



Centre of South Asian Studies

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I am delighted to report that the 2011-2012 academic year has been filled with South Asia-related activities. The Centre sponsored a large number of seminars, workshops, film screenings, and workshops during the year. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the year was the hosting of the 26th annual conference of the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS). The BASAS conference was held in April 2012 and attracted an international audience of over 150 registered guests. Other key events included the international workshop on law and conflict in Kashmir. The Centre also sponsored the 14th Jaina Studies Symposium on the subject of biodiversity conservation and animal rights. In February 2012, the Centre sponsored another international conference, entitled 'Making a Difference', on the theme of representing/constructing the Other in Asian/African media, cinema and languages. Finally, in July 2012, Professor Michael Hutt helped organised an international workshop on understanding the democratic transition in Nepal.

"as the Chair of the CSAS, I have encouraged that we explore topical and controversial themes relating to South Asia"

In recent years, the Centre has made a concerted effort to engage with the region's Muslim communities and its diaspora. In this regard, the Centre was proud to sponsor the launch of the Centre for Pakistan Studies with a public lecture by Aamir Mufti (UCLA) on the dialectics of multitude in Faiz Ahmed Faiz. The Centre also sponsored the book launch and discussion of the Framing Muslims project. CSAS also hosted a commemoration of the work of Agha Shahid Ali. We also held a seminar and reading of poetry by Professor Rafey Habib.

The Centre sponsored a number of exciting public lectures. These included a public lecture by Abhijit Gupta (Jadavpur University)

on the subject of an important historical incident in May 1817 in Delhi. Sarmila Bose (University of Oxford) delivered a lecture on the 40th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh. Yunas Samad (University of Bradford) spoke on the subject of US-Pakistan relations. More recently, Partha Sen (South Asian University) spoke to us on national and regional impacts of climate change on the Indian economy.

The Centre's annual lecture delivered by one of India's leading public intellectuals, Ramachandra Guha, on the subject of biography writing in South Asia. Moreover, the Centre hosted 12th Annual Jaina lecture delivered by Michael Tobias (UCLA) on the subject of Mahavira, Don Quixote and the history of ecological ethics and idealism. In addition, the Britain-Nepal Academic Council Ninth Annual Lecture was delivered by Anne de Sales (CNRS, Paris) on the subject of time, identity and historical change in the hills of Nepal.

At the initiative of many colleagues, the Centre sponsored a number of fascinating film-related events, including a question and answer session with film director Ben Campbell on the subject of his latest film, 'The Way of the Road'. The Centre also sponsored the presentation of the film, 'The Kalasha: Rites of Spring' (dir. John Sheppard). In March 2012, we showed the controversial film, 'Trangenders: Pakistan's Open Secret' (dir. Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy). During the BASAS annual conference, we also presented the film called 'Koel' (dir. Bonnie Mukherjee). Finally, we sponsored the press launch for the London Asian Film Festival and screening of the film 'Senna' (dir. Asif Kapadia).

As the Chair of the CSAS, I have encouraged that we explore topical and controversial themes relating to South Asia. This year we hosted a special seminar series on themes in contemporary literature of the Indian subcontinent led by Kavita Ramdya (CSAS Research Associate). We also held a roundtable discussion on the subject of beauty and brains, an event that generated a lively debate well beyond the Khalili lecture theatre.

As is customary, the Centre hosted a number of international visitors. The Centre is proud to have hosted an outstanding Charles Wallace fellow. Dr Sadhan Jha was the Charles Wallace Indian Fellow for the 2011-12 academic year. His sponsor was Dr Francesca Orsini, Reader in the Literatures of North India in the Department of the Languages



and Cultures of South Asia. At the conclusion of his research stay, Dr Jha held a seminar on the topic of the importance of the colour saffron in India's political system. The Centre also hosted Chikayoshi Nomura, an associate professor in the Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences at Osaka City University. Dr Nomura undertook two research projects. One book project related to the development of corporate organizations of the Tata Iron and Steel Company in colonial period. His second research project attempted to clarify how financial institutions, such as stock exchanges, developed in colonial India.

The activities of the Centre could not take place without the active collaboration from many of you. Dr Mara Malagodi, the Centre's interim deputy director has injected a great deal of energy to the Centre. She is clear-headed and has come up with great ideas. I want to particularly thank Professor Rachel Dwyer, Professor Michael Hutt, Dr Matthew Nelson, and Dr Amina Yaqin for their indefatigable efforts. A million thanks must go, as usual, to Jane Savory, Rahima Begum, and Dorinne Tin Ming Kaw.

In many respects, this end of the year report is also my farewell. I have had the privilege of serving my full three-year term as Chair of CSAS and it is now my turn to step down from this post. I am pleased to announce to the CSAS community that Professor Michael Hutt has agreed to serve as the Chair of CSAS starting in January 2013.

Professor Lawrence Saez

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Rochana BAJPAI

During 2011-12, **Rochana Bajpai** gave several talks on her recent book, *Debating Difference: Group Rights and Liberal Democracy in India* (OUP, 2011), including at the University of Hyderabad and the MS University of Baroda, India. She also presented a paper on her new comparative project, 'Heuristics of hegemony: Debating affirmative action in India and Malaysia' in the IHR Comparative Histories of Asia seminar series and travelled to Stanford University in connection with this research.

Rochana participated in several international conferences and workshops including Asian Values and Social Justice (Lancaster), Gendered Ceremony and Ritual in Parliament (London), Shared Sovereignty: Rights, Religion and the Problem of Authority (London) and the Internationalisation of Dalit and Adivasi activism (London).

Her acclaimed recent book, *Debating Difference: Group Rights and Liberal Democracy in India* (OUP, 2011) has gone into a second print run.

From 2013, the Politics department will offer a new MSc in Comparative Political Thought (convenors Rochana Bajpai, Matt Nelson and Charles Tripp). The programme reframes the study of political thought in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as a study of political concepts and of ideas in practice, as opposed to the traditional focus on regions, cultures (Chinese, Indian, Islamic, and so on) and canonical texts. For further queries, please contact Rochana Bajpai (rb6@soas.ac.uk).

Publications

- Bajpai, Rochana, 'Liberalisms in India: A Sketch' in Ben Jackson and Marc Stears ed. *Liberalism as Ideology: Essays in Honour of Michael Freedon*. Oxford: OUP 2012.
- Bajpai, Rochana, 'Beyond Identity? UPA rhetoric on social justice and reservations' in Lawrence Saez and Gurharpal Singh ed., *New Dimensions of Politics in India: The United Progressive Alliance in Power*. London: Routledge 2011.



Crispin BRANFOOT

In January **Crispin Branfoot** participated in a conference on 'Krishnadevaraya and his times – Cultural Perspectives' at the KR Cama Oriental Institute in Mumbai, India. He delivered the Annual Lecture on the Arts of South and Southeast Asia entitled 'Making Madurai: temple arts in early modern South India' at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in March 2012, and in May he contributed to a workshop on Dynastic genealogies in South & Southeast Asia at the EFEO, Paris.



Whitney COX

For the academic year 2011-12, **Whitney Cox** served as Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. While in the States, he participated in a panel on the Kashmiri historian Kalhana at the annual Madison South Asia conference, and delivered a lecture at Harvard Divinity School's Center for the Study of World Religions. Whitney also accepted an invitation to join the international Steering Committee for the Zukunftsphilologie project, part of the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, which has also agreed to publish a monograph he is presently finalising. Finally, he was delighted to receive an Early Career Research Fellowship from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, permitting him to complete a book project over the coming academic session.

Publications

- Bronner, Yigal, Whitney Cox, and Lawrence McCrea, eds. *South Asian Texts in History: Critical Engagements with Sheldon Pollock*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Asia Past and Present, Association for Asian Studies, 2011.



Deepita CHAKRAVARTY

Publications

- "For Bed and Board Only": Women and Girl Children Domestic in Post Partition Calcutta (1951-1981)', *Modern Asian Studies*, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming, 2012) (with Ishita Chakravarty).
- 'Industry, Labour and the State: Emerging Relations in the Indian State of West Bengal', *Journal of South Asian Development*, Sage Publications, (October, 2011) Vol 6, No. 2. (with Indranil Bose).



Michael W. CHARNEY

Michael W. Charney presented a paper, "The Great Middle Continent and a changing early modern Geography: intercultural contact with Europe and India in the shaping of Burmese cartographies" at the ASEASUK Conference in Cambridge in September 2011, a paper on firearms and warfare in early modern Sri Lanka and Burma at the World History Association colloquium in January, 2012. He also published an article, 'Literary Culture on the Burma-Manipur Frontier in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries,' in *The Medieval History Journal* (2011).



Philippe CULLET

In 2011-2012, **Philippe Cullet** and Prof. Peter Mollinga started a new course on Water Law and Governance in Asia that focused in particular on South Asia. This was the first postgraduate course offered jointly by Development Studies and Law.

In March 2012, Philippe delivered his inaugural lecture entitled 'Reforming Water Law and Policy in India'. Some of his other engagements included talks on water law and policy reforms in India at IDS and a presentation of the 'Draft Model Bill for the Conservation, Protection and Regulation of Ground-water', 2011 at the National Workshop of the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India in Pune.

Publications

- Cullet, Philippe & S. Koonan eds, *Water Law in India – An Introduction to Legal Instruments* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011), 356p.
- Cullet, Philippe, 'Evolving Regulatory Framework for Rural Drinking Water – Need for Further Reforms', in *Infrastructure Development Finance Company ed., India Infrastructure Report 2011 – Water: Policy and Performance for Sustainable Development* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011), p. 151-61.
- Cullet, Philippe 'Is Water Policy the New Water Law? – Rethinking the Place of Law in Water Sector Reforms', *43/2 IDS Bulletin* (2012), p. 69-78.



Rachel M. J. DWYER

In February **Rachel Dwyer** gave a lecture on Raj Kapoor for King's Key Scholars Series, organized by the British Film Institute and King's College London, which was published in *L'homme*.

At the inauguration of LSE India Week, 2012, Rachel was Guest of Honour and was in conversation with the Bollywood superstar Rishi Kapoor. The highlight was when he sang 'Main shayar to nahin' from Bobby.

Rachel continued her British Academy-funded research on the Hindi film biopic, presenting papers at UCLA, the University of Sydney and the Australian National University. She wrote an op-ed 'As reel as possible' about the biopic for the *Hindustan Times* and have two papers forthcoming.

Rachel began her research on the Indian elephant, giving a paper on the elephant in Hindi cinema at the symposium, 'Making India Visible', at Stanford University. The paper is being published in a book on animals in South Asia.

Rachel wrote an op-ed about Salman Khan ('Sallubhai Superstar') for *Hindustan Times*, spoke for a Financial Times podcast on Bollywood and talked about Bombay for the Royal Geographical Society's Hidden Journeys. She spoke at the Edinburgh Festival, at 'Names not numbers', Mumbai, and was a jury member at the International Film Festival of Kerala. Rachel chose ten great films for the 'Sight and Sound' ten-yearly poll. Her other media activities included interviews, reviews and features with the *Financial Times*, the *Hindustan Times*, *Mint* and ABC. They were mostly Bollywood related as well as on food, Hinduism and nostalgia.



Michael J HUTT

Michael Hutt has enjoyed his return to teaching and supervision after eight years in faculty management at SOAS and a year of research sabbatical. During 2011-12 he visited Nepal twice. His first visit, in September 2011, was to present a paper entitled 'Writers and Readers in Transitional Nepal' at the first workshop of the British Academy-funded SOAS-Martin Chautari South Asia Partnership Project on 'The Construction of Public Meaning in Nepal during the Democratic Transition'. His second visit, in March-April 2012, was made in order to conduct further research on Nepali literature and also to contribute to an external evaluation of the Nepa School of Social Sciences and Humanities. He convened the second workshop of the Partnership Project at SOAS on 4-5 July.



An article, 'Singing the New Nepal', appeared in the April 2012 issue of *Nations and Nationalism*. Nepal's adoption of a new national anthem in 2007 reflected a decision to establish a new social and political order that was republican, federal and inclusive of the country's many minority communities. It came after a ten-year internal conflict, and was followed by the abolition of the Shah monarchy that had ruled the country since the late eighteenth century. The article describes the historical and political context of the decision to replace the old anthem, the selection of the new anthem, and the debates that arose in the Nepali media and public sphere after its lyrics and the identity of its author were made known. The discussion refers to arguments made by Karen Cerulo about the relationship between the syntactic structure of national anthems and the stage reached in the process of political modernization of the nation-state in question, and provides some comparative perspectives on the Nepali case.

Michael Hutt will take over from Lawrence Saez as Chair of the South Asia Centre in December 2012.



Mara MALAGODI

Mara Malagodi was awarded in July 2011 a British Academy Travel Fellowship to present a paper on 'The Media Coverage of the Drafting of Nepal's 2007 Interim Constitution: An Inquiry into Representations of Politico-Institutional Change and Continuity' at the workshop 'The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition' jointly organised by Martin Chautari and SOAS, University of London under a British Academy International Partnership Scheme between the two institutions and held in Kathmandu in September 2011. In August she held a short-term consultancy with UNICEF Nepal.

In September 2011 Mara enrolled on the part-time Bar Professional Training Course at City Law School with the support of the BPTC Quatercentenary Scholarship awarded by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple to qualify as a Barrister.

In October 2011 Mara organised together with Dr Martin Lau a one-day international workshop on 'Law and Conflict in Kashmir' with the sponsorship of the Centre of South Asian Studies and the School of Law as part of the programme of the Himalayan Film and Cultural Festival run by Satsang Productions. In January 2012 she organised together with Prof Michael Hutt the screening of the documentary 'Beauty and Brains' on a beauty pageant for transgenders in Nepal; the screening was followed by a panel discussion with director Catherine Donaldson.

In July 2012 Mara presented a paper on Sir Ivor Jennings' advisory work on the drafting of Nepal's 1959 Constitution as part of a panel on Ivor Jennings' involvement in the constitutional politics of South Asia with Madurika Rasaratnam and Martin Lau. The panel features in the programme of the international conference 'Legal Histories of the British Empire' held at the National University of Singapore. Two weeks later Mara travelled to Kathmandu to present as an invited speaker a paper on 'Legal Equality between Recognition and Redistribution: Constitutional Drafting and Adjudication in India and Nepal' at the international conference 'Inequality and Affirmative Action: Situating Nepal in Global Debates' organised by Yale University, Social Science Baha and Goldsmith under a British Academy International Partnership Scheme.

Mara has been awarded a three-year British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (2012-2015) with the project 'Mapping Legal Exclusion: Supreme Court's Interpretation of the Right to Equality in Nepal (1990-2012)', which she will be taking up at the Law Department of the London School of Economics from 1 October 2012.

Publications

Authored Books

- Malagodi, Mara (2012) *Constitutional Nationalism and Legal Exclusion - Equality, Identity Politics and Democracy in Nepal (1990-2007)*. Delhi: Oxford University Press. (In Press)

Book Chapters

- Malagodi, Mara (2012) 'Constitutional Change and the Quest for Legal Inclusion in Nepal.' In: Harvey, Colin and Schwartz, Alexander, (eds.), *Rights in Divided Societies*. Hart Publishing (In press).
- Malagodi, Mara (2013) 'Protection of Religious Rights in India'. In: Dingemans, James et al. (eds.) *The Protection of religious Rights: Law and Practice*. OUP (Forthcoming).

Articles

- Rasaratnam, Madurika and Malagodi, Mara (2012) 'Eyes wide shut? Persistent conflict and liberal peace interventions in Nepal and Sri Lanka' in *Conflict, Security & Development* (In Press).



Werner F. MENSKI

Werner Menski continued to edit *South Asia Research* (SAGE, New Delhi), presently preparing Vol. 32.3 (Nov. 2012). He maintained an active publications schedule, much of this focused on his model of law as kite flying, with new writing related to human rights issues:

- 'Flying kites in Pakistan: Turbulences in theory and practice'. *Journal of Law and Social Research* (Multan, Pakistan) Vol.1 No. 1 (2009-10): 41-57.
- 'Assessing communal conflicts and Hindu fascism in India'. *European Yearbook of Minority Issues. Special Focus South Asia*, 8 (2009): 313-35. Leiden: Brill (ISBN 978900417X).
- 'Flying kites: Managing family laws and gender issues in Bangladesh'. *Stamford Journal of Law* (Dhaka) No. 2 (March 2011): 109-34.
- 'Life and law: Advocacy and expert witnessing in the UK'. In Livia Holden (ed.) *Cultural Expertise and Litigation: Patterns, Conflicts, Narratives* (pp. 151-72). London and New York: Routledge, 2011.
- 'Islamic law in British courts: Do we not know or do we not want to know?' In Jane Mair and Esin Örüçü (eds.) *The place of religion in family law: A comparative search* (pp. 15-36) *Mortsel: Intersentia*, 2011, also in *Journal of Minority Studies, Kansai University, Osaka*, Vol. 6 (2012): 27-49 [in Japanese] [ISSN 1883-7735].
- 'Shah Bano, Narendra Modi and reality checks about global understandings of Indian law'. *Nirma University Law Journal* (Ahmedabad), Vol.1.1 (2011): 7-26.
- 'Flying kites in a global sky: New models of jurisprudence'. *Socio-Legal Review* (Bangalore), 7 (2011): 1-22.
- 'Hinduism and human rights'. In John Witte, Jr. and M. Christian Green (eds.) *Religion and human rights*. An introduction. (pp. 71-86). New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- 'Ancient and modern boundary crossings between personal laws and civil law in composite India'. In Joel A. Nichols (ed.) *Marriage and divorce in a multicultural context: Multi-tiered marriage and the boundaries of civil law and religion* (pp. 219-52). New York: Cambridge University Press 2012.

- 'Plural worlds of law and the search for living law'. In Werner Gephart (ed.) *Rechtsanalyse als Kulturforschung* (pp. 71-88). *Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann*, 2012.
- 'Jürgen Habermas: Post-conflict reconstruction, non-hegemonic modernity, discourse about spaces and the role of religion'. In Pradip Basu (ed.) *Modern social thinkers* (pp. 180-198). *Kolkata: Setu Prakashani*, 2012.
- 'The uniform civil code debate in Indian law: New developments and changing agenda'. In Malcolm McLaren (ed.) *The many faces of India. Law and politics of the subcontinent*. (pp. 136-82). *New Delhi: Samskriti*, 2012.

Lectures on legal pluralism and South Asian laws were delivered at the Universities of Cape Town, Copenhagen, Halle, Bonn, and Trieste. An edited volume on the contributions of the Japanese legal scholar Masaji Chiba is in preparation. He will be on research leave in the 2012/13 session.



Alessandra MEZZADRI

Alessandra Mezzadri has been working on the project 'The Global village? Homeworking in the global economy' which is sponsored by the British Academy, Small Grants Scheme.

This project looks at relations of production in the embroidery segment of the garment commodity chain in India. It focuses on areas in and around Bareilly, in Uttar Pradesh. In particular, it looks at the ways in which labour contractors organise the labour process; at the different types of homeworking which are present in Bareilly town and in the surrounding villages; at circular migration and payment systems. Fieldwork for this project will run between January and May 2012.

Publications

Mezzadri, Alessandra (2012) 'Reflections on Globalisation and Labour Standards in the Indian Garment Industry: Codes of Conduct Versus 'Codes of Practice' Imposed by the Firm.' *Global Labour Journal*, 3 (1). pp. 40-62.



David MOSSE

2011-12 concluded the primary research for an ESRC project which David Mosse coordinated: 'Caste Out of Development: Civil Society Activism and Transnational Advocacy on Dalit Rights and Development.' This has involved collaborative fieldwork-based research and institutional ethnography in three south Indian states, with national Dalit rights campaign organisations and with Dalit solidarity networks in Europe. Along with academic (MIDS, Loyola College) and civil society (SocialWatch-TN, NESAs) partners, postdoctoral researchers, and researchers in allied fields, preliminary research findings have been presented in several fora during the year: the Conference on 'Case Out of Development' in Chennai (15-16 December 2011); 'Art and Activism in Dalit and Adivasi Movements,' Panel, ASA 2012 Conference, Delhi, 3-6 April 2012; 'The Developmental Turn in Dalit Activism: Civil Society Engagement with Contemporary Caste Discrimination,' Panel, BASAS Conference, London 12-14 April 2012; a conference on 'The Internationalisation of Dalit and Adivasi Activism,' Senate House London, 25-26 June 2012 (organised with School of Advanced Studies, Human Rights Consortium, Institute of Commonwealth Studies); 'Disquieting Caste and Capitalism in Contemporary India' Panel, EASA, Paris, 10-14 July 2012.



Publications

- Mosse, David. *The Saint in the Banyan Tree: Christianity and Caste Society in India* (A Philip E. Lialenthal Book in Asian Studies). Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. 408 pages
- Mosse, David. 'Caste and Christianity.' Seminar 233: 58-63 (Caste Matters: a symposium on inequalities, identities and disintegrating hierarchies in India). 2012
- Mosse, David (ed.) *Adventures in Aidland: The Anthropology of Professionals in International Development* (ed.) New York & Oxford: Berghahn Press, 2011. 248 pages.
- Mosse, David 'Aid, adivasis and aspirations for development in western India. In ed Daniel Rycroft and Sangeeta Das Gupta (eds) *Becoming Adivasi: Indigenous Pasts and the Politics of Belonging*. London & New York: Routledge, 2011. pp.154-174



Nandini NAYAK

Nandini Nayak published a book chapter with Reetika Khera in Khera, R. (ed.), 2011, *The Battle for Employment Guarantee*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. She has presented her work on social movements, conflicts related to mining in central India and on India's 'employment guarantee' programme (NREGA) at workshops organised by the SOAS Department of Law and the University of Sussex. She is currently working on publications on the above themes.

Publications

- Khera, Reetika and Nayak, Nandini, *Women Workers and Perceptions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act*, in Reetika Khera (ed.), *The Battle for Employment Guarantee*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2011.





Matthew J. NELSON

In May 2012, **Matt Nelson** presented a talk - 'Chatterjee v. Democracy: Political Society in Pakistan (and Beyond)' - at Queen Elizabeth House (QEH) in Oxford.

In July 2012, Matt presented a paper focusing on constitutional politics in Pakistan - 'Islamic Law in an Islamic Republic: What Role for Parliament?' - at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre in Lake Como, Italy.

During the Spring of 2012, Matt provided tailored briefings for the Irish Ambassador to Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, the Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan, and corporate leaders from Mitsubishi.

The Department of Politics is pleased to announce the launch of a new two-year MRes in Politics [with Language] in 2012-2013. This exciting new degree programme, designed for area studies scholars with plans to conduct PhD research in Politics, will provide two years of intensive language study at SOAS (e.g. Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil, Sinhala, Nepali, Pashto, etc.) with two years of high-level social science methodology training at neighbouring Birkbeck College. Applicants are also invited to apply for ESRC funding to support a 2+3 programme of MRes + PhD study. For details, please contact Dr Matthew Nelson (mn6@soas.ac.uk).



Caroline OSELLA

In January 2011, **Caroline Osella** travelled as guest of Dept Sociology, University of Hyderabad, to share a platform as key speaker with Prof Muhammed Qasim Zaman in an international symposium on 'Tradition, Reform & Revival in Muslim Societies: Multiple Readings'. A publication exploring Islamic reform and revival across different Asian countries is forthcoming.

Caroline then went on to be a guest at MG University, Kottayam, Kerala, where she shared a platform as theme speaker with Prof Mary John. Here, Dr Osella gave a talk on: 'Recent Issues in queer and trans theory' to the recently founded UGC funded MG University Centre for Gender Studies. Following this visit, SOAS Gender Centre has also signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation and joint projects with the MG University Gender Studies Centre (Inter University Centre for Social Science Research and Extension, IUCSSRE).

From 2012-2014, Dr Osella is involved in a joint project with Sheikh Zayed Women's University, Abu Dhabi, led by anthropologist Dr Jane Bristol-Rhys, who has received a major grant for the joint project, 'Emiratis, Indians and Transnational Forms of Cultural Identity'. The project, based in both UAE and India, explores Emirati and Indian entanglements and their respective narratives of relationship. An international workshop will be held at SOAS at the end of the project to disseminate findings and publicise this ongoing work.

Publications

- Osella, F. and Osella, Caroline (2012) *Islamic Reformisms across South Asia*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
- Osella, Caroline and Osella, Filippo (2011) 'Migration, Networks, and Connectedness Across the Indian Ocean.' In: *Migrant Labor in the Gulf Working Group Summary Report*. Doha: Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, pp. 10-11. Longer publication with same title in press, University of California.
- Osella, Caroline (2012) 'Desires Under Reform: Contemporary Reconfigurations of Family, Marriage, Love and Gendering in a transnational South Indian Matrilineal Muslim community.' *Culture and Religion*, 13 (2).
- Osella, Caroline (2011) 'The Gulf and its Indian entanglements.' *Middle East in London Newsletter*, April. pp. 8-9.
- Osella, Filippo and Osella, Caroline (2011) 'Migration, Neoliberal Capitalism, and Islamic Reform in Kozhikode (Calicut), South India.' *International Labour and Working-Class History*, 79 (S1), pp. 140-160.
- Dr Osella has also published in the London Middle East Institute and in the Middle East Institute newsletters on issues related to Gulf migration from India.



Tina OTTEN

Tina Otten joined SOAS as a member of the ESRC-funded Research Project "Rural change and anthropological knowledge in postcolonial India: A comparative 'restudy' of F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David F. Pocock" in September 2012. Her responsibility is to 'restudy' the village Bisipara in Odisha (India), where F.G. Bailey conducted research in the 1950s. In winter term she and her colleagues took part in various seminars at SOAS as a preparation for the fieldwork period.

On the 24th of October 2011, Tina was invited to deliver a lecture with the title "Gods in Times of Change: Rituals and Religion in Highland Orissa/India" at the Universitat Groningen. On the 15th of November 2011, she delivered a lecture on fieldwork methods at SOAS.



From 26th of January she and Edward Simpson visited F. G. Bailey at his home in Del Mar, California. Tina worked with F.G. Bailey on his fieldnotes until the 15th of February. F.G. Bailey shared his professional memories with Tina. F.G. Bailey started his career as a lecturer at

SOAS in the 1956. He then went on to pioneer the anthropology program at the University of Sussex. In 1971 he accepted a Professorship at the University of California, San Diego, where he remained until retirement.

After some busy weeks of preparation back at SOAS, Tina left for fieldwork in May. During her stay at the field site she will visit universities in East India to establish further relationships. She is scheduled to present a series of lectures in August and September at the universities of Sambalpur, Ravenshaw and Central University Koraput, before she heads to the capital Bhubaneswar in November.

For further information on the project please visit www.soas.ac.uk/anthropology/rural-change-and-anthropological-knowledge-in-post-colonial-india/

Gurharpal SINGH and Professor Lawrence SAEZ

Gurharpal Singh and **Lawrence Saez** have co-edited a new book that is drawing a great deal of attention in India. The book is entitled *New Dimensions of Politics in India: The United Progressive Alliance in Power* (Routledge 2011). This book undertakes a critical evaluation of the performance of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), the current coalition government in India. It presents a thorough evaluation of the UPA coalition government's policies and, by providing an understanding of new innovations, evaluates the effectiveness of these policies against their aims and objectives. At present, the UPA government in India is reeling under a series of corruption scandals. This offers a fresh insight as to the potential crisis of governance in India. It is also highly topical and current.



Lawrence SAEZ

From January-May 2012, **Lawrence Saez** was a visiting professor at the Paris School of International Affairs, SciencesPo, Paris. During his sabbatical stay at SciencesPo, Professor Saez taught a course on the political economy of Asia. He also started writing two books, one on the political economy of energy security and the other one on conducting political analysis using a statistical package called Gretl.

Lawrence received a grant from UK Trade and Investment (UKTIE) to attend a trade delegation to Nepal from 13-18 October 2011. As a representative of the World Economic Forum's India regional council, he also attended the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Agenda summit in Abu Dhabi and the WEF's India Economic summit in Mumbai. He was also appointed as the country assessor for India for Transparency International's newly-created Government Defence Transparency Index. In February, Lawrence was appointed to the advisory board of the South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF).

Given his interest in BRIC economies, Lawrence was later commissioned to write a report on the Brazilian economy for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The report, entitled 'Brazil - attractive investment destination and engine for Latin America', appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of *Trade & Finance*, PwC's in-house research journal. He was later asked to comment on his key findings for two separate interviews for Monocle radio. The podcast of his first radio interview (starting at 18:43) is available at

www.monocle.com/monocle24/?openepisode=1120093

The link to his second interview (starting at 34:03) is available at: www.monocle.com/monocle24/?openshow=112#



Tommaso SBRICCOLI

In 2011-2012 **Tommaso Sbriccoli** joined the ERSC financed Project "Rural Change and Anthropological Knowledge in Post-Colonial India", coordinated by Dr. Edward Simpson (SOAS). He has been following the project seminars and held three of them on the theoretical and methodological implications of restudying an Indian village studied almost 60 years ago by another anthropologist, in this case SOAS Emeritus Professor Adrian C. Mayer.

In November 2011, he convened together with Livia Holden (LUMS, Lahore) the International Workshop "Non-State Law and Governance in South Asia and in the Diaspora" at the Institut Français de Pondichéry, where he presented a paper titled: "Giving Voice to Legal Pluralism. Authority and Justice in Rural Rajasthan". The paper has been eventually submitted to the *Journal of Legal Pluralism*, and it has been accepted with revisions for a special issue on non-state law and governance.

Together with Stefano Jacoviello Tommaso edited the book *Shifting Borders. European Perspectives on Creolisation*, which is now in press with Cambridge Scholars Publishing and whose publication is due on September 2012. The book is the result of the International research project "Playing Identities. Migration, Creolisation, Creation", a EU financed Culture Project whose scientific part he coordinated.

In October 2011 Tommaso joined the Editorial Board and Scientific Committee of the Italian Blog *Il Lavoro Culturale*, where he regularly writes. For "Il Lavoro Culturale" he has also chaired a seminar in May 2012.

He is currently carrying out a long term fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Publications

- Sbriccoli, Tommaso & Jacoviello, Stefano (eds). *Shifting Borders. European Perspectives on Creolisation*. In Press. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.
- Sbriccoli, Tommaso & Jacoviello, Stefano (eds). "The Voice in C. The Creole Attitude of a Bangladeshi Refugee in Italy", in Sbriccoli, Tommaso & Jacoviello, Stefano. *Shifting Borders. European Perspectives on Creolisation*. In Press. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.

MEMBERS NEWS



Pasquale SCARAMOZZINO

Publications

Scaramozzino Pasquale, Alessandrini Michele, Fattouh Bassam and Ferrarini Benno, "Tariff Liberalization and Trade Specialization: Lessons from India", *Journal of Comparative Economics*, Volume 39, Issue 4, December 2011, pp. 499-513.

During the last couple of decades, India has experienced an important process of trade reform. Tariffs on imports were slashed and restrictions to trade were removed. In this paper Pasquale Scaramozzino et alia examine how the production structure of industries in India responded to this process of liberalization by looking at the effects of policy reform on the structure of India's trade in manufactures, from 1990 to 2006. The authors use disaggregated trade flow data to show that the structure of comparative advantage of industries in India has substantially transformed during this period. The technological content of trade has gradually shifted from low-technology sectors toward medium-technology sectors. In addition, the profile of trade specialization has moved toward some of the most dynamic sectors in world trade. More specifically, those industries where import tariffs have been reduced the most have experienced, on average, the largest improvements in their degree of intra-trade specialization. The findings of this paper therefore support the view that the trade liberalization policies that India pursued since the early 1990s have been instrumental in enhancing the international competitiveness of industries.



Edward SIMPSON

Publications

This year Edward Simpson has become the Principle Investigator on an ESRC-funded project looking at rural change in post-colonial India. As part of this project, he has organised a seminar series on issues of social change in South Asia. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities at SOAS also funded a related series on 'restudies' in anthropology, which he organised with Richard Axelby. At the start of the year Edward was elected to the Board of the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS). With arts collective (CAMP) from Bombay, He took part in a retreat in North Carolina and collaborated on an installation that went to the Documenta contemporary art show in Kassel, Germany. A book based on the piece will be published later this year. In June he gave a public lecture at l'Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient in Paris with Kai Kresse from ZMO, Berlin. Edward organised a panel at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (Nanterre, Paris) on natural disasters with Martin Sökefeld, LMU, Munchen, and another at the European Association of South Asian Studies (Lisbon) on 'restudies in anthropology' with Patricia Jeffery, Edinburgh.

Publications

- Simpson, Edward, 'Kutch and the sea.' In: Varadarajan, Lokita, (ed.), *Gujarat and the sea. Vadodara: Darshak Ithias Nidhi*, pp. 537-548. 2011.
- Simpson, Edward, 'Blame Narratives and Religious Reason in the Aftermath of the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake.' *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 34 (3). pp. 421-438. 2011.
- Kresse, Kai and Simpson, Edward, 'Between Africa and India: Thinking comparatively across the western.' Working Paper. *ZMO Working Papers* 5. 2011.
- Parry, Jonathan and Simpson, Edward, 'David Pocock's Contributions and the legacy of Leavis.' *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 44 (3). pp. 331-359. 2011.



Burzine WAGHMAR

Publications

Burzine Waghmar is finishing his doctorate on Middle Iranian diplomatics. Concomitantly, he has been a temporary Urdu and Gujarati lector since 2004, and catalogues vernacular titles in South and Central Asian languages at the library. This year, Burzine was an external auditor of the Voice of America's (VOA) Pashto and Urdu radio networks for which he submitted reports to its Broadcasting Board of Governors, State Dept., Washington DC. Further, he read papers in London at The British Library's South Asian Archive and Library Group (SAALG), on which he serves as the SOAS representative, about Kushano-Bactrian documents of ancient Afghanistan (principal research and the core of his thesis); and another on Perso-Pakistan cultural relations in the period leading up to the 2,500 anniversary celebrations commemorating Cyrus the Great at Persepolis, 1971. This was at a conference organised by the Univ. of Edinburgh, Persepolis 40 Years on: International Conference on the Archaeology, History and Reception of Persepolis wherein he examined the appropriation of Pahlavi Iran by Pakistanis and Parsis - the latter included among the former- or the subcontinent's Zoroastrians who constitute the oldest Iranian diaspora anywhere.

Burzine is a regular commentator on Pakistani developments for BBC News 24 (lawyers' 'long march'); Al Jazeera English (Lahore bombings); BBC WM Birmingham (post-floods relief challenges); and Channel 4 (Governor Taseer's slaying). His expertise was also sought on contemporary Pashto war verse (BBC Radio 4); Iranian intelligence subversion in India (World Politics Review); and Elizabeth Taylor's recently auctioned Taj Mahal diamond at Christie's (New York Times). Among his several publications is now the posthumously revised and expanded edition of Annemarie Schimmel, *The Empire of the Mughals: History, Art, Culture* (London, 2004). Burzine also co-compiled an annotated bibliography of Annemarie Schimmel's publications (1943-2003) for the Govt. of Pakistan's Iqbal Academy, Lahore.



Amina YAGIN

Publications

Co-edited Book (with Rehana Ahmed and Peter Morey) *Culture, Diaspora and Modernity in Muslim Writing*, New York: Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-415-89677-1

Article

- 'Muslims as Multicultural Misfits in Nadeem Aslam's Maps for Lost Lovers', *Culture, Diaspora and Modernity in Muslim Writing*, New York: Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-415-89677-1

Review Essay

- 'The poetics and politics of memoir writing: Fawzia Afzal-Khan's Lahore with Love: Growing Up with Girlfriends, Pakistani style', *Wasafiri*, Spring 2012, no. 69

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Research Associates

Dr Maha HOSAIN AZIZ
BA(BROWN) MA(COLUMBIA)
MSC PHD(LSE)

Dr Avril POWELL
MA(CANTAB) PGCE PHD(LONDON)

Dr Kavita RAMDYA
BA(NEW YORK) PHD(BOSTON)

Visiting Scholar

Dr Chikayoshi NOMURA
BA MA PHD(TOKYO)
Osaka University
1 August 2011 - 31 March 2012



Maha Hosain AZIZ

In 2011-12, Maha Hosain Aziz designed and taught an interdisciplinary course on political opinion writing in the MA Program of the Politics Department at New York University. Her students produced well-researched opinion pieces on varied political topics including development failures in Afghanistan and militant recruitment in Pakistan. She is also teaching a condensed version of this course in a series of video-based lectures for the Virtual Education Project Pakistan that targets local underfunded universities.

Outside of academia, Maha is a Senior Analyst at Wikistrat, a geopolitical consultancy using a unique global crowd-sourcing methodology to analyze politics. In one project, she produced analysis on the political risk factors that could further derail Pakistan's stability in different time horizons. She also contributed blogs to CNN's Global Public Square, including posts on the moral economic roots of the global Occupy movement and the decline in legitimacy of state-citizen relations worldwide.



Chikayoshi NOMURA

Living in London has been a special time in Chikayoshi Nomura's life. He found the Centre an excellent place to study South Asia and its dynamics and there were many highlights to his stay. The Centre's interdisciplinary approach gave Chikayoshi the opportunity to meet members of the academic community from various disciplines. Exchanging ideas gave him a more comprehensive understanding of his research project on the development of corporate organizations of India in the colonial period. He also had valuable opportunities to participate in several engaging lectures and a workshop: CSAS Annual Lecture given by Professor Ramachandra Guha 'Why South Asians Don't Write Good Biographies, and Why They Should' on 25 Nov. 2011; Workshop, 'Law and Conflict in Kashmir' on 31 Oct. 2011; Lecture by Dr. Abhijit Gupta, 'What Really Happened under a Tree outside Delhi, May 1817' on 23 Nov. 2011; and Lecture by Dr. Sarmila Bose, 'The Legacy of 1971—40 years on' on 8 Dec. 2011. These events gave Chikayoshi rewarding opportunities to deepen and widen his interest in South Asia. Furthermore, the Library of SOAS has primary sources useful for his research fields, and its staff were very kind and efficient. Chikayoshi would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members and staff, especially Dr. Lawrence Sáez, the Director, for allowing him access to such precious opportunities and resources.



There were also non-academic highlights to his stay. Chikayoshi enjoyed the changing seasons—from the comparatively cooler London summer to its winter; the changing seasons and colours make life in London so very exciting. He will also treasure his memories of the parks. No matter what the season, people could always be seen having picnics or jogging; would-be artists could be observed painting and photographing scenes of the trees, the river, and the stores and houses on the streets seen from the parks; parents could be seen walking alongside their children, while in the sky, birds soared on the winds—all very warm and endearing. His stay in London has been one of the most fabulous times of his life, and he will cherish it forever.



Kavita RAMDYA

Kavita Ramdya provided two seminars under the series title of "Literature of the Indian Subcontinent" to the SOAS community. The author of "Bollywood Weddings: Dating, Engagement and Marriage in Hindu America" addressed the poetry of Nobel Prize-winning Tagore's poetry in "Gitanjali", Rushdie's first novel "Midnight's Children" and Naipaul's first novel "The Mystic Masseur".

"Themes in Literature of the Indian Subcontinent" considered overarching ideas such as double segregation, isolation and nostalgia in the works of major contemporary authors of the Indian diaspora in relation to the changing historical, political, socioeconomic, and cultural contexts of migration.

ACADEMIC EVENTS SEP 2011 - AUG 2012

seminar
conference
film screening
workshop
book reading
lecture
discussion

EVENT REPORTS

Seminars

23 November 2011

Abhijit Gupta (Jadavpur University, Kolkata)

What Really Happened under a Tree outside Delhi, May 1817

6 February 2012

Professor Rafey Habib (Poet)

Shades of Islam:
21 Poems For A New Century

7 March 2012

Harsha Man Maharjan (Researcher in the Media Group at Martin Chautari in Kathmandu)

Indian Idol, Prashant Tamang, and the politics of Nepali identity

21 March 2012

Kavita P. Ramdya (SOAS Research Associate)

Literature of the Indian Subcontinent: Themes in Literature of the Indian Subcontinent

18 April 2012

Dr Sadan Jha (Charles Wallace India Fellow at SOAS, University of London and Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Studies, Surat, India)

Saffron: Towards A History of Colours

23 April 2012

Kavita P. Ramdya (SOAS Research Associate)

Literature of the Indian Subcontinent: Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children"

10 May 2012

Kavita P. Ramdya (SOAS Research Associate)

Literature of the Indian Subcontinent: V.S. Naipaul's "The Mystic Masseur"

13 June 2012

Professor Partha Sen (Dean of the Faculty of Economics, South Asian University, New Delhi)

National and Regional Impacts of Climate Change on the Indian Economy

Other

13 October 2011

Himalaya Film & Cultural Festival

In collaboration with Satsang Productions

The Way Of The Road

Q&A with Taj Khan Kalash (Director) and discussion with Tom Crowley (Director of The Kalash People's Welfare Society) and Syra Munir (Explorer)

24 October 2011

Himalaya Film & Cultural Festival

In collaboration with Satsang Productions

The Kalasha: Rites of Spring

John Sheppard (Director)

31 October 2011

Britain-Nepal Academic Council Ninth Annual Lecture

Dr Anne de Sales (Chercheur at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in association with the University of Paris Ovest Nanterre)
'Our god Braha saved us from our wrong thinking' Time, Identity and Historical Change in the Hills of Nepal

31 October 2011

Workshop Law and Conflict in Kashmir

Speakers included:

- Martin Lau (SOAS)
- Chandra Lekha Sriram (SOAS)
- Mara Malagodi (SOAS)
- Werner Menski (SOAS)
- Matthew Nelson (SOAS)
- Rahul Rao (SOAS)
- Zimran Samuel (9, St. John Street Chambers) Shubhodeep Shome (SOAS)
- Sudhanshu Swaroop (20 Essex Street Chambers/Bar Human Rights Committee)
- David Taylor (SOAS)
- Matthew Webb (Petroleum Institute)
- Grégoire Webber (LSE)

25 November 2011

Centre of South Asian Studies Annual Lecture

In collaboration with BASAS

Ramachandra Guha (Indian writer, public intellectual)

Why South Asians Don't Write Good Biographies, and Why They Should

20 January 2012

Film Screening

Beauty and the Brains

Catherine Donaldson, Michael Hutt, Mara Malagodi, Rahul Rao & More

7 March 2012

Lecture

Usha Ramanathan (Independent Law Researcher)

Many Ambitions and an Identity Project

9 March 2012

Film Screening and Discussion

"We're Indian and African": Sidis of India
Dr Shihan Desilva (Senior Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Member of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project)

12 March 2012

Film Screening followed Press Launch for London Asian Film Festival

In collaboration with Tongues on Fire

Senna

Asif Kapadia (Director)

12 - 14 April 2012

British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Conference

The Future of South Asia

4-5 July 2012

Workshop

The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition

24 July 2012

Film Screening

In collaboration with Rita Payne Media and The Commonwealth Journalist's Association

Koel

Bonny Mukherjee (Film Director)

Himalaya Film & Cultural Festival

13 & 24 October 2011

From 13 October to 31 October 2011 the Himalaya Film & Cultural Festival celebrated the rich and varied cultures of the world's mightiest mountain range with film, music, art and photography.

The film programme reflected the huge diversity of the Himalaya, with films from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Tibet. Some were classics, some were shown for the first time in the UK. SOAS screened two films.

The Way of the Road

In the documentary Director, Taj Khan Kalash, showed how creating an alphabet for an ancient language that has never been written was a daunting task. On top of this, Taj Khan had to convince the Pakistani government to give official recognition to the Kalash language and script, so that it could legally be taught in the schools.

A Q&A with director Taj Khan and post screening discussion with Tom Crowley (director of The Kalash People's Welfare Society) and Syra Munir (Explorer) followed the film screening.



The Kalasha: Rites of Spring

The Kalasha are a tribal people, 3,000 strong, who live in the high valleys of the Hindu Kush mountains in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The Kalasha are unique as a pagan people in this Islamic Republic.

Joshi, their three day festival of song and dance, rituals and sacrifice and the re-telling of legends celebrates the coming of spring and encourages chivalrous romance between the sexes. All this provides a colourful focus for this film which explores the life and customs of the Kalasha.



The Ninth Annual Lecture of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council Dr Anne de Sales (Chercheur at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in association with the University of Paris Ovest Nanterre)

Our god Braha saved us from our wrong thinking: time, identity and historical change in the hills of Nepal
31 October 2011

Dr Anne de Sales delivered the BNAC's ninth annual lecture to an audience of approximately 80 people in the Khalili Lecture Theatre at SOAS on 31 October 2011.

She posed a number of questions that she had found being asked with increasing acuity during her visits, over the course of thirty years, to the heart of the Maoist insurgency in Western Nepal: How are we to assess the changes Nepal has seen in recent decades? Can we explain changes over time in terms of historical development, as a rational series of objective changes? Why does thinking in terms of rupture and continuity rapidly lead to a frustrating dead end? How should we include in our analysis the different scales of space and time involved in the changes as we perceive them?

Dr de Sales began her lecture by discussing the methodological difficulties involved in identifying ongoing changes. She argued that if objective changes do exist, the inherently subjective dimension of the notion of change, pervasive in discourse since the 1950s, and its eminently ideological character in a revolutionary period, merely multiply the points of view. However, all include some perceptions of time and in the second part of her lecture she described the different time scales at work within a Magar community that was declared the capital of Nepali Maoism, and showed how these various understandings are part of the community's identity and provide the motivation for its actions.

Finally, she analyzed a particular event that exemplifies the pitfalls of identity the villagers have to negotiate in order to be agents in the political transformation of their nation: a Maoist leader's invocation of the local god Braha at the conclusion of a speech. She argued that this should be understood not just as a contradiction, or even as a cynical flourish for the benefit of gullible villagers, but as evidence for the coexistence of past and present in people's everyday experience of 'being-in-time'.

Anne de Sales' doctoral research focused on the shamanic tradition of the Kham-Magar of Northwestern Nepal and resulted in a monograph entitled *Je suis né de vos jeux de tambours* (Nanterre, Société d'ethnologie, 1991). Her recent work concerns the social and cultural impact of the Maoist uprising in rural Nepal, with special attention to local narratives. She is also co-editor with Robert Parkin of *Out of the Study and into the Field: Ethnographic Theory and Practice in French Anthropology* (Berghahn Books 2010).

The text of Dr de Sales' lecture was published as 'Time, Identity and Historical Change in the Hills of Nepal' in the *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* No. 39 (Autumn-Winter 2011), pp. 106-27. To subscribe to the EBHR, go to www.digitalthimalaya.com/collections/journals/ebhr where back copies are also archived. Copies of the edition containing Dr de Sales' lecture may be purchased from the Managing Editor, Michael Hutt (mh8@soas.ac.uk).

Michael Hutt

EVENT REPORTS

Law and Conflict In Kashmir 31 October 2011

The SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies and the School of Law jointly hosted a one-day interdisciplinary workshop on Law and Conflict in Kashmir organised by Dr Martin Lau and Dr Mara Malagodi in collaboration with the London Himalayan Film Festival 2011 and the UK Political Studies Association (PSA) Politics of South Asia Specialist Group. Papers addressed the relationship between political violence, fundamental rights and "legal" counter-insurgency measures in Indian-administered Kashmir, Pakistani-administered Kashmir (AJK) and Akshai Chin. The workshop explored the role of law in constraining, regulating, containing and/or aggravating violent conflict in Kashmir. Speakers, chairs and discussants included: Matthew Webb (Petroleum Institute), Grégoire Webber (LSE), Shubhdeep Shome (SOAS), Sudhanshu Swaroop (20 Essex Street Chambers/Bar Human Rights Committee), Zimran Samuel (9, St. John Street Chambers), David Taylor (SOAS), Werner Menski (SOAS), Matthew Nelson (SOAS), Chandra Lekha Sriram (SOAS), Rochana Bajpai (SOAS).

Mara Malagodi

Annual Presentation on Asia for Sixth Form Students 2011 24 November 2012

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs and SOAS, University of London Annual Presentation on Asia for Sixth Form Students 2011 was held on 24 November 2012

There were present 185 people of whom 170 were school students, the majority studying for A2 or AS exams but also some GCSE and mature students. The day was chaired by Mr. Adrian Steger, member of Council of the RSAA who welcomed those attending on behalf of the RSAA and SOAS and described the functions and activities of both and the advantages of studying at SOAS.

The first speaker was Lord Mervyn Davies, previously Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Investment and ex-Chairman and C.E.O. of Standard Chartered Bank. He spoke to the title of: "The Economies of Asia."

His presentation consisted of several short talks interspersed with questions, quite



searching in nature, of the audience. He covered the changes occurring in the world, of India and China growing; the increased amount of immediate communication available – email, mobile phones, the Internet and all its social networks – and all used by those in the audience.

He demonstrated the impossibility of predicting future developments as demonstrated by the above and events such as the South Asian Tsunami, September 2001, the SARS influenza outbreak etc. He outlined how all the main areas of economic activity were increasingly important in the East and that those present might well have either to work there or for multinationals that did if they wanted cutting edge jobs. He also discussed the checks and balances and responsibilities of a free press and need to recognize that one country's definition of these (and democracy) might not be another's.

The next section was the very popular "language tasters". The audience was divided into three groups to get an introduction to: Mandarin with Dr. Lianyi, Arabic with Maha Collinson and Burmese and Khmer with Dr. Justin all members of staff at SOAS, to whom many thanks.

After this Dr. Nibal Bouresli spoke about: "The U.K. and Kuwait, what ties us?" Dr. Bouresli is the Kuwaiti Cultural Attaché in London and has considerable experience in Media studies in both America and Kuwait. She outlined the history of the relationship between Kuwait and the U.K. as evidenced by treaties and agreements up to 1990 and the Iraqi invasion.

She described the demographics of Kuwait and the "m&ms" of modern life; marketing and media and how these were shaping and influencing the development of modern Kuwait. Within this there were many cultural, educational and economic links developing with the U.K. in ways that were different from the relationships outlined in the treaties of the past.

There followed a lively discussion about the potential conflicts between various cultural aspects of life in Kuwait and the U.K. – as representing the West. These related to religion, the role and place of women in society, the nature of law and its enforcement and the potential damage of perceived western cultural imperialism and the influence of Saudi Arabia.



After lunch the next speaker was John Hare. He is a member of the RSAA, recipient of its Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal, given for work of outstanding merit in exploration. He has worked for many years in the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts studying the wild Bactrian camel and persuading the Chinese authorities to set up a national park for its protection. He kindly agreed to talk at very short notice.

He described the Bactrian wild camel or "flat head" to translate its Mongolian name. He explained how remarkable this animal is and in fact a separate species from the domestic Bactrian camel (and also dromedary). It can survive wide extremes of temperature, live on salt water and survive in an atomic bomb testing region with no evidence of genetic damage or change.

He described his 1999 journey to the southern edge of the Taklimakan and the find of a naïve population of camels (and other animals); that is one that has not been previously exposed to man. Sadly in 2005 gold miners and their use of cyanide in gold extraction had decimated the habitat and killed and scattered the camels. He reported how well Chinese Government had risen to the challenge of this disaster and cleaned up the area with the resultant return of some camels. He outlined the threats facing the wild Bactrian camel including an increase in the wolf population, as herdsman can no longer carry arms in view of insurgency in Xing Chiang.

The audience was impressed with the daunting landscapes and weather shown in his slides, the last of which was of a herd of 33 camels in Mongolia. Sadly whilst the wild Bactrian camel survives it can hardly be said to flourishing.

James Willsher spoke next. He is also a member of the RSAA. He described his progress "from sixth former to unofficial ambassador", describing the often frustrating journey from school to satisfying job via many twists and turns as well as the types of experience it was worth gathering en route. He emphasized the need to have a goal to aim for but also to accept that varying jobs will lead to it. He described how he had come to know an large number of Asian media resources based in London covering television, radio, print and the internet and how these networks were almost unknown to most Londoners.



Hackney, the London Borough for which he is now Press officer, has over 40 such organizations active within its boundaries. There are over 300 London and U.K. based media organizations for Russians ranging from those dealing with Russian and ex Soviet states' life to one dealing with Georgian wine and even shopping guides for oligarchs' wives. Contact with some of these has led him to attend a wide variety of meetings and functions both informal but also official at embassies, ambassadorial residencies and City Hall. His interviewing both the present and former Mayor of London on behalf of some of these organizations showed how well he had established good relations with them.

The last speaker of the day was James Fergusson who talked about "The Taliban, the unknown enemy." He described the Taliban as an organization that is not well known or understood and that needed to be so and negotiated with. He discussed the history and development of the Taliban from the original 30 members in 1994 appearing after the civil war in Kandahar. Aspects of Taliban views were discussed including government, the place of women in society and links with Al Qaida. He outlined the difference between the two and the need to differentiate between them. The problems of the code of Pushtunwali were raised and how half the Taliban had wanted to hand over Osama bin Laden after 2001 but Mullah Omar had refused to do so because it was against the code. Following the coalition invasion in 2001 and the expansion of its allies of the Northern Alliance the Taliban had retreated to Kandahar and the south of Pakistan and with the advent of the invasion of Iraq, Afghanistan was rather forgotten (by some). The Taliban regrouped between 2003 and 2005 and in 2006 fighting escalated. By 2011 over 400 British and 2000 American soldiers have died in Afghanistan and since 2007 the I.E.D. as a weapon has prospered. The Taliban has proved very good at propaganda as shown by the large prison breakout of 2008.

He emphasized that there are many problems in Afghanistan that remain to be sorted out; the army and police are poor, infiltrated and probably untrustworthy, President Karzai could be considered a failure, America still thinks a military solution possible and CIA and USA special forces whilst having a high profile have a poor propaganda value.



He explained how in Pashtun society there are mechanisms for dialogue and discussion to try and get compromise. and these need to be used and encouraged; the Taliban don't trust the West; America has produced no evidence of a link between Al Qaida and the Taliban which in the light of Guantanamo makes a fair trial for any Taliban members difficult to believe in. It has suffered a high attrition rate amongst both members and leaders. The Taliban introduced Fatwa against the cultivation of the poppy has been rescinded and is now allowed as a pragmatic means to an end. They have learnt to dodge drone planes/ bombs, which do miss their targets and may be of tactical but not strategic use. This talk, often at variance with more official views provoked vigorous discussion that continued over tea afterwards.

Each of the days' talks was followed by lively, informal and well informed discussions 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 and Rahima Begum.

Sponsorship towards the cost of the day was very kindly provided by The Greville Trust and Wolsey Neech Ltd.

The following schools and colleges were represented:

- Abingdon School
- Anglo European School, Essex
- Benendon School
- Canon Palmer Catholic School
- City of London School for Girls
- The Cotswold School, Glous.
- Cranbrook School
- Dulwich College
- Emmanuel School
- Latymer Upper School
- Layton 6th Form College
- London Academy
- Orleans Park School
- St Clare's, Oxford
- St Dominic's 6th Form College
- Tolworth Girls School
- Varndean College, Brighton
- Welling School, Bexley
- Westminster
- Wimbledon High School

Royal Society for Asian Affairs

What Really Happened under a Tree outside Delhi, May 1817 Abhijit Gupta (Jadavpur University, Kolkata)

23 November 2011

SOAS was delighted to host Abhijit Gupta, Associate Professor in the Department of English at Jadavpur University, Kolkata who is a specialist of the History of the Book in India (he edited three volumes: Print Areas, Moveable Type, and New Word Order) and has just completed the first Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in the Bengali Language 1868-1947.



His talk focused on Homi Bhabha's essay on a group of villagers assembled under a tree outside Delhi and circulating copies of a Bible, which has long been considered as one of the most influential essays of postcolonial theory. Abhijit Gupta argued that for the historian of the book, however, the essay leaves a large number of questions tantalizingly unanswered: what were they books, where did they come from, by what route or process did they reach the hands of the villagers, and most importantly, why were the villagers carrying so many copies of the Bible. The paper sought to answer these questions, and in the process, provide an account of the early journeys of the missionary book over eastern and northern India.

Francesca Orsini

Centre of South Asian Studies Annual Lecture

Ramachandra Guha
(Indian writer, public intellectual)
25 November 2012



On the evening of 25 November 2012 Dr Ramachandra Guha, historian and biographer based in Bangalore, gave this year's Centre of South Asian Studies Annual lecture. Guha's books include a pioneering environmental history, *The Unquiet Woods* (University of California Press, 1989), and an award-winning social history of cricket, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* (Picador, 2002).

The Centre cohosted the lecture with the British Association for South Asian Studies in the elegant surroundings of the British Academy at Carlton House Terrace. The lecture was preceded by BASAS's AGM and attracted by external guests.

Dr Guha began by noting that biography lies at the intersection of literature and history. Whilst South Asia is home to very many literary traditions, long-standing and still robust, and South Asian historians have made their mark on global scholarship, the art and craft of biography is poorly developed in the region. The number of well-researched, well-written biographies of and by South Asians can be counted on the fingers of one hand, or at best two. The lecture attributed this lack to the influence of the region's dominant religion, Hinduism; to its dominant historiographical tradition, Marxism; and to a more general disregard for the preservation of papers and documents.

It then suggested how these deficiencies could be overcome, so that scholars and writers at last begin to do some justice to the remarkable range of



influential individuals produced by and in South Asia.

Beauty and Brains

Catherine Donaldson,
Mara Malagodi, Rahul Rao
20 January 2012

What would you do to stop rape and abuse being part of your everyday life? Enter a Beauty Pageant?

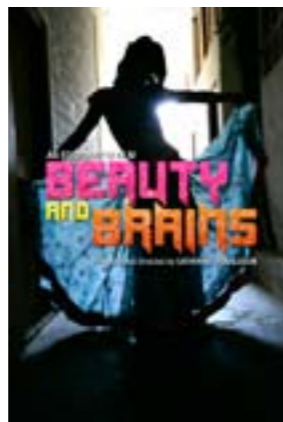


Image credited to Kois Miah

To be third-gender in Nepal means a choice of three careers; giving blessing at weddings, begging or prostitution. They are excluded from family and school, are prey to security forces, blackmail and sexual abuse. However, as Nepal attempts to write a new constitution there is a chance of change. In order to be heard above the clamour and civil unrest, the third-genders with Sunil Pant and the Blue Diamond Society embarked on the Beauty and Brains Talent Contest. This is the story of a community gaining the confidence to confront prejudice and tell society they are natural human beings.



From left: Michael Hutt, Catherine Donaldson and Mara Malagodi

Shades of Islam ~ 21 Poems For A New Century

Professor Rafey Habib
6 February 2012

On the 6th of February, 2012, Rutgers University's Professor of English Dr. Rafey Habib gave a reading to the SOAS community from his book of secular and mystical Muslim poetry "Shades of Islam: 21 Poems for a New Century". Speaking to a variety of topics in a post-9/11 world such as suicide bombing and the Gaza strip, Dr. Habib's poetry does not skirt around sensitive issues in the war against terrorism and tensions within the Muslim world. Inspired to speak out against fundamentalist Islam,



From left: Kavita Ramdya, Rafey Habib and David Taylor

Dr. Habib addressed issues in his collection with a non-traditional medium, poetry, which he explained to audience members, students and independent scholars at SOAS, appealed to literary and political readers alike. His candid demeanor and fresh take on the politics of the East in light of the sensitivities in the West around Islam provided a fresh outlet for engagement in discussion typically reserved for the nighttime news.

Kavita Ramdya

Making a Difference – Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages

16-18 February 2012

The conference 'Making a Difference – Representing/Constructing the Other in Asian/African Media, Cinema and Languages' was held from 16-18 February 2012 at SOAS and organised by Griseldis Kirsch. As part of a consortium of African and Asian Studies (CAAS), it was this year that SOAS hosted the conference and hence most of the participants came from CAAS institutions. The conference attracted academic interest not just from the participating institutions; in the end, over 40 participants from seven different nations were hosted. Consequently, the conference ran in two parallel sessions over two of the three days and all attracted large audiences. Rather than a small symposium, we were able to make this a big and international event.

All of the panels were well visited and discussions were lively and fruitful. The speakers mostly engaged in case studies of how 'difference' was appropriated when familiarity and cultural proximity also played a vital part. Researchers came from different fields of study and looked at different regions, but all of them looked at either Asia, Africa or the Middle East, but with a distinct emphasis on the Middle East and Japan. As the conference was multidisciplinary, the aspects in the discussion did not just include questions regarding the papers, but added to the academic debate as sometimes theoretical concepts were highlighted. The papers were put in panels along regions, rather than thematic similarities so that audiences with interest in a particular region, but also those interested in a particular genre could attend. The rooms in which the sections were held were not far apart, so that anyone interested could easily move between the sections. The keynote speech was given by Dr Dolores Martinez (SOAS), who introduced the theme by looking at various representations of difference in Western and Japanese film.

The conference was sponsored by the British Academy, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and the Faculty of Languages and Cultures.

Griseldis Kirsch

Many Ambitions and an Identity Project

Usha Ramanathan (Independent Law Researcher)

7 March 2012

Dr Ramanathan's work has focused for the past couple of years on issues related to privacy in the context of the proposed introduction of the Unique Identification project (UID). Her lecture taking off from this new project explored broader issues related to the impacts on privacy of UID as well as other related proposals such as the National Population Register and National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). She analysed some of the many issues arising in this context, ranging from the limitations of the proposed technological solution in delivering an identity to the poor that justifies the project politically to consequences of surveillance, profiling, tracking, tagging and invasions of privacy.



From left: Philippe Cullet with Usha Ramanathan before the lecture

Philippe Cullet

"We're Indian and African": Sidis of India

Dr Shihan de Silva (Senior Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Member of the Scientific Committee of the UNESCO Slave Route Project)

9 March 2012

Two films on Sidis produced by Beheroze Shroff were screened by the SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies seminar series. The films were preceded by a lecture by Dr Shihan de Silva on the historical presence of Africans, their achievements and their distribution throughout India.

The first documentary - "We're Indian and African": Voices of the Sidis explores the lives of the Afro-Indian Sidis of Bava Gor village in Gujarat. The men and women relate the challenges of their work as caretakers of the shrine of their ancestral saint Bava Gor. The Sidis also discuss their sacred Goma-Dharmal dance as it is performed for devotees and for spectators. The film also gives a glimpse into the spiritual legacy of the Sidis through the Parsi devotees of Bava Gor in Bombay.



Still from the film 'Voices of the Sidis: Ancestral Links' produced by Beheroze Shroff (University of California, Irvine, USA)

The second documentary - *Voices of the Sidis: Ancestral Links* is an engaging portrait of an urban Sidi family in Bombay, India. Babubhai the father traces his ancestry to Zanzibar, Tanzania. His wife, Fatimaben, speaks about her grandmother who worked in a Hindu royal court. Their daughter, Heena speaks about issues of identity. Babubhai also discusses his former work as a stuntman in Bollywood films.

The event concluded after a question and answer session and a lively discussion.

Shihan de Silva (Institute of Commonwealth Studies)

EVENT REPORTS

Senna / Press Launch for London Asian Film Festival

Asif Kapadia (Director)
12 March 2012

The screening of the film was preceded by the press launch for London Asian Film Festival. The Festival which is an annual event dedicated to expressing the drive and spirit of independent media and cinema with a connection to South Asia. In its 14th year, the festival provides a unique international platform for Asians working in film and media.

SOAS was delighted to host the screening of Senna (2010), directed by Asif Kapadia, a British filmmaker of Indian descent. The film won many awards including winner of the BAFTA Award for Best Documentary, the BAFTA Award for Best Editing and the World Cinema Audience Award Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival 2011. The film tells the story of the monumental life and tragic death of legendary Brazilian motor-racing Champion, Ayrton Senna. Spanning the decade from his arrival in Formula One in the mid 80's, the documentary follows Senna's struggles both on track against his nemesis, French World Champion Alain Prost, and off it, against the politics which infest the sport. Sublime, spiritual yet, on occasion, ruthless – Senna conquers and transcends Formula One to become a global superstar. Privately, he is humble, almost shy, and fiercely patriotic, donating millions to his native Brasil and contemplating a life beyond motor-racing. Yet he is struck down in his prime on the blackest weekend in the history of the sport, watched live on television by 300 million people. Years on he is revered in Formula One as the greatest motor racing driver of all time – and in Brasil as a Saint.



12th Annual Jaina Lecture: Mahavira, Don Quixote and the history of ecological ethics and idealism

Dr Michael Tobias (Los Angeles)
21 March 2012

14th Jaina Studies Symposium: Biodiversity Conservation and Animal Rights: Religious and Philosophical Perspectives

22 March 2012

The 12th Annual Jaina Lecture at SOAS was delivered on 21 March 2012 by Dr Michael Tobias of Santa Fe (USA) on 'Mahavira, Don Quixote and the history of ecological ethics and idealism.' Dr Tobias, an American author, ecologist, mountaineer, and filmmaker has written more than 35 books and 100 films have been distributed, translated, and broadcast internationally. The lecture attracted a full house and was followed by a lively discussion.

The lecture marked at the same time the opening of the 14th Jaina Studies Workshop, an International Symposium on Biodiversity Conservation and Animal Rights: Religious and Philosophical Perspectives on 22 March 2012 with ten distinguished speakers from four different countries. This symposium addressed the lack of public reflection on the value and the limitations of received religious paradigms and intellectual habits across cultures concerning the welfare of animals and plants by opening up a new dialogue between thinkers and activists from different religious and philosophical backgrounds on the global problem of biodiversity conservation and animal welfare. The conference was attended not only by academics and students but also by members of the Jaina community and animal rights activists from Britain, North America and Continental Europe. It provided a forum for discussion and dialogue between distinguished scholars, activists, ethical and philosophical thinkers reflecting on the potential of existing cultural, religious and philosophical resources contributing to new trans-cultural orientations towards the preservation of human and non-human forms of life.

It was funded through sponsorship of from the Dancing Star Foundation of Los Angeles and the Jiv Daya Foundation of Dallas. Podcasts of the presentations, prepared by the SOAS AV Department, are available on the conference website: www.soas.ac.uk/biodiversity/

An initial offer to publish the proceedings has been made by Cambridge University Press.

Peter Flugel



British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Conference:

The Future of South Asia

12-14 April 2012

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) is one of the world's leading learned societies for the study of South Asia. It is committed to supporting advanced research in the humanities and social sciences of South Asia through funding opportunities, conferences and workshops, lectures, research groups, publications and online discussions.

The CSAS was honoured to host the 26th BASAS annual conference on 12-14 April 2012. The conference attracted over 150 delegates and the panels covered a wide range of interdisciplinary themes. Some of the more popular panels revolved around issues of Dalit activism, reinterpreting history in South Asia, interrogating Indian capitalism, transformative public works, the politics of land in contemporary India, the gendered effects of social mobility, and India as a great power. The conference also showcased a number of niche panels on art, culture, and literature. Some of the most popular panels will be available as podcasts on our website soon. Other highlights included the screening of the film KOEL (dir. Bonnie Mukherjee). The newly-launched King's India Institute generously hosted a reception for the BASAS conference delegates.

Many important academic issues were discussed at the conference. From institutional point of view, there was a very frank and informative open forum discussion about the future direction of BASAS. Despite the challenges that learned societies find themselves during these times of fiscal austerity, the general consensus was that BASAS was well poised to meet its future challenges. The conference also benefitted from its widening international audience. This year, in particular, we were pleased to host a number of Japanese scholars who organised a panel on reconsidering Marwari and its representations.

The BASAS conference has always served to encourage postgraduate and early career scholars. The conference offered dedicated panels on research methodology and writing a policy brief aimed at early career scholars. In that spirit, BASAS awarded the BASAS prize for the best paper presented by a post-graduate student to Berenice Guyot-Rechard (University of Cambridge).

Lawrence Saez



The Creation of Public Meaning during Nepal's Democratic Transition

4-5 July 2012

The second workshop of the above project was hosted by the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS on July 4-5 2012. The three-year partnership project is funded by the British Academy and the partner institutions are SOAS and Martin Chautari, an academic NGO founded in Kathmandu in 1992. The presence of four contributors was made possible by additional funding from the South Asia Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association and the Editorial Committee of the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research.

Until comparatively recently, Western scholarly work on Nepali society has largely failed to engage with indigenous discourse, mainly because the political economy of scholarship on Nepal conducted outside Nepal has never demanded such an engagement. The print media, television and radio, film and theatre, poetry and popular song, which exist predominantly in Nepali but also increasingly in other Nepalese languages, have been largely omitted from considerations of the immense changes Nepal is undergoing as it emerges from a period of armed conflict and begins to construct the framework for a more representative non-monarchical state. This project explores the ways in which the meaning of socio-political events and developments is constructed, conveyed and consumed in Nepal. It aims to enhance our understanding of the democratic transition in Nepal, foster increased collaboration between UK- and Nepal-based researchers in these fields, and draw the Nepali and international research communities into a new kind of conversation with one another.

Thirteen papers were presented and discussed. Of these, two (an incisive paper on the language of ethnicity by Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka (Bielefeld) and a presentation by Khadija Chennoufi-Gilkes (SOAS research student, Linguistics) of her approach to the content of an online Sherpa community journal) focused on the emergence of a discourse of ethnic identity. Four papers analysed the Nepali media's treatment of specific topics: peacebuilding (Tejendra Pherali (Liverpool JMU)); the failed attempt by the then Maoist prime minister to replace Indian pujaris with Nepali pujaris at Pashupatinath temple in 2008 (Johanna

Buss (Heidelberg)); the portrayal of Nepali women (Seira Tamang (Martin Chautari)) and the royal palace massacre of June 2001 (Marie Lecomte-Tilouine (CNRS, Paris)). Ramesh Parajuli (Martin Chautari) provided some historical depth to the discussion with his analysis of the ways in which the Nepali government attempted to police the print media during an earlier period of political transition, during the 1950s. Rumour and conspiracy theory was the central concern of papers by Mallika Shakya (Pretoria), who described the way in which a series of riots that were sparked off by disparaging remarks about Nepalis supposedly made by the Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan played out among the workers in a garment factory in the Nepal Tarai in late 2000; and Hutt (SOAS), who attempted to explain the huge commercial success of the 2007 book Raktakunda. In addition to all of this, Monica Mottin (London Met) described the ways in which political dissent has been articulated in recent Nepali theatre, Kailash Rai (Martin Chautari) analysed the content of a selection of memoirs published by women who fought on the Maoist side in the 1996-2006 'People's War', Dan Hirsland (Copenhagen) assessed Maoist political rhetoric in relation to perceived instances of 'corruption', and Laura Kunreuther (Bard College) described the new trend among the Nepali middle class of maintaining archives and producing biographical texts. The designation of a discussant to each paper enriched the workshop greatly; these included David Holmberg and Kathryn March from Cornell, Amanda Snellinger from Seattle, Ingemar Grandin from Linköping, Anne de Sales from Paris, Stefanie Lotter from London, Sondra Hausner from Oxford, Bandita Sijapati from Kathmandu and Chiara Letizia from Milan.

This workshop was preceded by a workshop at Martin Chautari in September 2011; we intend to publish a selection of the papers from the two workshops in forthcoming issues of the Martin Chautari journal Studies in Nepali History and Society and in the European Bulletin of Himalayan Research, currently edited by Hutt. An edited volume is planned for the longer term.

As convenor, I would like to record my thanks to Jane Savory and Rahima Begum of the SOAS Centres and Programmes Office, and to my research student Mona Chettri, who handled the bulk of the administration.

Michael Hutt

The first year for the Centre for the Study of Pakistan has been exciting, rewarding and challenging. The response from colleagues, students, public and private bodies has been immense and has highlighted the urgent need for a dedicated Centre devoted to the understanding of the present, past and future of Pakistan. We have made a start toward establishing an international reputation and are now looking to consolidate our future through grants, endowments and partnerships.

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF PAKISTAN

The Centre began its official life with a big opening event held in September 2011, the Centenary Celebration of the renowned Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Other speakers later in 2011 included writers, academics and activists, Mohammad Hanif, Anatol Lieven (King's College, London) Sarah Ansari (Royal Holloway), Ehtisham Ahmed (LSE), Kamila Shamsie, Mirza Waheed and Sarmila Bose (University of Oxford). Events held thus far in 2012 include Professor Shaheen Sardar Ali (Warwick University) talking about Pakistan's implementation of CEDAW and Yunas Samad (University of Bradford) reflecting on Pakistan-U.S. relations, in January, Matthew McCartney (Oxford University) addressing Pakistan's economy, in February, a screening of Emmy-winning director Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's documentary film, Transgenders: Pakistan's Open Secret, in March, along with Claire Chambers (Leeds Metropolitan University) talking about Pakistani fiction written in English the same month. After the Spring Break talks were held on Pakistan's post-flood rebuilding activities with the British Pakistan Foundation and DFID in April. We ended the term on a literary note debating the 'presence of a language' with the well-known short story writer and novelist Aamer Hussein (Southampton University) in May. During the academic year public Lectures were given by Aamir Mufti (UCLA), Professor Mohammad Waseem (LUMS) and Geeta Patel (Virginia). Write-ups for many of our events are available on the event archive of our website: www.soas.ac.uk/csp/events

External activities for CSP steering committee members Matthew Nelson and Amina Yaqin included participation in a one-day Oxford workshop on Pakistan Beyond Bombs and Beards: Contemporary Pakistan in May 2012 organised by the Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme, School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, Oxford University. Amina Yaqin was an invited participant in the Guardian Open Weekend Roundtable on Pakistan's future and how it could affect us all in March 2012.

The Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Abdul Wali Khan university in Pakistan in 2012.

I am also delighted to report that the new MA in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan was approved in 2012 and admissions are now open. We look forward to welcoming future students to this exciting new programme. Further information about the MA including details of how to apply is available on our website: www.soas.ac.uk/southasia/programmes/ma-in-the-study-of-contemporary-pakistan/

New Research Associates

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Ayesha Jalal, Tufts University who joins us as a Professorial Research Associate and Dr. Matthew McCartney, Oxford University as Research Associate. We look forward to collaborative research and teaching led activities with our esteemed colleagues.

Finally a big thank you to all members of the steering committee for their invaluable support throughout the past year especially our external advisor Professor Ian Talbot from Southampton University who is a tremendous source of inspiration for the study of Pakistan. We say goodbye to our interns Sara Jafri and Mahwash Bhimjee who brought energy, enthusiasm and creativity to the Centre throughout the year and wish them well with their future goals. Last but not least I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Jane Savory and Rahima Begum whose incredible administrative support got us off to a flying start.

I look forward to the year ahead with many possibilities for the future growth of our Centre. We have an exciting line up of events details of which will be available in September. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas about getting involved with the Centre please don't hesitate to get in touch.

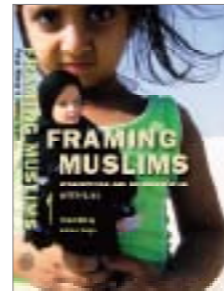
Amina Yaqin
Chair, Centre for the Study of Pakistan



From second left: Francesca Orsini, Amina Yaqin and Geeta Patel at the Centres launch



Agha Shadiid Ali



Mohammed Hanif and Amina Yaqin



Further information about the Centre and its activities is available on: www.soas.ac.uk/csp/

We are also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Pakistan.SOAS

Seminar Listing

27 October 2011
Pakistan: Resilience and Stagnation
Professor Anatol Lieven (King's College)

17 November 2011
Sindhi nationalism: colonial past and postcolonial present
Dr Sarah Ansari (Royal Holloway)

1 December 2011
The Political Economy of Improved Governance-Making Decentralization Work in Pakistan
Dr Ehtisham Ahmed (Senior Visiting Fellow, LSE)

8 December 2011
The Beloved Witness: Celebrating Agha Shahid Ali
Mirza Waheed, Kamila Shamsie and Nitasha Kaul

8 December 2011
The legacy of 1971 - 40 years on
Sarmila Bose (Oxford)

15 December 2011
"Miniature Manoeuvres": Testing Tradition in Contemporary Miniature Painting in Pakistan
Dr Virginia Whites (Chelsea College of the Arts, University of the Arts, London)

19 January 2012
'Domesticating' the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in state, government and society: A case study of Pakistan's implementation of CEDAW
Professor Shaheen Sardar Ali (Warwick University)

26 January 2011
Pakistan-US Relations: A Rocky Marriage
Professor Yunas Samad (University of Bradford)

2 February 2012
Tinderbox or Tiger? Pakistan, the forgotten Asian economic success 1950-2011
Dr Matthew McCartney (Oxford University)

9 February 2012
Liberalisation, Dictatorship and Development: Pakistan 1988-2011
Dr Matthew McCartney (Oxford University)

15 March 2012
A Comparative Approach to Pakistani Fiction in English
Dr Claire Chambers (Leeds Metropolitan University)

19 April 2012
Pakistan post floods: a health emergency
Suniya Qureshi (British Pakistan Foundation), Edward Mortimer and Pierre Townsend (DFID)

26 April 2012
Cohosted with the SOAS Centre For Cultural Literary & Postcolonial Studies & SOAS Centre For Gender Studies
The Presence of a Language
Aamer Hussein

2 May 2012
Cohosted with the SOAS Centre For Cultural Literary & Postcolonial Studies and SOAS Centre For Gender Studies
Sending the Zanana on a Railway Journey:
Ismat Chughtai, Gender in Space, Time and Visuality
Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

3 May 2012
Gender, Transgender and South Asia
Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

9 May 2012
Is Pakistan 'muddling through'?
Mohammad Waseem (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Event Listing

17 September 2011
Symposium
Cohosted with the Faiz Cultural Academy
Faiz Ahmed Faiz – Centenary Celebration
Iftikhar Arif, Salima Hashmi, Aamir Mufti, Geeta Patel, Masood Raja, Aamer Hussein, Christina Oesterheld

17 September 2011
Centre of the Study of Pakistan Launch

22 September 2011
In collaboration with Framing Muslims
Book Launch & Discussion

11 October 2011
Book Launch and Discussion
Mohammad Hanif <Our Lady of Alice Bhatti

Faiz Ahmed Faiz Centenary Celebration 17 September 2011



Faiz has had and continues to have a national following as a people's poet in Pakistan. He also remains a figurehead for the present generation of Urdu poets. He excelled in interweaving the classical ornamental style of an aristocratic Urdu rhyme and metre with modern social realism. He was a poet, a journalist, a policy advisor and cultural commentator whose career spanned the period of anti-colonial resistance and the aftermath of a post-partitioned state. This year has seen a host of activities across the world honouring his memory and work. At SOAS we ran a unique international seminar in collaboration with the Faiz Cultural Foundation, Framing Muslims and the Centre for the Study of Pakistan to commemorate the centennial. The renowned Urdu poet, former Chair of the Pakistan Academy of Letters and the National Language Authority, Iftikhar Arif gave a masterful summary of Faiz's career and his intertextual influences ranging from a traditional craftsmanship recalling Hafiz to the European modernism of Ezra Pound. Arif's overview was complemented by an insightful review of Faiz's own translations of his letters to Alys Faiz by Professor Salima Hashmi, Dean of the School of Visual Arts and Design at Beaconhouse National University, Lahore and Faiz's daughter. Hashmi brought a valuable perspective from the familial perspective that shed light on the inclusions and exclusions that Faiz introduced into his own translation. Geeta Patel, Associate Professor from the University of Virginia gave an intellectually stimulating paper retrieving a modernist perspective on Faiz through the lens of Miraji to help theorise how his critique of the poet brings together a compelling perspective on chronopoetics, fleshed politics and romantic realism. Christina Oesterheld's (Heidelberg University) contribution looked at the intertextualities in Faiz's poetry, in particular those with the Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet as an attempt to highlight some of the poet's work which gets forgotten amongst the greatness of his ghazals (love lyrics) and rhymed verse. Aamir R. Mufti, Associate Professor at UCLA brought the day's proceedings to a close with a sophisticated and dynamic keynote on Faiz and the 'historical present', in particular a close reading of his late poems and the vocabulary of the revolutionary imagination in the twentieth century that is conceptualised through them. The workshop was attended by a packed audience in the Khalili Lecture Theatre at SOAS and will remain memorable for a long time to come marking a new and exciting chapter in the field of Pakistani literary and Cultural Studies. The Faiz centennial also marked another historic occasion, the inauguration of the new Centre for the Study of Pakistan at SOAS, chaired by Dr Amina Yaqin.

Shahid Syed

CHARLES WALLACE TRUST FELLOWSHIPS

End of Fellowship Report by Dr Sadan Jha Charles Wallace Indian Fellowship 2011-2012

I write my experiences of London and the time spent in the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS, University of London. And, my words refuse to move in a regimented manner often desirable for a report. Images from the streets, the cacophony of tube compartments and colours of paintings displayed in Victoria & Albert Museum reverberate simultaneously along with faces of shopkeepers and customers of less glamorous markets i.e. Petticoat lane, Brick lane, Spitalfield and Camden. I restlessly recall my difficulties in following the language entering my ears in the shopping stores, tubes and buses. Wikipedia suggests it was multicultural London English colloquially called Jafaican. I was expecting a city of fog and mists, streets bearing hats, grandeur appropriate for the image of an empire and a city of ruins. Instead, I found her unassuming, welcoming, accommodative, modest and multicultural.

“..the monochrome of such solitudes was otherwise repeatedly and joyously broken by gracious, warm and affectionate presence of a number of people during my sojourn in London..”

The flaneur looks back and finds himself sitting in Asian and African studies reading room of British Library exuberantly struggling to make sense of elementary mathematical diagrams from primary school texts, advertisements of picture frames, cartoons and the cover pages of Hindi books published in the second half of 19th century.

It was a privilege to be in the city, to be a recipient of Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship that enabled this three months (February to May 2012) visit and to have a warm and caring host like the Centre for South Asian Studies at SOAS. My research

addresses the broad field of visuality in the historical context of late 19th and 20th century India. In recent decades, there seems to be a fascination among scholars to work on pictorial representations. Yet, little attention has been paid on either to explore vernacular sources (other than Bengali) or to understand the manner in which new technologies of image making interacted with existing vocabularies and concerns for seeing and showing to shape new regimes and vocabularies of visual experience.

During my fellowship, I focused on the dynamics of this experience by looking at the period between 1850 and 1920s through vernacular literature, primarily Hindi (“Emergence of a New Language: Seeing and Showing in Late Nineteenth Century North India”). British Library houses the single largest collection of this corpus. Scholars working with pictorial registers in different other contexts of South Asian history have demonstrated a general apathy towards the relation between image and the word. The idea was to address this gap and deepen our understanding of this period, widely recognized as one of the most crucial moments in shaping the long term dynamics of knowledge, experience and modernity in South Asia.

It would be erroneous to jump into findings so soon yet the archive definitely initiated me to a thick and multipronged relationship between the printed word and the worlds of images in sphere of Hindi vernacular. It is multipronged as the investment was made not merely on inserting pictures in school texts and books of stories (like Shree Shuk



Sadan Jha in front of Tower Bridge, London



Stratford Upon Avon - the home of Shakespeare

Bahotari—seventy two tales narrated by a wise parrot) but also on how to visually organize spaces and arenas i.e. local maps, games and class rooms to name a few.

Some of the questions and findings of my archival research found an outlet in my lecture that was delivered in SOAS towards the end of my fellowship (“Saffron: Towards a History of Colours”, SOAS, 18 April 2012). This was focused on the history of colour Saffron. Framed as a part of the history of Indian National Flag, this paper ventured into references of Saffron from the past centuries, investigated the colonial concerns and documentations in the late 19th century and delineates the manner in which it emerged in late 1920s as a colour having national stature from its humble position of a katcha colour, and acquired a recognition as an ‘old colour’ (by Nehru) symbolizing ‘Indian Life’ (by Suniti Kumar Chatterjee). Secondly, an attempt was made to analyse the role played by history in defining Saffron, defining Hinduism and equating Saffron with the Hinduism (replacing or marginalising red in the process). This was also an attempt to respond to some of the conventional political questions by looking at hitherto untouched area of scholarship—history of colours. In this sense the paper tried to bridge the gap between cultural history of the visual with the conventional political history of South Asia.

Continuing my focus on these two coordinates—visual and the political, I made another presentation on ways of looking at the crowd (“Dissecting the Crowd: Historicizing the Future of Dissent in India”). This was presented in the annual conference of British Association for South Asian Studies held in

SOAS (13-14 April, 2012). Taking a historically informed perspective and borrowing insights from Michel Foucault’s notion of governmentality, this paper examined the manner in which crowd has been treated in different registers and discourses in three specific politico-historical junctures: movements led by Mahatma Gandhi (first half of twentieth century), Jay Prakash Narayan (in the mid nineteen seventies against the imposition of internal Emergency and seizure of civil liberties) and Anna Hazare against corruption (2011-12). I am thankful to Lawrence Saez, who encouraged me to convene a panel in BASAS conference on the Practices of Governance.

After my return from London, I am now working towards converting my research and presentations in the form of academic publications. In addition to it, I search for a language to render my experiences of daily life in London, my conversations with people on the streets, photographs of densely etched graffiti and my monologues.



The Lake District

The monochrome of such solitudes was otherwise repeatedly and joyously broken by gracious, warm and affectionate presence of a number of people during my sojourn in London. I am thankful to Francesca Orsini my academic contact in SOAS (for her warm and inspiring presence, suggestions and conversations), Jane Savory (for being such a prompt, caring and wonderful host always ready to help), Richard Alford of Charles Wallace India Trust (for making it possible in most affectionate manner), CSAS faculty members (Naresh Sharma and Aishwarj Kumar and Edward Simpson for making me comfortable in SOAS), Deljana Iossifova and Ulysses Sengupta (for Semolina and Aloo chat, for giving me shelter in your house with a smile and for showing me London and the Wales) and to those new and forgotten friends with whom I wandered on the streets, smelled snowfall, went to LSE pub, attended lecture in UCL, saw Banksy’s Bristol, visited countryside, shared Hindi poetry over coffee and exchanged passions for philosophers and writers, Shukriya for making my visit serene and memorable.

Charles Wallace Trust Visiting Fellowships at SOAS

Two three month Visiting Fellowships are awarded annually by the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS, one with the Charles Wallace India Trust and the other with the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust.

Applicants must be an Indian/Pakistan national and be residing in India/Pakistan at the time the application is submitted. The fellowship is only open to those who have completed a PhD.

The fellowships are awarded to those who would be ready to make the most of a short period of study and discussion at SOAS.

Applications will be encouraged in particular from those scholars who have had no or little opportunity to do research outside India or Pakistan.

Indian/Pakistan citizens must be in the early to middle stage of their academic careers working in the fields of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences which are supported at SOAS. For a list of subjects please check the Taught Masters programmes on the SOAS website: www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/pg/subject/. Please note that Humanities and Social Science subjects which are not supported at SOAS will normally not be considered. Those who are already enrolled in any Higher Educational Institution in the United Kingdom (including SOAS) are not eligible to apply. Applicants must demonstrate sufficient English language ability, both written and spoken, to participate in discussions and use resource materials.

Further details available online: www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/fellowship/

or email centres@soas.ac.uk

A poem by Dr Lakshmi Arya

Dr Lakshmi was awarded the 2009-10 Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellowship at SOAS.

The Centre is pleased to announce that a number of her poems appeared in Pratilipi last year, one of which is included below.

Hot Steel and Water

I said to you that
all my poems were
for a man who caressed words
in a language I did not understand
a language redolent of
fishing nets and bathing worshippers
under hot steel and water
of speeding trains
on howrah bridge

I told you of
arms lips neck hands
on a half-lit rocky beach
and a once-shared world
of half-light passionate beliefs

but when did you,
bearer of my secrets,
coil like a honey-drip
into the creases of my
day-thoughts and night-dreams

when did you cross
the two feet of
clean floor, slant rays, table-chair
and coffee froth
that kept the propriety of our speaking
to become the silence
in all my other conversations?

Further poems by Lakshmi can be found at:

- <http://pratilipi.in/2011/11/blue-crayon-river-lakshmi-arya/>
- <http://pratilipi.in/2010/06/evening-poems-lakshmi-arya/>

RESEARCH STUDENTS

SEP 2011- AUG 2012

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

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

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 Sinā and Abhinavagupta
Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG and Dr Whitney COX

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

Wei-Lun HUANG

A Network Analysis of India's Foreign Policy in the WTO and SAARC, 1991-2011
Supervisor: Professor Lawrence SAEZ

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

Priya KUMAR

Wireless Platforms and Borderless Grievances: An Analysis of Transnational Diaspora Linkages
Supervisors: Fiona ADAMSON and Rahul RAO

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: Professor 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

Najia MUKHTAR

Discourses of Resistance? Examining Spaces of Religious Tolerance in Contemporary Pakistani Society
Supervisor: Dr Matthew NELSON

Mridhula PILLAY

Managing law and religion: A comparative study of India and Malaysia
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Usman QADIR

The Political Economy of Technology Acquisition in Pakistan: Policy and Constraints in the Automobile Industry
Supervisor: Professor Mushtaq Khan

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

Lucas ROBINSON

New Cities, New Phones, New Politics: Accounting for Political Leadership among Transnational Afghans and Somalis
Supervisor: Dr Matthew NELSON

Pallavi ROY

Competitive Clientelism and its effects on Learning-A Case Study of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in India
Supervisor: Mushtaq KHAN

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

Bryony WHITMARSHI

Title TBC
Supervisor: Professor Michael Hutt

Sahil WARSI

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

Announcing a new MA in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan at SOAS

Pakistan contains one of the world's oldest city civilisations, Mohenjodaro, and the banks of the Indus have been a world centre of culture, warfare and religion ever since. The nation came into being with the partition of the British Raj between India and Pakistan in 1947, and since then it has combined its agricultural base with a middle-income industrial economy. A nation of shocking failures in education and health, it is still a flourishing centre of South Asian music, cuisine and poetry. Since the 1990s it has also developed a lively media landscape—overwhelmingly in Urdu—and writing in English by Pakistani writers has recently captured the attention of international publishers and readers. Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world—bigger than Russia or Japan. Its largest province, Punjab, contains more people than Egypt, Iran, and France.

Described as one of the most dangerous places in the world, it has been in the news continuously for more than a decade, what with its nuclear testing, its involvement in Afghanistan (and active Taliban presence internally), its pattern of military rule and "restricted" elections under General Musharraf, its record of political assassinations, and its vigorous power struggle involving the military, political parties, violent extremists, and the members of a tenacious civil society. Public interest in Pakistan is perhaps at an all-time high, but this interest is too often limited to a narrow account of politics and religious terrorism.

This pioneering MA aims to understand Contemporary Pakistan in its complexities of culture, nation, politics, religion, law and economics. Students who enrol for this MA will be able to engage in a deep interdisciplinary analysis of the diversity and richness of Pakistan. Students will also be members of the vibrant Centre for the Study of Pakistan that runs a fortnightly seminar series including occasional roundtables and panel discussions with leading academics, policy makers and NGO representatives. The Centre also offers internship opportunities to students registered on the MA Programme.

Graduates of the MA will possess a nuanced and specialised understanding of one of the most important countries in the world. They will use this understanding in business, politics, development, media, foreign affairs, academia, and the arts.

www.soas.ac.uk/southasia/programmes/ma-in-the-study-of-contemporary-pakistan/and-degree-structure

SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH

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

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

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DUNCAN MCDUIE-RA

Cosmopolitan Tribals: Frontier Migrants in Delhi

KALYANI RAMNATH

'We the People': Seamless Webs and Social Revolution in India's Constituent Assembly Debates

Book Reviews

ARKOTONG LONGKUMER

James C. Scott, The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia

SHOBNA NIJHAWAN

Ulrike Stark, An Empire of Books: The Naval Kishore Press and the Diffusion of the Printed Word in Colonial India

SHUBHODEEP SHOME

Wendy Doniger, The Hindus: An Alternative History

JILNA SHAH

Judith M. Brown, Global South Asians: Introducing the Modern Diaspora

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Multiple Representations of Muslimhood in West Bengal: Identity Construction Through Literature

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RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE

Research Office External Grant Applications 1 Sept 2011 - 31 July 2012

Whitney COX

Department of the Languages & Cultures of South Asia
Title of Research Project: Moonset on Sunrise Mountain: Poetry, Politics and the Making of a South Indian King
Funding body: AHRC
Date Submitted: September 2011
Amount awarded: £80,499

Peter FLUGEL

Department of the Study of Religions
Title of Research Project: Religious individualization in historical perspective
Funding body: University of Erfurt
Amount awarded: £43,200

Peter FLUGEL

Department of the Study of Religions
Title of Research Project: Johannes Klatt's Jaina-Onomasticon
Funding body: The Leverhulme Trust
Amount awarded: £245,160

Leon GOLDMAN

Department of the Study of Religions
Title of Research Project: A Study of the Sanskrit Yasna
Funding body: British Academy
Date Submitted: October 2011
Amount awarded: £234,519

Mara MALAGODI

School of Law
Title of Research Project: Mapping Legal Exclusion: Supreme Court's Interpretations of the Right to Equality in Nepal (1990-2011)
Funding body: British Academy
Date Submitted: October 2011
Amount awarded: £190,066

Research & 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

Enterprise Office Tata Chemicals - 1 day briefing

In February the Enterprise Office was asked to put together an intensive 1 day briefing for a group of seventeen senior leaders from Tata Chemicals. This briefing was part of a longer week long leadership retreat where the top team spends time interacting and learning from specialists in various areas.

The aim of the briefing was to broaden the groups horizons based on the current realities in Africa, give insights on the latest thinking and developments in key regions of Africa as well as provide thoughts on how the future might look.

A significant player in the African economy, Tata Chemicals Magadi (TCM) has been producing natural soda ash at Lake Magadi, Kenya, for a hundred years. It is Africa's largest soda ash manufacturer and one of Kenya's leading exporters. Just as significant, the company is an important part of the socio-economic fabric of the Lake Magadi region in Kenya. Over the decades, TCM has built deep connections with the local community through a number of health, education and employment initiatives.

In April Tata Chemicals (TCL) announced an investment of \$290 million to acquire a 25.1-per-cent stake as a strategic investor in the stream 1 of a greenfield, port-based, ammonia-urea fertiliser manufacturing complex in the Republic of Gabon. As they are likely to expand into other parts of Africa, they wanted to learn more about the country.

The Enterprise Office brought together leading Africa experts from SOAS as well as Kings College to deliver a series of lectures followed by a panel discussion which continued over lunch. Dr Michael Jennings and Dr Jonathan di John were key contributors to the briefing.

Focusing on East, West and Southern Africa, each session highlighted key economic, political and social issues whilst also examining the position of Africa globally. Key risks and business opportunities were also discussed as well as the role of natural resources and the issues surrounding skilled manpower. The group were keen to see how the emerging issues could impact on Tata's strategy.

The feedback from Tata was excellent and it is hoped to run a more extensive programme next year.

For further information on tailored briefings please contact:
The Enterprise Office enterprise@soas.ac.uk

SOUTH ASIA IN THE SOAS LIBRARY

SOAS Library is one of the world's most important academic libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research. The Library houses over 1.2 million volumes at the SOAS campus at Russell Square in central London, together with significant archival holdings, special collections and a growing network of electronic resources.



- The South Asia collection includes publications on the individual countries of South Asia – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan as well as South Asia as a whole, and on the Indian Ocean (including publications on the Maldives, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Classmarks J- JX
- Non-European language material includes works in Sanskrit and Pali, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. Classmarks K-KZ
- Certain countries that are elsewhere classified as being part of South Asia are held in other regional collections in SOAS Library
 - Burma is in the South East Asia section;
 - Tibet in the China and East Asia section
 - Afghanistan in the Islamic Middle East section.

For a full listing of classmarks and their location, please consult:
www.soas.ac.uk/library/using/finding/location/g-l/

The English language collections include publications on:

- Religion, the sociology of religion and translations of religious texts, including on Hinduism; Jainism; Sikhism; and on Zoroastrianism, Islam and Christianity in South Asia. Buddhism in India, especially on the history of Buddhism and the Buddha.
- Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka and on Mahayana Buddhism in the Himalayan kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan.
- South Asian history and culture.
- English language South Asian literature (including South Asia diasporic literature) and literature in translation.
- South Asian politics, gender, caste and human rights.
- South Asian economics, development, business, finance, banking and statistics.
- South Asian agriculture, forestry, industry and resources.
- South Asian film, cinema and media studies.
- South Asian art, archaeology and architecture which forms part of the Library's Art and Archaeology section.
- South Asian law, including religious and customary law, which forms part of the Library's Law section.

If you would like more information, either on the collections or this guide please contact the Subject Librarian for South Asia: Mrs Farzana Whitfield

www.soas.ac.uk/library/subjects/southasia/

Announcing a new MA Traditions of Yoga and Meditation at SOAS

This MA offers an in-depth introduction to the yogic and meditational techniques and doctrines of India, Tibet, China and Japan within the historical and cultural context of their formation. Furthermore, it explores the nature of spiritual experience that arises from yoga and meditation through a cross-cultural, inter-regional perspective.

Classes will be held on three evenings per week with Full-time and Part-time Study Available.

The thematic, but inter-regional, focus of this MA programme promotes the academic study of the different traditions through the deployment of a wide range of regional perspectives. Its core unit explores the methodological foundations at the heart of yoga/meditation practice. The specialist components integrated within this MA are organised to serve as platform for further (MPhil/PhD) graduate research; the more general components of the programme provides those students who do not intend to pursue doctoral research with an advanced introduction to the physiological dynamics, doctrinal foundations, history, regional context and theoretical presuppositions that shaped the traditions of yoga and meditation. The programme will thus offer students (a) advanced knowledge of the background to, and understanding of, yoga and meditation, from their origin in ancient India to their apex in mediaeval Japan; (b) advanced skills in research and writing on topics that pertain to yoga/meditation, drawing on both primary sources (in translation) and secondary sources; (c) advanced skills in presentation and communication of their knowledge of the topics covered in the lectures.

This MA is taught through evening classes, typically running between 18.00h and 20.00h on weekdays, at the SOAS Russell Square Campus in Central London.

Further information

www.soas.ac.uk/religions/programmes/ma-traditions-of-yoga-and-meditation/

CSAS

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CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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The Centre of South Asian Studies (CSAS) is the forum for South Asian-related research activities at SOAS, University of London. The principal role of the Centre is to promote, coordinate and disseminate information relating to, the academic study of South Asia across the disciplines and to act as a resource for academic, governmental, non-governmental and business constituencies with an interest in South Asia.

Our Events

The CSAS hosts a comprehensive programme of high quality and well respected interdisciplinary activities including the weekly public seminars, international conferences, performances, film screenings, closed working groups, workshops and receptions.

Details of the events are available at:
www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/events

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If you would like to receive information about the Centre's activities and research news, send an email with your name to centres@soas.ac.uk

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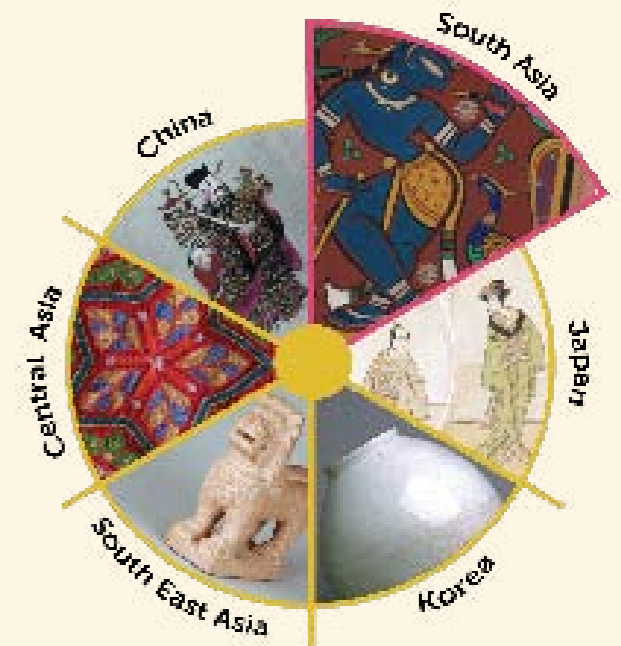
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