54th Annual Conference

on

South Asia

October 28-31, 2026

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of UW-Madison's Center for South Asia, we welcome you to the 54th Annual Conference on South Asia! The conference theme this year is "Transcending Borders and Nationalism - South Asia as cultures, histories, and topography."

We are delighted to host more than 1,100 registered participants, 15 symposia, 134 panels, 28 roundtables, and several special events during this year's conference, October 28-31.

We would like to remind you that the safety and well-being of all visitors to the Annual Conference on South Asia is important to us. In accordance with UW–Madison policy, the ACSA aims to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment to everyone and does not condone discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnicity; sex, gender, and gender identity or expression; marital status; age; sexual orientation; country of origin; language; disability; socio-economic status; and affiliations that are based on cultural, political, religious, or other identities.

We ask that all participants help us to create a safe conference space for learning and exchange, and engage respectfully and professionally with the speakers and other participants. Conference organizers reserve the right to remove any disruptive participants from shared spaces, both virtual and at the conference venue.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution for the purposes of supporting future conference attendance for graduate students, contingent faculty, and early career scholars, you can do so by visiting the Center for South Asia website and clicking the "Support Us" button to make your donation. This donation link is also accessible through the QR code on the back of your program book.

Please visit www.southasiaconference.wisc.edu for more information about the conference. If you have general questions or concerns, feel free to drop by the registration desk or e-mail us at conference@southasia.wisc.edu. We very much hope that you will enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,

Arun Luthra
Teaching Faculty, Mead Witter School of Music
Chair, Annual Conference on South Asia

Viren Murthy
Professor, Transnational History
Director, Center for South Asia

Conference Registration
All participants and attendees must register. The on-site registration rates are $310 for regular registration and $160 for students.

Staff is available at registration:
Tuesday, 5:00 - 8:00PM
Wednesday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Thursday, 8:00AM - 2:00PM, 5:30 - 6:30PM
Friday/Saturday, 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Program Book
Thank you for reserving your program book as part of your conference registration. Our detailed program is also accessible via the ACSA website.

Conference Committee
Chair: Arun Luthra, UW-Madison
Kamran Asdar Ali, UT-Austin
Sarah Beckham, UW-Madison
Gudrun Bühnemann, UW-Madison
Sara Dickey, Bowdoin University
Dominic Esler, LUMS
Ujaan Ghosh, Ohio State University
Charles Hallisey, Harvard University
Asif Iqbal, Oberlin College
Jamal Jones, UW-Madison
J. Mark Kenoyer, UW-Madison
Tyler Lehrer, Batten University
Adil Mawani, UW-Whitewater
Nida Sajid, University of Minnesota
Darshana Mini, UW-Madison

Conference Staff
Andrea Fowler, Coordinator
Magna Mohapatra, Conference Assistant

Sponsored by:
Center for South Asia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
203 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison,WI 53706
608-262-4884

Table of Contents

Welcome Note.....2
Conference Information.....3
Daily Breaks & Meals.....4
All-Conference Events.....5
Exhibitors.....6
Association Meetings/Events.....7

Daily Schedule Grids

Wednesday.....8
Thursday.....9
Friday.....10
Saturday.....11

Session Information

Wednesday Symposia.....12
Wednesday Performance.....31
Session 1: 8:30-10:15 AM.....32
Session 2: 10:30 AM-12:15 PM.....39
Session 3: 1:45-3:30 PM.....46
Keynote.....53
Memorial Reception.....54
Film Screening.....55

Session 5: 8:30-10:15 AM.....56
Session 6: 10:30 AM-12:15 PM.....64
Film Screening.....71
Session 7: 1:45-3:30 PM.....73
Plenary.....79
Performance.....80

Session 9: 8:30-10:15 AM.....82
Session 10: 10:30 AM-12:15 PM.....89
Session 11: 1:45-3:30 PM.....96
Session 12: 3:45-5:30 PM.....103

Index 107

The All-Gender Restroom is on the 2nd Floor.
A Concourse map is inside the back cover.

If quiet space is required for personal needs, please speak with ACSA Staff.

Viren Murthy, Director
Sarah Beckham, Associate Director
Andrea Fowler, Assistant Director

Center for South Asia Staff:
Magna Mohapatra & Abdullahi Ahmed

The Annual Conference on South Asia provides the following complimentary breaks with snacks and refreshments

Daily Break Times

Morning Coffee, Tea, & Snacks — 7:30-8:30 a.m.
University Foyer (second floor)

Coffee/Tea Break & Snacks — 10:15-10:30 a.m.
University Foyer (second floor)

Coffee/Tea Break & Snacks — 3:30-3:45 p.m.
University Foyer (second floor)

Meal Options

Meal tickets must be purchased ahead of time. Prepaid boxed lunches will be available for pickup each day in the University Foyer at 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Both meat and vegetarian lunch options are available. Once picked up in the University Foyer on the second floor, you may take your lunch to any applicable special lunch events, any open location in the Madison Concourse Hotel, or outside.

Wednesday Boxed Lunch
Meat: Grilled chicken, black bean salad, roasted corn, lime, & chile
Vegetarian: Ancho roasted cauliflower, black bean salad, roasted corn, lime, & chile

Thursday Boxed Lunch
Meat: Pesto chicken with roasted tomato, parmesan, & lemon tortellini salad
Vegetarian: Grilled broccoli with roasted tomato, parmesan, & lemon tortellini salad

Friday Boxed Lunch
Meat: Five-spice chicken, wakame salad, rice noodles, cucumber, carrots, sweet chile soy dressing
Vegetarian: Marinated tofu, wakame salad, rice noodles, cucumber, carrots, sweet chile soy dressing

Saturday Boxed Lunch
Meat: Curry chicken with vegetables, chickpeas, tomato, scallion, ginger & turmeric vinaigrette
Vegetarian: Roasted curried vegetables, chickpeas, tomato, scallion, ginger & turmeric vinaigrette

The following all-conference events are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Musical Performance **7:00 p.m.**
Ghost Peppers #No Borders
Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address **3:45-5:30 p.m.**
Tithi Bhattacharya (Purdue University)
"Scaffolding the Revolution: Social Reproduction on the Frontlines of Anticolonialism"
Madison Ballroom (second floor)

Memorial Reception **5:30-7:00 p.m.**
Remembering Sekar
Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)

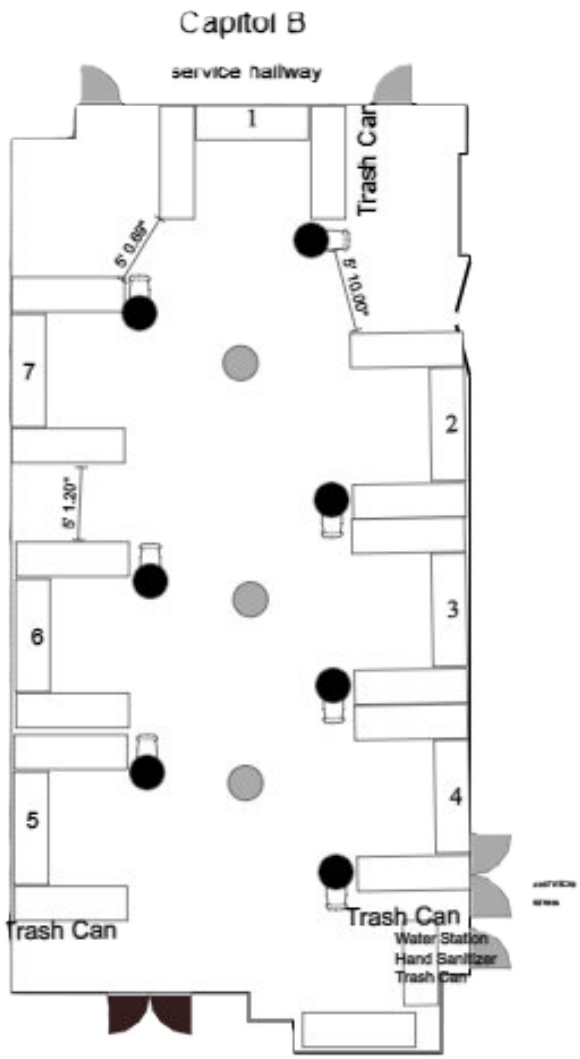
Film Screening **7:00 p.m.**
***Gail & Bharat* by Somnath Waghmare**
Madison Ballroom (second floor)

Friday, October 30, 2026

Film Screening Session **10:30-12:15 p.m.**
***Between Language and Love* by Qaima Hossain**
***Seed Stories* by Chitrangada Choudhury and Aniket Aga**
***Sheetla* by Anamika Singh**
Capitol Ballroom A (second floor)

Plenary Address **3:45-5:30 p.m.**
Madhumita Lahiri (University of Michigan)
"Of Birds and Belonging: Synanthropic Species and Globalized Indian Cinema"
Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)

Musical Performance **7:30 p.m.**
Arun Luthra's Konnakol Jazz Project
Wisconsin Ballroom (second floor)



Exhibitors Attending the Conference

1	UW-Madison Center for South Asia
2	CONSALD
3	South Asia Open Archives
4	De Gruyter Brill
5	The Scholar's Choice
6	New Books Display (self-service)
7	UW-Madison Language Program Office

Exhibit Room Hours

Wednesday, October 28	2-5:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 29	9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Friday, October 30	9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 31	9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Please be sure to pick up any materials you have purchased before 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

All meetings will be held at the conference venue unless otherwise noted. Please be aware that some meetings are open for general attendees, while some are closed board meetings.

Thursday, October 29, 2026

American Institute of Pakistan Studies Open House, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Private Dining Room

Remembering Sekar Memorial Reception, 5:30-7 p.m., Wisconsin Ballroom

American Institute of Pakistan Studies Executive Committee Meeting (Closed), 6-9 p.m., Assembly Room

Friday, October 30, 2026

NRC-FLAS Associate Directors Meeting (**CLOSED**), 9-10:30 a.m., Private Dining Room (1st Floor)

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Board/Committee Meetings and Luncheon, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Private Dining Room (Closed)

American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies Meeting and Reception, 6-8 p.m., Assembly Room

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Reception, 6:30 p.m., Senate Room

Symposium Sessions are Full-Day Sessions (8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.).

Room	Symposium Title
Assembly Room	AIPS Emerging Scholars Symposium
Caucus Room	The Scholarly Legacy of Sumita S. Chakravarty's National Identity of Indian Popular Cinema, 1947-1987
Senate Room A	Migrant Mediations: Subjectivity and Storytelling Across Borders
Senate Room B	Big Translations
Conference Room 1	Religion, Labor, and Capitol: Religious Worlds of Work
Conference Room 3	Memory, Presence, and Veneration of Human Actors in South Asian Religions
Conference Room 4	Everyday (Vernacular) Practices of Media in India
Conference Room 5	Deccan as Region and Frontier
Capitol Ballroom A	The July Uprising and Its Afterlives: Moral Economies, Social Ruptures, and Contentious Futures in Bangladesh
Madison Ballroom	AIIS Dissertation to Book Workshop
University A/B	South Asian Urban Climates: Pedagogies for Collective Futures
University C/D	Disavowed Violence: Proxies, Paramilitaries, and Privateers
Parlor Room 627	Dispassion in Second-Millenium South Asia
Parlor Room 629	Rethinking the Region: Odisha Studies

Symposium Sessions will follow the All-Conference Daily Schedule

Session Begins	8:30 a.m.
Morning Break	10:15-10:30 a.m.
Lunch Break	12:15-1:45 p.m.
Afternoon Break	3:30-3:45 p.m.
Session Ends	5:30 p.m.

Room	Session 1 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 2 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 3 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Multifaceted Approaches to Context, Function, and Meaning	Everyday MohenjoDaro	Contemporary Archaeological Approaches to Survey, Excavation, Documentation and Conservation in South Asia
Caucus	Strange: The Gift of a Broken World and the Poetics of the Uncertain	Marginality, Migration, and Everyday Impacts of State Policy	Unsettled Futures of the Land Across Resource Frontiers in South Asia
Senate A	Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions	The Study of Jain Society and Visual Practice: A Roundtable on the Work of Marcus Banks	Jainism and Politics: Power, History, Identity, and Practices
Senate B	Brides, Wrestlers, and Rakes: Erotic Texts and Transformations in Early Modern South Asia	Translating Devotion: Vernacularities, Textual Traditions, and Religion Making in South Asia	Nepalbhasa Travels: Translation and Modernism in Newar Literature
Conf Rm 1	Claiming Space: Legal Authority, Political Participation, and Gendered Resistance	Recalibrating US-South Asia Policy Under Donald Trump: Strategic Competition, Regional Alignments, and Policy Trade-offs	Epistemological Border-Crossings: Problematizing South-Asian Hegemonic Identity-Formations through Studies in Education
Conf Rm 2	Transcending Borders: South Asian Emerging Scholars' Navigating Challenges and Claiming Space	From Experience to Action: Embedding South Asia Professional Development into Teaching and Institutional Outcomes	Philosophy, Poetics, and Paths of Knowing in Indo-Persian Sufism
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking New Frontiers in Kerala Migration: Nature, Infrastructure, and Imaginaries	Sharing Sovereignty in South Asia: Ecological Vulnerabilities, Digital Connectivity and Environmental Peacebuilding	Roundtable on The Meeting of Rivers: Translating Religion in Early Modern India
Conf Rm 4	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History, and Culture, PT 1	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, PT 2	Layered Affects: Performing Diasporic, Hindu, Regional, and Caste Identities Through Music and Theater
Conf Rm 5	Modes of Unbelonging: Region and Intersectionality in The Cinemas of India	South Asian Feelings in Literature and Cinema	Reel Men, Recent Troubles: Masculinity and the Contemporary Hindi Film
Capitol A	Mapping Bodies as Sites of Feminist Methods, Archives and Techno-Politics in India: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation	Youth Activism in South Asia and in the Diaspora	Reframing Inequality: Caste, Race, and Visual Politics Across Borders
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	South Asian Politics and Political Thought in the Interwar Period	Book Discussion—The Selfie Machine: Selfies, Platforms and Digital Image Culture in India	Book Roundtable: The Tamil Realist Novel in South and Southeast Asia
Madison	Sacred Power, Social Hierarchy: Caste and Religion in South Asia	Mother Tongue in Colonial and Postcolonial India: Historical Texts, the Census, and Digital Practices	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Marginalized Positionalities in Pakistan	Recognition and Marginalization in South Asia	Muslim Utopias in India Amidst Attempted Erasures
University C/D	Approaching Dalit Literature in Translation Anew	Caste Beyond Borders and Analogies: A Roundtable	Caste Across Borders: Higher Education, Diaspora and Politics of Abolition
Parlor 627	Urban Encounters	Precarity With(out) Borders in South Asian Fiction	The Gabriel of Madness: A Roundtable on Islamic Poetry, Ethics, and Muslim Life in the Age of Hindu Nationalism
Parlor 629	Borders Beyond Doctors: Sri Lanka's Mixed Lineages of Healing and Medicine	Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism	From Moscow to Madras: Cold War Internationalism and Indo-Soviet Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges
Parlor 634	Ajeeb Intimaces: Making Sense of Human-Jinn Encounters Cross South Asia	Beauty and Its Beasts: Embodiment, Gender, and Morality in South Asia	Indigenous Medicine and Ideal Bodies in South Asia
Parlor 638	Challenging the Borders of Gender, Religion and Nation: An Analysis of South Asian Reimagination of Translocal Identities	Defining Women's Health in South Asia: A View Through the Twentieth Century	Traversing Languages and Borders: Queer and Trans Vernaculars in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

Room	Session 5 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 6 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 7 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Archaeological Documentation and Analysis	Historical to Colonial Archaeology in South Asia	Archiving the Margins: Case Studies from South Asian Historical Archaeology
Caucus	Unsettling South Asia's "Regional Closets": Craft, Legibility, and Survival in Times of Genocide and Nationalist Violence	The Violence of Nationalism, the Perils of Migration, and the Power of Solidarity	Revisiting Epics & Classics in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Senate A	Beyond Tradition: Rethinking South Asian Religious Concepts	On Vividness in Sanskrit Philosophy and Literary Theory	Trans* Religion(s) in South Asia
Senate B	Nationalism, Alterity, and Resistance in Nepali Literature and Culture	Extraction, Translation, Encounter: Germany and South Asia Across Three Centuries	Literary Traditions and Alternative Narratives of Community Formation in South Asia
Conf Rm 1	Between Displacement and Settlement: Urban Space-Making and Belonging in Twentieth Century Bengal and Assam	Ideas and Practices in Western Indian Economic Life: Labor, Co-operation, and Capitalism, from 1876 to the Present	New Books in Political and Economic Theory
Conf Rm 2	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 1	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 2	Minor Forms, Global Histories: Beyond Novel and Nation
Conf Rm 3	Spatial Transformations and Contestations: New Directions in the Urban History of South Asia in the Twentieth Century	River Geographies of South Asia: Beyond Borders and Boundaries	Fashion to Field: Social Justice and Other Myths of "Ethical" Garment Consumption
Conf Rm 4	Transcending Borders: Multiculturalism and the Future of Democracy in a Cross-National Dialogue Between the US and Pakistan	Memory, Testimony and Identity across Literary Genres	(Post)Colonial Subject Formations in the Vernacular
Conf Rm 5	Without a Working Archive: Rumor, Platforms, and Piracy as Indian Film History	Archives and Afterlives	Disruption and Its Discontents: Platforms, Data, and Digital Media Industries in India
Capitol A	Screens, States, and Infrastructures: Cinema's Mediations of Politics, Dissent, and Labour in India	Film Screening Session	Gendered Whiteness On and Beyond the Bollywood Screen
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	Tamil Scholars, Sectarian Publics, and Colonial Knowledge: Intellectual Mediations in the Madras Presidency	What Wonders We Make: Archives of Dissent	**Closed for Setup**
Madison	Sharing Poetry's Pleasures: Critical engagement with "Vali Dakhani and the Early Rekhtah Networks"	The Precolonial Lives of "Worldliness"	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 1	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 2	In Search of Chand Bibi: Gender, Islam, and Sovereignty in Early Modern South Asia
University C/D	Women's Work in Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Insights from India and Pakistan	Casted Grounds: Property, Territory and Dalit Politics in Contemporary South Asia	Madras Elsewhere: The Making of a Global South Indian Indenture Diaspora
Parlor 627	Colonial Epistemologies, Legal Regimes, and Knowledge Production	Marxist Internationalism in Twentieth-Century South Asia	Unfinished Dialectic: Capitalist Abstraction, Nationalist Reaction, and Marxist Critique in South Asia
Parlor 629	Decolonization: Sovereignty, Capitalism and the World After Empire	New Directions in South Asian Historiography	South Asia Beyond Borders: Empire, Mobility, and Memory in Southeast Asia
Parlor 634	Sex, Violation, and Violence in Early Modern South Asia	Intimate Economies: Gender, Work, Migration, and Law in South Asia	Governing Bodies: Gendered Biopolitics in South Asia
Parlor 638	Cultures of Care: Gendered Subjectivities and Practices in South Asia	Love, Desire, Affect: The Polymorphous Ubiquity of Gender and Sexuality in South Asia	Women (In)Action: Feminized Disobedience as Political Ethics in South Asia

Room	Session 9 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 10 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 11 1:45-3:30 p.m.	Session 12 3:45-5:30 p.m.
Assembly	Prehistoric and Historic Foundations of South Asian Cultural Traditions	Craft Technology and Social Complexity Across South Asia	Pyrotechnology and Social Complexity in Ancient South Asia	The Brahmaputra Valley in Early Modern South Asia: Statecraft, Literature, Ecology
Caucus	Between Poetics and Science: Intellectual Traditions in South Asia	At the Margins of the State: Governance, Political Economy, and Cultures of Exception in South Asia	Between Constraint and Agency: Jain Female Renouncers Across Historical and Contemporary Contexts	open
Senate A	Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird	Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia	Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions	open
Senate B	open	History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia	The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry	open
Conf Rm 1	Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation	Communalism and Ethno-nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present	open
Conf Rm 2	Nationalism, Media, and Popular Culture in South Asia	Performance and Popular Culture Across the Borders	Worldling Urdu Literature and Periodicals	open
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia	Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress	Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes	open
Conf Rm 4	The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images	More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia	Urban Spaces and City-Making through Literature	open
Conf Rm 5	Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions	From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time	open	open
Capitol A	Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media	Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia	Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India	open
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	A Roundtable on "Caste A Global Story"	The Language of Caste: Passing, Avoiding, and Indexing in Global India	Caste in Practice: Labor, Development, and the Politics of Visibility	Caste, Knowledge, and Institutional Power
Madison	Contested Belongings: Religion, Caste, and Political Identity Across Borders	Modes of Political Critique and Reform in Pre-Independence South Asia	Topographies of Knowledge: Caste, Power, and Institutional Inequality	Staging Across Borders: Caste, Translation, and Diaspora in South Asian Theatre
University A/B	Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law	Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia	Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics	Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making
University C/D	Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India	Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism	Speaking Across Borders	open
Parlor 627	Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India	Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time	Empire in the Everyday	open
Parlor 629	Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond	Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern	The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India	Political Work and Thought
Parlor 634	Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities	Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life	open
Parlor 638	Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia	"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	The Making of Elections and Electorates in India	open

AIPS Emerging Scholars Symposium

Organizer: American Institute of Pakistan Studies

Assembly Room, Floor 1

8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introduction by AIPS President, Sana Haroon

8:45-10:15 a.m. Session 1

Sana Haroon (University of Massachusetts, Boston), Chair

Sana Naeem (Harvard University)

Recalcitrant Wives: Refusing Reconciliation in Peshawar's Family Courts

Maini Masood (Columbia University)

Ruin in the "Garden of Eternal Spring": Disaster, Crisis, and the Imperial Spatial Imagination of Kashmir (1828-1834)

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2

Matthew Cook (North Carolina Central University), Chair

Tayeba Batool (University of Pennsylvania)

Arboreal Attachments - Urban Ecologies and Expertise in Islamabad the "Beautiful"

Madiha Ghous (Michigan State University)

Plotting Pakistan: Militainment, Urdu Genre Fiction, and the Kashmir Conflict

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3

Amanda Lanzillo (University of Chicago)

Sana Rizvi (University of Pennsylvania)

Lineages in Transition: Shi'i Identity and the Performance of Spiritual Eliteness in South Asia

Arooj Alam (Tufts University)

Playful Desires of the Muslim Girl-Child During Twentieth-Century Colonial India

Break

3:45-5:15 p.m. Session 4

Shayan Rajani (Michigan State University)

Ilsa Abdul Razzak (University of Washington)

Reflections on Mughal Kingship: A Qazi's Commentary on Nizami from the Seventeenth Century

Meghan Hartman (Barnard College, Columbia College)

Sufism, Paracosms, and Fann: Miraji on Wondrous Makers

5:15 p.m. Discussion and Concluding Remarks by Sana Haroon

The Scholarly Legacy of Sumita S. Chakravarty's *National Identity in Indian Popular Cinema, 1947-1987*

Organizers: Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh) and Sudhir Mahadevan (University of Washington)
Caucus Room, Floor 1

8:30-10:15 a.m. Roundtable 1: "Revisiting *National Identity and Indian Cinema*"

Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh)
Corey Creekmur (University of Iowa)
Jyotkia Virdi (University of Windsor)
Rosie Thomas (University of Westminster)
Bhaskar Sarkar (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Roundtable 2: "Learning from *National Identity and Indian Cinema*"

Swarnavel Pillai (Michigan State University)
Samhita Sunya (University of Virginia)
Anuja Jain (Wesleyan University)
Gohar Siddiqui (Clark University)
Lakshmi Padmanabhan (Northwestern University)

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Roundtable 3: New Directions in Indian Cinema Studies

Silpa Mukherjee (University of California, San Diego)
Tanya Desai (Boston College)
Rahul Kumar (University of Pittsburgh)
Priyadarshini Shanker (University of North Carolina, Willmington)
Debarati Roy (Emory University)

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m. A Conversation with Prof. Sumita Chakravarty, Professor Emerita, The New School

Sudhir Mahadevan (University of Washington)
Sangita Gopal (University of Oregon)

Migrant Mediations: Subjectivity and Storytelling Across Borders

Organizers: Darshana Mini (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Pallavi Rao (University of Virginia)

Senate Room A, Floor 1

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00-10:15 a.m. Panel 1: Visual Ephemera and Mediated Politics

Radhika Parmeswaran (Indiana University)

Making Non-Sense of Migration: Displacement and Emplacement in Annu Palakunnathu Mathew's Photographic Artistry

Darshana Mini (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Plantation Media Infrastructures in Southeast Asia: Malayasian Tamil Identity Formations

Lia Wolock (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

"How Punk Is the Mutiny?": Blogging Racial Solidarities in the Post-Network, Pre-Streaming Era

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Panel 2: Diasporic Interiority and Gendered Self-Making

Madhavi Mallapragda (University of Texas-Austin)

Nothing to Joke About: Zarna Garg's Comedy and the Recirculation of Indian American Stereotypes in the Contemporary Media Ecosystem

Magna Mohapatra (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Chasing the Cosmo-Liberal: The Transnational Affective Mediation of Weirdass Comedy

Simron Gill (University of Pennsylvania)

Pricing Safety: Gender, Racial Capitalism, and the Governance of South Asian Women Within US Affective Economies

Maitrayee Basu (University of Leeds)

Synctin, This Protein: Feminist Re-Mediation and Digital Diasporic Interiority in Shailja Patel's Migritude

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Panel 3: Creative Practices for Mediated Belonging

Alif Shahed (University of Toronto)

Globalising the Sarvajanin: State Rebranding of Durga Puja for the Bangladeshi Diaspora

Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Desis Rising Up and Moving: Materialising Transational Solidarity and Politics of Care

Khurram Sheikh (Indiana University)

Postmemory As a Method: Muslim Diaspora Film Practices from South Asia

Pallavi Rao (University of Virginia)

New York Vich Munda Rehnda: Zohran Mamdani and the Par/Desi Diasporic as an NYC "Insider"

Break

3:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Radhika Gajjala (Bowling Green State University) - Overview of themes emerging from the symposium

Concluding Roundtable and Future Directions

Big Translations

Organizer: Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)

Senate Room B, Floor 1

8:30-9:00 a.m. Introductions and presentation of the problem at hand

9:00 a.m. Session 1

Patrick Olivelle (University of Texas at Austin)

From Upaniṣads to Aśvaghoṣa, via Kauṭilya

Frederick M. Smith (University of Iowa)

Completion of the Translation of the Critical Edition of the Mahābhārata

Ilanit Loewy Shacham (Tel Aviv University) & Harshita Mruthinti Kamath (Emory University)

Making a Case for Rough Translation: Thoughts on Translating Nannaya's Telugu Mahābhāratamu

Break

10:45 a.m. Session 2

John Stratton Hawley (Barnard College, Columbia University)

The Sūrsāgar, Twice Translated

Philip Lutgendorf (University of Iowa)

Size Matters (or) How My Translation of the Tulsidas Rāmcaritmānas Got So Big

Break

1:00 p.m. Session 3

Rebecca Manring (Indiana University)

On Translating Bengali Dharma-Maṅgala Texts

Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

Joys and Troubles of Translating Mixed-Register Poetry: The Case of Nāgarīdās

Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)

The "Disorderly" Anthology: The Problem of Translating Collections of Poems in Classical Tamil Texts

Steven P. Hopkins (Swarthmore College)

Time and Love: The Longue Durée of Literary Translation

Break

3:15 p.m. Session 4

Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)

Big, Uncomfortable Feelings: Translating Kampan's Cuntara Kāṇṭam

Preetha Mani (Rutgers University)

Questions of Authorial Voice in the Tamil 'New Poetry' of the 1960s

Bhavya Tiwari (University of Houston)

Big Translations in Multilingual Contexts

4:45-5:30 p.m. Discussion and wrap-up

Group Dinner, Botanist Social, 206 State Street

Religion, Labor, and Capital: Religious Worlds of Work

Organizers: Emilia Bachrach (Oberlin College), Ridhima Sharma (University of Toronto), and Deonnie Moodie (University of Oklahoma)

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45-10:15 a.m. Session 1: Consumption and Karma

Carla Bellamy (Baruch College, City University of New York)

Redeeming Labor: Karma in Neoliberal Times

Anirban Karak (University of Chicago)

Theology, Labor, and the Critique of Caste in Vaiṣṇava and Śākta Poetry in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Bengal

Nick Tackes (Lousiana State University)

Godly Gifts: Consumer Behavior as Religious Work in the Garatri Parivar and the Brahma Kumaris

Deonnie Moodie (University of Oklahoma)

Don't Follow the Guru; Be the Guru: Debating Hindu Cultures of Leadership and Productivity at the IIMs and Beyond

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2: Economies of Caste

Pinky Hota (Smith College)

Conversion Against Caste: A Politics of Labor and Capital

Ridhima Sharma (University of Toronto)

The Creation of the Whatsapp Uncle: Work, Leisure, and the Unclefication of Poltics in Contemporary India

Shweta Radhakrishnan (Columbia University)

Worship, Work, and Ethical Life at the Shrines of Kodungallur Bhagavathy

Gaurika Mehta (Santa Clara University)

"They Have No Religion": Caste, Tribe, and the Invention of the "Coolie" or Indentured Worker

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3: The Entrepreneurial Ethic

M. Whitney Cox (Northeastern University)

Neoliberalism, Mercantilism, and the Rituals of the Jain Shopkeeper

Emilia Bachrach (Oberlin College)

Leisure and Religion in South Asian Women's Workplaces in Spain

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m.

Final Discussion and Future Directions

South Asian Urban Climates: Pedagogies for Collective Futures

Organizers: Nida Rehman (Carnegie Mellon University) and Aparna Parikh (Pennsylvania State University)

University A/B, Floor 2

8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome and introduction by Aprana Parikh and Nida Rehman

8:45-10:15 a.m. Session 1: Infrastructure and Embodiment

Chitra Venkatramani (Australian National University)

The Temporalities of Exhaustion

Deepti Chatti (University of California, San Diego)

Changing Hearths and Minds: Energy Technologies, Air Pollution, and the Politics of Environmental Expertise in India

Nari Senanayake (University of Kentucky)

"One Monkey = Total Chaos:" Infrastructural Failure and Multi-Species Life in Sri Lanka

Shweta Wagh (Kamla Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute for Architecture, Mumbai)

Negotiating Infrastructure: The Coastal Commons and Resistance to Megaprojects in Mumbai

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2: Countering Climate Unfreedoms

Malini Ranganathan (American University)

Climate Scapegoating: Environmental Unfreedoms and the Caste Ecology of Bangalore's Wetlands

Sabin Ninglekhu (Social Sciences Baha, Kathmandu, Nepal)

Of Ponds, Pilgrims, and Politics: Religious Environmentalism, Climate Change, and the Growing Undercurrents of Hindutva in Southern Nepal

Aslam Saiyad (Independent Researcher and Photographer, Mumbai)

Festivals as Food Policy: Ritual Calendars and Nutrition Security Among the Warli

Abuzar Madhu (Independent Performance and Visual Artist, Lahore)

Listening to the River: Art, Embodiment, and Pedagogies of Resistance Along the Ravi

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3: Pedagogies of Material Practice

Ronishka Nalpathil (Carnegie Mellon University)

Counter-Captioning Teak: Climate Pedagogy Through Material Histories and Visual Archives

Waqas Butt (University of Toronto)

What is a River For?: Flooding and Lands in Lahore's Ravi River

Ifrah Asif (Carnegie Mellon University)

Living Heritage, Collective Methods: Participatory Mapping and the Making of Counter-Archives

Akshar Gajjar (Institute of Architecture, EPFL)

"Above My Head is Sun and Below My Feet is a Burning Kiln": Learning Climate Through Drawing

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m.

Concluding Discussion - Pedagogies for Collective Futures

Memory, Presence, and Veneration of Human Actors in South Asian Religions
Organizers: Máire White (Stanford University) and Kshitij Jain (University of Oxford)
Conference Room 3, Floor 2

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:35-10:15 a.m. Panel 1: Devotional Communities: Lineage, Intimacy, and Sacred Place
Máire White (Stanford University)
Dying for Duḥkhānta: Mokṣa, Memorialization, and the Materiality of Pāśupata Samādhis
James Mallinson (University of Oxford)
Nāth Samādhis and the Restoration of the Asthal Bohar and Jalore Temples
Prateek Pattanaik (Berhampur University)
Between Friends: Jagannatha, the Pañcasakha, and Modes of Devotional Intimacy
Jason Schwartz (Stanford University)
Pierced and Then Alone: How the Mahanubhavs Learned to Watch Their Absent God
Elaine Craddock (Southwestern University), Respondent

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Panel 2: Devotional Memory via Presence and Absence
Anchit Jain (University of Delhi)
Monuments, Memorials, and Multivalent Representations in Jain Temple Art
Kshitij Jain (University of Oxford)
Absent Monks, Present Memories: Embodied Monks and Their Tīrthas in the Nirvāṇa-bhakti of Digambara Jainism
Steven Vose (University of Colorado, Denver)
A Reception History of a Fourteenth-Century Jain Ācārya: Jinaprabhasūri as Inscribed, Sung, Narrated, and Embodied
Prathik Murali (University of Florida)
"We Do Not Speak of Their Passing": Towards a Śrīvaiṣṇava Phenomenology of Presence
Richard Davis (Bard College), Respondent

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Panel 3: Performing Bhakti

Sahaj G. Patel (Vanderbilt University)

Dreams and Visions: Understanding Presence in Gujarati Bhakti

Vivek Virani (University of North Texas)

"The Sants Are Our Own Selves": Veneration of Self and Community by Entrepreneurially Empowered Kabir Singers

Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)

Remembering the Bodies of the Śaraṇas

Mercy Dutta (University of Chicago)

Kṛṣṇa Weeps at Satyabhāmā's Feet: Some Thoughts on the Affective Dimensions of the Deity as the Devotee in the Pārijātaharaṇa of Śaṅkaradeva

Ellen Gough (Emory University), Respondent

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m. Panel 4: Material and Visual Forms of Devotional Presence

Abhishek Jain (University of Arizona)

Embodiment of Divinity Within: A Case Study of Jain Pandit-Poet Daulatrām's Poems

Amy-Ruth Holt (Independent Scholar)

A Body of Light: The American Pop Imagery of Swami Satchidananda

Sharvi Maheshwari (University of Oxford)

Embodying the Divine: Ritual Performance, Trance, and Goddess Traditions in Bhaktapur's Navadurgā Tradition

Kanika Singh Sisodia (University of Chicago)

Making the Past Present: Vaiṣṇava Idioms, Exemplary Figures, and Devotional Publics in Early Hindi Print Culture

Todd Lewis (College of the Holy Cross), Respondent

Everyday (Vernacular) Practices of Media in India

Organizers: Nisarg P (University of Southern California) and Shubham Shivang (University of Chicago)

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

8:30-10:15 a.m. Panel 1: Everyday Media

Vebhuti Duggal (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies)

Ordinary Listening: What Can We Learn from Everday Sounds?

Ankush Bhuyan (Columbia University)

Everyday Ecologies of Cinema: Bamboo and Vernacular Film Production in Assam, Northeast India

Kinjal Dave (University of Pennsylvania)

Reagan Aunties: Toward a Media Archeology of Manufacturing, Gujarati Factory Labor, and Family Values in the Diaspora

Rahul Mukherjee (University of Pennsylvania)

Tracing the Mobile Everyday in India: Differential Mobilities, Media Practices

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Panel 2: Digital Platforms and Political Life

Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Do Electorates Dream of AI Memes? Notes on an Emergent Memetic Unconscious in India's AI-Augmented Memosphere

Amrutha Kunapulli (Ohio State University)

Digital Media Platforms and Diasporic Cultural formations in an Age of Global Conservatism

Rohan Sengupta (New York University)

The Ethics of Manipulation: IT Cells, Creative Labor, and the Everyday Lives of "Disinformation" in India

Laboni Bhattacharya (University of Southern California)

A Digital Churn: IndiaForums.com and the Aesthetic Inventions of Hindi Serial Fanfiction

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Panel 3: Mediations of the Social

Prashant Parvataneni (Stanford University)

Collectivizing Cinema: Mediated Sociality and Counter-Fictions in Films of Ektara Collective

Eléonore Rimbault (University of Chicago)

Overseeing the Overland: Representing Western Itinerancy on the Hippie Trail in 1970s India

Shubham Shivang (University of Chicago)

Liveness, Mediated: The Inner and Outer Lives of Bhojpuri Music Videos

Nisarg Patel (University of Southern California)

History, Mythology, and the Everyday in Early Indian Cinema

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m. Panel 4: Technics and Senses of Media

Kartik Nair (Temple University)

How to Draw a Tree: Generational and Generative Image Making

Gayas Eapen (Coastal Carolina University)

Media in Public: Techniques and Performances in North Indian Streets

Anju Parvathy Biju (University of Pennsylvania)

Making the Nation (Il)legible: Didacticism and Fantasy in Children's Cinema by the Indian State (1950s-60s)

Aatika Singh (Stanford University)

Desecration as Method: On Materiality, Memory and Ambedkar Statues

Deccan as Region and Frontier

Organizers: Sohini Chattopadhyay (Union College), Rama Mantena (University of Illinois, Chicago) and Anupama Rao (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Format of Presentation: Participants will share a 1000-1200 word reflection two days before the symposium to all the attendees. Copies will be available for distribution during the symposium as well. Participants will be asked to summarize their reflection in five minutes. Today's convening will be entirely dedicated to thematic discussion drawing on those brief written contributions.

8:30-8:55 a.m. Introduction and Greetings

9:00-9:45 a.m. Discussion 1: Region and Historiography

Chris Chekuri (San Francisco State University)

Caste in a Qutb Shahi Epic Narrative

Richard Eaton (University of Arizona)

The 16th and 17th Century Deccan as Global Frontier: Military and Cultural Aspects

9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion 2: Persons and Property

Mekhola Gomes (Amherst College)

Sexual Property and State Formation in the Early Medieval Deccan

Kaustubh Naik (University of Pennsylvania)

Caste and Capital in 18th Century Goa

Break

10:30-11:15 a.m. Discussion 3: Social Difference and Experience

Divya Malhari (Columbia University)

The Gender of Caste in Kannada Lifeworlds

Gayatri Reddy (University of Illinois, Chicago)

We Don't Need "Caste," We Have Religion: Siddis, Claims-Making, and Their Refractions in the Deccan

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Discussion 4: Word and World

Anjali Nerlekar (Rutgers University)

Contact Zones in the Deccan: Kannada-Marathi Entanglements in Literary Culture

Rama Mantena (University of Illinois, Chicago)

The Deccan and the Telugu Language Movement

Break

1:45-2:30 p.m. Panel 5: Space and Historical Comparison

Malini Ranganathan (American University)

Periodicity and the Avant-Garde: The Sporadic, Long History of Abhiruchi

Sohini Chattopadhyay (Union College)

Freedom After Freedom: Debating Artistic Autonomy in a Bengali Periodical in the 1960s

2:45-3:30 p.m. Discussion 6: The Archive

Anupama Rao (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Caste, Region, and Archive

Mohit Manohar (University of Chicago)

Premodern Bijapuri Architecture as a Source for Colonial Indo-Saracenic Buildings

3:45-5:30 p.m. Concluding Roundtable

An open conversation steered by the three organizers, to outline key critques and takeaways with present participants, some 2025 "Deccan as Method" participants, and the larger ACSA community in attendance.

The July Uprising and Its Afterlives: Moral Economies, Social Ruptures, and Contentious Futures in Bangladesh

Organizers: Nafisa Tanjeem (Worcester State University)

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

8:30-10:15 a.m. Panel 1: Rethinking July Uprising: Power, Violence, and Political Futures

Naomi Hossain (SOAS University of London)

The Moral Economy of the Bangladesh Uprising: The Role of Economic Crisis and Elite Corruption in the Awami League's Downfall

Anupam Debashis Roy (University of Oxford)

Homo Sacrosanctus: How the Violence of Inviolable Bodies Boosted the July Uprising in Bangladesh

Shehzad M. Arifeen (University of Texas at Austin)

The Nation Must Be Defended: The Cultural Politics of the Awami League and the Problem of Post-Colonial Sovereignty

Samina Luthfa (University of Dhaka)

Left-Right-Center: Challenges and Oppoortunities for Mobilizing in Post-Uprising Bangladesh

Seuty Sabur (BRAC University)

This Is Not My Revolution: Aspiration, Erasure, and the Political Field in the Post-July Uprising Bangladesh

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Panel 2: Whose Bangladesh? The Politics of Minoritization After the July Uprising

Aanmona Priyadarshini (Southern Methodist University)

Bangladesh as Corporealscape: Minoritization and the Affective Life of the Nation-State after the July Uprising

Nafisa Nipun Tanjeem (Worcester State University)

Gendered Power, Limits of Reforms, and Feminist Politics in Post-July Uprising Bangladesh

Tanveer Hossain Anoy (University of Minnesota)

Queering Bangladesh's July Revolution: Survival, Recognition, and Political Legitimacy

Nadine Shaanta Murshid (University at Buffalo)

The Long Complacency

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Panel 3: Reckoning after the Uprising: Wages, Justice, and Digital Power

Dina Siddiqi (New York University)

Capitalizing on Labor:The Elusive Search for Just Wages in Post-Uprising Bangladesh

Sara Hossain (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court)

Truth and Transitional Justice in Bangladesh: After the Uprising

Taqbir Huda (The Queen's College, University of Oxford and Tech Global Institute)

After the Uprising: Reparation, Retribution and Repetition

Salwa Hoque (Emory University)

Navigating Digital Media and Power During the Uprising and After

Jannatul Maoa (Claremont Graduate University)

July 2024: A Tale of Temporal Revolution

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m. Panel 4: Reimagining Bangladesh: Institutions, Knowledge, and Post-Uprising Futures

Hana Shams Ahmed (Independent Scholar)

Who Controls Knowledge? Education and Social Justice in the Context of the July Uprising in Bangladesh

Moyukh Mahtab (University of Texas at Austin)

Exceptional Times: (Re)forming Nation and State in Bangladesh 2.0

Niger Sultana (Indiana University)

The Aesthetic Turn of Resistance: Digital Protest Art and the July Revolution in Bangladesh

Nayma Qayum (Manhattanville College)

Writing Constitution After Transition

Navine Murshid (Colgate University)

Democratic Renewal and Backsliding in Post-Uprising Bangladesh

AIIS Workshop: Transforming Your Dissertation into a Book
Organizers: Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)
Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Sponsored by the American Institute of Indian Studies
Co-Sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and the American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies

Sessions listed below are open to invited workshop participants only.

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Secrets of Publishing: Workshop Participant Introductions and Q&A regarding publishing, next steps, etc. Several faculty members with experience recruiting manuscripts for presses and publishing their own books will participate. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, October 28
8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: We will divide into three groups of eight authors and three mentors. Each project will be discussed for 23-25 minutes. In advance, everyone will read all of the materials for their group. For each 23-25 minute segment, one participant will make a 3-5 minute presentation on someone else's project, and then the other participants will join in to discuss the project - except the project's author, who is not allowed to speak. The author of the project under discussion can only listen, take notes, and record if desired, how their project is being understood, misunderstood, stretched, queried, critiqued, and praised by knowledgeable peers with closely related interested but working in varying theoretical perspectives, disciplines, settings, and time periods.

Break

1:45-5:30 p.m.: Each author is given a 23-25 minute time slot to respond to the more important queries, issues, and suggestions raisedin the morning, and, most important, to seek feedback or further discussion of areas of their project with which they recognized they are having difficulty.

6:30 p.m.: AIIS will host a group reception for workshop participants

Mentor Participants:
Tarini Bedi (University of Illinois-Chicago)
Eric Beverly (SUNY Stonybrook)
Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)
Roanne Kantor (Stanford University)
Daniel Majchrowicz (Northwestern University)
Pavitra Sundar (Hamilton College)
Arsalan Khan (University of Tennessee-Knoxville)
Anand Yang (University of Washington)

Author Participants:

Anuraj Advani (Hamilton College)
The Disordered Mind: Madness and Irrationality in Mughal India, 1500-1750

Shaifali Arora (University of Texas at Austin)
Remembering Bahawalpur: Partition, Language, and the Survival of Subregional Belonging in India

Drishadwadi Bargi (University of Michigan)
Banality, Remediated: Dalit Visions In Times of Spectacular Majoritarianism

Bennett Comerford (University of Southern Maine)
Is This What Is Called Civilization?: Religion and Race in the Satirical and Socio-Critical Writings of Michael Madhusudan Datta

Corbett Costello (Hamilton College)
Crown-Jewel of the Jain Canon: The Kalpa Sūtra Scripture in Mūrtipūjaka Jain Scholastic and Spiritual Life

Annu Daftuar (Appalachian State University)
Reproducing a Eugenic Nation: Understanding Assisted Reproductive Technologies in India

Supurna Dasgupta (Santa Clara University)
Intimate Revolutions: Gender and Counterculture in the Postcolony

Nicole Ferreira (Santa Fe Community College)
Mobile Pasts: Memory and Migration in Afghan Identity, 1451-1770

B. Geetha (Columbia University)
Accidents of the Comic Hero: The Star Body of Vijay Sethupathi in Tamil Cinema

Shounak Ghosh (University of Manchester)
Performing Diplomacy: Ambassadors, Correspondence, and the Cultural Grammar of Courtly Exchange in the Early Modern Persianate World

Sourav Ghosh
Imperial Entanglements: Mughal Empire and Rajput State Formation in South Asia, 1570-1877

Sugandh Gupta (University of Florida)
Drugs, Dependency, and De-addiction: Care Amidst Conflict in Jammu City, Jammu & Kashmir, India

Shruti Iyer (University of Cambridge)
Valuing Life and Labour: Silicosis and the State in Contemporary India

Sana Malik (Binghamton University)
Gender and Generation: Activist Assemblages and Women's Rights in Urban Pakistan

Sita Mamidipudi (University of Pennsylvania)
Labor, Sea and Salt: Watering Landscapes in the Little Rann of Kutch

Christine Marrewa Karwoski
Saffron Citadel: Power, Print, and the Making of a Modern Hindu Identity

Shaivya Mishra
Exploding Jams, Blasting Jellies: Everyday Life of Insurgent Technologies in British India, 1857-1945

Shafya Morshed (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
Devolutionary Empire - Demystifying State Formation in Mughal South Asia 1556-1707

John Nowak (Harvard College)
Unity in Contestation: Muslim Pluralism and Identity in Colonial India

Qazi Arka Rahman (University of Connecticut)
Faith Through Fiction: Imagining Multiple Muslim South Asias

Pallavi Raonka (University of Missouri)
The Everyday Making of Indigeneity: An Ethnography of Munda Women in Jharkhand, India

Shaunna Rodrigues (Columbia University)
Justification After Empire: Democratic Reconstruction in India

Rupali Sehgal (University of Chicago)
Mediated Appetites: Food, Media, and Cultural Politics in Contemporary India

Jay Prakash Sharma (University of Pennsylvania)
Crown-Jewel of the Jain Canon: The Kalpa Sūtra Scripture in Mūrtipūjaka Jain Scholastic and Spiritual Life

Disavowed Violence: Proxies, Paramilitaries, and Privateers
Organizers: Ali Raza (Lahore University Management Sciences)
University C/D, Floor 2

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University), Chair

8:30-10:15 a.m. Session 1: Assembling Violence Workers
What has to exist, materially and organizationally, before fighters can be recruited? This session puts cases that require decades of institutional construction alongside cases where kinship networks and labor routes enable mobilization in weeks.

Ameem Lutfi (Lahore University Management Sciences)
Mahvish Ahmad (London School of Economics)
Jahanzeb Baloch (University of Balochistan)

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2: What Holds Fighters in Place
Once assembled, what sustains commitment? Ideology, pay, kinship obligation, coercion, reputation, belonging. This session treats motivation as a question rather than a starting assumption. It asks what work ideology does when placed alongside other mechanisms that keep violence workers in the field, and examines cases where multiple logics operate simultaneously within the same conflict.

Ilyas Chattha (Lahore University Management Sciences)
Adeem Suhail (Franklin and Marshall College)

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3: Disposal and Afterlives
What happens when the fighting ends? Abandonment, disavowal, reintegration, the long silence. This session examines whether the patterns of disposal reveal something about the nature of the original arrangement that the recruitment phase concealed. If ideological fighters and military laborers are discarded in the same ways, what does that tell us about the relationship between motivation and expendability?

Ali Raza (Lahore University Management Sciences)
Sadia Mahmood (Cornell University & Quaid-i-Azam University)

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m. Dicussion/Recap/Further Steps
In the last session, we will collectively review our discussions during the day. By crystalizing our discussion into few key concerns, we hope to set the agenda for a Special Issue to be published in a mutually agreed Journal.

Tahir H. Naqvi (Trinity University)
Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Dispassion in Second-Millenium South Asia

Organizers: Eric Steinschneider (Ithaca College) and Srilata Raman (University of Toronto)

Parlor 627, Floor 6

8:30-10:15 a.m. Session 1: Dispassion in Monastic and Didactic Contexts

Elaine Fisher (Stanford University)

Who Were the "Viraktas"? Contextualizing Renunciation in Early Modern Vīraśaivism

Eric Steinschneider (Ithaca College)

Training Tuṟavis: Teaching Dispassion in Seventeenth-Century South India

Jesse Pruitt (University of Toronto)

The Horror of Home: Ennui as Ideal in Ramalinga Adigal's Allegory of Urban Domesticity

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2: Dispassion's Gendered Genre Aesthetics

Shashank Rao (University of Toronto)

The Mirror of the Heart Lotus: Theological Aesthetics in the Ragaḷe of Akka Mahādēvi

Aalekhya Malladi (McGill University)

Sword, Soothsayer, and Sakhi: Analyzing Vairāgya and Gender in Telugu Bhakti Literature

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3: Dispassion, Devotion, Vedānta, and Yoga

Aditya Chaturvedi (Ahmedabad University)

Rāga for the Lord: Vairāgya in Puṣṭimārga

Phillip Sergio (University of Chicago)

The Five Gems: A Case of Self-Fashioning or Vairāgya?

Tarinee Awasthi (Flame University)

Vairāgya and Saṃnyāsa between Yoga, Śrīvidyā and Vedānta in Twentieth-Century Transnational Yoga

Break

3:45-5:30 p.m.

David Monteserin Narayana (Stanford University)

The Vairāgya of the Bhagavad Gītā as Reimagined by the Mokṣopāya and the Yogavāsiṣṭha Corpus

Group discussion of "Dispassion," faciliated by Srilata Raman (University of Toronto) and Eric Steinschneider (Ithaca College)

Rethinking the Region: Odisha Studies

Organizers: Sinjini Chatterjee (Ohio State University) and Ujaan Ghosh (Ohio State University)

Parlor 629, Floor 6

8:30-10:30 a.m. Session 1: Art, Aesthetics, and Religious Cultures

Justin Grosnick (Graduate Theological Union)

Sacred Art and Expansion of Ritual in Odiya Diaspora

Westin Harris (University of California, Davis)

TBA

Sonali Dhingra (California State University, East Bay)

Ruptures and Continuities: Erasure, Survival, and the Transformation of Bodhisattva Images from Medieval Odisha to Living Temples

Shriya Patnaik (Pierre du Bois Foundation)

Sonic Lineages and Embodied Archives: Re-Reading the Mahari Performatice Repertoire Beyond Nationalist and Orientalist Frames

Break

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 2: Performative and Literary Traditions

Pralay Kanungo

TBA

Urmishree Bedamatta (Ravenshaw University)

Performance, Community and Literary Tradition in Odisha: A History of Texts in Motion

Kaustavi Sarkar (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

Odissi: A Loktantra

Yaaminey Mubayi

TBA

Jatin Nayak, moderator

Break

1:45-3:30 p.m. Session 3: Hindu Nationalism, Indigeneity, and Politics of Marginality in Odisha?

Jagannath Ambagudia (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

TBA

Pinky Hota (Smith College)

State of the Nation: Regional Populism as Precursor of Ethnonationalism

Rajkumar Khosla (Nabakrushna Choudhary Centre for Development Studies)

Politics of Marginality and Forest Rights: A Study of Tribal Communities in Odisha

Chad Bauman (Butler University)

The Kandhamal Violence: Religion, Politics, and the Construction of Conflict

Angana Chatterji (University of California, Berkeley), moderator

Break

4:00-5:30 p.m. Roundtable Discussion for New Directions for Odisha Studies

Angana Chatterji, Pinky Hota, Jagannath Ambagudia, Pralay Kanungo

Frédérique Apfel-Marglin (Smith College)

The Tantric Meaning of the Vanished Dance of the Mahari in Jagannatha Temple

Ghost Peppers #No Borders

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Ballroom

This event is free and open to the public

No Borders is the debut album from Orlando-based Ghost Peppers, and it introduces the band with a nine-track meditation on transcending imposed divisions — geographical, linguistic, cultural, musical, and ideological. No Borders was created as an act of musical bridge-building. Drawing from Hindustani classical traditions, Bengali and Urdu lyrics, Tagore reinterpretations, reggae rhythms, Americana songwriting, and jazz harmony, Ghost Peppers set out to explore what is or can be shared across cultures often separated by geography and politics. The album also brings together Indian and Pakistani musicians and poets in collaboration, reconnecting musical lineages that long predate modern borders and what has been now deemed impossible under political duress. Through original compositions and reimagined classics, No Borders reflects on migration, memory, and collective humanity—using music not as a genre experiment, but as a living space where difference coexists, and connection endures.

Room	Session 1 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 2 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 3 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Multifaceted Approaches to Context, Function, and Meaning	Everyday MohenjoDaro	Contemporary Archaeological Approaches to Survey, Excavation, Documentation and Conservation in South Asia
Caucus	Strange: The Gift of a Broken World and the Poetics of the Uncertain	Marginality, Migration, and Everyday Impacts of State Policy	Unsettled Futures of the Land Across Resource Frontiers in South Asia
Senate A	Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions	The Study of Jain Society and Visual Practice: A Roundtable on the Work of Marcus Banks	Jainism and Politics: Power, History, Identity, and Practices
Senate B	Brides, Wrestlers, and Rakes: Erotic Texts and Transformations in Early Modern South Asia	Translating Devotion: Vernacularities, Textual Traditions, and Religion Making in South Asia	Nepalbhasa Travels: Translation and Modernism in Newar Literature
Conf Rm 1	Claiming Space: Legal Authority, Political Participation, and Gendered Resistance	Recalibrating US-South Asia Policy Under Donald Trump: Strategic Competition, Regional Alignments, and Policy Trade-offs	Epistemological Border-Crossings: Problematizing South-Asian Hegemonic Identity-Formations through Studies in Education
Conf Rm 2	Transcending Borders: South Asian Emerging Scholars' Navigating Challenges and Claiming Space	From Experience to Action: Embedding South Asia Professional Development into Teaching and Institutional Outcomes	Philosophy, Poetics, and Paths of Knowing in Indo-Persian Sufism
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking New Frontiers in Kerala Migration: Nature, Infrastructure, and Imaginaries	Sharing Sovereignty in South Asia: Ecological Vulnerabilities, Digital Connectivity and Environmental Peacebuilding	Roundtable on The Meeting of Rivers: Translating Religion in Early Modern India
Conf Rm 4	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History, and Culture, PT 1	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, PT 2	Layered Affects: Performing Diasporic, Hindu, Regional, and Caste Identities Through Music and Theater
Conf Rm 5	Modes of Unbelonging: Region and Intersectionality in The Cinemas of India	South Asian Feelings in Literature and Cinema	Reel Men, Recent Troubles: Masculinity and the Contemporary Hindi Film
Capitol A	Mapping Bodies as Sites of Feminist Methods, Archives and Techno-Politics in India: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation	Youth Activism in South Asia and in the Diaspora	Reframing Inequality: Caste, Race, and Visual Politics Across Borders
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	South Asian Politics and Political Thought in the Interwar Period	Book Discussion—The Selfie Machine: Selfies, Platforms and Digital Image Culture in India	Book Roundtable: The Tamil Realist Novel in South and Southeast Asia
Madison	Sacred Power, Social Hierarchy: Caste and Religion in South Asia	Mother Tongue in Colonial and Postcolonial India: Historical Texts, the Census, and Digital Practices	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Marginalized Positionalities in Pakistan	Recognition and Marginalization in South Asia	Muslim Utopias in India Amidst Attempted Erasures
University C/D	Approaching Dalit Literature in Translation Anew	Caste Beyond Borders and Analogies: A Roundtable	Caste Across Borders: Higher Education, Diaspora and Politics of Abolition
Parlor 627	Urban Encounters	Precarity With(out) Borders in South Asian Fiction	The Gabriel of Madness: A Roundtable on Islamic Poetry, Ethics, and Muslim Life in the Age of Hindu Nationalism
Parlor 629	Borders Beyond Doctors: Sri Lanka's Mixed Lineages of Healing and Medicine	Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism	From Moscow to Madras: Cold War Internationalism and Indo-Soviet Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges
Parlor 634	Ajeeb Intimaces: Making Sense of Human-Jinn Encounters Cross South Asia	Beauty and Its Beasts: Embodiment, Gender, and Morality in South Asia	Indigenous Medicine and Ideal Bodies in South Asia
Parlor 638	Challenging the Borders of Gender, Religion and Nation: An Analysis of South Asian Reimagination of Translocal Identities	Defining Women's Health in South Asia: A View Through the Twentieth Century	Traversing Languages and Borders: Queer and Trans Vernaculars in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

Session 1 Panels and Roundtables

Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Multifaceted Approaches to Context, Function, and Meaning

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Marta Ameri (Colby College)

Digitizing the Corpus of Indus Seals and Inscriptions: Old Photographs and New Avenues for Presenting Artifact Records

Bhaskar M V (Independent)

A Critical Mass to Decipher the Harappan Script

Bahata Ansumali (University of Texas at Austin)

Wheel-Like Symbols in Indus Script and Iconography: Solar, Royal, Fire, and Metallurgical Significations Across Amulets, Tablets, Seals, and Metal Implements

Gregg Jamison (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Quantification of Variation in Indus Seals: a Multi-Scalar Approach

Strange: The Gift of a Broken World and the Poetics of the Uncertain

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Lawrence Cohen (University of California, Berkeley)

Sara McClintock (Emory University)

The Gift of Despair

Gregory Goulding (University of Pennsylvania)

Cataclysm and Renewal: The Persistence of Hindi Millenarianism Across Hope and Despair

Andy Rotman (Smith College)

The Pleasures of Deception: "Banarsi Handloom Silk Sarees"

Lawrence Cohen (University of California, Berkeley)

Outrage, Uncertainty, and the Broken World

Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: J. Barton Scott (University of Toronto)

Mikaela Chase (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Ridhima Sharma (University of Toronto)

David Silverberg (Columbia University)

Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)

J. Barton Scott (University of Toronto)

Brides, Wrestlers, and Rakes: Erotic Texts and Transformations in Early Modern South Asia

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer: Shayan Rajani (Michigan State University)

Discussant / Chair: Mika Natif (George Washington University)

Seton Uhlhorn (Harvard University)

Dressed to Kill: Bānke and an Erotics of Masculine Self-Fashioning in Literature, 1700-1857

Shayan Rajani (Michigan State University)

The Pleasures of Women: Female Sexuality and Amorous Paintings of Same-Sex Female Couples

Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)

The Erotics of Wrestling: Meaning and Youngmanhood in Najāt's Gul-e Kushti, 1699-1850

Claiming Space: Legal Authority, Political Participation, and Gendered Resistance

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Tara Quinn (University of Utah)

"Even When We Win, We Can't Win": Women's Political Participation in Local Elections in Postwar Sri Lanka

Summaiya Zaidi (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Women at the Bench: Legal Capital and Male Resistance to Women Judges in Pakistan (1980–2022)

Jannatul Maoa (Claremont Graduate University)

Women Writing Desire: Visibility and Resistance on Social Media in Bangladesh

Sameen Sameen (University of Kansas)

(Un)Reasonable Access: Colonial Law, Postcolonial Nationalism, and the Marital Rape Exception in India

Transcending Borders: South Asian Emerging Scholars' Navigating Challenges and Claiming Space

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Nowrin Akther Koly (Illinois State University)

Discussant / Chair: Quamrul Hassan (University of Arkansas)

Nowrin Akther Koly (Illinois State University)

Md Mahmudul Haque (North Dakota State University)

Lutfun Shantana (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Saima Akter (Illinois State University)

Keshari Rana Thapa (Illinois State University)

ABM Shafiqul Islam (Illinois State University)

Rethinking New Frontiers in Kerala Migration: Nature, Infrastructure, and Imaginaries

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Paul Thomas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Nisar Kannangara (National Institute of Advanced Studies)

An Agentic Sea and Technological Adaptation: Embodied Maritime Capital and the Multi-Sited Migration of Kanyakumari Fisherfolk in India's West Coast

U Arptith Shankar (IIT Gandhinagar)

Migration Trajectories of Upward Social Mobility and Transformation of Rental Infrastructure Spaces and Meaning at Perumbavoor in India

Aiswarya T (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

Between Social Reproduction and Agency: Understanding the Complexities of Education of Migrant Children in Kerala, India

Paul Thomas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Edugrating Out: Youth, Work, and Mobility Aspirations in Kerala, India

Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, Part 1

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer: Sourav Ghosh (Lehigh University)

Discussant / Chair: Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

Dalpat Rajpurohit (University of Texas at Austin)

A Land Imagined: Poetry, Piety, and the Making of Rajasthan

Rabi Prakash (Thapar Institute)

Becoming Kshatriya: Hagiographical Texts and Caste Identity Among Lower Caste Political Rulers in 18th-century India

Aditi Jain (University of Texas at Austin)

Jahāngīrjascandrikā and the Rajput Political-Theology in the Seventeenth Century

Sourav Ghosh (Lehigh University)

Agents of Empire: Mughal Noblemen and Rajput Politics in Early Modern India

Modes of Unbelonging: Region and Intersectionality in The Cinemas of India

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Anupama Prabhala (Loyola Marymount University)

Anupama Prabhala (Loyola Marymount University)

Mass Cinema Before S.S. Rajamouli: Southern Relocation Between Hyderabad, Madras, and Bombay 1930s-1980s

Madhuja Mukherjee (Jadavpur University)

The Scent of Subversion: Reading Miss Shefali's Cinematic Performances as a Visceral Interjection

Mapping Bodies as Sites of Feminist Methods, Archives and Techno-Politics in India: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer: Edwin Elizabeth Thomas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Christine Garlough (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Edwin Elizabeth Thomas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Tracing India's Biopolitical Population Control Journey from 1881 to 1961: A Demographic Life Table Analysis

Archi Mukherjee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Working Wombs: A Study on Transnational Surrogacy and the Resistance of Wombs on Rent in India

Srijan Pandey (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Body That Cannot Authenticate: Data Nihilation in the Brahmanical Hindutva State

Shrinjita Biswas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Feminist Anti-Nationalism and Performance Aesthetics in Contemporary India: A Rhetorical Analysis of Pushpamala N's Motherland (2011) and The Great Indian Magic Trick! (2015)

South Asian Politics and Political Thought in the Interwar Period

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Ketaki Pant (University of Southern California)

Submerged Histories: Princely States of Gujarat in the 1930s

Suvaid Yaseen (Hamilton College)

Colonial Surveillance and Muslim Print Culture in Twentieth Century Kashmir

SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Longing for Revolution: Ubaydullah Sindhi's (d.1944) Political Theology

Aisha Ghani (University of Minnesota)

Muhammad Iqbal and the West: Reading as Islamic Translation

Sacred Power, Social Hierarchy: Caste and Religion in South Asia

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Basanth Thomas Babu (University of Maryland)

Commanding Spirits: Neeli, Kadamattathu Kathanar, and the Caste Afterlives of Christian Power in Kerala

Divyani Motla (University of Toronto)

Dalit Dargahs of Punjab: Caste, Gender, and Rewriting Religion in South Asia

Ruth Ibameri Kharbamon (MIT University of Meghalaya)

Transnational Faith, Local Culture: Christianity and Indigenous Cultural Negotiation in Northeast India

Marginalized Positionalities in Pakistan

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Muhammad Farooq (Seton Hall University)

Joe Evans (Villanova University)

Mariamabad Catholic Community: Being Religious Interreligiously in Pakistan

Bramsh Khan (Syracuse University)

Pureistan: Gender and Genocide in Pakistan

Sameera Abbas (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Grief, Gender, and Ethical Labor: Literature as Witness in Contexts of State Violence

Muhammad Farooq (Seton Hall University)

Pashtun in the Postcolony: Representation and the Grammar of Necropolitics

Aslam Kakar (Rutgers University)

Banal Yet Dominant: (Re)Positioning Punjabi Nationalism in Pakistan

Approaching Dalit Literature In Translation Anew

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Subramanian Shankar (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Subramanian Shankar (University of Hawa'i at Mānoa)

On (Not) Editing Dalit Literature

Anushiya Ramaswamy (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)

Speaking of the Body, Mostly: Translating Tamil Dalit Poet Sukirtharani

Joel Lee (Williams College)

On Translating a Modern Classic: Dr. Tulsiram's Hindi Memoir Murdahiya

Sravanthi Kollu (Boston University)

Querying Dalit Literature

Urban Encounters

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Priyanjali Mitra (University of Chicago)

The Relational Economy of Aspiration: Gender, Futurity, and Household Hierarchy Under Urban Precarity

Aanmona Priyadarshini (Southern Methodist University)

Shattered Sacred, Broken Lives: Rubbletopia and the Afterlives of Ruin in Infrasecular Urban Space

Tomoyuki Chaya (Hyogo University of Teacher Education)

Living with the "Bad Guys": Mentality and Reality of Exclusion Held by Slum Youths in India

Pouya Nekouei (University of Texas, Austin)

Persian Print Culture Between South Asia and Southern Port Cities of Iran (1890s-1920): The Case of Habl-ol-Matin of Kolkata

Borders Beyond Doctors: Sri Lanka's Mixed Lineages of Healing and Medicine

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Claire Elliot (University of Pennsylvania)

Nipun Kottage (University of Pennsylvania)

"Studying the Book is Easy…But You Have To Do This Too." The Civic Afterlives of Terror Among Sri Lankan Medical Students

Mark Whitaker (University of Kentucky)

A Mixture of Styles: Caught Between Local and National, and Religion and "Western" Medicine, When Learning How to Become a Hindu Priest or a Medical Doctor in Sri Lanka's Batticaloa District

Claire Elliot (University of Pennsylvania)

Pragmatic Engagement and Affective Withdrawal in Sri Lankan Psycho-Spiritual Treatment

Kim Kolor (University of Chicago)

Siddha Futurities and "The Slow Time" of Medicine in Sri Lanka

Ajeeb Intimacies: Making Sense of Human-Jinn Encounters Cross South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Arooj Alam (Tufts University)

Rhitama Basak (Brown University)

Towards Islamic Presents: Sufi Shrines and Pious Intimacies in India

Daniel Majchrowicz (Northwestern University)

Kafi Ajeeb: Jinns and Other Specters in 1930s Urdu Short Stories

Arooj Alam (Tufts University)

Yeh Shaadi Nahi Ho Sakti: Human-Jinns Romance and Marriages in Urdu Women's Magazines in Post-Colonial South Asia

Sarah Pinto (Tufts University)

Beyond Haunting: Theorizing Djinns and Malevolence Through Film

Challenging the Borders of Gender, Religion and Nation: An Analysis of South Asian Reimagination of Translocal Identities

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer: Snehal Sharma (University of Kentucky)

Discussant / Chair: Shruthi Parthasarathy (University of Kentucky)

Snehal Sharma (University of Kentucky)

From Durga to Sita: Gender, Everyday Politics, and Hindutva Women's Work

Shruthi Parthasarathy (University of Kentucky)

Becoming "Hindu American": Exploring "Hindu" as a Reified Category that Transcends Physical and Digital Borders

Israt Eshita Haque (University of Kentucky)

From Patriarchy to Partnership? U.S Bangladeshi Masculinity in Diasporic Media

Supong Longkumer

Gendered Memories and Nationalism: Women Soldiers in the Naga Movement

Room	Session 1 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 2 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 3 1:45-3:30 p.m.
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Senate A	Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions	The Study of Jain Society and Visual Practice: A Roundtable on the Work of Marcus Banks	Jainism and Politics: Power, History, Identity, and Practices
Senate B	Brides, Wrestlers, and Rakes: Erotic Texts and Transformations in Early Modern South Asia	Translating Devotion: Vernacularities, Textual Traditions, and Religion Making in South Asia	Nepalbhasa Travels: Translation and Modernism in Newar Literature
Conf Rm 1	Claiming Space: Legal Authority, Political Participation, and Gendered Resistance	Recalibrating US-South Asia Policy Under Donald Trump: Strategic Competition, Regional Alignments, and Policy Trade-offs	Epistemological Border-Crossings: Problematizing South-Asian Hegemonic Identity-Formations through Studies in Education
Conf Rm 2	Transcending Borders: South Asian Emerging Scholars' Navigating Challenges and Claiming Space	From Experience to Action: Embedding South Asia Professional Development into Teaching and Institutional Outcomes	Philosophy, Poetics, and Paths of Knowing in Indo-Persian Sufism
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking New Frontiers in Kerala Migration: Nature, Infrastructure, and Imaginaries	Sharing Sovereignty in South Asia: Ecological Vulnerabilities, Digital Connectivity and Environmental Peacebuilding	Roundtable on The Meeting of Rivers: Translating Religion in Early Modern India
Conf Rm 4	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History, and Culture, PT 1	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, PT 2	Layered Affects: Performing Diasporic, Hindu, Regional, and Caste Identities Through Music and Theater
Conf Rm 5	Modes of Unbelonging: Region and Intersectionality in The Cinemas of India	South Asian Feelings in Literature and Cinema	Reel Men, Recent Troubles: Masculinity and the Contemporary Hindi Film
Capitol A	Mapping Bodies as Sites of Feminist Methods, Archives and Techno-Politics in India: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation	Youth Activism in South Asia and in the Diaspora	Reframing Inequality: Caste, Race, and Visual Politics Across Borders
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	South Asian Politics and Political Thought in the Interwar Period	Book Discussion—The Selfie Machine: Selfies, Platforms and Digital Image Culture in India	Book Roundtable: The Tamil Realist Novel in South and Southeast Asia
Madison	Sacred Power, Social Hierarchy: Caste and Religion in South Asia	Mother Tongue in Colonial and Postcolonial India: Historical Texts, the Census, and Digital Practices	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Marginalized Positionalities in Pakistan	Recognition and Marginalization in South Asia	Muslim Utopias in India Amidst Attempted Erasures
University C/D	Approaching Dalit Literature in Translation Anew	Caste Beyond Borders and Analogies: A Roundtable	Caste Across Borders: Higher Education, Diaspora and Politics of Abolition
Parlor 627	Urban Encounters	Precarity With(out) Borders in South Asian Fiction	The Gabriel of Madness: A Roundtable on Islamic Poetry, Ethics, and Muslim Life in the Age of Hindu Nationalism
Parlor 629	Borders Beyond Doctors: Sri Lanka's Mixed Lineages of Healing and Medicine	Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism	From Moscow to Madras: Cold War Internationalism and Indo-Soviet Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges
Parlor 634	Ajeeb Intimaces: Making Sense of Human-Jinn Encounters Cross South Asia	Beauty and Its Beasts: Embodiment, Gender, and Morality in South Asia	Indigenous Medicine and Ideal Bodies in South Asia
Parlor 638	Challenging the Borders of Gender, Religion and Nation: An Analysis of South Asian Reimagination of Translocal Identities	Defining Women's Health in South Asia: A View Through the Twentieth Century	Traversing Languages and Borders: Queer and Trans Vernaculars in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

Session 2 Panels and Roundtables

Everyday MohenjoDaro

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Uzma Rizvi (Pratt Institute)

Discussant / Chair: Pallavee Gokhale (Pratt Institute)

Uzma Rizvi (Pratt Institute)

MohenjoDaro: Mapping the City, Reconstructing Urban Design Decisions and Urban Subjectivity

Rosalyn Wadsworth (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

From Under the Veil of the Harappan Veneer: An Exploratory Analysis of Artifact Assemblages at MohenjoDaro

Pallavee Gokhale (Pratt Institute)

Who's Who of MohenjoDaro - Searching for Harappan Folks through Maps and Structures

Uzma Rizvi (Pratt Institute) and Marta Ameri (Colby College)

Everyday Households Expanded: Considering Architectural Units DK-G South, MohenjoDaro, in Relation to the Deposition of Seals and Sealings

Teresa Raczek (Kennesaw State University), Discussant

Marginality, Migration, and Everyday Impacts of State Policy

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Khan Faqir (Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar)

International Refugee Law and Pakistan: Compliance and Gaps in Protecting Afghan Refugees

Saya Araki (Kyoto University)

Unveiling the Overlooked: Diversity, Dynamics, and Marginalization of Muslims in Eastern Nepal

Hajira Ali (National University of Modern Languages)

Beyond Borders: Pashtun Lived Experiences of Cross-Border Conflict in Pakistan and Afghanistan

The Study of Jain Society and Visual Practice: A Roundtable on the Work of Marcus Banks

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: John Cort (Denison University)

Mikaela Chase (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

M. Whitney Kelting (Northeastern University)

Lisa Owen (University of North Texas)

Nandita Punj (Arizona State University)

Translating Devotion: Vernacularities, Textual Traditions, and Religion Making in South Asia
Senate Room B, Floor 1
Organizer: Ujaan Ghosh (Ohio State University)
Discussant / Chair: Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto)
Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz (Pennsylvania State University)
Alaka Chudal (University of Vienna)
Amrita Chowdhury (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
Ujaan Ghosh (Ohio State University)

Recalibrating US-South Asia Policy Under Donald Trump: Strategic Competition, Regional Alignments, and Policy Trade-Offs
Conference Room 1, Floor 2
Organizer: Zafar Iqbal (University of New Mexico)
Discussant / Chair: Inamullah Jan (International Islamic University, Islamabad)
Inamullah Jan (International Islamic University, Islamabad)
US–India Strategic Partnership Under Trump 2.0: Balancing the Rise of China in the Indo-Pacific
Khalid Iqbal and Shehla Rahim
Engagement or Isolation? U.S. Policy toward the Taliban in Trump 2.0 Era
Zafar Iqbal (University of New Mexico)
Pakistan Is Back in Washington—At a Cost

From Experience to Action: Embedding South Asia Professional Development into Teaching and Institutional Outcomes
Conference Room 2, Floor 2
Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley Community College)
Jeff Badger (Council of American Overseas Research Centers)
Jessica Barnes (Northern Arizona University)
Farah Habib (Bristol Community College)
Valerie Kern-Lyons (Sauk Valley Community College)
LaQuita Jones (Los Angeles Community College District)
Sudipta Roy (American Institute of Bangladesh Studies)

Sharing Sovereignty in South Asia: Ecological Vulnerabilities, Digital Connectivity and Environmental Peacebuilding

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Bilal Aslam (University of Lahore)

Rahul Rastogi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Inherited Ecologies: Narrative Traditions and Climate Praxis in South Asia

Zaryab Ahmad Hassan Chattha (Lahore Institute for Research and Analysis)

Transboundary Air Pollution and the Case of India–Pakistan Smog Diplomacy

Rana Ghulam Rabbani (Govt Sabria Sirajia Higher Secondary School)

Digital South Asia: Transcending Borders through AI, Social Media, and Emerging Technologies

Bilal Munir (Punjab Group of Colleges)

Digital Youth Networks and Climate Action: Transnational Student Collaboration in South Asia

Bilal Aslam (University of Lahore)

Entangled Conflict–Collaboration in Environmental Governance: Theorizing Environmental Peacebuilding from South Asia

Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, Part 2

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer: Sourav Ghosh (Lehigh University)

Discussant / Chair: Dipti Khera (New York University)

Akshita Todi (University of California, Berkeley)

The Making of a Modern Marwari Past

Saumya Agarwal (O.P. Jindal Global University)

Rajasthan in Popular Histories and Wall Paintings of Shekhawati

Christine Marrewa (Columbia University)

Custodians of a Yogic Past: Householder Yogis and the Mahamandir Temple in Jodhpur

Mukesh Kulriya (University of California, Los Angeles)

Cohesive Contradictions: Caste and Religious Identities in Processional Music

South Asian Feelings in Literature and Cinema

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer: Saumya Lal (Louisiana State University)

Discussant / Chair: Shwetha Chandrashekhar (University of South Dakota)

Kalyan Nadiminti (Northwestern University)

Blind Opacity: Ved Mehta, Cold War Institutionality, and Disability Refusal

Shwetha Chandrashekhar (University of South Dakota)

What Comes After Tolerance?

Rahul Sen (Tufts University)

Feeling Undesirable: Understanding the Sex of Brown

Saumya Lal (Louisiana State University)

Middle-Class Empathy and the Specter of a People's War in The Lives of Others

Youth Activism in South Asia and in the Diaspora

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Shuvam Das (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

From Discord Servers to the Singha Durbar: GenZ Protests in Nepal and Bangladesh as Digital Counter-Conducts

Pupsa Damai (Marshall University)

The Revolution Will Not Be Televised But Will It Be Streamed? Some Thoughts on South Asia's Gen Z Movements

Nila Jeyapriya (University of Minnesota)

Transnational Nationalisms - The Rise of Hindu Nationalism Among Second-Generation Indian-Americans

Dyotana Banerjee (Krea University)

Dasha (Situation) to Disha (Direction): Dalit Youth Politics in Neoliberal Times in Western India

Book Discussion—The Selfie Machine: Selfies, Platforms and Digital Image Culture in India

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Amrutha Kunapulli (Ohio State University)

Amrutha Kunapulli (Ohio State University)

Usha I (Stanford University)

Sangita Gopal (University of Oregon)

Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Mother Tongue in Colonial and Postcolonial India: Historical Texts, the Census, and Digital Practices

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Chaise LaDousa (Hamilton College)

Discussant / Chair: Danielle Bass (Cornell University)

Walter Hakala (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

Recognition or Literacy? The Legibility of Urdu Epigraphy in Central and Peninsular India

Vipin Krishna (University of California, Los Angeles)

"What Is Your Mother Tongue?" Census Politics and Urdu Survival in 1970s India

Christina Davis (Western Illinois University)

Minoritized Language Politics, Mother Tongues, and Digital Scripts at Indian Universities

Chaise LaDousa (Hamilton College)

Staging the Mother Tongue and Hailing the Nation

Recognition and Marginalization in South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer: Shantanu Nevrekar (Stanford University)

Chair: Saad Lakhani (Stanford University)

Zainab Najeeb (Rutgers University)

The "Madamization" of the Women's Movement in Peshawar: Exceptionalism, Crisis, and the Limits of Progress

Shikha Nehra (Stanford University)

"We Are an Ethnic Minority": Assamese Muslim Struggles for Recognition as Native Muslims

Saad Lakhani (Stanford University)

Blasphemy Politics and Working-Class Dignity in Pakistan

Shantanu Nevrekar (Stanford University)

The Value of Recognition: Caste and Economic Life in Small-Town India

Pinky Hota (Smith College), Discussant

Caste Beyond Borders and Analogies: A Roundtable

Room: University C/D

Floor: Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Tapaswinee Mitra (University of Maryland-College Park)

Uddipta Roy (University of Maryland-College Park)

Tapaswinee Mitra (University of Maryland-College Park)

Leenu Sugathan (George Washington University)

Basanth Thomas Babu (University of Maryland)

Chandrasekhar Sepuri (University of Maryland)

Precarity With(out) Borders in South Asian Fiction

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Golam Rabbani (Toronto Metropolitan University and Kwantlen Polytechnic University)

Singing the More-Than-Human: Panju Shah, Duddu Shah, and Baul Ecological Thought in Bangladesh

Thanzeel Nazer Vengalath (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

On Goat Life, Runaway Caprine, and Novel: An Essay on the Boundaries of Fiction and Anthropology

Raihan Rahman (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Anthropocene Precarity: Reading the Transnational Via Rupta as State of Exception in Amitav Ghosh's Gun Island

Sirsha Nandi (Texas A&M University)

History or Storytelling or Both? Reading Paraiyar Sociality as a Vision for the Future in Ghost in the Tamarind

Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer: SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Discussant / Chair: Suvaid Yaseen (Hamilton College)

David Gilmartin (North Carolina State University)

Aisha Ghani (University of Minnesota)

Gregory Bruce (University of Chicago)

Suvaid Yaseen (Hamilton College)

SherAli Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College)

Beauty and Its Beasts: Embodiment, Gender, and Morality in South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer: Manjari Sahay (Emory University)

Discussant / Chair: Sarah Pinto (Tufts University)

Manjari Sahay (Emory University)

Weighing Womanhood: PCOS, Femininity, and the Ethics of Beauty in Contemporary India

Namrata Jain (Tufts University)

Body, Beauty, Boycott: Political Economy of Consumption and the Ordinary Woman in Early Twentieth-Century Urban North India

Sarah Pinto (Tufts University)

Shapeshifters: The Female Monster, Beauty, Ugliness, and Ethical Deferral

Mobeen Hussain (University of York)

"Adornment Is a Delicate Thing": Artifice, Consumption, and Modernity in Indian Print Debates c. 1910s-1940s

Defining Women's Health in South Asia: A View Through the Twentieth Century

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Archana Venkatesh (Clemson University)

Archana Venkatesh (Clemson University)

Women Driving Health Care: Mobile Medical Vans for Rural India

Amna Qayyum (University of Georgia)

Salt and Sponge: Women's Welfare and Stratified Reproductive Health in Postcolonial Pakistan

Mytheli Sreenivas (Ohio State University)

Sexual and Reproductive Revolutions? Population, Fertility, and Women's Print Magazines in the 1970s

Esther Anne Victoria Moraes (Manipal Institute of Liberal Arts)

Discordant Decriminalization: How NGOs Navigate the State, Donors, and Allies in Indian Abortion Advocacy

Room	Session 1 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 2 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 3 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Current Perspectives on Indus Seals and Writing: Multifaceted Approaches to Context, Function, and Meaning	Everyday MohenjoDaro	Contemporary Archaeological Approaches to Survey, Excavation, Documentation and Conservation in South Asia
Caucus	Strange: The Gift of a Broken World and the Poetics of the Uncertain	Marginality, Migration, and Everyday Impacts of State Policy	Unsettled Futures of the Land Across Resource Frontiers in South Asia
Senate A	Algorithms of the Gods: GenAI and the Transformation of South Asian Religions	The Study of Jain Society and Visual Practice: A Roundtable on the Work of Marcus Banks	Jainism and Politics: Power, History, Identity, and Practices
Senate B	Brides, Wrestlers, and Rakes: Erotic Texts and Transformations in Early Modern South Asia	Translating Devotion: Vernacularities, Textual Traditions, and Religion Making in South Asia	Nepalbhasa Travels: Translation and Modernism in Newar Literature
Conf Rm 1	Claiming Space: Legal Authority, Political Participation, and Gendered Resistance	Recalibrating US-South Asia Policy Under Donald Trump: Strategic Competition, Regional Alignments, and Policy Trade-offs	Epistemological Border-Crossings: Problematizing South-Asian Hegemonic Identity-Formations through Studies in Education
Conf Rm 2	Transcending Borders: South Asian Emerging Scholars' Navigating Challenges and Claiming Space	From Experience to Action: Embedding South Asia Professional Development into Teaching and Institutional Outcomes	Philosophy, Poetics, and Paths of Knowing in Indo-Persian Sufism
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking New Frontiers in Kerala Migration: Nature, Infrastructure, and Imaginaries	Sharing Sovereignty in South Asia: Ecological Vulnerabilities, Digital Connectivity and Environmental Peacebuilding	Roundtable on The Meeting of Rivers: Translating Religion in Early Modern India
Conf Rm 4	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History, and Culture, PT 1	Rajasthan and Rajasthani: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Region, Language, History and Culture, PT 2	Layered Affects: Performing Diasporic, Hindu, Regional, and Caste Identities Through Music and Theater
Conf Rm 5	Modes of Unbelonging: Region and Intersectionality in The Cinemas of India	South Asian Feelings in Literature and Cinema	Reel Men, Recent Troubles: Masculinity and the Contemporary Hindi Film
Capitol A	Mapping Bodies as Sites of Feminist Methods, Archives and Techno-Politics in India: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation	Youth Activism in South Asia and in the Diaspora	Reframing Inequality: Caste, Race, and Visual Politics Across Borders
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	South Asian Politics and Political Thought in the Interwar Period	Book Discussion—The Selfie Machine: Selfies, Platforms and Digital Image Culture in India	Book Roundtable: The Tamil Realist Novel in South and Southeast Asia
Madison	Sacred Power, Social Hierarchy: Caste and Religion in South Asia	Mother Tongue in Colonial and Postcolonial India: Historical Texts, the Census, and Digital Practices	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Marginalized Positionalities in Pakistan	Recognition and Marginalization in South Asia	Muslim Utopias in India Amidst Attempted Erasures
University C/D	Approaching Dalit Literature in Translation Anew	Caste Beyond Borders and Analogies: A Roundtable	Caste Across Borders: Higher Education, Diaspora and Politics of Abolition
Parlor 627	Urban Encounters	Precarity With(out) Borders in South Asian Fiction	The Gabriel of Madness: A Roundtable on Islamic Poetry, Ethics, and Muslim Life in the Age of Hindu Nationalism
Parlor 629	Borders Beyond Doctors: Sri Lanka's Mixed Lineages of Healing and Medicine	Author Meets Critics Roundtable on SherAli Tareen's Shah Waliyullah Dihlavi: Aspirations and Tensions of Islamic Cosmopolitanism	From Moscow to Madras: Cold War Internationalism and Indo-Soviet Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges
Parlor 634	Ajeeb Intimaces: Making Sense of Human-Jinn Encounters Cross South Asia	Beauty and Its Beasts: Embodiment, Gender, and Morality in South Asia	Indigenous Medicine and Ideal Bodies in South Asia
Parlor 638	Challenging the Borders of Gender, Religion and Nation: An Analysis of South Asian Reimagination of Translocal Identities	Defining Women's Health in South Asia: A View Through the Twentieth Century	Traversing Languages and Borders: Queer and Trans Vernaculars in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

Session 3 Panels and Roundtables

Contemporary Archaeological Approaches to Survey, Excavation, Documentation and Conservation in South Asia

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Shakir Ullah (Hazara University)

Danish Ahmed

Excavations and Digital Documentation at Jhukar Jo Daro, Sindh, Pakistan

Ali K. Lashari

New Archaeological Research at Dhamrah-Jo-Daro, Sindh Pakistan: Challenges in the Excavation and Preservation of a Massive Stupa Complex

Shakir Ullah (Hazara University)

Identifying High-Potential Archaeological Zones Using GIS Predictive Modelling: A New Strategy in the Archaeology of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Muhammad Tehmash Khan (Aga Khan University)

Embedding In Situ Conservation into Archaeological Fieldwork: Examples From Northern Pakistan

Unsettled Futures of the Land Across Resource Frontiers in South Asia

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizers: Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University) & Roderick Wijunamai (Cornell University)

Discussant / Chair: Dolly Kikon (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Parijat Jha (Cornell University)

How Does Rejuvenation Work?: Grafting High-Density Orchards and the Labor of Reproducing Apple Cultivation in the Western Himalayas

Radhika Moral (Brown University)

Plantation Limits and Agrarian Futures in Assam

Roderick Wijunamai (Cornell University)

From Political Margins to Agrarian Frontier: Development and the Revaluation of Land in Northeast India

Tanmoy Sharma (Yale University)

"Will the Village Survive?" Notes on the Plantation-Extraction Complex

Jainism and Politics: Power, History, Identity, and Practices

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer: Mikaela Chase (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: David Silverberg (Columbia University)

Kshitij Jain (University of Oxford)

When to Clothe a Digambara Monk? Politics, Patronage and Debate in Medieval Balātkāragaṇa

Samyak Modi (University of California, Riverside)

Refuting Christianity, Reclaiming Indianness: Vijayānanda Sūri's Īsāimata Samīkṣā as a Decolonial Intervention

Mikaela Chase (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sallekhanā and the Dispositif of Death: Jain Sovereignty Across Scales of Power

Steven Vose (University of Colorado-Denver)

Transnational Jains' Hindutva Problem: Heritage, Authenticity, Identity, and Jainism's Folding into the Neoliberalized Hindu Nation

Nepalbhasa Travels: Translation and Modernism in Newar Literature

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Ian Turner (University of Toronto)

Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto)

Crossing the Ocean in the Kathmandu Valley: Translations of Seafaring in Modern Newar Literature and Their Premodern Precedents

Sanjit Bhakta Pradhananga (University of Washington)

Indecent Encounters: Newar World-Making Through Translated Short Fiction

Kritish Rajbhandari (Reed College)

Dharma va Bhāsā: The Role of Translation in the First Nepalbhasa Periodical in Imagining a Nepali Nation

Ian Turner (University of Toronto)

Yeśū the Mother-Tongue Newar: Bible Translation and a Newar Turn in World Christianity

Epistemological Border-Crossings: Problematizing South-Asian Hegemonic Identity-Formations Through Studies in Education

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Sakhi Upadhyaya (Michigan State University)

Delilah Pacheco (Michigan State University)

Asian Teacher Positionality in Transnational Spaces of Learning: An Autoethnographic Study

Suha Gangopadhyay (Michigan State University)

South Asia as Method: Positionality, Selection, and Decolonial Refusal

Ishan Santra (Michigan State University)

Mathematics Curricular Voices and Their Listening: What South Asia Shows Us

Jeevan Karki (Michigan State University)

Nation-States, Citizen(ship), Belonging, and Exclusion in Bhutan and Nepal

Sakhi Upadhyaya (Michigan State University)

Primordial Pedagogies: Brahmanical Hegemony as a Pedagogy of Ignorance

Philosophy, Poetics, and Paths of Knowing in Indo-Persian Sufism

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Ryan Brizendine (University of California, Davis)

Discussant / Chair: Raihan Ahmed (New York University)

Ilma Qureshi (University of Virginia)

Traversing the Rivers of Knowledge: Amīr Khusraw and the Poetics of Knowing in South Asian Sufism

Shankar Nair (University of Virginia)

When Black is White, and Empty is Full: Ambiguity (īhām) as a Way of Knowing in Amīr Khusraw's Dībāchah

Ryan Brizendine (University of California, Davis)

Curating Ibn ʿArabi: Muḥibb Allāh Ilāhābādī and the Persian Meccan Openings

Nariman Aavani (Harvard University)

Reason, Non-Conceptual Perception, and Mystical Visions in Mughal India: The Case of Khwājah Khurd

Roundtable on The Meeting of Rivers: Translating Religion in Early Modern India

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer: Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (University of Texas at Austin)

Discussant / Chair: Srilata Raman (University of Toronto)

Manasicha Akepiyapornchai (University of Texas at Austin)

Gil Ben-Herut (University of South Florida)

Anand Venkatkrishnan (University of Chicago)

Srilata Raman (University of Toronto)

Elaine Fisher (Stanford University)

Layered Affects: Performing Diasporic, Hindu, Regional, and Caste Identities Through Music and Theater

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer: Zoe Sherinian (University Of Oklahoma)

Discussant / Chair: Nikhil Pandhi (Dartmouth College)

Zoe Sherinian (University Of Oklahoma)

Mapping the Parai Frame Drum's Contemporary Diversity and Historical Retentions

Stephanie George (CUNY Graduate Center)

Manifesting the Divine Mother, Invoking Diaspora: Affective Indo-Caribbean Tappu Drumming and Tamil Belonging in "Madrasi Religion"

Corey Lohman (University of Minnesota)

Drumming Over Streams, Sounding Belonging: Live Performance, Layered Identity, and Migrant Community Space During Chhath Puja in Delhi

Kristen Rudisill (Bowling Green State University)

Switched at Birth: Shame, Disgust, and Reverence in the Treatment of Dalit Characters in the Plays of Cho Ramasamy and Kudanthai Mali

Reel Men, Recent Troubles: Masculinity and the Contemporary Hindi Film

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizers / Discussants / Chairs: Megha Anwer (Purdue University) & Anupama Arora (University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth)

Praseeda Gopinath (Binghamton University, State University of New York)

"Rishte Mein Ham Tumhare Baap Lagte Hain": Dialogue-Baazi, Voice, and Masculinity in Hindi Film

Megha Anwer (Purdue University) & Anupama Arora (University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth)

Circulating Ressentiment: Manosphere Masculinities in Hindi Films

Suvadip Sinha (University of Minnesota)

Men from Heartlands: Reflections on Provincial Male Stardom in Bollywood

Anustup Basu (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

On Neo-Hindu Screen Masculinities in the Age of the Digital

Reframing Inequality: Caste, Race, and Visual Politics Across Borders

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Discussant / Chair: Simple Rajrah (University of Oxford)

Arpit Gaind (University of California, Los Angeles)

Reclaiming the Ocular: Adivasi Cinema, Global Indigenous Media Sovereignty, and the Struggle for Visual Self-Determination in Jharkhand, India

Prerna Khobragade (Northwestern University)

Analogical Solidarities: Exploring 'Race is Caste' Rhetoric in Isabel Wilkerson's "Caste" and Ava DuVerney's "Origin"

Simple Rajrah (University of Oxford)

From Geneva to Philippines: Caste, Race, Sexuality and Transnational Solidarity

Book Roundtable: The Tamil Realist Novel in South and Southeast Asia

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Vasugi Kailasam (University of California, Berkeley)

Preetha Mani (Rutgers University)

Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai (Michigan State University)

Sidharthan Maunaguru (University of Toronto)

Anjali Nerlekar (Rutgers University)

Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)

Vasugi Kailasam (University of California, Berkeley)

Muslim Utopias in India Amidst Attempted Erasures

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer: Claire Robison (Bowdoin College)

Discussant / Chair: Iqbal Akhtar (Florida International University)

Rhitama Basak (Brown University)

In the Lanes of the Beloved: Space, Piety, and Islamic Presents in India

Claire Robison (Bowdoin College)

Muslim Utopias as Indian Heritage: Fashioning Space and Locality in Aga Khan Trust for Culture Projects in India

Timothy Dobe (Grinnell College)

Arrested for Prayer: Today's Khudai Khidmatgar, Activist Islam and Spiritual Collectives

Rohit Singh (Denison University)

Awaiting the Twelfth Imam: Shiʿism, Iranian Nationalism, and Ritual Life in Ladakh

Caste Across Borders: Higher Education, Diaspora and Politics of Abolition

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer: Nusrath Yusuf (Rutgers University)

Discussant / Chair: Sahithya Venkatesan (Rutgers University)

Himani Singh

Suicides in Higher Educational Institutions of India: A Study of Selected Indian Institute of Technology

Arpita Biswas (Rutgers University, New Brunswick)

Graded Inequality in the Diaspora: Anticaste Organizing and the Limits of Liberal Protection in US Higher Education

Ashok Davanath (University of Amsterdam)

Gatekeeping and Academic Casteism in South Asian Studies in Western Academia

The Gabriel of Madness: A Roundtable on Islamic Poetry, Ethics, and Muslim Life in the Age of Hindu Nationalism

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Zehra Mehdi (Columbia University)

Hamza Iqbal (Arizona State University)

Meghan Hartman (Barnard College)

Kalyani Menon (DePaul University)

Sarah Waheed (University of South Carolina)

Megan Robb (University of Pennsylvania)

Zehra Mehdi (Columbia University)

From Moscow to Madras: Cold War Internationalism and Indo-Soviet Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Srihari Nageswaran (University of California, Berkeley)

Anand Sreekumar (Adelaide University)

Soviet Worldmaking in Cold War Kerala: Utopias, Dystopias and the Malayali Technocratic Subject

Severyan Dyakonov (Geneva Graduate Institute)

Soviet Public Diplomacy in India Around the Sino-Indian War of 1962

Polina Timina and Anisha Anantpurkar

Territorializing Friendship: The Bonds of Russia and India

Kavita Sivaramakrishnan (Columbia University)

Seeing Is Believing: Sensorial Expertise, Indo-Soviet Medical Networks and Nehruvian Science

Indigenous Medicine and Ideal Bodies in South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer: Arooj Alam (Tufts University)

Discussant / Chair: Sarah Pinto (Tufts University)

Arooj Alam (Tufts University)

Saafai Pasand Adaat: Inculcating Cleanliness and Godliness in Children During the Late Nineteenth Century

Mobeen Hussain (University of York)

Making Sense of "Auroton ki Amrāz" (Women's Diseases): Urdu Health Literature in Early Twentieth-Century India

Nikita Arora

Between Ayurveda and Vaidak: How to Be a Man in Punjabi c. 1898-1948

Ather Zia (University of California, Irvine)

Dast-e-Shifa in Dara: Coloniality, Cure, and Indigenous Healing Practice in Kashmir

Traversing Languages and Borders: Queer and Trans Vernaculars in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer: Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz (Pennsylvania State University)

Discussant / Chair: Adnan Hossain (University of Glasgow)

Aniruddha Dutta (University of Iowa)

Vernacularized Values: Shifting (De)valuations of Trans-Kothi-Hijra Labor in India

Enakshi Nandi

Articulating Selfhood(s) in Multilingual Contexts: Conceptualizing Transgender and Non-Binary Identities in India

Saptarishi Bairagi (University of Delhi)

Beyond the Hidden Transcript: Secret Language, Embodied Speech, and Counter-Epistemological Formations in Kothi-Hijra Communities in India and Bangladesh

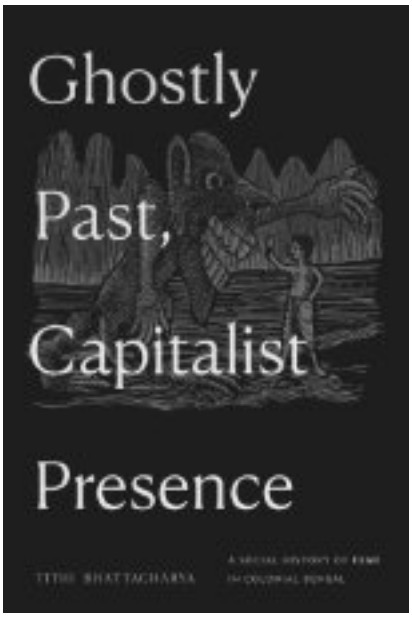
Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz (Pennsylvania State University)

Queer Vernacularization in Nepal

Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address
October 29, 2026, 3:45-5:30 p.m.
Madison Ballroom
This event is free and open to the public

Tithi Bhattacharya (Professor, History, Purdue University)
Scaffolding the Revolution: Social Reproduction on the Frontlines of Anticolonialism

The paper explores the uneven relationship between gender and political organizing in the Indian anticolonial struggle by focusing on the political concepts women in revolutionary organizations employed in order to make sense of their world. Rather than tell the story of their lives, I want to tell the story of their politics. The lives of these women, like others before and after them, should make us more attentive to the highly gendered nature of women's labor that goes to sustain both life and political infrastructures, but remains invisible and veiled by a normative understanding of "politics."



Tithi Bhattacharya is a Professor of South Asian History and Empire at Purdue University. She is the author of *The Sentinels of Culture: Class, Education, and the Colonial Intellectual in Bengal* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and the editor of the now classic study, *Social Reproduction Theory: Remapping Class, Recentering Oppression* (Pluto Press, 2017). Her coauthored book includes the popular *Feminism for the 99%: A Manifesto* (Verso, 2019) which has been translated in over 30 languages. Her new book, *Ghostly Past, Capitalist Presence: A Social History of Fear in Colonial Bengal*, published from Duke University Press in 2024, won multiple awards including the 2025 John F. Richards Prize in South Asian History, presented by the American Historical Association, and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for South Asian Studies, awarded by the Modern Language Association.

Remembering Sekar

October 29, 2026, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Ballroom

This event is free and open to the public

Jesudasan Rajasekaran

UW-Madison, College Year in India Program – Madurai

Resident Coordinator (1980-2008), Translator, Musician, Friend

On December 29, 2025, the community of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, College Year in India (CYIP) Madurai Program lost its beloved "Sekar." We invite friends, former students, and colleagues to come together to remember and celebrate the life of Jesudasan Rajasekaran.

Sekar was hired by the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the Resident Coordinator for the Madurai Program in 1980. He continued as the Resident Coordinator until 2007-08 when the Madurai program closed. Year after year, he profoundly shaped the experiences of undergraduate students on the program. He thoughtfully matched each student with individualized tutorials—ranging from dance instruction and pottery making to archaeological fieldwork—and prepared them for their first experiences as independent researchers, working alongside translators and local professors.

Always smiling and unfailingly resourceful, Sekar moved with ease through his hometown, serving as an essential intermediary and bridge between a traditional Tamil cultural context and young American students encountering India for the first time. Through his guidance, care, and generosity of spirit, students gained not only academic insight but also deep cultural understanding.

Many of the students whose lives Sekar touched went on to become musicians and dancers, administrators in study abroad and higher education, and scholars and professors of Indian Studies.

Film Screening - Gail & Bharat

October 29, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Madison Ballroom

This event is free and open to the public

Directed by Somnath Waghmare

Co-sponsored by The 4W Initiative

Gail & Bharat is a documentary that examines the life, work, and enduring legacy of Prof. Gail Omvedt (1941–2021), a US-born Indian scholar-activist whose writings and political engagement have been foundational to anti-caste, feminist, and Dalit movements in India. Known for her influential work on caste, gender, and agrarian struggles — including texts such as Dalits and the Democratic Revolution and Understanding Caste — Omvedt combined rigorous scholarship with grassroots activism.The film traces her intellectual and political journey alongside her long-standing partnership with Dr. Bharat Patankar, situating their shared work within broader struggles for social justice, Dalit' movements, and transformative knowledge production.

The 4W Initiative

Room	Session 5 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 6 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 7 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Archaeological Documentation and Analysis	Historical to Colonial Archaeology in South Asia	Archiving the Margins: Case Studies from South Asian Historical Archaeology
Caucus	Unsettling South Asia's "Regional Closets": Craft, Legibility, and Survival in Times of Genocide and Nationalist Violence	The Violence of Nationalism, the Perils of Migration, and the Power of Solidarity	Revisiting Epics & Classics in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Senate A	Beyond Tradition: Rethinking South Asian Religious Concepts	On Vividness in Sanskrit Philosophy and Literary Theory	Trans* Religion(s) in South Asia
Senate B	Nationalism, Alterity, and Resistance in Nepali Literature and Culture	Extraction, Translation, Encounter: Germany and South Asia Across Three Centuries	Literary Traditions and Alternative Narratives of Community Formation in South Asia
Conf Rm 1	Between Displacement and Settlement: Urban Space-Making and Belonging in Twentieth Century Bengal and Assam	Ideas and Practices in Western Indian Economic Life: Labor, Co-operation, and Capitalism, from 1876 to the Present	New Books in Political and Economic Theory
Conf Rm 2	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 1	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 2	Minor Forms, Global Histories: Beyond Novel and Nation
Conf Rm 3	Spatial Transformations and Contestations: New Directions in the Urban History of South Asia in the Twentieth Century	River Geographies of South Asia: Beyond Borders and Boundaries	Fashion to Field: Social Justice and Other Myths of "Ethical" Garment Consumption
Conf Rm 4	Transcending Borders: Multiculturalism and the Future of Democracy in a Cross-National Dialogue Between the US and Pakistan	Memory, Testimony and Identity across Literary Genres	(Post)Colonial Subject Formations in the Vernacular
Conf Rm 5	Without a Working Archive: Rumor, Platforms, and Piracy as Indian Film History	Archives and Afterlives	Disruption and Its Discontents: Platforms, Data, and Digital Media Industries in India
Capitol A	Screens, States, and Infrastructures: Cinema's Mediations of Politics, Dissent, and Labour in India	Film Screening Session	Gendered Whiteness On and Beyond the Bollywood Screen
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	Tamil Scholars, Sectarian Publics, and Colonial Knowledge: Intellectual Mediations in the Madras Presidency	What Wonders We Make: Archives of Dissent	**Closed for Setup**
Madison	Sharing Poetry's Pleasures: Critical engagement with "Vali Dakhani and the Early Rekhtah Networks"	The Precolonial Lives of "Worldliness"	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 1	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 2	In Search of Chand Bibi: Gender, Islam, and Sovereignty in Early Modern South Asia
University C/D	Women's Work in Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Insights from India and Pakistan	Casted Grounds: Property, Territory and Dalit Politics in Contemporary South Asia	Madras Elsewhere: The Making of a Global South Indian Indenture Diaspora
Parlor 627	Colonial Epistemologies, Legal Regimes, and Knowledge Production	Marxist Internationalism in Twentieth-Century South Asia	Unfinished Dialectic: Capitalist Abstraction, Nationalist Reaction, and Marxist Critique in South Asia
Parlor 629	Decolonization: Sovereignty, Capitalism and the World After Empire	New Directions in South Asian Historiography	South Asia Beyond Borders: Empire, Mobility, and Memory in Southeast Asia
Parlor 634	Sex, Violation, and Violence in Early Modern South Asia	Intimate Economies: Gender, Work, Migration, and Law in South Asia	Governing Bodies: Gendered Biopolitics in South Asia
Parlor 638	Cultures of Care: Gendered Subjectivities and Practices in South Asia	Love, Desire, Affect: The Polymorphous Ubiquity of Gender and Sexuality in South Asia	Women (In)Action: Feminized Disobedience as Political Ethics in South Asia

Session 5 Panels and Roundtables

Archaeological Documentation and Analysis

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Saira Ramzan (University of the Punjab)

Narrative Expression in Gandhāran Art: A Cultural Analysis of the Reliefs from Marjānai-Swat (Uḍḍiyāna)

Anna Tosato (University of Illinois)

Narrative Sculpture and Embodied Space in Early Deccan Temple Architecture. The Case of Two Sculptures Depicting the Encounter of Rāvaṇa and Jaṭāyu at the Virūpākṣa Temple at Paṭṭadakal and the Kailāsanātha Temple at Ellorā

Muaz Asad (Quaid-i-Azam University)

Photogrammetric Analysis and 3D Modeling of Early Muslim Glazed Pottery Collection at Hazara University Museum, Pakistan

Unsettling South Asia's "Regional Closets": Craft, Legibility, and Survival in Times of Genocide and Nationalist Violence

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Debarati Sen (University of Houston)

Dolly Kikon (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

Vivian Choi (St. Olaf College)

Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)

Debarati Sen (University of Houston)

Beyond Tradition: Rethinking South Asian Religious Concepts

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Shiv Subramaniam (Emory University)

Ellen Gough (Emory University)

Tantric, Brahminic, and Ascetic Ritual Components of a 20th-Century Jain Mendicant Promotion Ceremony

Dhruv Nagar (University of Chicago)

Nominating Non-Dualism: Advaita Between the Singular and Plural and the "Common" and "Proper" in South Asia

Shiv Subramaniam (Emory University)

Bhakti in Rāmānuja's Thought-World

Jay Ramesh (Columbia University)

Rethinking Purāṇa: Vivifying the Past in Early Modern Tamil Nadu

Nationalism, Alterity, and Resistance in Nepali Literature and Culture

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer: Kritish Rajbhandari (Reed College)

Discussant / Chair: Pupsa Damai (Marshall University)

Kritika Chettri (University of North Bengal)

Menuka Gurung

Priti Mandal

Pushpa Acharya

Tashi Ghale (Washington University in Saint Louis)

Tulasi Acharya (Georgia College and State University)

Shiva Rijal (Central Department of English, Kiritipur)

Ubaraj Katawal (Valdosta State University)

Between Displacement and Settlement: Urban Space-Making and Belonging in Twentieth Century Bengal and Assam

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer: Isti Bhattacharya (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Discussant / Chair: Manav Kapur

Meher Ali (Princeton University)

The Residential Ideal and the Provincial City: Dacca University, 1905-21

Avigyan Banerjee (Rutgers University)

Death Territorialized: Violence, Testimony, and Urban Space in the Calcutta Disturbances Commission of Enquiry, 1946

Tannishtha Bhattacharjee (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Frontier Vaishnavism and the Making of Everyday Urban Citizenship Amongst Post-Partition Refugees in Shillong 1950-70

Isti Bhattacharya (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Building Homes: The Housing Crisis and Ecological Transformation of Post-Partition Calcutta

Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, Part 1

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Rudrani Gangopadhyay (University of Toronto)

Discussant / Chair: Sharanya Dutta (CUNY Graduate Center)

Suddhadeep Mukherjee (Rutgers University)

Narrating in Sand: Incommensurable Archives Across Subarnarekha and Minor Detail

Rudrani Gangopadhyay (University of Toronto)

Unmapping the City: Itinerancy, Opacity, and the Politics of Circulation in Contemporary Delhi Cinema

Niyati Bhat

Who Cross, Who Stays: The Multimodal Politics of Landscape and Belonging in a Kashmir-Themed Film

Pujarinee Mitra (Texas A&M University)

Intimate Borderscapes: Food, Affects, and Anti-Fascism in Cups of Nun Chai

Spatial Transformations and Contestations: New Directions in the Urban History of South Asia in the Twentieth Century

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer: Brock DeMark (Indiana University)

Discussant / Chair: Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth College)

Brock DeMark (Indiana University)

Municipal Governance, "Improvement," and Urban Design in Kanpur, India: 1910-1930

Anish Vanaik (Purdue University)

Imagining Capital in the City: Urban Life in DLF's Public Projection, 1949-1960

Ujaan Ghosh (Ohio State University)

Location, Location, Location: Pathologies of Seaside Travel and the Making of a Tourist Town, ca. 1900-1920

Deepasri Baul (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)

Festival, Mohalla and the City: Bakr-Id Riots and the Politics of Urban Space in Delhi, 1924-26

Transcending Borders: Multiculturalism and the Future of Democracy in a Cross-National Dialogue Between the US and Pakistan

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer: Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley Community College)

Discussant / Chair: Zoya Shaffay (University of the Punjab)

Zoya Shaffay (University of the Punjab)

Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley Community College)

Farah Habib (Bristol Community College)

Asma Awan (Kinnaird College for Women)

Shelly Murphy (Bristol Community College)

Zia Zubda (Kinnaird College for Women)

Without a Working Archive: Rumor, Platforms, and Piracy as Indian Film History

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer: Nimish Sarin (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Shruthi Menon (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Nimish Sarin (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Ask the Editor: Filmindia, Sound, and the Politics of Film Periodicals

Ankita Deb (Stanford University)

Rumors of Film History: Researching Sex Media Infrastructures in Postcolonial India

Mayadev Murthy (University of California, Berkeley)

"Picture is Clear, Thank You. Please Post Full Films of Thalaivar": Navigating and Negotiating YouTube as a Tamil Cinema Archive

Payal Patel (University of Southern California)

"Is It on Einthusan?": Piracy Networks of Popular Indian Cinema

Screens, States, and Infrastructures: Cinema's Mediations of Politics, Dissent, and Labour in India

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Anuja Jain (Wesleyan University)

Anuja Jain (Wesleyan University)

Documentary Imaginaries of Resistance

Rutuja Deshmukh (Michigan State University)

The Working-Class Hero of Post-industrial Bombay: Krishna "Dada" Kondke and the Duality of City's Modern Identity and Provincial Undercurrents

Silpa Mukherjee (University of California, San Diego)

Discotheques and a Contraband Corridor: Bombay Cinema's Secret History of Place

Sangita Gopal (University of Oregon)

The Gender of Migration: Hindi Cinema and Women's Work

Tamil Scholars, Sectarian Publics, and Colonial Knowledge: Intellectual Mediations in the Madras Presidency

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Shibi Laxman Kumaraperumal (University of Toronto)

Discussant / Chair: Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Jesse Pruitt (University of Toronto)

Anachronistic Echoes, Pugnacious Pulavars, and the Abrogation of Collegial Otectomy

Shibi Laxman Kumaraperumal (University of Toronto)

From Mutts to Madras: The Making of the Tamil Pandit at the College of Fort St. George

Shrinidhi Narasimhan (University of Pennsylvania)

Mapping the Universe of Alims, Pirs, and Pulavars: Tamil Muslims in Literary and Print Culture

Sharing Poetry's Pleasures: Critical Engagement with "Vali Dakhani and the Early Rekhtah Networks"

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Anne Murphy (University of British Columbia)

Discussant / Chair: Purnima Dhavan (University of Washington, Seattle)

Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University)

Gregory Bruce (University of Chicago)

Walter Hakala (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

Heidi Pauwels (University of Washington)

Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, Part 1

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Shahwar Kibria Maqhfi (University of California, Los Angeles)

Shahwar Kibria Maqhfi (University of California, Los Angeles)

Muslim Musicking in the Trans-Himalayas: Cross-Border Collaborative Liturgies of Islam in Darjeeling

Niger Sultana (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Reading Suffering Together: Sacred Memory, and Diasporic Belonging Among South Asian Muslim Women in America

Fizza Joffrey (Oxford University)

Karbala-Shanasi: The Making of South Asian Shiʿism Through the Sensorium

Simon Wolfgang Fuchs (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Surprising Solidarities: South Asia, Iran, and the Legacy of the "Axis of Resistance"

Ather Zia (University of Northern Colorado)

Tumhein Aur Kya Doon Mein Dil Ke Siwaay? Indian Muslims, Aspirational and Conditional Solidarities with Kashmir

Colonial Epistemologies, Legal Regimes, and Knowledge Production

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Chair / Discussant: Mitra Sharafi (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Uzma Quraishi (Sam Houston State University)

The Soft Power of the Pact: Propagandizing U.S.–Pakistan Military Alliances in the Cold War

Summaiya Zaidi (Lahore University of Management Sciences)

A Trial of Seduction, 1921: Colonial Anxieties with Pan-Islamic Political Identity of the Indian Subject

Ainee Farooqui (Princeton University)

Quranic Jurisprudence and Anti-Imperial Politics: The Liakat Hussain Sedition Case in Colonial Bengal

Decolonization: Sovereignty, Capitalism and the World After Empire

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Matt Shutzer (University of California, Berkeley)

Matt Shutzer (University of California, Berkeley)

Durba Mitra (Harvard University)

Kalyani Ramnath (Columbia University)

Aditya Balasubramanian (Australian National University)

Sex, Violation, and Violence in Early Modern South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Organizer: Emma Kalb (University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant / Chair: Indrani Chatterjee (University of Virginia)

Usman Hamid

Promising Young Men: Murder and Precarious Masculinity in 17th Century Mughal India

Kashi Gomez (University of Pennsylvania)

The Peeping Narrator: Violation and Social Hierarchy in Early Modern Sanskrit Comedies

Emma Kalb (University of Pennsylvania)

In the Harem and On the Road: Telling Tales of Sexual Violation and Social Status in Late Mughal South Asia

Nabhojeet Sen (University of Bonn)

Transgressors, Sinners and Penality in the Maratha Deccan, Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries

Cultures of Care: Gendered Subjectivities and Practices in South Asia

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer: Ritu Ghosh (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Discussant / Chair: Gowri Vijayakumar (Brandeis University)

Mahvish Nazar (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Care as Disability Advocacy: Disabled Women and Everyday Politics in Pakistan

Aishani Khurana (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Emergent Infrastructures of Care in/as the Afterlives of Violence: Ethnographic Reflections from Muslim Neighborhoods in Delhi, India

Ritu Ghosh (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Reproductive Labor and Care Work as a Site for Criminalization: Altruistic Surrogacy in India

Sravanthi Dasari (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Care and Subversions in Social Movement Spaces

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Room	Session 5 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 6 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 7 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Archaeological Documentation and Analysis	Historical to Colonial Archaeology in South Asia	Archiving the Margins: Case Studies from South Asian Historical Archaeology
Caucus	Unsettling South Asia's "Regional Closets": Craft, Legibility, and Survival in Times of Genocide and Nationalist Violence	The Violence of Nationalism, the Perils of Migration, and the Power of Solidarity	Revisiting Epics & Classics in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Senate A	Beyond Tradition: Rethinking South Asian Religious Concepts	On Vividness in Sanskrit Philosophy and Literary Theory	Trans* Religion(s) in South Asia
Senate B	Nationalism, Alterity, and Resistance in Nepali Literature and Culture	Extraction, Translation, Encounter: Germany and South Asia Across Three Centuries	Literary Traditions and Alternative Narratives of Community Formation in South Asia
Conf Rm 1	Between Displacement and Settlement: Urban Space-Making and Belonging in Twentieth Century Bengal and Assam	Ideas and Practices in Western Indian Economic Life: Labor, Co-operation, and Capitalism, from 1876 to the Present	New Books in Political and Economic Theory
Conf Rm 2	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 1	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 2	Minor Forms, Global Histories: Beyond Novel and Nation
Conf Rm 3	Spatial Transformations and Contestations: New Directions in the Urban History of South Asia in the Twentieth Century	River Geographies of South Asia: Beyond Borders and Boundaries	Fashion to Field: Social Justice and Other Myths of "Ethical" Garment Consumption
Conf Rm 4	Transcending Borders: Multiculturalism and the Future of Democracy in a Cross-National Dialogue Between the US and Pakistan	Memory, Testimony and Identity across Literary Genres	(Post)Colonial Subject Formations in the Vernacular
Conf Rm 5	Without a Working Archive: Rumor, Platforms, and Piracy as Indian Film History	Archives and Afterlives	Disruption and Its Discontents: Platforms, Data, and Digital Media Industries in India
Capitol A	Screens, States, and Infrastructures: Cinema's Mediations of Politics, Dissent, and Labour in India	Film Screening Session	Gendered Whiteness On and Beyond the Bollywood Screen
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	Tamil Scholars, Sectarian Publics, and Colonial Knowledge: Intellectual Mediations in the Madras Presidency	What Wonders We Make: Archives of Dissent	**Closed for Setup**
Madison	Sharing Poetry's Pleasures: Critical engagement with "Vali Dakhani and the Early Rekhtah Networks"	The Precolonial Lives of "Worldliness"	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 1	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 2	In Search of Chand Bibi: Gender, Islam, and Sovereignty in Early Modern South Asia
University C/D	Women's Work in Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Insights from India and Pakistan	Casted Grounds: Property, Territory and Dalit Politics in Contemporary South Asia	Madras Elsewhere: The Making of a Global South Indian Indenture Diaspora
Parlor 627	Colonial Epistemologies, Legal Regimes, and Knowledge Production	Marxist Internationalism in Twentieth-Century South Asia	Unfinished Dialectic: Capitalist Abstraction, Nationalist Reaction, and Marxist Critique in South Asia
Parlor 629	Decolonization: Sovereignty, Capitalism and the World After Empire	New Directions in South Asian Historiography	South Asia Beyond Borders: Empire, Mobility, and Memory in Southeast Asia
Parlor 634	Sex, Violation, and Violence in Early Modern South Asia	Intimate Economies: Gender, Work, Migration, and Law in South Asia	Governing Bodies: Gendered Biopolitics in South Asia
Parlor 638	Cultures of Care: Gendered Subjectivities and Practices in South Asia	Love, Desire, Affect: The Polymorphous Ubiquity of Gender and Sexuality in South Asia	Women (In)Action: Feminized Disobedience as Political Ethics in South Asia

Session 6 Panels and Roundtables

Historical to Colonial Archaeology in South Asia

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Arshad Ullah (Department of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad)

Rāmāṅṛai Buddhist Complex at District Buner, Pakistan: Architectural and Hydrological Innovations in Gandhāran Buddhism

D.M Imalka Nishani Danansuriya (Department of Archaeology)

Voices from the Mirror Wall: A Socio-Cultural and Literary Analysis of the Sigiriya Graffiti in Early Medieval Sri Lanka

Umay Habiba (University of the Punjab)

Preserving a Forgotten Landmark: Conservation and Cultural Significance of Neela Gumbad At Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

Ifqut Shaheen (University of the Punjab)

Towards Medieval Taxila: Some Socio-Religious Aspects

Samia Tahir (University of the Punjab)

Colonial Architecture in Pakistan: A Case Study of Mall Road, Lahore, Punjab

The Violence of Nationalism, the Perils of Migration, and the Power of Solidarity

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Nalin Jayasena (Miami University)

Discussant / Chair: Samitha Senanayake (Madison College)

Anushiya Ramaswamy (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville)

Drawing and Re-Drawing Borderlines in the Fiction of Shobasakthi

Shalini Abayasekara (Ohio State University)

Convergences of Science, Religion, and Politics in Sri Lanka's COVID-19 Burial Ban

Nalin Jayasena (Miami University)

Interminority Solidarity in Priya Guns' Your Driver is Waiting and V.T. Nayani's This Place

Kathleen Fernando (Kenyon College)

The Migrant Child in Sharon Bala's The Boat People

On Vividness in Sanskrit Philosophy and Literary Theory

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer: Yigal Bronner (University of Alberta)

Discussant / Chair: David Shulman (Hebrew University)

Lawrence McCrea (Cornell University)

Vividness With and Without Objects: Dharmakirti, Dharmottara and Prajnakaragupta on Sphutata

Davey Tomlinson (Villanova University)

The Role of Vividness in Buddhist Philosophy of Meditation

Catherine Prueitt (University of British Columbia)

Prayabhijñā on Concepts and Vividness

Yigal Bronner (University of Alberta)

Like a Fruit in One's Palm: On Vividness in Sanskrit Poetics

Extraction, Translation, Encounter: Germany and South Asia Across Three Centuries

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer: Sneha Chowdhury (Brown University)

Discussant / Chair: B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sneha Chowdhury (Brown University)

Translating Hegemony: Raghuvir Sahay's "Sanskrit" in German

Philipp Sperner (University of Vienna)

Practices and Poetics of Extraction: From German Romanticism to Mid-19th-Century Indian Literature

Ambika Siddhanta Athreya (University of California, Berkeley)

Linguistic Landscapes of the Tranquebar Mission

Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

German-Indian Studies and Indian-German Studies

Ideas and Practices in Western Indian Economic Life: Labor, Co-Operation, and Capitalism, from 1876 to the Present

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Sachaet Pandey (University of Chicago)

Sachaet Pandey (University of Chicago)

Self-Determination and the Determination to Die: Working and Starving in the Famines of 1876-8 and 1899-1900

Koyna Tomar (University of Pennsylvania)

"The Moral Basis of Cooperation": Translating Economic Life in Western India, 1910 – 1940

Jibran Anand

Work, Merchants, and the State at Bombay's Docks (1920-1970)

Prachi Bhagwat

Making of the "Informal Cit"': Economies of Land, Labour, and Aspiration in Postcolonial Bombay

Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, Part 2

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Sharanya Dutta (CUNY Graduate Center)

Discussant / Chair: Rudrani Gangopadhyay (University of Toronto)

Surojit Kayal (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Rivers, Fences, Embankments: Border Technologies in the Sundarbans

Sharanya Dutta (CUNY Graduate Center)

"Mangrove Time" in Amitav Ghosh's Gun Island

Sneha Khaund (Fordham University)

"Charred Bits of Fragile Black Paper:" Multilingual Relationality in the Indo-Bangladesh Border

Owshnik Ghosh (University of Oklahoma)

Melting Borders: Representation of Fault Lines and Multiple Temporalities in South Asia

River Geographies of South Asia: Beyond Borders and Boundaries

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Madhumita Dutta (Ohio State University)

Mona Bhan (Syracuse University)

Parineeta Dandekar (South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP))

Ramya Swayamprakash (Grand Valley State University)

Nimisha Thakur (Syracuse University)

Parag Jyoti Saikia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Memory, Testimony and Identity Across Literary Genres

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Sula Mahagam Arachchige (Binghamton University)

The Transmodal Therapeutic Filter: Traumatic Testimony in Shyam Selvadurai's Funny Boy

Shubham Gupta (Ashoka University)

We Don't Do That Here: Englishness, Obscenity, and Hindi Literary Criticism

Sragdharamalini Das (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Uncanny Romance, Haunting Misconjugations: The Modernist Gothic Contestation of Social Realist Drama in Badal Sircar's "Sara Rattir"

Archives and Afterlives

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Aparna Sharma (University of California, Los Angeles)

Through an Anthropological Eye: Ahmed Hossain's Photographs of Northeast India After Independence

Aayush Triguni (University of North Texas)

Goddess for an Emerging Nation: Forging Identities Through India's Bharat Mata (Mother India) Imagery

Aman Kaur Virk (Syracuse University)

Sikh Visual Archives of the Shaheed

What Wonders We Make: Archives of Dissent

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Anjali Arondekar (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Discussant / Chair: Geeta Patel (University of Virginia)

Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington)

Scandalous Archives: Disrupting the Ordinary Hindu Village in Himalayan India

Anjali Arondekar (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Oceanic Archives: Sexuality, Caste, Indenture

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Pedagogy of Dissent: The Story of Maash/Teacher

Eleonore Rimbault (University of Chicago)

The Affordances of a Dying Art: Remembering and Historicizing the Indian Circus in Malabar

The Precolonial Lives of "Worldliness"

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Kartik Maini (University of Chicago)

Discussant / Chair: Whitney Cox (University of Chicago)

Sarah Taylor (University of Chicago)

The Other End of Saṁsāra

Kartik Maini (University of Chicago)

The Līlā of Lovesickness: Renouncing Renunciation in Vallabhācārya's Saṃnyāsanirṇaya

Eric Gurevitch (Vanderbilt University)

A Pharmacy for the World: Gathering Medical Terminology in Precolonial South Asia

Jason Schwartz (Stanford University)

Fragile and Contingent Making: Revisiting the World Ordering Project of the Temple in Light of the Discussions in the Early Pratiṣṭhā Literature

Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, Part 2

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer: Shahwar Kibria Maqhfi (University of California, Los Angeles)

Discussant / Chair: M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

Gregory Bruce (University of Chicago)

Indo-Ottoman Networks in the Nineteenth Century

Zehra Mehdi (Columbia University)

"Aren't They All the Children of the Ummah?" An Islamic Theology of Death, Grief, and Solidarity

Anand Taneja (Vanderbilt University)

"This is Dubai. This is My Mohalla, This is My Lahore, This is My Lucknow, This is My Amroha, This is Ty Karachi"

M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University)

Anjuman-e-Islam and Muslim/Non-Muslim Solidarities in Colonial Bombay

Muhammad Souman Elah (University of California, Los Angeles)

Between Currency and Images: Fatwas and Barelvi Negotiations of Modernity

Casted Grounds: Property, Territory and Dalit Politics in Contemporary South Asia

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer: Sahithya Venkatesan (Rutgers University)

Discussant / Chair: Shubhra Gururani (York University)

Sweta Xess (Rutgers University)

Countering Caste, Countering Hinduism: Dalit Land Rights and Spiritual Claim-Making in a Majoritarian North India

Simran Sumbre (Syracuse University)

Caste, Land, and the Production of Water Distress: Dalit Women's Agrarian Lives in Maharashtra

Sahithya Venkatesan (Rutgers University)

Sanctified Exceptions: Caste, Tenure, and the Afterlife of Temple Lands in Postcolonial South India

Raju Chalwadi (University of Pennsylvania)

Producing Land from Water: Caste, Ecological Violence, and Dalit City-Making in Bombay

Women's Work in Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Insights from India and Pakistan

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Zaib un Nisa Aziz (University of Cambridge)

Vrinda Marwah (University of South Florida)

Recovering Pleasure: Sexuality and Women Frontline Health Workers in India

Upasana Garnaik (University of Texas at Austin)

Women's Invisible Work and Invisible Money in Matrimonial Disputes in India

Sarah Ahmed (Providence College)

Women's Work in Pakistan's Public Health System: Class, Status, and the Limits of Gender Solidarity

Zaib un Nisa Aziz (University of Cambridge)

Women, Work and Rebellion in Colonial India

Marxist Internationalism in Twentieth-Century South Asia

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Pranav Gulukota (University of California, Los Angeles)

Haider Shahbaz (University of California, Los Angeles)

People of the Heart: The Collective Subject in Faiz Ahmad Faiz's Poetry

Pranav Gulukota (University of California, Los Angeles)

National and International Enemies: Marxist and Labor Internationalism in South India, 1918-53

Lavanya Nott (University of California, Los Angeles)

Situating Agrarian India in Third World Internationalism, 1960-1986

Sarah Robinson (University of California, Los Angeles)

The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, Music, and Marxist Internationalism

New Directions in South Asian Historiography

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Rama Mantena (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Anupama Rao (Barnard College. Columbia)

Farina Mir (University of Michigan)

Karuna Mantena (Columbia University)

Razak Khan (Free University)

Mytheli Sreenivas (Ohio State University)

Intimate Economies: Gender, Work, Migration, and Law in South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Mrittika Shahita (University of Cambridge)

Redrawing Boundaries: Burmese Wives and Marital Migration Across Bengal–Burma

FNU Rashmi (Graduate Center, City University of New York)

What Counts as Work? Women, Labor, and the Colonial Census (1865–1901)

Sameen Sameen (University of Kansas)

#ShaadiLicenseNahiHai: Marital Rape, Legal Absence, and the Limits of Representation in Chiraiya

Githmi Rabel (University of California, Berkeley)

An Intimate Calculus of Migration: How Women Migrant Workers from Sri Lanka Negotiate Their Project of Dignity-Making

Love, Desire, Affect: The Polymorphous Ubiquity of Gender and Sexuality in South Asia

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer: Mileena Saju (Princeton University)

Discussant / Chair: Fatima Quraishi (Princeton University)

Anuj Sah (Emory University)

"First I was Captivated By the Black, then By the White": Mutribi Samarqandi's Ode to Two Youths at Jahangir's Court

Krishna Kumar (University of British Columbia)

Lineage, Emotion, and Classification of Women in Matiram Tripathi's Rasrāj

Rajneet Kaur (University of British Columbia)

Author, Lover, Hidden One: Desire and Selfhood in the Persian Ghazals of Makhfī

Pranav Pandey (University of Delhi)

Criminal Desires: Colonialism, Homosexuality, and the Politics of Love in Hindi Literature

Mileena Saju (Princeton University)

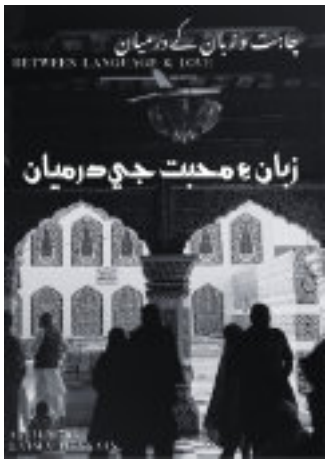
From Kitchen to Cosmos: (Un)/Domesticating Desire in Malayalam Women's Periodicals—A Reading of Aruna

Ethnographic/Documentary Film Session

October 30, 2026, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

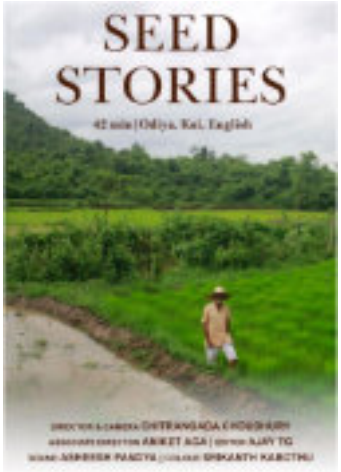
Capitol Ballroom A

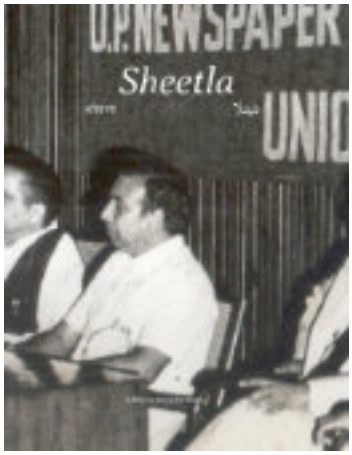
This session is free and open to the public



Between Language & Love, directed by Qaima Hossain. On one level, this film essay simply documents the journey of the narrator and director, Qaima, her mother, Shazia, and her friend, Lilac, to the Sufi saint, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's shrine in Bhit Shah, Sindh, Pakistan. On the other hand, it is a polyvocal film, operating across the multiple linguistic, sonic, and poetic landscapes of Sindh and Balochistan. Through this, it becomes a journey through time, space, culture, and relationships, showing how Qaima's relationship with her mother ebbs and flows through language, and how the journey towards the b/Beloved is never wholly complete, but always continuing.

Seed Stories, directed by Chitrangada Choudhury and Aniket Aga. In a village in the Niyamgiri mountains of Odisha's Eastern Ghats, a heroic effort is underway: barefoot ecologist Dr. Debal Deb and his 3 member-team are conserving in-situ over 1000 endangered heirloom varieties of rice. Odisha's Eastern Ghats region is one of the world's surviving biodiversity hotspots, with Adivasi communities like the Kondhs possessing the knowledge of growing multiple crops with their folk seeds, evolved over centuries. At the same time, the village and the wider region is irreversibly changing with the coming of genetically modified cotton seeds and associated chemicals. 'Seed Stories' takes a worm's eye view of how this is reshaping a geography and a people steeped in agro-ecological knowledge, and altering their attitudes towards farming, food and ecology. It invites audiences to reflect on the question, 'What is sustainability?'





Sheetla (2025), directed by Anamika Singh, retraces the contentious histories that have shaped the historic city of Faizabad through the life of its witness, the late Sheetla Singh. A prominent editor and journalist, Singh led the defiant Hindi-language daily Jan Morcha for nearly 50 years. Through the testimonies of journalists and close comrades, this work explores how the life of Sheetla Singh was inextricable from the violence, movements, and histories that have shaped the region and the Subcontinent. Through interviews, archival images, and charged images of Faizabad and Ayodhya, Sheetla tells the story of a city whose inhabitants are thrust into a volatile future through a contested past and its ever-present debris.

Sustaining Area Studies: Planned Giving and Fundraising

October 30, 2026, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

University A/B

An RSVP is required to attend this event.

Seats must be reserved by October 9.

This session is intended to provide participants with basic resources on fundraising to support area studies programming, including personal estate planning/planned giving to building endowments. Sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for South Asia.

Room	Session 5 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 6 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 7 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Assembly	Archaeological Documentation and Analysis	Historical to Colonial Archaeology in South Asia	Archiving the Margins: Case Studies from South Asian Historical Archaeology
Caucus	Unsettling South Asia's "Regional Closets": Craft, Legibility, and Survival in Times of Genocide and Nationalist Violence	The Violence of Nationalism, the Perils of Migration, and the Power of Solidarity	Revisiting Epics & Classics in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Senate A	Beyond Tradition: Rethinking South Asian Religious Concepts	On Vividness in Sanskrit Philosophy and Literary Theory	Trans* Religion(s) in South Asia
Senate B	Nationalism, Alterity, and Resistance in Nepali Literature and Culture	Extraction, Translation, Encounter: Germany and South Asia Across Three Centuries	Literary Traditions and Alternative Narratives of Community Formation in South Asia
Conf Rm 1	Between Displacement and Settlement: Urban Space-Making and Belonging in Twentieth Century Bengal and Assam	Ideas and Practices in Western Indian Economic Life: Labor, Co-operation, and Capitalism, from 1876 to the Present	New Books in Political and Economic Theory
Conf Rm 2	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 1	Shifting Grounds: Borderscapes, Opacity, and Relational Belonging in South Asia, PT 2	Minor Forms, Global Histories: Beyond Novel and Nation
Conf Rm 3	Spatial Transformations and Contestations: New Directions in the Urban History of South Asia in the Twentieth Century	River Geographies of South Asia: Beyond Borders and Boundaries	Fashion to Field: Social Justice and Other Myths of "Ethical" Garment Consumption
Conf Rm 4	Transcending Borders: Multiculturalism and the Future of Democracy in a Cross-National Dialogue Between the US and Pakistan	Memory, Testimony and Identity across Literary Genres	(Post)Colonial Subject Formations in the Vernacular
Conf Rm 5	Without a Working Archive: Rumor, Platforms, and Piracy as Indian Film History	Archives and Afterlives	Disruption and Its Discontents: Platforms, Data, and Digital Media Industries in India
Capitol A	Screens, States, and Infrastructures: Cinema's Mediations of Politics, Dissent, and Labour in India	Film Screening Session	Gendered Whiteness On and Beyond the Bollywood Screen
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	Tamil Scholars, Sectarian Publics, and Colonial Knowledge: Intellectual Mediations in the Madras Presidency	What Wonders We Make: Archives of Dissent	**Closed for Setup**
Madison	Sharing Poetry's Pleasures: Critical engagement with "Vali Dakhani and the Early Rekhtah Networks"	The Precolonial Lives of "Worldliness"	**Closed for Setup**
University A/B	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 1	Muslim Solidarities Beyond Nation, Region and Sovereignty, PT 2	In Search of Chand Bibi: Gender, Islam, and Sovereignty in Early Modern South Asia
University C/D	Women's Work in Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Insights from India and Pakistan	Casted Grounds: Property, Territory and Dalit Politics in Contemporary South Asia	Madras Elsewhere: The Making of a Global South Indian Indenture Diaspora
Parlor 627	Colonial Epistemologies, Legal Regimes, and Knowledge Production	Marxist Internationalism in Twentieth-Century South Asia	Unfinished Dialectic: Capitalist Abstraction, Nationalist Reaction, and Marxist Critique in South Asia
Parlor 629	Decolonization: Sovereignty, Capitalism and the World After Empire	New Directions in South Asian Historiography	South Asia Beyond Borders: Empire, Mobility, and Memory in Southeast Asia
Parlor 634	Sex, Violation, and Violence in Early Modern South Asia	Intimate Economies: Gender, Work, Migration, and Law in South Asia	Governing Bodies: Gendered Biopolitics in South Asia
Parlor 638	Cultures of Care: Gendered Subjectivities and Practices in South Asia	Love, Desire, Affect: The Polymorphous Ubiquity of Gender and Sexuality in South Asia	Women (In)Action: Feminized Disobedience as Political Ethics in South Asia

Session 7 Panels and Roundtables

Archiving the Margins: Case Studies from South Asian Historical Archaeology

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Manikandan Abimanyu (Northwestern University)

Discussant / Chair: Mark Hauser (Northwestern University)

Nandini Subramaniam (Northwestern University)

Tracing Habitability and Social Reproduction on a South Indian Plantation Frontier

Ankita Bhattacharya (Stanford University)

The Island That Was Not: Marichjhapi and an Archaeology of Erasure

Prapti Panda (Northwestern University)

Mapping the Limits of Empire: Colonial Governance, Social Difference, and Urban Space in Portuguese Chaul

Manikandan Abimanyu (Northwestern University)

Inacarerating Water: Archaeology of Water Insecurity in Colonial Carceral Landscapes of the Andaman Islands

Revisiting Epics and Classics in Colonial and Postcolonial India

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Discussant / Chair: Sai Chandra Mouli Timiri (Osmania University)

Arjun Chopra (University of California, Riverside)

Homogeneous Hindutva Histories: Amish Tripathi and Bharati Fantasy

Sucheta Kanjilal (University of Tampa)

"Do Not Call Me Mother!": Dharma, Motherhood, and Feminist Refusal in Dharamvir Bharati's Andha Yuga

Amrita Chowdhury (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Gendered Forms and Asymmetrical Reception: Tale of Two Rāmāyaṇas in Colonial Bengal

Sai Chandra Mouli Timiri (Osmania University)

Endeavour to Reflect Distinct Features of a Community: A Study of Telangana Rubaiyat

Trans* Religion(s) in South Asia

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Discussant / Chair: Meghan Hartman (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Kartik Maini (University of Chicago)

Jugaad: The Longing and Chimera of Trans History*

Vinit Vyas

Painting a Musical Trans-ition: The Unmaking of Set-Malhār Rāginī

Gowthaman Ranganathan (Brandeis University)

Mātā Worship and Transfeminine Life in India and Sri Lanka

Khadeeja Majoka (Columbia University)

Neither Man Nor Woman: Unknowing Gender in Faqiri

Meghan Hartman (Barnard College, Columbia University)

Dreaming Trans in the Yoga Vāsiṣṭha

Literary Traditions and Alternative Narratives of Community Formation in South Asia

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Parul Behl (University of Washington)

Parul Behl (University of Washington)

Reading Caste and Religion in Vars and Qissa of Early Modern Punjab

Tara Dhaliwal (Brown University)

Parroting Narratives: Narrative and Colonial Spacetimes in 19th-Century Punjab

Arjun Bhattacharya (University of Chicago)

The Cauhānas of the Golden Hill: The Making of the Sonigira Cauhānas in the Kānhaḍade Prabandha

New Books in Political and Economic Theory

Conference Room 1, Floor 1

Organizer : Natsha Raheja (Cornell University)

Discussant / Chair: R. Benedito Ferrão (William & Mary)

R. Benedito Ferrão (William & Mary)

Ashish Koul (Northwestern University)

Dana Kornberg (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Natasha Raheja (Cornell University)

Sharika Thiranagama (Stanford University)

Minor Forms, Global Histories: Beyond Novel and Nation

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Sushmita Sircar (Gettysburg College)

Discussant / Chair: Preetha Mani (Rutgers University)

Kalyan Nadiminti (Northwestern University)

Unruly Historicism in the South Asian Anglophone Novel

Sneha Khaund (Fordham University)

The Haunting Presence of Chameli Memsaab

Sushmita Sircar (Gettysburg College)

Military Conscription and Postcolonial Insurgency in the Northeastern Novel

Preetha Mani (Rutgers University), Discussant

Fashion to Field: Social Justice and Other Myths of "Ethical" Garment Consumption

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Shiv Ganesh (University of Colorado at Boulder)

Mackenzie Shekar (University of Texas at Austin)

Sharmila Rudrappa (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Madhumita Dutta (Ohio State University)

Vrinda Marwah (University of South Florida)

Shiv Ganesh (University of Colorado at Boulder)

(Post)Colonial Subject Formations in the Vernacular

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Mileena Saju (Princeton University)

Making Ideal Child-Citizens: Affect, Embodiment, and Visual Representations in Poompatta

Syamantak Shobhan Basu (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Impressions in the Night: Fingerprinting and Crime Fiction in Britain and Colonial Bengal

Disruption and Its Discontents: Platforms, Data, and Digital Media Industries in India

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Tupur Chatterjee (Tulane University)

Nitin Govil (University of Southern California)

Macro-Conflict and Micro-Dramas

Rahul Mukherjee (University of Pennsylvania)

Short Video Platform Story in India: Continuities and Disruptions

Anirban Baishya (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Micro-Dramatic Public: Short-Form Disruption and the Rise of the Datafied Viewer

Tupur Chatterjee (Tulane University)

Against Disruption: How Bollywood Ate the Algorithm

Gendered Whiteness On and Beyond the Bollywood Screen

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Anaar Desai-Stephens (CUNY Graduate Center)

Ajay Gehlawat (Sonoma State University)

Miscegenation Masala: The Limits of Interracial Romance in Bollywood

Jayson Beaster-Jones (University of California, Merced)

Sing a Nice Indian Song: DDLJ and the Performance of Sentiment in A Nice Indian Boy

Julia Szivak (University of Nottingham)

From Colonial Villains to International Entrepreneurs

Anaar Desai-Stephens (CUNY Graduate Center)

White Female Instrumentalists and the Moral Economies of the Bollywoodized Shaadi

In Search of Chand Bibi: Gender, Islam, and Sovereignty in Early Modern South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Sarah Waheed (University of South Carolina)

Radhika Govindrajan (University of Washington)

Indrani Chatterjee (University of Virginia)

Ramya Sreenivasan (University of Pennsylvania)

Madras Elsewhere: The Making of a Global South Indian Indenture Diaspora

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer: Gaurika Mehta (Santa Clara University)

Discussant / Chair: Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Malini Ranganathan (American University)

Self-Respect Across the Ocean: Anticaste and Labor Politics in British Madras and Malaya

Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Hearing Madras Elsewhere: Plantation Performance Cultures Across the South Indian Indenture Diaspora

Gaurika Mehta (Santa Clara University)

From Slur to Religion: Becoming Madrasi in Guyana and Brooklyn

Mythri Jegathesan (Santa Clara University)

Beyond the Sluice and in the Soil: Malaiyaka Tamils' Search for Water in Sri Lanka's Northern Province

Unfinished Dialectic: Capitalist Abstraction, Nationalist Reaction, and Marxist Critique in South Asia

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Keya Ganguly (University of Minnesota)

Ashwin Bajaj (Williams College)

Nandini Chandra (University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

Keya Ganguly (University of Minnesota)

Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Viren Murthy (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

G.S. Sahota (University of California, Santa Cruz)

South Asia Beyond Borders: Empire, Mobility, and Memory in Southeast Asia

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer: Vasugi Kailasam (University of California, Berkeley)

Discussant / Chair: Kalyani Ramnath (Columbia University)

Vasugi Kailasam (University of California, Berkeley)

World War II and the Tamil Historical Novel in Southeast Asia

Darshana Mini (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Beyond the Backdrop: Plantation Space, Counterinsurgency, and Postcolonial Subjectivity in Malaysian Indian Writing

Anand Yang (University of Washington)

"Migrant Speak": Keywords in the Lives of North Indian Indentured Workers in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Alisha Elizabeth Cherian (Stanford University)

Kavadis Across the Causeway: Inscribing Singaporean Tamil Belonging in Malaysia

Governing Bodies: Gendered Biopolitics in South Asia

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Edwin Elizabeth Thomas (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Biopolitical Gendered Changes in Mortality through Reproductive Age Life Tables, 1881-1961

Rohini Dasgupta (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Making of the "Other Pain": Gynaecological Malignancy, Epistemic Neglect, and Reproductive Subjecthood in Colonial Bengal

Sarah Ahmed (Providence College)

Unionizing Care: Timing, Leverage, and Legitimacy in Pakistan's Polio Campaigns

Arkaprava Sarkar (City University of New York)

Bodies for Barracks: Sex-Work, Labor, and the White Soldier in Colonial India (1868-1897)

Women (In)Action: Feminized Disobedience as Political Ethics in South Asia

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Shaunna Rodrigues (Columbia University)

Sourav Chatterjee (Rice University)

Colonial Poiesis as Disobedience

Niyati Shenoy (Washington and Jefferson College)

The Perils of Dis/Obedience: Colonial Histories of Transit, Interception, Custody and Rape

Karishma Desai (Rutgers University)

Temporal Refusals: Stilling Time, Escape & Collective Care

Shaunna Rodrigues (Columbia University)

Intelligent Legitimacy: When Women's Political Action Appears as Inaction

Plenary Session

October 30, 2026, 3:45-5:30 p.m.

Wisconsin Ballroom

This event is free and open to the public

Madhumita Lahiri (Associate Professor, English, University of Michigan)

Of Birds and Belonging: Synanthropic Species and Globalized Indian Cinema

In the early years of India's neoliberal globalization, the phenomenally successful film Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ, dir. Aditya Chopra, 1995) used pigeons to dramatize an argument about Indianness and migration. Thirty years later, the celebrated documentary All That Breathes (dir. Shaunak Sen, 2022) told a story about kites that was simultaneously a story of changing definitions of Indianness. This talk examines the role of synanthropic bird species –that is, bird species that thrive alongside humans – in the articulation of Indian identity across religious and territorial boundaries. From squirrels, deer, and mice to cockroaches, geckos, and ticks: the more we humans proliferate, the more these synanthropic species thrive. Yet unlike these mammalian and invertebrate synanthropes, synanthropic birds have been relatively immune from categorization as pests, particularly in South Asia. The right to the city seems unambiguously granted to these birds, even as human belonging to the Indian city has become increasingly contested. I argue that the representational economy around pigeons, kites, and other synanthropic bird species can help us articulate new grammars of belonging and personhood, in India, South Asia, and beyond.

Madhumita Lahiri is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Michigan, with an additional affiliation in the Department of Film, Television, and Media. Her research examines the narratives that large, multiethnic democracies – such as India, South Africa, and the United States – construct about identity, community, and the boundaries of legitimate political belonging. She is particularly interested in how these societies imagine themselves and negotiate questions of difference, solidarity, and collective life. In her first book, Imperfect Solidarities: Tagore, Gandhi, Du Bois, and the Forging of the Global Anglophone (Northwestern University Press, 2020), Professor Lahiri analyzed the writings of Rabindranath Tagore, M.K. Gandhi, and W.E.B. Du Bois. Although each figure is closely associated with a particular national context, their intellectual work reached far beyond those boundaries. Tagore, based in Bengal, wrote extensively about China and Japan; Gandhi, while best known as an Indian leader, lived in and wrote about South Africa; and Du Bois consistently engaged with India in writings aimed at Black American audiences. Lahiri argues that these thinkers practiced what she terms print internationalism, using the worldwide reach of the English language (what she calls the global Anglophone) to imagine alternative geographies, including the Global South, and to foster new forms of collective identity among people of color. Professor Lahiri is currently working on a book titled How We Hate Now: Xenophobia in the Age of Antiracism. This project explores how immigrants are represented in an increasingly bordered and deglobalizing world. The book examines not only the rhetoric of explicitly anti-immigrant political movements, but also the often-overlooked ways in which contemporary fiction can reflect and reinforce increasingly closed social and political imaginaries.

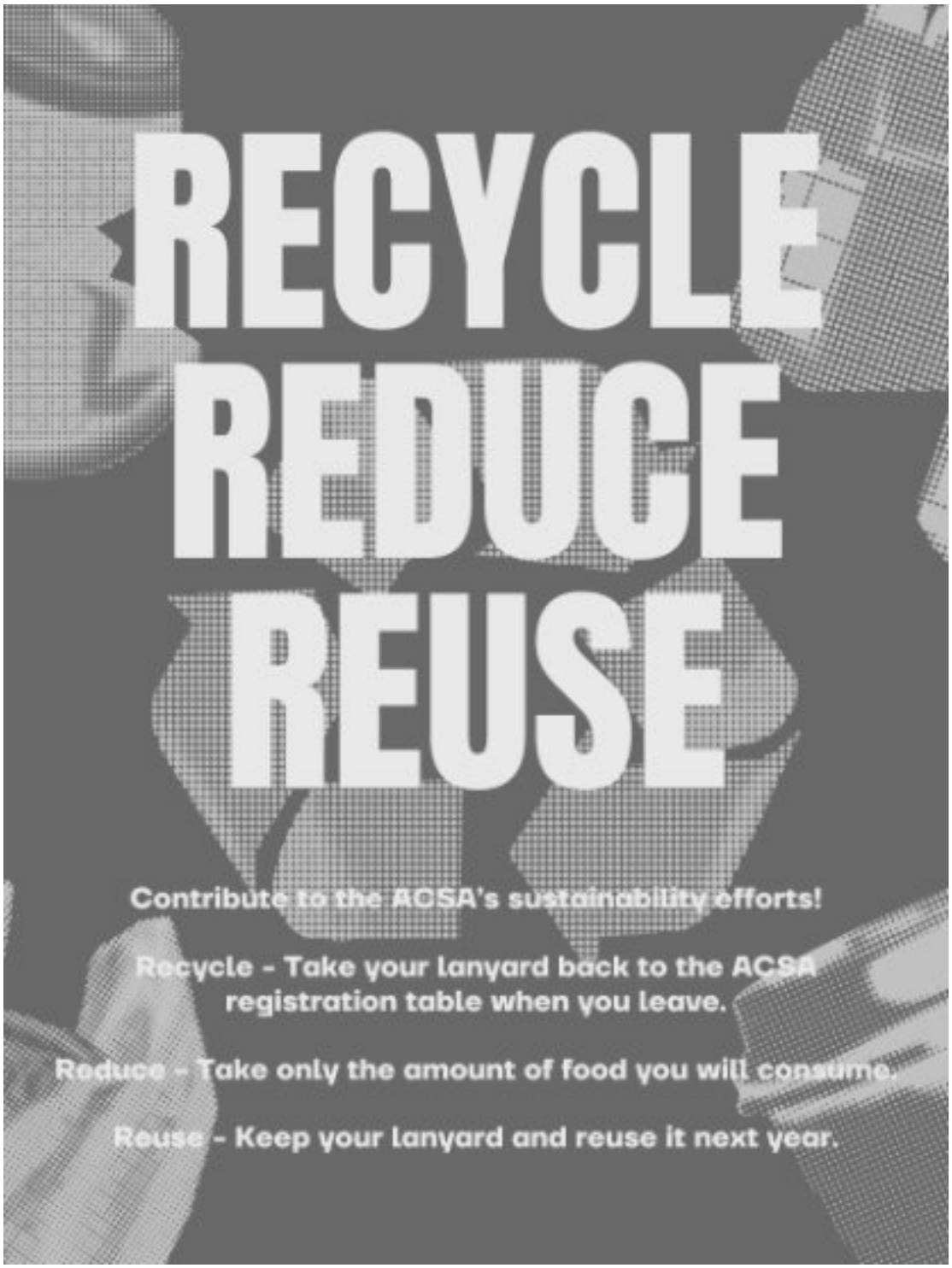
Arun Luthra's Konnakol Jazz Project

October 30, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Madison Ballroom

This event is free and open to the public

Learn more about tonight's performers


RECYCLE
REDUCE
REUSE
Contribute to the ACSA's sustainability efforts!
Recycle - Take your lanyard back to the ACSA registration table when you leave.
Reduce - Take only the amount of food you will consume.
Reuse - Keep your lanyard and reuse it next year.

Room	Session 9 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 10 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 11 1:45-3:30 p.m.	Session 12 3:45-5:30 p.m.
Assembly	Prehistoric and Historic Foundations of South Asian Cultural Traditions	Craft Technology and Social Complexity Across South Asia	Pyrotechnology and Social Complexity in Ancient South Asia	The Brahmaputra Valley in Early Modern South Asia: Statecraft, Literature, Ecology
Caucus	Between Poetics and Science: Intellectual Traditions in South Asia	At the Margins of the State: Governance, Political Economy, and Cultures of Exception in South Asia	Between Constraint and Agency: Jain Female Renouncers Across Historical and Contemporary Contexts	open
Senate A	Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird	Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia	Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions	open
Senate B	open	History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia	The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry	open
Conf Rm 1	Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation	Communalism and Ethno-Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present	open
Conf Rm 2	Nationalism, Media, and Popular Culture in South Asia	Performance and Popular Culture Across the Borders	Worldling Urdu Literature and Periodicals	open
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia	Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress	Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes	open
Conf Rm 4	The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images	More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia	Urban Spaces and City-Making Through Literature	open
Conf Rm 5	Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions	From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time	open	open
Capitol A	Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media	Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia	Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India	open
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	A Roundtable on "Caste A Global Story"	The Language of Caste: Passing, Avoiding, and Indexing in Global India	Caste in Practice: Labor, Development, and the Politics of Visibility	Caste, Knowledge, and Institutional Power
Madison	Contested Belongings: Religion, Caste, and Political Identity Across Borders	Modes of Political Critique and Reform in Pre-Independence South Asia	Topographies of Knowledge: Caste, Power, and Institutional Inequality	Staging Across Borders: Caste, Translation, and Diaspora in South Asian Theatre
University A/B	Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law	Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia	Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics	Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making
University C/D	Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India	Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism	Speaking Across Borders	open
Parlor 627	Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India	Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time	Empire in the Everyday	open
Parlor 629	Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond	Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern	The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India	Political Work and Thought
Parlor 634	Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities	Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life	open
Parlor 638	Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia	"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	The Making of Elections and Electorates in India	open

Session 9 Panels and Roundtables

Prehistoric and Historic Foundations of South Asian Cultural Traditions

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Jonathan Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Jonathan Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

New Insights on Indus Tradition Ideology, Technology and Urbanism in Pakistan and India

Dennys Frenez (University of Bologna)

Indus External Trade and the Making of South Asian Traditions: Managerial and Material Foundation

Rajesh Sasidharan Vasantha (University of Kerala)

Kerala Megalithic Gazetteer Project (KMGP): Explorations, Excavations and Chronological Insights

Monica L. Smith (University of California, Los Angeles)

Early Historic Political Contexts, Urbanism, and the Mahajanapada Concept: A View from the Eastern Subcontinent

Between Poetics and Science: Intellectual Traditions in South Asia

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Keerthana Ravi (University of Oxford)

Alchemy Across Languages: Rasāyana Knowledge in Rasaratnasamuccaya and Cūtamuṉi Cūttiram

Nathan McGovern (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater)

The Purāṇas as Brahmanical Fan Fiction in the Late Śākya Age

Sitharthan Sriharan (University of Minnesota)

Rama as Brahmin Trickery: Periyar's Transitive Critique in His Reading of the Ramayana

Caitlyn Marentette (University of Chicago)

Vyāsa's Servant: Śāstric Knowledge and the Poetic Mind in Kṣemendra's Kavikanthābharaṇa

Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Amrita Ghosh (University of Central Florida)

Lopamudra Basu (University of Wisconsin-Stout)

Spectral Re-Imaginings of Pandemics in Master Bhagwan Das's Plague ki Chudail and Amitav Ghosh's The Calcutta Chromosome

Arnab Dutta Roy (Florida Gulf Coast University)

Goddesses, Dolphins, and Refugees: Planetary Empathy in Amitav Ghosh's The Gun Island

Amrita Ghosh (University of Central Florida)

Decolonizing the Weird: Constructing a "Pakistani Weird" in Midnight Doorways

Ericka Hoagland (Stephen F. Austin State University)

The Garden Was Never Eden: Postcolonial Gothic and the Knowing Place in Cereus Blooms at Night

Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Organizer: Neil DeVotta (Wake Forest University)

Discussant / Chair: Sumudu Atapattu (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Vidya Samarasinghe (American University)

Jeanne Marecek (Swarthmore College)

Amita Shastri

Michele Gamburd (Portland State University)

Neil DeVotta (Wake Forest University)

Nationalism, Media, and Popular Culture in South Asia

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer: Shreya Chatterjee (University of Houston)

Discussant / Chair: Mukti Mangharam (Rutgers University)

Sourav Chatterjee (Rice University)

Blunders and Gambits: Representations of the Ludic Nation

Shreya Chatterjee (University of Houston)

A Folk Heroine in Bollywood: Nationalism, Popular Culture and The Queen of Jhansi

Sohail Hoda (University of Houston) and Elham Oghabi (University of Houston)

Staging the People's Nation: Jatra, Nationalism, and the Politics of Love in Utpal Dutt's Sannyasi'r Tarabari

Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer: Waqas Butt (University of Toronto, Scarborough)

Discussant / Chair: Tara Suri (Dartmouth College)

Mona Bhan (Syracuse University)

Infrastructural Proxies and India's Dirty Wars

Ping-Hsiu Lin (Harvard University)

Geology as Archive: Security, Knowledge, and the Speculative Economies of Artisanal Mining in Northern Pakistan

Iftekhar Iqbal (University of Brunei, Darussalam), read by Tara Suri

Hydraulic Grids: Water, Territoriality, and Capitalist Circulation in Anthropocene South Asia

Waqas Butt (University of Toronto, Scarborough)

Neither Frontier Nor Settlement: Aqueous Movements Along Indus River Basin

The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Organizer: Manasvin Rajgopalan (Krea University)

Discussant / Chair: Woodman Taylor (Zayed University)

Ross Bernhaut (University of Michigan)

Pārśvanātha's Thaumaturgic Thumb: Restoration and Reclamation of Gwalior's Giant Jinas

Ayesha Matthan (Cornell University)

The Voyeur and the Vigilante: The Afterlife of Banganga Tank Imagery in 1970s Bombay

Akshaya Tankha (University of Washington, Seattle)

Towards a History of the House Museum in Postcolonial South Asia

Manasvin Rajagopalan (Krea University)

Imaging/Imagining the Tamil Kuṟavañci

Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Peter Goswami (Brandeis University)

Selected Padabali Kirtans as a Lens into Caste and Gender in the Bengali Bhakti Movement

George Pioustin (University of California, Los Angeles)

Carnatic Music Beyond the Canon: Syrian Christian Musical Practice in Kerala

Evgeniia Muzychenko (Emory University)

Bhakti Beyond Borders: Tukaram in N.V. Tilak's Christian Imagination of the Nation

Ketaki Jaywant (University of Pennsylvania)

Caste After Conversion: Civil Rights, Liberal Law, and the Limits of Equality in Nineteenth-Century Western India

Neha Reji (IIT Kanpur)

Church, Crisis, and Women: A Sociological Study on Constructing the Idea of Syrian Christian Community

Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Organizer: Upasana Dutta (Fairfield University)

Discussant / Chair: Supurna Dasgupta (Santa Clara University)

Ziyana Fazal (Northwestern University)

Māppila Muslim Women Physicians in Print: Medicine, Faith, and Authority

Upasana Dutta (Fairfield University)

Taking the World Upon the Tongue: Consumption and Corporeality in Meatless Days

Supurna Dasgupta (Santa Clara University)

"We Stood Nowhere": Diasporic (Sisterly) Bodies in Yoni ki Baat

Pallavi Rao (University of Virginia)

Secret Spices and Mother's Recipes: The Feminization of Indian-American Cuisine and Digital Media Storytelling

A Roundtable on "Caste A Global Story"

Room: Wisconsin Ballroom

Floor: Floor 2

Organizer: Suraj Yengde (University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant / Chair: Davesh Soneji (University of Pennsylvania)

Anjali Arondekar (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Anupama Rao (Barnard College, Columbia)

Laura Brueck (Northwestern University)

Divyashree Ashok Kumar Malhari (Columbia University)

Suraj Yengde (University of Pennsylvania)

Contested Belongings: Religion, Caste, and Political Identity Across Borders

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Yifan Zhang (Ghent University)

Mobilizing Affects and Ethics: Jain identity, Emotional Practices, and Belonging in Nairobi, Kenya

Tarsem Singh (Panjab University, Chandigarh)

Beyond Borders: On the New Narratives of Sikh Separatism

Divyani Motla (University of Toronto)

The Rangretas of Punjab: Caste, Memory, and the Myth of Sikh Egalitarianism

Shayeri Bhattacharyya (King's College London)

Oriental Cartographies: Religion and Transnational Polyphony in 20th Century Bengal

Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law

University A/B, Floor 2

Imran Shahzad (Islamabad Model Postgraduate College)

Transcending Borders through Inclusive Nationalism: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's Vision of Universalism and Composite Culture

Ainee Farooqui (Princeton University)

Qaul-e-Faisal: Colonial Archive, National Afterlife, and the Intellectual Politics of Maulana Azad

Mortaza Hassani (University of California, Los Angeles)

From the Muslim Public to State Institution: Hayya ʿala al-Falāh Journal and the Transformation of Religious Authority in Afghanistan, 1929-1964

Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer: Jay Ramteke (Brandeis University)

Discussant / Chair: Salwa Kazi (University of Colorado)

Jay Ramteke (Brandeis University)

Adivasi Identity in the Making of Ram's Sacred Corridor in Central India

Salwa Kazi (University of Colorado)

Indigeneity in Kokan: Brahmanical Appropriation and Marginalised Erasure in Western India

Chhotelal Kumar

Nation, Religion, and Belonging in India: A Study of the Demand for Recognition of the Indigenous Sarna Religion Among Adivasis in Jharkhand

Sindhu Nepolean (University of Colorado)

Indigeneity on the Crossroads - Analyzing the Vizhinjam Protest Led by Mukkuvar Fishers in South India

Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Vigneshkarthik K Rajahmani T (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies)

Shibi Laxman Kumaraperumal (University of Toronto)

Kaustubh Naik (University of Pennsylvania)

Srihari Nageswaran (University of California, Berkeley)

Amna Majeed (University of Toronto)

Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Md Ala Uddin (Indiana University, Indianapolis)

Social Support and Depression Among Older South Asian Immigrants: A Theoretical Framework Analysis

Vinayak Jain (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center) & Ming-Jung Ho (Georgetown University)

Reconstructing a Professional Identity: Impact of Cultural Capital on Immigrant Physicians from India

Shumaila Ahmed (IBA Karachi)

Thresholds of Chronicity: Delay, Dialysis, and the Moral Life of Care in Karachi

Lutfun Shantana (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Mental Health of South Asian Older Adult Immigrants in the United States

Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Pariroo Rattan (Northwestern University)

A Marketplace for Populism: The Moral Politics of Digitization in India's Informal Economy

Meredith Stinger (Northwestern University)

Entangled Technologies: Navigating Precarity and Ambiguity in Digital Identity Regimes in India

Syamantak Shobhan Basu (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

An Empire of Thugs: Studying the Impact of Biometric Registration on the "Criminal Tribes" of India

Srijan Pandey (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Hindu Rashtra's Infrastructure: Ideology, Digital Authoritarianism, and the Socio-Technical Production of Disposable Citizens

Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Arslan Waheed (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi)

Sustainability as Colonial Continuity: Urban Planning and Environmental Politics in Karachi

Jobial Alex (SUNY Binghamton)

Acclimatizing Empire: Fish, Environment and Europeans in the Western Ghats

Trishita Shandilya (University of Virginia)

Northeast India as a "Place of Relations": Frontiers, Indigeneity, and Embrangled Disorientation

Karthik Shankar (University of Virginia)

Under the Shadow of the Plantation

Room	Session 9 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 10 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 11 1:45-3:30 p.m.	Session 12 3:45-5:30 p.m.
Assembly	Prehistoric and Historic Foundations of South Asian Cultural Traditions	Craft Technology and Social Complexity Across South Asia	Pyrotechnology and Social Complexity in Ancient South Asia	The Brahmaputra Valley in Early Modern South Asia: Statecraft, Literature, Ecology
Caucus	Between Poetics and Science: Intellectual Traditions in South Asia	At the Margins of the State: Governance, Political Economy, and Cultures of Exception in South Asia	Between Constraint and Agency: Jain Female Renouncers Across Historical and Contemporary Contexts	open
Senate A	Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird	Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia	Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions	open
Senate B	open	History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia	The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry	open
Conf Rm 1	Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation	Communalism and Ethno-Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present	open
Conf Rm 2	Nationalism, Media, and Popular Culture in South Asia	Performance and Popular Culture Across the Borders	Worldling Urdu Literature and Periodicals	open
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia	Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress	Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes	open
Conf Rm 4	The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images	More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia	Urban Spaces and City-Making Through Literature	open
Conf Rm 5	Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions	From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time	open	open
Capitol A	Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media	Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia	Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India	open
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	A Roundtable on "Caste A Global Story"	The Language of Caste: Passing, Avoiding, and Indexing in Global India	Caste in Practice: Labor, Development, and the Politics of Visibility	Caste, Knowledge, and Institutional Power
Madison	Contested Belongings: Religion, Caste, and Political Identity Across Borders	Modes of Political Critique and Reform in Pre-Independence South Asia	Topographies of Knowledge: Caste, Power, and Institutional Inequality	Staging Across Borders: Caste, Translation, and Diaspora in South Asian Theatre
University A/B	Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law	Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia	Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics	Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making
University C/D	Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India	Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism	Speaking Across Borders	open
Parlor 627	Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India	Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time	Empire in the Everyday	open
Parlor 629	Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond	Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern	The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India	Political Work and Thought
Parlor 634	Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities	Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life	open
Parlor 638	Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia	"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	The Making of Elections and Electorates in India	open

Session 10 Panels and Roundtables

Craft Technology and Social Complexity Across South Asia

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Arvind Nair (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Randall Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Syed Faraz Ali

Mudbrick Construction and Composition at Mohenjo-Daro, Pakistan: New Insights from the Western Perimeter Walls of the Stupa Mound

Randall Law (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Sourcing Harappan Amazonite

Liming Gao (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Carnelian and Agate Beads as Indicators of Interaction between the Indus Valley Region of South Asia and Northwestern China: 5th Century BCE to 5th Century CE

Arvind Nair (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Warfare and Urbanism in Iron Age South India: Technological and Experimental Investigations Associated with Megalithic Burial Complexes

Geoffrey Ludvik (Holy Apostles College and Seminary)

India and the Incense Road: South Asian Connections at Hajar ar-Rayhani, Yemen

At the Margins of the State: Governance, Political Economy, and Cultures of Exception in South Asia

Caucus Room, Floor 1

Sachin Ghimire (Nepal Open University)

Social Sufferings in Russia and Ukraine Warfare: A Necropolitical Analysis of Nepali Citizens Exposed in Sordid Trafficking

Laleh Ahmad (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Disaster by Default: Searching for Value in Karachi's Hazardscape

Abdul Rehman Khan

Beyond the Administrative Border: Real-Time School Monitoring, Governance Frontiers, and the Limits of Technocratic Reform in Balochistan, Pakistan

Magna Mohapatra (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Decolonial Affect of Niyam Raja: Towards An Anticapitalist Praxis of Degrowth

Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Organizer: Alif Shahed (University of Toronto)

Discussant / Chair: Epsita Halder (Jadavpur University)

Alif Shahed (University of Toronto)

Festival Economies: Development, Management, and Infrastructure

Nusrat Mim (University of Toronto)

Technology, Cities, and Non-Secular Space-making in the Global South

Ankita Choudhary (University of Toronto)

The Intercessory Object: Material Life of Muharram in Qaṣbāt (Small Towns) of Uttar Pradesh

Poulami Das (University of Toronto)

Making "Publics" at the Ghāzī Shrine: Festival, Space, and Circulation

History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer: Mercy Dutta (University of Chicago)

Discussant / Chair: Whitney Cox (University of Chicago)

Mercy Dutta (University of Chicago)

Pre-Modern Sanskrit Drama and the Exercise of History: Between the Ratnāvalī and the Anargharāghava

Tancredi Padova (University of Chicago)

Wailings of the Gods in the Narratives of Men: On Visions of Mourning Deities in Late Medieval Sanskrit Historical Kāvya

Kevin Poe (University of California, Santa Barbara)

From Ritual Enclosure to Sacred Landscape: The Vedic Legacy of Divine Fragmentation in the Spatial Imagination of South Asian Literature

Abhiraj Singh (University of Chicago)

Painted Teachings: Reflections on the Nature of Death through Artistic Representations of the Buddha's Parinirvāṇa

Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Muhammad Nabil Zuberi (City University of New York)

Aesthetic Borders: Perception, Authority, and Political Crisis in Bangladesh

Ashfaq Ahmed (University of Washington, Seattle)

Patwaris and the Bureaucratic Labor of State-Making

Samee Ahmad (New York University)

Governing Dispossession: The Long Partition of Lahore's Sacral Land

Avani Ashtekar (Brown University)

"This is a Friendly Border": Pluricentric Governance on the India-Bangladesh Borderlands

Performance and Popular Culture Across the Borders

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Sreya Chatterjee (University of Houston)

Yue Qiu (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Situating White-Haired Girl Between China and East Pakistan: Translating the Struggles of Rural Women Through Performances

Mukti Mangharam (Rutgers University)

Indian Cinema, Hindu Nationalism and Indigeneity

Arijit Banerjee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Resisting Communalism: Staging Conviviality and Commensality in Urban Bengal

Debali Mookerjea-Leonard (James Madison University)

Crossing Borders: Race, Sexuality and Freedom in Contemporary YA Fiction

Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Linda Racioppi (Michigan State University)

Sejuti Das Gupta (Michigan State University)

Aneesha Mohan (University of Colorado)

Lalith Rankoth (University of Peradeniya)

Wikum Jayasinghe (University of Peradeniya)

Nuwan De Silva (University of Peradeniya)

More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Hasini Lecamwasam (University of Zurich)

Humans, Elephants, and Cattle: An Epiphenomenon of Sri Lanka's Agrarian Crisis

Huma Umar (New York University)

Deporting Labor, Protecting Birds: Development, Dispossession, and Gulf-Pakistan Relations

From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time

Conference Room 5, Floor 2

Tyler Thom (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Sound Problems: Creative Jugāḍ Workarounds at Hindustani Concerts

Inderjit Kaur (Univeristy of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

A Moving Experiential Matrix: Protest Songs of the 2020-2021 Indian Farmer's Movement

John Caldwell (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

The Wounded Voice: Amir Khusrau's Acoustic Cosmologies at the Fourteenth Century Indo-Persianate Court

Ronit Ghosh (University of Chicago)

Mahishāsuramardini: Subaltern Musicking and Bengali Spirituality

Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Dolly Daftary (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

"Brothers of the Thread": Affective Labor Topographies of Agropastoral Textiles Weavers in Border-Transcending Kachchh and Oaxaca

Mehvish Siddiqui (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Entangled Sovereignty: Sikh and Mughal Visual Cultures in Early Modern Punjab

Ayesha Matthan (Cornell University)

The (un)Civic City: Photography, Colonial Heritage, and Labor in Late 20th-century Bombay

Shehroze Ahmed Shaikh (Institute of Business Administration)

Smuggling Ghadar: Sindhworkis and the Global Infrastructure of South Asian Revolutionary Politics During WW1

Sarah Shepherd-Manandhar (University of Illinois at Chicago)

From Trademark Shades to Ethnic Gowns: How Nepal's Youth are Wearing Modern Nationalism

Modes of Political Critique and Reform in Pre-Independence South Asia

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Karthik Payyalil (Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminenence, New Delhi)

From the Anti-Slave Trade Politics to the Indian Indenture System: A Genealogy of the Modern International Labor Politics

Srirupa Prasad (University of Missouri-Columbia)

The Bengal Famine to Gaza: Hunger, Witnessing, and the Mother

Vysakh R Seshadri (University of Hyderabad)

Turning Dharma on Its Head: Vaikkom Muhammad Basheer's Dharma Rajyam and the State of Political Criticism in Colonial Travancore

Aadarsh Chunkath (University of California, Los Angeles)

From Reform to Political Modernity: Associational Life and Democratic Transformation in Princely Kerala, 1890–1939

P Srinidhi (IIT Bombay)

Cultural Narrative of the Nationalist Movement in Interwar Madras Presidency

The Language of Caste: Passing, Avoiding, and Indexing in Global India

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Organizer: Llerena Searle (University of Rochester)

Discussant / Chair: Kristina Nielsen (Binghamton University)

Shubham Shivang (University of Chicago)

Kins, Villagers, and (YouTube) Creators: Caste Stylistics in Bhojpuri Digital Media

Joel Lee (Williams College)

How Not to Sound Dalit

Jessica Chandras (George Washington University)

Speaking of Caste: Curriculum and Pedagogy Navigating Caste in Maharashtra State Board Textbooks in Indian Education

Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia

University A/B, Floor 2

Organizer: Ilsa Abdul Razzak (University of Washington, Seattle)

Discussant / Chair: Bhavani Raman (University of Toronto at Scarborough)

Ilsa Abdul Razzak (University of Washington, Seattle)

Protests Against Injustice: A Qazi's Removal from Power in Eighteenth Century Batala

Du Fei (University of Oklahoma)

Locating Islamic Law in the VOC's Indian Ocean Archives

Naveena Naqvi (University of British Columbia)

A Qanun for the Rohilla Household

Bhavani Raman (University of Toronto at Scarborough)

Discussant: *Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia*

Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism

University C/D, Floor 2

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Sonja Thomas (Colby College)

Salwa Kazi (University of Colorado)

The Runaways of Kokan: Brahminical Slavery and Escape

Irene Promodh (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Heirs to Pariahs: Genealogy and Inheritance in the Pentecostal Refusal of Gold

Sonja Thomas (Colby College)

Caste, Cash, and Christianity: Leaving and Returning on the R-1

Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Samrat Sharma (Pennsylvania State University)

Bad Words, Sharp Politics: Gaali, Gupshup, and the Negotiation of Hijra, Kinner, and Trans Identities

Daizi Hazarika (Curry College)

Understanding the Phenomenon of Male Witch-Hunting in Assam, India - Men Aren't Spared

Uzma Zafar (University of Rochester)

Trans Citizenship as "Vantapolitics": Islamist Conservatism and the Pakistani Legal System

Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Organizer: Johanna Rozakis-Siu (Princeton University)

Discussant / Chair: Jyoti Balachandran (Pennsylvania State University)

Srabani Chakraborty

Transcending Regional Boundary: State, Religion and Ideology in Western India, 11th-15th Century CE

Anwesha Das (Emory University)

Bilād al-Juzurāt and the Indian Ocean: Networks of Trade and Power in Medieval Gujarat

Johanna Rozakis-Siu (Princeton University)

Cannons and Rumis: Gujarat as a Hub for Firepower in South Asia

Vaidehi Paneri (Syracuse University)

An Accultured Religion in Gujarat - A Fraught Presence of Ismailis within Regional Practices of Nomads of Gujarat

Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Kate Kaura (Ohio State University)

The Digital Goddess Across Borders: Feminist Reimaginings of Hindu Myth in Transnational Comics

Anisha Kar (Purdue University)

Constructing the Chaste Woman: Mangalkāvyas, Pir-Kathās, and Chastity in Precolonial Bengal

Mukta Kher (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Embodied Intensities: Situating Affect and Identity in Hinduism

"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Organizer: Swapna Banerjee (Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center of City University of New York)

Discussant / Chair: Geraldine Forbes (SUNY Oswego)

Swapna Banerjee (Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center of City University of New York)

Namrata Ganneri (SNDT College of Arts & SCB College of Commerce & Science for Women)

Titas De Sarkar (University of Chicago)

Gyanendra Pandey (Emory University)

Srimati Basu (University of Virginia)

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Senate A	Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird	Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia	Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions	open
Senate B	open	History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia	The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry	open
Conf Rm 1	Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation	Communalism and Ethno-Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present	open
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Conf Rm 3	Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia	Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress	Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes	open
Conf Rm 4	The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images	More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia	Urban Spaces and City-Making Through Literature	open
Conf Rm 5	Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions	From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time	open	open
Capitol A	Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media	Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia	Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India	open
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
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University A/B	Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law	Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia	Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics	Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making
University C/D	Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India	Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism	Speaking Across Borders	open
Parlor 627	Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India	Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time	Empire in the Everyday	open
Parlor 629	Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond	Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern	The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India	Political Work and Thought
Parlor 634	Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities	Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life	open
Parlor 638	Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia	"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	The Making of Elections and Electorates in India	open

Session 11 Panels and Roundtables

Pyrotechnology and Social Complexity in Ancient South Asia

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer: Lucas Wirick (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussant / Chair: Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Alan Lee (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Iron Objects of Bhamala Stupa (c. AD 50 – 450) – Using Ancient Iron Construction Materials to Reveal the Social Relationships Underpinning the Monumental Construction of Bhamala Stupa in Northwestern South Asia

Garima Singh (Deccan College PGRI PUNE)

Tracing The Pyrotechnological Process of Craft Production Through Mineralogical Study from the Site of Tigrana

Lucas Wirick (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Copper Traditions of the Indus Valley and Eastern Arabia in the 3rd Millennium BCE: Patterns of Interaction, Transmission, and Technological Development

Sneha Chavali (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The Indus Faience Technological Footprint in Gujarat and its implications for Indus Craft Studies

Between Constraint and Agency: Jain Female Renouncers across Historical and Contemporary Contexts

Room: Caucus Room Floor: Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Shailesh Shinde (Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute)

Rohit Chakote

Investigating the Position of Digambara Aryaikas in the Medieval Period: A Study of Their Religious and Socio-Cultural Roles

Charul Jain

Asceticism Recast: Female Renunciation and Reform in Modern Digambar Jainism

Shailesh Shinde (Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute)

Between Access and Exclusion: Medieval Scriptural Practices of Śvetāmbara Jain Female Renouncers

Samani Pratibha Pragya (Florida International University)

Demographic Growth and Educational Progress Among Jain Śvetāmbara Terāpanth Nuns

Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions

Senate Room A, Floor 1

Discussant / Chair: Tyler A. Lehrer (Batten University)

Amy Langenberg (Eckerd College)

The Persistence of Buddhist Monastic Women in India: Revisiting "The Case of the Vanishing Nuns"

Hana Jo (University of California, Berkeley)

The Lay Buddhist Citta's Interreligious Debates with Non-Buddhist Ascetics Across Pali and Chinese Canons

Nils Seiler (University of New Mexico)

Debating the Naiyāyikas? On the Opponents of Nāgārjuna's Vigrahavyāvartanī

Nuwan Herath (University of Kentucky)

Mobility, Monasticism, and Dhamma Dissemination: Sinhalese Buddhist Monks in the United States

Justin Henry (University of South Florida)

Buddhist Millennialism and Political Prophecy in Sri Lanka and Beyond

The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry

Senate Room B, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Archana Venkatesan (University of California, Davis)

Martha Ann Selby (Harvard University)

What They Said to Their Hearts: The Heart as Addressee in Old Tamil Literature

Malavika Kannan (University of California, Davis)

Listen, Heart: Interiority and Poetics of Self-Address Among the Āḻvārs

Gardner Harris (Hampden-Sydney College)

Break this Heart of Stone: The Open and Closed Heart in Māṇikkavācar's

Steven Hopkins (Swarthmore College)

A Heart that Weeps Women's Tears: Shame, Anger-Grief, and Female Lament in Kampaṉ's Rāmāyaṇa

Communalism and Ethno-Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present

Conference Room 1, Floor 2

Nipunika Oshadhie Lecamwasam (University of Notre Dame)

Frontiers and the Production of Ethnic Space in Sri Lanka

Md Shamsuddoha (Washington State University)

Colonial Labor Migration and Xenophobia in Burma: 1824-1939

Vidura Jang Bahadur (Northwestern University)

Can a Chinese be Indian? Re(Imagining) Citizenship, Identity and Belonging of the Desi Chinese at the Intersections of Transnational Law

Avanti Chhatre (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Performative Politics of Hindu Nationalism: A Study of Powada Performances in Pune, Maharashtra

Worldling Urdu Literature and Periodicals

Conference Room 2, Floor 2

Shaiq Ali (University of Minnesota)

Reading New Worlds: Urdu Magazines, World Literature and Colonial Modernity in Late Colonial South Asia

Arfa Ezazi (University of Texas at Austin)

The English Ghazal: Literary Form and the Politics of Cross-Cultural Translation

Syed Baqar Mehdi Rizvi (University of Texas at Austin)

Between Indulgence and Renunciation – Sensuality and Sufism in the Urdu Poetry of Naẓīr Akbarābādī (1735-1830)

Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes

Conference Room 3, Floor 2

Fariya Yesmin (SOAS)

Bovine, Borders, and Belonging in the River Islands of Assam, India

Ayushi Chauhan (Boston University)

Irrigation and Its Evil Effects: Environmental Change and Disease in the Western Yamuna Canal

Amrita Chakraborty (Cornell University)

(Un)Naming the Delta

Sabujkoli Mukherjee (University of California, Davis)

Fishes and Forests: Rights Making in the Sunderbans, 1816-1905

Urban Spaces and City-Making through Literature

Conference Room 4, Floor 2

Masrufa Nusrat (University of Texas at Dallas)

A Cosmopolitan Turn in Women's Transnational Narratives: Negotiating Urban Women's Identity in Dhaka

Anjana S (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

From Kolaya to the Coast: Making of Kozhikode Beyond the "City of Literature"

Meher Gandhi (University of California, Berkeley)

Literature of Space: A Study of Space–Self Relations in Hindi Novels

Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India

Capitol Ballroom A, Floor 2

Vincent Kelley (University of Pennsylvania)

Indian Pilgrimage to Jazz: Capital, Culture, and the Neoliberal Transition

Hena Sarkar (Binghamton University)

To Dance or Not To Dance: Regional Corporeal Idioms and the Disruption of National Masculinity in 1980s Hindi Cinema

Amrita Chakravarty (Yale University)

Reliance v BSNL (2025): Media and Entertainment in Aid of the Jio Empire

Ahona Palchoudhuri (Brown University)

Classical vs Popular: Scenes from the Life of Indian Music Reality Shows

Caste in Practice: Labor, Development, and the Politics of Visibility

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Vivekananda Nemana (Independent Researcher and Journalist)

"The Sun Always Rises": Caste, Predatory Development and the Struggle for Self-Worth in India's Araku Valley

Varun Sudhakaran (NIAS)

Why Did They Not Aspire for Education? A Retrospective Study of Working-Class Thiyya Male Youth in Kerala

Malavika Narayan (Cornell University)

Wasted Labor, Wasted City: Reflections on Labor, Caste and Informality in Delhi's Solid Waste System

Amna Majeed (University of Toronto)

Now You See Caste, Now You Don't: Caste, Affirmative Action, and the Tamil Muslim Exception in Contemporary South India

Topographies of Knowledge: Caste, Power, and Institutional Inequality

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Tanushree Sharma (University of Southern California)

The "Small Town" in Hindi Action Cinema: Stardom, Haptics, and the Planetary Economy

Shivangi Jalan (Ashoka University)

Double Trouble: Reading Bollywood Double Roles Queerly

Hannah Meher Edavalath Vayalil Keloth (Ashoka University, Sonepat)

Reimagined Cartographies of Belonging: Mappila Muslim Cuisine, Transoceanic Lineages, and Gendered Negotiations in Contemporary Malayalam Cinema

Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics

University A/B, Floor 2

Musab Yousufi (Riphah International University)

Conflict, Connectivity, and Strategic Foresight: Pakistan-Afghanistan Tensions and the Future of Regional Security in South and Central Asia

Soha Habib (London School of Economics)

Beyond Fanaticism: Reconsidering the Durand Line and Motivations for the 1897 Frontier Uprising

Asmer Safi (University of Oxford)

Marxism as Kalaam-al-Naas: Maulana Abdul Rahim Popalzai and the Search for a Revolutionary Method

Mortaza Hassani (University of California, Los Angeles)

Imagining the Afghan Nation: From Civic Debate to Aryan Ideology in the 1930s and 1940s

Speaking Across Borders

University C/D, Floor 2

Discussant / Chair: Sachida Nand Jha (Delhi University)

Kirin Mueller (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai)

Enforced Linguistic Isolation: Language and Health Injustice in the Rohingya Refugee Response

Yayo Umetsubo (University of Toronto)

Mapping Publishers and Languages in South Asia: An ArcGIS Project for Collection Development

Sachida Nand Jha (Delhi University)

Beyond Borders: Mithila, Maithili, and the Transnational Imagination in South Asia

Soumilee Dasgupta (Miami University of Ohio)

Making A World Out of Home: Tagore's Visva-Bharati/Shantiniketan and the Child/Learner Beyond the Nation

Empire in the Everyday

Parlor Room 627, Floor 6

Nisha Shanghavi (University of California, Santa Barbara)

The Nilgiri Clubland: Britishness in (Colonial) India

Aastha Gaur (National University of Singapore)

The Immortal Confectionery: Shrewsbury Biscuits and the Making of Puneri Identity

Ananya Mahapatra (Duke University)

Gears of Empire, Dials of Subversion: The Contested Consumption of Time in Colonial Bengal

Vipanchika Sahasri Bhagyanagar (Purdue University)

Life and Resistance of "Ordinary" Prisoners in Colonial India, 1921-1950

Atiyab Sultan (Harvard University)

Endgame of Empire: Sultan Khan, Asia's First Grandmaster

The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Bijoyetri Samaddar (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Legal Institutions, Intrahousehold Bargaining, and Contraceptive Behavior: Evidence from India's Prevention of Child Marriage Act

Saumya Maheshwari (SOAS University of London)

Cultivating Stubbornness as Constitution-Strengthening Disposition Amongst Inter-Religious Couples in Delhi NCR

Sandipto Dasgupta (The New School for Social Research)

Decolonization and Public Ownership in India

Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life

Parlor Room 634, Floor 6

Shahana Munazir (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

"Life Passing:" Ethical Aspirations and the Experience of Precarity Among Muslim Women in Urban India

Sana Naeem (Harvard University)

The Divorcing Wife and Intestinal Law

Erika Kagawa (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

Pardah as Local Morality in Pakistan: Women's Lived Experiences

Rubayat Jesmin (SUNY-Binghamton)

Women Empowerment and Violence Against Women: Countercurrent in Bangladesh

The Making of Elections and Electorates in India

Parlor Room 638, Floor 6

Pawan Sharma (University of Minnesota)

Circulating Politics: Digital Media and the Making of Political Subjectivities in Provincial India

Vigneshkarthik K Rajahmani T (The Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian & Caribbean Studies) and Ward Berenschot

Explaining Variation in Campaign Expenditures: Evidence from India's State Assembly Elections

Amogh Dhar Sharma (University of Oxford)

Counting the Public: Eric P.W. da Costa and the Rise of Opinion Polling in Postcolonial India

Room	Session 9 8:30-10:15 a.m.	Session 10 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session 11 1:45-3:30 p.m.	Session 12 3:45-5:30 p.m.
Assembly	Prehistoric and Historic Foundations of South Asian Cultural Traditions	Craft Technology and Social Complexity Across South Asia	Pyrotechnology and Social Complexity in Ancient South Asia	The Brahmaputra Valley in Early Modern South Asia: Statecraft, Literature, Ecology
Caucus	Between Poetics and Science: Intellectual Traditions in South Asia	At the Margins of the State: Governance, Political Economy, and Cultures of Exception in South Asia	Between Constraint and Agency: Jain Female Renouncers Across Historical and Contemporary Contexts	open
Senate A	Postcolonial Gothic Entanglements: Of Gardens, Ghosts and the Weird	Critical Mass: Festivals, Sacred Assemblies, and the Making of Publics in South Asia	Debating the Dharma: Buddhist Intellectual Exchange Across Traditions	open
Senate B	open	History in Literature and Literature in History: The Case for Pre-Modern South Asia	The Heart of Things: Hearing the Heart in Premodern Tamil Poetry	open
Conf Rm 1	Sri Lanka's NPP Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Beyond the Line: Borderlands as Sites of Governance and Contestation	Communalism and Ethno-Nationalism in South Asia, Past and Present	open
Conf Rm 2	Nationalism, Media, and Popular Culture in South Asia	Performance and Popular Culture Across the Borders	Worldling Urdu Literature and Periodicals	open
Conf Rm 3	Rethinking the Forms of Debate: Climate, Geology, and Ecology Across South Asia	Vulnerability and Resilience: Rural South Asia Under Stress	Unruly Waters: Ecology, Borders, and Belonging in South Asian Waterscapes	open
Conf Rm 4	The After Lives and Other Lives of South Asian Images	More-than-Human Entanglements: Conservation, Conflict, and Care in Multispecies South Asia	Urban Spaces and City-Making through Literature	open
Conf Rm 5	Entangled Devotions: Caste, Community, and Religious Imagination Across South Asian Traditions	From Courtly Cosmologies to Street Protest: Music Across Time	open	open
Capitol A	Tasting, Testing: Feminine Figurations in Modern South Asian Media	Heritage, Labor, and Textiles Across South Asia	Cultural Economies: Performance, Media, and Capital in India	open
Capitol B	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**	**Exhibit Room**
Wisconsin	A Roundtable on "Caste A Global Story"	The Language of Caste: Passing, Avoiding, and Indexing in Global India	Caste in Practice: Labor, Development, and the Politics of Visibility	Caste, Knowledge, and Institutional Power
Madison	Contested Belongings: Religion, Caste, and Political Identity Across Borders	Modes of Political Critique and Reform in Pre-Independence South Asia	Topographies of Knowledge: Caste, Power, and Institutional Inequality	Staging Across Borders: Caste, Translation, and Diaspora in South Asian Theatre
University A/B	Islamic Intellectual Traditions: Frameworks for Resistance and Law	Intersections of Legal and Social Histories in South Asia	Afghanistan: Nation Formation, Ideology, and the Production of Publics	Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making
University C/D	Sacred Utopias, Lived Dystopias: Adivasi Identity, Maddening State Projects, and Nation-Building in India	Refusal, Escape, Dignity: The Logics of Resistance Under Racial and Caste Capitalism	Speaking Across Borders	open
Parlor 627	Subaltern Regional Identities and the Politics of Mobilisation in India	Negotiating Difference: Gender Variance and Authority Across Time	Empire in the Everyday	open
Parlor 629	Navigating Care Across Borders: Health, Medicine, and Inequality in South Asia and Beyond	Gujarat in the Longue Durée: Multi-Dimensional Crossings from the Medieval to the Modern	The State Against Personal and Public Rights in India	Political Work and Thought
Parlor 634	Biometrics, Surveillance, and Citizenship in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	Between Goddess and Woman: Gendered Ideals and Lived Realities	Muslim Women, Ethics, and Everyday Life	open
Parlor 638	Entangled Ecologies: Environment, Power, and Place in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia	"Men at Home" and "In the World": Fathers, Brothers, Husbands, and Men's Rights Activists in Colonial and Post-Colonial India	The Making of Elections and Electorates in India	open

Session 12 Panels and Roundtables

The Brahmaputra Valley in Early Modern South Asia: Statecraft, Literature, Ecology

Assembly Room, Floor 1

Organizer / Discussant / Chair: Upasana Hazarika (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)

Upasana Hazarika (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)

Tai Ahom Court Chronicles: Early Modern State Bureaucracy and Intellectual World of Scribal Elite

Rima Kalita (Rajiv Gandhi University)

The Making of a Vernacular Landscape: Reimagining Landscape in Early Modern Assam (India)

Priyanka Sarma (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati)

Literary Exchanges: Poets and Patrons in Early Modern Assam

Deeplakshmi Saikia

Elephants, Ecologies, and Empires: The Hastividyarnava and Transregional South Asia

Caste, Knowledge, and Institutional Power

Wisconsin Ballroom, Floor 2

Kriti Budhiraja (Illinois Wesleyan University)

Hoarding Opportunity in Precarious Times: Upper Caste Consolidation of Privilege through the Public University

Naomi Hazarika (University of Colorado Boulder)

Caste and Topographies of Knowledge Politics: Transnational Flows of Savarna Guilt and Profit

Sanjula Rajat (University of Oregon)

The Colonial Politics of Impurity: Gender, Caste, and Capital in the Consolidation of a Hindu Nation-State

Staging Across Borders: Caste, Translation, and Diaspora in South Asian Theatre

Madison Ballroom, Floor 2

Shruthi Menon (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Towards Freedom, Towards Opacity: Intercultural Theatre and the Burden of Translating Caste

Maulikraj Shrimali (Northwestern University)

Brown Utopian Performativity or Brahmanicality? Witnessing South Asian Diaspora Theatre in Chicago

Subhayu Chatterjee (University of Oregon)

Moving Beyond Borders: Transnationalism in Twentieth Century Indian Theatre

Islamic Worlds: Alternative Modes of Authority and Meaning-Making

University A/B, Floor 2

Discussant / Chair: Gulfishan Khan (Aligarh Muslim University)

Pranav Pandey (University of Delhi)

Remembering the Sufi: Ritual Commemoration and the Contested Islamic Pasts of Gorakhpur

Laiba Akhtar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Law in the Countryside: Qazi in the Rural Society of Mughal Awadh, 16th-17th centuries

Khadeeja Majoka (Columbia University)

Panjtan Jo Bagh: A Garden Outside History

Mariam Nadeem (University of Oregon)

Islam, Aesthetics, and Anti-Capitalism: Muhammad Iqbal in Ali Shariati's "Art Awaiting the Saviour"

Gulfishan Khan (Aligarh Muslim University)

Representations of Tāj Maḥall/Rauḍa-i-munavvara, (the Illumined tomb), in the Seventeenth-Century Indo-Persian Historiography

Political Work and Thought

Parlor Room 629, Floor 6

Raphaëlle Khan (City University of New York (City College))

Imagining India as a Power: Indian Understandings of Power in the 1940s

Sumedha Chakravarthy (University of Cambridge)

Possible Politics: New Democratic Selves at Work in Delhi

Shashwat Dhar (Swarthmore College)

Internal Migration, Political Incentives, and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from a Panel Study of Indian Villages

Index

A

Aadarsh Chunkath 93
Aalekhya Malladi 29
Aanmona Priyadarshini 24, 37
Aastha Gaur 101
Aatika Singh 21
Aayush Triguni 67
Abdul Rehman Khan 90
Abdullahi Ahmed 3
Abhiraj Singh 91
Abhishek Jain 19
ABM Shafiqul Islam 34
Abuzar Madhu 17
Adeem Suhail 28
Adil Mawani 3
Aditi Jain 35
Aditya Balasubramanian 61
Aditya Chaturvedi 29
Adnan Hossain 52
Ahona Palchoudhuri 100
Ainee Farooqui 61, 86
Aisha Ghani 36, 45
Aishani Khurana 62
Aiswarya T 35
Ajay Gehlawat 76
Akshar Gajjar 17
Akshaya Tankha 85
Akshita Todi 42
Alaka Chudal 41
Alan Lee 97
Ali K. Lashari 47
Ali Raza 28
Alif Shahed 14, 91
Alisha Elizabeth Cherian 77
Aman Kaur Virk 67
Amanda Lanzillo 12
Ambika Siddhanta Athreya 66
Ameem Lutfi 28
Amita Shastri 84
Amna Majeed 87, 100
Amna Qayyum 45
Amogh Dhar Sharma 102
Amrita Chakraborty 99
Amrita Chakravarty 100
Amrita Chowdhury 41, 74
Amrita Ghosh 83
Amrutha Kunapulli 20, 43
Amy Langenberg 98
Amy-Ruth Holt 19
Anaar Desai-Stephens 76
Anamika Singh 5, 71
Anand Sreekumar 52
Anand Taneja 68
Anand Venkatkrishnan 49
Anand Yang 26, 77
Ananya Mahapatra 101
Anchit Jain 18
Andrea Fowler 3
Andy Rotman 33
Aneesha Mohan 92
Angana Chatterjee 30
Angana Chatterji 30
Aniket Aga 5, 71
Anirban Baishya 20, 43, 76
Anirban Karak 16
Aniruddha Dutta 52
Anish Vanaik 59
Anisha Anantpurkar 52
Anisha Kar 95
Anjali Arondekar 67, 86
Anjali Nerlekar 22, 50
Anjana S 99
Anju Parvathy Biju 21
Ankita Bhattacharya 74
Ankita Choudhary 91
Ankita Deb 59
Ankush Bhuyan 20
Anna Tosato 57
Anne Murphy 60
Annu Daftuar 27
Anuj Sah 70
Anuja Jain 13, 60
Anupam Debashis Roy 24
Anupama Arora 50
Anupama Prabhala 35
Anupama Rao 22–23, 69, 86
Anuraj Advani 27
Anushiya Ramaswamy 37, 65
Anustup Basu 50
Anwesha Das 95
Aparna Parikh 17
Aparna Sharma 67
Archana Venkatesan 15, 98
Archana Venkatesh 45
Archi Mukherjee 36
Arfa Ezazi 99
Arijit Banerjee 92
Arjun Bhattacharya 75
Arjun Chopra 74
Arkaprava Sarkar 78
Arnab Dutta Roy 83
Arooj Alam 12, 38, 52
Arpit Gaind 50
Arpita Biswas 51
Arsalan Khan 26
Arshad Ullah 65
Arslan Waheed 88
Arun Luthra 3, 80
Arvind Nair 90
Ashfaq Ahmed 91
Ashish Koul 75
Ashok Davanath 51
Ashwin Bajaj 77
Asif Iqbal 3
Aslam Kakar 37
Aslam Saiyad 17
Asma Awan 59
Asmer Safi 101
Ather Zia 52, 61
Atiyab Sultan 101
Avani Ashtekar 91
Avanti Chhatre 98
Avigyan Banerjee 58

Ayesha Matthan 85, 93
Ayushi Chauhan 99

B

B. Geetha 27
B. Venkat Mani 66
Bahata Ansumali 33
Basanth Thomas Babu 36, 44
Bennett Comerford 27
Bhaskar M V 33
Bhaskar Sarkar 13
Bhavani Raman 94
Bhavya Tiwari 15
Bijoyetri Samaddar 102
Bilal Aslam 42
Bilal Munir 42
Bramsh Khan 37
Brock DeMark 59

C

Caitlyn Marentette 83
Carla Bellamy 16
Catherine Prueitt 65
Chad Bauman 30
Chaise LaDousa 43
Chandrasekhar Sepuri 44
Charles Hallisey 3
Charul Jain 97
Chhotelal Kumar 87
Chitra Venkatramani 17
Chitrangada Choudhury 5, 71
Chris Chekuri 22
Christina Davis 43
Christine Garlough 36
Christine Marrewa 27, 42
Christoph Emmrich 41, 48
Claire Elliot 38
Claire Robison 51
Corbett Costello 27
Corey Creekmur 13
Corey Lohman 49

D

D.M Imalka Nishani Danansuriya 65
Daizi Hazarika 94
Dalpat Rajpurohit 35
Dana Kornberg 75
Daniel Majchrowicz 26, 38
Danielle Bass 43
Danish Ahmed 47
Darshana Mini 3, 14, 77
Davesh Soneji 77
Davey Tomlinson 65
David Gilmartin 45
David Monteserin Narayana 29
David Shulman 65
David Silverberg 33, 48
Debali Mookerjea-Leonard 92
Debarati Roy 13
Debarati Sen 57
Deepasri Baul 59
Deeplakshmi Saikia 104
Deepti Chatti 17
Delilah Pacheco 48
Dennys Frenez 83
Deonnie Moodie 16
Dhruv Nagar 57
Dina Siddiqi 25
Dipti Khera 42
Divya Malhari 22
Divyani Motla 36, 86
Divyashree Ashok Kumar Malhari 86
Dolly Daftary 93
Dolly Kikon 47, 57
Dominic Esler 3
Douglas Haynes 59
Drishadwadi Bargi 27
Du Fei 94
Durba Mitra 61
Dyotana Banerjee 43

E

Edwin Elizabeth Thomas 36, 78
Elaine Craddock 18
Elaine Fisher 29, 49
Eléonore Rimbault 21, 67
Ellen Gough 19, 57
Emilia Bachrach 16
Emma Kalb 62
Enakshi Nandi 52
Epsita Halder 91
Eric Beverly 26
Eric Gurevitch 68
Eric Steinschneider 29
Ericka Hoagland 83
Erika Kagawa 102
Esther Anne Victoria Moraes 45
Evgeniia Muzychenko 85

F

Farah Habib 41, 59
Farina Mir 69
Fariya Yesmin 99
Fatima Quraishi 70
Fizza Joffrey 61
FNU Rashmi 70
Frederick M. Smith 15
Frédérique Apfel-Marglin 30

G

G.S. Sahota 77
Gardner Harris 98
Garima Singh 97
Gaurika Mehta 16, 77
Gayas Eapen 21
Gayatri Reddy 22
Geeta Patel 57, 67
Geoffrey Ludvik 90
George Pioustin 85
Geraldine Forbes 95
Ghost Peppers 5, 31
Gil Ben-Herut 19, 49
Githmi Rabel 70
Gohar Siddiqui 13
Golam Rabbani 44
Gowri Vijayakumar 62
Gowthaman Ranganathan 74
Gregg Jamison 33
Gregory Bruce 45, 60, 68

Gregory Goulding 33
Gudrun Bühnemann 3
Gulfishan Khan 105
Gyanendra Pandey 95

H

Haider Shahbaz 69
Hajira Ali 40
Hamza Iqbal 51
Hana Jo 98
Hana Shams Ahmed 25
Hannah Meher Edavalath Vayalil Keloth 100
Harshita Mruthinti Kamath 15
Hasini Lecamwasam 92
Heidi Pauwels 15, 35, 60
Hena Sarkar 100
Himani Singh 51
Huma Umar 92

I

Ian Turner 48
Ifqut Shaheen 65
Ifrah Asif 17
Iftekhar Iqbal 84
Ilanit Loewy Shacham 15
Ilma Qureshi 49
Ilsa Abdul Razzak 12, 94
Ilyas Chattha 28
Imran Shahzad 86
Inamullah Jan 41
Inderjit Kaur 92
Indrani Chatterjee 62, 76
Iqbal Akhtar 51
Irene Promodh 94
Ishan Santra 48
Israt Eshita Haque 38
Isti Bhattacharya 58

J

J. Barton Scott 33
Jagannath Ambagudia 30
Jahanzeb Baloch 28
Jamal Jones 3
James Mallinson 18
Jannatul Maoa 25, 34
Jason Schwartz 18, 68
Jatin Nayak 30
Jay Prakash Sharma 27
Jay Ramesh 57
Jay Ramteke 87
Jayson Beaster-Jones 76
Jeanne Marecek 84
Jeevan Karki 48
Jeff Badger 41
Jesse Pruitt 29, 60
Jessica Barnes 41
Jessica Chandras 93
Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz 41, 52
Jibran Anand 66
Jobial Alex 88
Joe Evans 37
Joel Lee 37, 93
Johanna Rozakis-Siu 95
John Caldwell 92
John Cort 40
John Nowak 27
John Stratton Hawley 15
Jonathan Mark Kenoyer 3, 47, 83
Julia Szivak 76
Justin Grosnick 30
Justin Henry 98
Jyoti Balachandran 95
Jyotkia Virdi 13

K

Kajri Jain 33
Kalyan Nadiminti 42, 75
Kalyani Menon 51
Kalyani Ramnath 61, 77
Kamran Asdar Ali 3
Kanika Singh Sisodia 19
Karishma Desai 78
Karthik Payyalil 93
Karthik Shankar 88
Kartik Maini 68, 74
Kartik Nair 21
Karuna Mantena 69
Kashi Gomez 62
Kate Kaura 95
Kathleen Fernando 65
Kaustavi Sarkar 30
Kaustubh Naik 22, 87
Kavita Sivaramakrishnan 52
Keerthana Ravi 83
Keshari Rana Thapa 34
Ketaki Jaywant 85
Ketaki Pant 36
Kevin Poe 91
Keya Ganguly 77
Khadeeja Majoka 74, 105
Khalid Iqbal 41
Khan Faqir 40
Khurram Sheikh 14
Kim Kolor 38
Kinjal Dave 20
Kirin Mueller 101
Koyna Tomar 66
Krishna Kumar 70
Kristen Rudisill 49
Kristina Nielsen 93
Kriti Budhiraja 104
Kritika Chettri 58
Kritish Rajbhandari 48, 58
Kshitij Jain 18, 48

L

Laboni Bhattacharya 20
Laiba Akhtar 105
Lakshmi Padmanabhan 13
Laleh Ahmad 90
Lalith Rankoth 92
LaQuita Jones 41
Laura Brueck 26, 50, 86
Lavanya Nott 69
Lawrence Cohen 33
Lawrence McCrea 65
Leenu Sugathan 44
Lia Wolock 14

Liming Gao 90
Linda Racioppi 92
Lisa Owen 40
Llerena Searle 93
Lopamudra Basu 83
Lucas Wirick 97
Lutfun Shantana 34, 87

M

M. Raisur Rahman 68
M. Whitney Cox 16
M. Whitney Kelting 40
Mackenzie Shekar 75
Madhavi Mallapragda 14
Madhuja Mukherjee 35
Madhumita Dutta 67, 75
Madhumita Lahiri 5, 79
Madiha Ghous 12
Magna Mohapatra 3, 14, 90
Mahvish Ahmad 28
Mahvish Nazar 62
Maini Masood 12
Máire White 18
Maitrayee Basu 14
Malavika Kannan 98
Malavika Narayan 100
Malini Ranganathan 17, 23, 77
Manasicha Akepiyapornchai 49
Manasvin Rajagopalan 85
Manav Kapur 58
Manikandan Abimanyu 74
Manjari Sahay 45
Mariam Nadeem 105
Mark Hauser 74
Mark Whitaker 38
Marta Ameri 33, 40
Martha Ann Selby 15, 98
Masrufa Nusrat 99
Matt Shutzer 61
Matthew Cook 12
Maulikraj Shrimali 104
Mayadev Murthy 59
Md Ala Uddin 87
Md Mahmudul Haque 34
Md Shamsuddoha 98
Megan Robb 51
Megha Anwer 50
Meghan Hartman 12, 51, 74
Meher Ali 58
Meher Gandhi 99
Mehvish Siddiqui 93
Mekhola Gomes 22
Menuka Gurung 58
Mercy Dutta 19, 91
Meredith Stinger 88
Michele Gamburd 84
Mika Natif 34
Mikaela Chase 33, 40, 48
Mileena Saju 70, 76
Ming-Jung Ho 87
Mitra Sharafi 61
Mobeen Hussain 45, 52
Mohit Manohar 23
Mona Bhan 67, 84
Monica L. Smith 83
Mortaza Hassani 86, 101
Moyukh Mahtab 25
Mrittika Shahita 70
Muaz Asad 57
Muhammad Farooq 37
Muhammad Nabil Zuberi 91
Muhammad Souman Elah 68
Muhammad Tehmash Khan 47
Mukesh Kulriya 42
Mukta Kher 95
Mukti Mangharam 84, 92
Musab Yousufi 101
Mytheli Sreenivas 45, 69
Mythri Jegathesan 57, 77

N

Nabhojeet Sen 62
Nadine Shaanta Murshid 24
Nafisa Nipun Tanjeem 24
Nalin Jayasena 65
Namrata Ganneri 95
Namrata Jain 45
Nandini Chandra 77
Nandini Subramaniam 74
Nandita Punj 40
Naomi Hazarika 104
Naomi Hossain 24
Nari Senanayake 17
Nariman Aavani 49
Natasha Raheja 75
Nathan McGovern 83
Nathan Tabor 34, 60
Naveena Naqvi 94
Navine Murshid 25
Nayma Qayum 25
Neepa Majumdar 13
Neha Reji 85
Neil DeVotta 84
Nick Tackes 16
Nicole Ferreira 27
Nida Rehman 17
Nida Sajid 3
Niger Sultana 25, 61
Nikhil Pandhi 49
Nikita Arora 52
Nila Jeyapriya 43
Nils Seiler 98
Nimish Sarin 59
Nimisha Thakur 67
Nipun Kottage 38
Nipunika Oshadhie Lecamwasam 98
Nisar Kannangara 35
Nisarg P 20
Nisarg Patel 21
Nisha Shanghavi 101
Nitin Govil 76
Niyati Bhat 58
Niyati Shenoy 78
Nowrin Akther Koly 34

Nusrat Mim 91
Nusrath Yusuf 51
Nuwan De Silva 92
Nuwan Herath 98

O

Owshnik Ghosh 66

P

P Srinidhi 93
Pallavee Gokhale 40
Pallavi Rao 14, 85
Pallavi Raonka 27
Parag Jyoti Saikia 67
Parijat Jha 47
Parineeta Dandekar 67
Pariroo Rattan 88
Parul Behl 75
Patrick Olivelle 15
Paul Edleman 41, 59
Paul Thomas 35
Pavitra Sundar 26
Pawan Sharma 102
Payal Patel 59
Peter Goswami 85
Philip Lutgendorf 15
Philipp Sperner 66
Phillip Sergio 29
Ping-Hsiu Lin 84
Pinky Hota 16, 30, 44
Polina Timina 52
Poulami Das 91
Pouya Nekouei 37
Prachi Bhagwat 66
Pralay Kanungo 30
Pranav Gulukota 69
Pranav Pandey 70, 105
Prapti Panda 74
Praseeda Gopinath 50
Prashant Parvataneni 21
Prateek Pattanaik 18
Prathik Murali 18
Preetha Mani 15, 50, 75
Prerna Khobragade 50
Priti Mandal 58
Priyadarshini Shanker 13
Priyanjali Mitra 37
Priyanka Sarma 104
Pujarinee Mitra 58
Pupsa Damai 43, 58
Purnima Dhavan 60
Pushpa Acharya 58

Q

Qaima Hossain 5, 71
Qazi Arka Rahman 27
Quamrul Hassan 34

R

R. Benedito Ferrão 75
Rabi Prakash 35
Radhika Gajjala 14
Radhika Govindrajan 67, 76
Radhika Moral 47
Radhika Parmeswaran 14
Rahul Kumar 13
Rahul Mukherjee 20, 76
Rahul Rastogi 42
Rahul Sen 42
Raihan Ahmed 49
Raihan Rahman 44
Rajesh Sasidharan Vasantha 83
Rajkumar Khosla 30
Rajneet Kaur 70
Raju Chalwadi 68
Rama Mantena 22, 69
Ramya Sreenivasan 76
Ramya Swayamprakash 67
Rana Ghulam Rabbani 42
Randall Law 90
Raphaëlle Khan 105
Razak Khan 69
Rebecca Manring 15
Rhitama Basak 38, 51
Richard Davis 18
Richard Eaton 22
Ridhima Sharma 16, 33
Rima Kalita 104
Ritu Ghosh 62
Roanne Kantor 26
Roderick Wijunamai 47
Rohan Sengupta 20
Rohini Dasgupta 78
Rohit Chakote 97
Rohit Singh 51
Ronishka Nalpathil 17
Ronit Ghosh 92
Rosalyn Wadsworth 40
Rosie Thomas 13
Ross Bernhaut 85
Rubayat Jesmin 102
Rudrani Gangopadhyay 58, 66
Rupali Sehgal 27
Ruth Ibameri Kharbamon 36
Rutuja Deshmukh 60
Ryan Brizendine 49

S

Saad Lakhani 44
Sabin Ninglekhu 17
Sabujkoli Mukherjee 99
Sachaet Pandey 66
Sachida Nand Jha 101
Sachin Ghimire 90
Sadia Mahmood 28
Sahaj G. Patel 19
Sahithya Venkatesan 51, 68
Sai Bhatawadekar 66
Sai Chandra Mouli Timiri 74
Saima Akter 34
Saira Ramzan 57
Sakhi Upadhyaya 48
Salwa Hoque 25
Salwa Kazi 87, 94
Samani Pratibha Pragya 97
Samee Ahmad 91
Sameen Sameen 34, 70
Sameera Abbas 37

Samhita Sunya 13
Samia Tahir 65
Samina Luthfa 24
Samitha Senanayake 65
Samrat Sharma 94
Samyak Modi 48
Sana Haroon 12
Sana Malik 27
Sana Naeem 12, 102
Sana Rizvi 12
Sandipto Dasgupta 102
Sangita Gopal 13, 43, 60
Sanjit Bhakta Pradhananga 48
Sanjula Rajat 104
Saptarishi Bairagi 52
Sara Dickey 3
Sara Hossain 25
Sara McClintock 33
Sarah Ahmed 69, 78
Sarah Beckham 3
Sarah Pinto 38, 45, 52
Sarah Robinson 69
Sarah Shepherd-Manandhar 93
Sarah Taylor 68
Sarah Waheed 51, 76
Saumya Agarwal 42
Saumya Lal 42
Saumya Maheshwari 102
Saya Araki 40
Sejuti Das Gupta 92
Seton Uhlhorn 34
Seuty Sabur 24
Severyan Dyakonov 52
Shafya Morshed 27
Shahana Munazir 102
Shahwar Kibria Maqhfi 61, 68
Shaifali Arora 27
Shailesh Shinde 97
Shaiq Ali 99
Shaivya Mishra 27
Shakir Ullah 47
Shalini Abayasekara 65
Shankar Nair 49
Shantanu Nevrekar 44
Sharanya Dutta 58, 66
Sharika Thiranagama 28, 67, 75
Sharmila Rudrappa 75
Sharvi Maheshwari 19
Shashank Rao 29
Shashwat Dhar 105
Shaunna Rodrigues 27, 78
Shayan Rajani 12, 34
Shayeri Bhattacharyya 86
Shehla Rahim 41
Shehroze Ahmed Shaikh 93
Shehzad M. Arifeen 24
Shelly Murphy 59
SherAli Tareen 36, 45
Shibi Laxman Kumaraperumal 60, 87
Shikha Nehra 44
Shiv Ganesh 75
Shiv Subramaniam 57
Shiva Rijal 58
Shivangi Jalan 100
Shiya Patnaik 30
Shounak Ghosh 27
Shreya Chatterjee 84
Shrinidhi Narasimhan 60
Shrinjita Biswas 36
Shriya Patnaik 30
Shruthi Menon 59, 104
Shruthi Parthasarathy 38
Shruti Iyer 27
Shubham Gupta 67
Shubham Shivang 20–21, 93
Shubhra Gururani 68
Shumaila Ahmed 87
Shuvam Das 43
Shweta Radhakrishnan 16
Shweta Wagh 17
Shwetha Chandrashekhar 42
Sidharthan Maunaguru 50
Silpa Mukherjee 13, 60
Simon Wolfgang Fuchs 61
Simple Rajrah 50
Simran Sumbre 68
Simron Gill 14
Sindhu Nepolean 87
Sinjini Chatterjee 30
Sirsha Nandi 44
Sita Mamidipudi 27
Sitharthan Sriharan 83
Sneha Chavali 97
Sneha Chowdhury 66
Sneha Khaund 66, 75
Snehal Sharma 38
Soha Habib 101
Sohail Hoda 84
Sohini Chattopadhyay 22–23
Somnath Waghmare 5, 55
Sonali Dhingra 30
Sonja Thomas 94
Soumilee Dasgupta 101
Sourav Chatterjee 78, 84
Sourav Ghosh 27, 35, 42
Srabani Chakraborty 95
Sragdharamalini Das 67
Sravanthi Dasari 62
Sravanthi Kollu 37
Sreya Chatterjee 84, 92
Srihari Nageswaran 52, 87
Srijan Pandey 36, 88
Srilata Raman 29, 49
Srimati Basu 95
Srirupa Prasad 93
Stephanie George 49
Steven P. Hopkins 15, 98
Steven Vose 18, 48
Subhayu Chatterjee 104
Subramanian Shankar 37
Sucheta Kanjilal 74
Suddhadeep Mukherjee 58

Sudhir Mahadevan 13
Sudipta Roy 41
Sugandh Gupta 27
Suha Gangopadhyay 48
Sula Mahagam Arachchige 67
Sumedha Chakravarthy 105
Sumita Chakravarty 13
Summaiya Zaidi 34, 61
Sumudu Atapattu 84
Supong Longkumer 38
Supurna Dasgupta 27, 85
Suraj Yengde 86
Surojit Kayal 66
Sushmita Sircar 75
Suvadip Sinha 50
Suvaid Yaseen 36, 45
Swapna Banerjee 95
Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai 13, 50
Sweta Xess 68
Syamantak Shobhan Basu 76, 88
Syed Baqar Mehdi Rizvi 99
Syed Faraz Ali 90

T

Tahir H. Naqvi 28
Tancredi Padova 91
Tanmoy Sharma 47
Tannishtha Bhattacharjee 58
Tanushree Sharma 100
Tanveer Hossain Anoy 24
Tanya Desai 13
Tapaswinee Mitra 44
Taqbir Huda 25
Tara Dhaliwal 75
Tara Quinn 34
Tara Suri 84
Tarinee Awasthi 29
Tarini Bedi 26
Tarsem Singh 86
Tashi Ghale 58
Tayeba Batool 12
Teresa Raczek 40
Thanzeel Nazer Vengalath 44
Timothy Dobe 51
Titas De Sarkar 95
Tithi Bhattacharya 5, 53
Todd Lewis 19
Tomoyuki Chaya 37
Trishita Shandilya 88
Tulasi Acharya 58
Tupur Chatterjee 76
Tyler A. Lehrer 3, 98
Tyler Thom 92

U

U Arptith Shankar 35
Ubaraj Katawal 58
Uddipta Roy 44
Ujaan Ghosh 3, 30, 41, 59
Umay Habiba 65
Upasana Dutta 85
Upasana Garnaik 69
Upasana Hazarika 104
Urmishree Bedamatta 30
Usha I 43
Usman Hamid 62
Uzma Quraishi 61
Uzma Rizvi 40
Uzma Zafar 94

V

Vaidehi Paneri 95
Valerie Kern-Lyons 41
Varun Sudhakaran 100
Vasugi Kailasam 50, 77
Vebhuti Duggal 20
Vidura Jang Bahadur 98
Vidya Samarasinghe 84
Vigneshkarthik K Rajahmani T 87, 102
Vinayak Jain 87
Vincent Kelley 100
Vinit Vyas 74
Vipanchika Sahasri Bhagyanagar 101
Vipin Krishna 43
Viren Murthy 3, 77
Vivek Virani 19
Vivekananda Nemana 100
Vivian Choi 57
Vrinda Marwah 69, 75
Vysakh R Seshadri 93

W

Walter Hakala 43, 60
Waqas Butt 17, 84
Ward Berenschot 102
Westin Harris 30
Whitney Cox 68, 91
Wikum Jayasinghe 92
Woodman Taylor 85

Y

Yaaminey Mubayi 30
Yayo Umetsubo 101
Yifan Zhang 86
Yigal Bronner 65
Yue Qiu 92

Z

Zafar Iqbal 41
Zaib un Nisa Aziz 69
Zainab Najeeb 44
Zaryab Ahmad Hassan Chattha 42
Zehra Mehdi 51, 68
Zia Zubda 59
Ziyana Fazal 85
Zoe Sherinian 49
Zoya Shaffay 59
Zunayed Ahmed Ehsan 14, 77

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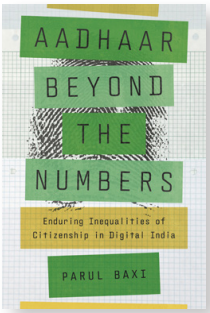

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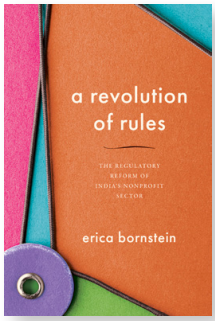

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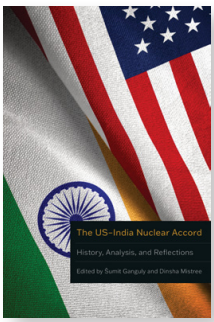

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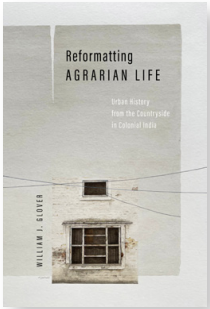

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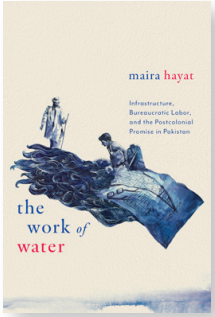

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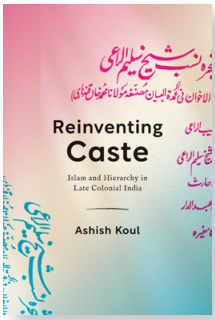

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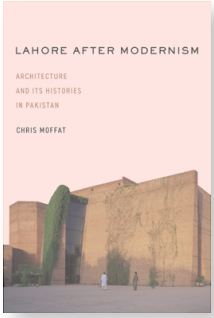

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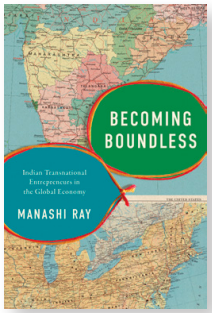

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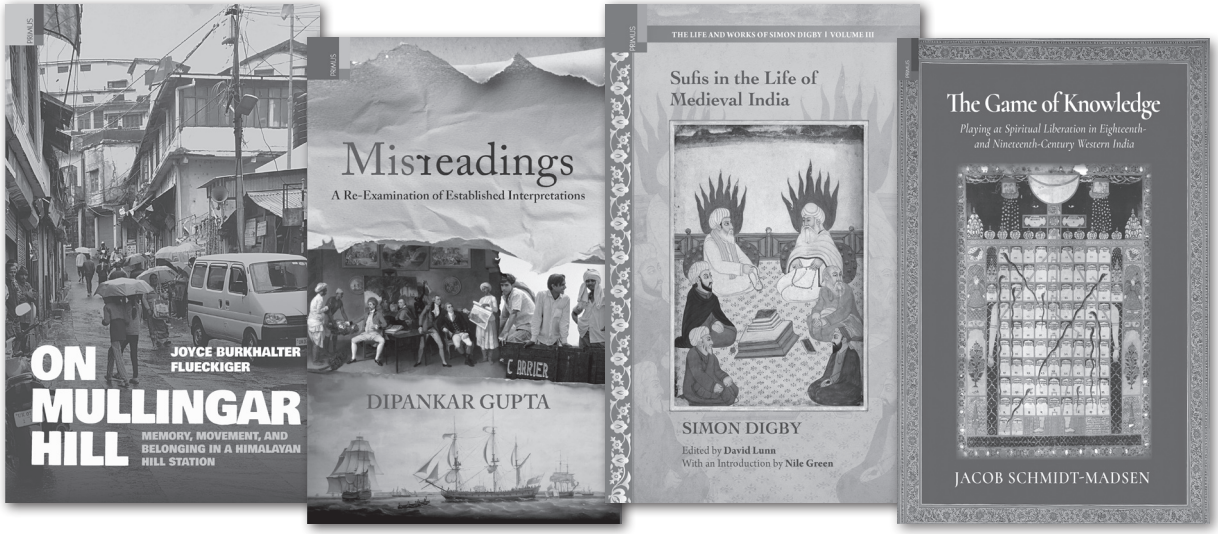

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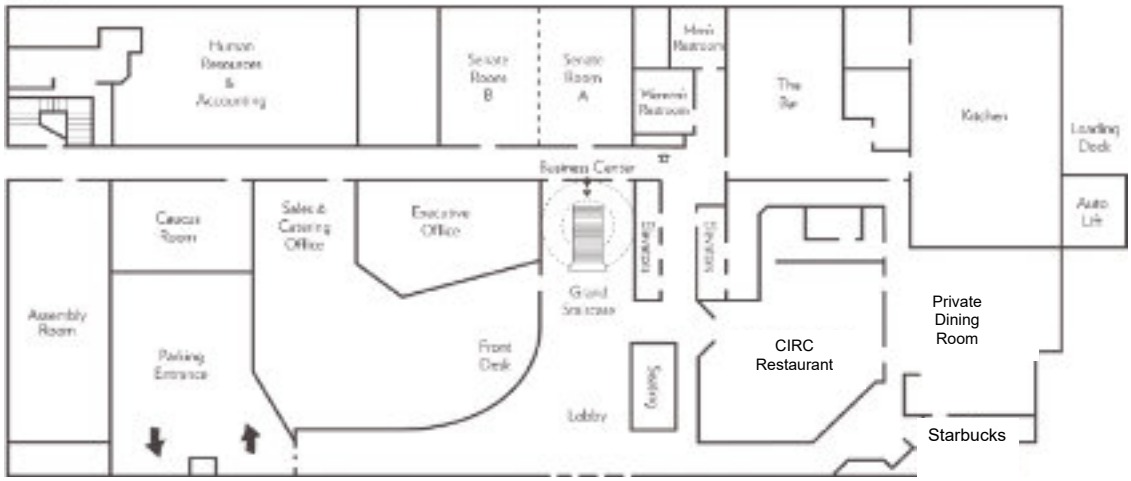

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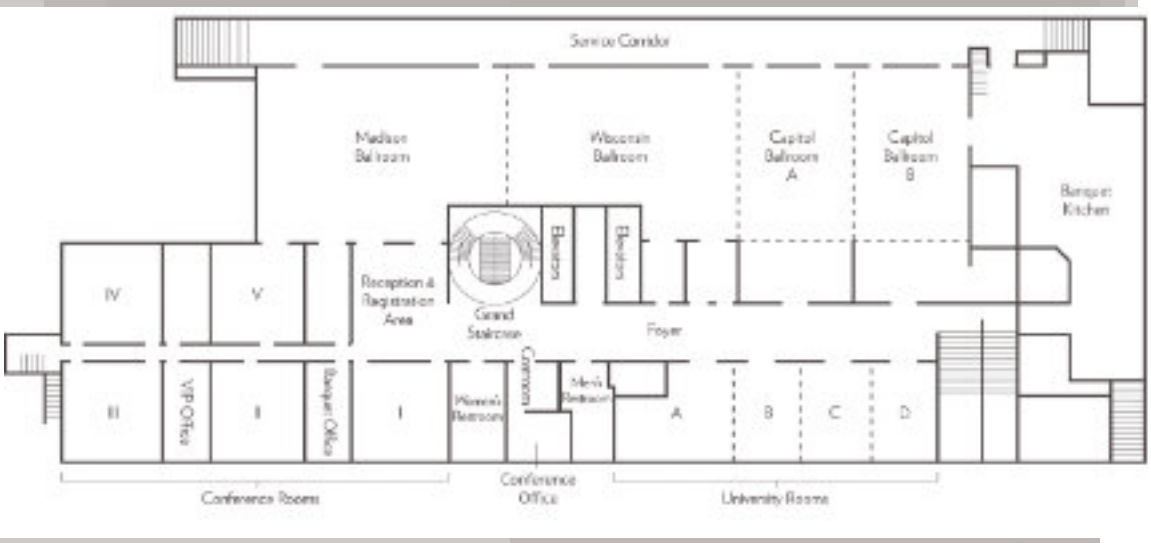

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