

South Asia Newsletter

Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS

www.soas.ac.uk/csas

No 61

October 2005

On behalf of the Centre, I extend a warm welcome to all new students and colleagues who have joined SOAS this year. I hope we will be able to interest, and possibly involve, you in the activities of the Centre, though of course, this being SOAS, events concerning South Asia are held by a range of other departments as well. Indeed, as the notices included in this Newsletter include, for those interested, London and surrounding areas this term offer a richness of events, seminars and discussions on issues concerning South Asia. For our own part, we have scaled back from the weekly seminar series last year to occasional seminars this time around. The notices for this will appear in the weekly Calendar of Events.

The Keywords project initiated – and mostly carried through – by Dr Rachel Dwyer, the previous Centre Chair, is now reaching fruition. As of last week, the essays on South Asian Keywords, written by a number of internationally known scholars, have been posted on the website: (please check). Other essays will be posted over the next months. Please visit our website for further details:
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/centres/centreinfo.cfm?navid=912>

Felicitations to two of the members of staff with South Asia interests for their recent appointments as Professors: Werner Menski in School of Law and Mushtaq Khan in the Department of Economics.

Finally, welcome to Jane Savory, the new Centres & Programmes Office Manager, and to Sara Hamza, the new Executive Officer. We look forward to a fruitful partnership.

Subir Sinha
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS
WORKSHOP ON RELIGIOUS REVIVALISM AND POLITICAL EXTREMISM IN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH
 FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2005

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS), in conjunction with the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (PSA) and the South Asia Programme of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), seeks paper proposals for a workshop entitled 'Religious Revivalism and Political Extremism in Pakistan and Bangladesh'. The workshop will be held at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Building upon the success of the annual BASAS workshop held at the University of Bristol on 13 November 2004, the organizers seek papers that draw light on the apparent revival of extremist religious movements in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The workshop seeks to understand the extent and magnitude of such a revival and aims to draw some conclusions about its potential impact on interethnic relations in Pakistan and Bangladesh and on strategic relations in the region in general.

Suggested paper topics may include:

- External influences on political extremism and religious revivalism.
- To what extent is 'religious revivalism' new?
- Western perceptions of religious revivalism.
- Sectarian conflicts in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Religious influence on the political party system in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The media's role in influencing western perceptions.
- Inter-community tensions in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Since the organizers are keen to examine the problem of religious revivalism from a multidisciplinary perspective, other paper topics are certainly welcome. However, preference will be given to papers that explicitly analyze the phenomenon of religious revivalism and political extremism in Pakistan and Bangladesh from a comparative perspective. Travel costs will be paid for the paper givers.

Please submit a one-page abstract of individual papers no later than Friday, 7 October 2005, to: L.saez@lse.ac.uk

Written comments or proposals may also be sent to: Lawrence Saez, Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE

Further details about the sponsoring organisations can be found at:

www.basas.ac.uk
www.psa-southasia.org
www.iiss.org

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SOAS, University of London
SOUTH ASIA HISTORY SEMINAR
Autumn Term, 2005
Tuesdays, 17.00, Room B104, Russell Square

- 1 November** **Talat Ahmed** (SOAS)
The role of intellectuals in the 1930s: literature and politics in the writings of Premchand, Mulk Raj Anand, and Rashid Jahan
- 8 November** **Reading Week**
- 15 November** **Dushka Saiyid** (Cambridge)
Baluchistan and Pakistan since independence
- 22 November** **Tobias Wolffhardt** (Munich)
Landscapes of the past, landscapes of the future: Colin Mackenzie in Scotland and India
- 29 November** **Jim Brennan** (SOAS)
Between Aligarh and Dar-es-Salaam: M.O. Abbasi and the project of South Asian Muslim nationalism in East Africa, 1920-1955
- 6 December** **Yasmin Khan** (Royal Holloway)
The murder of the Mahatma: Gandhi's death and the secular state
- 13 December** **Rishi Singh** (SOAS)
Process of change: from Muslim to non-Muslim elites in nineteenth-century Punjab

Convenor: Dr Daud Ali

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INDIAN ART TALKS IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OCT-DEC 2005

Jasleen Kandhari of the British Library will be delivering a series of gallery talks and lectures on Indian and Asian art collections at the National Museums. Further information: Jasleen.Kandhari@bl.uk.

All are welcome:

Sat Oct 29: *'The Jain Sculptural Tradition of India'* at the British Museum, 1.15

Tirthankaras: Mahavira, Rishabhadeva, Parshvanatha, Yakshis, Sarasvati, Vimada temple - Mt Abu

Tues Nov 8: *'Asian Treasures of the British Library : Manuscripts & Digital Interactive Displays'* at the British Library, 6.15

Sultan of Baybars' Qur'an, Diamond Sutra 'Turning the Pages' & BL Asian Treasures on display

Sat Nov 12: *'Sculpted Forms of Enlightenment : Indian Buddhist Sculpture'* at the BM, 1.15

The Buddha, Jatakas, Sanchi & Amaravati stupas, Bodhisattvas, Gandharan style

Sat Nov 26: *'Tantric Buddhist Sculpture of Tibet'* at the British Museum, 1.15

Tibetan saints, Mythical Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, Dakinis, Dharmapalas & Yidams in Yab-yum

Sat Dec 3: *'Buddhist Marble Wonders : The Amaravati Sculptures'* at British Museum, 1.15

The Buddhist Amaravati stupa: dome and drum sculptures, carved railings, toranas, Jatakas

Centre for Political Ideologies and Queen Elizabeth House
POLITICAL NORMS AND IDEOLOGIES IN ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA
 Thursdays, 2.15 – 4.00 p.m. (except where otherwise stated)
 Seminar Room A, Department of Politics and International Relations, Manor Road

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| Week 3 | Professor Haleh Afshar (York) |
| 27 October | Women's Rights and Democracy in the Middle East |
| Week 4 | T.B.A. |
| 3 November | |
| Week 5 | Lindsay Whitfield (University College) |
| 10 November | Discourses of Democracy in Ghana |
| Week 6 | Dr Laurence Whitehead (Nuffield) |
| 17 November | Latin American Variations on the Theme of 'Democracy' and 'Citizenship' |
| Week 7 | Professor Alan Knight (St Antony's) |
| 24 November | Political Norms and Ideologies in Modern Mexico |
| Week 8 | Dr David Washbrook (St Antony's) |
| 1 December | Civil Society/Political Society, Presents/Futures: Reflections on Democratisation in India |

Convenors: **Dr Nandini Gooptu** (St Antony's) and **Dr Rochana Bajpai** (Balliol)
 For updates, see <http://cpi.politics.ox.ac.uk> or <http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk>

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Asian Studies Centre, St. Antony's College, University of Oxford
Southeast Asian Studies Seminar - Michaelmas Term 2005
Seminars will be held from 5.00 to 6.30 p.m. on Mondays in the Deakin Room, Founder's Building, St Antony's College (except where otherwise stated)

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| Week 5 | Professor Anthony Reid (National University of Singapore) |
| 7 November | Understanding Asian Nationalisms: Whither Aceh and Indonesia? |
| Week 6 | Professor Michael Hitchcock (London Metropolitan University) |
| 14 November | The Bali Bombings: Tourists as Targets |
| Week 7 | Dr Heonik Kwon (University of Edinburgh) |
| 21 November | The Decomposition of the Cold War and the Politics of Mass War Death in Vietnam and Korea |
| Week 7* | Dr Eva-Lotta Hedman (University of Oxford, QEH) |
| 24 Nov (Thurs) 12.30pm-2.00pm | 'Ethnic' Separatism in Southeast Asia: The Dynamics of State Power |
| | *Additional event at CRISE Seminar Room, Department of International Development (QEH), Mansfield Road. Note different time and location. |

All are welcome

Convenors: **Dr Emma Reisz** (Jesus College), **Dr Eva-Lotta Hedman** (QEH)
 Enquiries: e-mail: asian@sant.ox.ac.uk or tel: 01865-274559
 Please check for updates to the programme at: www.sant.ox.ac.uk/areastudies/asianlectures.html

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South Asian Studies Programme, Asian Studies Centre, St Antony's College, University Of Oxford
Michaelmas Term 2005, SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY SEMINARS
Tuesdays, 2.00 pm, The Deakin Room, Founder's Building, St Antony's College

- Week 4** **Professor Lord Meghnad Desai** (LSE/House of Lords)
 1 November Reconsidering the 19th century Indian economy
- Week 5** **Vanita Sharma** (St Antony's College)
 8 November Contested histories: Second generation Punjabi Partition narratives from
 Lahore and Delhi
- Week 6** **Bhangya Bhukya** (Warwick University)
 15 November Policing cattle, policing nomads: governmentality, fodder and cattle
 breeders in Hyderabad State
- Week 7** **Jangam Chinniah** (International Centre for Advanced Studies, NYU)
 22 November The Hermeneutics of caste and untouchability: caste Hindus'
 engagement in Telugu Country, 1900-1950
- Week 8** **Benjamin Hopkins** (Trinity College, Cambridge)
 29 November The bounds of identity: Perso-Afghan conflict over Herat in the 19th
 century

All are welcome

Convenor: **Dr D.A. Washbrook**
Enquiries: e-mail: asian@sant.ox.ac.uk or tel: 01865-274559

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Institute of Commonwealth Studies

SOUTH ASIA SEMINAR

**Mondays, 5-6:30, Menzies Seminar Room, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell
 Square, London**

- 2 November** **Wendy Hunter**, Kenyon College
 (Wednesday*) Women in Indian Elections
- 5 December** **Katharine Adeney**, University of Sheffield
 (Monday) Ethnicity and Constitution Design in Afghanistan

* Please note different date of meeting

For further details, please contact the convenor: Dr Lawrence Sáez.
 Enquiries by e-mail at L.saez@lse.ac.uk

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