A documentary film, talk and discussion with the director Anand Patwardhan on Saturday 23 February 2013 in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS.

The schedule:
9.00  tea/coffee – Welcome
9:30  Introduction – Anand Patwardhan
10:00-13:00  Film screening
13:00-14:00  Roundtable discussion – Q&A

For details, contact:
David Mosse, Professor of Social Anthropology
E: dm21@soas.ac.uk

Hosted jointly by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, the Centre for South Asian Studies and the Centre for Media and Film Studies at SOAS.

The film showing and talk is open to the general public.

The atrocity of caste. A tradition of reason
A song that will be sung

the forum for South Asian related research activities at SOAS since 1966

Centre of South Asian Studies
STUDYING AT SOAS

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Welcome to this 2013 annual review of the Centre of South Asian Studies.

I would like to begin by thanking Professor Lawrence Szurek, my predecessor as Centre Chair, for his leadership over the past three years. Like him, I too have benefited greatly from the excellent support provided by the Centre and Programmes Office at SOAS since I took up this role in January of this year. None of our activities would have been possible without Jane Savory, Rahima Begum and Dorinne Tin Ming Kwa. I am also grateful to Dr Shabnam Tejani, Dr Simona Vittorini and Prof David Arnold for serving as members of the Centre’s Advisory Committee this year.

During the academic year 2012-13 the Centre hosted more than 30 talks and seminars, many of which are reported on in the following pages. They included seven presentations by our Research Associate Gaeta Ramdya in the Theses in the Library series (the first four of a series of five), the annual Micah Comenemadza and a Q&A session with its director, a packed discussion with the famous Indian film actor Shabana Azmi, a range of seminars given by visiting speakers on various aspects of South Asian politics and a seminar and workshop on indigenous Indian theatre, a two-day workshop on the Bhutanese royal and religious experiences (flanked by the Open Society), and a very well-attended talk by Anshia Sattar on translating the Ramayana. I am very grateful to the many Centre members who helped to organise such a rich and varied programme.

We were also very glad to host this year’s Charles Wallace Trust Pakistan fellow, Dr Najeeba Arif, who contributed a seminar during the spring term on South Asian Muslims’ narratives of travel to the West, and the Charles Wallace Trust India fellow, Dr Milind Amin, who spoke on the topic of the structure and content of Dalit writing. We wish the Centre’s recipients and non-recipients the very best for their future.

So, in the following pages, we hope to see them at SOAS again one day.

I am also delighted to report that research students working on Muslim South Asia have created a new Research Forum, which was launched on 9 May and will hold its first general meeting in October 2013. The Centre is very happy to lend its support to this initiative.

So much for the past; let us now look ahead to the future. Next year SOAS will establish two new institutes, dedicated to the study of China on the one hand and South Asia on the other. The South Asia Institute will replace the Centre of South Asian Studies in January 2014, when I will take up the position of Director. We will be advertising for an administrator and a Deputy Director very shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to share my own thoughts on the importance and value of this initiative.

There is a perception in some quarters that Area Studies is a field of scholarly endeavour whose time has passed. The academic regionalisation of the world has been criticised for being driven by political and external concerns emanating from the Euro-American world, for drawing arbitrary lines on the map in an impervious neo-colonial way; and for creating conceptual empires that are thought of as homogenous and self-contained, when in fact they are neither. And I agree that we should be wary of statements such as ‘South Asia is a region of great cultural diversity’. Why would it not be? This is only a consequence of where we drew the lines.

However, I believe there are at least two very good reasons for maintaining an Area Studies framework for much of what we do at SOAS, which was after all founded as an Area Studies institution, and for continuing to replicate ourselves in this mould for generations to come.

The first reason for doing so is that every question has an appropriate scale. For instance, research on globalisation may often have to take place at a level beyond that of regional frameworks. Of course we must not fetishise the local. But the greater the scale of the question the more superfluous the answers will be, and if these are not moved in the grander detail of grounded empirical research a project’s findings will be questionable.

For instance, do we need to understand the impact of global economic and cultural flows on Indian society and the extent to which India also serves as the origin of globalising forces? I believe so. So do all the others. But the linguistic and cultural fluencies and disciplinary expertise needed for this? Well, if we do not then we will simply have to consume the fruits of research conducted by others and resign ourselves to second rank status.

The second reason is that it is very beneficial to view ‘other places’ positively as societies, rather than merely as locations of problems and threats. Area Studies scholars have the capacity to engage with the intellectual and cultural production of their region of study and forge and strengthen academic and social connections at both local and institutional levels. The societies and cultures we study are not passive recipients of our gaze. Their perspectives and theoretical orientations enrich global conversations. Institutional structures that facilitate interaction and exchange from scholars with the regions we study are essential.

Why a South Asia Institute at a time when other British universities are creating units and programmes that focus on India? Area studies have been said to resemble the mandalas of old: they are powerful and well defined at the centre but vague and contested at the edges [van Schendel 2002]. Some area studies have a strong central core; most South Asia scholars work on India, and mostly on north India at that. But the other countries of South Asia are interesting and important too, and a national frame – reducing the area down to its central court – also constrains the scope of studies and research, which can very usefully trace continuities and interactions across political borders. Hence our decision to create an institute whose focus will be regional rather than national. The South Asia Institute will be one of the first major initiatives to reverse the drift away from regional studies and the impact of global economic and cultural flows on Indian society.

It is therefore an opportunity we should seize. We need to make our existence as the premier UK institution for the multi-disciplinary study of South Asia much more visible worldwide. We need much more fellowships, scholarships and posts, more research funding, and more effective marketing of courses. However, we should not be under any illusion that the current government will provide much if any of this.

We will have to seek and secure the support of others who believe in what we do. I trust that the Institute will be able to draw upon the same wellspring of goodwill and positive energy that has sustained the Centre of South Asia studies over the last few decades. Let us look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. 

Professor Michael Hutt
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**SOAS, University of London**

SOAS, University of London
James CARON

LECTURES/CONFERENCES
In addition to SOAS-internal seminars, James Caron participated in a conference in Bangkok, Pakistan on 24 June, whose theme was ‘The Dynamics of Change in Conflict Societies’, and was co-organised by the University of Peshawar and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung. His paper, on the globalization of historical memory of ethnic conflict and mass atrocities in Afghanistan, was titled ‘Dalits = Laylai: A Global Consensus of Conflict, and Dreams of an Everyday Future’. James also presented at Pachthuri Sut's networks and literary mediation at a conference on ‘Pilgrims and Politics in Pakistan. Sufism in an Age of Transition’ on 21 May at the Institut d’Etudes avanzées de Paris, and he spoke on self-told histories of Afghanistan to the Intercultural Studies program at Bocconi University, Milan, on 15 May. He presented at the Oxford University History Seminar in June 2013, on the ‘Politics of Poetics of Anonymity, the Intergional Everyday, and Empire in 19th and 20th c. Afghanistan’. In addition to academic events, James participated in a public panel discussion with Zuzanna Olszewska (LSE) on Afghan war literature chaired by Kenan Malik, on 15 April at the Alchemy Festival, Southbank Centre, London. He also organized a conversation with acclaimed Afghan short story author Abdul Wahid Sulaiman Shinwari as part of a reading group, ‘The Word and the World’, hosted by the PSI Gallery in London on 24 April. Finally, in December he appeared in a Pashto-language cultural program called Dranawi on Afghan National Television while conducting fieldwork in Afghanistan. This episode was organized in honor of the career of veteran scholar Abdullah Bakhtiar.

TRAVEL/AWARDS
James Caron was a John F. Richards Fellow of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies in 2012. This grant allowed him to travel to Kabul, Afghanistan in December to finalize research on his forthcoming monograph, ‘A History of Pashto Literature, or: Afghan Histories of the World’. James was fortunate to be able to work in a number of archives and libraries, as well as access staff in the Ministry for Information and Culture, Radio Television Afghanistan, and the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences, and interview a number of historical and literary personalities.

Philippe CULLET

Philippe Cullet organised a two-day workshop on 2-3 May 2012, Realising the Right to Sanitation – International and Comparative Perspectives, bringing together experts from India and elsewhere to discuss the different dimensions of the right to sanitation, ranging from conceptual aspects to manual scavenging, environmental and health dimensions.

Further information available at www.soa.ac.uk/ledc/events/PUBLICATIONS


Rachel Dwyer

Rachel Dwyer was on sabbatical in Terms 1 and 2. She was visiting Professor at the University of St Gallen; she spent a week at Brown University, RI, as part of their India Initiative; she gave the 2013 India-Canada Association Lecture at the University of Toronto; she spoke at the Jaipur Literary Festival including an ‘in conversation’ with Jawed Akhtar. She attended conferences at JNU and the University of Oslo, and spoke about elephants and cinema at the National Centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, University of Cambridge, and Kings College London. Prof. Dwyer spent most of Term 2 in India where she visited many wild and captive elephants for research on her book on the Indian elephant.

Jonathan GOODHAND

PUBLICATIONS


Mike HUTT

Mike Hutt travelled to the USA in March to serve first as a paper discussant at a conference on ‘Everyday Religion and Sustainable Environments in the Himalayas at the China-India Institute of the New School in New York (7-8 March 2013) and then to give a presentation on ‘Visual and Literary Representations’ at the Himalayan Connections conference at Yale University, 9-10 March 2013.

He chaired the opening panel of the Britain-Nepal Academic Council’s annual ‘Nepal Study Day’ at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh on 18 April.

He then made two visits to Scandinavia: first to deliver a lecture on ‘The Political Transition in Nepal’ to the SASNET South Asia Symposium at Lund University on 24 April, and second to deliver a keynote lecture entitled ‘Political and sociocultural developments in Bhutan since 1990’ at the Aalborg University conference on ‘Development Challenges in Bhutan’ in Copenhagen on 29 May.

In between these two trips, he convened a very successful two-day international workshop on ‘The Bhutanese Refugee Resettlement Experience’ at SOAS on 22-23 May.

On 24 July he delivered a keynote lecture on ‘The War in Afghanistan’ at the annual international conference on Himalayan Studies in Kathmandu, 24 July.

PUBLICATIONS


Rochana BAJPI

Rochana Bajpai presented papers on India’s constitutional settlement and minority rights at Barga in November 2012; King’s College, London in February 2013 and SOAS in July 2013. She also gave talks on liberalism in India at a workshop on Liberal Multiplicities at King’s College, London in November 2013 to discuss the implications of Prof. Chris Bayly’s book Recovering Liberties and at a conference on Liberalism and Diversity at the University of Nottingham in July 2013. In May 2013, Rochana joined the editorial board of Oxford Development Studies. In June 2013, with colleagues in the Comparative Political Thought Research Group, Rochana organized an international workshop that brought together colleagues from California-Riverside, Leiden, Notre Dame, Oxford, Sussex, Westminster, UCL, LSE and SOAS to discuss methodologies appropriate to the definition of this emerging field. Prof. Fried Dallmayr delivered the inaugural lecture ‘Brave New Horizons: Why comparative political theory now’ chaired by Lord Bhikhu Parekh. In August 2012 and January 2013, Rochana conducted field-work in Delhi for her new project on minority representation and democracy in India. She was delighted to receive a Leverhulme Fellowship for this project and will be on research leave in 2013-14.

PUBLICATIONS

South Asian and Southeast Asian Ideologies (with Dr Carlo Bonura) in the Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies edited by Michael Freeden, Lyman Tower Sargent, and Marc Stears, August 2013.

Rachel Dwyer

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Jonathan GOODHAND

PUBLICATIONS


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PUBLICATIONS


Almut HINTZE

PUBLICATIONS


An orphaned baby elephant & a quite destructive water tank in India.

Rachel Dwyer

Rachel Dwyer was on sabbatical in Terms 1 and 2. She was visiting Professor at the University of St Gallen; she spent a week at Brown University, RI, as part of their India Initiative; she gave the 2013 India-Canada Association Lecture at the University of Toronto; she spoke at the Jaipur Literary Festival including an ‘in conversation’ with Jawed Akhtar. She attended conferences at JNU and the University of Oslo, and spoke about elephants and cinema at the National Centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, University of Cambridge, and Kings College London. Prof. Dwyer spent most of Term 2 in India where she visited many wild and captive elephants for research on her book on the Indian elephant.
Jens LERCHE

During 2012-2013, Jens Lerche was Principal Investigator on the research project 'Labour Conditions and the Working Poor in China and India'. The project runs from 2011 to end-2013. It examines labour conditions at firm level in Shanghai and Delhi. The research focuses on the garment and construction sectors, the core sectors for the working poor outside agriculture. The objective is to examine underlying reasons for labour conditions and labour unrest.

The project investigates how characteristics of labour contracting and labour use affect the working poor. The focus is on firm-level determinants such as orientation of production (towards export/domestic markets), the degree of subcontracting and casual labour, and the type of ownership. It also seeks to identify how labour activism and public policy on labour regulations and social protection affect labour conditions, and the role played by regional variations of such policies.

Through one year of intensive fieldwork in 2012-13 the project has aimed to map and understand trends within the sectors, their firms and labour forces.

The research project is funded by the ESRC-DFID joint fund for poverty alleviation research and includes five co-researchers: Dr Alessandra Mezzadri, Dr Dave Ooi-Chand and Professor Terry McInerney, all SOAS, University of London; Dr Rahul Rao, Delhi and Professor Pun Ngai, Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Jens is also co-investigator on a 'Programme of Research on Inequality and Poverty in India', focusing on dalits and adivasis. It is led by Dr Alpa Shah, LSE. This year funding was secured from the European Research Council and ESRC.

The research will commence in January 2014

PUBLICATIONS


Werner MENSKI

Werner Menski was on sabbatical but maintained a busy schedule of conference participation, PhD supervision and advisory functions. He completed his advisory role in the FFP BELGARE Programme at the University of Leuven (www.religreportproject.eu) and submitted a funding application under the EU Comenius Lifelong Learning Programme on Ethnic Diversity and Culture Awareness for Teacher Educators (EDICATE). He participated as key speaker in a Doctoral Congress at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium (8-12 March 2013) and chaired a two day Symposium ‘Network of Transnational Doctoral Research on Multiculturalism and Law’ (19-20 April 2013) together with the Department of Law at the University of Lüneburg, which was held in the Doctoral School at SOAS. He undertook research for forthcoming publications and continues to be the editor of South Asia Research (SAGE, New Delhi).

PUBLICATIONS


‘Islamic law in British courts: Do we know or do we not want to know?’. Journal of Minority Studies, Center for Minority Studies, Kansas University, Osaka, Vol. 6 (2012): 27-49 (in Japanese) (ISSN 1885-7735).

Eleanor NEWBIGGIN


Tina OTTEN

Otten, Tina has had a busy but productive year on the conference front! In December 2012, with colleague Dr Shabnum Tsiani, she organised a one-day workshop on urban history in late colonial South Asia. Prof. Will Glover and Nirad Rao, leading figures in the field of South Asian urban history, joined us from the U.S., speaking alongside our own final year history PhD students. The event will take many of the discussion points forward as we begin to form an international network of scholars working on urban South Asia.

As well as this, Eleanor presented papers at a workshop to celebrate Prof Christopher Bayly’s most recent publication Recovering Liberties, held at Kings College London; at a conference on ‘Recovering Law in Asia’, organised by the Centre of History and Economics, Cambridge; at the two day interdisciplinary conference entitled ‘Border Crossings: New Directions in the Study of Gender at SOAS’ and also took part in a plenary discussion on inequalities in China and India; organised at Manchester University as part of the AHRC-funded Inequality, Social Science and History Research Network. In April 2013, she was invited to speak at an international conference on ‘South Asian Heinrich Stein and the Legal Archive’ that took place in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi and was hosted jointly by staff of the history departments at JNU, Delhi University and Princeton University.

PUBLICATION


Rahul RAO


PUBLICATIONS


BLOGS


Lawrence SAEZ

Lawrence Saez was on research leave at the Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan. There he conducted research on hybrid models of capitalism and the development of welfare state in Asia.

He delivered lectures on this topic at the Academia Sinica and at the University of Nottingham’s campus in Ningbo, China.

Lawrence also conducted fieldwork research for a book manuscript at the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In October 2012, he spoke at the United Nations Geneva to comment on the U.N. recommendations review of human rights in India.

In November 2012, he attended the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting and the global agenda council summit in Dubai.

In June 2013, he organized an international workshop on the topic of the political economy of energy security. He also chaired a workshop about the results of the general election in Pakistan at SciencePo Av.

In July 2013, he was the keynote speaker at the conference on rising global powers held at the University of Nottingham.
In 2012-2013 Tommaso Sbriccoli has mainly been doing fieldwork in India within the ESRC-funded project “Rural change and anthropological knowledge in post-colonial India: A comparative ‘restudy’ of F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David Pocock” co-directed by Dr Edward Simpson (SOAS). He lived for 11 months in the village of Madhya Pradesh previously studied by anthropologist and SOAS Emeritus Professor Adrian C. Mayer, who also visited for a few days. This was an exciting and extremely productive experience, triggering reflections on place memory, inter-generational studies (and the potential use of anthropological field notes as historical sources), changing theoretical paradigms and issues related to the place that affects and is affected by the inter-subjective relationships in the field occupy, or might occupy, in our discipline.

While living in India, Tommaso participated in two project meetings together with the other project members, and attended a workshop convened by the Anthropological Survey of India in Bhopal, where issues related to village restudies have been discussed.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Amrita SHODHAN

Amrita presented a paper entitled ‘Panchayats and Caste in East India: Company Governance’ in a panel on ‘The Law, the State, and India’s Panchayats: Past and Present’ at the Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Boston, 2013.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Edward SIMPSON

Edward Simpson and Marloes Janson hosted a day-long workshop at SOAS. Roads, culture and history: inter-disciplinary crossroads. This event took place on Saturday 2nd of February 2013 with generous Seed Funding from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at SOAS. Those invited to participate in the event were anthropologists, geographers, historians and economists. We also invited road-builders and engineers. The result of this unusual mix was lively and interesting discussion throughout the day. We hope that the workshop will mark the start of a greater programme of research on the global cultures of infrastructure development in South Asia and Africa.

Throughout the academic year, Edward Simpson has continued as Principal Investigator on a major ESRC project: “Rural change and anthropological knowledge in post-colonial India: A comparative ‘restudy’ of F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David Pocock.” The project hosted a double panel at the European Association of South Asian Studies in Lisbon in July 2012. Professor Adrian Mayer demonstrated that he can still captivate an audience. The project’s doctoral researchers on the project, Alice Tilche, Tommaso Sbriccoli and Tina Otten, are coming into the second of their twelve-month research stints in villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (India). In January of 2013, all members of the research team travelled across India to visit the three field sites. The project is planning a year ahead of events, film screenings and publications.

Emeritus Professor Adrian Mayer returned to his work on ‘Indo-Fijians’ some sixty years after he first started the research. He published an account of this revisited as ‘Rip Van Winkle in Fiji’ in the Australian Humanities Review (52, 2012). This piece appears more than fifty years after his classic monograph Peasants in the Pacific (1963).

Edward SIMPSON

In December Gurharpal Singh was selected as a panelist for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees sponsored ‘Roundtable on Dialogue and Protection Challenges’. The sub-panel focused on the contribution of faith-based organisations to the new protections challenges facing refugees in the developed and developing countries. This event was followed by participation in a conference hosted by Genova for Human Rights (GHR) ‘Expert Seminar on Freedom of Religion and Belief’ attended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom. In this conference the panel was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion on the perspectives of religious organisations on religious freedom.

This year, Gurharpal has had to cancel a number of high profile events owing to this pressure of work. He is however delighted to report that as result of working with colleagues in the CSAS, we were able to establish the SOAS Institute of India-empirical-evaluation in a conference sponsored by the SOAS Institute of India-empirical-evaluation, March 2013.

Alice TILCHE

From April 2012 through to March 2013 Alice Tilche has been conducting fieldwork as part of the ESRC project: “Rural change and anthropological knowledge in post-colonial India: A comparative ‘restudy’ of F.G. Bailey, Adrian C. Mayer and David Pocock.” Alice worked among the Patidar community of central Gujarat, in the same village where David Pocock conducted fieldwork sixty years ago. Working on the footsteps of an ‘ancestor’ opened up unique dialogues on intergenerational memory, and on the changing life of the village today. During her research, Alice explored the key themes of marriage, identity and international migration. As in the 1950’s, a ‘good marriage’ continues to be a crucial aspect of ‘being Patidar’ in rural Gujarat. The criteria for selecting brides and grooms have however changed, in relation to demographic shifts, new values of education, the desirability of marriage, and the composition to have a ‘job’ and to migrate abroad. Besides participating in routine and special events (marriages, festivals, the agadi and the elections), Alice worked on updating personal information dating from the 1950’s through life stories and in-depth interviews. Through interviews with members of the Patidar community and with Patidar cultural, economic, educational and religious organisation, Alice also explored the wider connections that link the village (and the Patidar community in particular) to the region and the wider world. Alice also worked on a documentary film that reflects on the most salient themes of her research - the unsuccessful struggles of a village boy to find a bride and migrate abroad.
Amina YAQN

Amina Yaqin received Faculty strategic funding in 2012 for a seed corn project on ‘Multicultural Textualities’. MT consists of a research group of inter-collegiate UK literary scholars. The project is a new development in the study of contemporary literature since it brings to bear the hermeneutic and theoretical methodologies of literary studies - materialism, psychoanalysis, semiotics etc. - but also seeks to include insights and approaches from sociology, social psychology, and media and communication studies. Our major presentation this year was a panel entitled ‘Multicultural Textualities: A Panel of Position Papers’. The panel was entitled ‘The Textual Politics of Multiculturalism. Secularism and World Literature’ at the ‘Crafts of World Literature’ conference at the University of Oxford in September 2012. In the Spring term, a round table discussion was held with Professor Paul Gilroy at SOAS on the 24th of April 2013 to discuss in particular his ideas of convivial cultures, planetary and cosmopolitics. We are working toward a major grant proposal.

Amina is a major collaborator for the Muslims, Trust and Cultural Dialogue (2012-2015) and will analyse the conditions of trust and mistrust in three overlapping areas of modern life: politics and society; business and finance; and art and culture. Our first major conference was held in June this year on ‘Multiculturalism and Trust: New Directions’ at SOAS which included keynote lectures by Professor Taiin Modood and Lord Bhiku Parekh.

CONFERENCES


PUBLICATIONS


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

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Ms Maha HOSAIN AZIZ

ASSOCIATES

Kavita RAMDYA
Kavita Ramdyas’s experience teaching a monthly lecture series “Literature of the Indian Subcontinent” has been an inspiring one - all due to her ‘students’, a diverse group of alumni, current students, members of the community and lovers of India and its culture.

The series was not a required course and is ungraded, yet every month the same familiar faces and a few new ones join the discussion, all motivated to meet like-minded individuals and discuss the country and literature they love. Needless to say, teaching at SOAS has been one of the most rewarding experiences she had in an academic setting.

Francesca RECCHIA
Francesca Recchia has spent most of the period comprised between September 2012 and August 2013 conducting research in Kabul for her forthcoming book on daily life of contemporary cultural practitioners in the capital of Afghanistan. The book, titled The Little Book of Kabul, is expected to be published by the end of 2013 by Foxhead Publishers (USA).

She has been invited as a Visiting Lecturer (MA) in Intercultural Studies, Department of Policy Analysis and Public Management, Università Bocconi, Milan (April – June 2013). Her course focused at multiple geographic contexts of conflict and war, and examined the role that cultural practices play in terms of reinforcement and resistance, oppression and counter-narratives.

In May 2013 Francesca gave a public lecture at the Università Bocconi, Milan on the musealisation of trauma and the use of museum displays for identity formation in countries in conflict. In early June, she was invited to the University of Turin where she gave a lecture on the rhetoric of tourism in countries in conflict. A paper on art practices in countries in conflict has been selected for the forthcoming RCS conference on Visual and Performing Arts in Conflict.

She is currently coordinating the 4th Afghan Contemporary Art Prize, an educational programme for young Afghan artists promoted by Turquoise Mountain, a British Charity engaged in revitalisation of Afghan craft and urban regeneration.

In the last year she has continued her collaboration with Domus, a design and architecture journal, writing several articles including a long feature on the impact of militarisation on urban planning in Kashmirit.

Sumit ROY
Sumit Roy presented the followings talks:
- India, a ‘Rising Power’ and Africa: challenges', Seminar, CSAI, SOAS, 16th January 2013.

PUBLICATIONS
Roy, Sumit, ‘Global governance, the EU and India: challenges’, special issue on India-EU relationship, Foreign Policy Research Centre Journal, January 2013; Delhi, India
Roy, Sumit, ‘Facets of global governance in a changing world’, West Bengal Political Science Review, Winter 2013, Kolkata, India

Sunil SHARMA
Sunil Sharma was a Research Associate in the Centre of South Asian Studies from 6 March until 12 April 2013. During this period, he mainly conducted research at the SOAS library and The British Library.

On 14 March 2013, he presented a talk entitled “The Errant Eye and Mughal Pastoral Poetry” on his current area of research. As a result of this, Sunil met with several individuals at SOAS, including students, to discuss various subjects of academic interest. He also attended a couple of seminars. He used the SOAS library extensively, where he found several books and journals that were not available elsewhere.

Along with Dr Francesca Orsini and Dr Roy Fischel, Sunil organised a two-workshop-like sessions where they read and discussed an eighteenth-century Indo-Persian text. All in all, Sunil’s time at SOAS was very fruitful and allowed him to make considerable progress on his new project.

Yuthika SHARMA
Yuthika Sharma presented a paper entitled, “Plageantry, Performance, or Place-making? The Processional panoramas of Akbar II in British Delhi 1806–37” in a panel on “Ceremonial and the City” at the 39th Annual Conference of Association of Art Historians, Reading, UK held April 11-13, 2013.

MSc Comparative Political Thought

Starting September 2013

Duration: One calendar year (full-time); Two or three years (part-time, daytime only)

Who is this programme for?

The programme is designed for graduate students who wish to learn about the diverse strands of political thinking in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and the different approaches to comparison in political thought. It is highly relevant to students who wish to embark on doctoral studies in the area of non-Western political thought. It is also relevant for practitioners working in or intending to work in governments, international organisations, think tanks and advocacy groups who wish to acquire deeper knowledge of ideas and values that inform political practices in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The MSc in Comparative Political Thought builds on SOAS’s wealth of regional expertise to offer a new approach to cross-regional comparison of political thinking. It reframes the study of political thought in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as a study of political ideas and political practices. The programme introduces students to the key approaches, debates, and questions in the emerging sub-discipline of comparative political thought. Covering a range of thinkers, traditions and texts, in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, it provides learning opportunities for students to compare ideas and values across regions and historical periods. The MSc in Comparative Political Thought will enable graduate students to undertake further advanced study and research in political thought, as well as enhance skills suitable for employment in multicultural and international professional contexts.

For more information and application procedures visit: www.soas.ac.uk/politics/programmes/msc-comparative-political-thought/
Seminars and Workshops

SEMINAR SERIES

15 October 2012
Frances Harrison (Author)

The Untold War

16 November 2012
Dr Alia Philipson (Post-doctoral researcher, Institute of Political Studies, Sciences Po)

Whipped, Plundered and Murdered: The Soft factor in Pakistani Islamism

16 January 2013
Dr Sumit Roy (School of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India)

India, a 'Rising Power' and Africa: Challenges

21 January 2013
Dr Shihan Desilva (Institute of Commonwealth Studies

Encounters, Cultural Flows and Hybridity in the Indian Ocean

24 May 2013
Arshia Sattar (Independent Scholar)

Translating Ramayana

27 June 2013
Pratyoush Onta (Martin Chautari, University of Nepal)

21 March 2013
Somnath Batabyal

Claiming back indigenous theater: the Saangit, Bihat and Nautanki traditions of North India

21 February 2013
Vikram Seth

Vikram Seth: Speaking of India

6 March 2013
Pratibha Ray

Indian Streams in the English language

10 December 2012
Anand Patwardhan (Director)

Jai Bhim Comrade

Jai Bhim Comrade: A Soundtrack of Ali Akbar Khan’s Music

The Grateful Dead’s Mickey Hart, blues musician, came to terms with playing an enduring old music in a disposable new age.

Ends are in his beginnings and that he must answer questions at the end. The discussion was chaired by Richard Widness (SOAS).

Play Like a Lion

Joshua Mallers (Director)

On the evening of 18 October the Centre hosted a film screening of the acclaimed film, Play Like a Lion. The audience were fortunate to have the Director, Joshua Mallers answer questions at the end.

The annual day of presentations about Asia for sixth form students organized by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs (RSAA) and SOAS, London University was held on 21 November 2012 in the Logan Lecture Theatre, The Institute of Education, London University. The venue had to be changed at very short notice due to political agitation over current events in Gaza and so the SOAS staff are to be congratulated on this achievement.

There were present 215 people who were school students, the majority studying for A2 or AS exams but also some GCSE and mature students and some teachers. The others present were members of the RSAA.

A notable delight was the attendance of girls from the Danahaus High School, Singapore who were on a tour of England and came for the day.

The day was chaired by Mr. Ashok, 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 Mark Tokola, Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs at the American Embassy who talked to the title of “America and Asia.” Mr. Tokola was recently Deputy Chargé d’affaires in mission in Seoul and has had postings in Mongolia, the E.U and London, Iraq and Bosnia.

In his presentation he discussed the connections between America and various Asian States with particular reference to the development of democracy and of reduction in poverty.

Mr. Tokola then discussed very frankly various questions and points from the audience.

The next section was the very popular “language lassoo”. Because of the change of venue it was only possible to have one language tutorial, Mandarin, taken by Luc Suen of SOAS.

She managed to keep the whole audience happily occupied for an hour learning Mandarin by getting them to play various language games. She placed a girl from the Singapore school (all therefore having a good knowledge of Mandarin) with each group of four or five English students to act as tutors thus ensuring good mixing.

After this Professor Jon Sidel spoke about “Indonesia and Islam”. Jon is Professor of International Studies at the London School of Economics and has written extensively about the Philippines, Indonesia and South East Asia. He introduced the audience to the history and geography of Indonesia, the fourth largest country and the largest Islamic democracy.

87% of the population believe in a Muslim. His discourse brilliantly drew many themes together with pertinent illustrations and provided the basis for thoughtful questions and discussion.

The first speaker after lunch was Natalie Lechanova. She is a Country risk analyzer for Standard Chartered Bank having previously worked for the OECD and as financial economist at the Bank of England. Her comprehensive delivery and clear, understandable graphs and charts meant the audience followed her theme closely and questioned her accordingly.

Lou Connolly then spoke about “Serving in Afghanistan.” He is an Officer with the Gurkhas and serving at King’s College London and has served twice in Afghanistan. To explain the history of Afghanistan, recent political events, the nature of the Country before Russian involvement, then the Taliban and through post 9/11 to now, why there is military there and what it does is a tall order. He succeeded in doing this and put in perspective what British soldiers were trying and indeed achieving at a local level.

His youth, sincerity, enthusiasm and clarity were clearly communicated to the audience and questions and discussion were aimed at further understanding rather than being combative.

The last speaker of the day was Phu Quoc Wangplao who talked about “Tibet Today.” He started by asking the audience if anyone present had met a Tibetan; answer: no one! This immediately caught the audience’s attention. He discussed in a very level way the political problems concerning Tibet, the Chinese view and the Dalai Lama’s approach, emphasizing that with time both were changing.

Each of the days’ talks was followed by lively, informal and well informed discussion between audience and speaker. The day finished with Mr. Steger thanking the speakers, those who had participated in discussion and the staff of SOAS for their help, in particular Jane Savory and Rahima Begum. Standard Chartered Bank provided sponsorship for the day.
On 22 November Professor Michael Hutt hosted the roundtable discussion on Human rights and human wrongs during Nepal’s political transition. Organised by the Britain-Nepal Academic Council the roundtable discussion included Justice Mr. Kalyan Shrestha, who has been continuously serving as a Justice of the Supreme Court in Nepal since 2005.

This collection of short stories by a new author from Sikkim has been widely and positively reviewed in the Guardian. Times of India etc., and the Centre was delighted to host its launch in the UK.

Michael Hutt, who chaired the event, said that he had read most of the stories in the collection and had very much enjoyed meeting their central characters, especially Kail the servant girl with her Bollywood dreams, Munnu the Muslim Kalingoni shoekeeper and his light-fingered young customer, Supriya and her father Prabin as they negotiate their relationship in Gangtok, Babubhai’s wife, Fatimaben, and her dalliance with Mr Bhattarai next to a Bhutanese refugee camp, the Gujhar’s daughters and their differing fortunes in Karnataka, and Rakesh’s mother giving a glimpse into the spiritual legacy of the Sidis through the Parsi devotees of Bava Gor.

Prajwal Parajuly read two extracts from his book, and Mona Chettri, a SOAS research student from Sikkim who studied at the same college as the author, led off on the Q&A session. After the floor was opened for a lively and interesting discussion.

The event attracted an audience of approximately 90 people, and ended with a drinks reception provided by Quebecus, the book’s publisher.

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The event attracted an audience of approximately 90 people, and ended with a drinks reception provided by Quebecus, the book’s publisher.
In the early 1990s, approximately 100,000 ethnic Nepalis left their homes in southern Bhutan and migrated to UNHCR-administered refugee camps in Nepal. 20 years later, none had been repatriated to Bhutan but more than half had accepted offers of resettlement in third countries. The process of third country resettlement is now well advanced, with 63,000 resettled in a large number of scattered locations across the USA and smaller numbers in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and the UK.

Research among resettled Bhutanese refugees is in its infancy and most researchers are working in isolation. The purpose of this workshop was to provide them with an opportunity to share their understandings and perspectives, and for the convenors to identify themes and topics that would lend themselves to an international research project.

A seedcorn grant from the Faculty of Languages and Cultures and the generous financial support received from the Foundation Open Society Institute enabled us to invite contributors to this workshop from Nepal, Canada, Australia, the USA and the Netherlands, and also to invite representatives of the UK resettled community in Manchester to share their perspectives with us.

Many of the papers focused on various aspects of the phenomenon of Bhutanese refugee resettlement in different locations, including Richmond (Shreja Balarajain), Erik (Joe Stadler), Pittsburgh (Eleanor Ott), Austin (Heather Hindman) and Manchester (Mani Thapa, Loknath Bagai, Ramesh Chmi, Ajay Thapa, Ti Sharma, Roz Eustis), while others cast a critical gaze on resettlement policy in the USA (Dani Grigsby) and the UK (Nicole Hosteller). Gopal Guragain described relations between local Nepalis and those Bhutanese refugees who remain in the camps in Nepal. Liana Chase discussed resilience among refugees in the USA against the backdrop of an alarmingly high incidence of suicides. Susan Banks raised questions about the likely persistence of homeland activism among resettled refugees in Australia and elsewhere, and Elia Gia车身 described the impact of resettlement upon social practices such as marriage. Questions of cultural and political identity and generational change loomed large in many of our discussions, and we hope that these and other topics will become the focus for further research among resettled Bhutanese refugees in the years to come.

I would like to thank my research student, Mona Chetri for shouldering the administrative burden of this workshop so cheerfully, and Jane, Rahima and Dorinne in the Centres and Programmes office for their kind and efficient support.

Mike Hutt

The CSAS is sometimes in a position to support staff and doctoral students with their research through a small grants scheme. The first round of this scheme was introduced in 2013 to support a research project or part thereof, or to disseminate research at a conference; to finish and publish research; or for seed funding to test out the viability of a larger project.

www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/research/cassawards/
SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH

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OBITUARY FOR PROFESSOR J.D.M. DERRETT
(By Professor Werner Menski, SOAS, University of London)

Professor John Duncan Martin Derrett (DCL, PHD, LLD 130.8.1922 - 21.10.2012), a barrister and for a long time the major expert in the Western world on Hindu law and the laws of India, passed away at the age of 90 in his London home, 21.10.2012.

Duncan Derrett had a long and distinguished career in the study of South Asian law, literature and religion, from which he is well known in particular as a leading literary critic, in particular in Hindi literature. He was a great scholar to the study of South Asian law and religion. His work on Hindu law, especially in his early years, was the basis for the work of later scholars, including his two major books, An Introduction to Modern Hindu Law (London: Oxford UP 1963) and A Critical Re-evaluation of their Uses and Interpretations

Duncan Derrett was born in London in 1922, and died in London in 2012. He was the son of the late Sir Duncan Derrett, KCMG, who was the first British High Commissioner in India, and was educated at City of London School and Jesus College, Cambridge. After graduation, he worked as a barrister and for a long time the major expert in the Western world on Hindu law and the laws of India. After retirement from SOAS, he was Professor of Oriental Studies in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where he was Professor of Oriental Studies from 1965. In 1968, he became engaged in intensive research on complex, often controversial questions of theology and comparative religion. His critical scholarly analysis upset quite a few scholars through his significant findings that Christian and religious traditions were to some extent influenced by Buddhist and early Hindu concepts.

What is described by those around him as ‘the other side of Duncan’s scholarship’ will particularly interest people at SOAS, as his collected works in four volumes, Essays and Disciplinary Boundaries of Hindi Literature in the Early Twentieth Century will particularly interest people at SOAS, as his collected works in four volumes, Essays and Disciplinary Boundaries of Hindi Literature in the Early Twentieth Century, are forthcoming from Routledge. His critical scholarly analysis upset quite a few scholars through his significant findings that Buddhist and religious traditions were to some extent influenced by Buddhist and early Hindu concepts.

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UDL-2013 saw the Centre for the Study of Pakistan continue to build its profile as a Research Centre with an Annual lecture, screenings, and graduate student activity. We also raised some funds for our Annual lecture by collaborations with the Pakistan High Commission and the Rangana Fowwala Foundation. The Centre was also part of a successful collaborative funding bid to the RCUK. The Centre’s first Annual Lecture was delivered by Professor Ayesha Jalal, of Tufts University, who spoke on the renowned Urdu writer, Saadat Hasian Manto writing on a biographical focus to develop her central argument of “The Pity of Partition”. This was a timely intervention in a centenary year for Manto and was drawn from Professor Jalal’s biography of Manto subsequently published by Princeton University Press in 2013. Professor Jalal also engaged in an open conversation with graduate students and faculty at SOAS working in the field of South Asian Studies. Manto continues to inspire a new generation of SOAS students and a theatrical production of “Tales of 1947”, directed by one of our undergraduate students Marta Schmidt with moving live music brought a creative and artistic dimension to the Centre’s fold.

Our seminar series included talks by Dr Humeira Iqtidar (Harvard University) in conversation with Dr Asad Ali (Harvard University) on “Return of a King - The Battle for Afghanistan” 24 January 2013, Dr Matthew Nelson (SOAS, University of London) on “Does ‘Democracy’ Mean Different Things in Pakistan, India, and the UK?” 5 February 2013, and Dr James Caron (SOAS, London) on “William Dalrymple (Author / Princeton University)” 7 February 2013. The Centre welcomes new Research Associates, Professor Amrit Hussain and Professor Imran Ali. We are also delighted to have signed an MOU with LUMS and look forward to working closely with our colleagues in Pakistan.

I am very grateful to members of the Centre’s steering committee for their support and contribution throughout the year and to our administrative team in the Centre and Programmes office without whom none of our activities would be possible. I wish to extend my appreciation to Nick Butler for his timely support this year. A special mention goes to Evan Hancock and his team in the Careers office for working tirelessly on the internships programme for students on the MA in the Study of Contemporary Pakistan.

The Centre is unique in the UK and at SOAS we have a depth of scholars working in the region across disciplines. We are developing a resource pool in the Centre that is of significance to colleagues, the wider academic world and local communities. I have learned a lot from colleagues, both internal to SOAS and external and I am encouraged by their support for the Centre. Our challenge for the immediate future is to continue building our collaborations and partnerships and bid for new projects that will sustain the Centre in future years and take us toward new directions.

Amina Yaqin

From left: Anees Razzak, Amina Yaqin, Ian Talbot, Ayesha Jalal, James Caron, Paaras Abbas

STUDY Of pAKISTAN

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Amina Yaqin

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Professor Imran ALI

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Professor Ayesha JALAL

TUFTS University

ajl@soas.ac.uk

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Dr Matthew MCCARTNEY

Oxford University

Economics, development, political economy of India and Pakistan since 1947; the state and late industrialisation, the fundamental and proximate determinants of economic growth

matthew.mccartney@oas.ox.ac.uk

EVENT LISTING

31 October 2012

Launch of Critical Muslim 04: Pakistan?

15 November 2012

Critical forum with SOAS research and faculty on 'Pakistan and Sovereignties'

Professor Ayesha JALAL (TUFTS)

15 November 2012

Sponsored by Pakistan High Commission Centre for the Study of Pakistan Annual Lecture

Professor Ayesha JALAL (TUFTS)

The Pity of Partition, Manto’s Life, Times and Work across the India-Pakistan Divide

23 November 2012

Sponsored by Hurst Publishers Round Table

Pakistan: Past Perspectives, Future Challenges

Professor Ian Talbot (Southampton University), Professor Anatol Lieven (Kings College London), Dr Sarah Ansari and Dr James Caron (SOAS)

Chair: Professor Gurharpal Singh (SOAS)

23 March 2013

Cohosted with Tongues on Fire

Sponsored by Oxfam

Khamosh Pani

Sahba Sarmadi (Director)

21 March 2013

Cohosted with the Muslims, Trust and Cultural Dialogue - a collaboration with the Dialogue Society, SOAS and UEL

Speakers included: Abby (Semitic Art London), Aneel Ahitar (Director), Samosai, Kristiane Backer (Writer and Television Presenter) and Mahdum Chisty (Commander, London Metropolitan Police)

1-2 June 2013

Cohosted with the Muslims, Trust and Cultural Dialogue

Conference

Muslims, Multiculturalism and Trust: New Directions

Participants include: Rehana Ahmed, Valerie Amnaeva, Claire Chambers, Sahal Dautzali, Rumy Haider, Salah Hassan, Tony Laden, Alana Lentin, Nasar Meen, Tanish Modood, Anvar Sattar, Peter Moyez, Stephen Morton, Jorgen Nielsen, Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Amina Yaqin

2013

EvCENTrE fOr ThE STUDY OF pAKISTAN

SEminARS

4 October 2012

Dr Umbreen Javaid (Punjab University, Lahore)

Rising Religious Militancy in Pakistan: Genesis and Consequences

13 October 2012

Dr Humera Iqbal (King’s College London) in conversation with Dr Asad Ali (Harvard University)

Secularising Islamists?

6 December 2012

Alice Albinia (Writer) in conversation with Victoria Schofield (MA, Senior member, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Associate, Pakistan Security Research Unit, University of Bradford)

Empires of the Indus: The Story of a River

17 January 2013

Ammara Masqoop (University of Oxford) on

Consuming Modernity: Religious Consumption, the West and Emerging Middle-Class Culture in Lahore, Pakistan

24 January 2013

Dr Matthew Nelson (SOAS, University of London) on

‘Diaspora’ Democracy’s Mean Different Things in Pakistan, India, and the UK?

5 February 2013

William Dalrymple (Author / Princeton University) on

Return of a King - The Battle for Afghanistan

7 February 2013

Dr James Caron (SOAS, University of London) on

Informality, Islam, and Public Opinion on the Inter-Peripheries of South Asia

23 March 2013

Dr Abu-Bakar Ali on

‘Without Him Life seemed like a void’ - Romance, Agency and the Play of Imagination in Qaisa Shafraz’s The Holy Woman

14 March 2013

Robert Ivermee on

State and community revisited Islamic education in later nineteenth century Punjab
End of Fellowship Report  
Charles Wallace Pakistan Fellowship 2012-2013
Dr Najaeba Arif  
(Intermediate Islamic University, Islamabad)

I never have been. I travelled to London. It was like diving the Desert Rivers of Urud Travelogues, Notes and Letters (1757-1759). The topic of my research was: The West in South Asian Muslim Discourse: A Study of contemporary India. I got access to many interesting seminars and conferences in SOAS, University College of London (UCL), and London School of Economics (LSE) which helped me to extend my academic and intellectual interest in larger contexts. One of such examples would be the seminar titled ‘Negotiating Gender & Caste in the Postcolonial Body’ which these cities exposed me. During this period I participated in many interesting seminars and conferences in SOAS, University College of London (UCL), and London School of Economics (LSE) which helped me to extend my academic and intellectual interest in larger contexts. One of such examples would be the seminar titled ‘Negotiating Gender & Caste in the Postcolonial Body’ which these cities exposed me.

I would like to pay my gratitude to the Charles Wallace India Fellowships (CWIT) at SOAS, London for awarding me the prestigious fellowship for the year 2012-13. For me as a Charles Wallace fellow for 2012-12 at SOAS, London, has been both intellectually and culturally most empowering experience. The stay, which filled me immensely with intellectually rewarding experience, sadly lasted only for two months (May to July). The intellectually exciting stay showed me with a warm and lovely weather that made London one of the most exciting cities in the United Kingdom. During my short-lived stay I visited various places of immense repute such as the British Museum, Science Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, the London film Museum, National Gallery, the Saatchi Gallery, the British Parliament, and the London Eye. I truly believe this experience has enriched my academic growth as well as cultural life. While walking on the London Roads particularly in central London seeing ‘London plaques’ and revisiting cultural heritage and restaurants. This enriching experience made me realize that London is truly an international city that nests with rich and diversified cultures representing various parts of the world. During my stay I did not confine myself to the university library, the Bard Library, the British Library, and when universities of great repute of the UK such as Oxford, Cambridge, and London such places which clearly reflected from his interactions with us. Dialogue with Prof. Michael Hutt was also intellectually encouraging. I am really thankful of the Center and the Programmes Office at SOAS. Ms. Jane Savory has been of immense help, ever ready to answer my queries. Thank you Ms. Jane Savory! Thanks are also due to the staff members of Ms. Jane’s office for facilitating CWIT process. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Richard Aford, Secretary, Charles Wallace India Trust, who has been of a very great support during my stay. I was amazed at the amount of the information, interest, engagement, that Mr. Richard Aford invests in fellows. I had the pleasure of many warm interactions with Mr. Aford during my visits and he always looked out for me with care.

The two months stay which I believe is very short to explore the truly vibrant and cosmopolitan city of London which is intellectually as well as academically stimulating city. During my stay I used the British Library and SOAS library regularly. One of the most notable things that I found in the British Library was its preservation of old manuscripts, historically significant documents. Shakespeare’s own first folio, and immense collection of books I also went through the rich collection of various books and reports maintained and preserved painstakingly by the section ‘India Office records’ which introduced me to the vast collection on contemporary colonial administration and its perception of rules and regulation in the context of contemporary India. I got access to various manuscripts and policy documents as well as private papers which helped me to understand the recognition of various social groups through administrative categories in India.

During this period I participated in many interesting seminars and conferences in SOAS, University College of London (UCL), and London School of Economics (LSE) which helped me to extend my academic and intellectual interest in larger contexts. One of such examples would be the seminar titled ‘Negotiating Gender & Caste in the Postcolonial Body’ which these cities exposed me. During this period I participated in many interesting seminars and conferences in SOAS, University College of London (UCL), and London School of Economics (LSE) which helped me to extend my academic and intellectual interest in larger contexts....
The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) is a PhD-led initiative founded in March 2013 and currently run by three SOAS PhD students: Najia Makhtar (Politics), Francesca Fuoli (History) and Johann Chacko (Politics).

The aim of the MUSA is to provide an international networking and research-exchange platform for research students and early career researchers working on Muslim societies in South Asia. The focus of the forum is interdisciplinary and encompasses societies in South Asia. The focus of the early career researchers working on Muslim law in South Asia. The MUSA Launch Event was funded by the SOAS Doctoral School and the CSAS.

MUSA held its Launch Event and first networking event at SOAS on 9 May 2013. The evening reported an excellent turnout, with around 50-60 PhD students and academics coming from SOAS, LSE, King’s College and other major London universities. Professor Werner Menski introduced the event by giving an inspiring address about the importance of researching Muslim law in South Asia. The MUSA Launch Event was funded by the SOAS Doctoral School and the CSAS.

Currently, the MUSA committee is organizing the first Muslim South Asia Annual Graduate Conference, to be hosted at SOAS on 28 October 2013. The conference aims to bring together at SOAS young scholars and academics to showcase fresh research and thinking in this field and contributing towards making SOAS a centre for vibrant and innovative research.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/MusaResearchForum

RESEARCH STUDENTS SEP 2012- AUG 2013

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

Sandyha BALASUBRAMANYAM
Rent Creation, Political Clientelism and the Indian Telecom Sector
Supervisor: Professor Musthafa KHAN

Priyanka BASU
Title TBC
Supervisor: Professor Francesca Osnini, Dr Nick GRAY and Professor Rachael DIWYER

Adam BENKATO
The Marichaen - Sogdian Parable book. Text edition and literary analysis
Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE

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

Rupa CHAKRABORTY
Sylhet: A comparison between Standard Bengali and one of its major regional forms
Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

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

Mona CHETTI
Identity Politics in the Eastern Himalayas
Supervisor: Professor Michael HUTT

Debojoti Das
Contested Development: Problems and Dilemmas in Sustainable Jhum
Redevelopment in Nagaland
Supervisor: Professor David MOSSIE

Tara DESJARDINS
Studies on Mughal Glass
Supervisor: Professor Anna CONTADINI

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

Prayaa DHITAL
Paper Chains: An Investigation of Translingual Commerce in North Indian Print Media
Supervisor: Dr Rachana 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 Sina and Abhinavagupta
Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG and Dr Whitney COX

Anais da FONSECA
The Exploration of the idea of Emanation through the Comparison between the Islamic and Indian Philosophies with Special Reference to Ibn Sina and Abhinavagupta
Supervisor: Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG and Dr Whitney COX

Wen-Lun HUANG
The Challenge of ‘Anomie’: Issues of Identity for Christian Converts from Islam in Pakistan
Supervisor: Dr Subh Sinha

Timothy GREEN
Institutional Models to Resolve Conflicts over Natural resource governance in India: The Role of Solidarity Economy
Supervisors: Dr Kate ZEBIRI and Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG

Syed Aasif HAIDER
Muslim modernities on the Hindi Screen
Supervisor: Professor Rachael DIWYER

Eleanor HALSSELL
German Orientalism, Indian Occidentalism: cinematic collaboration up to 1939
Supervisor: Professor Rachael DIWYER

Kendel HANNS BOJERN
The role of Anti-Terrorism legislation- The case study of recent Indian experience
Supervisor: Dr A FISCHER

Wai-Lun HUANG
The two-level games of policy network and regional institutions: a network analysis of India’s foreign economic policy, 1991-2011
Supervisor: Professor Lawrence SAEZ

Dhivya JANARTHANAN
Antropology of Space and Dominance in Southern India
Supervisor: Professor David MOSSIE

Prinmah Kate JENKINS
Organising Transnational Yoga: Institutionalization, Globalization and the Self
Supervisor: Dr Peter FLUGEL

Akhi KATYAL
Same-Sex Desire and Ideas of the Self in Modern India
Supervisor: Dr Ama YAJIN

Adheeba KHAN
Democracy in the context of clientelism: the impact of electoral laws in Bangladesh
Supervisor: Dr A Fischer

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

Mehbod KHANZADEH
The Avesta and Pahlavi versions of the Horn Yasht
Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE

Preeti KHOlsa
A Study of the Visual Language of the Indigenous Styles of Book Painting in North India during the Sultanate period (1414-1525 AD)
Supervisors: Professor Doris Behrens ABOUSEIF

Sajith HOONAN
Realising the Right to Sanitation in India: A Study of Conceptual Framework and Implementation Challenges
Supervisors: Professor P. CULLET

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

Lidia Zariana LEWANDOWSKA-NAYAR
Place and role of Narottama Dasa Thakura in the development of Bengali Vaishnavism
Supervisor: Dr William RADICE

Zaad MAHMood
Determinants of labour reform in India
Supervisor: Professor Lawrence SAEZ

Emma Martin
Charles Bell: A Collector in Tibet
Supervisor: Dr Crispin Branfoot
Rastin MENHRI
The Zionardsn 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

Neda MOHTASHAMI
Studies in the Pāñjābī version of the Yaṣna
Supervisor: Professor Almut HINTZE

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

Srunthi MURALEDHARAN
Symbolic Encounters: Identity, performance and democratic subjectivity in India
Supervisors: Dr Rochana BAJPAI and Dr Rahul BAO

Samani Prabhia Prayga
Peékā Dhyāna: History and Practice
Supervisor: Dr Peter FLÜGEL

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

Rashi ROHATGI
Ablimation and the World of Mauritian Hindi Poetry
Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI and Dr Kai EASON

Palavi ROY
Competitive Clientelism and its effects on Learning: A Case Study of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in India
Supervisor: Musthjaq KHAN

Jaqueline SANGHERA
Hindu, Urdu and Punjabi literature written by women on Post – Partition Delhi, UP, Punjab and Lahore: 1949-1959
Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Patricia SAUTHOFF
Open secrets and the retention of power in 10th to 13th century Kashmir Sāivism
Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Shamalia SARWAR
The life and works of the twentieth century Pakistani Islamic mystic, Suh Aba Anees Baktal Ali (d. 1997), and the origins and development of the Ḥanāqīyah 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

Soojha SIDDIQUE
Remembering the Revolt of 1857
Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI

Privadarshini SINGH
Title TBC
Supervisor: Dr Matthew NELSON and Dr Rochana BAJPAI

Chinmay SHARMA
The Mahābhārata re-constructions from South Asia: Mapping the field of cultural reproduction of an epic
Supervisor: Francesca ORSINI, Dr Nick GRAY and Professor Rachel DIWYER

Federica SONA
In the shadow of uniformity: Muslim marriages in Europe
Supervisor: Professor Werner F MENSKI

Alice TILCHE
Struggling with culture in an Adiwais 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

Sahil WARSI
Cultivating Hamidbastagi and Hamardi: Personhood and Relatedness among Afghans in India
Supervisor: Professor Magnus MARSĐEN

Bryony WHITMARSH
The Narayanhiti Palace Museum: Memory, Power and National Identity
Supervisor: Professor Michael HUTT

Arash ZEINI
The Pāñjābī version of the Yasna Haptanghaiti
Supervisor: Dr Francesca ORSINI and Professor Rachel DIWYER

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