

South Asia Newsletter

Centre of South Asian Studies (CSAS)
www.soas.ac.uk/csas/



No 63

April 2006

Spring greetings!

I would like to thank all who supported the weekly screenings of off-beat Indian cinema and the occasional seminar last term. We hope to provide you with similar offerings this term.

As is usual for this time of year, the conference season is upon us. SOAS was well represented in the just-concluded conference of the British Association of South Asian Studies, and seems set to make its presence felt also in the European Association of South Asian Studies Conference in Leiden in June 2006. We will keep you informed via our electronic distribution list.

I am happy to inform you that the Centre has entered into an institutional relationship with the Australian National University, well-known for its long and deep interest in South Asia. Over the next year, we shall explore the possibilities opened by this new arrangement.

I join other members of the Centre in congratulating our previous Chair, Dr Rachel Dwyer, on the publication of her much-celebrated and widely reviewed volume on Indian cinema, details of which are available on the School's webpage.

Best wishes,

Subir Sinha
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS

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Dr Stuart BLACKBURN
Mr Ramesh Kumar DHUNGEL
Ghulam MURSHID

SOAS SEMINARS**Department of Study of Religions**

Monday 24 April 2006

6.00pm

Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS

9th Dasturji Dr Kutar Memorial Lecture

The Rangoon Navjote Case (1914-245): adventures in Parsi legal history

Dr Mitra Sharafi, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge

The Parsi Panchayat case (1906-8) on the admission of juddins into the Parsi Zoroastrian community is well known and much discussed in the Parsi community today. Much less is known about its successor, the Rangoon navjote case of Saklat v Bella (1914-25). In that case, an Indian girl adopted by Rangoon Parsis tried to assert the right to be initiated into the Parsi Zoroastrian community. Bella's case was appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London. It represents the most extensive judicial investigation of Parsi identity of the colonial period.

All welcome

Department of Art and Archaeology

Friday 12 May 2006

5.00pm

Venue: Room G52, Main Building, SOAS

Cinema, sexualities and censorship in India
Brinda Bose

Futher information please contact em4@soas.ac.uk

Centre of South Asian Studies

Wednesday, 26 April 2006

5.00pm

Venue: Room G52, Main Building, SOAS

Title: 'Ethnic politics and conflict in Balochistan'.
Speaker: Senator Sanamullah Baloch, Member of Senate of Pakistan, Balochistan National Party

All are Welcome (seminars are free and open to the public). Booking is not required.

For further information please contact: Jonathan Goodhand on jg27@soas.ac.uk or Jane Savory on js64@soas.ac.uk (Tel: 020 7898 4892).

100 Bollywood Films by Rachel Dwyer

A new book by SOAS academic Dr Rachel Dwyer has proved a hit with its home audience, the scores of Bollywood fans around the world. The book, entitled '100 Bollywood Films' has sparked lively debate about those films that merit a place in the top 100 and sales both in the UK and in India reflect the passion that cinema-goers have for the films under discussion. UK newspaper The Observer described the book as 'an excellent and quirky anthology if you are interested in Hindi movies - and a good starting point if you aren't and want to be'.



Dr Dwyer, Reader in Indian Studies and Cinema at SOAS, has her next book entitled 'Filming the Gods: Religion and Hindi Cinema' coming out with Routledge in June 2006. '100 Bollywood Films' (British Film Institute) is available from www.amazon.co.uk and is published by Roli in India.

WORKING WITH INDIA ONE-DAY SEMINAR AT SOAS

SOAS Interface

Friday, 26 May 2006

9.30 am - 4.30 pm

Room 116, Main Building, SOAS

Programme

9.20 am	Welcome and Introduction, coffee
9.30-11.00	Indian History and Culture Key milestones in Indian history History's influence on present-day India Professor David Arnold, Department of History, SOAS
11.00-11.15	Break
11.15-12.45	Social, Economic and Cultural situation in India today Background: planned economic development in India 1950-91 Reform and liberalisation, 1991-2004 Poverty, politics and regional diversity Dr Matthew McCartney, Department of Economics, SOAS
12.45-2.00	Buffet Lunch
2.00-4.00	Doing Business in India Business relations between India and the UK Attitudes and behaviour Indian business etiquette Business relationships Language and communication Negotiating with the Indians Common problems
4.00-4.10	Break
4.10-4.30	Q & A session Julian Stretch, OBE

One-day open seminar for people who have regular work-related dealings with India and would benefit from an increased awareness of the historical, economic, cultural and social aspects which are key to operating in this environment.

Ticket Prices:

£325 per person

Discount available for charities/ NGOs, university staff.

For further information please contact:

Louise Roberts

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7898 4837

Email: lr16@soas.ac.uk

The Music Forum (Mumbai) Award

Richard Widdess, Professor of Musicology, Department of Music, SOAS, receives the The Music Forum (Mumbai) Award for Contributions to India Music by a Non-Indian Personality. Presented by Mr K.S. Sarma, Chief Executive, All India Radio and Television.



Mumbai, 13 January 2006

JAINISM AND MODERNITY 9TH JAINA STUDIES WORKSHOP AT SOAS

**Jainism and Society, 22-23 March 2007
Conference Report**

Please note that the diacritics in this report have been lost.

The 8th international Jaina Studies Workshop at SOAS was funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of the research project on Jaina Law and Identity at SOAS. The conference was opened with the launch of *Studies in Jaina History and Culture: Disputes and Dialogues* a voluminous collection of selected papers of previous Jaina Studies Workshops at SOAS between 1999 and 2003. It is the first volume of the new series *Routledge Advances in Jaina Studies* which will serve as the principal publication medium for future conference proceedings. The second volume of the series, a monograph by Paul Dundas, will appear later this year.

The conference addressed the question how Jain culture reproduces itself socially, sandwiched as it is today between a thin layer of Jain mendicants and lay virtuosi and society as a whole. What are the main features of Jain culture, society, and law? And how are social identities constructed and perpetuated? The thought provoking keynote lecture by Johannes Bronkhorst of the University of Lausanne, 'Jainism, window on early India', argued that Jainism, far from being an offshoot of Vedic religion, originated in the latter part of the first millennium BCE in the altogether different surroundings of 'Greater Magadha', where an independent sramana culture of Nigghanthas (Jains), Ajivikas, Buddhist and others prevailed which may have been infiltrated by individual Brahmins but not yet dominated by Brahmin culture.

The second day of the conference began with an art historical paper by Robert J. Del Bonta from San Francisco ('From Herodotus onwards: descriptions of unidentified Jainas') on images of Jains in 16th and 17th century European literature, especially in Bernard Picart's (1673-1733) monumental work *Ceremonies et coutumes religieuses*. The presented evidence suggested 'that although not seen as a fully separate

religion, the Jainas were considered [by Europeans] a special group from the earliest times'.

Dharma Chandra Jain of the University of Jodhpur then spoke on 'The concept of society in Jainism' in canonical and medieval Jain literature. Using examples, he highlighted the individual centred, atomistic view of society in Jain depictions of social intercourse and the predominance of ethical considerations.

The following paper by Satya Ranjan Banerjee of the University of Calcutta, 'Jain society in the reign of Jain kings', gave a comprehensive overview of the social conditions of the Jains of India in the reigns of the South Asian kings from the times of Mahavira onwards on the basis of inscriptions and textual evidence.

Sushil Jain of Assumption University in Canada addressed the 'Jaina contribution to the science of polity with respect to Somadeva's Nitivakyamrtam', a famous 10th century Digambara Jain Sanskrit text on kingship, or rajadharma. The wide-ranging paper argued that the text has been somewhat misunderstood by scholars who focused exclusively on the depiction of legitimate war in the text.

The next lecture by Hampa Nagarajaiah from the University of Bangalore used case material from literature and inscriptions in medieval Karnataka to illustrate the importance of the institution of sastradana, the donation of scripture, for the reproduction of Jain culture, which cannot rely on rituals and social customs alone. He focused on the donations of the 10th century 'great woman' (mahasata) Attimabbe, and showed rare photographs of the once single surviving manuscript of Puspadanta and Bhutabali's 2nd - 3rd century CE Prakrit text Satkhandagama, one of the most important Digambara treatises which is kept in the monastery (matha) of the bhattaraka of Mudabidri in coastal Karnataka. The 12th century palm leaf manuscript was virtually inaccessible and its contents unknown until a copy was smuggled out in 1896-1916, and later published by with a Hindi translation by Hiralal Jain between 1939 and 1958.

Kornelius Krumpelmann of the University of Munster

concluded the morning session with an impressive lecture on 'The Sthanangasutra: An encyclopaedic text of the Svetambara canon'. He described the contents and the literary style of the work, its time of origin and its authorship, and showed convincingly through a linguistic analysis that the earliest commentary on the Sthanangasutra, composed by Abhayadevasuri in 1063 CE, misinterpreted the structure of the text in terms of the then fashionable naya theories rather than recognising it as an incoherent and simply numbered list of items for educational purposes.

The first part of the conference was mainly historical and textually oriented, while the second part was concerned with contemporary Jainism and Jains. The paper of Werner Menski (SOAS) on 'Jaina law as a natural law system' introduced a new theoretical model which combines three different kinds of rules - state, social, ethical/moral/religious - to generate subtle analytical types for the description of natural legal systems such as Jain law from the point of view of legal pluralism. It argued that the 'identity postulate' inherent in Jaina law makes it recognisable as a natural law system.

Peter Flugel's (SOAS) contribution ('Jaina law and the Jain community') presented an extended case study of the controversial recent judgement of the Supreme Court of India which rejected Jain 'minority' status on the grounds that many Jains prefer to be categorised as part of the 'Hindu' majority. It showed, on the basis of an analysis of historical Jain newspapers, that self-categorisations vary contextually and according to social and sectarian background; and how 'Jainism' and 'Jaina law' were intentionally constructed by liberal Jain communalists to maximise the political and social influence of the Jains in the colonial period, though the structure of Jain society can be better understood as a network of small and often ephemeral groups observing a variety of customs rather than as a single corporate ('ethnic') group or 'community', irrespective of official legal definitions.

Ravindra K. Jain of the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi analysed a recent case of Jain factionalism in his lecture 'Religious response to social unrest: the rise of the Kanji Svami sect in contemporary Jainism'. He argued that the split that was caused by Kanji

Svami within the contemporary Digambaras can be understood in terms of anthropological theories of the rise of millenarian movements in periods of social unrest.

The paper of Ulrich Oberdiek, from Freiburg, on 'Caste identity of the Agravals in an Uttaranchal market town' analysed the mixed Jain-Hindu religious structure of the Agravala caste, and suggested on the basis of field observations that life-style preferences based on family tradition and personal inclination are more important for identity choices than caste.

Jitendra B. Shah of the L.D. Institute of Indology in Ahmedabad then presented a detailed historical overview of 'Jain societies in Ahmedabad', a city which is often called 'the capital of the Jainas', and highlighted historical contexts of specific institutional developments.

The penultimate paper of the conference on 'Bodies of renunciation and ethical bodies: situating ethical discourses among Jains' by Anne Vallely of the University of Ottawa analyses the construction of Jain social identity in the contemporary Jain diaspora from the point of view of the individual and focused on the body as the principal site of Jain ethical discourse and on the symbolical importance of vegetarianism: 'You are what you eat'.

The conference closed with the lecture of Julia A. B. Hegewald of the University of Heidelberg on 'Domes, tombs and minarets: Islamic influences on Jaina architecture' which demonstrated with the help of slides that there are a large number of Jaina religious structures throughout India which closely resemble Muslim mosque and tomb architecture; an issue which provoked an interesting discussion at the end of an enjoyable and informative conference, whose Jain food (SOAS style) was appreciated by some two hundred scholars, students and Jains from all over the world.

Peter Flugel
Chair, Centre of Jaina Studies, SOAS

CENTRE OF JAINA STUDIES, SOAS

SOAS is presently the only University outside India which offers regular stand-alone courses on Jainism. It therefore attracts a considerable number of students and researchers from Europe, the United States, and Japan who have no opportunity to study the subject elsewhere, especially in combination with specialised language classes and/or courses in History, Art & Archaeology, Law and the Social Sciences. Notably, many Jains from Britain and India also enrol at SOAS to study Jainism.



Cover photo on newsletter: Ingrid Schoon

The Centre of Jaina Studies (CoJS) publishes a monograph series (Routledge Advances in Jaina Studies), the first online journal in Jaina Studies (International Journal of Jain Studies), and an archive of Digital Jain Resources, which is published on the Website of the Centre. These initiatives were financed through successful bids for competitive research grants, notably the current AHRB funded project at SOAS on Jaina Law and the Jaina Community in India and Britain.

The Centre of Jaina Studies has launched its own newsletter in March 2006.

For further information about the Centre of Jaina Studies please contact:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/jainastudies>

Email jainastudies@soas.ac.uk

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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, SOAS

South Indian singing

Date: July 10-Aug 4

Time: Tues & Thurs 4-6pm

Fee: £130 (concessionary fee £91)

This four week intensive course is designed to give experienced singers the opportunity to explore and learn the foundations of South Indian classical music (Carnatic music). The two main musical components of Carnatic music are raga (modal system) raga and tala (metrical system). The words in Carnatic music are largely devotional: bhakti or devotion to god is the most important aspect of this music. The repertoire includes compositions of Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Syama Sastri, Purandaradasa, Swati Tirunal and many other poet-composers, which are performed by both vocalists and instrumentalists. The course will introduce concepts, exercises and representative compositions in a variety of forms.

Course Leader

Nandini M. Kalaimamani was initially trained under her grand father Shri. V. Lakshminarayana and now she is under the tutelage of her mother Mrs. Subbulakshmi Muthuswamy. She was also trained vocally under the doyen of carnatic music 'Padma Vibhushan' Dr. Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

Experience

In any music system is desirable.

South Indian classical violin

Date: July 10-Aug 4

Time: Mon & Wed 4-6pm

Fee: £130 (concessionary fee £91)

This four week intensive course is designed to give experienced violinists the opportunity to explore and learn the foundations of South Indian classical music (Carnatic music). The two main musical components of Carnatic music are raga (modal system) and tala (metrical system). The words in Carnatic music are largely devotional: bhakti or devotion to god is the most important aspect of this music. The repertoire includes compositions of Saint Tyagaraja, Muthuswamy Dikshitar and Syama Sastri, Purandaradasa, Swati Tirunal and many other poet-composers, which are performed by both vocalists and instrumentalists. The course will introduce concepts, exercises and representative compositions in a variety of forms.

Course Leader

Nandini M. Kalaimanani is regarded as a highly imaginative virtuoso violinist. She has been applauded by both connoisseurs and laymen alike for her original and unique style, known to be replete with ragabhava. She specializes in playing varnams in five grades of tempo and in playing kalpana svaras in three grades of speed, which is a prominent and unique feature of her style.

Nandini has received several prizes, awards and titles from various organizations in recognition of her talent and dedication in the field of South Indian Classical Music, including the Gold Medal awarded by His Holiness Shri Shankaracharya Swamigal of Kanchi Kamakoti Pectam for securing first place in the state violin competition.

Instruments

Cannot be provided, please bring your own violin.

Experience

You are required to have Grade 7 violin or above to participate on this course.

For further information please contact:

Sareata Ginda

Tel: 020 7898 4515

Email: sg@soas.ac.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCE

'The Independence of India and Pakistan: Sixtieth Anniversary Reflections.'

The Hartley Library, which houses the Mountbatten papers, in conjunction with the Centre for the Study of Britain and its Empire at the University of Southampton seeks paper proposals for a conference entitled, 'The Independence of India and Pakistan: Sixtieth Anniversary Reflections.' The conference will be held at the Avenue Campus, University of Southampton on 17-20 July 2007.

The event will be divided into panel discussion and keynote plenary lectures. Papers will be of 30 minutes duration followed by question. The following people have already agreed to participate: Gyanendra Pandey, Urvashi Butalia, Gurharpal Singh, Akbar S. Ahmed, Joya Chatterji, Victoria Schofield, Sten Widmalm and Sikandar Hayat.

Proposals for panel papers will be especially welcome in the following areas:

- The 'high politics' of the British departure from India
- The 'history from beneath' of the British departure from India
- Historiography, historical discourses and memory
- Independence and partition in film and literature
- Region, locality and partition
- The legacies of 1947 for nation building and state construction in India and Pakistan
- Diasporic narratives on 1947

Proposals including a working title and 250 word abstract should be sent by 1 September 2006 to:

Professor Ian Talbot

Department of History, University of Southampton
at iat@soton.ac.uk

The full line-up of papers will be confirmed by 1 October 2006. Full length papers will be required by 1 May 2007.

It is anticipated that only limited funds will be available to cover the costs of paper givers from the subcontinent.

THE 19TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

27 till 30 June 2006
Leiden, the Netherlands.

The European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS) is held every two years. The last edition was held in June 2004 in Lund.

The ECMSAS is one of the largest gatherings of South Asia oriented researchers in Europe, covering all fields from the humanities and social sciences to technology, natural sciences and medicine.

The Organizing Committee

The 19th ECMSAS 2006 conference is hosted and organized by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)

Registration Deals

All participants (panel organizers, paper presenters and participants) have to pay the registration fee.

The conference fee includes:

One registration, coffee and tea during the session breaks, a programme book and collection of abstracts, access to the available full papers on the conference website, entrance to all conference activities (lectures, receptions, and one conference dinner) and a conference bag.

Registration Procedure

After 1 March it is only possible to register as participant.

To participate in the conference without presenting a paper please send an email with your registration details to:

ecmsas2006@let.leidenuniv.nl

For further information please visit:

<http://www.easas.org/>

The programme will be scheduled as follows:

Monday, 26 June 2006:

12.00-17.00 Registration in Room 030 of the Lipsius Building

Tuesday, 27 June 2006:

09.00 - 13.00 Registration for late arrivals in Room 030 of the Lipsius Building

11.00 - 12.30 Opening and Keynote Speech in the Grand Auditorium, Academy Building of Leiden University

Word of Welcome
and

Keynote lecture by Prof. Sujata Patel (University of Pune, Department of Sociology): Is there a South Asia? Beyond Colonial Modernity and its Binaries

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 18.00 Session 1

Wednesday, 28 June 2006:

8.30 - 12.30 Session 2

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 18.00 Session 3

19.00 - 21.30 Conference dinner

Thursday, 29 June 2006:

8.30 - 12.30 Session 4

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 18.00 Session 5

18.15-19.00 Plenary Session

Friday 30 June 2006:

8.30 - 12.30 Session 6

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 18.00 Session 7

18.15 - 19.15 Business Meeting and Closure in Room 011 of the Lipsius Building

All panels will be held in the Lipsius Building or the adjacent Johan Huizinga Building.

There will be 11 parallel rooms available for the panels, leaving 77 sessions. Some panels may consist of double sessions (only upon request). Each panel session consists of at least 4 papers and a coffee/tea break is scheduled at 10.30 and 16.00 each day.

The schedule of presentations for each panel is arranged by the panel organizers of the respective panels.

SOUTH ASIAN RESEARCH

South Asia Research is an interdisciplinary area journal for the South Asia region, now published by Sage Publications in London and edited by Werner Menski. The topics covered include modern and pre-modern history, politics, economics, anthropology, literary and visual culture, language and literature. Its primary aim is to give rapid access to current research work and to provide opportunities for publication to research students as well as to established scholars. In addition to reports of research in progress and book reviews, review articles are welcome. South Asia Research also publishes 'thought pieces' and interpretative essays that address issues and problems arising from new research.

SAR now appears three times a year and is available electronically through SAGE, which has led to a much larger readership for the journal, as access figures demonstrate.

SAR is available on line at
<http://sar.sagepub.com/>

SAR 26.1 was published in February 2006 and had the following contents:**Articles**

Narrativizing Oppression and Suffering: Theorizing Slavery
 Sanal MOHAN

Indian Nurses in the Gulf: Two Generations of Female Migration
 Marie PERCOT

Colonian Agrarian Policies in the Tribal Areas of Madras Presidency: 1872-1947
 Velayutham SARAVANAN

SAR 26.2 will appear in July and has the following contents:**Articles**

Whose Homeland? Territoriality and Religious Nationalism in Pre-Partition Bengal
 Reece JONES

Luso-british Co-operation In India: A Portuguese Frigate In The Service Of A British Expedition
 Shantha HARIHARAN

Women Activists In Indian Diaspora: Making Interventions And Challenging Impediments
 Neelu KANG

The Bolshevik Menace: Colonial Surveillance And The Origins Of Socialist Politics In Calcutta
 Suchetana CHATTOPADHYAY

Betrayal Of Trust: Princely States Of India And The Transfer Of Power
 Yaqoob Khan BANGASH

Review Article

Ashok PANKAJ
 Francine R. Frankel, India's Political Economy 1947-2004: The Gradual Revolution.

(2nd ed. New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2005), xx + 819 pp.

Details are available from SAGE Publications

Oliver's Yard, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1SP, UK;

Sage Publications Inc, 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA

or

Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., Post Box 4215, New Delhi 110048, India.

Email subscription@sagepub.co.uk

Website: <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/home.aspx>

CALL FOR PAPERS DANCE MATTERS

The School of Media, Communication and Culture at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India is pleased to announce a two-day symposium titled Dance Matters on August 10-11 2006. This symposium proposes to bring to the forefront innovative approaches that have placed dance at the center of scholarly research on body, ritual, culture, identity, history, gender, and power. Selected papers from the symposium will be published in a book.

Dance is a vital aspect of expressive culture. It embodies the cultural experience and expression of a particular collective identity. Notions of culture, identity, and history are continually re-invented through dance. Indian dance forms have emerged as an important critical lens to analyze narratives of nationalism, transnationalism, women's bodies, and postcolonial politics. Scholarly research on Indian dance forms has spanned disciplines such as Anthropology, Culture studies, Performance studies, Art history, Postcolonial and Feminist studies. The recent formulation of Dance studies as an academic discipline is a result of the increased circulation of various dance forms in the international scholarly and art-culture circuits. This conference will bring scholars and practitioners together on the same platform to evaluate the status of Indian dance forms (ranging from classical, to folk, to Bollywood) in shaping current discourses on culture, tradition, history, identity, human rights and more. The topics to be covered include

- Tradition and Globalization
- Religion and Culture
- Identity and Hybridity
- Gender and Sexuality
- Media and Popular Culture
- Ethnography and Audience
- Dance and Social justice
- Ritual and Aesthetics

Jadavpur University will provide local hospitality for the speakers at the University guesthouse. Sponsored by UGC University with Potential for Excellence Programme: Studies in Cultural Processes.

Please send a brief abstract (350 words) including a title, name, address, email, phone number and institutional affiliation by **April 30, 2006**.

Submit abstracts and direct queries to:

Dr. Nilanjana Gupta, Director
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Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
Email: nilaguptaju@yahoo.com

Dr. Pallabi Chakravorty
Department of Music and Dance
Swarthmore College, Pa 19096, U.S.A
Email: pchakra1@swarthmore.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE CONFERENCE

13th & 14th October 2006

The Asian Studies Graduate Conference at the University of Texas at Austin invites students working on original research projects across disciplines and across traditional academic divisions of Asia, to present their work. The conference will provide graduate students with a dynamic forum in which to present their work and benefit from a scholarly exchange of ideas.

We welcome applications from graduate students in all academic disciplines engaged in research on South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia, and their communities in the diaspora. All areas of study are invited: anthropology, art history, communication, ethnomusicology, history, literature, philology, political science, religion, sociology, women's studies, and other related fields. Work which crosses disciplinary, spatial, and temporal boundaries is encouraged.

In addition to an exciting range of panel presentations and a lecture from two keynote speakers, a more casual program of receptions will provide ample time for less structured discussion and exchange, something essential to bringing together the wider community of students and professors. Selected papers delivered at the conference will be published in the South Asia Graduate Research Journal (SAGAR).

Submission Deadlines for Abstracts: Monday, May 1st, 2006.

Submissions must be made to the Planning Committee via email or post-marked no later than May 1st. Electronic submissions must include the text in the body of the message. Abstracts should be limited to 300 words. Please submit the abstract with personal information, paper title, the author's name, affiliation, panel title (if applicable), address, telephone number, and email address, on a separate page. Presenters are encouraged to form 3- or 4-person panels. Groups submitting panels should send individual abstracts, plus a brief panel abstract, via the same email or envelope and include the panel title.

Panels should be linked by theme. Final papers must not exceed 3000 words, as the maximum reading time is 20 minutes. The Planning Committee reserves the right to accept, reject, or restructure any paper and panel submissions.

Please send abstracts and panel suggestions to:

Email: utascon@uts.cc.utexas.edu

or

Planning Committee

Asian Studies Graduate Conference

The University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies

WCH 4.134 (G9300) Austin

TX 78712

Fax: (512) 471-4469

**INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW RESEARCH CENTRE
Water, Law and the Commons
Workshop**

**8 to 10 December 2006
Delhi, India**

The objectives of the workshop are to provide a platform for discussions concerning some of the most important legal and policy issues arising in the context of ongoing water sector reforms. This workshop is specifically seeking to ensure a broader understanding of the conceptual framework informing existing water law and ongoing law reforms.

Workshop areas

- Section 1: Changing legality of the commons in India - Land, Forests and Water.
- Section 2: Water reforms and legal and institutional restructuring in India .
- Section 3: Water and human rights
- Section 4: Case studies on water restructuring, water reforms, water rights, water users associations.

For further information please contact:

M. Roopa

75 Sidharth Enclave

New Delhi 110 014

+ (91) 11-5595 2322

water@ielrc.org

<http://www.ielrc.org/water/workshops.htm>.

THE SANSKRIT TRADITION IN THE MODERN WORLD (STIMW)

अनु प्रत्नास आयवः पदं नवीयो अक्रमुः
The ancient bards have walked in a newer step – Rg-Veda 9, 23, 2

23rd Annual STIMW Seminar
Fri 26 May 2006 10.45 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Humanities Lime Grove, Room A18, University of Manchester

Programme

10.45-11.10	Coffee and registration
11.15-11.55	Mandakranta Bose (Vancouver) 'What happened to Sita's voice? The Portrayal of Sita in three Bengali Ramayanas'
12.00-12.40	Matthew Clark (SOAS) 'Sankaracarya and the Founding of Four Monasteries'
12.45-1.40	Lunch
1.45-2.25	George Gheverghese Joseph (Manchester) 'Researching Historical Links between Kerala and the Vatican: A Case Study'
2.30-2.45	Hazel Collinson (PhD student Manchester) Research report on consciousness in Vasubandhu
2.45-3.00	STIMW 2007
3.00-3.30	Tea
3.30-4.10	Vivienne Baumfield (Newcastle) Vivekananda's Practical Vedanta and American Pragmatism: influence, support or coincidence?
4.15-4.55	Mark Singleton (Cambridge) 'From Superman to Shaktiman: Nietzsche, Yoga and Spiritual Darwinism'

Fees to cover expenses (including papers to be read before meeting):

£15.00 for participants in permanent salaried posts

£6.00 for others

Lunch is not included in the fee, but is available nearby.

Those unable to attend may have the papers for £6.00

Convenor: Dr Jacqueline Suthren Hirst:
jacqueline.hirst@manchester.ac.uk

Enquiries and registration:

janet.meredith@manchester.ac.uk

Registration deadline: Monday, 15 May 2006

Janet Meredith,

STIMV, Conference Administrator

Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

School of Arts, Histories and Cultures

University of Manchester,

Manchester M13 9PL

Telephone: 0161 275 8950

For further information including directions:

<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/subjectareas/reli-gionstheology/newsevents/stimw/>

SEMINAR

THE INSTITUTE OF COMMONWEALTH STUDIES

Seminar: South Asia Studies

Pakistan: A Culture of Corruption

Speakers: Farzana Shaik, University of Cambridge

Date: Monday 8 May

Time: 17:00 - 18:30

Venue: Menzies & Hancock Rooms (ICwS)

Contact: L.saez@lse.ac.uk

For further details please visit the website at

http://www.sas.ac.uk/events/list/icws_events

**2006 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
WITH IBG**

Wednesday 30 August to Friday 1 September 2006

Conference theme: Global social justice and environmental sustainability

07:30am registration opens
Last session finishes 21:30

Conference Organiser: Kathryn Thomson,
Professional Officer, RGS-IBG

Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR

The Annual International Conference is the largest gathering of scholarly geographers in the UK and also attracts researchers from across the world. Hundreds of papers will be presented, outlining new and cutting-edge geographical research. Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality will open the conference with a presentation on Tuesday 29 August on Multicultural Britain? The lecture is open to all members

Economic liberalisation and technological change in recent decades have increased global interconnections, integration and forms of global governance and exacerbated economic and social inequalities, both within and between societies, environmental degradation and the non-sustainable use of resources.

The overall theme of the conference is to address the connections between globalisation and movements and policies for greater social justice and environmental sustainability. Under this theme a wide range of issues might be addressed including alternative theoretical notions of justice, alternatives to neo-liberal globalisation, rising rates of poverty, theoretical and practical conceptions of human rights, global anti-war and civic movements, environmental and labour movements for

greater justice, debates about trade, about structural adjustment, about the role of NGOs, about multilateral institutions, about the implications of climate change, about rights to water, urban injustices, about the limits to growth, green politics, about difference and diversity and their challenge to universal notions of reason and rights, and many other key contemporary issues.

This theme has been chosen to provide scope both for specialised debates within different areas of geography and for building connections across borders and boundaries, leading to cross-cutting debates between adherents of different positions and those with different research interests.

Member of the RGS-IBG			
	Standard Rate	F/T academic, or Not for Profit employee rate	Postgraduate/reitred rate
Three Days	240	160	90
One Day	199	105	55

Non-Member			
	Standard Rate	F/T academic, or Not for Profit employee rate	Postgraduate/reitred rate
Three Days	270	190	90
One Day	229	130	55

** 20% Late Booking fee (payment after 5 May 2006)

Contact Research and Higher Education Department
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Fax: 020 7591 3001
Email : AC2006@rgs.org
Website: www.rgs.org/AC2006

SOAS BOOKSHOP

The SOAS Bookshop, run by Arthur Probsthain Oriental and African Bookshop, is situated in the Brunei Gallery, SOAS.

It is normally open from 9:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday. It stocks books used at SOAS on the following subjects:

Africa, Anthropology, Central Asia, China, Development Studies, Economics, Ethnomusicology, South Asia, Islam, Japan, Languages, Middle East, Politics, Religion, Southeast Asia, Soas Coursepacks & Publications

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**POLITICS AND LITERATURE IN
CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA
ONE-DAY WORKSHOP**

International Development Centre, University of
Oxford
Tuesday, 23rd May 2006
9.30-5.00

Seminar Room 2
Queen Elizabeth House
Mansfield Road
Oxford
OX1 3TB

Convenor: Prof Barbara Harriss-White
Convenor: Prof. Co-Convenor: Mallarika Sinha Roy
Enquiries: (0)1865-(2)81800
Website: <http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk>

Program

9.30 - 10.30

Speaker: Sarah B. Wilkerson
(Cambridge University)

Title: Hindi Dalit Autobiographies: the personal as political

10.30 - 11.00 (Tea/Coffee)

11.00 - 12.00

Speaker: Manmay Zafar
(Wadham College, Oxford University)

Title: 'Reading' Rushdie in Bangladesh: Non-reading back to the west?

12.00 - 1.00

Speaker: Baidik Bhattacharya
(Wolfson College, Oxford University)

Title: When the Subaltern Speaks: The South Asian Minority and a Book in Britain

1.00 - 2.00 (Lunch)

2.00 - 3.00

Speaker: Avishek Ganguly
(Columbia University)

Title: On some aspects of 20th century Political Theater in India: Reading Utpal Dutt

3.00 - 3.30 (Tea/Coffee)

3.30 - 4.30

Speaker: Rajeswari Sunder Rajan
(Oxford University)

Title: TBA

4.30 - 5.00

Panel Discussion

CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIA STUDIES (CSAS), STAFF MEMBERS

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Philippe CULLET, Lectureship in International Environmental Law

Intellectual Property Protection and Sustainable Development (New Delhi: Butterworths/Lexis-Nexis, 2005).

‘Seeds Regulation, Food Security and Sustainable Development’, 40/32 Economic & Political Weekly (6 August 2005), p. 3607.

Human Rights, Knowledge and Intellectual Property Protection, 11/1 J. Intell. Property Rts (New Delhi) (2006), p. 7.

Dr Peter FLUGEL, Research Assistant
Volume One: Studies in Jaina History and Culture: Disputes and Dialogues, edited by Peter Flugel

International Journal of Jaina Studies (IJJS) ISSN: 1748-1074

Published by the Centre of Jaina Studies, SOAS

The Centre of Jaina Studies at SOAS established the International Journal of Jaina Studies to facilitate academic communication. The main objective of the journal is to publish research papers, monographs, and reviews in the field of Jain Studies in a form that makes them quickly and easily accessible to the international academic community, and to the general public. As an open access online publication the IJJS can be more flexible and creative than a standard print journal. The texts are in pdf-format and can be published and downloaded at virtually no cost.

For the current issue: **The Invention of Jainism: A Short History of Jaina Studies** by Dr Peter Flugel, and for details about submissions, please see:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/ijjs/index.html>

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL

Dr Philippe CULLET, Lectureship in International Environmental Law
Co-coordinator of a three-year research project on water law reforms in India (March 2006-February 2009). More information available at www.ielrc.org/water

Dr Rachel DWYER, Reader in Indian Studies and Cinema
18 to 28 March 06. Visit to Mumbai to attend conference and meetings of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the Indian Film Industry.

Dr William Radice was awarded a D.Litt (Honoris Causa) for his work on Bengali language and literature by Assam University in Silchar (a Bengal-speaking area) at the Eighth Convocation on 11 March 2006.

Dr Werner MENSKI, Professor of South Asian Laws
9 to 19 February 06. Research visit to India.

Dr Caroline OSELLA, Lecturer in Anthropology with reference to South Asia
Going to India and Dubai over easter on research with Malayali migrants to Gulf.

Dr Youngsook PAK, Lecturer in Korean Stud ref to Korean Archaeology
4 to 16 March 06. To deliver a paper on ‘Buddhism’ at an international conference in Mumbai.

Dr William RADICE, Senior Lecturer in Bengali
• 7 to 14 March 06. Visit to Silchar to receive an Honorary D Litt from the University of Assam.
• 25 March to 17 April. To attend a conference in Kolkata; receipt of Honary Fellowship from Bangla Academy Dhaka, and to deliver lectures in Kolkata and Dhaka.

Dr Amina YAQIN, Lecturer in Urdu & Postcolonial Studies
South Asia Humanites Seminar, Harvard University
Friday February 10, 2006 ‘Islamic Barbie: The Politics of Gender and Performativity’.

STAFF NEWS

Promotion to Senior Lecturer:
Faculty of Arts & Humanities
Dr Cosimo Zene

CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (CSAS), SOAS

Since its inception in 1916, the School of Oriental and African Studies has been an important international centre for the study of South Asia. In 1966, the Centre of South Asia Studies was established to co-ordinate the research of the South Asian specialists spread widely throughout SOAS. At present SOAS employs over thirty full-time South Asian specialists in the teaching staff. In addition to a department of South Asian Languages and Cultures, SOAS has South Asia specialists in the departments of Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Music, Religions and Politics. Several South Asian specialists are also based near SOAS in other institutions of the University of London. One floor of the SOAS Library is dedicated to the South Asia collection, overseen by the South Asia librarian and two assistants. The Library continues to develop its web pages relating to South Asian Studies. More than 100 courses on South Asia are taught at SOAS, and many others contain a significant South Asian component. Students may elect for a single-subject South Asia degree, or combine South Asia with a discipline in a two-subject degree. Presently SOAS offers degrees or joint degrees in the following South Asian languages: Bengali, Gujarati, Nepali, Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Tamil and Urdu; some of these languages are also available for MA degrees. All languages, and many other South Asian courses, are also available as one unit within the MA South Asian Area Studies or within the MA South Asian Cultural Studies.

CONTACT DETAILS

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CSAS EMAIL LIST

If you would like to be added to the CSAS mailing list and receive information on the Centres seminars and events please send an email to Jane Savory with the following details:

- CSAS mailing list;
- your email address; and
- your First Name and Surname.

NEXT EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

The South Asia Newsletter is published 3 times a year (end of January, April and September).

The current edition of the Newsletter is available online at: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/csas/>

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

If you would like to receive a paper-based copy of the Newsletter it costs £5 per annual subscription. Further details can be found overleaf.

ARTICLES FOR CONSIDERATION

If you would like to submit materials or announcements for consideration for the next edition of the Newsletter please send Jane Savory (js64@soas.ac.uk) the details in electronic format. The Centre Chair will have the final say on which materials appear in the Newsletter.

Items we would particularly like to receive are:

- Reports on workshops\conferences.
- Details of forthcoming seminars\workshops or other events.
- New publications

We would like to thank readers who have already sent in contributions.

ROUTLEDGE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

New Titles

ROUTLEDGE CRITICAL STUDIES IN BUDDHISM

Buddhism, Conflict and Violence in Modern Sri Lanka

Edited by **Mahinda Deegalle**, Bath Spa University, UK

Prominent scholars in the fields of anthropology, history, Buddhist studies and Pali explore the dilemmas that Buddhism faces in relation to the continuing ethnic conflict and violence in modern Sri Lanka.

Series: *Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism*
March 2006: 234x156: 304pp
Hb: 0-415-35920-1: £75.00



Remaking Buddhism for Medieval Nepal

The Fifteenth-Century Reformation of Newar Buddhism

Will Tuladhar-Douglas,
Aberdeen University, UK

Will Tuladhar-Douglas sheds new light on an important branch of Mahayana Buddhism and establishes the existence, character and causes of a renaissance of Buddhism in the fifteenth century in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal.

Series: *Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism - Oxford Centre for Buddhism Studies*
July 2006: 234x156: 256pp
Hb: 0-415-35919-8: £65.00

Buddhist Nuns in Taiwan and Sri Lanka

A critique of the feminist perspective

Wei-Yi Cheng, Hsuan Chuang University,
Taiwan

Taking a comparative approach, this fieldwork-based study explores the lives and thoughts of Buddhist nuns in present-day Taiwan and Sri Lanka.

Series: *Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism*
October 2006: 234x156: 240pp
Hb: 0-415-39042-7: £65.00

Buddhism in the Public Sphere Reorienting Global Interdependence

Peter D. Hershock, East West Center, University of
Hawai'i, USA

Applying the keen and caring practices and teachings of Buddhism, this fascinating text reflects on the challenges to public good created by emerging social, economic and political realities associated with global interdependence.

Series: *Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism*
June 2006: 234x156: 256pp
Hb: 0-415-77052-1: £65.00

ROUTLEDGE ADVANCES IN JAINA STUDIES

Studies in Jaina History and Culture

Disputes and Dialogues

Edited by **Peter Flügel**, School of Oriental and
African Studies, University of London, UK

Peter Flügel breaks new ground in this study by investigating the doctrinal differences and debates amongst the Jains rather than presenting Jainism as a seamless whole whose doctrinal core remained virtually unchanged throughout its long history.

Series: *Routledge Studies in Jaina Studies*
April 2006: 234x156: 512pp
Hb: 0-415-36099-4: £95.00

History, Scripture and Controversy in a Medieval Jain Sect

Paul Dundas, University of Edinburgh, UK

The subject of this book is the history and intellectual activity of the medieval Svetambara Jain disciplinary order, the Tapa Gaccha.

Series: *Routledge Studies in Jaina Studies*
October 2006: 234x156: 256pp
Hb: 0-415-37611-4: £65.00

Advaita Vedanta and Vaishnavism

The Philosophy of Madhusudana Sarasvati

Sanjukta Gupta, University of Oxford, UK

Sanjukta Gupta provides the only comprehensive study of Madhusudana Sarasvati's thought. It explores the religious context of his extensive and difficult works, offering invaluable insights into Indian philosophy and theology.

Series: *Routledge Hindu Studies Series*
August 2006: 234x156: 192pp
Hb: 0-415-39535-6: £65.00

The Politics of Self-Expression

The Urdu Middleclass Milieu in Mid-Twentieth
Century India and Pakistan

Markus Daechsel, University of Edinburgh,
UK

The scope and arguments of this book make an innovative contribution to the historiography of modern South Asia, by focusing on the middle-class milieu which was the epicentre of this new political culture.

Series: *Royal Asiatic Society Books*
June 2006: 234x156: 304pp
Hb: 0-415-31214-0: £65.00

ROUTLEDGE ADVANCES IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

India's Nuclear Bomb and National Security

Karsten Frey, Barcelona Institute for International
Studies, Spain

Karsten Frey gives an analytic account of the dynamics of India's nuclear build up, putting forward a new comprehensive model which goes beyond the classic strategic model of accepting motives of arming behaviour, and incorporates the dynamics in India's nuclear programme.

Series: *Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies*
August 2006: 234x156: 208pp
Hb: 0-415-40132-1: £65.00

Parliamentary Control and Government Accountability in South Asia

A Comparative Analysis of Bangladesh, India and
Sri Lanka

Taiabur Rahman, University of Dhaka,
Bangladesh

This is an important comparative research work that analyzes the role of parliamentary committees in securing government accountability in the three largest and most important functioning democracies in South Asia: Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

Series: *Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies*
October 2006: 234x156: 240pp
Hb: 0-415-40498-3: £65.00

The Puzzle of India's Governance Culture, Context and Comparative Theory

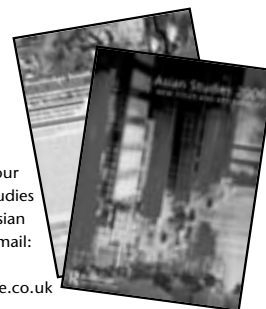
Subrata K. Mitra, University of Heidelberg,
Germany

This book examines how India has been able to sustain democratic governance while undergoing substantial social, economic and political changes through a neo-institutional rational choice model of governance, bounded by local culture and context.

Series: *Routledge Advances in South Asian Studies*
November 2005: 234x156: 304pp
Hb: 0-415-34861-7: £70.00

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