoke College)
Matt Shutzer (Duke University)
Rajbir Judge (California State University, Long Beach)
Randeep Hothi (University of Michigan)
Nishita Trisal (Ashoka University)

Emerging Perspectives in South Asian Political Studies
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Discussant / Chair:

Arpeeta Mizan (University of Bristol Law School)
Narratives of Legal Consciousness: What is Law for Bangladeshi People?
Rubaiya Murshed (University of Cambridge)
Education and Voting Tendencies: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh
Farhat Haq (Monmouth College)
Electoral Politics and Violence: Rise of Therik-e-Laybbik Pakistan
Pradeep Sangapala (University of Alberta)
The Birth of Nationalist Planning and the Shape of Sri Lankan Postcolonial Spatial Identity
Sananda Sahoo (University of Western Ontario)
Media Representation as Politics Constructs in the New India

Indian Literary Worlds
Conference Room 3, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: Meenakshi Nair (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Vikrant Dadawala (Harvard University)
Ghost Stories: The Coolie in World Literature
Meenakshi Nair (University of Massachusetts Amherst)
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Monika Bhagat-Kennedy (University of Mississippi)
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Conference Room 4, Floor 2
Organizer: **Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)**
Discussant / Chair: **Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)**

**Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)**
What the Women Said: Poems of Loss and Lamentation in a Third-Century Tamil Anthology

**Steven Hopkins (Swarthmore College)**
The Work of Tears: Lamentation, Particularity, Ethics

**Cynthia Talbot (University of Texas at Austin)**
Glimpses of Grief in Heroic Histories: Mourning Death in Early Modern Rajput Narratives

**Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)**
Death in the Time of Spring: Space and Mourning at the Vishnu Temple in Tirukkurungudi

The Production of News in the Digital Age: Implications for Public Perceptions of Globalization, Citizen Journalism, and Minorities

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: **Ummul Baneen (Rifah International University, Rawalpindi)**

**Ummul Baneen (Rifah International University, Rawalpindi)**
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**Umer Nawaz (Independent Researcher)**
The Role of Citizen Journalism in the Digital Age

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The Globalization of News Production and its Implications

**Salman Arif (University of the Punjab)**
The Role of News Framing in Shaping Public Perceptions of Minorities in Pakistan: A Content Analysis of News Coverage

Trauma and Care

Capitol Ballroom B, Floor 2
Organizer / Chair: **Sirsha Nandi (Texas A&M University)**

**Md Abdur Rahman (University of Central Florida)**
Silent Sufferings in US Health Care: A Study on Health Seeking Behavior of Bangladeshi Immigrants in South Florida

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**Angad Johar (CUNY Graduate Center)**
The Psychogeographical Terrain of the Global South: The Case of Indian Occupied Kashmir
Reading Agrarian Transition Through the Lens of Raymond Williams
Parlor Room 629, Floor 6
Organizer: Amrita Kurian (University of Pennsylvania)
Discussant / Chair: Sarah Besky (Brown University)

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Reading Raymond Williams in the Himalaya

Aparajita Majumdar (Cornell University)
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Eleni Papadaki

Journal highlights

Modern Asian Studies

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International Journal of Middle East Studies

Journal of Southeast Asian Studies

Cambridge University Press
A

Aalekhya Malladi  40
Abdul Basit  68
Abdul Fahad  95
Abdul Rehman  66
Abdullah Naveed  56
Abdullahi Ahmed  3
Abhimanyu Acharya  83
Abhinandan Banerjee  84
Abhishek Bhattacharyya  42
Abhishek Bose  41
Abhishek Kaicker  82
Abigail McGowan  69
Abinash Dash Choudhury  50
Adhitya Dhanapal  67
Aditi Behl  47, 96
Aditi Jain  80
Aditya Harchand  87
Afroz Taj  95
Afsar Mohammad  42
Afshin Marashi  92
Ahmad Qais Munhazim  28
Ahmed Afzal  46
Ahmed Shamim  59
Ahona Palchoudhuri  79
Aidan Seale-Feldman  32
Aishika Chakraborty  37
Ajay Gehlawat  39, 58
Ajay Rao  55
Ajay Sinha  37
Akeel Bilgrami  31
Akhil P. Veetil  82
Akshara Ravishankar  82

Akshaya Tankha  52
Alan Lee  68
Aleksandar Uskokov  41
Alexandra Berger  77
Alexandra Kaloyanides  38
Alexis Brown  25
Ali Ahsan  53
Ali Altaf Mian  30
Ali Khan  39
Ali Raj  58
Ali Raza  69
Ali Riaz  84
Alisha Elizabeth Cherian  57
Aliyiah Khan  65
Allan Life  46
Amali Wedagedara  59
Aman Roy  81
Amanda Lucia  43
Ametasree Bhattacharya  55
Amira Jadoon  94
Amit Kumar  53
Amita Sinha  76
Amrita Basu  39
Amrita Chowdhury  84
Amrita Kurian  101
Amrutha Kunapulli  95
Amy L. Allocco  27
Amy Langenberg  68
Amy-Ruth Holt  43, 56
Anagha Tambe  47
Anand Taneja  35, 54
Anand Yang  33
Anannya Bohidar  38
Ananya Bhardwaj  89
Andrea Fowler  3
Andrew Kunze  43
Angad Johar  100
Anindita Adhikari  60
Anirban Baishya  3, 90
Anirban Mukhopadhyay  48
Aniruddha Dutta  29
Anirudh Gurumooorthy  24
Anirudh Karnick  96
Anjali Arondekar  28, 34
Anjali Yadav  64
Ankita Choudhary  76
Anna Morcom  63
Anna Schultz  31
Anna Seastrand  55
Annapurna Garimella  62
Anne Mocko  50
Anne Murphy  35, 44
Anshu Malhotra  83
Anthony Cerulli  2–3
Anubha Anushree  85
Anuj Kaushal  44
Anupama Arora  88
Anupama Rao  89
Anurima Banerji  66
Anusha Hariharan  93
Anusha Kedhar  36
Anusha Sudindra Rao  57
Anusha Sundar  60
Anushka Chaudhuri  47
Anushka Kartha  78
Aparajita Majumdar  101
Aparna Nair  53
Aparna Ros  76
Arafaat Valiani  32
Arbaz Haider Khan  78
Archana Venkatesan  100
Arijit Chatterjee  24
Arjun Guneratne  54
Arpeeta Mizan  99
Arslan Butt  98
Aruna Kharod  83
Arunima Ray  51
Asha Sumra  24
Ashish Koul  84
Asia Batool  78
Asif Iqbal  47
Asif Mehmood  97
Asifa Jahangir  81
Asiya Alam  96
Asko Parpola  81
Asma Ibrahim  61
Ateya Khorakiwala  24
Athula Samarakoon  22
Atreyee Majumder  98
Auritro Majumder  84
Avash Bhandari  97
Avijit Singh  50
Avinash Ediga  45
Avital Datskovsky  79
Avrati Bhatnagar  69
Awais Ahmad Chaudhry  49
Ayelet Kotler  58
Ayesha Irani  41, 87
Ayesha Rasul  30
Ayesha Sheth  82
B. Venkat Mani  2–3
Bairam Khan  48
Baisakhi Sengupta  44, 93
Balakrishnan Raghavan  63
Balmurli Natrajan  88
Barton Scott  31
Bawesh Pradhan  90
Benita Menezes  76
Benjamin Cohen  52
Benjamin Hegarty  29
Bennett Comerford  50
Bhrigupati Singh  94
Bidisha Mukherjee  97
Biju Toppo  36
Bilal Aslam  49
Billie Thoidingjam Guarino  54
Bindhulakshmi Pattadath  32
Bishudwy Dewan  64
Brad Chase  75
Bradley Shoppe  37
Brahma Prakash  37
Brannon Ingram  91
Brian Hatcher  31
Brinda Guha  37
Carlos G. Gómez  23
Carula Lorea  41
Cassie Adcock  54
Catherine Larouche  49
Chaise LaDousa  89
Chamila Somirathna  25
Chandrika Barua  63
Chantal Krcmar  53
Charles Hallisey  25
Chaumtoli Huq  47
Chayanika Shah  88
Chihiro Kawaguchi  78
Chinnaiah Jangam  42
Chris Chekuri  42
Christina Davis  89
Christina Welsch  76
Christine Marrewa  44
Christopher Chekuri  55
Christopher Diamond  41, 56
Christopher Framarin  68
Christopher LaMack  50
Claire Pamment  28–29
Cole Eckhardt  87
Coralynn V. Davis  23
Corbett Costello  84
Corey Creekmur  88
Corita Fernando  85
Craig Jeffrey  45
Crystal Baines  25, 48
Curt Gambetta  24
Cynthia Talbot  100
Index

Dakxin Bajrangi  36
Daniel Lapinski  82
Daniel Morgan  62
Danish Sheikh  28
Daniyal Channa  58
Darshana Mini  3
Darshana Sreedhar Mini  3
Daveshe Soneji  27, 47, 100
David Boyk  30
David Buchta  41, 98
David Curley  70
David Haberman  75
Debadatta Chakrabarty  39
Debanjali Biswas  37, 98
Debanuj Dasgupta  28
Debashree Mukherjee  69
Debashree Mukherjee  88
Debasis Mitra  81
Debjani Bhattacharyya  60, 86
Deborah Philip  45
Deepa Badrinarayana  3
Deepa Das Acevedo  91
Deepa Nair  55
Deepika Kumari Meena  45
Deepra Dandekar  50
Dennis B. McGilvray  27
Dennys Frenez  81
Devin Choudhury  66
Devyani Gupta  44
Dhiren Borsa  37, 47
Dhurjati Sarma  41
Dilruba Shuvra  97
Dina M Siddiqi  26
Dinalo Chakma  71
Dipanjan Mazumder  70
Dipti Khera  70
Disha Ray  73
Divya Chaudhry  83
Divya Cherian  34, 60, 70
Diya Bose  28
Diya Deviah  69
Donal Thomas  67
Douglas Haynes  33
Durba Mitra  29
Dwight Carey  24
Farhana Sultana  26
Farhat Haq  99
Farhat Saeed Imran  98
Farida Begum  26
Farida C. Khan  26
Fatima Rajina  47
Feisal Khan  94
Florinda De Simini  93
Frances Pritchett  30
Francesca Chubb-Confer  77
Francesco Paolo Cioffo  67
Gaurav Mittal  77
Gautham Reddy  42
Gemini Wahhaj  65
Geoffrey Ludvik  75
George Piousin  93
Ghani Ur Rahman  44
Ghazal Asif Farrukhi  26
Gil Ben-Herut  43, 77
Girisanker Santhoshkumar Bindu  78
Gisele Cardoso de Lemos  46
Gohar Siddiqui  88
Gowthaman Rangahathan  37
Gregg Jamison  81
Gregg M. Jamison  87
Gregory Goulding  82
Gudrun Bühnemann  3
Guy St Amant  98
Gwendolyn Kirk  3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habibeh Rahim</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hafsa Arain</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haider Shahbaz</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamayoon Khan</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hana Shams Ahmed</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Archambault</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harini Kumar</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harjant Gill</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harleen Kaur</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harsha Gautam</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harshita Mruthinti Kamath</td>
<td>36–37, 77, 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashim Ali</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassan Asif</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidi Pauwels</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Chiang</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huisheng Tang</td>
<td>44, 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humayun Kabir</td>
<td>26, 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hussain Muhammad</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iftikhar Dadi</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ihsan Ul-Ithhisam Chappagan</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikram Ullah Durani</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilanit Loewy Shacham</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilqua Lutfi</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilsa Abdul Razzak</td>
<td>34, 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imran Ali Sultan</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indira Arumugam</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indivar Jonnalagadda</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indrani Chatterjee</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indunil Dharmasiri</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iqra Saleem</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iqra Shagufta Cheema</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irfan Waheed Usmani</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irfan Zuberi</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Huacuja Alonso</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Salovaara</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isha Bhallamudi</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishan Meandru</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishanika Sharma</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>István Keul</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iva Patel</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Wilson</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Barton Scott</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Mark Kenoyer</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Hawley</td>
<td>43, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Stephenson</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaideep Pandey</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaita Talukdar</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamal Jones</td>
<td>3, 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Staples</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janaki Phillips</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janani Mandayam Comar</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Lynch</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Leoshko</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Cons</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Ludden</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Schwarz</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Smith</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayati Ghosh</td>
<td>5, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazmin Graves</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Marecek</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Redding</td>
<td>28–29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Pruitt</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiya Pandya</td>
<td>53, 63, 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Evans</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Caldwell</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cort</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Rogers</td>
<td>25, 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Keune</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Edelmann</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Peterson</td>
<td>35, 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Spencer</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph A. Marino III</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jude Lucksiri Fernandez</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Stephens</td>
<td>31, 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Vig</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Henry</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Smolin</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajri Jain</td>
<td>33, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaleemullah Lashari</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalpana Mohanty</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalpesh Bhatt</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalyani Ramnath</td>
<td>3, 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalakiran Vinjamuri</td>
<td>5, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamil Ahsan</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamran Asdar Ali</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanwal Ejaz</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanwaljit Singh</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kareem Khubchandani</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Pechilis</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

51st Annual Conference on South Asia
Karin Zitzewitz 29
Kartik Nair 86
Kartika Budhwar 65
Katharine Adeney 83
Katherine Butler Schofield 63
Katherine Ewing 46
Kathleen Fernando 25, 100
Kaushalya Herath 53
Keerti Pendyal 92
Kei Nagaoka 67
Khalid Iqbal 81
Khan Shairani 56
Kim Fernandes 32, 53, 63
Kimberley Fernandes 71
Kimberly Rooney 97
Kimberly Walters 42
Kiran Sunar 83
Koyna Tomar 63, 71
Kripanand Komanapalli 42
Krishnendu Pal 66
Kristen Thomas-McGill 89
Kristen Zipperer 85
Kristin Scheible 25
Kristina Hodelin-ter Wal 45
Kriti Budhiraja 60
Krupa Shandilya 39, 58
Kuhu Tanvir 88
Kunnakudi Balamurali Krishna 5, 18

L

Labanya Unni 58
Laboni Bhattacharya 78
Lamia Karim 33
Larry McCrea 40
Laura Brueck 96
Lauren Ruhnke 29
Lawrence McCrea 87
Leah Comeau 27, 50
Leilah Vevaina 49
Leonard Hodges 76
Leya Mathew 45
Lisa Mitchell 42
Lisa Weems 55
Liyu Hua 80
Longhao Tang 75
Lotte Hoek 88
Lucian Wong 41
Lucinda Ramberg 28
Lucy Merkel 3
Luke Whitmore 75

M

Madhuri Deshmukh 43
Madiha Tahir 91
Madison Comella 73
Magna Mohapatra 97
Mahmood Kooria 34
Mahvish Ahmad 100
Maira Hayat 86
Malavika Kasturi 35
Malini Sur 91
Malvya Chintakindi 59
Manasicha Akepiyapornchai 40, 87
Manasvin Rajagopalan 63
Manasvini Rajan 79
Manjari Mukherjee 71
Mansi Bajaj 83
Mara Green 32
Margherita Trento 27
Mariam Mufti 94
Mark McClish 68
Mark Whitaker 54
Martha Ann Selby 55, 100
Maryam Wasif Khan 3
Mashal Saif 56
Matt Shutzer 99
Matthew Hull 94
Matthew Robertson 75
Max Bruce 30
Max Katz 44
Md Abdullah All Shakil 57
Md Abdur Rahman 100
Md Asaduzzaman 67, 92
Md Mianzur Rahman 59
Md. Mahmudul Hasan 26
Meena Menon 70
Meena Murugesan 37
Meenakshi N Ambujam 70
Meenakshi Nair 99
Meenu Deswal 84
Megan Eaton Robb 38
Megan Robb 68
Megha Anwer 88
Megha Malik 73
Meghna Chaudhuri 86
Megnaa Mehta 76, 94
Mehak Khan 101
Meheli Sen 88
Mehlab Jameel 28
Mehr Farooqi 3
Meshal Amin 64
Mian Ahmed Kabir 81
Michael Allen 87
Michael Gates 87
Michael Kugelman 94
Michael Skinner 56
Michele Friedner 32
Michelle Michael-Kang 59
Mila Samdub 81
Mitra Sharafi 54
Mittia Nath 64
MM Azizul Islam Rasel 84
Mohammad Khan 71
Mohammad Nabeel Jafri 46
Mohammad Waqas Sajjad 61
Mohimarnab Biswas 71
Mohit Manohar 45
Mona Bhan 99
Monika Bhagat-Kennedy 99
Morgan Dietz 95
Morgan J Curtis 40
Mortaza Hassani 85
Mrinalini Sinha 89
Mudit Trivedi 93
Mueezuddin Hakal 98
Muhammad Hameed 98
Muhammad Zaheer 81
Munjulika Rahman Tarah 37
Murad Khan Mumtaz 44, 56
Mustahid Husain 96
Mythri Jegathesan 59
N
Nabanipa Majumder 78
Nabanjan Maitra 86
Nabhojeet Sen 82
Nadia Augustyniak 45
Nadia Hassan 100
Nadine Shaanta Murshid 26, 47
Naeem Mohaiemen 26
Nafis Hasan 81
Nafisa Tanjeem 26
Nahid Siddiqui 36
Naimi Patel 57
Naisargi Dave 35
Namita Dharia 24
Namita Sugandhi 93
Nandita Punj 70
Nasrin Khandoker 26
Natalie Sarrazin 58
Nathan McGovern 80
Nathan Tabor 30, 44
Naveed Usman 87
Naveeda Khan 26, 76
Naveena Naqvi 68
Navine Murshid 26, 91
Nayma Qayum 26
Nayma Quayum 26
Nazia Hussein 47
Nazmul Sultan 89
Neelabh Gupta 84
Neepa Majumdar 88
Neerja Pathak 53
Neil DeVotta 54
Neilesh Bose 31, 84
Nico Millman 53
Nicole Ranganath 83
Nida Kirmani 51
Nidhi Shrivastava 54
Nigar Sultana 92
Niharika Yadav 82
Nikhil Menon 83
Nikita Simpson 94
Nildeep Paul 90
Nimisha Thakur 79
Nipesh Palat Narayanan 51, 77
Nishant Beniwal 97
Nishita Trisal 94, 99
Nitin Govil 33
Nivetha Karthikeyan 63
Noble Shrivastava 66
Nomaan Hasan 94
Nusrat Chowdhury 89
O
Oishani Sengupta 85
Omar Khan 46
P
Pallavi Raonka 90
Pallavi Sriram 36
Papia Sengupta 96
Parag Jyoti Saikia 57
Paras Arora 57
Parboti Roy 58
Pariroo Rattan 81
Index

Paromita Vohra 88
Parvez Rahaman 59, 85
Pasha Khan 63
Patricia Barton 55
Patton Burchett 43
Paul Donnelly 98
Paulomi Sharma 89
Pavitra Sundar 58
Payal Hathi 63
Payel Ray 46
Pearly Wong 80
Phusathi Liyanaarachchi 25
Pika Ghosh 41
Pinaki Chandra 91
Pooja Venkatesh 67
Poushali Bhadury 85
Prabhakar Vellore Nandagopal 61
Pradeep Sangapala 99
Pranav Prakash 38
Prasanta Dhar 69
Praseeda Gopinath 88
Prashanth Kuganathan 89
Prateek Srivastava 59
Prathik Murali 40
Pratichi Priyambada 66
Pratiti Ketoki 46
Praveen Tilakaratne 25
Preethi Ramaprasad 40
Preeti Chopra 69
Preeti Singh 52
Premalatha Thiagarajan 36
Premlata Vaishnava 48
Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi 55
Priti Narayan 51
Priya Jain 24
Priya Joseph 24
Priyadarshi Amar 79
Priyadarshini Shanker 52
Priyam Singapore 53
Priyanjali Mitra 64
Priyanka Zylstra 73
Priyasha Kaul 70
Purbasha Das 52
Purnima Dhavan 34, 44, 87
Pushkar Sohoni 93

Q
Qazi Arka Rahman 96
Quinn Clark 62

R
Rabeya Khatun 92
Rabia Aslam 49
Rachel Berger 3
Rachel Sturman 24
Radha Kapuria 83
Radhika Govindarajan 35
Radhika Govindarajan 33, 60, 68
Radhika Radhakrishnan 63
Radhika Saraf 91
Rahat Iqbal 81
rahma Prakash 36
Rajbir Judge 68
Rajesh Veeraraghavan 60
Rakesh Kumar 36
Raktim Ray 77
Rama Mantena 42, 89
Ramya Sreenivasan 34
Ranbir Johal 83
Randall W. Law 75
Randeep Hothi 99
Ranganthan Gowthaman 29
Raphaelle Khan 85
Rasel Ahmed 28
Rashid Ali Zafar 78
Rashmi Sadana 62
Rebecca Manring 41, 70
Rebecca Peters 71
Reetu Pradhan 90
Richard Wolf 22
Rick Weiss 38
Rikhil Bhavnani 3
Rini Bhattacharya Mehta 62
Risham Parmar 3
Rishav Kumar Thakur 29
Rithika Kumar 79
Ritika Arora 55
Ritu Ghosh 71
Rituparna Mitra 47
Robayt M Khondoker 97
Robert Czyzykowski 41
Rohan D’Souza 60
Rohini Shukla 35
Ronit Ghosh 77
Ronojoy Sen 57
Ross Bernhaut 50
Roy S Fischel 45
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Royona Mitra</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubaiya Murshed</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubayat Jesmin</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruma Sinha</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumya Putcha</td>
<td>36–37, 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushnai Kabir</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Ibameri Kharbamon</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutuja Deshmukh</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Persadie</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samee Siddiqui</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sameer Chaturvedi</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samitha Senanayake</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sana Aiyar</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sana Malik Noon</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanam Roohi</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sananda Sahoo</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandeep Banerjee</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandipto Dasgupta</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Chatterjee</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandya Hewamanna</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanghamitra Das</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanniah Jabeen</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Beckham</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Besky</td>
<td>97, 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Carson</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Lamb</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Mohler</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Pinto</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Suhail</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Waheed</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardar Hussain</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarover Zaidi</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satyanarayana</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saumya Lal</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sayak Roy</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sayan Bhattacharyya</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian Krueger</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sehba Sarwar</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Freedman-Peel</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabeeh Rahat</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahana Ghosh</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahana Munazir</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahana Sheikh</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaho Tamding</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shahwar Kibria Maqhv</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shailaja Paik</td>
<td>37, 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakir Ullah</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalini Ayagari</td>
<td>33, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalini Iyengar</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaman Hatley</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamini Kothari</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shandana Waheed</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandip Saha</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanel Khaliq</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantanu Kulshreshth</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantanu Nevrekar</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanti Pillai</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharanya Dutta</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shariya Thiranagama</td>
<td>5, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharmeen Mehri</td>
<td>38, 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shatrunjay Mall</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheema Khawar</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheetal Digari</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheetala Bhat</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shehla Rahim</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SherAli Tareen</td>
<td>35, 61, 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shibaneet Sivanayagam</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikha Jinghan</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiv Subramanian</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shobna Nijhawan</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shozab Raza</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shreya Hari Nurani</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shreya Singh</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shriya Patnaik</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shruti Parthasarathy</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shruti Patel 31, 56
Shruti Vaidya 32
Shubha Ranganathan 32
Shubhangni Gupta 52, 57
Shumona Dasgupta 71
Siddharth Menon 24
Siddharth Sridhar 60
Sidra Kamran 51
Sikandar Maitra Kumar 99
Sinjini Chatterjee 66
Sirsha Nandi 100
Sitara Thobani 36
Smyta Yadav 71
Sneha Annavarapu 42, 51
Sneha Chavali 87
Sneha Gole 88
Snehal Sharma 57
Snigdha Kumar 60
Soheb Ur Rahman Niazi 82
Sohini Pillai 40
Sohini Sarah Pillai 40
Sonal Sharma 59
Sonam Kachru 94
Sonia Amin 64, 84
Sonia Das 89
Sonja Thomas 36–37
Sophia Zehra Abbas 77
Sounak Dutta 48
Sravani Kanamarlapudi 43
Sravanthi Dasari 42
Srerupa Bhattacharya 46
Srilata Raman 40, 93
Srinanda Ganguly 50
Srishthi Sankaranarayanan 76
Stephanie Duclos-King 69
Stephanie Majcher 56
Stephen Graf 90
Steven Hopkins 40, 100
Steven Vose 77
Subah Dayal 45
Subho Basu 5, 16, 84
Sucheta Choudhuri 90
Sucheta Kanjilal 77
Sudhir Mahadevan 71
Sudipta Sen 76
Sudipto Basu 64
Sujatha Subramanian 88
Sujit Sivasundaram 25
Sumathi Ramaswamy 69
Sumera Saleem 83
Sumit Guha 60
Sumudu Atapattu 54
Supurna Dasgupta 52
Suraj Yengde 96
Sushant Kumar 55
Sushmita Banerji 95
Sushmita Sircar 47
Sushumna Kannan 43
Suvaid Yaseen 99
Suzanne Persad 36
Swapna Sharma 98
Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai 95
Swati Dyahadroy 88
Swayam Bagaria 94
Sweta Xess 59
Sydney-Paige Patterson 64
Syed Baqar Mehdi Rizvi 30
Syed Eisar Haider 92
Syed Shiraz Ali 58
Syeda Jenifa Zahan 51

Taha Rauf 79
Tahreem Fatima 55
Talia Ariav 82
Tania Sarfraz 78
Tanika Sarkar 39
Tanmoy Sharma 94
Tanuj Luthra 70
Tanushree Sharma 78
Tara Quinn 59
Tarinee Awasthi 87
Tarjanee Parmar 64
Tashi Ghale 74
Tatsuro Fujikura 90
Taveeshi Singh 48
Tayeba Batool 62
Teresa Raczek 93
Teri Allendorf 3
Thakshala Tissera 25, 70
Theresia Hofer 32
Thomas Newbold 89
Thomas Oommenn 24
Thomas Seibel 64
Thomas Trautmann 60
Tiantian Cai 80
Timothy Lubin 68
Titus De Sarkar 35
Index

Tony Stewart 70
Torsten Tschacher 27
Trevor Birkenholtz 60
Trichy Sankaran 5, 19
Tulasi Srinivas 43
Tulika Singh 53
Tyler Williams 70, 77

Varun Panickar 77
Varun Varun Karekure-Ramachandra 79
Vatsal Naresh 53
Vidyamali Samarasinghe 54
Vijaya Nagarajan 75
Vikrant Dadawala 99
Vipin Krishna 82
Vipulya Chari 64
Viren Murthy 2–3
Vishal Khandelwal 52
Vishal Sharma 40
Vishala Parmasad 92
Vivek V. Narayan 31, 47
Vrinda Marwah 60

Wafa Hamid 51
Wajiha Naqvi 63
Waqas Irshad 78
Wilfried Swenden 83
William Belcher 68

Yash Sharma 57
Yashada Wagle 24
Yasmin Saikia 84
Younus Muhammad 56
Yuko Takamichi 60

Zafar Iqbal 81
Zafar Ullah 80
Zahra Sabri 61
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