

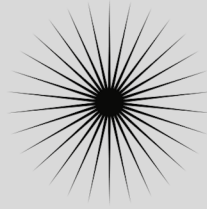
Countercurrents: Pasts Present in the Future

14th, 15th, 16th of September 2023

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CALL FOR PAPERS

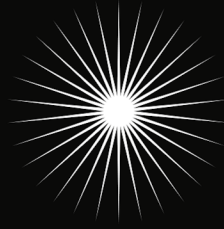
The South Asia* of today manifests through a multitude of imaginations and encounters between the future, past and present. There is a resilience with which South Asia is imagined, as well as a slipperiness to its social and political communities, both within the region as well as across its diasporic arborescence. If the past informs the future, the future might equally influence the past, and the present is but one of the many actors and discourses within this dynamic. We are surrounded by countercurrents, rooted in a juxtaposition of technology and society, historicities and aspirations, otherings and negotiations, belonging and estrangement.

SAAG 2023 explores narratives of a South Asia being manifested, imagined, and practiced today, to construct the South Asia of tomorrow. We look towards what the future of the subcontinent looks like in the rhythms, ebbs, and flows of tempestuous change. We invite papers from doctoral and early career scholars doing ethnographic work in South Asia that explore a range of themes like, but not limited to;

- 1.The State and the making up of citizens
- 2.The law, il/legalities, constitutions
- 3.Borders and margins (physical and epistemic)
- 4.Marginalised and militarised zones
- 5.Urban relationships, spatiality, geographies
- 6.Communities and loneliness
- 7.Wellbeing, mental/health, and infrastructure
- 8.The search for 'indigenous' cultures and rights
- 9.Ecology, sustainability and the lived experiences of climate change
- 10.The 'techade': technology in society, society in technology
- 11.Knowledge (co)production and participation
- 12.Artmaking, curation, and archiving
- 13.Experiences of de/anti/post coloniality
- 14.Nostalgia, 'old' times, and modernity; reconstructions of the past
- 15.(Multiple) futurities, ancestries

SAAG 2023 is taking place on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of September 2023 at SOAS, University of London, WC1H 0XG. We invite interested scholars to submit a title and abstract of no longer than 250 words, along with your name, a short biography and institutional affiliation to saagconference2023@gmail.com by the 15th of April 2023. Full papers are due by the 30th of June 2023.

*South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and their diasporas.



SAAG IS HAPPENING IN LONDON!

SAAG began in the mid-1970s as an annual conference reputed for its exceptional format and intimate, in-depth setting in which feedback is given to participants. For those unfamiliar, SAAG is a gathering of scholars engaged in ethnographic research on/in South Asia. Fewer than 20 papers are accepted to be presented at SAAG, and they are planned to run in single stream. SAAG 2023 is happening in London!

At SAAG, scholars do not present their own papers. Instead, we invite established academics and ethnographers of the subcontinent as discussants to introduce and comment on the paper after which the author can engage with the comments and with the other participants' comments/questions. Authors of the paper must ensure that their papers are lucid and descriptive such as to enable the discussant to discuss it as if it were their own paper. Each accepted paper will, thus, receive in-depth feedback as all participants are expected to have read all accepted papers. On offer are engrossing discussions, meaningful interactions with leading scholars, and exciting after hours.

We will be accepting abstracts (no more than 250 words) until the 15th of April 2023. If your abstract is selected, you will be invited to submit a full-length paper (no more than 8,000 words). Additionally, you can submit an accompanying statement (no longer than one page) of how this paper fits into your wider research project (such as a PhD thesis). Papers will have to be submitted no later than 30th June 2023. All deadlines and word limits are non-negotiable given the nature of participation in SAAG and out of respect for everyone's time. A limited number of travel grants will be available for students and colleagues from South Asia and for scholars and PhD students with lower incomes. Please write to us after your acceptance to the conference if you need bursaries.

Lastly, despite the title, attendance is not restricted to anthropologists but open to all who use an ethnographic mode of research. Please direct all queries/suggestions to saagconference2023@gmail.com

Our thanks to the teams at the University of Edinburgh (2022) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (2019) for their work and support.