### DAY 1: THURSDAY 12TH APRIL 2012

**12:00–1:15 pm  Conference Registration**  Brunei Gallery Suite, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery

**1:15–2:45 pm  PARALLEL SESSION 1 (DAY 1)**

**Panel 2  South Asian Arts and the Politics of Representation**  
Convenor: Anna Morcom  
Venue: Room G3, Ground Floor, Main Building

- Anna Morcom (Royal Holloway), ‘The Illicit world of Performing Arts: Culture and Exclusion in Modern India’.
- Indira Jalli (Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad), ‘Mimicry in Internet: A Study of How it Shapes the Future of Indian Hegemony’.
- Vera Félix Mariz (University of Lisbon), ‘Vision of the Future taken from the Past – Mario Chicò’s Contribution to the Recognition of Goa as World Heritage Site’.
- Sitara Thobani (University of Oxford), ‘Negotiating Tradition, Claiming Modernity: Approaches to Indian Classical Dance in India and the British Asian Diaspora’.

**Panel 8  The Developmental Turn in Dalit Activism: Civil Society Engagement with Contemporary Caste Discrimination**  
Convenor: David Mosse and Luisa Steur  
Venue: Room B102, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- George Kunnath (Goldsmiths College), ‘Dignity to Development: Shifting Dalit Activism and Maoist Movement’.
- David Pitcherit (SOAS), ‘Circular Migration and Political Engagement of Dalit in Rural India’.
- Murali Shanmuavelan (SOAS), ‘The Effects of Communication Technologies on Dalit Communities’.

**Panel 9  A High-tech Future? Knowledge-intensive Services in India and Pakistan**  
Convenor: Grace Kite  
Venue: Room B104, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Grace Kite (SOAS), ‘Linked In? Software and Information Technology Services in India’s Economic Development’.
- Sandhya Balasubrahmanyan (SOAS), ‘Scams, Lies and Radia Tapes: An Analysis of the Rent Creation Strategies in the Indian Telecom Sector’.
- Jyoti Sarasvati (NYU London), ‘Cyber-Saviours or Dot.Compradors: Who Makes IT Policy in India?’.

**Panel 25  Practices of Governance in South Asia**  
Convenor: Sadan Jha  
Venue: Room 116, First Floor, Main Building

- Sadan Jha (Centre for Social Studies, Gujarat), ‘Dissecting the Crowd: Historicizing the Future of Dissent in India’.
- Bidhisha Chaudhuri (University of Heidelberg), ‘Hybridising Governance in India: The Interplay of Technology, Culture and Politics’.
- Amrita Lamba (SOAS), ‘Rebel Governance in Bastar: A Case of Contesting Sovereignties?’.

**Panel 29  Insurgencies in South Asia**  
Convenor: Dhana Hughes  
Venue: Room B111, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Shapan Adnan (University of Oxford), ‘Ethnic Conflict and the Paradoxes of Peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh’.
- Ishtiaq Ahmad (University of Oxford), ‘Endgame Afghanistan: Prospects of Making Peace with the Enemy’.
DAY 1: THURSDAY 12TH APRIL 2012

2:45–3:30 pm  Tea Break  Brunei Gallery Suite, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery

3:30–5:00 pm PARALLEL SESSION 2 (DAY 1)

Panel 6  Ethnicity and Identity in South Asia
Convenor: Hewasa Lorin  
Venue: Room B104, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Hewasa Lorin (English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad), ‘Contemporary Re-Enactments: Cultural memory and Naga Identity’.  
- Sudeshna Purkaystha (Assam University), History and Nation: Modern Assamese Past and Shaping of a Linguistic Nation’.  
- Tina Virmani (York University, Toronto), ‘The Dalt Mussalman Wants to be Named: The Muslim Reservation Debate and the Politics of Community’.  

Panel 11  Politics of the Masses in South Asia: from Class Struggles to Ethnic Activism?
Convenor: Mona Chettri  
Venue: Room B111, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Feyzi Ismail (SOAS), ‘Class Demands or Ethnic Politics: Where are the Maoist Going’?’.  
- Mona Chettri (SOAS), ‘Choosing the Gorkha Identity – at the Crossroads of Class and Ethnic Politics in Darjeeling’.  

Panel 16  Transformative Public Works: an Oxymoron?
Convenor: Deepta Chopra  
Venue: Room B102, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Deepta Chopra (IDS University of Sussex), ‘What is ‘Transformative’ about the Design of NREGA – A Gendered Analysis’.  
- Grace Carswell and Geert de Neve (University of Sussex), ‘MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu: Unpacking a Story of Success?’’.  
- Indrajit Roy (University of Oxford), ‘Guaranteeing Employment, Forging Political Subjects: The Political Sociology of the NREGS in India’.  
- Subhashish Dey (University of Manchester), ‘Swapping Between Public and Private Work! Is NREGS a Substitute or Supplementary Source of Fallback Livelihood: Looking Through the Impact of India’s NREGS in Birbhum District of West Bengal’.

Panel 20  Marginalising the Periphery: Rethinking South Asia’s Frontiers
Convenor: Elisabeth Leake  
Venue: Room 116, First Floor, Main Building

- Berenice Guyot-Rechard (University of Cambridge), ‘Nation-Building or State Making?: India’s North-East Frontier and the Ambiguities of Nehruvian Developmentalism’.  
- Elisabeth Leake (University of Cambridge), ‘Incorporating the North-West Frontier: Pashtun Tribes and the Pakistani State, 1947-65’.  
- Sreeja Balarajan (University of Hyderabad), ‘Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement and Issues in Negotiating the South Asian Identity’.  
- Sunil Purushotham (University of Cambridge), ‘Sovereignty and Development in India’s Internal Frontiers’.

Panel 22  Global Garments in South Asia
Convenor: Kanchana Ruwanpura  
Venue: Room 4421, Fourth Floor, Main Building

- Ellie Tighe (University of Southampton), ‘Bangladeshi Ready-Made Garments: Regulating Business and the Business of Multi-Stakeholder Regulation’.  
- Kanchana Ruwanpura (University of Southampton), ‘Ethical Codes: Reality and Rhetoric – A Study of Sri Lanka’s Apparel Sector’.  
- Samanthi Gunawardana (Griffith University), ‘Images of Empowerment? Gender, Class and Empowerment in the Sri Lankan Apparel Industry’.

5:00–6:30 pm

Panel 27  Film screening: KOEL (dir. Bonnie Mukherjee)
Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, Lower, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery

KOEL is an independent low-budget film shot in Delhi with stage actors and amateurs. The story concerns a 10 year old boy who comes to work as a domestic servant with an upper class family in Delhi. He is personal servant to the elderly eccentric Mataji who lives with her feckless son and his beautiful wife Damini. Damini is the only earning member of the family and holds it together. The boy servant and Mataji bond well over their love for Damini and their mutual sense of insecurity in the family. When Damini, who is unhappily married acquires an admirer the family is concerned for its financial future.

The director will be in attendance to introduce the film.

7:00–8:30 pm  Reception (sponsored by the India Institute, King’s College)
Venue: Chapters, King’s College London (second floor of main building) - refer to the map in your conference pack for directions

[Please note that this reception will take place at King’s College, not SOAS]

PROGRAM DISCLAIMER: The speakers, topics and times are correct at the time of publishing. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, the organisers reserve the right to alter or delete items from the conference programme.
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee</td>
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<td>Brunei Gallery Suite, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-11:30 am</td>
<td>PARALLEL SESSION 1 (DAY 2)</td>
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<td>Panel 4</td>
<td>South Asia Craft: Agency and Tradition</td>
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<td>Convenor:</td>
<td>Neelam Raina</td>
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<td>• Aarti Kawlra (IIT Chennai, Chennai), ‘Handloom Weaving – Tamil Nadu’.</td>
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<td>• David Szanton (University of California, Berkeley), ‘The Politics of Mithila Painting: Or When is a Mithila Painting Not a Mithila Painting?’</td>
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<td>• Neelam Raina (Middlesex University), ‘The Importance of Craft to the Reconstruction of Kashmir’.</td>
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<td>• Luisa Steur (University of Copenhagen), ‘International Dalit Advocacy and Caste-Based Discrimination in ‘Emerging’ India’.</td>
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<td>• David Mosse (SOAS), ‘Dalit Rights and the Development Agenda: the Promise, Progress and Pitfalls of Dalit NGO Networking in South India’.</td>
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<td>• Dag Erik Berg (University of Bergen), ‘Madiga Dandora and their Demand to Sub-Categorise a Constitutional Category’.</td>
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<td>• Ira Gang (Rutgers University), Kunal Sen (University of Manchester), and Myeong-Su Yun (Tulane University), ‘Is Caste Destiny? Occupational Diversification among Dalits in Rural India’.</td>
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<td>• Radhika Desai (University of Manitoba), ‘The Slow-Motion Counterrevolution: the Contradictions of the Developmental State and the Emergence of Neo-liberalism in India’.</td>
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<td>• Elisabetta Basile (University of Rome La Sapienza), ‘Conceptualising India’s Provincial Capitalism’.</td>
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<td>• Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes University), ‘Federalism and the Indian Mode of Accumulation: Probing the Role of the State and Nation’.</td>
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<td>Panel 17</td>
<td>Justice and Development in South Asia</td>
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<td>Convenor:</td>
<td>Philippa Williams; Bhaskar Vira</td>
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<td>• Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge), ‘Discourse of Justice in the Indian Forest’.</td>
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<td>• Susannah Fisher (London School of Economics), ‘Justice and Equity at Multiple Scales: An Exploration of Climate Change Politics in India’.</td>
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<td>• Philippa Williams (University of Cambridge), ‘Justice Matters in Development’.</td>
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<td>• Shalini Sharma (SOAS), ‘Justice for Bhopal: Delivered? Delayed? Denied?’</td>
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<td>Reinterpreting History in South Asia</td>
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<td>• Harshan Kumarasingham (Potsdam University), ‘The Asian Queen – the Influence of Constitutional Monarchy on Democracy in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka’.</td>
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<td>• Pritipuspa Mishra (University of Southampton) and Emily Rook-Koepsel (University of Oklahoma), ‘Locating India: New Perspectives on Local Studies’.</td>
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<td>Panel 28</td>
<td>Reconsidering Marwari and its Representations</td>
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<td>Gurharpal Singh</td>
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<td>• Sumie Nakatani (Kagoshima University), ‘Native Towns of the Marwaris, Diasporic Business Communities of India’.</td>
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<td>• Aki Toyoyama (Osaka University), ‘The Marwari Haveli as Re-presentation of Colonial Modernity’.</td>
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<td>• Hisae Komatsu (Hokkaido University), ‘Gandhian or Babylonian? A Study of Marwari Images in 1920s-30s Northern India’.</td>
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DAY 2: FRIDAY 13TH APRIL 2012

11:30-1:15 pm  Lunch  Brunei Gallery Suite, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery

1:15–2:45 pm  PARALLEL SESSION 2 (DAY 2)

Panel 5: The New Cultural History of South Asian Music: Archival Questions
Convenor: Jim Sykes  
Venue: Room B104, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Priyanka Basu (SOAS), 'Cockfight in Tune: Reading Nations, Communities and Performances in the 'Bengali' Kobigaan'.
- Richard Davis Williams (King’s College London), ‘Music and Dance at Wajid Ali Shah’s Court-in-Exile and the Bengali Renaissance, c. 1800-1887’.
- Katherine Schofield (King’s College), ‘Musical Genealogies or Why Four Heads are Better than One’.
- Jim Sykes (King’s College), ‘Voice, Destruction, and Rebirth in Sri Lanka’.

Panel 7: The Gendered Effects of Social Mobility in South Asia
Convenor: Amanda Gilbertson
Venue: Room G3, Ground Floor, Main Building

- Clarinda Still (University of Oxford), ‘Emulation or Appropriation: Honour and Patriarchal Upward Mobility Among Dalits in South India’.
- Manuela Cioti (Aarhus University), ‘“Other” Dalit Women’s Political Participation outside Dalit Politics: Comparative Reflections on Castes, Gender and Status in Urban North India’.
- Amanda Gilbertson (University of Oxford), ‘If Woman is Obedient to Man, Man will Keep her as High’: Changing Gender Roles in Middle-class Hyderabad’.
- Karin Kapadia (University of Oxford), ‘The Gendered Effects of Social Mobility among Dalits in Chennai’.

Panel 10: Reforming the State in India - Exploring the Intersections of State, Market and Civil Society
Convenors: Martin Webb and Suchi Pande
Venue: Room 116, First Floor, Main Building

- Diego Maiorano (University of Torino), ‘The “Tripartite Pact” Between the Middle Class, the Big Business and the Government: The Origins of “Shining India”’.
- Aditya Mohanty (University College London), ‘Moving Beyond the Civil vs Political Society Dichotomy in Neoliberal Delhi’.
- Devangana Kalita (Institute of Development Studies), ‘Exploring the Narratives of Nation, State and Citizen in the Iconization of Anna Hazare and Irom Sharmila’.

Panel 13: Politics of Land in Contemporary India
Convenor: Heather Plumridge Bedi, Louise Tillin
Venue: Room B102, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Udai Chandra (Yale University), ‘Negotiating the Leviathan: Land, Community, and the State in Contemporary Jharkhand’.
- Shashi Ratnaker Singh (University of Cambridge), ‘Land Acquisition and Development: Reflection on Compensation and Benefit Sharing Mechanism in the Case of Mining Projects’.

Panel 30: Migration and Diaspora
Convenor: Elisabeth Leake
Venue: Room B111, First Floor, Brunei Gallery

- Maniko Kato (Hosei University), ‘Function of Remittance and Intra-State Migration for Dalits in Rural Bihar from 1990s to 2000s: from Social and Economic Perspectives’.

2:45–3:30 pm  Tea Break  Brunei Gallery Suite, Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery
DAY 2: FRIDAY 13TH APRIL 2012

3:30–5:00 pm PARALLEL SESSION 2 (DAY 2)

**GEC Panel 1** Researching South Asia: Experiences, Challenges and Problem-Solving
Convenors: Rohini Chaturvedi and Deepta Chopra
Venue: Room B102, First Floor, Brunei Gallery
Speakers:

- Heather Bedi (University of Cambridge)
- Radhika Govinda (Ambedkar University Delhi)
- Subhasish Dey (University of Manchester)
- Rohini Chaturvedi (University of Cambridge)

**GEC Panel 2** Writing a policy brief
Convenors: Rohini Chaturvedi and Deepta Chopra
Venue: Room B111, First Floor, Brunei Gallery
Speakers:

- Lawrence Saez (SOAS)
- Susannah Fisher (LSE)
- Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge)
- Deepta Chopra (IDS)

5:00 – 6:00 pm Open Forum: The Future of BASAS
Venue: Room G2, Ground Floor, Main Building
In this interactive meeting we will seek to discuss the future of BASAS, in the context of the changed financial situation for learned societies. The forum is open to all BASAS members.

6:00 – 7:00 pm Reception
Sponsored jointly by Contemporary South Asia and South Asian Studies (BASAS House Journals)
Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre Foyer, Lower Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery

7:00 – 9:00 pm Conference Dinner
(Hosted by the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS)
Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre Foyer, Lower Ground Floor, Brunei Gallery
Paying guests only.
### PARALLEL SESSION 1 (DAY 3)

#### Panel 1
**The Future of South Asian Literary Studies**
Convenor: Shital Pravinchandra; Krupa Shandilya  
Venue: Room G3, Ground Floor, Main Building  
- Francesca Orsini (SOAS), ‘Writing About Work’.  
- Neelam Srivastava (Newcastle University), ‘South Asian Literature(s), Within a Comparativist Dimension: The Role of Translation’.  
- Shital Pravinchandra (Yale University), ‘Mira and the Cuckold’.

#### Panel 7
**The Gendered Effects of Social Mobility in South Asia**
Convenor: Amanda Gilbertson  
Venue: Room B104, First Floor, Brunei Gallery  
- Radhika Govinda (Ambedkar University, Delhi), ‘Gender and the City: Recovering Women’s Voices from Delhi’s Urban Villages’.  
- Patrick Kilby (ANU), ‘Gender in the Household Economy and the Politics of Economic Competitiveness: the Case Study of the Pune Ragpickers’.

#### Panel 12
**Interrogating Indian Capitalism**
Convenor: Pritam Singh  
Venue: Room 116, First Floor, Main Building  
- Mujibur Rehman (Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi), ‘Indian Capitalism and Future of Indian Muslim’.  
- Damien Carrière (University of Minnesota), ‘Noir Delhi’.  
- Bhabani Nayak (Glasgow Caledonian University), ‘Hindu Modes of Capitalism Accumulation in the Bhagavad Gita’.

#### Panel 14
**Disasters and (the Remaking of) South Asia**
Convenor: Kamal Kapadia, Kanchana Ruwanpura  
Venue: Room B111, First Floor, Brunei Gallery  
- Ayesha Siddiqi (King’s College), ‘Climate Change as a Trigger for Political Change: The Case of Southern Pakistan’.

#### Panel 15
**India’s Emergence as a Great Power**
Convenor: Chris Ogden  
Venue: Room B102, First Floor, Brunei Gallery  
- Chris Ogden (St. Andrew’s), ‘Parameters of Greatness: Weighing Up India’s Rise’.  
- Shaïra Kadir (University of Bristol), ‘Envisioning the Future: Branding India as a Major International Player’.  
- Solène Soosaiathan (SciencesPo, Paris), ‘The Balance of Power between India and China in South Asia’.  
- Simona Vittorini (SOAS), ‘Speaking Softly: India’s Soft-Power Strategy in Africa’.

Since its inception in 1916, the School has been an important international centre for the study of South Asia. In 1966, the Centre of South Asian Studies was established to co-ordinate the research of the South Asia specialists spread widely throughout SOAS. At present SOAS employs more than 50 South Asian specialists in the teaching staff. In addition to a department of South Asian Languages and Cultures, SOAS has South Asia specialists in the departments of Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Music, Religions and Politics.

The Centre hosts academic seminars, discussions on current events, and screenings of feature and documentary films that feed into graduate research on South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka). Members of the Centre contribute to the MA South Asian Area Studies programme as well as to other teaching in their disciplines. The Centre also hosts research associates and visiting scholars who are working on projects relevant to the Centre.

The Centre is primarily responsible for recording and publicising academic activities on South Asia, and for organising seminars, workshops and conferences. It is a central point of contact between SOAS and the wider London community on issues connected with South Asia. Its annual review, the South Asia Annual Review, which is published once a year, lists meetings to be held on South Asian topics in London and elsewhere. There is an annual lecture, and several occasional lectures are arranged to provide a forum for scholars visiting SOAS from all over the world.

For further details of the Centre’s current activities, or to join the email distribution list, please contact:

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