

South Asia Newsletter



Centre of South Asian Studies

www.soas.ac.uk/csas/

No 70

October 2008

Forthcoming events at SOAS this term:

Lecture Series: Love's Subtle Magic: An Indian Islamic Literary Tradition, 1379–1545

Further details on [Page 7](#)



Knowledge Production And Pedagogy In Colonial India: Missionaries, Orientalists, And Reformers In Institutional Contexts Conference

Further details on [Page 12](#)

**SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES
and
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART
& ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINARS**

Term 3 Seminar Series

Further details on [Pages 9 and 14](#)



Seminar: Tribal Transitions:
New Research in the Eastern Himalayas

Further details on [Page 10](#)



Filmmaker Surabhi Sharma presents and discusses three of her highly acclaimed documentaries.

Further details on [Page 6](#)

CENTRE MEMBERS

Professor Ravi AHUJA PHD(HEIDELBERG) (DHABIL(HANNOVER))
Professor of Modern South Asian History
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies
Department of History ra33@soas.ac.uk

Dr Daud ALI BA(WILLIAM & MARY) MA PHD(CHICAGO)
Senior Lecturer in Early Indian History
Department of History da7@soas.ac.uk

Dr Rochana BAJPAI BA(BARODA) MA(JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIV) PHD(OXON)
Lecturer in the Politics of Asia/Africa
Department of Politics and International Studies
rb6@soas.ac.uk

Dr Crispin BRANFOOT BA(MANCHESTER) MA PHD(LONDON)
Lecturer in South Asian Art and Archaeology
Department of Art and Archaeology cb68@soas.ac.uk

Dr Whitney COX BA(VIRGINIA) MA PHD(CHICAGO)
Lecturer in Sanskrit
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
wc3@soas.ac.uk

Dr Kate CROSBY BA DPHIL(OXON)
Senior Lecturer in Buddhist Studies
Department of the Study of Religions kc21@soas.ac.uk

Dr Philippe CULLET LL.M.(LONDON) MA(LONDON) JSD(STANDFORD)
Reader in Law
School of Law pc38@soas.ac.uk

Dr Sonali DERANIYAGALA BA(CANTAB) MA(LONDON) DPHIL(OXON)
Lecturer in Economics
Department of Economics sd11@soas.ac.uk

Professor Rachel DWYER BA(LONDON) MPHIL(OXON) PHD(LONDON)
Professor of Indian Cultures and Cinema
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
rd3@soas.ac.uk

Dr Peter FLÜGEL MA DPHIL (MAINZ)
Teaching Fellow / Lecturer in the Study of Religions
Chair, Centre for Jaina Studies
Department of the Study of Religions
pf8@soas.ac.uk

Dr Jonathan GOODHAND BA PGCE(BIRMINGHAM) MSC PHD(MANCHESTER)
Senior Lecturer in Development Practice
Department of Development Studies
jg27@soas.ac.uk

Dr Almut HINTZE BA(HEIDELBERG) MPHIL(OXON) DPHIL(ERLANGEN)
DHABIL(BERLIN)
Reader in Zoroastrianism
Department of the Study of Religions ah69@soas.ac.uk

Dr Stephen P HUGHES BA(BATES COLL., LEWISTON) MA PHD(CHICAGO)
Lecturer in Social Anthropology
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
sh37@soas.ac.uk

Professor Michael J HUTT BA PHD(LONDON)
Professor of Nepali and Himalayan Studies
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
mh8@soas.ac.uk

Professor Mushtaq KHAN BA(OXON) MPHIL PHD(CANTAB)
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
mk17@soas.ac.uk

Mr Abul Hussain KHONDOKER
Lector in Bengali
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
ak81@soas.ac.uk

Dr Prabha KOTISWARAN BA LLB (NLSIU, BANGALORE, INDIA) LL.M SJD
(HARVARD)
Lecturer in Law
School of Law pk5@soas.ac.uk

Dr Sunil KUMAR BA(DELHI) MA(BRIDGEPORT) PHD(DURHAM NC)
Reader in Mediaeval Indian History
Department of History

Dr Martin W LAU MA PHD(LONDON)
Reader in Law
School of Law m11@soas.ac.uk

Dr Jens LERCHE MA PHD(COPENHAGEN)
Senior Lecturer in Development Studies
Department of Development Studies
j12@soas.ac.uk

Dr Angelika MALINAR MA PHD(TÜBINGEN)
Senior Lecturer in Hinduism
Department of the Study of Religions am97@soas.ac.uk

Dr Magnus MARSDEN BA PHD(CANTAB)
Lecturer in Social Anthropology with reference to South and
Central Asia
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
mm101@soas.ac.uk

Mr Nicholas MARTLAND
Librarian for South Asia, South East Asia & Pacific Studies
Library and Information Service nm28@soas.ac.uk

Dr Matthew MCCARTNEY BA(CANTAB) MPHIL(OXON)
Lecturer in Economics with reference to South Asia
Department of Economics mm80@soas.ac.uk

Professor Werner MENSKI MA(KIEL) PHD(LONDON)
Professor of South Asian Laws
School of Law wm4@soas.ac.uk

Mr Satoshi MIYAMURA BA(TOKYO) MA(HITOTSUBASHI) MSC(LONDON)
Teaching Fellow in Economics
Department of Economics sm97@soas.ac.uk

Professor David MOSSE BA DPHIL(OXON)
Professor of Social Anthropology
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
dm21@soas.ac.uk

Dr Atticus NARAIN

Post-Doctorial Fellow
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
an5@soas.ac.uk

Mr Rakesh NAUTIYAL BA MA(GARHWAL) LLB

Lector in Hindi
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
rn17@soas.ac.uk

Dr Matthew J NELSON BA(BOWDOIN) PHD(COLUMBIA)

Lecturer in the Politics of Asia/Africa
Department of Politics and International Studies
mn6@soas.ac.uk

Mr Paolo NOVAK MSC(LONDON)

Lecturer in Development Studies
Department of Development Studies pn4@soas.ac.uk

Dr Francesca ORSINI BA (VENICE) PHD(SOAS)

Reader in the Literatures of North India
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
fo@soas.ac.uk

Dr Caroline OSELLA BA PHD(LONDON)

Reader in Anthropology with reference to South Asia
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
co6@soas.ac.uk

Dr Ulrich PAGEL BA PHD(LONDON)

Reader in Language and Religion in Tibet and Middle Asia
Department of the Study of Religions up1@soas.ac.uk

Mr Krishna PRADHAN BA MA(TRIBHUVAN)

Lector in Nepali
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
kp15@soas.ac.uk

Ms Shital PRAVICHANDRA

Teaching Fellow in Postcolonial Studies
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
sp36@soas.ac.uk

Dr Theodore PROFERES BA(NEW YORK) MA PHD(HARVARD)

Senior Lecturer in Ancient Indian Religions
Department of the Study of Religions
tp17@soas.ac.uk

Dr William RADICE MA DPHIL(OXON)

Senior Lecturer in Bengali
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
wr@soas.ac.uk

Dr Parvathi RAMAN BA PHD(LONDON)

Lecturer in Social Anthropology
Chair, Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
pr1@soas.ac.uk

Professor Peter G ROBB BA(WELLINGTON) PHD(LONDON) FRHISTS

Professor of the History of India
Department of History pr4@soas.ac.uk

Dr Lawrence SAEZ BA(CALIFORNIA) MALD(FLETCHER) MA PHD(CHICAGO)

Senior Lecturer in Comparative and International Politics
Department of Politics and International Studies
ls4@soas.ac.uk

Dr Pasquale SCARAMOZZINO LAUREA(ROME) MSC PHD(LONDON)

Reader in Economics
Department of Financial and Management Studies
ps6@soas.ac.uk

Mr Naresh SHARMA

Senior Lector Hindi/Urdu
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
ns19@soas.ac.uk

Dr Edward SIMPSON BSOC.SCI(MANCHESTER) PHD(LONDON)

Lecturer in Social Anthropology
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
es7@soas.ac.uk

Dr Subir SINHA BA(DELHI) MA PHD(NORTHWESTERN)

Lecturer in Institutions and Development
Department of Development Studies
ss61@soas.ac.uk

Dr Tadeusz SKORUPSKI LTH(VATICAN) PHD(LONDON)

Reader in Buddhist Studies
Director, Centre of Buddhist Studies
Department of the Study of Religions ts1@soas.ac.uk

Dr Renata SÖHNEN-THIEME DRPHIL(MAINZ)

Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
rs2@soas.ac.uk

Dr Shabnum TEJANI BA(OBERLIN COLL) MA MPHIL PHD(COLUMBIA)

Lecturer in the History of Modern South Asia
Department of History st40@soas.ac.uk

Dr Hanne-Ruth THOMPSON

Lector in Bengali
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
hr@soas.ac.uk

Dr Simona VITTORINI BA(BOLOGNA) MA PHD(LONDON)

Lecturer in Politics of Development and Course Convenor for
State, People and Power in Asia and Africa
Department of Politics and International Studies
sv4@soas.ac.uk

Professor D Richard WIDDESS MUSB MA PHD(CANTAB) MA(LONDON)

Professor of Musicology
Department of Music rw4@soas.ac.uk

Dr Amina YAQIN BA(PUNJAB) BA(SUSSEX) PHD(LONDON)

Lecturer in Urdu and Postcolonial Studies
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia
ay@soas.ac.uk

Dr Cosimo ZENE BA MA PHD(LONDON)

Senior Lecturer in Theory and Methods in the Study of Religions
Department of the Study of Religions
zc@soas.ac.uk

STAFF NEWS

Letter from the Chair



We are many, we produce and we approach South Asia from a wide range of disciplinary angles. This has been a place of lively debates, of radical interventions and creative scholarship on South Asia.

A tradition of critique, for which SOAS scholars like Ralph Russell stood (see obituary on page 4), includes the habit of critical self-reflection. And one shortcoming of many of us is surely that we tend to remain within the enclosures of our respective discipline – enclosures that have no doubt institutional reality even if their academic value seems often questionable. The Centre of South Asian Studies allows us to jump the hedges of our disciplines – it is an open space for debate, a piece of land whose fertility depends on being continuously reclaimed by its members.

One concrete step in this continuous reclamation process, a step we take this autumn, is the introduction of a new series of CSAS *Conversations & Exchanges*. This is no centrally organized lecture series. Rather, it originates from the initiatives of one or several members of our centre who wish to discuss a theme with colleagues working from different disciplinary angles. In our autumn programme, *Conversations & Exchanges* includes a lecture series on Indo-Islamic literary traditions, the screening of documentaries on work, environment and diaspora music, seminars on faith-based public action in contemporary Sri Lanka and on Marathi accounts of the Dekkhan sultanates (see pages 6 - 8). Various other activities of members and guests of our centre are also covered in this newsletter. We hope you'll feel tempted to join in.

Professor Ravi Ahuja
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies

Professor Ralph Russell 1918-2008



Ralph Russell, who died on 14 September 2008 at the age of 90, was one of the most memorable SOAS South Asianists of the postwar era.

Having first learnt Urdu during army service in India, he entered the School in 1946 on a studentship to do a BA in Urdu with Sanskrit before joining the staff, first as Lecturer in Urdu from 1949, then as Reader from 1964. During this time he established an international reputation as the leading Western scholar of Urdu of his time with two outstanding studies of classical Urdu poetry written with Khurshidul Islam, while within SOAS he was known both to his colleagues for his tireless Leftist critiques of the administration and to his devoted students as an outstanding and inspiring teacher. After leaving SOAS in 1981 he contributed much to the cause of inter-communal harmony and understanding in which he so passionately believed through his vigorous role in developing Urdu as a recognized school subject in Britain. He remained wonderfully active and fulfilled through the later years of his long retirement, continuing to produce books and articles on Urdu literature as well as two volumes of an autobiography written in his characteristically frank and fearless style.

by Professor Christopher Shackle

SOUTH ASIA

JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

SPECIAL ISSUE: Volume 31, Issue 1, 2008

FOOD: MEMORY, PLEASURE AND POLITICS

Guest Editors: Caroline Osella and Filippo Osella

SPECIAL SINGLE ISSUE RATE - US\$25 / £15/ AU\$35

Food in India has long been understood as structured through an opposition between the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian, just as commensality or its refusal has also long been studied as a central plank towards understanding caste hierarchies. This special issue brings together contemporary ethnography which re-examines and interrogates the usefulness of these classic terms of analysis, while also bringing in new questions, such as what happens when a low-ranking tribal community turn vegetarian, or how middle-class urban women deal with hospitality in mixed community settings, or why some vegetarian men hold chicken and whisky parties. The collection also engages with wider contemporary theories of food and its links to memory, politics and ethnicity, both within the papers themselves and in the form of an 'Introduction' and an 'Afterword' which discuss the contributions in the context of the broader 'food studies' literature.



Contributions

Caroline Osella: Introduction; **Shraddha Chigateri:** 'Glory to the Cow': Cultural Difference and Social Justice in the Food Hierarchy in India; **James Staples:** 'Go on, Just Try Some!': Meat and Meaning-Making Among South Indian Christians; **Nayanika Mookherjee:** Culinary Boundaries and the Making of Place in Bangladesh; **Lucia Michelutti:** 'We are Kshatriyas but we Behave Like Vaishyas': Diet and Muscular Politics Among a Community of Yadavs in North India; **Amit Desai:** Subaltern Vegetarianism: Witchcraft, Embodiment and Sociality in Central India; **Pat Caplan:** Crossing the Veg/Non-Veg Divide: Commensality and Sociality Among the Middle Classes in Madras/Chennai; **Henrike Donner:** New Vegetarianism: Food, Gender and Neo-Liberal Regimes in Bengali Middle-Class Families; **Caroline Osella and Filippo Osella:** Food, Memory, Community: Kerala as Both 'Indian Ocean' Zone and as Agricultural Homeland; **Jakob A. Klein:** Afterword: Comparing Vegetarianisms.

South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies

Editor: Prof. Ian Copland, School of Historical Studies and Monash Asia Institute, Australia

South Asia is an international refereed journal published under the authority of the South Asian Studies Association of Australia (SASA). Its mission is to provide a forum for scholarly research, comment and discussion on the history, society, economy, culture and international relations of the South Asian region from the earliest times to the present day. It is published three times a year, in April, August and December. Published since 1971, South Asia is the world's senior journal of record for the South Asian region. For further information about the journal visit www.informaworld.com/SA

For information on how to join the SASA contact Vivien Seyler, Administrative Assistant, SASA at: Vivien.Seyler@adm.monash.edu.au

Routledge Online Services

informaworld™
A world of specialist information for the academic, professional and business communities. To find out more go to: www.informaworld.com

Alerting services from informaworld™
To receive the table of contents for this publication visit the journal homepage at www.informaworld.com/SA

Online Access
Online access is included with a print institutional subscription to the journal or alternatively is available as an online only option. For further information connect to: www.tandf.co.uk/online

Online Sample Copies
A fully searchable sample copy of this journal is available by visiting: www.informaworld.com/SA

informaworld™ Librarians' Area
Visit our web resource for Librarians and Information Professionals at: www.informaworld.com/librarians

eUpdates
Register your email address at www.informaworld.com/eupdates to receive information on books, journals and other news within your areas of interest.

Submissions

Manuscripts should be emailed as an attachment preferably in Word to the Editor, Prof. Ian Copland: Ian.Copland@arts.monash.edu.au

Correspondence regarding all editorial matters other than reviews should be sent to the Editor, email address as above, or to:

Prof. Ian Copland, Editor,
South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies
School of Historical Studies
Monash University
Clayton, VIC 3800
Australia



Philippe Cullet, 'The Global Warming Regime After 2012 – Towards a Focus on Equity, Vulnerability and Human Rights', 43/28 Economic and Political Weekly (12 July 2008), p. 109-117.

Matthew McCartney is going on a six month fellowship to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies (JNIAS), based at JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University) in Delhi next year, January to June.

CSAS CONVERSATIONS AND EXCHANGES

Films on Work, Environment and Music

Filmmaker Surabhi Sharma

presents and discusses three of her highly acclaimed documentaries:

Thursday, 27 November 2008

5-9pm

Room FG08, Faber Building, SOAS, Russell Square

Jari Mari: Of Cloth and Other Stories

75 mins, DV, 2001

A documentary film that looks at the informalisation of labour in Mumbai in the past decade. The film is located in a slum that lies behind the Mumbai International Airport. The informal garment industry geared for export is the main source of income for workers here, but insecurity, pathetic work conditions, and very low wages makes for a difficult existence.

AND

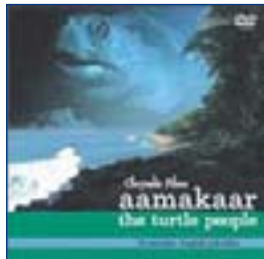
Aamakaar - The Turtle People

76 mins, DV, 2003

This film depicts the struggles of a small fishing village in North Kerala that is fighting the assault on its estuary by sand mining. The villagers are also engaged in the conservation of Olive Ridley turtles that come to their beach to nest. They make a connection between a species fast becoming extinct and the fate of a community that could face displacement.

All Welcome, no booking required

Enquiries: Jane Savory, js64@soas.ac.uk



Friday, 28 November 2008

4-6pm

Room FG08, Faber Building, SOAS, Russell Square

Jahaji Music: India in the Caribbean

112 mins, DV, 2007

From the mid-nineteenth century Indian labourers arrived in the Caribbean on boats, bringing a few belongings and their music – the beginnings of a remarkable cultural practice. More than 150 years later musician Remo Fernandes travels to the Islands to explore potential collaborations and create new work. Jahaji Music: India in the Caribbean is a record of a difficult, if unusual and complex, musical journey.

All Welcome, no booking required

Love's Subtle Magic: An Indian Islamic Literary Tradition, 1379–1545

by Professor Aditya Behl
(University of Pennsylvania)

This lecture series will elucidate the workings of a powerful tradition of north Indian poetry: the Hindavi Sufi romance or prema-kahani (literally “love-story”), composed by Muslim mystic poets from the late fourteenth century onwards.

Written and performed by members of the Persian-speaking Indo-Muslim courtly élite in Delhi and the eastern provinces of Avadh and Bihar, the Hindavi romances mark the inauguration of a new Islamic literary and devotional culture in a local language. The classic Sufi enigma, how to understand the relation between human and divine love, was a powerful one for the Chishti Sufis who created this literary tradition. Sufi poetry and music presented and resolved this enigma through lyric, narrative, and symbolic forms in performance. These forms often contained esoteric codes or elaborate designs that shaped the spiritual transformation of initiated novices under the guidance of a teaching Sufi master.



The lecture series will include three lectures, and a workshop, as follows:

Lecture I:

On Rupa: Form, Embodiment, and Technique in the Hindavi Sufi Romances

on Friday, 14 November
4-6 pm in Room 116

Workshop:

On Reading Enigmatically

on Thursday, 20 November
5-7pm in Room 116

Lecture II:

Love's Alchemy: Rasa ke Prakara

on Friday, 21 November
4-6pm in Room 116

Lecture III:

On Reintegration: The Twelve Months of Separation

on Friday, 28 November
4-6 pm in Room 116

All Welcome

Enquiries:

Francesca Orsini, fo@soas.ac.uk or
Jane Savory, js64@soas.ac.uk
020 7898 4892



CSAS CONVERSATIONS AND EXCHANGES

Seminars

29 October 2008
2-4pm
Room G2, Main Building, SOAS

Bahmani Sultan at the Feet of a Saint: Precolonial Deccan through Marathi Textual Representations

by

Dusan Deak

(University of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, Trnava (Slovakia),
 British Academy Fellow)
 Chaired by Sunil Kumar

Marathi texts - such as hagiographies or bakhars - that refer to pre-colonial period in the Deccan offer an unusual perspective on the Sultan from Bidar who is portrayed as acknowledging the supremacy of local saintly figures. This presentation discusses these texts in their wider narrative and historical context.

All Welcome, no booking required
 Enquiries: Ravi Ahuja (ra33@soas.ac.uk) or
 Jane Savory (js64@soas.ac.uk)

14 November 2008
5-7pm
Room B102, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Faith, Relief and Development: Reassembling the Shattered Mirror

by

Amjad Saleem

(Muslim Aid Country Director for Sri Lanka)

All Welcome, no booking required
 Enquiries: Jonathan Goodhand (jg27@soas.ac.uk)
 or Jane Savory (js64@soas.ac.uk)

SOAS CONCERT SERIES

Uday Bhawalkar **North Indian Dhrupad at its Best**

Wednesday, 12 November 2008
7pm
in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Dhrupad is one of the oldest forms of North Indian classical vocal music, dating back to the 15th century. It's a highly spiritual form, and requires many years of dedicated study to master. Uday Bhawalkar is considered as one of the younger generation's leading exponents of this style. An outstanding singer, Bhawalkar is an exceptional artist who not only maintains the old forms' elegance and refinement but, owing to his musical curiosity and wide range of interests, is also able to add to it.

FREE ADMISSION
 NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Venue capacity is limited and we operate a first come first served system. We advise you to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

VENUE:
 BRUNEI GALLERY LECTURE THEATRE, SOAS,
 University of London

ENQUIRIES: TEL 020 7898 4500
 EMAIL musicevents@soas.ac.uk
 WEB www.soas.ac.uk/concerts

With an ever growing popularity and profile, our Concert Series has established itself as the place to go for some of the most interesting and varied multicultural music in London today, with consistent high quality and a great concert atmosphere guaranteed. And it's all for free too!

General Info:

All concerts start at 7pm.
 Free admission to all concerts - No Booking Required

Venue capacity is limited and we operate a first come first served system. We advise you to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES



Autumn Term, 2008

**Tuesday, 5pm
Room FG08 (Faber Building)
SOAS**

7 October

Introduction
(SOAS students only)

14 October

Kunal Chakrabarti
(Jawaharlal Nehru University)
The Discarded Goddess: Alakshmi and the Making of a Negative Divinity

21 October

Anna Gust
(SOAS)
**Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land:
Sir James Mackintosh's Encounter with Bombay's Colonial Society**

28 October

Markus Daechsel
(Royal Holloway)
Slum Clearance in Karachi in the 1950s

11 November

David Lelyveld
(William Paterson University)
**Sayyid Ahmad Khan's Public Sphere:
Print and Oratory in Nineteenth Century India**

18 November

Geoff Oddie
(University of Sydney)
The Coining of the Term Hinduism in Debates on Religion in Colonial India

25 November

Sandip Hazareesingh
(Open University)
**Interconnected Synchronicities: the Production of Bombay and
Glasgow as Modern Global Ports c.1850-1880**

2 December

Ranjan Chakrabarti
(Jadhavpur University)
**The City of Swamps: The Changing Landscapes in
Colonial and Postcolonial Calcutta**

9 December

David Hardiman
(University of Warwick)
Missionaries and their Medicine: A Christian Modernity for Tribal India

Convenors:

Professor Ravi Ahuja (ra33@soas.ac.uk) and Dr Daud Ali (da7@soas.ac.uk)

All Welcome



Tribal Transitions: New Research in the Eastern Himalayas

Four speakers will present new research on various aspects of this little-known corner of the Himalayas. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in the discussion sessions. This is a unique opportunity to learn about populations who live within India but whose cultures, languages and religions are similar to those in Tibet and upland Southeast Asia.

The first book produced by the research (Through the Eye of Time: Photographs of Arunachal Pradesh, 1859-2006) has been recently published by Brill in Leiden.

The seminar is connected to an exhibition at the British Museum (details on the next page).

10:30-16:00 on Friday, 24 October 2008 in Room 116 , Main Building, SOAS

Time	Description
10:30-10:50	Tea/coffee
10:50- 11:00	Introduction
11:00- 11:30	‘Archival and contemporary views of tribal cultures Arunachal Pradesh’ Michael Tarr (Berkeley, California)
11:30- 11:45	Discussion
11:45 - 12:15	‘Trade, architecture and cultural exchange in the eastern Himalayas’ Richard Blurton (British Museum)
12:15 - 12:30	Discussion
12:30-14:00	Lunch (invited guests)
14:00 -14:30	‘Comparative ritual & myth in the eastern Himalayas’ Stuart Blackburn (SOAS)
14:20- 14:45	Discussion
14:45-15:15	‘Christian Himalaya? Religious conversion in the highlands of Arunachal Pradesh’ Toni Huber (Humboldt University, Berlin)
15:15-15:30	Discussion
15:30-16:00	General Discussion



Tribal Cultures at the British Museum

'Between Tibet and India: cultural diversity in the eastern Himalayas' runs from 23 October 2008 to 13 April 2009 at the British Museum in Room 91. This exhibition is the result of a SOAS research project funded by the ESRC and directed by Dr Stuart Blackburn (South Asia).

The exhibition displays the diversity of tribal cultures in Arunachal Pradesh, a little-known state bordering on Tibet in northeast India. The state is home to about 1 million people, consisting of approximately 35 tribal groups who speak (with one exception) Tibeto-Burman languages. Many practice a form of animism; some practice Tibetan Buddhism or Theravada Buddhism; a few follow Hinduism or Christianity.

The exhibition focuses on two tribes, the Tibetan Buddhist Monpa and the animist Apatani, highlighting their ritual practices and material culture in historical perspective.

The show features contemporary and historical photographs, old and new textiles, audio recordings of a shaman's chant and rare film footage from the 1940s, plus an early 20th century painted, cotton map of a pilgrimage site where Tibetans exchanged valuable objects (metal bells, brass plates, beads) with local populations.

Tibetan cultural influence is evident throughout much of the state, especially in these objects traded across the high Himalayas and invested with high value by local populations who believe them to be 'tibetan.' India, continuing trends begun in the colonial period, has been the source of civil administration, market economy, literacy, Hinduism and, recently, Christianity.

Admission is free

Further information: <http://www.britishmuseum.org/>



Knowledge Production And Pedagogy In Colonial India: Missionaries, Orientalists, And Reformers In Institutional Contexts

Recent scholarship on colonial knowledge production has moved beyond the discourse analysis inspired by the work of Edward Said toward a more historically nuanced and richly 'sourced' understanding of the subject. The overall effect of this recent research has been to revise our notions of colonial knowledge as a whole—from the coherent and hegemonic instrument of rule advocated by an earlier generation of scholars to a more fractured, dialogically produced, potentially open-ended and socially unstable mass of ideas and practices.

New lines of research have addressed the wider intellectual contextualisation (both in the colony and metropole) of 'orientalist' (and to a certain extent missionary) knowledge, as well as a deeper exploration of the careers of colonial scholars and particularly their relations with indigenous 'informants' and cultural 'intermediaries'. In addition, these studies have broadened the field of inquiry to include the contribution of European, mainly German scholarship. This conference will seek to take stock of this revisionist historiography by looking at the interface between ideas and practice—between the diffuse and fractured knowledge produced by Orientalists, missionaries and local interlocutors on the one hand, and the potentially more 'blunt' new educational institutions founded under colonial rule on the other. Potential research questions which will be explored at the conference will include the following:

- the degree to which the production of knowledge about India and the generation of policies in education and reform were more or less continuous or at variance with one another across time;
- conceptual, methodological and stylistic differences between various strands of colonial scholarship as they impinged upon the development of pedagogical realities;
- the potentially diverse relations between schools, museums, and centres of higher learning; the importance of Indian elites in the production and pedagogic implementation of this knowledge about India;
- how we might approach the wider dissemination of orientalist pedagogies beyond the realm of colonial institutions.

This Conference will be jointly organised by the Department of History at SOAS (University of London) and the German Historical Institute London, and will take place 13-15 November 2008. It will be open to researchers at all levels.

For further details, please contact:

Dr Daud Ali, School of Oriental and African Studies (da7@soas.ac.uk)
Dr Indra Sengupta, German Historical Institute (isengupta@ghil.ac.uk)

Programme

Thursday, 13 November 2008
German Historical Institute

14:00 Introduction

14:15-16:00 Panel 1: Missionaries, Knowledge and Education

Heike Liebau, Mission, Company and Government printing presses in 18th century South India

Karen Vallgård, Dissertation on the Danish Missionary Society's involvement with Indian children in the South Arcot District in the Madras Presidency in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Helge Wendt, Knowledge Production "on the Spot": Missionaries and their Educational Programs in Colonial India

16:00-16:30 Tea break

16:30-17:40 Panel 2: Caste and Language as Negotiated Knowledges

Amrita Shodhan, An Early Experiment in the Colonial Administration of Caste: Bombay Presidency 1799-1827

Kate Teltscher, Hobson-Jobson and the OED

Thursday, 13 November 2008

German Historical Institute - Continued

17:45-18:30 Keynote Address

Javed Majeed, What's in a (proper) name? Authorship, nomenclature and individuals in the Linguistic Survey of India, 1894-1928.

Friday, 14 November 2008

German Historical Institute

9:00-10:10 Panel 3: The Use of Artifacts

Anne-Julie Etter, Antiquarian knowledge, museums and preservation of the Indian monuments at the turn of the 19th century

Geoffrey Oddie, Missions and Museums: Hindu Gods and Other Abominations

10:10-10:40 Tea break

10:40-13:00 Panel 4: Producing Space and Time

Michael S. Dodson, The Muslim City in Decline: Visions of Jaunpur in the Nineteenth Century

Peter Gottschalk, Putting Chainpur on the Map, and the Map in Chainpur's Classrooms

Chitralekha Zutshi, Rajatarangini and the Making of Colonial Historical Knowledge in Kashmir

David Lelyveld, Sayyid Ahmad Khan and the Qutb Minar

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-15:40 Panel 5: Debates on Knowledge and Pedagogy 1

Catriona Ellis, Policeman or creator? A study of pedagogical theories in the Madras Presidency, 1930s

Iqbal Singh Sevea, Schooling the Muslim: Debates over Muslim education in late colonial India

15:40-16:10 Tea break

16:10 -17:20 Panel 5: Debates on Knowledge and Pedagogy 2

Alan M. Guenther, Syed Mahmood and his History of English Education in India

SA Zaidi, Ilm ya taleem? [Knowledge or education?] Contested practices countering zillat: Muslims in north India, c. 1860-1900

Saturday, 15 November 2008

SOAS, Room 116

9:00-10:10 Panel 6: Pedagogy in Practice: Schooling Sensibilities

Margrit Pernau, Teaching emotions. Victorian values and sharafat in 19th century Delhi

Bhavani Raman, Learning recollection in the Tinnai School in Nineteenth-century South India

10:10-10:40 Tea break

10:40-11:50 Panel 7: Pedagogy in Practice: The role of textbooks

Senthil Babu, Textbooks a sources for the study of knowledge production: The case of Tamil Mathematic Textbooks from nineteenth century Madras

Vikas Gupta, Paradox of Colonial Education: Textbook Discourse in the Late Nineteenth Century

11:50-13:00 Panel 8: Reformers and Institutions

Jeffrey M. Diamond, The Orientalist-Indian Literati Relationship in the Northwest: G.W. Leitner, Muhammad Hussain Azad and the Contestation of Knowledge in Colonial Lahore

Gail Minault, Aloys Sprenger: German Orientalism's 'Gift' to Delhi College

13:00-13:15 Closing Remarks

13:15 Lunch

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART & ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINARS

Autumn Term, 2008

**Wednesdays at 5pm
in Room B104, Brunei Building, SOAS**

Convenors: Dr Crispin Branfoot and Dr Elizabeth Moore

- 1 October** **Stephen Murphy**
(SOAS)
**The Buddhist Boundary markers of Northeast Thailand,
6th-11th centuries CE**
- 22 October** **Dr Alexandra Green**
(University of Hong Kong)
**Felicity, Power, and Piety: Social and Religious Trends in the
Standardisation of Eighteenth-Century Burmese Murals**
- 12 November** **Gethin Rees**
(Cambridge University)
Buddhism and Trade: Rock Cut Caves of the Western Ghats
- 26 November** **Dr Filipa Vicente**
(SOAS)
Goa on display: ruins, relics and Indo-Portuguese art
- 10 December** **Dr Peter Sharrock**
(SOAS)
**The early cult of the future Buddha Maitreya in
South, East and Southeast Asia**



Dr Crispin Branfoot
Lecturer in South Asian art & archaeology
and Postgraduate Research Tutor
Department of Art and Archaeology,
School of Oriental and African Studies,
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
www.soas.ac.uk/art
Tel: 020 7898 4450 Fax: 020 7898 4699

COMPETITION

Jaina Studies at SOAS Essay Competitions 2008/9

Undergraduate Essay Prize



Alexis Berko
winner of the 2007/8 award

A prize of £ 500 is offered for the best UG essay or ISP written at SOAS on any subject related to Jainism.

The prize is sponsored by the Institute of Jainology in London.

Deadline
30 April 2009

Postgraduate Dissertation Prize

A prize of £ 500 is offered for the best PG dissertation or ISP essay written at SOAS on any subject related to Jainism.

The prize is sponsored by the Institute of Jainology in London.

Deadline
20 September 2009



Hugh St Aubyn
winner of the 2006/7 award

**Please
send your
submissions to:**

**Dr Peter Flügel
Centre of
Jaina Studies, SOAS
University of London**

Jainstudies@soas.ac.uk

CHARLES WALLACE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

2008 Charles Wallace Pakistan Fellowship, SOAS End of Fellowship Report by Dr Muhammad Nasir

The Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust is providing some extra ordinary assistance to the Pakistani scholars over the last many years and helping them to complete their research projects well in time and in a more appropriate way by helping them to visit United Kingdom and utilizing the research facilities over there. I find myself privileged to win this distinguished fellowship for the year 2008 and more over being the first ever Persian scholar getting this unique opportunity.

The title of my research project was The Annotation, Compilation, Introduction & Editing of ASRAR-UL-AOULIYA, the sacred sayings of Baba Fariduddin Ganj-e-Shakar, one of the most famous and celebrated Sufis of 13th century A.D in the Punjab province of Pakistan, compiled by Badruddin Ishaq, his close pupil and son in law. This important book comprising the secrets of the saints was yet to be edited and introduced to the Sufi world. It must be mentioned that Baba Farid, one of the founders of Chishtia School of mysticism, is not only widely accepted in the Muslim community of the sub-continent but equally honored by the followers of Sikh religion and furthermore is considered as the 1st poet of Punjabi language.

Mysticism has got deep roots in the soil of the sub-continent and souls of its inhabitants. On the other hand, the Persian literature is under great shadow of Mystics and immense influence of Mysticism. More interestingly the sub-continent is painted and elaborated as the soil of secrets and mysteries in Persian's classical literary works. Better to say that the mysticism and the sub-continent are engaged in an immortal bond. A glance over the past more than thousand years unveils the great impact of mysticism and unforgettable role of Sufis in developing social norms and emerging a tolerable civil society.



Baba Farid was the contemporary of some other great Sufis e.g., Shahab-ud-Din Soharvardi (death 1234 A.D), Sa'ad-ud-Din Hamavi (death 1260 A.D), Aouhad-ud-Din Kermani (death 1237 A.D), Farid-ud-Din Attar Nishapuri (death 1229 A.D) & Baha-ud-Din Zakariya Multani (death 1266 A.D) etc. He met with most of them during his travels to Khorasan, Baghdad & Bokhara. He was the closest disciple & heir of Sheikh Qutb-ud-Din Bakhtyar Kaki (death 1236 A.D). He spent his life in preaching the immortal values of humanism and spreading the light of wisdom and humanity. He compiled the sayings of his Morshad Qutb-ud-Din Bakhtyar Kaki by himself and died in 1271 A.D and was buried in Pak-Patan (Punjab Province, Pakistan). His two close disciples and sons in law, named Khawaja Nizam-ud-Din Aouliya and Badr-ud-Din Ishaq, both compiled his golden teachings and glorious sayings. The book compiled by Khawaja Nizam-ud-Din, named Rahat-ul-Qolub is already published but the other book titled "Asrar-ul-Aouleya" compiled by Badar-ud-Din Ishaq is yet to be published.

According to the Catalogue of the Manuscripts of Shirani Collection in the Central Library of University of the Punjab, Lahore (Page 200, Vol. II, compiled by Dr. Bashir Hussain, Research Society of Pakistan, Lahore), two manuscripts are available, one is being kept in the Central Library of University of the Punjab and available in a good shape (Shirani Collection No.3978/926). The other manuscript is available in The British Library (Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum, Volume III, compiled by Charles Rieu, London 1883, page 973/15) and the book is also mentioned in the Catalogue of the Persian, Turkish, Hindustani and Pashtu Manuscript, page 645/8, compiled by Hermann Ethe, Oxford 1889.

I am extremely thankful to Charles Wallace Trust and its Secretary Mr. Tim Butchard for helping me to complete this project and granting me the raised amount of stipend. ASRAR-UL-AOULIYA is to be published shortly by the Faculty of Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab. It was my first visit to United Kingdom and frankly saying a wonderful experience in itself. The literary atmosphere at School of Oriental and African Studies was impressive and the facilities provided by the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS were excellent. Ms. Jane Savory, the Programme Manager and Ms. Rahima Begum, the Executive Officer, both were always helpful. I would love to thank Dr. Avril Powell for her loving attitude; much needed guidance and kind behavior. More over I am thankful to Dr. Francesca Orsini, Dr. Ravi Ahuja, Dr. Jeevan Deol, Dr. Nima Mina & Dr. Daud Ali.

Due to my engagements at University of the Punjab and some delay on part of The British Council, I could manage to arrive at SOAS on May 17th 2008 and it was the high time to reach over there. I was pleasantly surprised to witness lots of activities in my field of interest, the Persian literature. I was privileged to attend The Persian Media Conference at SOAS on 6th June, Conference on Persian Literature in Multilingual India at Cambridge on 15th to 17th June, Iqbal Conference at SOAS on 16th June, Iqbal Conference at Cambridge on 18th June, Conference on the Renaissance of Persian Literature on 25th & 26th July at Oxford, Forough Conference at Manchester University, Lecture on Rumi at Royal Asiatic Society and some very interesting workshops, seminars & discussions at SOAS. I spent more time at The British Library and found it the Researchers Heaven.

I assume if I could arrive at SOAS by the early April, it could be more beneficial. The summer vacations commenced on 1st June and it became difficult to approach the faculty members and the SOAS library timings were shortened. But the weather was lovely and the London was at the peak of her beauty and there was nothing short to have a memorable experience. I must acknowledge that over all it was a great learning experience and for sure it would help me becoming a better researcher, more dedicated and skilled teacher. Thank you very much, the Charles Wallace Trust and SOAS.

2008 Charles Wallace Indian Fellowship, SOAS End of Fellowship Report by Dr Ajay Gudavarthy

It was a wonderful experience both getting selected (as against the earlier procedure of nomination) for the three-month Charles Wallace visiting fellowship and being attached to the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS. I could begin my fellowship from the first week of May, which was ideal as that is when the summer break begins for us in India. On the other hand, however, this deprived me of an opportunity to present a seminar paper, as well as to interact with the academic community at SOAS. I would suppose that most of young faculty would prefer to come as visiting fellows during the summer break because of the difficulties in obtaining leave from the university, apart of course from enjoying the summer in London. It is therefore, perhaps, advisable that there is a provision made for the visiting scholars to make their seminar presentations in the last week of May or the first week of June, when they would have completed at least a part of their research work. The centre could take care to keep slots open for the visiting fellows. There could also be provision made for interaction with the students at SOAS, which would be mutually beneficial.

Being a political scientist (or should I say a non-historian, since the majority of scholars visiting are historians) it was a privilege being associated with the SOAS and indeed a rare opportunity to complete a lot of my pending work that would have taken much longer, given the library facilities in India. Apart from the impressive collection of the books in the SOAS library the fact that it has an inter-disciplinary focus helped me to look for material including political theory, some historical material and legal documents. The diverse material allowed me to broaden the focus of my work. This was an important factor in the shaping of my research and should be factored in for future selections too, so as to make the fellowship available to scholars from all disciplines.

I worked for the entire duration on the `Human Rights Movement in India`, attempting to delineate the various shifts that the movement witnessed primarily in the post-independence period. There is not much work done in this area and even less of theorization has happened in terms of the changing discourses and philosophical foundations of the movement. I had, over the last couple of years, collected the organizational documents of various human rights associations such as the People`s Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), People`s Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR), Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC), Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Human Rights Forum (HRF). I was looking for an opportunity to read secondary theoretical material on Rights, Law, citizenship and Democracy to attempt a theorization of the various phases of the human rights struggles in India. The Charles Wallace Fellowship provided precisely this opportunity to do some focused work. I could complete most of what I had set out to do. It would have been great if there is a provision made for a working paper series where we could share our work and engage with the responses of faculty and students of SOAS.



Apart from my own work I attended some very interesting seminar presentations of the South Asian Centre and the Law Dept at SOAS. Outside of SOAS, I attended the Marxism Festival, which brought together some of the leading Marxist scholars from across the globe, organized in association with SOAS. I also had the opportunity of meeting colleagues from the University College of London and the Goldsmith College of London University. I am hoping that some of our conversations translate into research in the future.

Finally, I wish to thank all those involved in making my stay comfortable and meaningful. At SOAS, Jane Savory was very reassuring and efficient. Given the rather limited amount on offer as the fellowship stipend, she had to be particularly persistent in her queries for comfortable accommodation. Jane also ensured that I had my office space and other infrastructural facilities including photostating and printing facilities. The amount allotted for these facilities however is way too much, in the sense that it does not allow scholars to use it to the full during their stay. This is because of the weight limit on most international airlines which makes it impossible to carry much paper home. Instead, I would suggest that this amount be either added to the fellowship amount or a part of the amount be given to post some of the material collected by the scholars. I am also very thankful to Richard Alford for both prompt responses every time, and for taking off time to come all the way to meet me. His interest and knowledge of India was very engaging. Finally, I am extremely thankful to friends and colleagues in SOAS. Shabnum Tejani made London homely and SOAS a place I looked forward to visiting frequently. John Game as usual was full of energy and ideas. I thank Peter Robb, Daud Ali and Avril Powel for their interest in my work and for the conversations we had. All in all it was three wonderful months of research and academic interactions and I thank the Charles Wallace Trust for giving me this opportunity.

Fieldwork in Mumbai by Charlie Henniker, MA student

Since starting my MA in South Asian Area Studies at SOAS, I've naturally been kept very busy – but not just on campus and in the library. I've been lucky enough to take up some fantastic opportunities since last September, and in the process gained experience, knowledge and many more friends.

Over the Easter break I headed to Bombay for a month. This was a combination of a research trip and holiday: while I've been travelling to India since early 2004, I had never spent much time in this city – a serious gap in my knowledge considering my dissertation was on Hindi cinema. While out there I was put in touch with many people by Professor Rachel Dwyer, who was my dissertation supervisor and made sure I had plenty of leads to follow up. Sure enough, after a month out there I felt quite at home: having spent the time meeting poets, journalists, theatre directors and film personnel, I came back with plenty of resources and contacts. I also spent a day on a film set working as an extra, and so witnessed the workings of the film industry firsthand, as well as kick-starting that all-important career as a film star. Bombay was hot, sticky and noisy – a winning combination for me, and a very stimulating place to visit on research, let alone on holiday.

Over the following term I submitted a coursework essay for publication in South Asia Research, following advice from SOAS teaching staff. I also wrote a book review for Business World India, as well as a few online film reviews. Towards the end of the third term I was selected to be research assistant to Professor Dwyer on her paper as part of the SAS and BIEA funded project on India and East Africa relations. This involved spending a month in Kenya and Tanzania, during which I would mostly be interviewing cinema audiences. And so it was that at the beginning of July I found myself in Nairobi for the first time, standing outside a downtown cinema with a handful of questionnaires and an inane grin on my face: thankfully, Kenyans of all shapes and sizes seemed more than happy to help out, and responded well to the questionnaire. Whilst in Zanzibar, our visit coincided with the Zanzibar International Film Festival, for which Professor Dwyer was a jury member.

Since returning from Africa I have been mostly mired in dissertation work, but also completed some work experience at the BBC involving archiving and publishing footage from an Indian television network. This was an ideal practical application of all that my MA had taught me, and eventually turned into a contract with BBC Worldwide. In that time I have also written for Verve magazine in India on the global trends in Hindi cinema, and hope to continue writing for them.

While I have decided to take a year out of academia, I know that if I come back to it I'll be starting research at SOAS. So much has happened in just one year that I can only imagine how productive a PhD could be. In the meantime I will be focusing on writing articles and papers on Hindi cinema and Indian public culture, and anything else that comes to hand, for that matter!



Charlie Henniker meets
Amitabh Bachchan

SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH (SAR)

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

SAR is available online at <http://sar.sagepub.com/>

SAR 28.2 (July 2008) is published and contains the following:

CONTENTS

Articles

MAHESH SHARMA

Puranic Texts from Kashmir: Vitasta and River Ceremonials in the Nilamata Purana

DEVI SRIDHAR

Hungry for Change: The World Bank in India

BADRI NARAYAN

Demarginalisation and History: Dalit Re-Invention of the Past

SAMINAZ ZAMAN

Amrikan Shari'a: The Reconstruction of Islamic Family Law in the United States

YAGHOOB FOROUTAN

South Asian Female Migrants' Work Differentials: Multicultural Assessment

Book Reviews

MARTIN MENSKI

Dilip K. Das. China and India. A Tale of Two Economies

SUKHDEEP K. NOTTA

Jasvinder Sanghera. Shame

WERNER MENSKI

Dr. Michael (ed.). The Concept of Rājadharmā

SERENE KASIM

Omar Khalidi, Muslims in the Deccan: A Historical Survey

SAMEER SURYAKANT PATIL

Prakash Nanda (ed.), Rising India: Friends and Foes

NEILESH BOSE

Sufia Uddin, Constructing Bangladesh: The History of an Islamic Nation

**SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH
VOL 28 No 3 (NOVEMBER 2008)
is in production. Planned con-
tents are as follows:**

CONTENTS

Articles

ELLA ROLFE

Refugee, Minority, Citizen, Threat:
Tibetans and the Indian Refugee Script

NILE GREEN

Moral Competition and the Thrill of
the Spectacular: Recounting Catastrophe
in Colonial Bombay

MUHAMMAD ZAMAN

Socio-cultural Security, Emotions and
Exchange Marriages in an Agrarian
Community

Review Article

ROHIT CHOPRA

Destinations New and Exciting



**THE BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
FOR SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES**

BASAS Annual Conference 2009

CALL FOR PAPERS

University of Edinburgh
30 March - 1 April 2009

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) will be hosting its annual conference at the University of Edinburgh. You are most welcome to join us. BASAS annual conferences are noted for their friendliness, informality, and open interdisciplinary intellectual exchange. Each year, BASAS also awards a prize for the most outstanding paper given by a postgraduate student at its annual conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS: You are strongly encouraged to submit a panel or an individual paper proposal for the conference. The deadline for the submission of panel abstracts is 30 November 2008. The deadline for submitting individual paper proposals is 25 January 2009.

Further details about the conference can be obtained from the academic convenor of the conference:

Dr Crispin Bates (University of Edinburgh).
Email: BASASconf2009@ed.ac.uk

Further details about BASAS can be obtained via its website:
<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/SSAS/about.htm>

School of Oriental and African Studies • University of London



SOAS Language centre

**57 languages:
Afrikaans to Zulu**

- Daytime, evening, group & individual courses
- Easter and Summer intensive courses
- Year long Diploma programmes
- Experienced, native-speaker teachers
- Central London location

SOAS Language Centre
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London, Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4888
Fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4889
E-mail: languages@soas.ac.uk
www.soaslanguagecentre.com



Report on panel 35: Lived Islam in Contemporary South Asia at ECMSAS conference, University of Manchester July 9- 11th 2008

This was a large 2-day panel which sought to do two things: to move away from a focus on Islam as being discussed in terms of the negative and over-determined frameworks which have become recently all too familiar – political Islam, terrorism, extremism; and to offer some counterbalance to recent trends in academic work which seem to stress the singularity of Islam as an all-encompassing system for life in which religiosity is highlighted at the expense of other modes of being.

We were inundated with offers of papers, but many did not fit the remit of the panel, being mainly concerned with issues such as 'sectarian militancy' or 'the role of madrassas in fostering extremism'; many abstracts were rejected outright. Those that came through represented a balance between pure ethnographic work in Muslim communities and policy oriented work within an ethnographic sensibility. Professor Roger Jeffery and Professor Patricia Jeffery from Edinburgh and Dr Justin Jones from Cambridge acted as able discussants, and the Jefferies stayed with us throughout to make several helpful interventions rooted in their long experience of working among Indian Muslims. We were flattered to find Professor Barbara Metcalf in our audience, who also brought her deep scholarship to bear on several points.

One of the highlights of the panel was the long session left free at the end for a round table discussion, which attracted a full house in the lecture theatre. Here, we ranged frankly around a range of interesting and sometimes urgent issues, such as: the role of funding agencies and – sadly, often – our own institutions in trying to push researchers working with Muslims towards agendas set by 'war on terror' politics; our assessments of the recent 'piety' turn in ethnographies of Islam; whether some of the ethnographies presented would make equal, different or more sense if not troped as specifically 'Muslim' but left in a wider 'south Asian' framework, and why academic politics leave us with unsatisfactory studies/students of 'Hinduism/ Hindus' and 'Islam / Muslims' who often know shockingly little about each others' fields; what difference our own faith status makes to our research and whether we need to declare this or are best keeping silence or ambiguity (where several Muslim researchers reported the impossibility for them of having their own complex relations to Islam accurately understood or publicly represented); whether certain questions and issues are best left for researchers who are (be that nominal or practising) Muslims.

There are no plans to force the contributions into an edited collection or special issue of a journal, but participants may keep in touch with each other and we foresee some interesting future collaborations and research conversations.

Abstracts can still be viewed online at:

<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/ecmsas/panels/ecmsaspanel33to41/panelpdfs/Fileuploadmax10Mb.134402.en.pdf>

Please do not contact convenors but paper givers directly if you are interested in any of their work: paper titles and emails are as follows:

- **Nosheen Ali** *Learning to Differ: The Cultural Politics of Sectarianism in the Northern Areas, Pakistan* nosheen.ali@cornell.edu
- **Joe Devine** and **Sarah White** *Religion, Politics and the Everyday Moral Order in Bangladesh* j.devine@bath.ac.uk, s.c.white@bath.ac.uk
- **Irfan Ahmad** *Genealogy of the Islamic State: Reflections on Maududi's Political Thought and Islamism* i.ahmad@isim.nl
- **Amer Morgahi** *Tradition and transformation: the 'folk Islam' and its modern forms in case of the Minhajul Quran* morgahi@yahoo.com
- **Faiza Mushtaq** *The Underpinnings of Religious Commitment: Skills, Resources, Networks* faizamushtaq@gmail.com
- **Edward Simpson** *The changing perspectives of three Muslim men on the question of saint worship over a ten-year period in Gujarat, western India* e.l.simpson@googlemail.com
- **Nida Kimani** *Locating Identities: Narrating a Muslim Mahol in Zakir Nagar* N.Y.Kirmani@bham.ac.uk
- **Margrit Pernau** *Emotionology and emotions in present-day Muslim advice literature* pernaum@mpib-berlin.mpg.de
- **Geoffrey Samuel** and **Santi Rozario** *The New Islamic Family: The Appeal of an Ideal* SamuelG@cardiff.ac.uk, rozarios@cardiff.ac.uk
- **Magnus Marsden** *To be a Civilised Muslim: Sufis, Salafis and Petrol Pumps in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan* Mm101@soas.ac.uk
- **Caroline Osella** and **Filippo Osella** *Kerala Muslims: marriage, intimacy and gendering across the Indian Ocean.* f.osella@sussex.ac.uk, co6@soas.ac.uk
- **Zarin Ahmad** *Living on the Edge: A Study of the Quraish Biradree of Delhi* zarin.ahmad@gmail.com
- **Philippa Williams** *Spaces of separation and interaction: Muslim encounters with the 'other' in a North Indian neighbourhood* pjw61@cam.ac.uk
- **Atreyee Sen** *Child vigilantism, community policing and everyday Islam in a Hyderabad slum* Atreyee.Sen@manchester.ac.uk

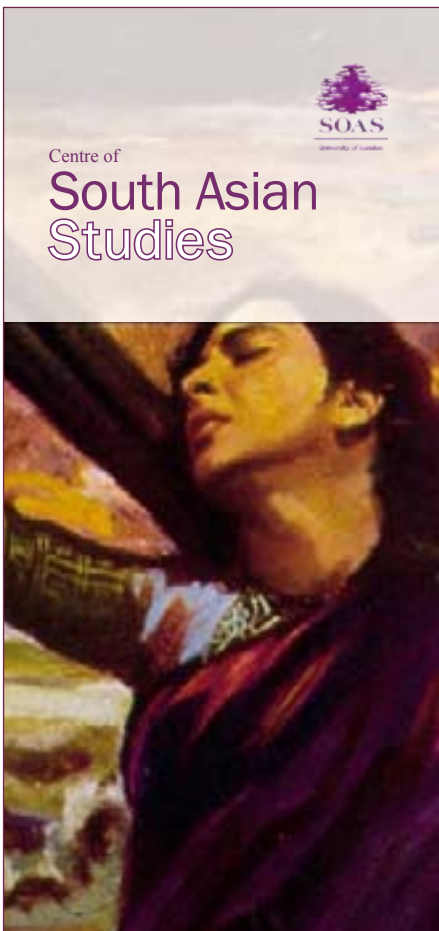
CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

Since its inception in 1916, the School of Oriental and African Studies has been an important international centre for the study of South Asia. In 1966, the Centre of South Asia Studies was established to co-ordinate the research of the South Asian specialists spread widely throughout SOAS.

At present SOAS employs over thirty full-time South Asian specialists in the teaching staff. In addition to a department of South Asian Languages and Cultures, SOAS has South Asia specialists in the departments of Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Development Studies, Economics, History, Law, Music, Religions and Politics. Several South Asian specialists are also based near SOAS in other institutions of the University of London.

One floor of the SOAS Library is dedicated to the South Asia collection, overseen by the South Asia librarian and two assistants. The Library continues to develop its web pages relating to South Asian Studies.

More than 100 courses on South Asia are taught at SOAS, and many others contain a significant South Asian component. Students may elect for a single-subject South Asia degree, or combine South Asia with a discipline in a two-subject degree. Presently SOAS offers degrees or joint degrees in the following South Asian languages: Bengali, Gujarati, Nepali, Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Tamil and Urdu; some of these languages are also available for MA degrees. All languages, and many other South Asian courses, are also available as one unit within the MA South Asian Area Studies or within the MA South Asian Cultural Studies.



Centre of South Asia Studies

Contact Details

Centre of South Asian Studies
c/o Centres & Programmes Office
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7898 4892
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7898 4489

Email: centres@soas.ac.uk
Internet: www.soas.ac.uk/csas/

Chair: Ravi Ahuja
Office Manager: Jane Savory



CSAS Keywords Webpage:

The Keywords Project initiated by Dr Rachel Dwyer can be found on:

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

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

CSAS Email List

If you would like to be added to the CSAS mailing list and receive information on the seminars and events organised by the Centre please send an email to Jane Savory with the following details:

- CSAS mailing list;
- your email address; and
- your first name and surname.

Subscribe to the South Asia Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe to the South Asia Newsletter and receive a paper copy three times a year (beginning of Term 1, 2 and 3) send in a cheque for £5, made payable to SOAS, to: Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG.

Please send your cheque with the following information:

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Organisation:

Address:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode:

Country:

Addresses Changes

If you are already subscribed to the postal mailing list please send any changes to contact details to the address given, or email centres@soas.ac.uk

**Electronic Copy Of The Newsletter
(Free Of Charge)**

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter free of charge please email centres@soas.ac.uk

asking to join the South Asia Newsletter email distribution list together with your

email address; and
your first name and surname

Contributions

If you would like to submit a piece for consideration for the next edition of the Newsletter please send the details in electronic format to centres@soas.ac.uk

The Centre Chair will have the final say on which materials appear in the Newsletter. Items we would like to particularly receive are:

- reports on academic workshops/conferences;
- details of forthcoming academic events

We would like to thank all the readers who have already sent in articles.



**School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG**

**Tel: +44 (0) 20 7637 2388
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7436 3844**

www.soas.ac.uk