



South
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Centre of South Asian Studies

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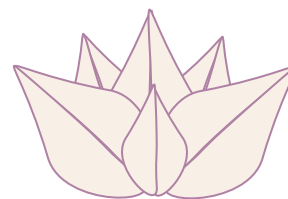
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



“when one reviews the range of activities hosted by the Centre, I believe that we were spoilt for choice”

I am delighted to report that the 2010-2011 academic year has been filled South Asia-related activities. The Centre sponsored a large number of seminars, workshops, film screenings, and workshops during the year. For instance, we hosted a special roundtable seminar on the budgetary cuts to the BBC World Service and its impact on the continuation of radio transmissions to South Asia. The Centre sponsored a special seminar series on the theme of leftist politics in South Asia. We also sponsored the 11th Jaina annual lecture and the 13th Jaina studies workshop on Jaina narratives. One of the key achievements of the Centre was the opening of a Centre on Pakistan and the initiation of an MSc programme in Pakistan studies at SOAS.

At the initiative of many colleagues, the Centre sponsored a number of fascinating film-related events, including a Distinguished Lecture by one of India's leading filmmakers, Shyam Benegal. We also held retrospective film screenings and a lecture series devoted to the famed Indian actress Sharmila Tagore. The film writer and director Sangeeta Datta

was present for an engaging discussion at the screening of her film 'Life Goes On'. We also launched the Nargis Dutt lecture with a talk by director Anusha Rizvi on the business of making films to mark the 100 year anniversary of International Women's Day. The Centre sponsored three film screenings and the 4th London Himalayan film festival. In addition, many colleagues have been instrumental in lining up a number of speakers for literature-related events. For instance, we hosted a book reading, by famed author Mohsin Hamid, of his book entitled *Moth Smoke*. We also held a special interview with famed Kashmiri author Mirza Waheed, author of the bestseller *The Collaborator*.

I am a firm believer that the Centre should be used a platform to engage with relevant policy-making bodies and political actors. To that effect, we have focused our efforts on Nepal. As we all know, this year has been a period of constitutional instability in Nepal. Given the world class level of Nepal expertise at SOAS, we have been at the forefront of academic knowledge transfer on Nepal. For that reason, this year we hosted a luncheon with prominent delegates from the Nepalese parliament. We discussed the idea of holding

training sessions for Nepalese youth leaders. We also hosted a panel discussion on contemporary debates relating to the radio in Nepal. We also held a fascinating discussion on enforced disappearances and state accountability in Nepal. We then concluded the year with a high-profile roundtable discussion on constitution drafting, state restructuring and the peace process in Nepal.

When one reviews the range of activities hosted by the Centre, I believe that we were spoilt for choice. In my view, though, the highlight of the year was the Centre's Annual Lecture, which was delivered by the eminent religious studies and Sanskritist Prof. Wendy Doniger. Professor Doniger was a leading scholar at the University of Chicago whilst I was a PhD student there. She has been, without a doubt, one of the most brilliant and provocative minds I have ever met. This year we had the honour of hearing Professor Doniger speak on the representation of Dalits in Sanskrit texts. The title of her lecture was: 'Does the Mahabharata Approve of Ekalavya cutting off his Thumb? and Other Tales of Dalits in Ancient India'.

Lawrence Saez

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MEMBERS NEWS



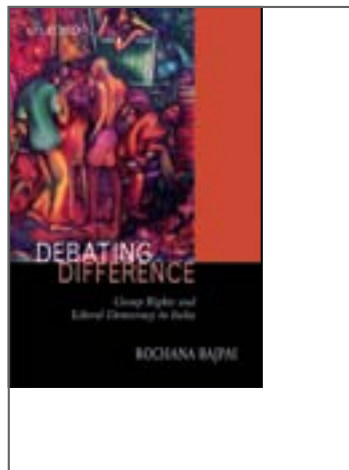
Rochana Bajpai

Senior Lecturer in the Politics of Asia/Africa

Rochana Bajpai has a new book out, *Debating Difference: Group Rights and Liberal Democracy in India* (Oxford University Press, 2011). Using landmark Indian constitutional and legislative debates on minority rights and quotas, Rochana develops a model for interpreting group rights that hinges on the interplay between five principal normative concepts—secularism, democracy, social justice, national unity, and development. This book demonstrates that liberal and democratic concepts are more sophisticated and widely shared in the Indian polity than is commonly believed. It also identifies the limits of Western-centric accounts of multiculturalism. Highlighting the role of argument and debate, *Debating Difference* elaborates a new approach to a crucial issue for liberal democracies today, how to reconcile the demands of group equality and civic unity.

Rochana's other publications during 2010-11 include 'Rhetoric as Argument: Social Justice and Affirmative Action in India, 1990', *Modern Asian Studies*, 44 (4), pp. 675-708; 'Cultural Rights of Minorities during Constitution-making: A Re-reading'. In Mahajan, G. and Jodhka, S., (eds), *Religion, Community and Development*. New Delhi: Routledge, 2010, pp. 282-300; 'Constitution-making and Political Safeguards for Minorities: An Ideological Explanation', in Ansari, M.R. and Achar, D., (eds), *Discourse, Democracy and Difference: Perspectives on Community, Politics and Culture*. Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2010, pp. 271-308.

She presented a paper 'Secularism and Minority Rights in India' at a conference on 'Provincializing Secularism: Minorities and the Regulation of Religion' held on 4 February 2011 at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Other papers this year included 'Heuristics of Hegemony: Debating



Affirmative Action in Malaysia' (co-authored with Dr Graham Brown) at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii; 'Liberalisms in India: An Exploratory Sketch', and 'Debating Difference: Rethinking Group Rights and Liberal Democracy in India' at the South Asian History Seminar, St. Antony's college, University of Oxford, 31 May 2010.

Rochana was invited to brief the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, on secularism and minority rights in India in July 2010 to mark the centenary of International Women's Day, Dr Rochana Bajpai participated in a panel discussion on Asian women held at the Nehru Centre, London on 7 March 2011.

Rochana, Dr Matt Nelson, and Professor Charles Tripp organized a workshop on comparative political thought on 8 July, 2011 to launch a new teaching and research initiative at the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS.



Amina Yaqin

Lecturer in Urdu & Postcolonial Studies

2011-2012 has been a rich and densely packed year of research activity for Amina Yaqin. The academic year began with an invitation from Granta to speak at their Granta 112 Pakistan Launch Event: 'Ash at Nightfall: Pakistani Poetry, Then and Now' in September.

Also in September was the launch of a jointly edited special issue 'Muslims in the Frame' hosted by the Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, SOAS. The event was introduced by Professor Robert Young (New York University) followed by presentations from Dr Amina Yaqin, Dr Peter Morey, Professor Tariq Modood. This Special Issue was published by the renowned international postcolonial journal *Interventions*.

During the Spring break Amina was in Lahore for a lecture tour. Amina was invited by the English Dept at the Punjab University to deliver a lecture on 'Introduction to Postcolonial Studies'. At Government College University her lecture was on the theme of Pakistani Culture and she spoke about the debate that was held amongst Urdu intellectuals in the 1960s and 1970s on this topic. At the Lahore University of Management Sciences Amina was welcomed by Yasmeen Hameed who impressed with her knowledge, determination, and enthusiasm for Urdu literary studies.

In the summer term Amina visited Newcastle University where she had been invited by Dr Neelam Srivastava to contribute a paper to the Critical Race, Postcoloniality and Gender seminar series. Her paper was on the theme of 'Dolls and Modesty: the ideological fashioning of Muslim identities', and this topic extended into a sexuality panel in July at Brunel University.

She was invited to contribute to an 'Alternative Approaches to the Sexualisation Debates' Panel proposed by Professor Liesbet van Zoonen (Loughborough University) for The Futures of Feminism: New Directions in Feminist, Women's and Gender Studies, Annual FWSA Conference, held at Brunel University.



Mara Malagodi
Teaching Fellow

Mara Malagodi was on fieldwork in Kathmandu in August 2010 to conduct high-profile interviews and archival research on the drafting of Nepal's 2007 Interim Constitution and the ongoing work of the Constituent Assembly. The interviewees included Nepal's then Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai, CA Constitutional Committee's Chairman Nilamber Acharya and many other politicians, judges and lawyers. In Nepal she also started collaborating with the UNDP Nepal Centre for Constitutional Dialogue.

In September, Mara joined as a student member the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in London, which awarded her the Blackstone Entrance Exhibition, in view of qualifying as a Barrister. In November, she was invited to present her work in the Contemporary South Asia Seminar Series at the University of Oxford. In December, she presented a comparative paper on judicial review in India and Nepal at the PSA Politics of South Asia Specialist Group workshop Elites, Mass Publics and the Political in South Asia held at the LSE.

In March 2011, she organised at SOAS the screening of the Indian film *Frozen* in collaboration with Satsang Productions, and the book launch of Mirza Waheed's groundbreaking debut novel *The Collaborator* (Penguin/Viking 2011) set in Indian Kashmir as an in conversation-event with acclaimed Pakistani writer Kamila Shamsie. In April, Mara was invited to deliver one of the keynote addresses at the 25th Anniversary BASAS Conference in Southampton under a British Academy grant to bring a rising scholar of Nepal to speak on a plenary panel. As the Treasurer of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC), she attended the Nepal Study Day held at the University of Cambridge. She also co-organised two events at SOAS in support of the BBC South Asian Language Services.



Former Prime Minister of Nepal, Madhav Kumar Nepal, during Mara's interview with him



Mara Malagodi with Maoist ideologue Baburam Bhattarai



Stupa in Boudha

In May, Mara was invited to address the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights in Westminster on an event on transitional justice in Nepal organised by the Peace Brigades International. In June, she presented a position paper on Nepal's recent constitutional developments at the SOAS event jointly organised by BNAC and the UK Constitutional Law Group, and delivered a comparative paper with Madurika Rasaratnam on international peace interventions in Nepal and Sri Lanka at the LSE Centre for Global Governance workshop *Persistent Conflict in the 21st Century*.

Mara was awarded a British Academy Overseas Conference Grant to present a paper at the British Academy International Partnership Scheme SOAS/ Martin Chautari workshop *The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition in Kathmandu in September*. She is now organising with Dr Martin Lau a one day workshop on *Law and Conflict in Kashmir* for 31 October.

Publications

'The End of a National Monarchy: Nepal's Recent Constitutional Transition from Hindu Kingdom to Secular Federal Republic' *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism – 2011*; Vol. 11, Issue 2 (In Press).

'Minority Rights and Constitutional Borrowings in the Drafting of Nepal's 1990 Constitution' *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research*, December 2010; Vol. 37, pp. 56-81.

'Impunity and Accountability in Post-Conflict Nepal' – *Law & Society Trust Review*, 2010: 275, 35-47.

'Constitutional Change and the Quest for Legal Inclusion in Nepal' (forthcoming 2012) in *Rights in Divided Societies*, Colin Harvey and Alexander Schwartz (eds.), Oxford: Hart Publishing.

MEMBERS NEWS



Simona Vittorini
Senior Teaching Fellow

In 27-29 2011 March Simona Vittorini attended the 7th India-Africa CII Exim Bank Conclave in New Delhi as part of my research into India-Africa relations.

She has written with Dr Dave Harris a piece for the BBC titled 'India's growing interest in Africa' which can be found on www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-1351911

On 17 May Simona briefed Mr Trouve, the Swedish Special Envoy to Afghanistan on India's perceptions on the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan not least with regards to the prospects for the development a political settlement and particularly in view of recent developments (such as the death of OBL).

Two chapters on India Africa relations (co-written with Dave Harris) have just been published: 'African governmental responses to Indian ventures on the continent: a changing arena of African politics?' (with Dave Harris) in Dietz T et al (eds.), *New Topographies of Power? Africa Negotiating an Emerging Multi-polar World*, Brill, Leiden; and 'India Goes Over to the Other Side: Indo-West African Relations in the 21st Century', In Mawdsley E and McCann G (Eds.) *India in Africa: Changing Geographies of Power*, Oxford Fahamu Books.

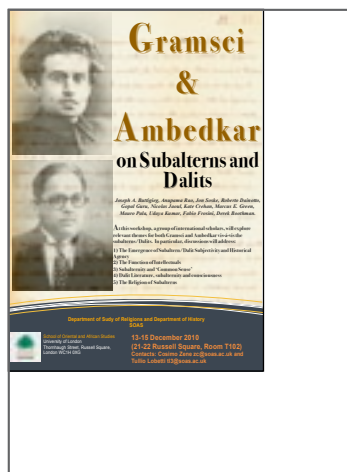
Simona has also been the Consultant Editor for the Italian translation of David Ludden's book *South Asia. A Short History* including Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Oxford: Oneworld) which was published this month (June 2011) in Italy by Einaudi, Torino with the title: *Storia dell'India e dell'Asia del Sud. Compresi Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan e Sri Lanka.*



Cosimo Zene
Reader in the
Study of Religions

In December, 2010, with the collaboration of colleagues from the departments of History and Anthropology, Cosimo Zene organised a workshop on "Gramsci & Ambedkar on Subalterns and Dalits." Over 3 days, a group of international scholars explored relevant themes for both Gramsci and Ambedkar vis-à-vis the Subalterns/Dalits. The workshop addressed in particular the following themes: 1) The Emergence of Subaltern/Dalit Subjectivity and Historical Agency; 2) The Function of Intellectuals; 3) Subalternity and 'Common Sense'; 4) Dalit Literature, subalternity and consciousness; 5) The Religion of Subalterns.

An edited volume with the papers presented at the workshop is currently being prepared for publication. The success of the meeting is evident by the willingness of participants to continue these encounters. A second workshop on "Education and Religion of Subalterns/Dalits in Gramsci and Ambedkar" is now being planned for 2012.



Matthew Nelson
Reader in Politics

During the Fall of 2010 Matt elson presented papers on 'Education, Islam, and the Ideology of Pakistan' at Oxford (Comparative Political Thought Workshop) and 'Talking About Differences (Or Not)' at the LSE (PSA-sponsored conference on Elites, Mass Publics, and the Political in South Asia). During the Spring of 2011 he was a full-time Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, where he presented two papers related to his work on religious education, citizenship, and pluralism in Pakistan.

In April, Matt convened the South Asia Council panel for the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii. His panel, 'Rhetorics of Resistance: Maoists in Nepal and India; Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan,' included papers by Michael Semple (Harvard), Mariam Abou-Zahab (CERI, Sciences Po), Jeevan Sharma (Tufts), and, as a last-minute replacement for Nandini Sundar from Delhi, Michael Spacek (Carleton University in Ottawa). Back in London, he also conducted a special briefing regarding contemporary affairs in Pakistan for the Swedish Embassy. This involved the head of the Swedish Foreign Office's Asia and South Asia desks.



Michael W. Charney
Reader in South East Asian and Imperial History

In April 2011, Michael Charney conducted fieldwork in Sri Lanka, at Colombo and Kandy, on the Sri Lankan railway for a project on the history of colonial-era railways. He is currently preparing an article on this aspect of Sri Lankan history for publication.



Philippe Cullet

Professor of International Environmental Law

During 2010-2011 Philippe Cullet was on research leave where he was based in Delhi as a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research.

Publications

P. Cullet, 'Realisation of the Fundamental Right to Water in Rural Areas – Implications of the Evolving Policy Framework for Drinking Water', 46/12 *Economic and Political Weekly* (2011), p. 56-62.

P. Cullet, 'Water Sector Reforms and Courts in India – Lessons from the Evolving Case Law', 19/3 *Review of European Community & International Environmental Law* (2010), p. 328-38.

P. Cullet, A. Gowlland-Gualtieri, R. Madhav & U. Ramanathan eds, *Water Governance in Motion: Towards Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Water Laws* (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 556 p.

P. Cullet, 'Water Law – Evolving Regulatory Framework', in P. Cullet, A. Gowlland-Gualtieri, R. Madhav & U. Ramanathan eds, *Water Governance in Motion: Towards Socially and Environmentally Sustainable Water Laws* (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2010), p. 26-52.

Impact

Planning Commission of India - Preparation of Twelfth Plan Member, Working group on water governance for the twelfth Five Year Plan

Convenor, Sub-group on legal issues related to groundwater management and regulation Member, Sub-group on national water framework law

Organisation

Organisation of the workshop: 'Right to Sanitation: Lessons from India', 27-28 January 2011, International Environment House, Geneva, organised by IELRC & SOAS, ielrc.org/activities/workshop_1101/index.htm

Panel on 'Water Law and Water Policy Relationship in the Context of Water Law Reforms', paper entitled 'Realisation of the right to water Contribution and limitation of water policy', Second Law & Social Sciences Research Network Conference, Pune, 27-30 December 2010

Keynote presentation

'Shared Natural Resources – Opportunities and Challenges', 40th Annual Conference on Sunday, 17 April 2011, Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi

Presentations

'Groundwater Regulation – Towards a new Framework', Seminar on 'Sustainable Ground Water Management in Uttar Pradesh: Action & Implementation Strategies', Club of Lucknow, 19 November 2010, Lucknow

Poverty and the Human Right to Water – Case of India, Sawyer Seminar on Human Rights, Rethinking Human Rights and the Environment, University of Wisconsin, 3 December 2010.

'Is Water Policy The New Water Law? - Reflections on India's Experience', Workshop 'Some for All? Pathways and Politics in Water and Sanitation since New Delhi, 1990', 22-23 March 2011, IDS, Sussex

'Groundwater Regulation: Rethinking the Model', Seminar on Strategies for Groundwater Management, ACWADAM, 22-23 May 2011, Pune Presentation and written paper: 'Right to Water – From Judicial Pronouncement to Implementation', Workshop on 'Exploring Possibilities of Research on Water Justice in South Asia;', 18-21 April 2011, Soppecom and Wageningen University, Pune



Rahul Rao

Lecturer in International Security

Rahul Rao has written about the global implications of the revolutions in the Middle East for The movement of India (the magazine of the National Alliance of Peoples' Movements in India). He was recently on Cape Talk Radio (South Africa) and Lithuanian National Radio to discuss the implications of the assassination of Osama bin Laden. He has presented his work on the queer movement in Uganda at workshops at SOAS and LSE. Over the summer, he will be giving lectures based on his recent book *Third World Protest* in Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.



Jonathan Goodhand

Reader in Development Practice

Jonathan Goodhand has been involved in several projects related to Sri Lanka and publications include an edited volume and a journal article: Goodhand, J, Korf B and Spencer J (eds) (2011) *Aid, conflict and peacebuilding in Sri Lanka. Caught in the Peace Trap* Routledge, UK; Goodhand, J (2010) 'Stabilizing a Victor's Peace? Humanitarian action and reconstruction in eastern Sri Lanka' *Disasters* vol 34, pp. s342-s367.

Besides completing an ESRC-funded research project on Conflict, Community and Faith in Eastern Sri Lanka (in collaboration with Edinburgh, Zurich and Peradeniya Universities) he led a multi-donor funded Strategic Conflict Assessment (including David Rampton at SOAS) and has been the deputy team leader for a NORAD funded evaluation of the Norwegian role in the Sri Lankan peace process.

MEMBERS NEWS



Michael Hutt

Professor of Nepali and Himalayan Studies

Michael Hutt has had a very busy and productive sabbatical. In 2010 the British Academy awarded a South Asia Partnership Project grant to Dr Pratyoush Onta of Martin Chautari and Michael for a project entitled 'The construction of public meaning in Nepal'. This enabled him to visit Nepal twice (in September-October and February-March) to pursue his own research, and also enabled Dr Onta and Mr Devraj Humagai (a specialist in the history of radio in Nepal) to visit the UK in April, giving talks and presentations at SOAS and in Cambridge. In September 2011 the project will hold its first workshop in Kathmandu and a second workshop will be held at SOAS in 2012.

During December-January Michael also travelled to Darjeeling and Sikkim to meet local writers, visit Sikkim University and give a public talk at Rachna Books, and at the end of April he visited Kathmandu for a third time to receive the award of the Nai Derukha Prize. During his visits to Nepal he has been gathering materials and conducting interviews for four research papers: these are on recent Nepali novels, memoirs by Maoist ex-combatants, palace massacre conspiracy theories, and the legend of the rebel renouncer Yogmaya.

At the beginning of the year he took on the chairmanship of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council, and during the course of the year the BNAC held its annual lecture and three seminars at SOAS, plus the annual Nepal Study Day, organised over two days by colleagues in Cambridge.

Other activities have included chairing a one-day workshop on Nepal's peace process at Chatham House (19 October); editing two issues of the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research; working with Professor Trevor Marchand to develop a new two-years Masters degree in Anthropological Research Methods and Nepali, which comes on stream at SOAS this autumn; preparing for the official launching of the Hodgson Archive catalogue at the British Library on 25

July; and attending functions of the recently resettled Bhutanese refugee community in Manchester. His book entitled *The Life of Bhupi Sherchan: poetry and politics in post-Rana Nepal* was published by Oxford University Press in New Delhi last October and an article entitled 'Singing the New Nepal' is forthcoming in *Nations and Nationalism*.



Subir Sinha

Senior Lecturer in
Institutions
and Development

In November 2010 Subir Sinha was invited by the Government of Brazil and the International Fund for Agriculture and Development to report on small farms and food security in India, which formed part of the status paper released at the workshop.

In February 2011 he read a paper entitled 'The End of Environmentalism in India?' at the Department of Geography, King's College, London.

In March-April 2011 Subir presented a paper at the Annual Conference of the Association of Asian Studies held in Honolulu, Hawaii, on new subalterns in South Asia.

This year, his paper "The Long March from the Margins" was published in a volume entitled *"The Borders of Justice"* edited by Etienne Balibar, Sandro Mezzadra and Ranabir Samaddar, published by Temple University Press.

Subir is currently working on two projects: revising a paper on transnationality in social movements of those involved in small scale fishing; and on the conditions for the production of the commons in neoliberal India.



Hanna-Ruth Thompson

Senior Lecturer in Bengali

Hanna-Ruth Thompson spent most of September 2010 in Dhaka and Kolkata on a new research project comparing the linguistic differences between the two standards of Bengali in East and West as well as giving lectures on her new approach to Bengali grammar. The project is being financed through the Faculty Seedcorn Research Grant. A report of her findings is being prepared for publication.



Hanna-Ruth Thompson in Dhaka in September 2010

In March 2011 she gave a paper entitled "Developing a Language Pedagogy for Bengali" at the World Language and Society Education Center conference at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Two new dictionaries, a *Bengali Dictionary and Phrasebook* as well as a more substantial *Practical Dictionary* are being published by Hippocrene, New York in February 2011 and July 2011 respectively. Also in preparation is a new Bengali Script Tutor, which will enable students to practise the script and sounds of Bengali on-line.

Hannah is currently working on an academic Bengali grammar for the London Oriental and African Language Library, published by John Benjamins. Alongside her linguistic work she is also preparing a practical student grammar and workbook of Bengali.



Stephen Hughes

Lecturer in Social Anthropology

For the academic session Stephen Hughes returned to SOAS after a year of research based in Chennai, India on an American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Long-Term Fellowship funded by the US National Endowment for the Humanities. The project, entitled "Itineraries of Film: distribution, exhibition and audiences in south India" was a study of cinema business records relating to the financing, distribution and exhibition of Tamil films during the 1940s that are held by the Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL) in Chennai.

He attended the 39th Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and was also the principal organizer of a conference, The Future of Early Tamil Cinema, which was funded by the Indian Foundation for the Arts and held at the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai, India over two days, February 17 and 18 2011. The project will continue in the form of a special issue of the SAGE journal *BioScope: South Asia Screen Studies*, scheduled for 2013.

Recent Publications

- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2011) 'Film genre, exhibition and audiences in colonial south India.' In Richard Maltby, Daniel Biltereyst, and Philippe Meers, (eds.), *Explorations in New Cinema History: Approaches and Case Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, pp. 295-309.
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2011) 'Media anthropology and the problem of audience reception.' In: Banks, Marcus and Ruby, Jay, (eds.), *Made to be Seen: Perspectives on the History of Visual Anthropology*. University of Chicago Press.
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2011) 'Iyantirap piratiyākkattin kālattil icai: nādakam, kirāmapōn, tamizh cinimāvin tuvakkangka! (part 2)' *Kaatchipizhai*, 2, February pp. 41-48. [Translated into Tamil by Vaḷarmati from Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2007) 'Music in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: Drama, Gramophone and the Beginnings of Tamil Cinema.']
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2011) 'Iyantirap piratiyākkattin kālattil icai: nādakam, kirāmapōn, tamizh cinimāvin tuvakkangka! (part 1)' *Kaatchipizhai*, 2, January, pp. 40-49. [Translated into Tamil by Vaḷarmati from Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2007) 'Music in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: Drama, Gramophone and the Beginnings of Tamil Cinema.']
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2010) 'The Lost Decade of Indian Film History' *Journal of the Moving Image*, 9, December, pp. 72-93.
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2010) 'What is Tamil about Tamil Cinema?' *South Asia Popular Culture*, 8 (3), October, pp. 213-229
- Hughes, Stephen Putnam (2010) 'When Film Came to Madras' *BioScope: South Asian Screen Studies*, 1 (2), pp. 147-168.



Lawrence Saez

Senior Lecturer in Comparative and International Politics

Lawrence Saez published a new book, *The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation: An Emerging Collaboration Architecture* (Routledge 2011). The work aims to evaluate what scope there is for formal institutions, like, SAARC, to provide a permanent regional security architecture within which South Asian countries can effectively address important issues.

Given his expertise on fiscal federalism, Lawrence has been involved in engaging in knowledge transfer with various factions of the leading political parties in Nepal. On behalf of the CSAS, he hosted a luncheon at SOAS with leading Nepalese politicians. At the invitation of the Nepal High Commission in London, he has attended numerous functions to provide advice on various matters of national importance as Nepal seeks to draft a new constitution. Lawrence will be attending the UK-Nepal trade delegation to Kathmandu later in October.

In 2010, Lawrence was appointed to the World Economic Forum's India Regional Council. He represented SOAS at the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s India Economic summit held in New Delhi in November 2010. He later represented SOAS at the WEF's Global Agenda Summit held in Dubai in December 2010. Lawrence has been particularly involved in the area of good governance and its relationship to energy, food, and water security in India. He was re-appointed to the India Regional Council for the 2011-2012 year.

Lawrence also was appointed to lead a Working Group on civil society, non-state actors and energy security in Asia. His working group forms part of the ECAF/IDEAS project, a 1.2million euro 'coordination and support' action, whose primary aim is to bring the ECAF concept to life, and to enrich European Asian studies in the process. ECAF/IDEAS is an European Commission-sponsored project funded under the auspices of the FP7 framework.

MEMBERS NEWS



**Chandra Lekha
Sriram**
Professor of Law

Chandra Lekha Sriram joined SOAS as a Professor of Law in September 2010. Prior to SOAS, she was Professor of Human Rights at the University of East London School of Law, where she founded and directed the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict (www.uel.ac.uk/chrc), an interdisciplinary, policy-oriented research centre. She has received numerous grants and awards, and has held a British Academy large grant on rule of law promotion in African countries emerging from conflict (2007-2009), and has been a workpackage leader as part of a larger European Union Framework VII project on building a just and durable peace in the Middle East and Western Balkans (2008-2011; www.justpeace.eu). She is currently the principal investigator on a United States Institute of Peace grant on transitional justice and peacebuilding (2010-2012) and co-investigator on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant on the International Criminal Court and Kenya (2009-2012). She is the author of three monographs: *Peace as governance* (2008), *Globalizing Justice for Mass Atrocities* (2005) and *Confronting past human rights violations* (2004).

During term 1 2010, Chandra was on research leave at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University in New York, conducting research for her next project on human rights, transitional justice, and peacebuilding.



Crispin Branfoot
Senior Lecturer in
South Asian Art
& Archaeology

Crispin Branfoot was on sabbatical from October 2010 to April 2011, spending over five months in India researching a new research project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, entitled *Construction, renovation, conservation: the Hindu temple in Tamil south India 1870-1920*.

Following extensive research on 16-17th century Hindu temple architecture in southern India, this research examines the continuity of temple building into the modern era, the historiography of the Tamil temple and colonial archaeology in south India. Many temples were constructed or renovated, often resulting in wholly new temples on old sacred sites, from the late 19th century, not by major royal donors as in the past but by emergent merchant classes, especially the Nattukkottai Chettiars. Unlike many of north India's ancient monuments, many south India temples remained in use and so the colonial conservationist agenda had to engage with the 'living' tradition of active temple patronage and continual renovation. The extensive renovations aroused the ire of colonial archaeologists but were the catalyst to the hasty photography of many previously unrecorded temples, the documentation of large numbers of historic inscriptions and the dispersal of temple sculpture. He was affiliated to the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi during his time in India, giving seminar papers at both JNU and Delhi University. His research included work at the National Archives and the Archaeological Survey of India in Delhi, the State Archives in Chennai and extensive fieldwork.

His latest publications include: "Minaksi's wedding: painting the sacred marriage in early modern Madurai" in Anna L. Dallapiccola (ed.), *Indian Painting: The Lesser Known Traditions* (New Delhi 2011); "In a Land of Kings: donors, elites and temple sculpture" in Anna L. Dallapiccola & Anila Verghese (eds.) *South India under Vijayanagara: Art and Archaeology* (New Delhi 2011); "Iconography and Images: Art" in Knut Jacobsen (ed.), *Brill Encyclopaedia of Hinduism, Vol. II: Texts, Rituals, Arts, Concepts* (Leiden 2010).



Werner F Menski
Professor of
South Asian Laws

Werner Menski, apart from continuing an active teaching programme at all levels, continued to edit *South Asia Research* (SAGE, New Delhi), and published a large number of papers on South Asian laws, comparative law and legal theory:

'Hindu law'. *Law & Justice*. The Christian Law Review, 164 (Hilary/Easter 2010), pp. 45-62; 'Fuzzy law and the boundaries of secularism'. Lecture for RELIGARE, London, 24 June 2010. [See www.religareproject.eu/workingplace]. podcast at: www.law.qmul.ac.uk/podcast/index.html#religare; 'Sanskrit law. Excavating Vedic legal pluralism'. SOAS School of Law Research Paper No. 05-2010. [Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1621384>]; 'Law, state and culture: How countries accommodate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. The British and Indian experiences'. In: Marie-Claire Foblets, Jean-François Gaudreault-Desbiens and Alison Dundes Renteln (eds.) *Cultural diversity and the law. State responses from around the world*. Brussels: Bruylant and Éditions Yvon Blais, 2010, pp. 403-446; 'Slumdog law, colonial tummy aches and the redefinition of family law in India'. Review article. *South Asia Research*, 30.1 (February 2010), pp. 67-80.

His most recent work begins to develop the model of legal pluralism, earlier depicted as a triangle, in more elaborate form as a kite (patang), whose skilful legal navigation requires legal actors (and thus all of us) to balance competing expectations. Extensive lecture tours on this kite model in various universities (Baku, Osaka, Tokyo Metropolitan, CUSAT in Cochin, Rome, Lausanne, Cape Town) served to publicise the emerging new pattern of analysing legal pluralism in action, a model inspired not only by South Asian patterns, but of global relevance.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES



Eleanor Newbiggin

Lecturer in the History of South Asia in the Modern Period

Eleanor Newbiggin joined the SOAS history department in September 2010 as a lecturer in the history of modern South Asia, from Trinity College, Cambridge where she was a junior research fellow.

Her research explores ideas and practices of citizenship in India, especially during the subcontinent's transition to independence. She is currently working on a book about the codification of religious personal law in early twentieth-century India and its impact on structures of democratic representation in post-colonial India.

This year, Eleanor has presented material from this project at the LASSnet (Law and Social Science Network) Conference in Pune, India and the British Association of South Asian Studies Conference in Southampton; she will also be a panel speaker at the Commission on Legal Pluralism Conference to be held later this year at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Peter Robb

Professor of the History of India

In September Peter Robb attended an international workshop, at the invitation of the University of Nice, on 'Europe in Asia during the Age of Revolutions, c. 1757 to c. 1858'. A second extended edition of his *A History of India* has been published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Oxford University Press (New Delhi) are publishing two related books of his later this year: *Sex and Sensibility* and *Sentiment and Self*, both with the same subtitle: Richard Blechynden's Calcutta Diaries, 1791-1822. The first is about proprieties, customs, and emotions relating to the wives and (mostly) the concubines of Europeans. The second, focused on servants and children, argues for links between identity and feelings, in regard to culture, honour, and corruption.

Research Associates

Dr Shuja AL-HAQ

BA MA(PUNJAB) PHD(LONDON)
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Ms Maha AZIZ

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Dr Avril POWELL

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Avril Powell

Research Associate

Publications during 2010-11 include, *Scottish Orientalists and India: The Muir Brothers, Religion, Education and Empire* (Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 2010), pp. 318.

Guest editor of a Special Issue of *South Asia Research: Knowledge, Pedagogy and Muslims in Colonial North-West India*, Vol. 31, No.1 (February 2011), consisting of articles by Gail Minault, Jeffrey M. Diamond, Alan M. Guenther and Iqbal Singh Sevea.

'Creating Christian Community in Early-Nineteenth-Century Agra', in Richard Fox Young (ed) *India and the Indianness of Christianity: Essays on Understanding ... in Honor of Robert Eric Frykenberg* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K., 2010), pp. 82-107.

Served as a Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society and as a Trustee of the Charles Wallace (Pakistan) Trust, UK.



Maha Aziz

Research Associate

Maha Hosain Aziz, Senior Teaching Fellow in the Politics & International Studies Department, researched key political risk factors in South Asia in 2010-11. She presented some of these findings in her Asia Insight column in Bloomberg Business Week.

In one piece, she investigated how the mere perception of ethnic inequality could challenge booming growth in post-war Sri Lanka. In particular, she highlighted three subsets of the Tamil minority that the government should target: unemployed youth, non-LTTE militants and victims of the January floods. She advised that "Sri Lankan leaders would be wise to focus some energy on explicitly connecting the country's high growth to the Tamil minority that historically has felt marginalized."

In her next piece, she considered the potential for frustrated, unemployed youth of South Asia to engage in unrest like in the Arab Spring. Although not an imminent threat, she suggested that the "demographic time bomb" could eventually go off in the region if more youth jobs were not created; one solution she proposed was vocational entrepreneurship so jobless youth could be "taught new vocations, along with the necessary entrepreneurial skills to create their own employment in those specific vocations."

Other highlights from her column include an analysis of the geopolitical economy of Osama bin Laden's demise for Pakistan and how the country's massive floods provide an opportunity to tackle feudalism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Nirmala Rao Awarded OBE for Services to Scholarship

Professor Nirmala Rao, Pro-Director (Learning and Teaching) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, has been awarded an OBE for 'services to scholarship' in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours list, published on Saturday 11 June.

"Nirmala richly deserves this honour, and not only for her scholarship," said SOAS Director Paul Webley. "She has been a true leader at SOAS, particularly in developing the range and quality of our teaching and in modernising our practices and procedures." Professor Rao is a distinguished academic who has made a major contribution to our understanding of the way local government and local democracy work, particularly in major cities such as London. Among her many published works, she is the author of eight books, including *Governing London* (with Ben Pimlott, Oxford University Press, 2002) and, most recently, *Cities in Transition: Growth, Change and Governance in Six Metropolitan Areas* (Routledge, 2007).

Her work has had an impact beyond academia, affecting public policy on such matters as local-government reform and lowering barriers for citizens to participate in political decision-making.

On being asked to comment on how it feels to win such a huge honour Nirmala replied "I am humbled and privileged to have been recognised in this way. I have to say that it would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of my family and colleagues over the years."

Nirmala said that if she would single out one person to dedicate the award to she would choose Professor Ken Young, her one time supervisor and guide. "I have been fortunate to have had an enjoyable and successful career in UK Higher Education



in which I was able to work closely, for more than two decades, with Professor Ken Young, who inspired and supported me selflessly throughout. He always believed in me and taught me everything I needed to know. I benefited enormously from his advice and experience, not just as a social scientist but as an academic manager. He continued to be a friend and mentor for many years and I owe a deep debt of gratitude to him."

Nirmala said "I was born in Hyderabad and grew up in Chennai (then Madras) where I attended Kendriya Vidyalaya school. I came to Delhi in 1976 for my undergraduate studies and graduated with BA (Hons) Economics in 1979. I subsequently received my MA (1981) and MPhil (1983) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. I came to the UK in the late 1980s and took up my first research post at the Policy Studies Institute. In 1993 I was awarded my PhD and the following year I was appointed

as a Lecturer in Politics at Goldsmiths College. From 1999 to 2002 I served as Head of Department of Politics and was then appointed to a personal Chair in Politics. I progressed to take over as Pro-Warden for Academic Affairs in which capacity I served the College for three years. I then left to join the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) as Vice Principal in September 2008.

My academic experience at JNU was a rigorous one that prepared me well for the transfer from Indian to British higher education. I have published widely in the field of urban politics and governance, most recent being *Cities in Transition: Growth and Change in six Metropolitan cities* (2007). It was a comparative study of cities located in different parts of the world and included the Indian city of Hyderabad. I am currently working on a project on *Reshaping City Governance in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and London* to be published by Routledge in due course. I have also gained valuable experience by serving on a range of public bodies as a lay member of the General Council of the Bar, a non-executive director of Ealing Hospital NHS Trust and an appointed member of the Architects Registration Board. I have also served in an advisory capacity to a range of bodies including the UK Audit Commission and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). In India, I have worked closely with the Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad, advising them and collaborating on a number of research projects.

I find my job at SOAS extremely rewarding and my colleagues very supportive. The challenges facing the School currently, as with all other higher education institutions in the UK, are many and there is much to be accomplished here. My future plans are to return to my roots in India although, at this point in my career, it is impossible for me to predict as to when that will come about."

Dr Ian Matthew Paton Raeside, 1926-2011

Ian Raeside joined SOAS in 1954 as an assistant lecturer in linguistics, afterwards becoming Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Gujarati and Marathi. He was appointed Acting Head of Department for the four years prior to his retirement in 1991 and also served as Senior Tutor and Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Dr Raeside was born in Coventry and educated at King Henry VIII School in that city and afterward Rydal Penros School in North Wales, following evacuation. After one term as student of French at University College, London, then evacuated to Bangor, he was called up and served first in the Welsh Guards and then as an officer in the Intelligence Corps in Egypt and Greece. On resuming his studies at UCL in London he met fellow student Valerie Wall, his wife of 57 years who survives him. They were married in 1953. In 1955 he took his PhD in Medieval French Literature, having at that time already been appointed at SOAS, after which he began his study of his two specialist languages. He was given tenure in 1960.

The bulk of his published work focuses on the close analysis and translation of texts in Marathi. In the case of supposed histories his aim was often to discover their degree of historical reliability. This scholarly approach was one he first developed as a postgraduate student, his PhD thesis establishing that a purported medieval history was largely invented.

His own aptitude for the languages he taught is proven by his winning a prize for his translation of a short story from Marathi after only having studied that language for three years (later published in the collection *The Rough and the Smooth*). He was also commissioned by UNESCO to translate a novel by the Marathi writer Shripad Narayan Pendse *Wild Bapu of Garambi* [Garambica Bapu]. His *Bibliography Of Mahanubhav*



Works In Marathi was republished as a separate text in Bombay in 2003 because of its outstanding usefulness to scholars in the field even 40 years after initial publication. His final major work was a translation of *Gadyarāja*, a Fourteenth Century Marathi Version of the Krsna Legend.

Dr Raeside visited India on several occasions after his initial year of study leave in 1957 and made many friends there.

In the late 1990s, after several years of happy and active retirement, he began to show signs of the vascular dementia that was eventually the cause of his death, and which caused him to withdraw from contact with his friends and colleagues inside and outside academia in later years.

He died peacefully at home on January 30th, 2011.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Photo taken by Sophie Baker in the 1990s

Dr William Radice retires

Dr William Radice has long pursued what he terms a 'double career'.

A scholar and translator of Bengali, he has taught at SOAS for 23 years, his first and only academic home after earning his D.Phil in Bengali Literature at Oxford in 1987.

In his other career William is a poet, the author of nine published volumes, including *Strivings* (1980), *Louring Skies* (1985), *The Retreat* (1994) and *Green, Red, Gold: A Novel in 101 Sonnets* (2003).

As a translator of the Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, however, he has managed to merge both careers.

In 1913 Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for *Gitanjali* (1912), a collection of 103 poems translated into English. Tagore translated them himself, but they were edited by W.B. Yeats, who also wrote the preface to the volume.

In honour of the 150th anniversary of Tagore's birth, William has produced a new translation of *Gitanjali*, which has just been published by Penguin India.

William said that "For me, the great thing about SOAS is that it has enabled me to ride these two horses—the academic and the literary. Bringing scholarship and creativity together: that is what my work at SOAS has been all about, and that was Tagore's aim too in his own educational work." Dr Radice retired from SOAS at the end of August 2011.

Poeta Scholasticus, by William Radice

Poeta scholasticus is not a particularly rare breed. There are plenty of poets teaching in English departments at British universities. In the USA poets teach Creative Writing. In Bangladesh, most professors of Bengali seem to be poets. For all of them, university employment solves a fundamental problem: how to earn one's living? For some, like Philip Larkin stolidly working in the Hull University Library while writing poems or jazz reviews, a complete separation of the poetic from the academic is a way of managing one's twofold existence. For me, it has never been as simple as that. After twenty-three years as a lecturer at SOAS I'm leaving to focus on the creative side of my life. But separating the poetic from the scholarly won't really be any easier than it was before. With a number of translation and research projects in the pipeline, I'll have to go on riding two horses, and maybe the race will end with a photo finish.

There are a number of ways in which my life as a poet and my life as a lecturer have been closely connected, and I'll always be grateful to SOAS for making that possible. Let me bow out with some brief reflections on connections that may or may not have been apparent to colleagues and students, and which I was not always conscious of myself, but which now seem to give shape and meaning to my SOAS career.

1. Poetry has always been at the heart of what I've taught. Bengali culture is highly poetic: poets are given high social status, and it's normal to refer to a poet as 'Kobi [poet] X'. I often get letters with that title, even from the Bangladesh High Commission. Although not all students start learning Bengali with a desire to read poetry, I've usually found ways of slipping it in, even very early on, and have won quite a few converts.
2. The two Bengali writers that I've concentrated on in my books and research, Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) and Michael Madhusudan Dutt (1824-1873) are both poets on a massive scale. Madhusudan's epic poem *Meghnādbadh kābya* has
3. There have always been links between my poetry and my translations, but often I don't see them till many years later. I'm currently assembling my ten published books of poems into a *Collected Poems*. If it gets published and noticed, critics and maybe even a PhD student one day will be able to explore those links. In a lecture in Kolkata in December 2009 I found parallels between Tagore's way of forming a sequence of poems and the endless poem that since February 2009 I've been writing on Twitter. Completing my new translation of Tagore's most famous book, *Gitanjali* – in September and October 2010 in India, with one arm after falling and breaking my right wrist – was such an intense and personal experience that it's difficult for me (and maybe for readers too) to tell where Radice ends and Tagore begins.
4. Teaching has always been for me a highly creative activity. The way in which a class forms in my mind before I teach it, then unfolds with unexpected twists and turns, and the part it plays in a larger sequence or 'course' – all of this seems not very different from writing a poem. How this works, and how students learn, is often very mysterious. I've felt this especially in recent years in the supervision of research students. Although a thesis is not a poem, and has

fascinated me ever since I started reading as a postgraduate student of Bengali at SOAS 1972-4. I can vividly remember my teacher, Dr Tarapada Mukherjee, reading the opening lines to me, and taking me down to the Library to find a copy of Madhusudan's extraordinary English letters. My DPhil at Oxford was on Madhusudan, and I've finally this year brought out my complete translation of the epic, with copious annotations that took me through all the epic poems both Indian and Western that were his models. With Tagore, however, there can be no such closure. He wrote so much, and his poetic universe is so vast and various that even if my work on him continues for another twenty years, I shall still feel that I'm just beginning.

The Ladder Of Love

shields upon shields
shells within shells
havens not cages

partners and families
friends and colleagues
houses, communities
cultures and languages
nations and destinies
planet and oxygen
sun and inventiveness
hope and the universe

or

locks upon locks
walls around walls
dogmas and bigotry
guns and dictators
hatred and fear
violence and cruelty
darkness and hunger
gaoling not healing

blessings in one
doom in the other

here we are lucky
rungs of the ladder
always supportive
onwards and upwards
shells to break out of
steps not barriers

maybe in essence
that's what we do here
add a few steps
rungs to the ladder
climbing through
knowledge
stages of wisdom
increase of kindness

to

that we don't know
all that we do know

is

cages and gaolers
bombs and tyranny
hunger and misery
can't be the way

and

here we are free of them

W. R.
21.6.11

to meet objective scholarly standards, I nevertheless strongly feel that it must be creative too. My role as a supervisor has primarily been to help the student find the creative heart of the work, the engine that drives it along. Sometimes it takes them more than two years to find it, but when they do, the thesis pretty well writes itself.

5. Even administration can be creative. When I once asked my wife, who was formerly an English teacher but for the last thirteen years has been a headmistress (she's retiring too this year, as Head of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls), what was most appealing about her very arduous job, she thought for a moment and said, 'It's creative'. My experience of administration is much more limited than hers – just my three years 1999-2002 as head of the Departments of South and South East Asia – but the creativity of the job was what appealed to me too: the ingenuity one needed to achieve results, the subtle interactions with colleagues and students, the interplay between tactics and strategy. If I had one guiding principle, it was simply to try to ensure that colleagues were in roles that suited them best – no square pegs in round holes! That was not so different from ensuring that every word in a poem is in the right place and working to maximum effect.
6. Somehow a role for me at SOAS developed that was explicitly poetic. Alongside my 'serious' poems, I found myself writing numerous verses, for SOAS events, for colleagues when they retired, for neighbours at meetings where I felt bored or frustrated and diverted myself by writing a scurrilous limerick. I've also written numerous occasional poems for friends and family outside SOAS, and when I made my quixotic bid for the Poet Laureateship in 2009 – cheerfully backed by many SOAS staff and students, though everyone knew it would fail – one of my motives was to challenge the rather prissy assumption that poets 'can't write to order'. If painters and composers can carry out commissions, why can't poets?

1. I'm looking again at my accumulated SOAS poems – nearly 60 of them – with a view to a possible Collection or Selection of them (timed for the SOAS centenary). Just as there are links between my translations and poems, so I suspect there are many unconscious connections between my published books of poems and my parallel stream of occasional poems. Even the most frivolous of them have serious undercurrents. Ultimately, in a fully creative life, everything is connected.

Being creative also means knowing when to stop. When I read my final SCR poem, 'The Marmite Mysteries', at the Strawberry Tea on 15 June, I was pleased that I held the large audience's attention: by the end of the poem, everyone was still and silent. I also felt, 'I can't do this again. Most of the people here don't know me, and I must seem like a weird relic of the previous century.' But on 21 June, at a delightful farewell organized for me by the South Asia Department, I managed one last poem (reproduced here). It's a serious one, really. The two streams – if they were ever truly apart – have come together in an expression of gratitude for the home that SOAS has given me, the haven it is for all who work and study here. It's deliberately written in an easily translatable form and style. A poem for SOAS translated into all the languages we teach? That would be a dream come true: a lasting confirmation of purpose and meaning in the years I have spent here.

[William Radice's latest books are his translations of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's *The Poem of the Killing of Meghnād*, Rabindranath Tagore's collected brief poems (*The Jewel That Is Best*), and Tagore's *Gitanjali*, all for Penguin India; an edition of Gandhi's autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* for the Folio Society; and *Complete Bengali*, an expanded edition of his *Teach Yourself Bengali* for Hodder. His username on Twitter is 'Billthequill'.]

ACADEMIC EVENTS

SEPT 2010 - AUG 2011

1-5 September 2010

Symposium

The 5th Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium and The 16th Himalayan Languages Symposium

3 November 2010

The Shruti Foundation International Lecture

Communications and Culture: Tradition, Modernity and Post-Modernism in Indian Cinema

Shyam Benegal

(Director and screenwriter)

Sharmila Tagore retrospective

Co-hosted with the Nehru Centre

16 November 2010

Film Screening

Apur Sandar (The World of Apu)

Satyajit Ray (Director)

17 November 2010

Film Screening

Devi

Satyajit Ray (Director)

18 November 2010

Film Screening

Aradhana

Shakti Samanta (Director)

18 November 2010

Discussion

Sharmila Tagore in conversation with Sangeeta Datta

Left Politics in South Asia

30 November 2010

Lecture

The Left and Tamil Self-Determination in Sri Lanka

Dr Vickramabahu Karunarathne
(General Secretary of the New Sama Samaja Party (NSSP))

9 December 2010

Seminar

The Vicissitudes of Leftist Politics in Pakistan: Expressions of "Self-Defeat" in the Politics of the 1960s

Atiya Khan (University of Chicago)

30 November 2010

Centre of South Asian Studies
Annual Lecture

Does the Mahabharata Approve of Ekalavya cutting off his Thumb? and Other Tales of Dalits in Ancient India

Professor Wendy Doniger
(Mircea Eliade Professor of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago and author of *The Hindus: An Alternative History* (OUP, 2010))

18 February 2011

Seminar

Blasphemy and the erosion of democracy and secular space in Pakistan: a blueprint for the future

Najam Sethi

(Editor-in-chief of *Friday Times*, Award winning Pakistani journalist)

23 February 2011

Co-hosted with the SOAS Department of the History of Art and Archaeology
Seminar

Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Samadhi: the last great example of indigenous architectural style in the Punjab

Dr Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan
(SOAS Charles Wallace Fellow 2010-11)

8 March 2011

Film Screening

Frozen

Shivajee Chandrabhusha (Director)

9 March 2011

Seminar

Mirza Waheed (author of *The Collaborator*) in conversation with Kamila Shamsie

11 March 2011

Film Screening

Life Goes On - followed by a discussion

Sangeeta Datta (Director), Tehmina Kazi (Director, British Muslims for Secular Democracy) and chaired by Professor Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)

18 March 2011

Co-hosted with the V&A
Seminar

Unique Specimens of Sikh Period Wall Paintings in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Samadhi

Dr Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan

(SOAS Charles Wallace Fellow 2011-12)

22 March 2011

Co-hosted with Tongues of Fire
Nargis Dutt Lecture

Business of Making Films

Anusha Rizvi (Director/Writer)

24 March 2011

Co-hosted with the SOAS Centre of Gender Studies
Seminar

How do we understand the Mad Woman's Speech? Women's Novels (50s-60s) and their Cinematic Re-Creation in South India

Dr P. Radhika

(Charles Wallace Indian Fellow 2010-11)

2 April 2011

Co-hosted with London Chhhalphal
4th London Himalayan Film Festival
Himalayan culture and society: practices past and present

18 April 2011

Debate

The Radio in Nepal: Contemporary Debates

Devraj Humagain, 'The Policy Environment for Independent Radio in Nepal, 1991-2011', Pratyoush Onta, 'Independent Radio and the Public Sphere in Nepal', Rama Parajuli, 'Doing Print and Radio Journalism in Nepal: A Practitioner's View', Bhagirath Yogi, "BBC Nepali Sewa: Touching the Lives of Millions" and chaired by Professor Michael Hutt (SOAS)

SOAS, Centre of South Asian Studies in collaboration with The Nehru Centre

Sharmila Tagore retrospective

Special Event
The legendary actress, Sharmila Tagore, in conversation with Sangeeta Datta
5pm on Thursday, 18 November 2010
in the Ball Lecture Theatre

Film Screenings
Agar Satkar
Director Satyajit Ray, 1960
7:30pm on Tuesday, 16 November, Room K17

Devi
Director Satyajit Ray, 1960
4:30pm on Wednesday, 17 November, Room B102

Aradhana
Director Shashi Capantia, 1969
2:30pm on Thursday, 18 November, Room 4421

All welcome

Further info: Centres & Programmes Office, events@soas.ac.uk / 020 7898 4892
www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events/

Sponsored by The Nehru Centre

3 May 2011

Forum
BBC South Asian Language Service - what future?

William Crawley (co-author of *Satellites over South Asia: broadcasting, culture, and the public interest* (2001), Professor Marie Gillespie (Open University), Aamer Ahmed Khan, Head of Urdu Service (BBC), Priyath Liyanage, Head of Sinhala Service (BBC) and chaired by Francesca Orsini (SOAS)

11 May 2011

Seminar
Enforced Disappearances and State Accountability in Nepal

Mr Ram Kumar Bhandari (Chairman of the National Network of Families of Disappeared); *Forced Disappearances and Impunity in Nepal* and Ms Iona Liddell (Advocacy Director, PBI Nepal): *PBI Nepal: Supporting Human Rights Defenders in Nepal*

25 May 2011

Seminar
Moth Smoke and Pakistan after Bin Laden

Mohsin Hamid (Author) and chaired by Dr Amina Yaqin (SOAS)

13 June 2011

Seminar
Constitution Drafting, State Restructuring And The Peace Process In Nepal: What Next?

General Sir Sam Cowan, Professor David Gellner, Professor Peter Leyland, Dr Mara Malagodi, Dr Sara Shneiderman, Professor Surya Subedi and chaired by Professor Michael Hutt (SOAS)

15 June 2011

Book Launch
Ziauddin Sardar Book Launch 'Reading the Quran' with Merryl Davies & Amina Yaqin followed by Q&A
Merryl Wyn Davis & Dr Amina Yaqin (SOAS)

Centre of South Asian Studies Annual Lecture

Professor Wendy Doniger

Does the Mahabharata Approve of Ekalavya cutting off his Thumb? and Other Tales of Dalits in Ancient India

7 pm on 30 November 2010
in the Khalil Lecture Theatre, SOAS

All Welcome, but registration essential
www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events/

SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies and CRESO present

BBC South Asian Language Service - what future?

6pm on 3 May 2011
Room G2, SOAS, University of London

Speakers:
William Crawley (Co-author, *Satellites over South Asia: Broadcasting, Culture, and the Public Interest* (2001))
Professor Marie Gillespie (Open University)
Aamer Ahmed Khan (Head of Urdu Service, BBC)
Priyath Liyanage (Head of Sinhala Service, BBC)
Chair: Francesca Orsini (SOAS)

The event is free but booking is essential: www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events/

The Shruti Foundation International Lecture

Communications and Culture: Tradition, Modernity and Post-Modernism in Indian Cinema

SHYAM BENEGAL

One of the pioneers of the new cinema in India, Shyam Benegal has been considered one of the leading filmmakers of the country ever since his first feature film, ANKUR was released

6.30 pm on 3 November 2010
Brunel Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS
www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events/

Himalayan Languages Symposium

The Himalayan Languages Symposium is an annually recurring open scholarly forum for scholars of Himalayan languages. The Himalayan Languages Symposium serves as a platform for contributions on any language of the greater Himalayan region, whether Bharohuk, Khasi, Tibetic, Sino-Tibetic, Indo-European, Austro-Asiatic, Dravidic, Austro-Thai, or other languages. Languages as well as specialists from related disciplines like philology, history, anthropology, archaeology and geography are welcome to make their contributions to the study of Himalayan languages and Himalayan language communities.

Keynote Address: Marjorie Mazonson
"Dialectology and language change: paths to tone in Tamangish languages"

2-5 September 2010
SOAS, University of London

Enquiries/Registration
www.soas.ac.uk/Himalayan-Languages-Symposium
Centres & Programmes: centres@soas.ac.uk / 020 7898 4892/3

5th Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium

Medieval Tibeto-Burman languages have in comparative linguistics, and in the present time, Tibeto-Burman scholarship has not tended to share the same insights, and the wider language of the Tibeto-Burman family have been equally neglected.

1 September 2010
SOAS, University of London

Enquiries/Registration
www.soas.ac.uk/Tibeto-Burman-Languages-Symposium
Centres & Programmes: centres@soas.ac.uk / 020 7898 4892/3

Centre of South Asian Studies & British Nepal Academic Council

THE RADIO IN NEPAL: Contemporary Debates

18 April 2011 / 6pm / Room G2
Ground Floor, Main Building, Russell Square, SOAS, London WC1H 0XG

Speakers:
Devraj Harpali, "The Policy Environment for Independent Radio in Nepal, 1991-2011"
Prakash Chandra, "Subjective Radio and the Public Sphere in Nepal"
Rama Parajuli, "Using Print and Radio Journalism in Nepal: A Preliminary View"
Bhagirat Singh, "The Media Sector: Sustaining the Lives of Millions"
Chair: Michael Hutt (SOAS)

Moth Smoke and Pakistan after Bin Laden

MOHSIN HAMID (Author)
25 May 2011 @ 6:00 PM
B102, Brunel Gallery, SOAS

Sharply observed, powerful, evocative - *Poetry Magazine*

The author, Mohsin Hamid will read from his recent book, *Moth Smoke*. A Q&A session will follow the reading and will be chaired by Dr Amina Yaqin (SOAS).

REGISTRATION
The event is free and open to all.

LEFT POLITICS in South Asia

SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies

Dr Vikramaditya Parameshwar
Tuesday 9 November 2010 at 7:00pm
Room V111, Westwood Campus, SOAS

Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS

FILM SCREENING

Life goes on

11 March 2011
Khalil Lecture Theatre
Russell Square, SOAS
Screening: 2-4 pm
Discussion: 4-5pm

Speakers:
Sangeeta Datta
Selenia Kadi
Dr Rachel Dwyer

4th London Himalayan Film Festival

11am-5pm, Saturday, 2nd April 2011
www.himalayanfilmfestival.co.uk

15th LONDON ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2011

Nargis Dutt
Inaugural Annual Lecture
'BUSINESS OF MAKING FILMS'

With director Anusha Rizvi (PEELI LIVE)
To celebrate 50th Anniversary of International Women's Day

Tuesday 22 March 2011 at 6pm
Brunel Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Panel discussion to be chaired by Professor Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)

EVENT REPORTS

The 5th Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium / 16th Himalayan Languages Symposium

1-5 September 2010

The 5th Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium and the 16th Himalayan Languages Symposium were held at School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK, 1-5 September 2010. The efforts of convener Dr. Nathan Hill (senior lecturer in Tibetan, Department of the Languages and Cultures of China and Inner Asia) yielded a successful pair of event. The participants of the symposia appreciated the warm hospitality and assistance provided by the staff of the SOAS Centre of Chinese Studies and Centres and Programmes Office. The two events attracted circa 60 participants, representing thirteen countries (Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States).

The 5th Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium, held on the first day, comprised



Symposium participants listening intently

six presentations on a variety of languages including Tangut, Lepcha, Yi, and Old Tibetan. These presentations, mostly based on the philological study of historical documents, treated varied phenomena including lexical studies, syntax, phonology, religion, and discourse.

On 2-5 September 2010, various papers were presented at a joint sessions and parallel sessions at the 16th Himalayan languages symposium. The symposium, featuring a keynote address by Martine Mazaudon and a workshop on optional case marking, included

presentations focusing on languages or language communities of the Greater Himalayan Region, representing contributions from linguistic, anthropological, historical, and archaeological perspectives.

The title of Mazaudon's keynote address was "Dialectology and language change: path to tone in Tamangish languages". This presentation provided an insightful overview of tone in Tamangish languages and demonstrated recent findings on various aspects of tone in these languages using acoustic measurements. Mazaudon emphasized the following three points: the different dialects have each found their own way of dealing with the progressive shift from initial consonant voicing to breathy phonation and to pitch contrast; breathy phonation, which appears as in intermediate stage between initial consonant voicing and phonologised pitch, can co-occur with high tone only under some phonological conditions which are not met by the Tamangish languages; and the theoretical status of "emergent tones", the existence of a prolonged fluctuating equilibrium between segmental and suprasegmental cues to tone leads to the conclusion that "tone" may be defined by multiple cues and not by pitch alone.

On 3 September 2010, there was an all-day workshop on optional case marking arranged by Shobhana Chelliah (University of North Texas) and Gwendlyn Hyslop (University of Oregon). Ten papers presented were presented, dealing with syntactic behavior, meaning and function of optional case markers in various languages using from the viewpoints of sub-



Workshop participants enjoying a break

ject/object marking, subject/topic markers, ergative/absolute markers, nominative/accusative markers, systematic/non-systematic patterns, tense/aspect split and attention flow. In her concluding remarks, Gwendlyn Hyslop summarized the factors conditioning 'optional' case markings. They are person; tense/aspect; volition, control, expectation, consequence or effect on the world; directed activity, directed mental state, creation and transformation; animacy, topicality, prominence; role of other arguments in clause; proximity of NP to predicate, semantic clause of verbs; relationship to previous subject, length of NP, and argument number.

The remaining parallel and joint sessions included more than thirty papers. Among these, there were five presentations on Bhutanese languages, (one on Gongduk, one two on Tshangla, one on East Bodish in general, and one on Mangde), seven on Tibetan or other Bodish languages, five on Nepalese languages, three on Burmese languages, eight on languages in India, one on language in Pakistan and one on a language in Malaysia.

Next year's HLS will move from London to Kobe, a city full of exotic atmosphere in Japan. Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (organizer: Tsuguhito Takeuchi) will host the 17th Himalayan Languages Symposium and it will be held 6-9 September 2011.

Information regarding HLS and upcoming symposium can be obtained at: www.himalayansymposium.org/

Fuminobu Nishida (Akita University)

Framing Muslims



This past year has proved to be very exciting for the Framing Muslims research network. We have focussed on the production and publication of our written outputs as well as organising a short series of book launches. The list below outlines our main activities for the year.

24 September 2011

The Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies, SOAS and Framing Muslims International Research Network collaborated for a combined launch of the special issue of *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* 'Muslims in the Frame' edited by Peter Morey and Amina Yaqin and *Still Not Easy Being British: Struggles for a Multicultural Citizenship* By Tariq Modood (Trentham Books, 2010). The event was introduced by Professor Robert Young (New York University) followed by presentations from Dr Amina Yaqin, Dr Peter Morey, Professor Tariq Modood, and Dr Katherine Brown (King's College, London).

Interventions, 12:2, July 2010 Muslims in the Frame

This special issue of *Interventions* focuses on the contemporary representation of Muslims cutting across the disciplinary boundaries of sociology, political science, film and television, photography and fashion, exploring representation in both its cultural and political senses. Its incisive essays delineate a limiting and limited 'frame' surrounding public discourses about Islam and Muslims, and present a snapshot of a contemporary landscape coloured by concerns about national identity, integration and security, in which Muslims constitute an object of study and, increasingly, answer back to misinformation and stereotypes. Contributors include Tariq Modood, Ziauddin Sardar, Emma Tarlo, Tim Smith, Katherine Brown, Ziauddin Sardar, Merryl Wyn Davies, Peter Morey and Amina Yaqin.

Still Not Easy Being British

The late 1980s and early 1990s in Britain saw the fracturing of a political 'black' identity; ethnic minority assertions to be British and about remaking what it is to be British; the manifestation of the social mobility of Indians and, above all, the emergence of Muslim identity politics in the Rushdie Affair. These issues were the subject of Tariq Modood's *Not Easy Being British*, one of the first books to note these developments and analyse their implications. In this new collection, Modood returns to some of these topics, considering especially the growth of Muslim political assertiveness and the reactions to it in the context of rethinking multiculturalism and Britishness.

AbdoolKarim Vakil (King's College, London), co-editor of *Thinking Through Islamophobia: Global Perspectives*, Hurst 2011 and Julian Petley (Brunel University) co-editor of *Pointing the Finger: Islam and Muslims in the British Media*, Oneworld, 2011 on 19 May 2011

This seminar brought together two of the latest publications on Islamophobia. AbdoolKarim Vakil summarized the wide variety of available studies on Islamophobia and spoke of the relevance of his co-edited volume which draws on international case studies to explore the contested meanings of the term. Julian Petley offered an incisive critique of the British media's treatment of Muslim stories and the prevalence of a views led journalism which often pays less attention to the task of reporting and relies more on opinion making.

Mohsin Hamid seminar on 25 May 2011. 'Mothsmoke and Pakistan after Bin Laden'

The Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid was in conversation with Amina Yaqin about his book *Moth Smoke* which has been reissued by Penguin this year. He talked about writing in English, the troubled masculinities in his novel and the repercussions of the on-going War on Terror for people in Pakistan.

Ziauddin Sardar spoke from his book, *Reading the Qur'an* and was in conversation with Merryl Davies and Amina Yaqin on 15 June 2011

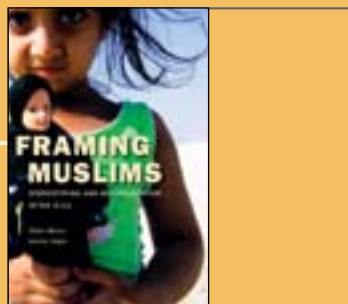
A deeply spiritual endeavour, Zia's book is in dialogue with the many translations of the Qur'an in English engaging with the work of a range of translators from Marmaduke Pickthall to Abdel Haleem. He spoke of the relevance of his book for a contemporary Muslim audience who access the Qur'an in many different languages and wish to understand how to approach it in a modern context.

Publication of *Framing Muslims: Representation since 9/11* came out in June with Harvard University Press, Peter Morey and Amina Yaqin

The book is a comparative study, though with a predominant UK focus, on the caricatures and stereotypes used by the media to construct "frames" through which Muslims are represented. Claire Chambers reviewing it for *The Times Higher Education Supplement* has described it as 'Groundbreaking...Drawing on their diverse backgrounds in English and Urdu literary and cultural studies, Morey and Yaqin examine...[how] veils, beards, men at prayer, and minarets stand in for Muslims in all their heterogeneity and complexity...[An] illuminating work ...[which] gives me renewed excitement about academia, especially the emerging field of representations of Muslims. Morey and Yaqin explore complex ideas about important issues in writing that is absorbing and jargon-free.' The book has also been favourably reviewed by *The Saudi Gazette* and *Frontline Magazine*, a supplement of *The Hindu*.



Moshin Hamid (Credit Ed Kashji)



Jacket Photo: Celia Peterson/Getty Images,
Jacket Design: Jill Breitbarth



From left: Ziauddin Sardar, Amina Yaqin and Merryl Davies

EVENT REPORTS

Shruti Foundation International Lecture by Shyam Benegal

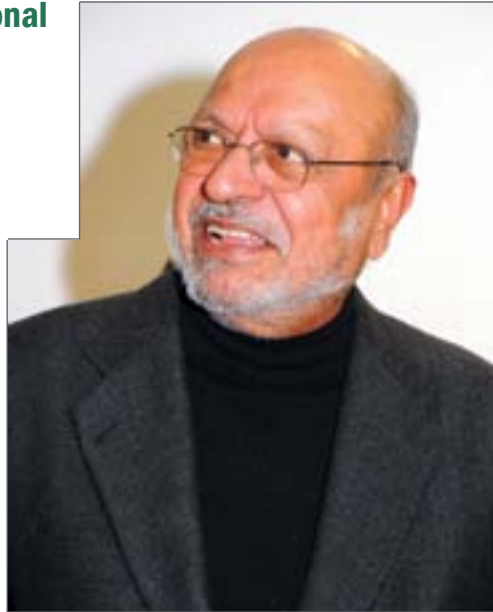
3 November 2010

The Centre was delighted to host the Shruti Foundation International Lecture by Shyam Benegal: "Communications and Culture: Tradition, Modernity and Post-Modernism in Indian Cinema".

Many admirers of Shyam's work braved the cold weather and travelled across the country to hear the lecture.

Shyam Benegal's name is synonymous with what is known as 'middle' or 'parallel' cinema in India. This realist cinema eschews the Bollywood melodrama, raising sensitive social issues on community, gender, class and caste. Mr Benegal's films are too many to list, but among his most acclaimed are *Ankur* (1974), *Nishant* (1975), *Manthan* (1976), *Bhumika* (1997), his trilogy of Muslim socials (*Mammo*, *Sardari Begum*, *Zubeidaa*), and his biopics of *Gandhi* and *Bose*. His 2008 *Welcome to Sajjanpur* was a great hit with a new generations of fans.

Shyam Benegal has also made many documentaries, as well as fiction for television. He also made a landmark 53-



part televised series of Jawaharlal Nehru's *Discovery of India* in between 1986 and 1991.

Shyam Benegal has also been Chairman of the Film and Television of Institute of India, and is now a member of the Rajya Sabha, the Indian Parliament's Upper House. His many awards include the Padma Bhushan (2001), the Indira Gandhi National Integration Award (2004) and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Lifetime Achievement (2005).

Professor Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)

RSAA & SOAS Presentation for Sixth Form Students

9 November 2010

One hundred and thirty students from 18 schools and colleges, together with several teachers and members of the RSAA and SOAS attended the day of presentations for sixth formers held in the Brunei gallery. The day started with a welcome and introduction from Adrian Steger on behalf of both the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA) (whose Council he is on) and Professor Nimala Roa of SOAS. He gave a short outline of the history and activities of the RSAA and a brief description of SOAS, the courses it offered, its academic excellence and reasons to study there finishing by exhorting those interested to do so.

The first speaker was the Director of the Japanese Embassy's Information and Cultural Centre. Mr. K Okinawa gave a persuasive power point presentation of Japan's current efforts to apply high technology to the resolution of the problems arising from rapid climate change. He covered all the major areas of development including carbon recovery, the intensified use of solar and nuclear power and the application of intelligent robots, ending with a fascinating account of plans for a Japanese space station which would transmit a laser beam back to earth in order to produce huge quantities of electricity. Mr. Okinawa admitted, however, that the practical application of this idea was still some way off. Asked in question time to compare Britain's approach to spending on science and technology to Japan's, he commented that in sharp contrast to Japan, which had very few surviving old buildings but which invested massively in new technology-being second only to the United States in this regard - we seemed to prefer to devote much of our resources to the preservation of our built heritage. A double-edged compliment?

This was followed by language 'tasters', Here students get a short tutorial on some Asian languages from tutors in SOAS; Dr. Lianyi Song; Mandarin, Mr. Krishna Pradhan; Hindi and Mr. Mohamed Said; Arabic.



Francesca Orsini, Shyam, Rachel, Lady Shruti Rana, Nirmala Rao and Mr and Mrs Katira

The next speaker was Oliver Bullough, an old friend of the Society, and a former Reuters' correspondent in Moscow. He spoke eloquently to the question, "The Caucasus - Is Peace Possible?" Drawing on a wealth of recent personal experience, he focused on the history and contemporary condition of Chechnya and Daghestan emphasizing how far apart these two nations were from indigenous Russians in their understanding of their proper place in the world and the kind of future they desired. Until the two sides could agree on a common version of the events of the past two or three centuries the present conflict was likely to continue. But despite these huge problems he still believed that a peaceful settlement could ultimately be reached.

An excellent buffet lunch prepared the audience for a fascinating, well-illustrated account by Daniel Metcalfe, again based on personal experience of travel in the region, about the 'lost peoples' of central Asia. Most of these were now grouped in the former Soviet provinces east of the Caspian Sea. They included the Jewish community of Bokhara, now much diminished, and the former Volga Germans, transported to Kazakhstan by Stalin in 1942/1943. He also spoke of the Hazaras, an ancient people now living mainly in Afghanistan, many of whom were managing to adapt successfully to a complicated modern world. He ended his talk by stressing how important it was to deal with all these groups without conveying any sense of patronage or giving them the impression that they were living in some kind of museum.

The final presentation of the day was given by the Society's Chairman, Sir David John, called in at short notice to replace a scheduled speaker who was unable to attend. He spoke very much from his own experience as someone who had grown up in a world dominated by the economic and political power of the United States but which was now changing at lightning speed as China and India in particular, moved rapidly to replace the US in the economic pecking-order. Illustrating his thesis with a series of readily understandable graphs covering the major areas of change and growth over the next 30/40 years, Sir David argued that many of those in his audience would find more opportunities to make use



Adrian Steger welcoming the students to the event



The sixth formers participating in the language tasters



Mr Ken Okinawa, Director of the Japanese Information and Cultural Centre of the Japanese embassy giving the opening talk

of their skill and talent in the new 'Bric'" economies than in western Europe and the US. These newly confident states constituted the real wave of the future: the nature of their development during the coming century would have massive consequences for us all. The sixth formers listened and watched in rapt silence as this striking scenario was unveiled. There is little doubt that all went away with a radically changed perspective on the challenges which would face them in the years ahead.

Each talk was followed by five to ten minutes of lively, informal and well informed discussion between audience and speaker. The day finished with Mr. Steger thanking the speakers, those who had participated in discussion and the staff of SOAS for their help, in particular Jane Savory.

Judged from the atmosphere on the day and the feed back forms the day was a great success. The number and variation of subjects covered being the most appreciated aspect of the day (rather than any particular talk) followed by the language tutorials. Attendance levels were higher than the last two years.

The next schools' meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th November 2011 and details can be found on the SOAS website.

The following schools and colleges were represented:

- Abingdon School
- Anglo European School, Essex
- Canon Palmer Catholic School
- City of London School for Girls
- Cotswold School, Glous.
- Cranbrook School
- Dulwich College
- Hampstead School
- Haydon School
- Kensington and Chelsea 6th form College
- Lambeth Academy
- Lampton School
- Orleans Park School
- St Clare's, Oxford
- Varndean College Brighton
- Welling School, Bexley
- Westminster
- Wimbledon High School

Adrian Steger (RSAA)

EVENT REPORTS

Sharmila Tagore Retrospective November 2010

The Centre was delighted to host the London section of the nationwide Sharmila Tagore retrospective sponsored by the Nehru Centre, High Commission of India. Three films were screened but the high point was Sharmila Tagore's visit. Dr Sangeeta Datta, filmmaker and film historian, led the conversation



Sharmila taking tea with Nirmala Rao and Rachel Dwyer

where Sharmilaji talked frankly for nearly two hours about her career, from her first film with Satyajit Ray, through her career as top Hindi film star, to her current work in films and as Chair of the Censor Board. The audience, who filled the Lecture Theatre to capacity, had an opportunity for questions and also to meet Sharmilaji at the reception after the talk: excited fans queued up for autographs and photographs with Sharmila.

SOAS would like to thank Dr Monika Mohta of the Nehru Centre and Dr Sangeeta Datta for making this event such a huge success.

Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)

Sharmila Tagore, legendary actress from India, holds an unique position in the world of Indian cinema. She is known both for her involvement in the films of Satyajit Ray as well as the Bombay Hindi film world where she reigned as glamour queen in the 70's and early 80's.

Hailing from the well known Tagore family of Calcutta, Sharmila made her debut at the age of 14 in Satyajit Ray's *Apur Sansar*. She went on to star in the well known Ray films: *Devi* and the Calcutta city films- *Seemabaddha* (Company Limited,), *Nayak* (The Hero) and the best known *Aranyer Din Ratri* (Days and Nights in the Forest).

These films have made her a



Sangeeta in conversation with Sharmila

familiar name to world audiences.

Cast in Shakti Samanta's *Evening in Paris*- Sharmila made her entry in Hindi films with a bang. Her best known films were with Samanta when she teamed up with Rajesh Khanna as the lead romantic pair in Hindi films- *Aradhana*, *Amar Prem*. Winner of Filmfare awards for best actress, her performance in *Safar*, *Daag* were critically acclaimed.

Under Gulzar's direction, she gave another powerful performance in *Mausam* which fetched her the National Award for best actress. She also won the best supporting actress award for her role in the Ray sequel made by Gautam Ghosh - *Abar Aranye*. Cast in her first British film *Life Goes On* (directed by Sangeeta Datta) she works with her daughter Soha for the first time. The film is slated for release in November 2010.

Married to cricket star Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, mother of Bollywood stars Saif Ali Khan and Soha Ali Khan, Sharmila is the Chairperson of the Indian Film Censor Board and Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF working for AIDS related issues in north India.

Her work has been celebrated in various countries in retrospectives and festivals - chiefly at the Lincoln Centre, New York, and Singapore.

Sangeeta Datta



From left: Rachel Dwyer, Sharmila Tagore, Nirmala Rao



Rachel Dwyer and Wendy



Wendy and Whitney talking questions



Paul Webley and Wendy



Wendy signing the latest copy of her book

Centre of South Asian Studies Annual Lecture

Professor Wendy Doniger

Wendy Does the Mahabharata Approve of Ekalavya cutting off his Thumb? and Other Tales of Dalits in Ancient India

November 2010

On the evening of 31 November, the Centre for South Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Professor Wendy Doniger for the occasion of the 2011 annual lecture. The lecture was chaired by the Centres Deputy Chair, Dr Whitney Cox, with SOAS's Director and Principal, Professor Paul Webley, giving the introductions.

Wendy began by explaining how Ancient Sanskrit texts were usually recorded by Brahmin scribes, but because oral and folk traditions were often assimilated into Sanskrit texts, the lower castes (the people now generally called Dalits, formerly called Untouchables) do speak in them, not always in voices recorded on a page but in signs that we can read if we try. She explained that one way to look for this submerged information is in texts about dogs. Many of the lowest castes were called "Dog-Cookers" (Shva-Pakas), because high caste Hindus thought that these people ate dogs, who in turn ate anything and everything, and in Hinduism, you are what you eat. But texts covertly critical of the caste system reverse the symbolism of dogs and speak of breaking the rules for dogs, treating them as if they were not impure. Tracing these stories through the centuries, we can see how attitudes to Dalits shifted. A dog plays a central role in the story of the low-caste archer Ekalavya who cuts off his thumb at the command of his high-caste teacher, a tale told very differently first in the Mahabharata, then in a medieval Jain text, then in contemporary Dalit poetry, and now in a Bollywood film.

Wendy's remarks provided rich food for thought and provoked a lively discussion following the lecture. The event attracted an overflowing house with many people having to stand.

Wendy Doniger's research and teaching interests revolve around two basic areas, Hinduism and mythology. Her courses in mythology address themes in cross-cultural expanses; her courses in Hinduism cover a broad spectrum that, in addition to mythology, considers literature, law, gender, and ecology. Cross-cultural offerings have included courses about death, dreams, evil, horses, sex, and women.

Among her many books published under the name Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty are three Penguin Classics: *Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook*, Translated from the Sanskrit; *The Rig Veda: An Anthology*, 108 Hymns Translated from the Sanskrit; and *The Laws of Manu* (with Brian K. Smith). She has also published *Śiva: The Erotic Ascetic*; *The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology*; and several books with the University of Chicago Press: *Women, Androgynes, and Other Mythical Beasts*; *Dreams, Illusion, and Other Realities*; *Tales of Sex and Violence: Folklore, Sacrifice, and Danger in the Jaiminiya Brāhmaṇa*; and *Other Peoples' Myths: The Cave of Echoes*. Under the name Wendy Doniger, she has published *Splitting the Difference: Gender and Myth in Ancient Greece and India*; *The Bedtrick: Tales of Sex and Masquerade*; *The Implied Spider: Politics and Theology in Myth*; a new translation of the *Kamasutra* (with Sudhir Kakar); *The Woman Who Pretended to Be Who She Was*; and *The Hindus: An Alternative History*. In progress are *Hinduism*, for the *Norton Anthology of World Religions* (2011); *Faking It: Narratives of Circular Jewelry and Deceptive Women*; *Horses for Lovers, Dogs for Husbands* (a novel); and a memoir.

Jane Savory (SOAS)

EVENT REPORTS

Left Politics in South Asia

The Left and Tamil Self-Determination in Sri Lanka by Dr Vickramabahu Karunaratne

30 November 2010

In the opening session of the series of lectures on leftist politics in South Asia, Dr Vickramabahu Karunaratne, the leader of Nava Sama Samaja Party of Sri Lanka, highlighted the relevance of leftist politics and ideals of social equality in contemporary Sri Lanka. Dr Karunaratne founded the Nava Sama Samaj Party in 1977 after his fall out with the Lanka Sama Samaj Party. He underlined the relation between leftist politics and the Tamil demand for self-determination. The Tamil demand for self-determination needs to be understood in the context of the history of discrimination against the Tamil and Muslim minorities in Sinhala-dominated Sri Lanka. The initial struggle of the Tamils against discrimination in the 1950s led to a demand for regional autonomy for the Tamil-dominated areas. The lecture outlined the social void left by the lack of coordination between the leftist parties and the parties struggling for the rights of Tamils. The CPI(M) initially defended Tamil rights, only to unite with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party later to campaign against the devolution of power. Subsequently, there was no united effort by the Left to stand for Tamil right to self-determination. Though a large section of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party was of the opinion that the demands for autonomy of the Tamil homeland should be accepted, there was massive resistance to such demands from other quarters. Karunaratne emphasized the rise of the armed conflict under the LTTE in the 1980s as a consequence of the failure to meet Tamil demands through other channels.



All this while, there was a lot of violence unleashed against socialist forces. In an armed attack, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) killed members of the United Socialist camp. The Nava Sama Samaja Party has been attempting to fill up this social void created by the lack of unity among socialist forces. Karunaratne also critiqued the neo-liberal economic policies of the present regime of Sri Lanka under President Mahinda Rajapaksa. He stated that the blind implementation of IMF policies, in response to global capitalist pressure is resented by large number of workers who are drifting towards socialist parties.

Sagnik Dutta (SOAS Masters, South Asian Area Studies)

The Vicissitudes of Leftist Politics in Pakistan: Expressions of “Self-Defeat” in the Politics of the 1960s by Atiya Khan

9 December 2010

In an enlightening paper, Atiya Khan, a research scholar at the University of Chicago, traced the defeat of leftist politics in Pakistan in the 1960s.

Khan highlighted how the Left aligned itself with the concept of democratic reformism in the wake of the crisis of Marxism in the 20th century. Accordingly, the socialist elements in different countries tried to find their own routes to socialism. Following the Partition, the communists of East Bengal, now East Pakistan, maintained links with West Bengal. The Left in West Pakistan failed to form a broader national coalition or state-sponsored labour unions. In both East and West Pakistan, the National Awami Party led by Maulana Bhashani fought for the abolition of the zamindari system (a feudal system of land ownership) and enjoyed the support of teachers, nurses and workers. However, during the imposition of martial law by successive military dictators in the 1960s, the Left was unable to unite on a single platform.

Khan, in her paper, underlined the absence of a sound theory in the practice of the Left as the reason for the lack of a coordinated action. The new Left was characterised by an aversion to theoretical analysis of its actions. The new Left privileged action over ideology. As development was understood as an economic problem, revolution only seemed like a distant possibility. In the development of Pakistan during the years of the military regime of Ayub Khan, local resources were not utilised. There was a conspicuous absence of workers, students in the agenda for development. The initial outburst of energy during the students and workers' movement in the 1960s gradually dissipated. The collapse of the Left also opened up possibilities for Islamist forces leading to reactionary movements in Pakistan. The ethnic divisions in the Left facilitated the collapse of the Left in the 1960s and 70s.

Sagnik Dutta (SOAS Masters, South Asian Area Studies)



Nepali delegation led by Mr Arjun Narasingha K.C.

22 February 2011

A group of Nepali dignitaries visiting the UK on a business trade mission paid the School a courtesy call in February.

The delegation was led by Arjun Narasingha K.C. , Nepal's former Minister for Education, Health, Housing and Physical Planning and currently the Joint General Secretary and Spokesperson for the Nepali Congress Party.

The visit included a tour of the Russell Square campus and a lunch with SOAS academics and officials, including SOAS Director Professor Paul Webley, Dr Lawrence Saez, Senior Lecturer in Comparative and International Politics and Chair of the Centre of South Asian Studies and Dr Mara Malagodi, Postdoctoral Associate in the South Asia Department,

Hindu monarchy until 2006, when a decade-long civil war ended with the king ceding power. Nepal is now a democracy, but the government has experienced political deadlock for several years over the adoption of a new constitution by the Constituent Assembly, Nepal's parliament. The new constitution was supposed to be drafted by 2010, but the deadline for completion has now been extended twice, most recently in May of this year.

A major sticking point has been the fate of 19,000 Maoist combatants of the civil war. The Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), who control 38% of the seats in the Constituent Assembly, has been accused by other political parties of maintaining the combatants as a private army.



(From left: Lawrence Saez, Bigyan Parsai, Paul Webley , Arjun Narasingha KC, Mara Malagodi, Kul Acharya, Prashant Kunwar

Teaching Fellow in the School of Law and Treasurer of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council.

"The School of Oriental and African Studies is a well-known university in Nepal ," Mr Narasingha said during his visit, adding that there was a great deal of scope for British higher-education institutions such as SOAS to strengthen ties with universities in Nepal. 2011 is Nepal Tourism Year, though building tourism in the country is a major challenge given the political stability it currently faces. Nepal was ruled by a

The Congress Party, which is Nepal's main opposition party, has long expressed doubts about the Maoists' willingness to resolve the impasse.

"The Maoist militias that fit the standards of the national army could be integrated,"

Mr Narasingha said, adding that the Maoists must prove they are committed to democracy and the peace process and not just in consolidating their power.

Following his visit to SOAS, Mr Narasingha and his delegation travelled to Westminster, where he met with Richard Ottoway, MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Bill Friar (SOAS Press Officer)

Mirza Waheed in conversation with Kamila Shamsie

9 March 2011

On 9 March the Centre hosted the event, "Mirza Waheed in conversation with Kamila Shamsie". The main impetus for this talk was to celebrate the publication of Mirza book, 'The Collaborator' which has been described by its publishers Penguin/Viking as a "heart-breaking and shocking story of what happens to a community, and a family, that must live through a conflict that is all too real".

Mirza Waheed was born and brought up in Srinagar. He moved to Delhi when he was 18 to study English literature at the University of Delhi and worked as journalist and editor in the city for four years. He went to London in 2001 to join the BBC's Urdu Service, where he now works as an editor. Waheed has been writing since he was ten and "The Collaborator" is his first novel. He has started work on a second novel, a young girl's love story spanning Kashmir, Delhi and Pakistan.



From left: Kamila Shamsie, Rachel Dwyer and Mirza Waheed

Kamila Shamsie is the author of 5 novels, including 'Burnt Shadows' which was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction, and is translated into 23 languages. She grew up in Karachi, and now lives in London.

The event was very well attended, drawing at least 60 people.

Jane Savory (SOAS)

EVENT REPORTS

Film Screening of Frozen

11 March 2011

The screening of the film *Frozen* (2007, dir. Shivajee Chandrabhshan) was held on 8 March 2011 as part of the SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies seminar series. The event was co-organised with Satsang Productions, a London-based independent production company incorporating visual, audio and web-based media, who organises the Himalaya Film and Cultural Festival.



The screening was preceded by a brief introduction to the political situation in the Indian region of Ladakh by Dr David Taylor (SOAS). Shot in the icy Winter of Ladakh, in India's far north, *Frozen* is the story of a small family left without a mother. In debt and with few sources of income, Karma has difficulty supporting his two children Lasya and Chomo. Their lives become even more difficult when the army sets up camp a stone's throw from their house. *Frozen* is shot entirely in black and white, emphasizing the cruel beauty of the landscape, where people are living at an altitude of almost 5000m above sea level. This family live at the edge of India both geographically and culturally, and the film gives a thoughtful insight into their relationship with their own land, and the country to which it belongs.

Mara Malagodi (SOAS)

Film Screening of Life Goes On

11 March 2011

The Centre was delighted to host another two film events in Term 2, celebrating the work of two women Indian film makers, building on our close academic and personal links.

The first event, 'Life goes on', a film by Sangeeta Datta, was screened at SOAS, March 11, the day of the UK release of the film. Dr Sangeeta Datta has a long association with SOAS, and we were delighted to host a panel with Dr Datta, Prof Rene Weis (Dept of English, UCL/ Shakespearean studies scholar,) who also plays King Lear in the play within the film, Tehmima Kazi (British Muslims for Secular Democracy) and Dr. Mukulika Banerjee (Dept of Anthropology, LSE) who has a major role in the film.

The film stars Sharmila Tagore, a recent visitor to CSAS, her daughter Soha Ali Khan, as well as the leading figure of Indian theatre, Girish Karnad, who was closely associated with SOAS during his tenure as the Head of the Nehru Centre in London.



Rachel and Sangeeta

Dr Rachel Dwyer started the session by asking Dr Sangeeta Dutta, the director how the film came to be. Dutta had various reasons which led to making this film, but



most important were the following three factors she said.

"One was Islamophobia, even in a city like London after 9/11 and definitely 7/7. Secondly, I was toying with the idea of looking at *King Lear* with a more contemporary way, in a British Asian context.

Thirdly, a far more personal reason, as a Diaspora we live thousands of miles away from our immediate families. There was a time when my mother was not keeping too well. So there was this anxiety of parental loss. These factors made me write very urgently," said Dutta.

Reviews of the film included one by Philip French (Observer), who said 'A modern-day London setting and a happy ending lend a certain charm to Sangeeta Datta's adaptation of *King Lear*', while Derek Malcolm (Evening Standard) wrote, 'Sangeeta Datta's debut feature is one of the best non-Bollywood Indian films of its year.'

Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)

13th Jaina Studies Workshop: Jaina Narratives

18 March 2011

The workshop on Jaina Narratives in March 2011 attracted a large audience of scholars and the general public eager to listen to the Annual Lecture, delivered by Professor Robert Zydenbos of the University of Munich who spoke about the writings of the Kannada poet Ratnākaravarni who presented a picture of Jainism that hardly fits the austere stereotype of this religious tradition. His argued that the literary masterpiece, the Bharatēśavaibhava, is an illustration of what freedoms poets have allowed themselves with traditional narrative materials, and the controversy around this work shows which limits the religious public would like to impose on their poets.

Fifteen conference papers by distinguished speakers from Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan and the USA were delivered during the workshop. The workshop was funded through Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Fellowship AH/1002405/1 and a grant of the V&A Jain Art Fund.

For a detailed conference report see the forthcoming CoJS Newsletter Vol. 7: www.soas.ac.uk/jainastudies/

During the opening ceremony, the print edition of the International Journal of Jaina Studies Vol. 4-6, ed. P. Flügel (Mumbai: Hindi Granth Karyalay, 2011) was launched.

Nargiss Dutt Lecture by Anusha Rizvi

22 March 2011

The Centre has been closely involved with Tongues on Fire, the Asian Film Festival in London, since its first festival 13 years ago. We were honoured to host the First Nargis Dutt Annual Lecture, given by Anusha Rizvi, the director of 'Peepli Live' to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Anusha Rizvi, an alumna of St Stephen's College, Delhi (as are many of our SOAS students), is a journalist, who realised her dream of making a film which raises issues of poverty in rural India in a satire on the ethical issues of the media turning the issue of farmer suicides into entertainment. In a talk entitled the 'Business of Making Films', Ms Rizvi gave an amusing and insightful account of her efforts to secure the support of Aamir Khan

(who visited SOAS to find a language coach for his Oscar-nominated film 'Lagaan'), and the less than ideal working conditions she had to face to make the film. This was followed by a panel discussion "Are Independent Films the Future of Cinema?" with Ms Rizvi, Sandy Lieberman, former President Worldwide Production at 20th Century Fox, and Hamish Moseley, the Vice President of Theatrical Sales, Momentum Pictures, Robert Walak, SVP Acquisitions at Alliance Films, both of whom were involved in the recent Oscar-winning 'The king's speech', and Sanjay Suri, who produced and acted in 'My brother Nikhil', the first Indian film with an openly gay hero.

Rachel Dwyer (SOAS)



13th Jaina Studies Workshop Attenders: Jaina Narratives

EVENT REPORTS

The 4th London Himalayan Film Festival

2 April 2011

The film festival organised in SOAS received praise from more than 70 viewers who came to enjoy and learn about the Himalayan way of life.

The fourth London Himalayan Film Festival organised by London Chhalphal and the Centre of South Asian Studies took place at SOAS on Saturday, 2nd of April, 2011.

The Nepal facing discussion forum featured five highly acclaimed films that included 'Puneko Pant' (Pune's Trousers) directed by Mohan Mainali, 'Fairytale of Kathmandu' directed by Neasa Ni Chianin, 'Chaukath' (Threshold) directed by Deepak Rauniyar and 'Sacrifice of Serpents: The festival of Indrayani' directed by Dr Dirk J. Nijland, Dr Bal Gopal Shrestha & Dr Bert van den Hoek and the Oscar nominated Himalaya (originally Caravan) by Eric Valli.

'London Chhalphal is really pleased with our fourth film festival and we feel proud to promote Nepal, Nepali identity, Nepali culture and tradition as well as Nepali films and documentaries. We would like to thank SOAS who provided us with the venue and all the directors who generously donated us the film and gave us the opportunity to show a bit of Nepal to the outside world,' said Pratima Joshi, coordinator of the Film Festival.

'The feedback we have received from this festival has been very positive and as we have received requests for more film screenings, we are hoping we will be able to make this a regular event,' the organisers said.



The Radio in Nepal: Contemporary Debates

18 April 2011

This seminar was organised by the Centre and the Britain-Nepal Academic Council. It was one of a series of events supported by a three-year grant from the International Partnerships Scheme of the British Academy, to support a partnership between SOAS in London and Martin Chautari in Kathmandu. The presenters were Devraj Humagain ('The Policy Environment for Independent Radio in Nepal, 1991-2011'), Pratyoush Onta, ('Independent Radio and the Public Sphere in Nepal'), Rama Parajuli, ('Doing Print and Radio Journalism in Nepal: A Practitioner's View') and Bhagirath Yogi, ('BBC Nepali Sewa: Touching the Lives of Millions'). The event was chaired by Michael Hutt.

Devraj Humagain is a media researcher at Martin Chautari in Kathmandu. He has co-edited several books written in the Nepali language including The Social History of Radio Nepal (2004), Radio Journalism: News and Talk Shows on FM Radio (2005) and Ten Years of Independent Radio: Development, Debates and the Public Interest (2008). He is currently writing a book on the history of broadcast policy in Nepal. Rama Parajuli is a journalist currently working for the BBC World Service's Nepali Programme team in Kathmandu. She has previously worked for the BBC World Service Trust in Nepal as a senior producer of its celebrated 'Sajha

Sawal' discussion programme (2007-2009) and for Kantipur, Nepal's leading newspaper (1996-2007). Pratyoush Onta is a historian based at Martin Chautari in Kathmandu. He has co-edited several books related to the history of radio in Nepal. He is also the editor of the journals Studies in Nepali History and Society (est. 1996) and Media Adhyayan (est. 2006). Bhagirath Yogi has worked in the print, radio and online media in Nepal for 17 years, most recently with the BBC Service in Kathmandu and London, where he has been based for the last five years. He has also worked as editor of www.nepalnews.com, the leading online Nepali news portal. He has published numerous articles on political economy, human rights and development issues have been published in leading magazines and newspapers in Nepal.

This was a rare opportunity to learn about this topic from Nepal-based practitioners and researchers. The richness of the presentations and discussion made up for the small size of the audience (20 people), and those who missed this event may still listen to its proceedings on the podcast at

<http://soasradio.org/radio-nepal-and-bbc-south-asian-language-service>

Michael Hutt (SOAS)



BBC South Asian Language Service - what future?

3 May 2011

On 3 May the Centre brought together the panelists William Crawley (co-author of *Satellites over South Asia: broadcasting, culture, and the public interest* (2001)), Alasdair Pinkerton (Royal Holloway, University of London), Priyath Liyanage, Head of Sinhala Service (BBC), Richard Ottaway, MP (Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee) and Chair, Dr Francesca Orsini (SOAS) to discuss how the resources of the BBC South Asian Language service are under threat and the challenges and possibilities faced.



From left: William Crawley, Paul Webley, Mara Malagodi, Francesca Orsini, Alasdair Pinkerton, Priyath Liyanage

The BBC South Asian Language service, broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Nepali, Tamil and Sinhala, has played a unique role as the trusted source of news for millions of people in South Asia. The first place of call in times and places of conflict, it has also offered a running commentary on everyday events from South Asia and the world, as well as a vital link for the South Asian diaspora. With the development of its website it has also become an essential tool for students and teachers, both for language learning and for properly understanding the social, political and cultural life of the region.

The event attracted dissappointly low numbers due to its scheduling near to the Easter holidays. It is available as a podcast at:

<http://soasradio.org/radio-nepal-and-bbc-south-asian-language-servicesouth-asian-language-service>

Enforced Disappearances and State Accountability in Nepal

11 May 2011

This seminar was organised jointly by the Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC) and Peace Brigades International (PBI) as part of the Seminar Series of the SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies and included a screening of the short film 'Shadows of Hope: Missing Persons in Nepal', made by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It was intended that Mr Ram Kumar Bhandari (Chairman of the National Network of Families of the Disappeared) would speak on 'Forced Disappearances and Impunity in Nepal' but he was unable to attend in person because he was held up in Germany waiting for his UK visa. He therefore recorded a brief talk on video and this was screened as a part of the programme. The other speakers were Iona Liddell (Advocacy Director, PBI Nepal) and Mara Malagodi (SOAS). Michael Hutt chaired the discussion. After the event a number of participants and speakers then went to the House of Commons for an event hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights on 'The Constitution Conundrum: The Elusive Search for Justice in Nepal'. The roundtable was chaired by Virendra Sharma MP; Ram Kumar Bhandari's video presentation was followed by Liz Philippon's analysis of the political implications of Nepal's peace process and Mara Malagodi's discussion of the obstacles to transitional justice in Nepal.

Constitution Drafting, State Restructuring And The Peace Process In Nepal: What Next?

13 June 2011

This roundtable discussion was organised by the Britain-Nepal Academic Council and the UK Constitutional Law Group, for the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS. It was chaired by Professor Michael Hutt. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on where Nepal's peace process stood in the wake of the second extension of the term of the Constituent Assembly on 28 May.

The following speakers addressed issues including constitution-drafting, state restructuring, ethnic federalism, and the integration of the Nepal Army and the Maoist PLA: Surya Subedi (Professor of International Law at the University of Leeds), Mara Malagodi (Ph.D SOAS 2009 on 'Constitutional Nationalism and Legal Exclusion in Nepal (1990-2007)', currently a Teaching Fellow in the Departments of Law and South Asia), David Gellner (Professor of Social Anthropology, All Souls College Oxford), Sara Shneiderman (Ph.D Cornell University 2009 for 'Rituals of Ethnicity: Migration, Mixture and the Making of Thangmi Identity Across Himalayan Borders', currently a postdoctoral research fellow, University of Cambridge), Sam Cowan (Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals, of the Brigade of Gurkhas and of the Army Legal Corps, Quartermaster-General to the British Armed Forces 1996-8, Chief of Defence Logistics until retiring in 2002), Peter Leyland (Professor of Public Law, London Metropolitan University).

Despite competition from a noisy welcome accorded to the Minister for Higher Education, who was speaking at the Brunei gallery at the same time, the event drew an audience of over 50 people and was deemed a considerable success.

Michael Hutt (SOAS)

RESEARCH STUDENTS

SEPT 2010-AUG 2011

Sanaa ALIMIA

Afghans in Pakistan: Reworking Citizenship and Sources of Political Power, 1978-2009
Supervisor: Dr Matthew NELSON

Val ANDERSON

The Eurasian 'problem' in nineteenth century India
Supervisor: Professor Peter ROBB

Sampachentin APTCHOURAHMAN

Educational rights of the Turkish minority in Greece
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Anwasha ARYA

Tradition and text: Śāstra, statute and the living law of dowry as sadācāra
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

David AZZOPARDI

Buddhism amongst Sri Lanka Diaspora Communities in the UK
Supervisor: Dr Kate CROSBY

Sandhya BALASUBRAHMANYAM

Rent Creation, Political Clientelism and the Indian Telecom Sector
Supervisor: Professor Mushtaq KHAN

Nagasena BHIKKHU

The Significance of the Sima (Monastic Boundary) in Burmese and Bangladeshi Buddhism
Supervisor: Dr Kate CROSBY

Nazmuzzaman BHUIAN

Press freedom in Bangladesh
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Upal CHAKRABARTI

Land and 'improvement' during early British rule: Cuttack Division, 1803-66
Supervisor: Professor Peter ROBB

Rupa CHAKRABORTY

Sylheti: A comparison between Standard Bangla and one of its major regional forms
Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

Mayurika CHAKRAVORTY

Enchantment and the politics of subversion: a study of fantasy fiction in Bengali
Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

Biswajit CHANDA

Family law reform in Bangladesh: the need for a culture-specific legal system
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Mona CHETTRI

Identity Politics in the Eastern Himalayas
Supervisor: Professor Michael HUTT

Debojyoti DAS

Contested Development: Problems and Dilemmas in Sustainable Jhum Redevelopment in Nagaland
Supervisor: Professor David MOSSE

Jean-Philippe DEQUEN

Pluralism or plurality: An assessment of the legal strategies regarding Muslim succession law in contemporary India
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Pragya DHITAL

Paper Chains: An Investigation of Translingual Commerce in North Indian Print Media
Supervisor: Dr Rochana BAJPAI

Ahmet Riza EMIROGLU

The Exploration of the Idea of Emanation through the Comparison between the Islamic and Indian Philosophies with Special Reference to Ibn Sīnā and Abhinavagupta
Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG and Dr Whitney COX

Meenu GAUR

Kashmir on Screen: Region, Religion and Secularism in Hindi Cinema (Completed 2010)
Supervisor: Professor Rachel DWYER

Leon GOLDMAN

The Avestan hymn to Justice
Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE

Timothy GREEN

The Challenge of 'Anomie': Issues of Identity for Christian Converts from Islam in Pakistan
Supervisor: Dr Kate ZEBIRI and Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG

Syed Asif HAIDER

Muslim modernities on the Hindi Screen
Supervisor: Professor Rachel DWYER

Eleanor HALSELL

German Orientalism, Indian Occidentalism: cinematic collaboration up to 1939
Supervisor: Professor Rachel DWYER

Dhivya JANARTHANAN

Anthropology of Space and Dominance in Southern India
Supervisor: Professor David MOSSE

Hannah Katie JENKIN

Organizing Transnational Yoga: Institutionalization, Globalization and Complexity
Supervisor: Dr Peter FLUGEL

Akhil KATYAL

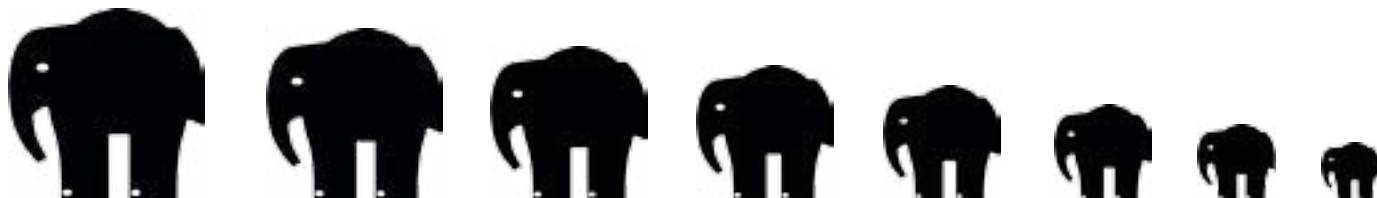
Same-Sex Desire and Ideas of the Self in Modern India
Supervisor: Dr Amina YAQIN

Masum KHAN

D. H. Lawrence and the post-Tagore writers of Bengali literature
Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

Sonia KHAN

Caretaker government in Bangladesh: Salvation or a recipe for disaster?
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI



Lidia Jolanta LEWANDOWSKA-NAYAR

Place and role of Narottama Dasa Thakura in the development of Bengali Vaishnavism (draft title)

Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

David LUNN

Looking for Common Ground: Literature and Journalism in Hindi/Urdu, 1900-47

Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Zaad MAHMOOD

Determinants of labour reform in India

Supervisor: Dr Lawrence SAEZ

Anushay MALIK

Worker activism in Lahore, 1950s-1980s (draft title)

Supervisor: Professor Peter ROBB

Rastin MEHRI

The Zoroastrians of British Columbia

Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE

Farah MIHLAR

Islamic Fundamentalism amongst the Muslims of Sri Lanka

Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG

Leena MITFORD

19th century Urdu literature

Supervisor: Professor Christopher SHACKLE

Aparajita MUKHOPADHYAY

Railways, journeys and the idea of space in late nineteenth-century North India (draft title)

Supervisor: Professor Peter ROBB

Mridhula PILLAY

Managing law and religion:

A comparative study of India and Malaysia

Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Shamraiz QAYYUM

Muslim skilled socio-legal navigation in Britain

Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Ayaz A QURESHI

Pakistan's response towards HIV/AIDS; Institutional complexity and the politics of policy

Supervisor: Dr Caroline OSELLA

Muhammad Mahbubur RAHMAN

Sentencing policy and practice in Bangladesh: A study on the sentencing decisions of the Supreme Court in murder cases

Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Rashi ROHATGI

Abhimanyu Unnuth and the World of Mauritian Hindi Poetry

Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI and Dr Kai EASTON

Jaspreet SANGHERA

Hindu, Urdu and Punjabi literature written by women on Post – Partition Delhi, UP, Punjab and Lahore, 1949-1959

Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Shamaila SARWAR

The life and works of the twentieth century Pakistani Islamic mystic, Sufi Abu Anees Barkat Ali (d. 1997), and the origins and development of the khānaqah of Dār Ul Ehsān

Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG

Sunari SENARATNE

Reconfiguring Aspiration: Post Tsunami Reconstruction in Coastal Sri Lanka

Supervisor: Professor David MOSSE

Sohini SENGUPTA

Being hungry and Becoming free: Marginality, Identity and Livelihoods in Rural Western Orissa

Supervisor: Professor David MOSSE

Soofia SIDDIQUE

Remembering the Revolt of 1857

Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Priyadarshini SINGH

Title TBC

Supervisor: Dr Matthew NELSON

and Dr Rochana BAJPAI

Federica SONA

In the shadow of uniformity:

Muslim marriages in Europe

Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Alice TILCHE

Struggling with culture in an Adivasi

Museum of western India

Supervisor: Professor David MOSSE

Krishna Prasad UPADHYAYA

International Humanitarian Law and Vulnerability: the Tharu experience of Nepal's internal conflict

Supervisor: Professor Michael HUTT

Manpreet VIRDI

Contesting and constructing legal consciousness in multicultural contexts: immigrant sikh women in Canada

Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Vishal VORA

British South Asian marital practice and the English civil law

Supervisor: Dr Ian EDGE

Sahil WARSII

Cultivating Hambastagi and Hamdardi: Personhood and Relatedness among Afghans in India

Supervisor: Dr Magnus MARSDEN

Arash ZEINI

The Pahlavi version of the Yasna Haptanghaiti

Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE



CHARLES WALLACE VISITING FELLOWSHIPS AT SOAS

Report of Dr P Radhika Charles Wallace Indian Fellowship 2010-2011

After many failed attempts at writing a comprehensive report of my three-month London stint made possible by the SOAS

Charles Wallace fellowship, I now content myself with partly capturing the flavour of my tenure. Let me

state at the outset that the academic value of the Wallace fellowship cannot be over-emphasised. During times when grants are increasingly

being driven by areas that are 'in' in the academic-market, the Wallace Trust's recognition of the importance of broader fundamental research in the field of the social and human sciences speaks for its openness and value. And I am indeed privileged to have been selected as the India Fellow for the year 2011.

During the three months I explored conceptualizations of 'woman' and 'unreason' in contexts like India through investigating the production of the 'mad woman' in the clinic and in popular culture. Having partially completed my work relating to the cultural site, i.e. Kannada literature and Kannada cinema, I primarily needed to work on the site of the 'lunatic asylum' later renamed 'mental hospital', specifically that of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore that goes back to the mid-nineteenth century. The particular cluster of the SOAS, British and Wellcome libraries was most useful and a pleasure to work in. The primary material - asylum reports and private papers of colonial medical doctors - available at the British Library and the excellent History of Medicine collection at the Wellcome - scholarship on colonial medical history and nineteenth and twentieth century medical manuals and textbooks - were invaluable in concretising the direction of my research.

I presented my preliminary research findings



P.Radhika at her seminar at the Manchester Metropolitan University

at the Manchester Metropolitan University (see link: www.rihsc.mmu.ac.uk/event_news/news.php?id=102) and at SOAS (see link: www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events/seminars/24mar2011-how-do-we-understand-the-mad-womans-speech-womens-novels-50s-60s-and-their-cinematic-re-cr.html). At both places the discussions were stimulating. I would like to specially thank professors Erica Burman and Ian Parker at the Manchester Metropolitan University and professors Francesca Orsini and Nadjie-Al-Ali at SOAS who organized my seminars at the respective universities. A direct result of the research work in London is a course I intend to teach on 'Woman, Mental Illness, Cultural-Clinical histories at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (www.cscsarchive.org/cscs/announcements_folder/announcements.2009-11-16.7588494552/announcement.2011-05-10.4668466191).



From left: P Radhika with Professor Erica Burman, Manchester Metropolitan University and Pauline Whelan, Education Researcher Leeds Metropolitan University at the Pankhurst Centre, Manchester.

The particular triad of institutions - Charles Wallace Trust, SOAS and the British Council - that come together in instituting the fellowship is ideal both for the legitimacy of these institutions within the academia and for assisting the Fellow at every stage during the fellowship period. SOAS houses and invites some of the best known academics researching on Asia. I was fortunate to be part of a discussion among Iraqi feminist academics and Prof. Nadjie-Al-Ali on the questions and possibilities of introducing a women's studies course in Erbil, Iraq. My host professor Francesca Orsini not only guided me in terms of my research and future research plans but also ensured that I was stitched into the community at SOAS (not

to forget her taking time off to catch a play or exhibition and cook all those lovely meals!) The South Asia department seminars were an important ground for meeting other faculty and students of the department, as well as for valuable discussions on ongoing research. My presentation, "Inaugurating a Feminine Public" on a much-neglected thesis chapter on Kannada women's novels of the 1950s provided me enough inspiration to rework the chapter and return to my thesis most productively. As a consequence, my book-project took shape and I plan to submit a book-proposal for publication. Prof. Lawrence Saez's caution of not being holed up in archive but to make use of the opportunity of being in London to present my work to newer audiences struck a chord and motivated me to meet up other important researchers and people interested in my field.

There are many who need to be thanked for those small things that go a long way! Jane Savory and Rahima Begum at SOAS always welcomed me with a smile and had a solution to all the problems a visitor to a new city would have; they shared a 'secret London' unavailable to tourists. Solomon Jayasingh and Gopinathan Padmanabhan of the British Council extended full help in organizing my travel. Not least, I would like to specially thank Richard Alford at the Charles Wallace Trust who was supportive both in terms of ensuring that I was comfortable and offering timely suggestions on my research. His sense of humour and being ever ready to lend an ear made him immensely approachable. The small and transient community of friends who helped keep body and soul together cannot be forgotten - Nadhra for lip-smacking biriyani, Preetha for lively discussions on regional Indian writing, Ursula for conversations over British Library tea and home-dinners, Flavia for the memorable ice-skating and RAH musical evening experiences, Pauline and Hannah for walking me through Manchester, Khatidja for introducing me to the English national dish-the chicken tikka, Deborah for hosting me en-route to the Lake District and, of course, my home-stay hostess Karina for a warm hearth made sweeter by English treacle pudding!

P Radhika

Report of Dr Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan Charles Wallace Pakistan Fellowship 2010-2011

I completed my PhD in 2010 from the University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, specializing in Sikh-period Art and Architecture. During the course of my research I realized that a lot of information and material relevant to my topic was in various collections in London but not having the means to access it, I had to do without it. Luckily I came across the Charles Wallace Trust Fellowship and applied and to my great surprise – won it. I reached London in the first week of January this year for three months and had the Department of South Asia at SOAS as my host institution - a dream I never thought would come true. My first day started with a warm welcome by the supporting trio headed by Jane and assisted by Rahima and Jahan who were always there when needed whether it was planning a journey or to figure out a problem with the computer.

The first couple of weeks just flew by trying to memorize tube stations and trying out different options for a faster track which included getting off at the wrong stations and getting on the trains headed in an opposite direction to my destination. London during my stay was wonderful in every respect and posed just one problem that was very difficult to deal with - accommodation. If there is one thing that needs to be revised about this Fellowship, it should be providing the Fellows with a place to live so their limited time is not wasted on running around hunting for it.

Guidance and suggestions by Lawrence Saez, the Chairperson, Francesca Orsini, Head of the Department of South Asia and David Taylor, Senior Teaching Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies helped me make the most of my stay. Susan Stronge, Senior Curator of the South Asian Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Alison Ohta, Director of the Royal Asiatic Society, Elizabeth Moore, Reader in the Art and Archaeology of South East Asia at SOAS, Dr. Gurharpal Singh, Professor of Inter-Religious Relations at Birmingham University and Pippa Verdi, Senior Lecturer in Modern South Asian History at the DeMontfort University, Leicester were equally supportive and encouraging.

Required to give one seminar during my Fellowship, I ended up with four, all to a good number of audiences. My first talk was at SOAS under the auspices of the South and Southeast Asian Art & Archaeology Research Seminar series, and the title was “Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s Samadhi: the last great example of indigenous architectural style in the Punjab”. The second was in the series of the CSAS Seminar Programme, held at the Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre, Victoria and Albert Museum. The topic of my discussion here was “Unique Specimens of Sikh Period Wall Paintings in Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s Samadhi”. The third was at the DeMontfort University, Leicester where I presented “Glimpses of Sikh Heritage and Culture: Maharaja Ranjit Singh and his Lahore Darbar”. The fourth was organized by the Royal Asiatic Society and the title of my talk was “Wall Paintings in a Special Room of the Sikh Prince Kharak Singh’s Haveli”. All four sessions were followed by very interesting Q&A sessions.



Susan Stronge and Nadhra

My time in London breezed away and left me craving for more. My four talks, the time spent at SOAS library and attending Persian classes kindly allowed by Narguess Farzad, V&A and British libraries and Reading Rooms, a short visit to Birmingham for a talk show on Sikh TV, a day at Thetford with Peter Bains visiting Maharaja Daleep Singh’s property and graveyard and a day with Bob Scoales looking at his collection of rare pictures of Lahore was all I could barely manage, with no time left for some very important items



Farewell lunch in the Brunswick Centre (from left) Jane Savory, Nadhra, P Radhika and Rahima Begum

in my “to do” list that still await a tick mark. What I remember about these three months is running from one place and one thing to another – like a kid in the candy shop, trying to put everything in my bag to take home and enjoy but the candies were too many and my bag of three months too small!

I am back in Lahore with a new vigor, more confidence and a long list of new friends and contacts with Radhika at the top, the Fellow from India with whom I shared my office at SOAS and an occasional dish of home-made spicy food that we both craved and missed. Charles Wallace Fellowship gave me an excellent opportunity to reach out to an audience receptive to my work, to find excellent research material for future projects and a chance to get to know SOAS and London – the hubs of culture and learning.

Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan

RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

External Grant Applications 01.08.2010 - 31.07.2011

Kate Crosby

Department of the Study of Religions
Traditional Theravada
Funding body: Dhammakaya Foundation
Date Submitted: 9 September 2010
Fundable Amount: £35,814

Mara Malagodi

School of Law
Conference: The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition.
Funding body: British Academy
Fundable Amount: £600

Richard Widdess

Department of Music
Songs of Praise in the Kathmandu Valley: the Dapah tradition of Bhaktapur
Funding Body: Spalding Trust
Fundable Amount: £1,893

Research and Enterprise Directorate

Research and Enterprise activities are central to SOAS' mission. Not only do they enhance teaching and learning, they are also a crucial part of the services that we provide to the world around us. Research establishes new knowledge which extends the frontiers of human understanding and informs and sharpens scholarly debate. When this knowledge is transferred externally it shapes the policy and practice of governments, businesses, NGOs and informs the wider community.

The Research and Enterprise Directorate at SOAS works across the School to secure external funding and income, to support research excellence and to facilitate knowledge transfer.

www.soas.ac.uk/reo



Rural change and anthropological knowledge in post-colonial India: A comparative 'restudy' of F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David Pocock

A SOAS-led research project on Indian village life has been awarded a £774,000 grant by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Dr Edward Simpson, a senior lecturer in social anthropology at SOAS, will be the principal investigator for the project, which will begin on 1 September and run for 36 months. His co-investigator will be Professor Patricia Jeffery, a sociology professor at the University of Edinburgh.

The researchers will 'restudy' three villages in the Indian states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa that were the subject of now-classic 'village ethnographies' in the 1950s. They aim to survey living conditions in the villages as well as villagers' attitudes towards social change, and then compare their results with data from the 1950s to see how the post-colonial Indian village has changed socially, economically and politically.

Despite a number of excellent individual studies, surprisingly little is known about the change in India's half-a-million villages since independence even though, perhaps for the first time in history, solid data is available.

Questions the researchers hope to answer include: What are the new sociological realities of life in an Indian village? What has happened to caste, patron-client and religious systems, segregated gender roles, and popular religion? What will new fieldwork in places studied more than half a century ago tell us about the changing role and form of the village? What new ways of looking at India sociologically might be suggested by research conducted in the footsteps of the pioneers of the modern discipline? What methodological innovation will emerge from the comparative use of anthropological material as historical data?

In 1950, the children of newly-independent India were born into a world where there was no refrigeration, television or internet; there was no electricity for most. They could expect to live for an average of forty years. Metalled roads, combustion engines and plastics were rare. India had yet to go to war with Pakistan, and the IR8 rice seed of the so-called Green Revolution was over a decade away.

The villages selected for this restudy display the legacies of post-colonial development and political policies, consequences of economic and land reform or consolidation and effects of technological and media expansion. They are also sites in which novel sociological processes are being played out today.

In each location, there has been a growth of grassroots Hindu politics. In Orissa, land rights and tribal identities have become burning issues, as people have been brought into conflict with transnational corporations and extractive industries. Rapid industrialisation in Madhya Pradesh has brought villagers into wage relations with India's industrial houses. In Gujarat, the village has become part of the transnational networks and nostalgic and nationalist politics of migrants in East Africa and UK. Life in these villages is clearly not the same as it was in the 1950s.

The original village studies were undertaken independently by F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David F. Pocock (deceased) in the first half of the 1950s. The three went on to have distinguished careers as exponents of the post-colonial sociology of India. In planning the new study, the researchers contacted Bailey and Mayer, now in their late 80s, who agreed to share their original fieldnotes, discuss their lives and works and to act as honorary consultants to the project.

Such an approach is unusual, and is itself something of an experiment within the larger project. As far as we know, no comparative restudy has been undertaken in anthropology of the work of other anthropologists, and therefore the project will hopefully open up space for new approaches and ideas in the anthropology of South Asia.

Further details of the project can be obtained from Dr Edward Simpson (Email: es7@soas.ac.uk).

Three post-doctoral fellows will join SOAS in October of 2011 to work on the project. They are:



Tina Otten

Dr Tina Otten will conduct research in Orissa on the work of F.G. Bailey (lecturer at SOAS in the 1950s and now a resident of Del Mar, California). Until recently she was Lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology at the Ruhr-University in Bochum, Faculty of Social Science, Department of Social Psychology and Social Anthropology. She has taught courses on medical anthropology, gender relations, fieldwork techniques, introductory courses into social anthropology and courses on migration and social change.

Before joining SOAS, her most recent research project related to ideas, agency and discourse about identity and wellbeing. Between 1999 and 2006 she was a research member of the German Research Community in the interdisciplinary Orissa Research Program: "Contested centres: construction and change of socio-cultural identities in the Indian region of Orissa". Since 1996 she has regularly visited India and continues to be fascinated by Orissa. In 1996/1997 she studied Ayurvedic medicine in Gujarat and Kerala. From 1999 until 2003 she carried out research for her doctoral thesis. She obtained a Ph.D at the Free University Berlin, Germany. Her thesis concerns concepts of illness among Rona of highland Orissa and discusses the impact of Hindu and Adivasi cultural values which structure Indian societies and their respective health care systems. This was followed by extended field trips between 2003 and 2006, during which she investigated the new emerging performance of a three-month fertility ritual and oral epic called Bali Jatra which is mainly carried out by women. Recent fieldwork in 2010 focused on the dushera rituals in Nandapur, Jeypur and Koraput, and its relation to historical royal and recent political structure.

Tina's theoretical interest rests on the ways in which indigenous people conceptualise social identity, experience of change and the different ways in which new ideas are absorbed and influence ritual and political structure, medicine, and gender- and kinship relations.

Email: tina.otten@gmx.de



Tommaso Sbriccoli

Dr Tommaso Sbriccoli will conduct research in Madhya Pradesh on the work of Adrian Mayer (Emeritus Professor of SOAS). Tommaso is a political and legal anthropologist. He graduated at the University of Siena where he obtained as well a Ph.D. in anthropology in 2009. His broadest research interest has been that of pastoral communities.

In the first years of his training he carried out research and fieldwork in Israel among Bedouins of the Negev, and in Siena District among pastoralists of Sardinian origins. Interested principally in the working and logics of institutional and social networks, for his MA and PhD dissertation he moved his field of inquiry to India. He has thus been doing field research in Northern India since 2003, working on rural and pastoral communities in Rajasthan, specifically among Raika herders. Here he has explored how traditional institutions, ideas about justice, competing normative systems and conceptions about person interact in shaping social and political action. In turn, the outcomes of such research have led him to focus his attention on the ways in which kinship, marriage patterns, and individual and group strategies of social mobility are connected to wider projects of identity crafting and State policies. He has analysed such issues carrying out ethnography both at village and regional level. The results of his work have been published in various Italian journals and collective books.

In 2008-2009 he has carried out a fieldwork research in Italy on refugees and the Italian process of claiming asylum, developing together with Stefano Jacoviello, a semiotician, an interdisciplinary methodological framework of discourse analysis. The results of this collaboration have been published with Routledge in a collective book edited by Livia Holden, "Cultural Expertise and Litigation. Patterns, Conflicts, Narratives", and are being developed in a further work within the EU project "Playing Identities. Migration, Creolisation, Creation", of which he currently is Scientific Coordinator.

Email: tommasosbriccoli@gmail.com



Alice Tilche

Alice Tilche will conduct research in Gujarat on work of David Pocock. She is Italian with a university education in the U.K. She is presently completing a PhD in Social Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies. She has a BA in Social Anthropology also from SOAS, and an MSc in Material Anthropology and Museum Studies from Oxford University.

Her PhD is an ethnographic study of the Adivasi (Tribal) struggle for identity and recognition in contemporary India. Through long-term fieldwork in Gujarat and western India the project asks how groups, whose identity is born out of a history of exclusion and dispossession, come to make themselves anew, as citizens with rights and dignity. Specifically, the research examines the development of an Adivasi Museum in a village of Eastern Gujarat, and considers its role in conceiving and transforming historically rooted forms of marginalization. In addition to a close scrutiny of the Museum, her work is located within wider processes of refiguring the 'Tribal' in India, including processes of integration within a homogenous 'Hindu Nation', and the integration of Adivasis within wider ethical communities and networks of indigenous people.

Alice has been involved in the development of a series of exhibitions, cultural and community programs in India and the UK, with the National Museum of Man (Bhopal), and the Horniman Museum (London). Her research combines interests in indigeneity, the politics of identity, social change and rural identities, with issues of representation, material and visual cultures.

Email: alistilche@gmail.com

CENRE FOR THE STUDY OF PAKISTAN

www.soas.ac.uk/csp

A note from the Chair, Dr Amina Yaqin

Pakistan has been in the news continuously over the past few years, what with its nuclear testing, its well documented involvement in the international 'war on terror', its political see-sawing between military dictatorships and democratic dynasties, the assassination of Prime Ministers, most recently Benazir Bhutto, and the continuing power struggle between the military, political parties and extremists. But while media attention projects the image of a country always on the brink of collapse, there are other indicators that point to Pakistan as a vibrant, dynamic country. Its rate of economic growth has been remarkable, since the 1990s it has acquired a very lively media landscape—overwhelmingly in Urdu—and writing in English by Pakistani writers has recently captured the attention of international publishers and readers. The Pakistani diaspora continues to grow abroad and here in the UK it has had a historic presence in both the North and the South of the country. As a diasporic community under constant scrutiny since 9/11 and the 07/07 attacks it is often looked at through the lens of honour based crimes, forced marriages and criminality amongst male youth. Yet, it is a highly entrepreneurial community with very successful people in business, science, culture and the arts who have made significant contributions to British society.

SOAS has had a historic tradition of linguistic and literary scholarship and connections with Pakistan, with Ralph Russell, David Matthews and Christopher Shackleton in particular working and guiding research on Urdu, Persian, Punjabi, and Siraiki language and literature. But in more recent years a host of scholars in Politics, Law, Economics, Religion, Anthropology, as well as Languages and Cultures, have made SOAS home to probably the largest concentration of experts on Pakistan in the world, with excellent connections with scholars and institutions in Pakistan.

International interest in Pakistan is perhaps at an all-time high, and yet it focuses almost exclusively on politics, religion, and terrorism. In this international and national climate, we feel that the new Centre for the Study of Pakistan at SOAS is a much needed space; a clearing house of ideas for academic discussion that can play a crucial role in shaping the future of how we study and understand Pakistan in the contemporary world. The Centre will look toward informing and influencing public opinion on the greater complexity and richness of culture, society, and politics in Pakistan and also toward contributing to public policy. As Centre Chair, I look forward to establishing research relationships within the academic sector as well as developing links with outside organizations to increase the impact of our findings.

The Centre for the Study of Pakistan's purposes are to:

- promote research and teaching in the study of Pakistan, both contemporary and historical, across a range of disciplines at SOAS
- bring together and publicise the range of work on Pakistan underway at SOAS, to build synergies between staff working on Pakistan and to encourage and facilitate fund raising for such initiatives
- work towards developing an interdisciplinary MA programme in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan the school
- foster and facilitate links between SOAS and other individuals and institutions in the UK and abroad who are engaged in academic study of Pakistan across various disciplines
- develop outreach programmes to disseminate knowledge of Pakistan to a wider public through a variety of events including workshops, conferences, exhibitions, film and performance arts
- promote understanding of Pakistan in all its aspects to involve Pakistan communities and diasporic groups and to organise joint events, as and when appropriate.

Introducing a new MA in Postcolonial Studies at SOAS - starting September 2011

The unique SOAS MA Postcolonial Studies Programme offers a focus on the historical relationships of power, domination and practices of imperialism and colonialism in the modern period (late nineteenth-century to the present) through the study of literature and culture. Students will be introduced to a variety of postcolonial theoretical and methodological approaches to literature, film and media with reference to Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Near and Middle East. Both theoretical and cultural contexts will address representations of colonialism and decolonisation, neo-colonialism, nationalism in postcolonial societies and diasporic experiences, allowing us to explore the heterogeneous meanings, intersections and strategies of analysis that have emerged with reference to postcolonial studies.

The Programme will consist of courses valued at 3 units and a dissertation of 10,000 words.

MA Postcolonial Studies along with MA Cultural Studies and MA Comparative Literature will be administered and taught through the SOAS Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS). The CCLPS mission is to foster innovative research in African, Asian and Near and Middle Eastern cultures and literatures in the disciplines of Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies and Postcolonial Studies, with the aim of pioneering new research and pedagogy in these disciplines. It aims to promote comparative critical thought and postgraduate research in critical methods derived from the study of non-European literatures and aesthetic and cultural practices, in addition to written literatures in European languages.

Endorsement by Professor Janet Wilson of Northampton University: "As a programme whose different courses and options interconnect diverse regions and disciplines, the MA draws on and showcases the remarkable range of teaching and research expertise available within SOAS. "

For enquiries about the Programme please contact the Programme Convenor: Dr Amina Yaqin, ay@soas.ac.uk

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CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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.

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Editorial & Design
Jane Savory

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