

# South Asia Newsletter



Centre of South Asian Studies

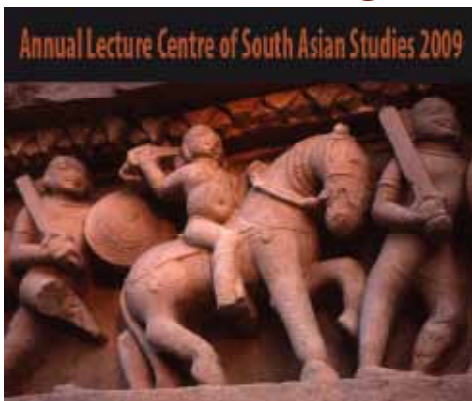
[www.soas.ac.uk/csas/](http://www.soas.ac.uk/csas/)

No 72

April 2009

## Forthcoming events at SOAS this term:

**Annual Lecture Centre of South Asian Studies 2009 by Professor Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya**  
Further details on [Page 6](#)



**Lecture: Dutch views of the Mughals in the seventeenth century**  
Further details on [Page 8](#)



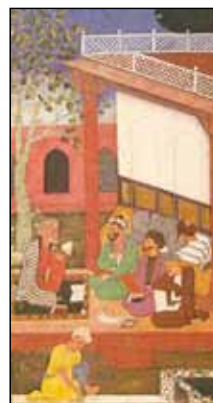
**Workshop: Indian Cinema Circuits: Diasporas, Peripheries and Beyond**  
Further details on [Page 11](#)



**Workshop: South Asian Experiences of the World Wars: New Evidence and New Approaches**

Further details on [Pages 10](#)

**A three-lecture series by Stefano Pello on Poetry and Memory: Indo-Persian tazkiras**  
Further details on [Page 9](#)



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## Letter from the Chair



**Professor Ravi Ahuja**  
**Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies**

**At the Centre of South Asian studies**, this summer term has many attractions in store. We continue to function as an 'umbrella' for the initiatives of our members and a glance through these pages will show the wide range covered by their activities. We are particularly happy to announce that Prof. Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya, one of the foremost historians of ancient and medieval India, will be delivering the CSAS ANNUAL LECTURE on 28 May (see page 6).

In our previous newsletter we had stated that the development of 'strategic partnerships' with a limited number of universities in South Asian countries was one of the priority tasks of our Centre. We can now report that these activities bear first fruit. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU, New Delhi) and SOAS have renewed their memorandum of understanding in March 2009. Moreover, a series of workshops and conferences on 'Meanings and Practices in South Asia' will be jointly organized by JNU's Centre for Historical Studies and SOAS's CSAS. The first joint workshop on 'Wealth and Money in South Asian History' will be held at SOAS on 9 and 10 October 2009. We are currently also exploring the possibility of joint teaching initiatives with JNU. Many MoU are, of course, forgotten as soon as they are concluded. The idea of 'strategic partnership' means to develop concrete activities with a limited number of partners. The initiative and energy of our members are the main resource we rely on for the realization of our partnership with Jawaharlal Nehru University as well as for developing programmes of cooperation with additional strategic partners in other South Asian countries.

Finally, this is the last *South Asia Newsletter* in the present format. The new South Asia Yearbook will be published at the beginning of the next academic year – a publication that will give less emphasis on the advertisement of events than on reporting of the activities of the Centre and its members. We are sure that this new format will be even more attractive and invite all CSAS members and students to contribute to its development.

## Members News



### Professor Werner F Menski

School of Law

#### British scholar calls on Hasina BSS, Dhaka, 24 March 2009

British scholar Professor Werner Menski this evening called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence at Jamuna here.

During the meeting, they discussed the standard of teaching in Bangladesh and how to ensure the quality education with minimum cost for Bangladeshi students living in London.

The Prime Minister requested Prof Menski, who teaches Bangladeshi laws at the School of Law, SOAS, London, to help the Bangladeshi students so that they could obtain modern education in Britain.

*Taken from The New Nation  
Bangladesh's Independent News Source  
Internet Edition. April 24, 2009, Updated: Bangladesh Time 12:00 AM  
<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2009/03/25/all0905.htm>*



### Dr Matthew J. Nelson

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#### Recent Publications

- "Pakistan in 2008: Moving Beyond Musharraf," *Asian Survey* (2009) 49:1, pp. 16-27
- "Dealing with Difference: Religious Education and the Challenge of Democracy in Pakistan," *Modern Asian Studies* (2009) 43:3, pp. 589-616
- "Religion, Politics, and the Modern University in Pakistan and Bangladesh," NBR Project Report (forthcoming March 2009)

#### Presentations

- "Defining (and Re-Defining) the Laws of God: The Politics of Religious Personal Law Reform in South Asia." Oxford University, Contemporary South Asia Seminar, Queen Elizabeth House. Oxford. March 2009
- "The Politics of Personal Law Reform in Pakistan and India," Panelist, British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Meeting. Edinburgh. March 2009
- "Beyond Madrasas: Understanding Religious Education in the Punjab Today," Conference Panelist and Discussant, "The Punjab: History, Politics, and Society," Punjab University. Lahore. December 2008
- "Political Ethnography and the Question of 'Political Participation' in Pakistan," Oxford University, Workshop on Comparative Political Theory. Oxford. November 2008
- "Public-Sector Curricula and the Cultivation of 'Religious Consensus' in Pakistan," Cambridge University, Centre for South Asian Studies. Cambridge. October 2008
- "Democracy without Difference? Religious Education and the Challenge of Diversity in Pakistan," University of Washington, South Asia Centre. Seattle, WA. September 2008

#### Awards

- Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, NJ), School of Social Science, Membership (Residential Fellowship), 2009-2010.
- Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (Stanford University). Shorenstein Fellow, 2009-2010 (declined)

#### Other

- Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Member, South Asia Council (SAC), 2009-2011

## From the Classical toward the Medieval: Understanding the Indian Experience

**Braja Dulal Chattopadhyaya**  
(Professor emeritus of JNU)

### Biography

**B.D. Chattopadhyaya** was educated at the University of Calcutta, and later, obtained his Ph.D at Cambridge. He taught, till his retirement in 2004, at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Other Universities where he taught are: Burdwan University and Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

The published works of Chattopadhyaya include: Coins and Currency Systems in South India(1977); Aspects of Rural Settlements and Rural Society in Early Medieval India(1990); The Making Of Early Medieval India(1994); Representing the Other? Sanskrit Sources and the Muslims (1998), and Studying Early India: Archaeology, Texts and Historical Issues(2003). Among the volumes edited by him, mention may be made of: D.D.Kosambi, Combined Methods in Indology and other Writings(2002, 2009), and A Social History of Early India(2008).

### Abstract

**The lecture will focus on** trying to understand if there are significant historical links between India's Classical period and what is taken to represent the "Medieval" phase of its history.

One purpose of re-visiting this period is to analyse the diverse historiographies of the period, and to understand why despite major variations between them, they all tend to one type of characterization for it, suggesting an essential separatedness of the two periods, the Classical and Medieval.

The second purpose is to further develop, following from what was written before, an alternative ,multi-dimensional model of change to distinguish the Classical from Medieval.

The argument would be that the major directions of change derived from the Classical formation, along with directions added by the addition of new civilizational elements with the arrival of the Muslims and of Islam. In other words, the model will seek to explain that in place of viewing the Medieval period in terms of a Delhi-centric state, hegemonic Islam and advances in technology and production, a better alternative in historiography would be to create a space for accommodating simultaneity of many patterns in different locations and regions , and the dynamics of their interactions. It is expected that the perspective of continuities from the past will help create a different image of of the post-classical period of Indian history.



# Annual Lecture Centre of South Asian Studies 2009



## From the Classical toward the Medieval: Understanding the Indian Experience

**Brajadulal Chattopadhyaya**  
(Professor emeritus of JNU)

Chaired by Paul Webley (Director and Principal, SOAS)

**7pm on Thursday, 28 May 2009**  
**in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS**

All are Welcome

Enquiries: Centres & Programmes Office, [centres@soas.ac.uk](mailto:centres@soas.ac.uk), 020 7898 4892/3

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Image, Daud Ali; Design, JS Centres & Programmes Office, SOAS



**Centre of South Asian Studies**  
**Distinguished Lecture**



**Professor Sanjay Subrahmanyam (UCLA)**



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**Dutch views of the Mughals in the seventeenth century**  
(illustrated talk)

Chaired by Nirmala Rao (Vice Principal, SOAS)

**6pm on Wednesday, 20 May 2009**  
**in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS**

All are Welcome (the lecture is free and open to the public, no booking is required)  
Enquiries: Centres & Programmes Office, [centres@soas.ac.uk](mailto:centres@soas.ac.uk), 020 7898 4892/3



## Dutch views of the Mughals in the seventeenth century

**The lecture concerns** the history of the long-distance circulation of images in the early modern world, and is in other words about the closing of a rather wide circle. It is still our habit when we recount this history to present it essentially as one of a growing European presence in and influence on Asia, Africa or America (the so-called “expansion-and-reaction” paradigm), with relatively little attention to the other half of the circle. Here the received history of images clearly differs from that of texts and their circulation, which is at the heart of debates on Orientalism. Using the example of the seventeenth-century Netherlands, the lecture will attempt to demonstrate the varied modes of reception, refraction and appropriation of images of and from Mughal India. We shall see that these varied between ethnographic and courtly, and veered uncertainly (at times playfully) between the logics of the “etic” and the “emic”.

## Biography

**Sanjay Subrahmanyam**, Professor and holder of the Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair of Indian History, joined University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2004. He was born and educated in New Delhi, where he did all his college degrees (BA and MA in Economics) in the University of Delhi, and where he also received his PhD in Economic History in 1987 at the Delhi School of Economics for his thesis on ‘Trade and the Regional Economy of South India, c. 1550-1650’. From 1983, he had begun to teach economic history and comparative economic development at the Delhi School of Economics, where he continued until 1995 as first Associate Professor (1989-93) and then Professor of Economic History (1993-95).

In the years following his Ph.D., his interests broadened from economic and commercial history, to the study of the interplay of political and economic history, to the study of political culture and cultural history. In the course of the 1990s, Subrahmanyam’s work has embraced new sources and archives, not only those from South India, or of the Portuguese and Spanish empires and the Dutch and English East India Companies, but also materials reflecting his growing interest in the history of the Mughal empire, and the comparative history of early modern empires. This accompanied his move to Paris as Directeur d’études in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, where he taught from 1995 to 2002.

In 2002, Subrahmanyam was appointed as the first holder of the newly created Chair in Indian History and Culture at the University of Oxford. Since July 2005, he has served as founding Director of UCLA’s Centre for India and South Asia.

## Poetry and Memory: Indo-Persian tazkiras

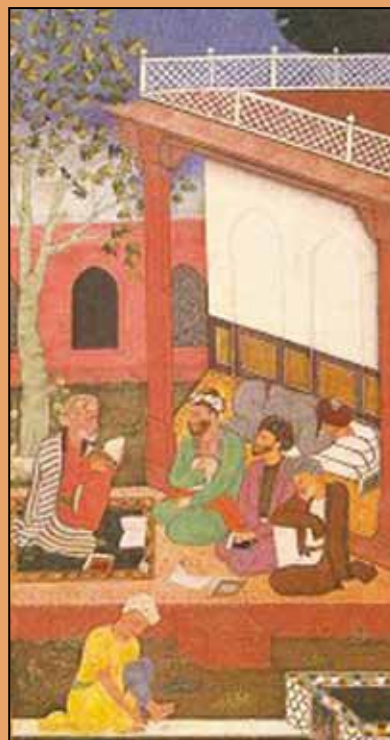
A three-lecture series by  
**Stefano Pello’**  
(University of Venice)

Indo-Persian poetic tazkiras, which can be roughly described as collections of biographical sketches of writers and specimens of their verse, have seldom if ever been the object of a specific literary analysis as a genre. The series will try to tackle this issue and look at them as a kind of non-homogeneous, open group of texts which may be read, among other things, as one of the most useful sources for the understanding of several social and religious trends in Mughal society, especially when discussing matters related to representation and self-representation. After an experimental description of what a tazkira is, or could be, and a survey of what we do, do not, and should know about these works, some textual examples will be analysed with the aim of defining what “textual identity” and “literary community” could mean in Mughal India.

**4-6pm, Friday, 15 May** (4418, Main Building, SOAS)

**5-7pm, Friday, 22 May** (FG08, Faber Building, SOAS)

**4-6pm, Friday, 29 May** (4418, Main Building, SOAS)



All Welcome

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## South Asian Experiences of the World Wars: New Evidence and New Approaches

### A Workshop jointly organized by

- Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS
- German Historical Institute (London)
- Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin)

Since historiography is increasingly turning to the experiences and memories of war, the problem of a significant but largely 'forgotten' non-European participation in the World Wars has received some attention, too. South Asia was famously utilized as an "English barracks in the Oriental seas" throughout the colonial period and, in previously unseen dimensions, as a recruitment base during both World Wars.

Numerous publications have shed more light since the 1990s on the 'sepoy' (as the South Asian soldier was called), on both his institutional involvements and his experiences. The exploration of South Asian experiences of the World Wars has been mainly confined, however, to combatants in these writings even though auxiliary non-combatant forces were comparable in their numbers and even though the impact of war was deep and transformative for the families of those shipped to the battlefields of the world as well as for various other groups of South Asian society. With regard to South Asia, the social history of the World Wars still struggles to fully step out of the long shadow of military history.

As for the materials used by historians to recover the experiences of South Asian soldiers, the availability of fascinating and voluminous censorship reports that contain numerous translations of soldiers' letters written or dictated during World War I, appears to have rendered the search for further material less urgent in the eyes of historians. Non-British archives have hardly been explored for such purposes nor have the remarkable efforts of historians of Africa to generate oral histories of the World Wars inspired similar projects in South Asia.

Yet several recent publications and ongoing research projects seem to indicate possibilities of expanding and transforming the field. This workshop will discuss both the problem of locating/generating new evidence and will, for instance, introduce the rich depositories of various archives in Berlin on South Asian (combatant as well as non-combatant) prisoners of war in World War I Germany, which include numerous unique sound recordings. Considering new methodological and conceptual approaches, the workshop will also seek to develop new perspectives for future research in this field.

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### Further information

[http://www.ghil.ac.uk/events\\_and\\_conferences/conferences\\_and\\_workshops.html](http://www.ghil.ac.uk/events_and_conferences/conferences_and_workshops.html)

26 May 2009

German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London

Time	Details
8:30-9:00	Registration and coffee
9:00-9:20	Introduction: Ravi Ahuja (SOAS, London)
9:20-10:30	Heike Liebau (CMO, Berlin): <b>Histories of historical sources. The representation of South Asian Prisoners of War in German archives and museums</b> Gajendra Singh (University of Edinburgh): <b>"Breaking the chains with which we were bound": The interrogation chamber, the Indian National Army and negating military identities, 1941-1947</b> <i>Discussion</i>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:15	Franziska Roy (Warwick University): <b>Of "voluntary work", "black spies" and "Bengali sedition mongers" – Indian Civilian Prisoners of War in First World War Germany</b> Samiksha Sehrawat (University of Strathclyde): <b>Ethnicity and military medicine during the First World War: war hospitals for Indian troops on the Western Front</b> Santanu Das (Queen Mary, London): <b>Princes, doctors and sepoys in the Great War: towards an intimate history</b> <i>Discussion</i>
12:15-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:30	Christian Koller (Bangor University): <b>Indians in German World War I propaganda</b> Talat Ahmed (Goldsmiths, London): <b>Sepoys and World War I: A subaltern perspective</b> Amarjit Chandan (London): <b>Punjabi folk songs on World War I</b> <i>Discussion</i>
14:30-14:45	Coffee break
14:45-15:05	Jürgen Mahrenholz (Lautarchiv, Berlin): <b>Introducing the Berlin Sound Archives</b>
15:05-16:15	Plenary discussion: research perspectives and initiatives
<b>Room L67, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London</b>	
17:00-19:30	<b>The Halfmoon Files. A Ghost Story</b> (film by Philip Scheffner, Germany 2007, 87 min.) Introduction: Britta Lange (ÖAW, Vienna) Comment: Nicole Wolf (Goldsmiths, London)

## Indian Cinema Circuits: Diasporas, Peripheries and Beyond

**Thursday 25 and Friday 26 June 2009**

The Old Cinema, Regent Campus, University of Westminster  
309 Regent Street, London W1B 2UW

### Keynote speakers

**Brian Larkin**

(Barnard College, Columbia University)

**Ravi Vasudevan**

(Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi)

The Indian film industry's centrality for audiences worldwide has been confirmed by an increasing number of edited collections and papers boasting of Bollywood's globally expanding territories. Much less analyzed within this framework are the Indian diasporas associated with nineteenth century plantation capital in the Caribbean, Fiji and South Africa, as well as those non-Indian audiences that consume Indian films in Turkey, Nepal, Austria, Kenya, Russia and elsewhere.

These cinema contexts offer additional positions from which to develop analyses of Indian cinema: for example, the plantation diasporas' open historical trajectories are decidedly different from the South Asian diasporic formations of Britain and North America that have dominated discussion of Indian cinema to date. Moreover, exploring Indian cinema within diverse national agendas, whose history and socio-political realities are not overtly Indian-orientated, opens up debate on alternative interpretations and appropriations of India, as well as questions about the nature of film circulation itself.

Organized by SOAS and the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media at the University of Westminster, Indian Cinema Circuits: Diasporas, Peripheries and Beyond, will focus on questions of circulation and these 'peripheral' sites, where, in many cases, Indian films have been watched since the 1930s, and aims to complicate accounts that position Bollywood as a recent global phenomenon.

### For further details please contact:

**Atticus Narain:** [an5@soas.ac.uk](mailto:an5@soas.ac.uk)

**Ranita Chatterjee:** [R.Chatterjee@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:R.Chatterjee@westminster.ac.uk)

Sponsored by: School of Oriental and African Studies, CREAM (Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media) University of Westminster, Centre of South Asian Studies and The Economic and Social Research Council



## Hindi courtly poetry in Mughal India

A one-lecture, one-reading session by

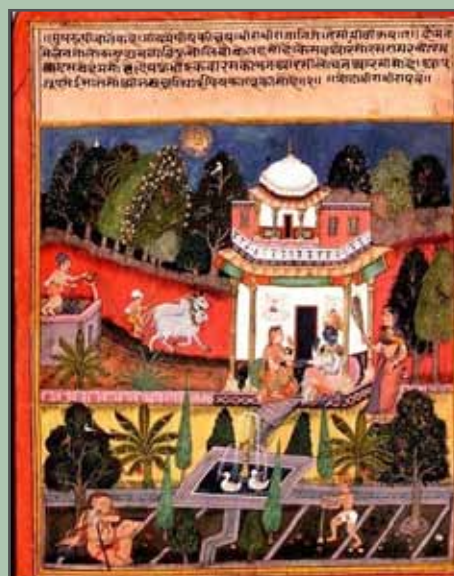
**Allison Busch**

(Columbia University)

Classical Hindi poetry was a part of the cultural repertoire of most of the people who mattered in early modern India. Riti literature, as this poetry has been labeled by specialists today, can be characterized as a modern embodiment of ancient codes from Sanskrit *kavya*, updated to meet the needs of a far more diverse clientele, one that included the Persianized Mughal elite. One dimension of the classical Hindi tradition, albeit one little understood today, is the poets' penchant for writing poetry textbooks. Much ridiculed in the colonial period as instances of Brahman punditry (and pedantry), these texts merit further exploration for how they mediated classical aesthetics for an early modern readership. In this session I lead the audience through a few passages from the signature Hindi genre of the day. We explore some of the principles of Brajbhasha poetry, touching on the various codes that structured the literary socialization of early modern connoisseurs. Quite apart from their aesthetic features, the texts also yield important clues about their patronage contexts, and the complex mechanisms of literary community in Mughal India.

**Reading Session:** Wednesday, 20 May, 3 - 4.40pm in  
Wolfson Room, The Institute of Historical Research, Senate  
House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

**Lecture:** Thursday, 21 May, 5-7pm in room 4421, 4th Floor,  
Main Building, SOAS



All Welcome

Enquiries

Francesca Orsini: [fo@soas.ac.uk](mailto:fo@soas.ac.uk) or 020 7898 4242

Jane Savory: [js64@soas.ac.uk](mailto:js64@soas.ac.uk) or 020 7898 4892

# SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

**Summer Term, 2009**

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

**28** April

**Upal Chakrabarti** (SOAS)  
**Company Administration and 'Improvement': Issues Around Land in Early Nineteenth-Century Orissa**

**5** May

**Niladri Chatterjee** (SOAS)  
**The Uprising in the Periphery: Bengal 1857-58**

**12** May

**Raghav Kishore** (SOAS)  
**A City of Spectacle and Ruin': Travel Writing on Delhi, 1780-1856**

**19** May

**Ahmad Azhar** (SOAS)  
**Languages of Labour: Workers' Politics in the Moghalpura Railway Workshops of Lahore, c.1919-1930**

**26** May

**The Halfmoon Files. A Ghost Story**  
(Film on Indian Prisoners of War in World War I Germany, 2007, Phillip Scheffner, 86 min)  
**Introduction: Britta Lange** (Austrian Academy of Sciences)  
**Comment: Nicole Wolf** (Goldsmiths)  
Venue for this event: Room L67, Main Building, SOAS

**2** June

**Durba Ghosh** (Cornell)  
**Dissent and Detention: Bengali Militant Nationalism During the Second World War and After**

**9** June

**Tara Mayer** (SOAS)  
**Clothing the Imperial Image: Dress, Identity and Authority in Late 18th to early 19th Century North India**

**Convenors:**

**Professor Ravi Ahuja and Dr Daud Ali**  
**Enquiries: (+44) (0)20 7898 4605 or [ra33@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ra33@soas.ac.uk)**  
**All Welcome. Free and open to the public**



Summer Term, 2009

## South and Southeast Asian Art & Archaeology Research Seminars

**The difficulties in establishing the history of the Khmers and the contribution of archaeological excavations: the example of Hariharalaya**

**Claude Jacques** (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris)

Professor Claude Jacques, a world authority on ancient Angkor, will lecture on the extensive excavations now underway at Hariharalaya, just south of Angkor, which are beginning to challenge some of the fundamental assumptions held for more than a century about how the Khmers first organised themselves into the early state that was to expand into the major imperial capital of Southeast Asia by the 11th century.

**at 5pm on Tuesday, 12 May 2009  
in Room L67, Russell Square: College Buildings**

Enquiries: **Dr Crispin Branfoot**, [cb68@soas.ac.uk](mailto:cb68@soas.ac.uk) and **Dr Elizabeth Moore** [em4@soas.ac.uk](mailto:em4@soas.ac.uk)

All Welcome



## Indian Art Circle

Lectures organised under the auspices of the Department of Art & Archaeology of the School of Oriental & African Studies and supported by the Society for South Asian Studies

**The 11th Annual Toby Falk Memorial Lecture  
Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur**

**Debra Diamond**

**at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 13 May  
in Room L67, Main Building, SOAS**

**The Body Adorned: Dissolving Boundaries between Sacred and Profane in India's Art  
Vidya Dehejia**

**at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 13 May  
in Room 116, Main Building, SOAS**

Enquiries: **Dr Crispin Branfoot**, [cb68@soas.ac.uk](mailto:cb68@soas.ac.uk)

All Welcome

## SOAS World Music Summer School 2009

Now for the 7th year running, SOAS is proud to offer an exciting summer school of world music. And in 2009 we offer a more varied programme than ever: Intensive and inspiring courses, practical workshops, taster sessions and master classes for students of all backgrounds, beginners to advanced, amateur and professional.

**For more details & booking forms see**  
[www.soas.ac.uk/summerschool](http://www.soas.ac.uk/summerschool)

### South Indian Violin & Vocals

**Dates: 29 June - 9 July, Mon-Thu, 5-7pm**  
**Course fee £90 (concs £69)**

This two week intensive course is designed to give experienced violinists & vocalist of any style the opportunity to discover & explore the foundations of South Indian classical music (Carnatic music). The two main musical components of Carnatic music are raga (modal system) and tala (metrical system). The course will introduce concepts, exercises and representative compositions in a variety of forms. With Nandini Muthuswamy.

The SOAS Concert Series is run by the Department of Music at SOAS. Why not study for a degree in the largest European centre for world music studies? We run BA, Mus and PhD degree programmes; all focus on world music. Our courses offer great flexibility. Students can specialise in particular music traditions or engage with many different musics and receive high-level training in performance. In the BA, Music can be combined with language studies, Development Studies, Anthropology and many other academic disciplines, while PhD projects can be practice-led, fieldwork-based, or theoretical.

### CONTACT:

**SOAS World Music Summer School**  
**For more details & booking form see**  
[www.soas.ac.uk/summerschool](http://www.soas.ac.uk/summerschool)

**Department of Music, School of Oriental and African Studies,**  
**Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

**T 020 7898 4500 / E [musicevents@soas.ac.uk](mailto:musicevents@soas.ac.uk)**

## SOAS launches India-UK leadership programme



SOAS Vice Principal Nirmala Rao, the Foundation's lead person on India

**On 3 March 2009, SOAS hosted the launch of the India-UK leadership programme** with an orientation day for participants in this new initiative. The Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, the organisation that develops the top managers of UK Universities, has embarked on this joint venture with the University Grants Commission of India to twin Vice Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors from the two countries in a programme of reciprocal visits and sharing of experience.

The first cohort of 15 senior managers from UK HEIs gathered at SOAS to be briefed by the officers of the Leadership Foundation and Vice Principal, Professor Nirmala Rao, who is the Foundation's lead person on India. The Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency, Shiv Shankar Mukerjee, made a presentation to the participants on India-UK bilateral relations and joined them for lunch. The High Commissioner was accompanied by the First Secretary, Mr J.K. Sharma.

In her capacity as an International Associate, Nirmala will be leading this group on their first visit to India later in March where after an initial briefing in New Delhi, the participants will disperse to their partner Universities. During the summer, 15 Indian Vice Chancellor make a reciprocal visit which will be hosted and briefed at SOAS.



The Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency, Shiv Shankar Mukerjee, addressed participants at SOAS, and is joined here by David Lock, Director of International and UK Projects, Leadership Foundation and SOAS Director and Principal Paul Webley

## 3 month Charles Wallace Pakistan Visiting Fellowship 2009/2010

### Who the fellowship is for?

One fellowship is awarded annually by the Centre of South Asian Studies and the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust **for students who have completed a PhD**. Applicants must be an **Pakistan national** and be **residing in Pakistan** at the time the application is submitted. The fellowship will be awarded to those who would be ready to **make the most of a short period of study and discussion at SOAS**. Applications will be encouraged in particular from those scholars who have had no or **little opportunity to do research outside Pakistan**.

### Who is eligible?

Pakistan citizens **under the age of forty-five** who are **working in the fields of Arts or Humanities and Social Sciences which are supported at SOAS**. For a list of subjects please check the Taught Masters programmes on the SOAS website. Please note that Humanities and Social Science subjects which are not supported at SOAS will normally not be considered. Those who are already enrolled in any Higher Educational Institution in the United Kingdom (including SOAS) are not eligible to apply. Preference will be given to those who have not received a Charles Wallace Trust grant before. Applicants must **demonstrate sufficient English language ability, both written and spoken**, to participate in discussions and use resource materials.

### What is its value?

The Fellowship at present carries a **monthly accommodation and living grant grant**, at present £1,250, for up to three months and an **international economy return air fare to Pakistan**. Please note that it is the responsibility of the successful candidate to arrange accommodation within the limit of the budget.

### Criterion

The award will be made on the basis of **academic merit and research potential**. The Centre and the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust reserve the right not to make an award in the event that no suitable application is received.

### Notification of competition result

All applicants will be notified by e-mail regarding the outcome of their application, generally by mid October. The successful candidate will also be notified by letter. If you have not heard from us by the end of October 09, please contact the Office Manager, Centres and Programmes Office.

### How to apply

Instructions on how to apply, eligibility guidelines and applications forms, can be downloaded from the SOAS website:

**Web:** <http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/fellowship/>

**Email:** [centres@soas.ac.uk](mailto:centres@soas.ac.uk)

**Postal Address:** Ms Jane Savory, Office Manager, Centres and Programmes Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG;

### Closing date

The closing date is **Friday, 11 September 2009** for the 2009/2010 fellowship **beginning in the following January-March 2010**. Applications which arrive after the 11 September 2009 will not be considered.

### Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Fellowship

If you would like further information about the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust or the fellowships and awards available please visit the website: [www.wallace-trusts.org.uk](http://www.wallace-trusts.org.uk)



## 2008-2009 Charles Wallace Indian Fellow BC Bindu's End of Fellowship Report

**It was an important step in my life to be selected for the Charles Wallace Fellowship this year.** Though I had been considering the possibility of doing a new project after my Ph.D for quite some time, the short stints of jobs that I was getting into in India did not give me that opportunity and I was losing confidence fast. Getting back to research was important for me, personally. At this stage in my academic life, I am especially grateful for the Trust as well as the South Asian Centre for hosting me.

Working in London with Dr. Caroline Osella was a very fruitful experience. I have been following Dr. Osella's work for many years now since she has consistently worked on the region that I am also interested in academically. It was an honour to work with her and my deep respect for her work has increased manifold after knowing her as a warm person and friend.

The Centre for South Asian Studies has been an excellent host and provided me with the right atmosphere. I need to especially thank Prof Ahuja (also especially for including me in the Lefebvre reading group) and Jane Savory for the personal care they took in my well being. I especially enjoyed the South Asian Centre's seminars and attended as many as I could.

I wanted to look at the construction of femininities, especially concentrating on the dominant femininities in a regional setting. Kerala, South India has been my research field for years and I wanted to continue working on the region. The phenomenon of convent school education was important for the making of the dominant female subjectivities and I decided to do an anthropological work so that contemporary gender constructions can be teased out through a study. SOAS provided me an ideal place to look at the missionary work on education.

SOAS also encouraged me to focus on a perspective which I was dimly aware of, but was not asserting. It made me place the topic among debates on modernity in South Asia and compare with wider geographical and historical debates from other places, especially from other post-colonial settings. While I was used to comparing Kerala with other parts of South India or even other states in India, SOAS forced me to see the debate in the larger 'civilising mission.'

I got many suggestions during my presentation at SOAS which made me realize a lot of loopholes in my own conceptualizing of the problem. The binary of smart /domesticated woman in which I was caught while thinking about the convent girl image circulating in the region was questioned in the hall and it really helped me rethink the project itself in very useful terms.

I also attended the British Association for South Asian Studies at Edinburgh and presented a paper which was part of my Ph.D work. I am very grateful for Luisa Steur for having invited me to present a paper in the conference. This was a really fulfilling experience since I met other scholars who have been working in conceptualizing caste/community identities in India.

I also found it very enriching to interact with the scholars and colleagues in SOAS and other Universities in London. Sambiah Gundimeda from the Department of Politics, Dhivya J from Anthropology, Pradeep Shinde from LSE, Mahalaxmi Mahadevan from Anthropology and Mira Mohsini all played important roles in my London academic life.



KC Bindu



## 3 month Charles Wallace Indian Visiting Fellowship 2009/2010

### Who the fellowship is for?

One fellowship is awarded annually by the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS and the Charles Wallace India Trust **for students who have completed a PhD**. Applicants must be an **Indian national** and be **residing in India** at the time the application is submitted. The fellowship will be awarded to those who would be ready to **make the most of a short period of study and discussion at SOAS**. Applications will be encouraged in particular from those scholars who have had no or **little opportunity to do research outside India**.

### Who is eligible?

Indian citizens **under the age of forty-five** who are **working in the fields of 'India Studies' (Arts or Humanities and Social Sciences) which are supported at SOAS**. For a list of subjects please check the Taught Masters programmes on the SOAS website. Please note that Humanities and Social Science subjects which are not supported at SOAS will normally not be considered. Those who are already enrolled in any Higher Educational Institution in the United Kingdom (including SOAS) are not eligible to apply. Preference will be given to those who have not received a Charles Wallace Trust grant before. Applicants must **demonstrate sufficient English language ability, both written and spoken**, to participate in discussions and use resource materials.

### What is its value?

The Fellowship at present carries a **monthly accommodation and living grant grant**, at present £1,250, for up to three months and an **international economy return air fare to India**. Please note that it is the responsibility of the successful candidate to arrange accommodation within the limit of the budget.

### Criterion

The award will be made on the basis of **academic merit and research potential**. The Centre and the Charles Wallace India Trust reserve the right not to make an award in the event that no suitable application is received.

### Notification of competition result

All applicants will be notified by e-mail regarding the outcome of their application, generally by mid October. The successful candidate will also be notified by letter. If you have not heard from us by the end of October 09, please contact the Office Manager, Centres and Programmes Office.

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### Closing date

The closing date is **Friday, 11 September 2009** for the 2009/2010 fellowship **beginning in the following Jan-March 2010**. Applications which arrive after the 11 Sept 2009 will not be considered.

### Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship

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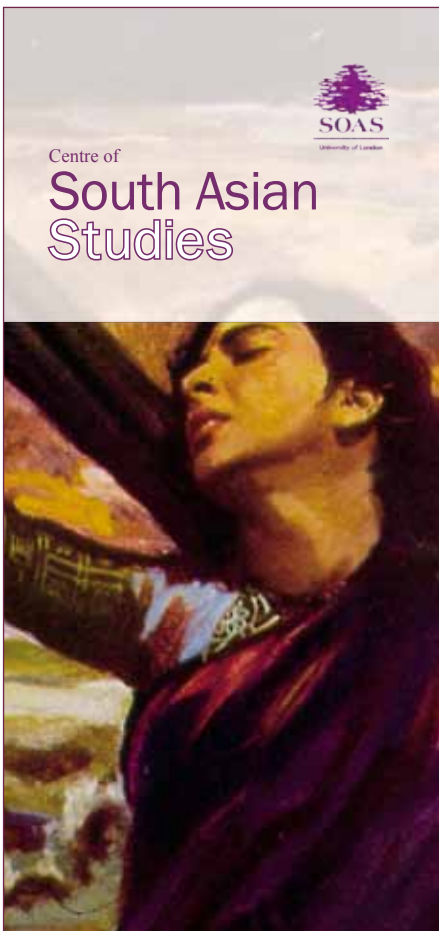
# CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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

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

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

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



## Centre of South Asia Studies

### Contact Details

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

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

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

**Chair:** Ravi Ahuja  
**Office Manager:** Jane Savory



### CSAS Keywords Webpage:

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

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

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

### CSAS Email List

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

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

## Subscribe to the South Asia Newsletter

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