



South Asia Newsletter

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



No 64

September 2006

On behalf of the Centre for South Asian Studies, I would like to welcome new colleagues and students to SOAS. It will come as no surprise to you all that South Asia has prominence in the life of the School, not only in terms of course offering, but also in terms of events such as seminars, lectures, workshops and conferences, as well as music and film. I invite you to make the best use of the large and varied table that we have set for you. We are always open to feedback to and suggestions for future programs, which you can convey to me via the email address given below. If you would like to be on the Centre mailing list stay abreast of the schedule of events, or to receive our general postings, please email the Centre Administrator, Jane Savory, at js64@soas.ac.uk

Noteworthy events for this term include lectures by the prominent Indian political theorist Achin Vanaik, some events with Indian non-English novelists and writers, and two academic workshops. The first is a workshop on South Asian constitutional traditions, put together by the Law department with collaboration with the Centre, and with international partners such as the Johns Hopkins University and the World Bank. We have included a more detailed overview of the workshop in this newsletter. Second, towards the end of the term, there is a workshop on the return on Empire, which, while not entirely South Asia focused, has a fair representation of issues pertaining to the region, and involves collaboration with academics at other universities such as Warwick and the LSE. A full program will be emailed shortly.

Last, I would like to welcome the new Director, Prof. Paul Webley, to SOAS. I look forward to working with him in ways that are beneficial to the Centre and by implication to the SOAS community. I take this opportunity to say goodbye to those students and colleagues who have moved on to pastures fresh, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Subir Sinha
Chair, Centre for South Asian Studies

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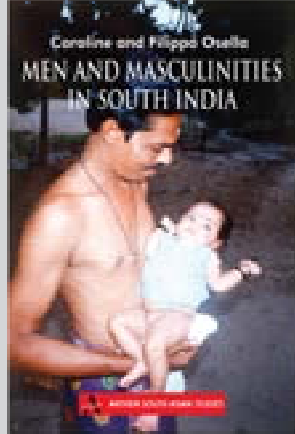
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Professor Nicholas Dirks

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Dr Shuja Al-Haq
Dr Stuart Blackburn
Mr Ramesh Kumar Dhungel
Ghulam Murshid

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

South Asian Men and Masculinities, Caroline & Filippo OSELLA, Anthem Press.



This ground-breaking monograph covers a range of areas including work, cross-sex relationships, sexuality, men's friendships, religious practices and leisure.

Key Sales Points And Readership

- The authors explore the tensions between different types of theoretical stance and competing local discourses on gender and how it is made.
- This book will appeal both as a resource for researchers and for teaching in the areas of History and South Asian Studies

Description

Men and Masculinities aims to increase understanding of gender within South Asia and especially South Asian masculinities, a topic whose analysis and ethnographising in the region has had a very sketchy beginning and is ripe for more thorough examination. This is, in brief, an almost empty field dominated so far by short articles and collections, and the time is ripe for the first full-length ethnographic study of masculinities. This ground-breaking monograph covers a range of areas including work, cross-sex relationships, sexuality, men's friendships, religious practices and leisure.

This book is especially concerned with issues arising from approaches to gender – more broadly, identity - rooted in essentialism versus performativity. Questions about the tensions between essentialist and performative theories of self and gender are therefore highlighted throughout the book and explored in relation to various bodies of theory and to South Asian understandings of personhood. The authors present a range of original and interesting ethnography and always explore the tensions between different theoretical approaches and competing local discourses on gender and how it is made.

This book will appeal as a resource for academics and students in the areas of History, Gender Studies and South Asian Studies

Stephen HUGHES

“Urban mobility and early cinema in Chennai” in A. R. Venkatachalapathy, ed., Chennai, Not Madras. Mumbai: Marg Publications (a division of the National Centre for the Performing Arts), June 2006, vol. 57, no. 4, pp. 39-48.

“House Full: film genre, exhibition and audiences in south India” in Indian Economic and Social History Review, vol. 43 , no. 1, March 2006, pp. 31-62 .

“Mythologicals and modernity: contesting cinema in south India 1920-1950” in Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds, vol. 1, no. 2-3, August/November 2005, pp. 207-235.

“Introduction: Mediating Religion and Film in a Post-secular World” with Birgit Meyer, co-editor in Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds, vol. 1, no. 2-3, August/November 2005, pp. 149-153 .

(edited and translated by **Christopher SHACKLE**) Mazhar ul Islam, The Season of Love, Bitter Almonds and Delayed Rains: Selected Stories and Other Pieces (Karachi: Sama, 2006). xlv, 262 pp. ISBN 969-8784-65-4

Philippe CULLET, ‘Water Law Reforms – Analysis of Recent Developments’, 48/ Journal of the Indian Law Institute (2006), p. 206-231.

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL

Caroline OSELLA

- attended the European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies in Leiden and presented a paper on south Indian Muslim businessmen based in the UAE and their entrepreneurial and public activities.
- presented a paper on the cosmopolitanism of Calicut Muslims at the Indian Ocean workshop held at the Commonwealth Institute in June 2006.
- was an invitee at a conference in Leiden in September 06 hosted by the Indian Ocean Project.
- has been invited to University of Lancaster in October 06 to present her paper on young Muslim women's expansion of gendered and sexualised subjectivities through the practice of cinematic ('Bollywood') dance.

STAFF NEWS



Dr William RADICE

was made an Honorary Fellow of the Bangla Academy in Dhaka (Bangladesh National Academy of Letters) for his services to Bengali language and literature, the first non-Bengali ever to have been honoured in this way.



Professor William SHACKLE was awarded the Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society for 2006 at a meeting of the Society on 8 June 06, when he also gave a lecture on 'The Story of Sayf al-Muluk in South Asia'.

"Every three years since 1897 the Society has awarded its medal to the person it considers to have made the most substantial and the most important contribution to the scholarly understanding of Asia.

In the past the Society awarded a Gold Medal. I fear that Gold is more than the Society can afford nowadays, so now we award the Society's Medal, in some baser metal. But be assured that the criteria remain the same, and that today's recipient will join a list containing the names of the most gifted orientologists that Britain has

produced, beginning with E.B. Cowell, the great Sankritist and including two Directors of the School of Oriental and African Studies, Professor Sir Denison Ross and Professor Sir Ralph Turner .

After a distinguished student career at Oxford, Professor Christopher Shackle went in 1966 to the School of Oriental and African Studies as a Fellow in Indian Studies. He has stayed there every since, becoming Professor of the Modern Languages of South Asia in 1985, Pro-Director for Academic Affairs from 1997 to 2002 and Pro-Director in the year 2002-03.

Chris Shackle's scholarly interests focus on the Punjabi and Urdu languages and their literatures; on the regional languages of Pakistan and NW India, in particular Siraiki, the language spoken in the Multan region, on which he has published much; Sufism and Islam in South Asia; Sikhism and its scriptures; and the comparative literature of the Islamic World. He has published twenty-four books, some together with others, and fifty articles in scholarly journals and collections of essays. His achievements have been acknowledged in the places which count. In 1990 he was made a fellow of the British Academy. In 2005 he was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan for services to Pakistan languages and literatures. In 2006, we are delighted to be able to award him the Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society for 2006."

Francis Robinson
President Royal Asiatic Society

EVENTS

Anthropology of Media Programme, SOAS

Event: David MacDougall will be presenting a special screening and seminar featuring the film, The Age of Reason (2003). The 'Doon School'

Date: Friday, 20 October 2006

Time: 13.00

Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS

For further information please contact Stephen Hughes on sh37@soas.ac.uk



Renowned anthropologist and filmmaker David MacDougall will present a special screening and seminar featuring the fifth and final film of his 'Doon School' film series, The Age of Reason (2003). The 'Doon School'

Quintet is an intimate study of India's most prestigious boy's boarding school located in Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal. Although it has sometimes been called the 'Eton of India' it has nevertheless developed its own distinctive style and presents a mixture of privilege and egalitarianism. It was established by a group of moderate Indian nationalists in the 1930s to produce a new generation of leaders who would guide the nation after Independence. Since then it has become highly influential in the creation of the new Indian elites and has come to epitomise many aspects of Indian postcoloniality.

In this final film MacDougall focuses on the life of one student whom he discovers at the school. The film was made in parallel with The New Boys and intersects with it at several points. However instead of looking at the group, it explores the thoughts and feelings of Abhishek, a 12-year-old from Nepal, during his first days and weeks as a Doon student. This is once the story of the encounter between a filmmaker and his subject and a glimpse of the mind of a child at the 'age of reason'. This is the most intimate and interactive film of the series.

The screening will be followed with a discussion with David MacDougall.

Workshop 2007
Jainism And Modernity

9th Jaina Studies Workshop at SOAS

Wednesday, 21 March 2007
18:00-19:30 Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre,
School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square,
London WC1H 0XG

The Annual Jain Lecture
(followed by a reception)

Prof. Lawrence A. Babb (Amherst College)
"Jainism and the culture of trade"

Inquiries: jainastudies@soas.ac.uk



EVENTS

Department of History, SOAS

South Asian History Seminars

Tuesday, 17 October 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Competing orientalisms: Sanskrit manuscripts, German Indologists and British India’

Indra Sengupta, German Historical Institute

Tuesday, 24 October 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Burning passions: Sati religious fanaticism in British interpretations of 1857’

Andrea Major, University of Edinburgh

Tuesday, 31 October 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Defining a literary interaction: Hindus and Persian poetic circles between Delhi and Lucknow (late 17th-early 19th centuries)’

Stephano Pello, University of Venice

Tuesday, 14 November 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Lost visions: the first decade of Indian independence’

Dilip Menon, University of Delhi

Tuesday, 21 November 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Having the final word: the literary politics of the Caitanya Caritamrta of Krsnadasa Kaviraja’

Tony Stewart

Tuesday, 28 November 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Religious revivalism and sectarianism among the Shia Muslims of colonial north India’

Justin Jones

Tuesday, 5 December 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘Not a romance but a scientific report: chemical examiners, science and subordination in the Indian medical service, 1880-1914’

Patricia Barton

Tuesday, 12 December 06

5.00pm Venue: Room G52

‘North Indian literary culture: a multilingual approach’

Francesca Orsini, SOAS

For further information about the South Asian History seminars please contact dm24@soas.ac.uk

CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES AND MA PROGRAMME IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD (DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY, SOAS)

EVENT: TRISTAM STUART TO TALK ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK, THE BLOODLESS REVOLUTION: RADICAL VEGETARIANS AND THE DISCOVERY OF INDIA (HARPER PRESS, 2006)

DATE: FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2006

TIME: 13.00

VENUE: B102 (UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - PLEASE CHECK SOAS BULLETIN BOARDS)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JAKOB KLEIN JK2 @SOAS.AC.UK; 020-7898 4428.

ALL WELCOME

EVENTS

Comparative Constitutional Traditions In South Asia Conference 18 + 19 November 2006



Composed of a quarter of the world's population and divided into nine countries, South Asia is currently one of the least integrated regions of Asia, both economically and politically. Yet, as the experience of Europe reveals, countries that were once bitter enemies can coexist peacefully and integrate under a common regional and regulatory framework. South Asia need be no exception to a global trend. Through growing exchange at the level of constitutional and legal practice, the states of South Asia can create legal and regulatory norms that improve the political economies and lives of ordinary people.

In order to facilitate this exchange, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University (Washington, D.C.) proposes to host together with the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) a research conference on Comparative Constitutional Traditions in South Asia. The seminar will be held at the SOAS in London, November 18-19, 2006. It will be followed by a conference in 2007 at a venue likely to be in South Asia. These events will assess and evaluate the common elements of the constitutional and legal traditions in the region and explore how South Asian countries might usefully learn from constitutional experiences (both successful and unsuccessful) of their neighbors.

This comparative project will bring together a range of international scholars, jurists, and practitioners. They will seek to examine a region that contains a remarkable depth and diversity of constitutional experiences – ranging from India's well-established and sophisticated traditions, to the tenuous experience of Pakistan, the emerging efforts in Afghanistan, and the failure of constitutionalism in places like Burma. The differing experiences pose particularly intriguing questions, since most of these modern states shared the legacy of colonial rule, and there is a high degree of kinship and overlap in many of their constitutional and legal systems.

It is our belief that the seminar and the conference will launch an important dialogue that will complement the nascent trends towards good governance, greater political cooperation, socio-economic integration, and development in the region. We hope our initiative will generate knowledge and information-sharing, and promote dialogue, understanding, and interaction among South Asian policy makers and judges. At a practical level, these regional legal-and-judicial conversations have the potential to significantly influence – for the better – the outcomes in important constitutional and legal controversies in each country.

This meeting is by invitation only.

For further details, see: <www.sais-jhu.edu/programs/asia/southasia/sa_events/constitutionalism.html>

or contact: southasia@jhu.edu

The conference is also supported by the Political Studies Association, Politics of South Asia Specialist Group (PSAS Group).

PARTICIPANTS

Katherine Adeney, University of Sheffield · Granville Austin, Independent Historian, Washington D.C. · Rochana Bajpai, SOAS · Upendra Baxi, University of Warwick · Kevin Brown, Indiana University · Clark Cunningham, Georgia State University College of Law · John O'Dowd, University College, Dublin · Rohan Edrisinha, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo · Thomas Fleiner, Institute of Federalism, Fribourg · Alexander Fischer, SOAS · Marc Galanter, University of Wisconsin Law School · Yash Ghai, University of Hong Kong · Sara Hossain, High Court of Bangladesh · Michael Hutt, SOAS · Venkat Iyer, University of Ulster · Gary Jacobson, Williams College · Ratna Kapur, Center for Law and Feminism · Sunil Khilnani, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University · Prabha Kotiswaran, SOAS · Sudhir Krishnaswamy, University of Oxford · John H. Mansfield, Harvard Law School · Alistair McMillan, Nuffield College, Oxford · Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Jawaharlal Nehru University · Werner Menski, SOAS · Matthew Nelson, SOAS · Vasuki Nesiah, International Center for Transnational Justice · Pasquale Pasquino, CNRS and New York University · Vikram Raghavan, World Bank · Lawrence Saez, LSE · Andras Sajó, Central European University · Subir Sinha, SOAS · Arun Thiruvengadam, New York University School of Law

PANELS

Saturday

Constitutional Experiences: Comparative Perspectives
Optimal Constitutional Models for Government Structure – South Asian Reflections
Federalism, Devolution, and Power-Sharing Structures
Emergency Powers

Sunday

Free Speech and Expression in South Asia
Role of Religion, Secularism, and Minority Rights
Equality, Affirmative Action, and Gender Issues
Judicial Activism and Public Interest Litigation

**The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
in association with
the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA)**

**is hosting a third annual presentation about Asian topics on Friday, 24th November 2006
entitled:**

**The Continent of Asia: Focussing Interest,
Third Annual Presentation for School Students aged 16-19 Years**

This event is by invitation only

The aim of the presentation is to introduce students to concepts and subjects they may not have previously explored as part of their curriculum, and we hope, to inspire them to take a closer interest in Asia. The programme is a balance between presentations and debates. The speakers are all expert in their fields. Most AS and A2 students are unlikely to have had a previous opportunity to hear them. Generally speakers give a brief background to their subject but the level of talk is geared at the level of "school leaver to university", treating those present as intelligent adults not school children.

**A report about the 2005 event can be accessed via a link from "Scope" webpage
within the Society's website www.rsaa.org.uk**



2006-2007 CONCERT SERIES

Friday, 6 Oct 2006, 7pm, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

**South Indian Violin Magic:
Nandini & Lalitha Kalaimanani**

Nandini Kalaimamani is regarded as among the finest of the new generation of South Indian violin players. Born into an illustrious musical family with a long-standing violinist lineage, she was initiated into the world of Karnatic music by her grandfather, making her concert debut at the tender age of ten.

This concert will feature the unique violin duo Nandini performs with her sister Lalitha who has grown up steeped in the same family tradition.

Expect imaginative improvisations, intricate rhythms and sweet, cascading melodies.

**Check www.soas.ac.uk/summermusicsschool for details and updates.
Enquiries: Tel. 020 7808 4500, Email: musicevents@soas.ac.uk**

REPORT

REPORT FROM THE 18TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (ECMSAS)

Dr William RADICE

PANEL 22: Bengal studies Convenors' report

The Bengal Studies panel met very happily and successfully. It occupied three sessions – Thursday morning and afternoon and Friday morning – and was attended in part by about ten people from other panels, as well as the contributors themselves. Seventeen papers were presented, by Mayurika Chakravorty, Sutanuka Ghosh, Sourav Kargupta, Ronita Bhattacharya, Sudeshna Chakrabarti, Victor van Bijlert, Kerstin Andersson, Arild Engelsen Ruud, Sikder Monare Murshid, Deeptima Massey, Hanne-Ruth Thompson, Prarthana Pukayastha, Jeanne Openshaw, Manjita Palit, Hans Harder, Makoto Kitada and William Radice. Rosinka Chaudhuri, Ujjayan Bhattacharya and Arif Billah had earlier been expected, but were not in the end able to attend; Dipika Mukherjee was listed as a participant, but was also not able to come. If the papers for the panel are collected into a publication, the four absentees will be asked to contribute.

Each contributor had 20 minutes to present his or her paper, leaving 10 minutes for questions and discussion, and we managed to keep to time well. All had been asked to bring hard copies of their papers, to distribute to the other participants; only about half did so, and greater efforts must be made by the convenors next time to insist that copies should be brought. The subjects covered a wide range of literary, linguistic, religious, historical, cultural and sociological topics, confirming the panel's interdisciplinary nature.

At a discussion at the end of the panel, it was agreed that the Bengal Studies panel should remain interdisciplinary, as most participants and visitors to the panel find this stimulating; the abstract for the panel should remain broadly based, with knowledge of Bengali being the common denominator. As regards publication of the

papers in a single volume, the convenors did not feel they could undertake the editing themselves, but would welcome offers from other members of the panel. Contributors will be circulated for their opinion on this: one or two editors drawn from the younger members of the panel, guided by the convenors but with the detailed editing delegated, might be the best solution, and approaches to publishers in Kolkata the best bet.

We only had one contributor from Bangladesh, and it would be good next time if we could achieve a better balance between India and Bangladesh, though this will probably be dependent on what travel grants are available.

Hans Harder asked to step down as convenor next time, and it was agreed that the convenors in 2008 would be William Radice and Kerstin Andersson.

William Radice, SOAS
Hans Harder, Halle

The 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS) was held from 27 - 30 June 2006 in Leiden, the Netherlands.

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.

Panel 22 : Bengal studies
The panel is an opportunity for all those with an interest in the culture and society of West Bengal and Bangladesh - and the Bengali diaspora worldwide - to share their recent research.

South Asian Research (SAR)

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/>

South Asia Research 26.2 (July 2006) is published and has the following context:

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 Articles

Ashok Pankaj
 Francine R. Frankel, *India's Political Economy 1947-2004: The Gradual Revolution* (nd Ed. New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2005), Xx + 819 Pp.

Book Reviews

South Asia Research 26.3 (November 2006) will carry the following articles:

Divine Madness And Cultural Otherness: Diwanas And Faqirs In Northern Pakistan
Jürgen Wasim Frembgen

Using The Legislative Assembly For Social Reform: The Sarda Act Of 1929
Sumita Mukherjee

Dowry In Bangladesh: Compromising Women's Rights
Shahnaz Huda

Towards A Sustainable Joint Forest Management Programme: Evidence From Western Midnapore Division In West Bengal
Debnarayan Sarker And Nimai Das

ROUTLEDGE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

New Titles

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY BOOKS

THE MAKING OF WESTERN INDOLOGY

Henry Thomas Colebrooke and the East India Company

Ludo Rocher and Rosane Rocher, both at the University of Pennsylvania, USA

Drawing on new sources, the authors trace, explain and evaluate Colebrooke's importance.

Series: *Royal Asiatic Society Books*

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Hb: 0-415-33601-5 ISBN13: 978-0-415-33601-7: **£70.00**

HINDI POETRY IN A MUSICAL GENRE

Thumri Lyrics

Lalita Du Perron, SOAS, University of London, UK

Indian classical music has long been fascinating to Western audiences, most prominently since the Beatles' sessions with Ravi Shankar in the 1960s. Du Perron examines Thumri Lyrics, a major genre of Hindustani music, from a primarily linguistic perspective.

Series: *Royal Asiatic Society Books*

December 2006: 234x156: 208pp

Hb: 0-415-39446-5 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39446-8: **£75.00**

THE THEORY OF CITRASUTRAS IN INDIAN PAINTING

A critical re-evaluation of their uses and interpretations

Isabella Nardi, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

Filling a distinct gap in Indian scholarship, this original account presents a critical re-examination of the key Indian concepts of painting as described in the Sanskrit treatises. Drawing on the experiences of significant painters, Nardi suggests a new way of reading and understanding these concepts.

Series: *Royal Asiatic Society Books*

July 2006: 234x156: 208pp

Hb: 0-415-39195-4 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39195-5: **£80.00**

ASCETICISM AND POWER IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Edited by Peter Flügel, SOAS, University of London, UK and Gustaaf Houtman, Royal Anthropological Institute, UK

Written by experts in the field, this book provides a unique comparative analysis of the Hindu, Jain and Buddhist traditions and their history in relation to questions of power, legitimacy, leadership and asceticism throughout contemporary Asia.

Series: *Royal Asiatic Society Books*

April 2007: 234x156: 336pp

Hb: 0-415-42384-8 ISBN13: 978-0-415-42384-7: **£85.00**

ROUTLEDGE CRITICAL STUDIES IN BUDDHISM

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 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39042-2: **£65.00**

BUDDHIST RITUALS OF DEATH AND REBIRTH

Contemporary Sri Lankan Practice and Its Origins

Rita Langer, University of Bristol, UK

Drawing on early Vedic sutras and Pali texts as well as archaeological and epigraphical material, this book provides a careful, accessible and thorough analysis of the rituals and social customs surrounding death in the Theravada tradition of Sri Lanka.

Series: *Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism*

February 2007: 234x156: 224pp

Hb: 0-415-39496-1 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39496-3: **£75.00**

ROUTLEDGE HINDU STUDIES SERIES

SELF-SURRENDER (PRAPATTI) TO GOD IN SHRIVAISHNAVISM

Tamil Cats or Sanskrit Monkeys?

Srilata Raman, University of Michigan, USA

This study fills a gap in Shrivaiṣṇava scholarship, making an important contribution to contemporary Indian and Hindu thinking on religion.

Series: *Routledge Hindu Studies Series*

November 2006: 234x156: 256pp

Hb: 0-415-39185-7 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39185-6: **£65.00**

CLASSICAL SAMKHYA AND YOGA

An Indian Metaphysics of Experience

Mikel Burley, University of Leeds, UK

Samkhya and Yoga are two of the oldest and most influential systems of classical Indian philosophy. Filling a gap in current scholarship, this stimulating book provides a thorough analysis of the systems in order to fully understand Indian philosophy.

Series: *Routledge Hindu Studies Series*

October 2006: 234x156: 240pp

Hb: 0-415-39448-1 ISBN13: 978-0-415-39448-2: **£65.00**

GENDER AND NARRATIVE IN THE MAHABHARATA

Edited by Simon Brodbeck and Brian Black, both at SOAS, University of London, UK

The Sanskrit *Mahabharata* is one of the most important texts to emerge from the Indian cultural tradition. Bringing together many of the most respected scholars in the field of *Mahabharata* studies, this book argues that the *Mahabharata* provides an opportunity to frame discussion of gender in literature.

Series: *Routledge Hindu Studies Series*

January 2007: 234x156: 288pp

Hb: 0-415-41540-3 ISBN13: 978-0-415-41540-8: **£85.00**

INDIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY SINCE INDEPENDENCE

Bidyut Chakrabarty, University of Delhi, India

Focusing on politics and society in India, this book explores new areas enmeshed in the complex social, economic and political processes in the country. Linking structural characteristics with broader sociological context, the book emphasizes the strong influence of sociological issues on politics, such as social milieu shaping and the articulation of the political in day-to-day events. Political events are connected with the ever-changing social, economic and political processes. Bidyut Chakrabarty argues that three major ideological influences of colonialism, nationalism and democracy have provided the foundational values of Indian politics.

Structured thematically, with a multitude of pedagogical features, this work will be a useful text for students of political science, sociology and South Asian Studies.

March 2007: 234x156: 240pp

Hb: 0-415-40867-9 ISBN13: 978-0-415-40867-7: **£75.00**

Pb: 0-415-40868-7 ISBN13: 978-0-415-40868-4: **£21.99**



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The Royal Society for Asian Affairs

Sir Peter Holmes Memorial Award for 2007

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs invites applications from individuals aged 18-25 for an award established in memory of Sir Peter Holmes MC (1932 -2002), a long-standing member of the Society who besides becoming Chairman of the Royal Dutch Shell Group was a distinguished traveller, mountaineer, fisherman and photographer.

The aim of the award is to encourage purposeful travel in Asia by young people. Applicants should submit a plan of a project involving travel in a country or countries of Asia and relating to the geography, history, politics, environmental conservation, culture or art of the area to be visited. Any part of Asia, including the Middle East, may be chosen. Plans should be costed as far as possible and should state the duration of the travel involved and how the costs will be met. The award will be made on the basis of originality, coherence, evidence of background knowledge, and the degree to which the project is likely to add to general understanding of the area chosen and/or to benefit local people or the applicant. Preference will be given to projects that are not requirements in an academic or other course.

Applicants should provide contact details for two referees. To avoid unnecessary expense, the aim is to make the award on the basis of written submissions, which should be no more than two sides of A4 in length and should preferably, but not necessarily, be in electronic form. A one-page CV including date of birth would also be helpful, as would a statement how the applicant heard about the award. In the event that two or more submissions were deemed to be of equal worth, candidates would be called for interview in London.

The successful applicant will be expected to make a presentation to the Society about the project after its completion, and to provide a photographic or other pictorial record.

The present notice refers to travel in 2007. The award will consist of up to £1000 and two years' gratis membership of the Society. The adjudicators have discretion to divide the award among more than one candidate if appropriate.

Applications should be sent by 31 October 2006 to The Secretary, RSAA, Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ (email: sec@rsaa.org.uk), to whom also any queries should be addressed. The Society will notify the successful candidate by 31 January 2007.

Sir Peter Holmes Memorial Award For 2006: Recipients

In November 2005 the adjudicating committee for the Sir Peter Holmes Memorial Award received and considered eight applications for the 2006 award. They were delighted by the quality and variety of the applications. In the event they decided to divide the amount available and to award the sum of £500 each to Mr Aidan Harris and Mr Benjamin Caldecott:

a) Aidan Harris had been working with a Tibetan non-governmental organization in Mongolia and had worked as a volunteer English teacher among the Tibetan community at Dharamsala, India. He proposed to use his award for travel to research and compare Tibetan identity inside Tibet with Tibetan identity among communities outside.

b) Benjamin Caldecott's proposal was to carry out a survey in the Kelabit Highlands, Sarawak, with particular focus on the logging industry and its effect on local communities. His father completed a survey of the Kelabit area in the 1980s and an aim of the project now is to assess current conditions against the background of that survey.

A date will be agreed in late 2006 or early 2007 for the two awardees to address a meeting of the Society about their completed projects.

Details of the Sir Peter Holmes Memorial Award for 2007, including conditions and relevant dates, are contained in a notice on the Society's website (accessed via the home-page, <http://www.rsaa.org.uk/>). The notice is also published elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. The age-group eligible for the award remains 18-25. The amount of £1000 is available for the 2007 award. As for the 2006 award, the adjudicators reserve discretion to divide this amount among more than one candidate if appropriate.

EVENT

**'Mutiny at the Margins'
New Perspectives on the Indian uprising of 1857**

A CONFERENCE TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
at
The Centre for south Asian studies, Scotland
University of Edinburgh
July 2007

The university of Edinburgh's Centre for South Asian Studies is planning a conference to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Indian Uprising of 1857. One of the most iconic events of British imperial history, the Uprising continues to be widely misrepresented and misunderstood.

This conference aims to bring together British and Indian scholars with an interest in developing new approaches and exploring new perspectives on this seminal event.

We expect to hold the conference on 23rd to 26th July 2007 (Dates to be confirmed).

At this stage we would like to invite expressions of interest from anyone wishing to attend, contribute to or host panels. Those wishing to be involved, or for further information, contact

Dr Crispin Bates – Crispin.Bates@ed.ac.uk

**AEASH (Association of South Asian Environmental Historians)
The membership of AEASH is now open.**

**For further details please visit the following website
<http://asaeh.org>**

South Asian Studies from SAGE Publications

South Asia Research

Editor: Werner F. Menski *SOAS, UK*

Email: wm4@soas.ac.uk

Established in 1980, **South Asia Research** has matured into an important outlet for international research. It publishes articles by scholars from many different countries, and by both promising research students and established scholars. It includes work of theory, review and synthesis as well as detailed empirical studies. It is a multi-disciplinary journal which covers the full spectrum of South Asian studies including the history, politics, law, economics, sociology, visual culture, languages and literatures of the countries of the region.

Frequency: 3 times a year: February, July, November

ISSN: 0262-7280

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NEW JOURNAL FROM SAGE LAUNCHED IN 2006

Journal of South Asian Development

Editor: Rajat Ganguly *University of East Anglia, UK*

Email: r.ganguly@uea.ac.uk

The **Journal of South Asian Development**, a refereed publication, publishes articles, reviews and scholarly comment relating to all facets of development in South Asia. The journal is multi-disciplinary, innovative and international in its approach. It will include theoretical and conceptual articles as well as more empirical studies covering both historical and contemporary issues/events. While the journal would be primarily a social science journal (covering politics, international relations, sociology, anthropology, economics), it considers papers from the natural and environmental sciences, geography, history and other disciplines that deal with development issues in order to provide comprehensive and balanced scholarship.

Frequency: Bi-annually: April, October

ISSN: 0973-1741

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Pakistan

Democracy, Development and Security Issues

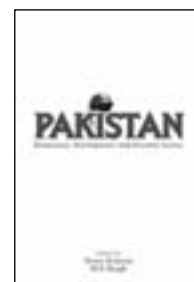
Veena Kukreja and **M P Singh** both at *University of Delhi*

Taking a fresh look at the contentious issues of democracy, development and security in contemporary Pakistan, this volume examines Pakistan's internal and external problems with an eye on the challenges that democracy has encountered in the country.

Issues discussed include: obstacles to democracy such as the 1999 coup, rigid Islamic ideology, and the uncertainties of the economy; the politics of language and the ethnic problems arising from the states of Urdu as a symbol of Pakistani identity; and the future of Indo-Pakistan relations.

2005 • 290 pages

Cloth (0-7619-3416-2) £35.00 • Paper (0-7619-3417-0) £14.99



Bangladesh

Hiranmay Karlekar *Consultant Editor, The Pioneer*

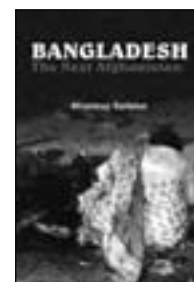
'A timely and sobering reminder of the power of all kinds of fundamentalisms in the contemporary world' -

Jeremy Seabrook, The Guardian

Bangladesh focuses on the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in Bangladesh. Hiranmay Karlekar analyzes in detail the historical, social, cultural and political circumstances that have led to this, and discusses the chances of the situation being altered.

2005 • 308 pages

Paper (0-7619-3401-4) £14.99



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EVENT

The South Asia Conference on Trade and Development New Delhi, India

19 and 20 December 2006

The South Asia Conference on Trade and Development is an annual event organized by Centre for Trade and Development (Centad), New Delhi, India. The first edition was held in October 2005 in New Delhi.

The South Asia Conference on Trade and Development is one of the largest gatherings of trade policy makers, researchers, academia, media as well as the civil society organizations from across the South Asia working in the area of international trade and development related issues.

About the Organiser

The Centre for Trade and Development (Centad) is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to strengthen the ability of governments and communities in South Asia to make international trade and globalisation work for development. Established in 2004, it strives to undertake accurate and realtime analysis, promote better policies through rigorous policy research and provides a platform for more informed policy-making at multilateral, regional and national levels.

For further information please contact:

Centre for Trade & Development (Centad)
406, Bhikaiji Cama Bhavan
Bhikaiji Cama Place
New Delhi-110066
India

Tel: +91-11-41459226
Fax: +91-11-41459227
E-mail: centad@centad.org
Website: www.centad.org

Category: Publication

Note: Centad Publications are available on-line at www.centad.org

1. 'South Asian Yearbook of Trade and Development' (2006) (Forthcoming)

Beginning last year, Centre for Trade and Development (Centad), New Delhi has launched the publication of an annual series of South Asian Yearbook of Trade and Development – with the primary objective of demystifying the debate surrounding international trade and development issues in South Asia.

The 2006 Yearbook

The 2006 Yearbook, second in the series, is to be published by Wiley India Pvt. Ltd., which is the Indian counterpart of John Wiley & Sons, Inc, USA.

The Yearbook will be a comprehensive collection of research papers on trade-related issues pertaining to the development concerns of the South Asian countries. The Yearbook, guided by an eminent panel of editors, would attempt to reflect the South Asian perspective at the ongoing WTO negotiations and provide important policy inputs.

The editors of the 2006 Yearbook are:

- Prof. B S Chimni, Vice Chancellor, National University of Juridical Sciences, India
- Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka.
- Mr. B L Das, India's former ambassador to GATT
- Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

The 2006 Yearbook includes the following subjects:

- Agricultural tariffs and South Asia
- Textiles and clothing sector in South Asia in the post-quota era
- Technical barriers to trade and South Asia
- South Asian Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and trade in services
- Rules of Origin and South Asia
- Operationalising the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)
- Anti-dumping and South Asia
- Special products and special safeguard mechanism in agriculture
- Emergency safeguard measures in GATS and options for South Asia
- Duty Free Quota Free market access and South Asian LDCs

2. 'India's Trade in Services: Opportunities and Challenges' (Forthcoming)

Edited by: Dr. Rupa Chanda
Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India
Publisher: Wiley India Pvt. Ltd.

Services constitute approximately half of the GDP of developing countries and trade in services is the fastest growing sector in world trade. Trade in services occupies 30 percent of India's exports. However, in spite of the growing importance of services, the currently available reference material is inadequate, and often unavailable at a single reference point. With the aim of filling in the gap, Centad has initiated a publication of a book titled "India's Trade in Services: Opportunities and Challenges".

The key objectives of this publication are:

- To build a credible point of reference for trade in services and India.
- To contribute negotiating inputs for the trade negotiators of India.

The publication will cover the following areas:

Cross-cutting Papers

- Statistical outline of services in India
- India in the global services trade: options and challenges
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows in service sector (1991 to 2003): determinants and impact
- Disciplining domestic regulation: challenges and opportunities
- Services in India's Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

Sectoral Papers

a) Infrastructural Services

- Distribution services
- Telecommunication services

b) Social Services

- Environmental services
- Higher education services
- Health services
- Nursing services

c) Professional Services

- Accounting services
- Legal services
- Mode 4: opportunities and challenges for India

3. Trading Up – A Quarterly Trade Magazine

This magazine of Centad was launched in June 2005 with the aim of demystifying the issues around trade and development. The first issue focused on development and trade in general, the second (September 2005) covered agriculture, while the third issue of 2005 (December) was on industrial goods. The January 2006 issue focused on the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the WTO. The April 2006 issue was on Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs). The forthcoming issue will focus on Dispute Settlement.

4. Centad Working Papers (The latest ones) Industrial Tariffs and South Asia

This Working Paper, written by Prabhash Ranjan, Research Officer, Centad, analyses one of the most contentious issues in the ongoing Non-Agriculture Market Access (NAMA) negotiations at the WTO: the tariff reduction modality. On the basis of rigorous numerical exercise, it argues in favour of a tariff reduction formula that would be commensurate with the development concerns of the developing countries in general, and the South Asian countries, in particular.

Ensuring Adequate Flexibility through Special Products

This paper, by Linu Mathew Philip, Research Officer, Centad, suggests a road map for operationalisation of the proposal of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration (of the WTO) on 'Special Products' (SP) for developing countries from the perspective of Indian agriculture. On the basis of rigorous calculations, it suggests the agricultural products that should be designated as SP by India so as to take care of its rural development concerns as well as the food and livelihood security of the millions of farmers of this country.

REPORT

**Report For A Framework Building Workshop On Peace Education Through Life Skills
Approach At The Elementary Level Of Education**

Organised By: Gandhi Studies Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Dates: 17 and 18 March 2006

Workshop Coordinator: Dr. Neelam Sukhrmani
(Member-Advisory Committee, Gandhi Studies Centre)

Participants: 60 from the fields of Peace Studies, Educational Psychology, Child Development and School Social Work from different parts of India

Backdrop: The Workshop was the first phase of a long term initiative visualised by the Gandhi Studies Centre. Pursuant to this workshop, specific modules would be formulated for different target groups with the intent of implementing them in about ten schools. The results generated through this experimentation would be able to provide a direction on how such an intervention could be institutionalised.

Basic Premises For the Workshop:

- Violence in adulthood is in some measure a manifestation of learned behaviour patterns in childhood
- Influencing the behavioural dispositions of a child as early as possible and through continuous and holistic reinforcement is bound to bring about a reduction in all forms of violence-structural, gender, religious
- A child's behaviour is influenced by what he or she observes within the primary socialising agents – parents and teachers. A child learns to emulate the behaviour patterns of these socialising agents and that is what shapes the adult behaviour
- For parents and teachers to function as positive role models, they need to be helped to deal with their own internal conflicts. The life skills approach provides for the possibility for addressing these conflicts.
- The present curriculum addresses peace issues from the standpoint of imparting the requisite knowledge in that regard. The aspect of skills demands a supplementary intervention that would need to be differentially designed.
- Peace as a concept would need to be demonstrated in the entire ambience of the school and thus demands concurrent interventions at multifarious levels.
- School thought to be an appropriate entry point since it provides for a structured opportunity to work with teachers, parents and children.

Expected Outcome:

- Being able to establish a linkage between issues of peace and the relevance of life skills approach in addressing it
- Being able to develop a framework for working on issues of peace education through the life skills approach for teachers, parents and children
- Being able to explore differential options of transacting this initiative

Workshop Design:

- Began by a half day foundation session on life skills approach and the manner in which it gets contextualised to the domain of peace. Facilitator for the session conducted in a workshop mode, was Prof. Shekhar Sheshadri, NIMHANS, Bangalore
- Division of Participants into three groups: Parents, Children and Teachers with the intent of listing out the content areas that need to be focussed on with respect to each one of them. Presentations made in respect of each of the groups. Key facilitator for this and the subsequent sessions was Dr. Prema Sunderarajan, UNFPA
- Recategorisation of listed content to come up with four to five broad themes for each of the target groups.
- Groups getting back to work on detailing out in respect of each of the themes, the objectives, the learning outcome, the sub themes, the methods of transacting the content areas and the life skills that need to be focussed in respect of each one of them. Presentations made in respect of each of the groups.
- Finally the participants were regrouped to examine the differential aspects of transacting this initiative viz. the focal point of delivery, concurrent or sequential implementation, integrative vs. stand alone intervention, evaluation modalities.

Actual Outcome:

- Consensus Building on domains of Peace Education for the purposes of the long term initiative of which the workshop was the first phase
- Individuals already engaged in working on peace issues able to add on another perspective (life skills approach) to further enhance their interventions
- Participants from the different groups on Parents, Teachers and Children were able to detail out some of the themes that were decided upon in respect of their groups. The framework for detailing was the same as stated above-specification of the objectives, learning outcomes, content areas, the methods of transacting the content areas and the life skills that need to be focussed in respect of each of them.
- Transactional modalities for the entire long term initiative were also deliberated and presented by the different groups

Carrying It Forward:

- The ground work that has been done by each of the groups would be collated together. Thereafter further work would be done on the themes that still need to be worked on. Subsequently this document would be sent to the participants of the workshop for their comments.
- Based upon the comments the work would begin on developing the modules with the help of a small group derived from the participants of the workshop.
- This would then be followed up with implementation and subsequent field testing of these modules.

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

4th Annual Graduate Student Conference on South Asia Inside Outside: Between Text and the World

Call for Participants, Submission deadline: November 3, 2006

4th Annual Graduate Student Conference on South Asia
<http://sagsc.uchicago.edu> April 6-7, 2007 University of Chicago

The fourth annual South Asian Graduate Student Conference at the University of Chicago will be held on April 6th and 7th, 2007. It will be in two sessions.

Session One will be open to any and all outstanding scholarly work on South Asia. This portion of the conference welcomes traditional panels from all disciplines, such as Literature, History, Philology, Anthropology, History of Religions, Film Studies and so on. Submissions to this session do not have to follow any thematic limits besides that of presenting perceptive scholarship on South Asia.

Session Two will focus on the conference theme, "Inside Outside: Between Text and the World" and aims to cast off the strictures of specialized academic scholarship in favor of an oscillating dance of "the world, the text, and its critic"-as Edward Said put it. The goal of this session is to analyze the myriad strategies, and media, through which a scholar of South Asia (or indeed an historical figure of South Asia) might articulate her place betwixt the objects of her study (texts), and the world at large. Of course, texts themselves are worldly-events with sensuous particularity, as well as historical contingency.

Recent scholarship has convincingly demonstrated that the marriage between self and knowledge, or scholar and state power, inside and outside, or knowledge and power is neither new nor particularly blissful in South Asia-which boasts of various such historical unions. Whether one considers the binding of caste and knowledge, or empire and knowledge, it is clear that knowledge production and ownership in South Asia (as elsewhere) is rarely either neutral or egalitarian. At the same time, there are many South Asians who broke (ultimately to redraw) such formulations, from Chanakya, to Akbar, to Tagore. What can these, and other, South Asians teach us about a scholar's journey from the acquisition of knowledge to the application of knowledge? What are the various forms this journey from inside to outside can take? Does one put on a mask, or shed one? Does one switch languages? Does an engagement with a larger world and context necessarily compromise or taint a scholar's work? Or does it in fact enrich it? How does the binary of inside/ outside manifest itself in South Asian texts and scholarship?

The broader aim of session two is to create a forum for an emerging generation of scholars to participate in a day of self-examination, about our responsibility to engage with, and speak to, the world beyond the ivory tower (whether through political activism, digital media, print journalism, film, theatre, or other genres of non-academic writings). This session seeks to examine the intersection and overlap between the "perceived" insular world of academic work on South Asia and the worlds of artists, activists, and other

"public" intellectuals. The goal is to explore (and explode) some of the tacitly accepted boundaries between these two worlds-between "serious" and "popular" history, "art" and critique, home and away, politician and philosopher, "history" and "memory", and finally between critical distance and the desire for engagement with the world at large.

With such concerns paramount, the goal of this conference is to initiate a dialogue across disciplines, historical periods, language specializations and even media, in order to extend our understanding of the relationship between a text, the world and its critic in South Asia. We therefore strongly encourage graduate students working in various South Asian fields to consider how their work might, should, or shouldn't, relate to the world beyond academia. We invite papers, short films and posters from various disciplinary perspectives and according to various temporal logics.

Our two invited speakers vividly embody this conference's spirit of engaging 'new' models. William Dalrymple, author of 'City of Djinns' and 'The Last Mughal', will be the first distinguished speaker-speaking from outside the academy. Prof. Sudipto Chatterjee, dramatist, filmmaker and teacher at the University of Berkeley, will be the second distinguished speaker.

Submission guidelines:

- Individual 20 minute paper proposals should consist of (i) contact information and (ii) an abstract (250 words).
- Individual poster proposals should consist of (i) contact information and (ii) an abstract (250 words).
- Individual video/ film proposals should consist of (i) contact information, (ii) an abstract (250 words) and if possible (iii) a link to a clip/ stills of the work.
- Guidelines and information about the poster and video sessions is available at the SAGCS website [<http://sagsc.uchicago.edu/guidelines.html>]

Submission deadline: November 3, 2006

Proposals for either the general session, or the themed session "Inside Outside", or questions should be sent to Bulbul Tiwari at sagsc@listhost.uchicago.edu

Bulbul Tiwari, PhD Candidate,
Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations
Student
Coordinator, South Asia Graduate Student Conference,
2007

EVENT

2nd SSEASR Conference
of
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND RELIGION (SSEASR)
on
SYNCRETISM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: ADOPTION AND ADAPTATION
May 24-27, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand



To celebrate
The 225th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Chakri
Dynasty and Ratanakosin Bangkok City
Diamond Jubilee of the Accession to the Throne of His
Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand
and the completion of the 60th Anniversary of the
UNESCO

Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development,
Mahidol University, Thailand
in collaboration with
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol
University
Mahachulalongkorn Royal Buddhist University
Mahamakut Royal Buddhist University

announces the 2nd SSEASR Conference
of
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF CULTURE AND RELIGION (SSEASR)
on
SYNCRETISM IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA:
ADOPTION AND ADAPTATION

May 24-27, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand
Co-sponsored as a Regional Conference by
International Association for the History of Religions
(IAHR), Member of CIPSH,
An affiliate organization of the UNESCO

Since time immemorial, the region of South and Southeast Asia has played a pivotal role in carrying the traits of culture and religion not only amongst its own societies but also beyond. The basic carriers of such elements were Hinduism and Buddhism which took various routes (both land and sea) to reach the pre-modern Southeast Asia. Later on Islam and Christianity also entered the region and added lustre to the 'culture mosaic'. The concept of syncretism in this area was not only visible in religious scenes but also in various spheres of socio-cultural life: be it social customs, language and literature, art and architecture, polity, economics or commerce, performing arts and communication.

The Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, Mahidol University, Thailand is pleased to host the 2nd SSEASR Conference on such auspicious occasion where scholars and writers from various parts of the world are likely to join together with their academic presentation.

Sub-themes

1. Ethnic Mosaic of South and Southeast Asia
2. Syncretic Systems in South and Southeast Asia
3. Language and Literature: Binding Force
4. Women and Religion
5. Symbolism (such as Art and Architecture), Communication and Religion
6. Education and Religious Studies
7. Faith and Survival: Diasporas from South and Southeast Asia
8. Polity, Trade and Religion
9. Religion: Peace, Violence and Dialogue
10. Tradition vis-à-vis Globalisation
11. Religion, Health and Healing
12. Religion and Ecology

Since this is the 2550th Anniversary of Buddhism, we particularly invite scholars and papers dealing with Buddhism. Participants are requested to submit research papers in English language on any of the relevant subthemes. An Abstract of 250 words is expected, preferably by E-mail.

A special symposium on Kingship and Religion would be held on the inaugural day. There would be an Exhibition of the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage during the Conference, which would showcase the culture of Thailand vis-à-vis South and Southeast Asia. A workshop on Science and Spirituality is also planned.

Pre-Registration: September 30, 2006
Early Registration Deadline: December 30, 2006
Submission of Abstract: February 15, 2007
Submission of Full Paper: April 15, 2007

For further information, please contact:
Dr. Sophana Srichampa, Secretary General
Dr Amarjiva Lochan, President Chair, SSEASR Conference Organising Committee SSEASR Secretariat

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ABOUT THE CENTRE

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.

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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.

CSAS Keywords Webpage:

The Keywords Project initiated by Dr Rachel Dwyer, the previous Centre Chair, can be found on:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=912>

The essays on South Asian Keywords have been written by a number of internationally known scholars.

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 on line at: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/csas/>

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; and
- Details of forthcoming seminars\workshops or other events.

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

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