

Francesca Orsini



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

early medieval history. We were also lucky to have Professor Sanjay Subrahmanyam deliver a distinguished lecture on "Dutch Views of the Mughals in the Seventeenth Century", while Ravi co-ordinated a workshop with the German Historical Institute (London) and the Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin) on "South Asian Experiences of the World Wars: New Evidence and New Approaches" (26 May 2009). Thanks to a project grant from AHRC on "North Indian Literary Culture from a multilingual perspective: 1450-1650", the past year saw a veritable feast of lecture series, talks and visitors working on early modern literature, music and art.

lectures at the Centre on the Indian Islamic tradition of Avadhi romances in November 2008 were attended by many and showed what great insight and scholarship was needed in order to penetrate and make sense of those texts.

Other memorable lecture series were those by Katherine Brown on "The Place of Pleasure: Hindustani music in Mughal society", and by Stefano Pellò on "Poetry and Memory: Indo-Persian tazkiras" (see pp. 8-9). For a while at least, early modern literature stole the limelight from colonial- and contemporary South Asia!

A lot has happened and a lot has been changing in South Asian Studies at SOAS, as I take over from Ravi Ahuja as Chair of the Centre of South Asian Studies. The biggest changes have been in the History Department, with Sunil Kumar joining as Reader in the History of Mediaeval India after Avril Powell's retirement, and Ravi Ahuja and Daud Ali leaving to chair, respectively, Centre for Modern Indian Studies" (CeMIS) at the University of Goettingen, Germany, and the South Asian Department at UPenn. Both Daud and Ravi were energetic Chairs of this Centre, and Daud in particular helped SOAS retain an interest in pre-colonial India that is now growing and bearing fruit. They also both nurtured links with the Centre for Historical Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, with which we now have a memorandum of understanding and a planned joint project.

The Centre's Annual Lecture delivered by Professor B.D. Chattopadhyay, 'From the Classical toward the Medieval' on 28 May in many ways reflected Daud's own engagement with material and textual history and with delineating a broader narrative of

The project included several training sessions, from Persian orthography (Saqib Baburi) to practice in reading manuscripts and documents in Persian or old Hindi in Persian script. This saw several of us poring over lines together for hours and shedding some embarrassment when reading aloud, as in memorable sessions were with Allison Busch on Persian writings on Braj Bhasha poetry, and with Supriya Gandhi on Persian retellings of the Ramayana. We were also lucky to hear talks on aspects that are often marginalised in literary history, such as Jain literary production in Apabhramsha and medieval Hindi, given by Eva de Clerq and John Cort.

The project culminated in a conference in June on "Tellings, Not Texts: Singing, storytelling and performance" that brought together specialists in music, religion, literature and history and gave a dazzling sense of the myriad performative traditions that were current in early modern North India and, in some cases, still continue today.

It was a shock to hear that Professor Aditya Behl, a young but old friend of SOAS, had died in late August (see pp. 8 and 13 for lectures and obituary). His magisterial



Our Charles Wallace fellows this year were **K.C Bindu** and **Sadaf Ahmad**.

# SOAS ACADEMIC MEMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

**Dr Philippe CULLET** LL.M(LONDON) MA(LONDON)  
JSD(STANDFORD)  
Reader in International Environmental  
Law  
Chair, Centre of Law, Environment &  
Development  
School of Law  
pc38@soas.ac.uk

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

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

**Dr Heather ELGOOD** BA MA PHD(SOAS)  
Course Director, Postgraduate Diploma in  
Asian Art  
Department of Art and Archaeology  
he2@soas.ac.uk

**Mr Alexander FISCHER** BA(LSE) MA(HEIDELBERG)  
Lecturer in Law  
School of Law  
af5@soas.ac.uk

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

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

**Dr Jan-Peter HARTUNG** PHD(ERFURT)  
Lecturer in the Study of Islam  
Department of the Study of Religions  
jh74@soas.ac.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dr Sunil KUMAR** BA(DELHI) MA(BRIDGEPORT)  
PHD(DUKE)  
Reader in the History of Medieval and  
Early Modern South Asia  
Department of History  
sk114@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Martin W LAU** MA PHD(LONDON)  
Reader in Law  
Joint Chair, Centre of East Asian Law  
School of Law  
ml1@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Jens LERCHE** MA PHD(COPENHAGEN)  
Senior Lecturer in Development Studies  
Department of Development Studies  
jl2@soas.ac.uk

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

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

**Professor Werner F MENSKI** MA(KIEL)  
PHD(LONDON)  
Professor of South Asian Laws  
Chair, Centre for Ethnic Minority Studies  
School of Law  
wm4@soas.ac.uk

**Ms Alessandra MEZZADRI** BA(LA SAPIENZA)  
MSC(SOAS)  
Lecturer in Development Studies  
Department of Development Studies  
am99@soas.ac.uk

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

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

**Mr Rakesh NAUTIYAL** BA MA(GARHWAL) LLB  
Lector in Hindi  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
rn17@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Matthew J NELSON** BA(BOWDOIN)  
PHD(COLUMBIA)  
Lecturer in the Politics of Asia/Africa  
Department of Politics and International  
Studies  
mn6@soas.ac.uk

**Mr Paolo NOVAK** MSC(LONDON)  
Lecturer in Development Studies  
Department of Development Studies  
pn4@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Francesca ORSINI** BA (VENICE) PHD(SOAS)  
Reader in the Literatures of North India  
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
fo@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Caroline OSELLA** BA PHD(LONDON)  
Reader in Anthropology with reference  
to South Asia  
Department of Anthropology and  
Sociology  
co6@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Ulrich PAGEL** BA PHD(LONDON)  
Reader in Language and Religion in  
Tibet and Middle Asia  
Department of the Study of Religions  
up1@soas.ac.uk

**Mr Krishna PRADHAN** BA MA(TRIBHUVAN)  
Lector in Nepali  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
kp15@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Theodore PROFERES** BA(NEW YORK) MA  
PHD(HARVARD)  
Senior Lecturer in Ancient Indian  
Religions  
Department of the Study of Religions  
tp17@soas.ac.uk

**Dr William RADICE** MA DPHIL(OXON)  
Senior Lecturer in Bengali  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
wr@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Parvathi RAMAN** BA PHD(LONDON)  
Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology  
Chair, Centre for Migration and Diaspora  
Studies  
Department of Anthropology and  
Sociology  
pr1@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Rahul RAO** DPHIL (OXON) BA LLB (NATIONAL LAW  
SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY)  
Lecturer in International Security  
Centre for International Studies &  
Diplomacy  
rr18@soas.ac.uk

**Professor Peter G ROBB** BA(WELLINGTON)  
PHD(LONDON) FRHISTS  
Professor of the History of India  
Department of History  
pr4@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Lawrence SAEZ** BA(CALIFORNIA)  
MALD(FLETCHER) MA PHD(CHICAGO)  
Senior Lecturer in Comparative and  
International Politics  
Deputy Chair, Centre of South Asian  
Studies (de facto Chair from 01.01.10-  
30.08.10)

Department of Politics and International  
Studies  
ls4@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Pasquale SCARAMOZZINO** LAUREA(ROME)  
MSC PHD(LONDON)  
Reader in Economics  
Department of Financial and  
Management Studies  
ps6@soas.ac.uk

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

**Dr Edward SIMPSON** BSOC.SCI(MANCHESTER)  
PHD(LONDON)  
Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology  
Department of Anthropology and  
Sociology  
es7@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Subir SINHA** BA(DELHI) MA PHD(NORTHWESTERN)  
Senior Lecturer in Institutions and  
Development  
Department of Development Studies  
ss61@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Tadeusz SKORUPSKI** LTH(VATICAN)  
PHD(LONDON)  
Reader in Buddhist Studies  
Director, Centre of Buddhist Studies  
Department of the Study of Religions  
ts1@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Renata SÖHNEN-THIEME** DRPHIL(MAINZ)  
Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
rs2@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Sarah STEWART** BA(ANU) PGCE MA PHD(NAPLES)  
Lecturer in Zoroastrianism  
Acting Director, London Middle East  
Institute  
Department of the Study of Religions  
ss7@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Shabnum TEJANI** BA(OBERLIN COLL)  
MA MPHIL PHD(COLUMBIA)  
Lecturer in the History of Modern  
South Asia  
Department of History  
st40@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Hanne-Ruth THOMPSON** PHD(LONDON)  
Lector in Bengali  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
hr@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Simona VITTORINI** BA(BOLOGNA)  
MA PHD(LONDON)  
Lecturer in Politics of Development and  
Course Convenor for State, People and  
Power in Asia and Africa  
Department of Politics and International  
Studies  
sv4@soas.ac.uk

**Professor D Richard WIDDESS** MUSB MA  
PHD(CANTAB) MA(LONDON)  
Professor of Musicology  
Department of Music  
rw4@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Amina YAQIN** BA(PUNJAB) BA(SUSSEX)  
PHD(LONDON)  
Lecturer in Urdu and Postcolonial Studies  
Department of the Languages and  
Cultures of South Asia  
ay@soas.ac.uk

**Dr Cosimo ZENE** BA MA PHD(LONDON)  
Senior Lecturer in Theory and Methods in  
the Study of Religions  
Department of the Study of Religions  
zc@soas.ac.uk

---

### Research Associate

**Dr Shuja AL-HAQ** BA MA(PUNJAB) PHD(LONDON)



# MEMBERS NEWS

**Philippe Cullet** concluded a research partnership (2006-2009) on Indian water law with a conference on 'Water Law Reforms and the Right to Water: Lessons from India' in January 2009. More information on this conference can be found at

[www.ielrc.org/activities/conference\\_0901/index.htm](http://www.ielrc.org/activities/conference_0901/index.htm)

His book *Water Law, Poverty and Development – Water Law Reforms in India* came out from Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

Using the specific case of India and the related international law and policy framework that directly influences water regulatory developments in India, this book offers the first analysis of water law

reforms taking place at the national level in many developing countries in their domestic and international context. On the one hand, international freshwater law remains under-developed and existing legal instruments such as the 1997 UN Convention only address a limited set of relevant issues. Yet, the international law and policy framework concerning freshwater is increasingly important in shaping up law reforms taking place at the national level, in particular in developing countries.

Among Philippe's forthcoming publications is a book edited with A. Gowlland-Gualtieri, R. Madhav & U. Ramanathan, *Water Law for the Twenty-first Century: National and International Aspects of Water Law Reforms in India* (Abingdon: Routledge, forthcoming 2009)

**Philippe Cullet**



**Rachel Dwyer** had a stimulating year on sabbatical, which included spending four months in India presenting papers, working on several papers and researching a new book, *Bollywood's India* (Reaktion Books, 2010). She began work on a new project on Hindi film in East Africa, presenting papers in Kenya and the UK, as part of the 'Changing global geographies of power and development: contemporary Indian-East Africa relations' project, led by Dr Emma Mawdesley and Dr Gerard McCann at the University of Cambridge. Professor Dwyer organised a conference on Indian cinema in Abu Dhabi as part of the 'Festival of Indian Cinema in the Gulf' and has recently submitted the edited manuscript, co-edited with Jerry Pinto, for the series she is editing with OUP (India) and Indiana University Press.

She served on the jury of two international film festivals (Zanzibar, Pune), talked at the FICCI 'Frames' conference and at the Akedemi 'Frame by Frame' event at the Royal Opera House. Professor Dwyer completed work on Panel 49 of the RAE, and

attended the opening of the RCUK offices in India, and is ending the year with a Fellowship at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Simla, India.

Dr Atticus Narain spent a year mentored by Professor Dwyer, on an ESRC postdoctoral fellowship, researching Hindi cinema in Guyana. This ended with a conference 'Indian cinema circuits: diasporas, peripheries and beyond', organised by SOAS and the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM) at the University of Westminster

**Rachel Dwyer**



## Peter Flugel



**Peter Flugel** co-organised Prof. Olle Qvarnström of Lund University the annual SOAS Jain Conference in March 2009. The topic this year was Jain Scriptures and Philosophy. In the same month he also ran a panel on Jain Studies at the 14th World Sanskrit Conference in Kyoto, together with Prof. Fumio Enomoto of Osaka University, Dr. Sin Fujinaga Miyazaki University, and Prof. Nalini Balbir of Sorbonne V, Paris.

In April he gave the Shri Rooplal Lecture at the University of Toronto on the topic of "Jain Modernism." And he also lectured on "Jain Ritual: Religious Doctrine and Anthropological Theory" in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo. In 2010, he will give the Majewski Lecture at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, on 18 February, on the subject of "Hindu-Jaina Syncretism in Gujarat: The Trimūrti-Temple of the Akram Vijñān Mārg."

The fourth Newsletter of the Centre of Jain Studies, *Jaina Studies*, came out this year (co-edited with Janet Foster), which contains also his article on "Jain Monastic Life: A Quantitative Study of the Terāpanth Śvetāmbara Mendicant Order." Peter also wrote the entry on "Jaina Law" in *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*, ed. by Stanley Katz (Oxford: Oxford University Press Vol. 3). E-Reference Edition: <http://www.oxford-legalhistory.com/entry?&t277.e433>) The third book of the Routledge *Advances in Jain Studies*, the series he edits, is about to come out in 2010. It is Ludwig Alsdorf's *The History of Vegetarianism and Cow Veneration in India*, translated from German by Bal Patil, revised by Nichola Hayton, and edited with additional notes, a bibliography and four appendices by Willem B. Bollée.

## Werner Menski



**Werner Menski** had a busy lecturing year. He visited Delhi in January 2009, where he gave a Special Lecture for the Supreme Court Bar Association at the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, on 'Flying kites in courts: The future of Indian family laws in a super-diverse environment.' He also took part in the LASSNET Conference held at Jawaharlal Nehru University at the same time, where he read a paper on 'Situating Duncan Derrett in the landscape of post-modern Hindu and Indian law.'

In February he took part in the International Symposium on 'Crossing Borders and Boundaries: Towards Transnational/Trans-cultural Comparative Area Studies' at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where he spoke on 'Flying kites in a globalising sky and dodgy weather forecasts: Accommodating ethnic minority laws in the UK.' In March he lectured in Dhaka, where he gave lectures at Stamford University and the University of Dhaka on 'Jurispru-

dence as flying kites: Managing family laws and gender issues in Bangladesh.' These papers are going to be published in conference volumes and the journals of the Universities of Tokyo and Dhaka, in Japanese and Bengali respectively.

In April he gave two lectures on 'Constitutionalism and secularism in South Asia' at the Emory Law School, Atlanta, USA. In May he lectured at the University of Warsaw, Poland on 'Muslim law in Britain – Can one stop it from spreading?', and at the Rotterdam Hoogeschool in the Netherlands on 'Law and practice of multicultural education: Impossible dreams or realistic changes for skilled cultural navigation?' In June he spoke at a Special Seminar on War Crimes in Bangladesh at the House of Lords in London on 'Identity of a nation: The predicaments of starting on the wrong foot.' He returned to Japan in September for two lectures, one at the 14th International Sanskrit Conference in Kyoto, where he presented a paper on 'Sanskrit law: Excavating Vedic legal pluralism', and another at the Department of Anthropology of Osaka University, 'From the amoeba to the octopus: Socio-legal analysis of plural perspectives', for a Special Symposium in Honour of Professor Masaji Chiba.

Among his publications that appeared in 2009 was an article on 'Indian secular pluralism and its relevance for Europe', in a book edited by Ralph Grillo, Roger Ballard, Alessandro Ferrari, André Hoekema, Marcel Maussen and Prakash Shah, entitled

*Legal practice and cultural diversity* (Aldershot: Ashgate 2009). Werner also acted as Area Editor for South and Southeast Asia, Japan, Africa, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean and provided eleven entries in *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*, edited by Stanley N. Katz, Stanley (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). The entries ranged from 'Adoption in Hindu Law' to 'Justice, Equity and Good Conscience', 'Personal Law/General Law', from 'Property: Hindu Law' to 'Rājadharmā', from 'Hindu nationalism' to 'Naga Law', as well as articles on law in the Indian diaspora in the Maldives, Seychelles and Suriname. The *Encyclopaedia* was launched in a function at SOAS on 1 June 2009, addressed by the SOAS Director and Principal and three Area Editors.

He also contributed two entries to Clémentin-Ojha, C., C. Jaffrelot, D. Matringe and J. Pouchepadass (eds.) *Dictionnaire de l'Inde* (Paris: Larousse, 2009). His book *Ethnic Minority Legal Studies: Managing Cultural Diversity and Legal Pluralism* is due to come out in 2010 (Farnham: Ashgate). A review article on 'Slumdog law, colonial tummy aches and the redefinition of family law in India' will appear in the February issue of *South Asia Research* 30.1.

# MEMBERS NEWS

**David Mosse** made a successful application to the ESRC for a two year research project titled 'Caste out of Development: civil society activism and transnational advocacy on Dalit rights and development'. This is collaborative research covering the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and the international Dalit rights networks, involving post-doctoral researcher Sam Gundimeda (SOAS, Politics Department, PhD), the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), So-

cial Watch Tamil Nadu, and NGO networks in south India.

He is concluding a research project on 'Religion, development and the rights of subordinated people: Christianity and Dalit social action in India' 2008-9, supported with a small grant under the AHRC/ESRC Religion & Society Research scheme. A monograph on Christianity and society in south India is in preparation.

**David Mosse**



**Lawrence Saez** was appointed Deputy Director of the Centre of South Asian Studies in June 2009. He is also the Secretary of the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS). In June 2009, he organized a workshop on the Indian general election of 2009. The event was co-sponsored by the Centre, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, and the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (PSA). In September 2009, Dr Saez also co-sponsored an international conference on the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in India. The event was co-sponsored by the Centre, the Department of Politics at SOAS, and the University of Birmingham.

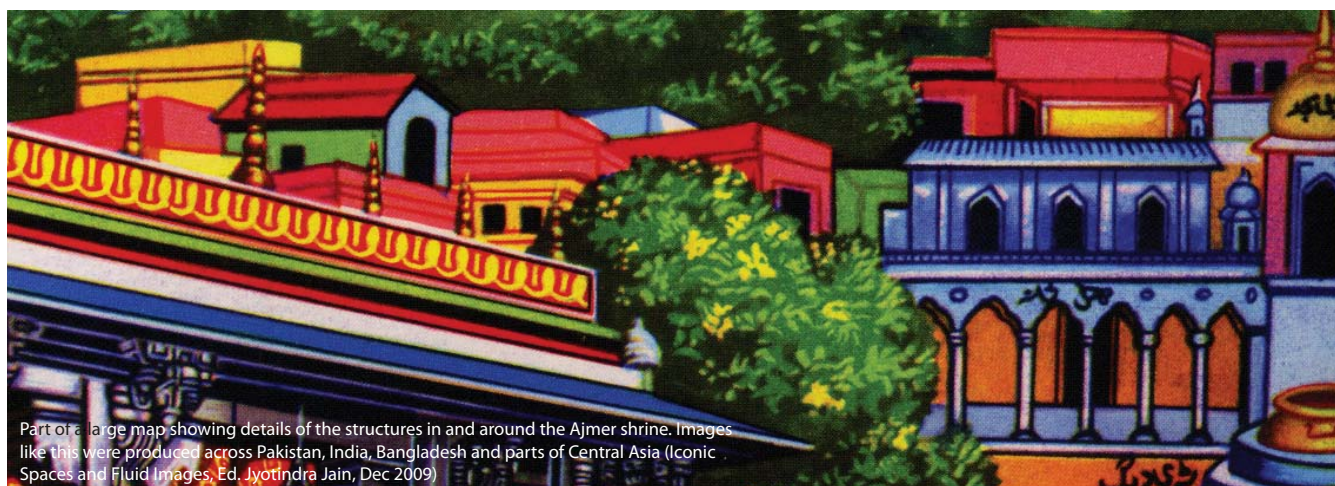
dustan Times (an Indian daily), The Independent, La Vanguardia (a Spanish daily), Los Angeles Times, Portfolio International, El Mercurio (a Chilean daily), Newsweek, Russian Business Consulting Daily, Rzeczpospolita (a Polish daily), Ekonomi (a Finnish magazine), and South China Morning Post, 21st Century Business Herald (a Chinese daily).

Over the last year, Dr Saez published six academic articles. His publications include 'The Political Economy of Financial Services Reform in India: Explaining Variations in Political Opposition and Barriers to Entry', Journal of Asian Studies, 68, 4 (November 2009): 1-26; 'The Political Economy of Global Firms From India and China', Contemporary Politics, 15, 3 (September 2009): 265-286. (with Crystal Chang); 'Political Studies in the UK: A 21st Century Health Check', European Political Science, 8, 3 (September 2009): 345-355. (with Lisa Harrison); 'Authoritarianism and Development in the Third World', Brown Journal of World Affairs, 15, 2 (Spring/Summer 2009): 87-102. (with Julia Gallagher); 'China's Global Emergence and the Theoretical Linkages Between Multilateralism and Peripheral

**Lawrence Saez**



Stability', Daxiyanguo, 13 (2008): 93-112; 'Trade and Conflict Reduction: Implications for Regional Strategic Stability', British Journal of Politics & International Relations, 10, 4 (November 2008): 698-716. He is also the author of a dataset (POLEX-India, version 2008.1) on electoral and public service expenditure in India and a dataset (POLXDEBT-India, version 2009.1) on electoral and interest payments data in India. Lawrence has signed a book manuscript with Routledge for a book on the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The book will be published in 2010.



Part of a large map showing details of the structures in and around the Ajmer shrine. Images like this were produced across Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and parts of Central Asia (Iconic Spaces and Fluid Images, Ed. Jyotindra Jain, Dec 2009)

**Renate  
Söhnen-Thieme**



**Renate Söhnen-Thieme** attended the Fifth DICSEP (Dubrovnik International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Puranas) August 11-16, 2009, in Dubrovnik, where she presented a paper on 'Mapping the Bhāgavatapurāna: framework, dialogue structures, time concepts, and other narrative strategies'.

**Richard Widdess**



**Richard Widdess** gave the John Blacking Memorial Lecture at the conference of the European Seminar in Ethnomusicology, Open University, 20 Sept 2009: "Performances of humanly organized sound in South Asia". He also presented a paper on 'Text, orality and performance in Newar devotional music (dāphā)' at a conference on 'Tellings, Not Texts: Singing, story-telling and performance', held at SOAS on 8-10 June 2009.

Three of his articles are in press or forthcoming: "Dynamics of melodic discourse in Indian music: Budhaditya Mukherjee's ālāp in rāg Pūriyā-Kalyān", in M. Tenzer and J. Roeder, ed., *Analytical studies in world music vol. 2* (OUP); "Dancing gods and virtual pilgrimage: devotional singing (dāphā) in the Kathmandu Valley", in the journal *Musiké*; and 'The emergence of dhrupad', in J. Harvey, N. Delvoye, and J. Bor, (eds), *Essays on the History of North Indian Music, Thirteenth to Twentieth Centuries* (Delhi: Manohar).

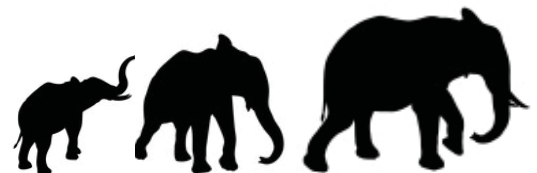
**Ravi Ahuja**



**Former member and chair  
Centre of South Asian Studies**

**Ravi Ahuja** has recently joined the "Centre for Modern Indian Studies" (CeMIS) at the University of Goettingen, Germany,

His most recent publication is: "Pathways of Empire. Circulation, 'Public Works' and Social Space in Colonial Orissa, 1780-1914" has been published by Orient Blackswan and is now available.



# EVENT REPORTS



## LOVES'S SUBTLE MAGIC: AN INDIAN ISLAMIC LITER- ARY TRADITION

14., 20, 21 & 28 November 2008

**Professor Aditya Behl**  
(University of Pennsylvania)

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

Workshop: *On Reading Enigmatically*

Lecture II: *Love's Alchemy: Rasa ke Prakara*

Lecture III: *On Reintegration:  
The Twelve Months of Separation*

This lecture series elucidated the workings of a powerful tradition of north Indian poetry: the Hindavi Sufi romance or prema-kahani (literally "love-story"), composed by Muslim mystic poets from the late fourteenth century onwards. Written and performed by members of the Persian-speaking Indo-Muslim courtly elite in Delhi and the eastern provinces of Avadh and Bihar, the Hindavi romances mark the inauguration of a new Islamic literary and devotional culture in a local language.

## Love's Magic

The classic Sufi enigma, how to understand the relation between human and divine love, was a powerful one for the Chishti Sufis who created this literary tradition. Sufi poetry and music presented and resolved this enigma through lyric, narrative, and symbolic forms in performance.

These forms often contained esoteric codes or elaborate designs that shaped the spiritual transformation of initiated novices under the guidance of a teaching Sufi master. In keeping with Sufi metaphysics of divine essence, the romances, argued Professor Behl, resist decoding until they have worked on the readers or listeners. Thus what is needed is not a key that will decode meanings beforehand, but a deep engagement with symbols, forms, keywords and aesthetics as they happened in performance.

Thanks to Professor Behl, and with the help of textual and musical samples, the audience was able to experience what it means to "read enigmatically".

## THE PLACE OF PLEASURE: HINDUSTANI MUSIC IN MUGHAL SOCIETY, 1593-1707

6, 20 March & 24 April 2009

**Dr Katherine Butler Brown**  
(King's College)

Sense and sensibility: the domain of pleasure and the place of music in Mughal society (6 March) 2. The pursuit of pleasure: music connoisseurship and male friendship circles in Mughal society (20 March) 3. The profits of pleasure: the spiritual and medicinal benefits of music in Mughal society (24 April)

This series examined the place of music in elite male society in Mughal North India between 1593 and 1707, but particularly focussing on the second half of the seventeenth century.

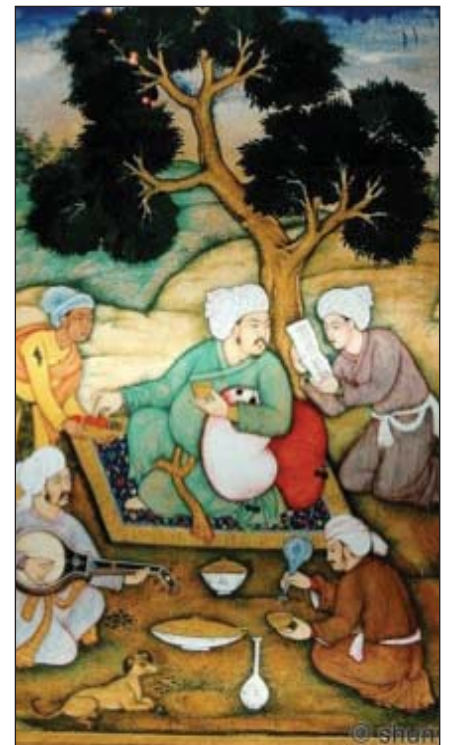
The title, "The place of pleasure", referred both to the exclusive space in which art music was performed in North India, the mehfal, and to the rational controls placed on musical performance in codes

of elite etiquette in order for its dangers to be contained and its benefits properly enjoyed. The series began by looking at the relationship between the inner domain of emotion and the social domain of pleasure, whose principal space was the mehfal, and their indispensable but circumscribed place in the ethical training and practice of Mughal noblemen. Pleasure was not denied, but it needed to be mastered, and its mastery needed to be displayed to the external world in the mehfal.

Dr Brown then considered, in the other lectures, the three domains in which music was considered proper and beneficial to the cultivation of elite masculinity and the health of the body politic: the role of connoisseurship in consolidating male friendship and elite sensibilities; the power of music to effect union with the Divine beloved; and the medicinal use of music in restoring physical and emotional health.

The series demonstrated how the study of musical culture can shed light on issues of wider importance concerning masculinity, class relations, religious practice, medicine, and political thought in this period.

## Mughal Music





# Tazkiras



## TEXTUAL IDENTITIES: SELF AND SOCIETY IN INDO-PERSIAN TAZKIRAS (17th -18th century)

15, 22, 29 May 2009

Dr Stefano Pellò  
(University of Venice)

1. Writers and Structures: Indo-Persian tazkiras in and beyond history
2. Masters and Circles: Indo-Persian tazkiras in and beyond the literary milieu
3. Languages and Faiths: Indo-Persian tazkiras in and beyond religion

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 specific literary analysis as a genre. The lecture series offered a

broad historical overview that showed how tazkiras form a non-homogeneous, open group of texts, with several possible arrangements. Tazkiras may be read, Dr Pellò argued, as one of the most useful sources for understanding several social and religious trends in Mughal society, especially when discussing matters related to representation and self-representation.

He explored the importance and meaning of the relationship between master and disciple, and among disciples of the same master, and how these “textual identities” are represented in tazkiras, often borrowing poetic tropes. And he focused in particular in the representation and self-representation of Hindu Persian poets, whose tazkiras are among the most voluminous in late Mughal North India. In the course of the lecture series textual examples were analysed with the aim of defining what “textual identity” and “literary community” meant in Mughal India.

‘Ghor Kali (The End of the World. In the midst of Kaliyuga, the Indian Apocalypse).

The wife is riding on the shoulders of the husband showing the wife is cherished’.



Extract and image from Woodcut Prints of Nineteenth Century Calcutta, Ed. Ashit Paul, p.32

Engraver unknown. Possibly done by Shri Nriyatal Datta.

Coloured woodcut, V.M. R5134 (B). 25.3 x 37.9 cm

# EVENT REPORTS

## Politics



A man casts his vote at a polling centre during the fourth phase of India's general elections in Kadat Village near Abu Road in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan May 7, 2009. (REUTERS/Arko Datta)

### WORKSHOP ON THE INDIAN GENERAL ELECTION

25 June 2009

The Centre for South Asian Studies at SOAS, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, and the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (PSA) co-sponsored a workshop on the analysing the results and the Implications of the Indian parliamentary election of 2009. The event was convened by Professor James Manor (Institute of Commonwealth Studies) and by Dr Lawrence Saez (SOAS).

Despite the sweltering summer weather, the workshop was a great success and attracted a diverse audience composed of students, academics, journalists, and think tank analysts. Dr Oliver Heath (Royal Holloway) discussed whether the election signalled a swing in favour of Congress and a return to national politics. He also spoke on the apparent weakening of caste poli-

tics, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. Building on this theme, Professor James Manor (ICS) questioned whether the general election represented a mobilization of the youth vote and the rebuilding of the Congress party organisation. Professor Manor also focused his attention on surging government revenues and spending and its relationship to the question of anti-/pro-incumbency trends. Relying on fieldwork data from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Dr Alistair McMillan (University of Sheffield) presented a comprehensive overview of the results of the 2009 general election.

Against the backdrop of the November 2008 attacks in Bombay, Rahul Roy-Chaudhury (International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS) evaluated the implications of the results for India's foreign and security policy. During the event, some of the speakers discussed the outcome of the 2009 general election by paying attention to state level results. Professor Gurharpal

Singh (University of Birmingham) analysed the parliamentary election results in the state of Punjab. Louise Tillin (Institute of Development Studies, IDS) highlighted the peculiarities that emerged in the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkand. One of the speakers, Dr Carole Spary (University of Warwick) drew presented evidence from Southern states and also discussed the fate of women candidates. In his concluding remarks, Professor Manor reiterated the importance of the importance of state-level preoccupations, particularly in the South.

Selected podcasts from the event can be found at the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group website, available for download at

<http://www.psa-southasia.org>

Report by Dr Lawrence Saez  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Politics,  
and Deputy Director,  
Centre for South Asian Studies.

# Jainism

## JAINA ART AND ARCHITECTURE AT SOAS

12-13 March 2009

The 10th “Jubilee” annual Jaina Studies Workshop at SOAS was an intensive day-long affair that included debate, inspiring findings and a sumptuous visual bonanza for all who attended. Although few in the audience shared the specialized training in Jaina art and architecture of the presenters, all benefited from the experience, and were left with the cheery impression of being privileged insiders – for a day – into the very animated and fertile field of Jaina art.

Although the themes of the presentations varied widely, they can – for the purposes of this review – be loosely grouped into two broad categories: 1) historical investigations, and 2) interpretive explorations of art and meaning.

In the first category of historical exploration, we had the presentation by Avadhana Vijaya Kumar Babu, (Osmania University, Hyderabad) who communicated the results of an excavation of the structural remains of a presumed “Jaina Stūpa” in Andhra Pradesh by the team of T.V.G. Shastri in an effort to establish the importance, and antiquity of, this area for Jain studies. Max Deeg (Cardiff University) presented a titillating account of possible Jaina influences on the works of the Syriac Bardesanes of Edessa, and on Mani.

Exploring textual sources from a perspective of cultural coherence, Deeg argued that influence of Jainism on these 3rd century thinkers is a distinct possibility. R. Uma Maheshwari (JNU) presented an intriguing study of the ancient Jaina Digambar agriculturalist community of Tamilnadu, called “Nainars”. Gerd J.R. Mevissen (FU Berlin) deepened our knowledge of Jain history by bringing to light the little known Jaina influence on North Bengal artistic expression of the 11th and 12th centuries. Janice Leoshko’s (University of Texas) presentation likewise contributed to our knowledge of the early spread of Jainism by exploring Jaina art and architecture in Orissa (Udayagiri-Khandagiri), believed to date from as early as the second century BCE. Lisa Nadine Owen (University of North Texas)’s presentation on the Jain stone carvings of Tamil Nadu was a stimulating intellectual and visual treat. Alvappillai



Valuppillai (University of Arizona) treated the religious polemics of Tamil Jainism as a window into the survival of the minority tradition.

The remaining presentations, employing more of an interpretive methodology, specifically focused on the central role that art (or art forms) plays in the construction of religious and cultural meaning.

Nalini Balbir (University of Paris), gave us a fascinating presentation of invitation scrolls (*vijñaptipatra*) as a distinctively Jain cultural and aesthetic phenomenon. Robert J. Del Bontà’s presentation on the Bāhubali colossus at Śravanabegoa received rapt attention from an audience very familiar with the image, but likely unaware of the vast repertoire of distinct traditional narratives that surround it. Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto) took the audience on a fascinating and multifaceted journey into the history of Tamil Jainism via an engagement with contemporary members of the Jaina community of Kanchi, and their architectural heritage. Peter Flügel (SOAS) took the theme of meaning and material culture in Jainism to its highest point – the summit of Sammata Śikhara, the tradition’s most important pilgrimage site.

The paper, rich in detail and insight, explored the veneration of both ‘relics of use’ and ‘relics of commemoration’ in Jain ritual culture. Olle Qvarnström and Niels Hammer (University of Lund) presented findings from their preliminary exploratory forays into the Jaina caves at Ellora. John Henry Rice (University

of Pennsylvania) offered a fascinating analysis of the intersection between material culture and ideology in his discussion of temple building in medieval Karnataka. Prakash Shah (Queen Mary College, London) delighted the audience with a visual extravaganza of Jain ritual practice in Britain.

It seems fitting to end this review with Maruti Nandan P. Tiwari’s impressive and wide-ranging overview of the state of the field of Jain art and architecture in his keynote SOAS Annual Jaina Lecture, which took into consideration both its historical and interpretive dimensions, and suggested avenues for fruitful future study. He warned against the trend to ghettoize Jaina studies, and advocated a more holistic approach to the field which would situate Jaina art within its broader South Asian context, of which it forms an integral part. In a similar vein, he argued that Jaina art cannot be contained within a framework of renunciation, and scholars must be able to make sense of its worldly dimensions as well.

Other areas for profitable study in the field of Jaina art include what Tiwari referred to as its “social-engineering” (namely, socio-economic foundations of its patronage) as well as the pervasive role that nature (fauna and flora) plays in its artistic representation.

Report by Anne Valley  
Full article in CoJS Newsletter  
March 2009 • Issue 4, see link below.

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/jainastudies/newsletter/file50273.pdf>

## JAINA YOGA

12th Jaina Studies Workshop at SOAS  
March 18 -19 2010

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/jainastudies/events/>



# EVENT REPORTS

## FRAMING MUSLIMS

2007-2009

The Framing Muslims network fosters and supports research into the cultural, artistic, social and legal structures which 'frame' contemporary debates about Muslims in the west. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC, UK), this network aims to bring together experts in various fields to interrogate the way Muslim subjects have been positioned and 'spoken for', and how the communities concerned have responded to these externally imposed definitions.

The Project Director is Dr Peter Morey at the University of East London and the Co-Director is Dr Amina Yaqin at the School of Oriental and African Studies. As an international network we have established links with ISIM in the Netherlands, CADIS in Paris, working group for the study of transnational networks, University of California Irvine, the Centre for Religion and Media, New York University and Network Postcolonial Germany and Britain.

The following is an account of the activities of the Framing Muslims network from the beginning of its funding period in September 2007 to date. We have had a busy two years with several workshops, seminar series and associated seminars.

We held an inaugural workshop at SOAS in September 2007. Ten speakers contributed to a successful and well-attended event that inaugurated the seminar series in the best possible way. Speakers included, Inderpal Grewal, Reina Lewis, Maleiha Malik, Tariq Modood, Annelies Moors, Elizabeth Poole, Tariq Ramadan, Christoph Ramm, Ziauddin Sardar and Emma Tarlo. This was followed by a series of 5 'double-handed' seminars with paired speakers, addressing themes relating to the interests of the project such as Islamophobia, multiculturalism and Muslims, Gender, security and citizenship, the Muslim problem in the Hindu nationalist imagination and the position of Muslims in France. Speakers included, Tahir Abbas, Dibyesh Anand, Katherine Brown, Humera Khan, Eric Mace, Sarfraz Manzoor, Andrew Pilkington, Annabelle Sreberny.

In the Autumn of 2007, Framing Muslims combined with the Inter-University Postcolonial Seminar series, run by Professor Susheila Nasta of the Open University Postcolonial Research Group, to explore 'Postcolonial Muslim Cultures'. We convened five sessions beginning with an author

reading and conversation with the Booker prize shortlisted novelist Mohsin Hamid. This series gave us an opportunity to present papers based on our own research, along with papers by Anshuman Mondal and Rehana Ahmed.

During 2007-8 Framing Muslims helped sponsor the two-day event held in May at the University of East London to mark sixty years of the Palestinian Nakba by covering the travel costs of Professor Joseph Massad of Columbia University.

A particular success in the first year was the establishment of the Framing Muslims website, designed by Maciek Hybrowicz and maintained by Ed Spick. The website was launched in February 2008 and is a resource containing podcasts of seminar talks, information about the project, postings of forthcoming and related events, bibliographical material, and an interactive Hot Topics section.

In the 2008-9 session we staged four paired seminars which continued to spark new synergies and interesting overlaps. Topics ranged from, Black Internationalism, the stereotyping of Iraqi women in the media, American Muslim youth culture and multicultural cosmopolitanism to, Islam and civic responsibility, Islam and the construction of sex and race in South Africa, transnational Sudanese women in the Islamic cultural diaspora, and the governance of Muslims in Germany post 9/11. Speakers included, Nadjie Al-Ali, Gabeba Baderoon, Moustafa Bayoumi, Bob Cannon, Sohail Daulatzai, Anita Fabos, Usama Hasan and Schirin Amir-Moazami,



## Identity

In addition Framing Muslims organised the following workshops in 2009.

**'Others Within and Without: Muslims, Jews and European Identity'**. This was an international one-day workshop that explored the mutual and intersecting analyses of both Arab/Muslim and Jew as framed in a relational presence to each other and to Europe. It was held at SOAS on Saturday 14th March 2009. (Participants included: Hagai van der Horst, Adi Kuntsman, Ivan Kalmar, Sarah Lambert, Fiyaz Mughal, Tudor Parfitt, Annabelle Sreberny and Ziad Abu Zayyad.

**'Muslims Making Britain'**, 14th July, a one-day workshop held on 14 July 2009 at SOAS. Two AHRC-funded research projects, Making Britain and Framing Muslims, combined forces to run a one-day workshop entitled Muslims Making Britain on 14th July. This provided a welcome opportunity to explore a mutual interest in the experiences of Muslims living in Britain, both in the earlier period of 1870-1950 covered by the Making Britain project, and in the contemporary moment, which the Framing Muslims initiative seeks to examine. The workshop focused on the literary, cultural and political contributions South Asian Muslims have made and continue to make to the shaping of British culture and society. Participants included: Humayun Ansari, Rehana Ahmed, Florian Stadler, Aamer Hussein, Siobhan Lambert-Hurley, Salman Sayyid, Sara Wajid and Ali Zaidi.

**'Framing Muslims: New Directions'**, 25th June 2009 (Afternoon Workshop in collaboration with the Ferguson Centre, Open University). Held at Milton Keynes campus, Open University. This initiative brought together research students and established scholars working on the theme of Muslim representations in Britain. (Participants included: Maruta Herding (University of Cambridge), Madeline Clements (IES, University of London), Peter Morey (University of East London), Amina Yaqin (SOAS).

<http://www.framingmuslims.org/>



# NEWS

## Obituary



### PROFESSOR ADITYA BEHL

It was with great sadness and incredulity that we learnt in late August of the sudden death of Aditya Behl, Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and a long-standing friend of SOAS.

The son of Colonel S.K. Behl and Mrs Purnima Behl, and loving brother of Aradhna and uncle to Anhad, whom he himself named, Aditya went to the prestigious Doon School in Dehradun, with a scholarship from his second year onwards. He did

his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Chicago, first in Classics at Bowdoin College and then in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, where he worked with Professor Doniger on a pathbreaking thesis on 'Rasa and romance: the Madhumālāti of Shaikh Mañjhan Shattari' (1995). At the same time, he was active as a translator of contemporary and medieval poetry and prose. His anthology *The Penguin New Writing in India* (co-edited with David Nicholls, New York: Penguin, 1995) came out the same year. Thanks to his friendship with Simon Weightman (our former SOAS colleague) and Simon Digby, he visited the UK regularly, and in 2000 his translation (with Simon Weightman) of *Madhumālāti*: an Indian Sufi romance came out with Oxford University Press, with full notes and a long introduction.

His monograph, *Shadows of Paradise*, was a more ambitious project, aiming to elucidate and decode all the major Avadhi medieval Sufi romances. Several lecture series, including his last one at SOAS in November 2008, showed how further and deeper than anyone he had gone into the subject.

His articles on the eighteenth-century Urdu poet Nazir Akbarabadi and on the intriguing compendium of medieval Indian religions, the *Dabistan-i Mazahib*, showcased the breadth of his talents, from Urdu, Hindi, Avadhi and Persian poetry to religious history.

After a stint at the University of California at Berkeley, he spent the last seven years at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, where he devoted his efforts to building the study of South Asia at Penn through dedicated teaching and mentoring of graduate students and service as the Undergraduate Chair, Graduate Chair, and Department Chair.

We were very lucky to see him often at SOAS in the last couple of years, first at the AHRC project conference on *After Timur Came* in 2007, and then in November 2008, when he spent a full month at SOAS. An accomplished *rasika* and 'ashiq, he will be missed as a friend and inspiration by many.

*Professor Behl's Service of Remembrance took place on Saturday 10th October, 2009 at The Brent Sikh Centre, London.*

## Fellowship

### CHARLES WALLACE PAKISTAN FELLOWSHIP REPORT

2008-2009

I was a Charles Wallace at SOAS fellow from mid March to mid June, 2009, and I spent these three months using the resources at SOAS in order to do a literature review of the works done on non Muslim religious minorities in Pakistan.

I had become increasingly interested in exploring the issues of the non Muslim religious minorities—that make up less than 5% of Pakistan's population—over the last year. Conducting a cross-disciplinary literature review was the logical first step in this exploration. The hope was that it would let me increase my knowledge about communities about which I was embarrassingly ignorant, allow me to identify the gaps in the literature, and help me gain clarity regarding the nature of the primary research I wanted to conduct in the future. The Charles Wallace Fellowship at SOAS gave me the opportunity to do all

this by giving me access to the resources I did not have access to in Pakistan. I am an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), in Lahore, Pakistan. While our young library at LUMS is growing at an admirable rate, it is currently not equipped with the material that I needed to conduct an exhaustive review. In contrast, Charles Wallace Fellows have permission to use all the University of London libraries; that translates into a lot of material!

My time at SOAS overlapped with the Easter break and the third (exam) term. This meant that fewer seminars took place during this time in comparison to the first two terms. It also meant that a number of faculty members were not on campus; many were away for research purposes. These are things that future fellows need to be aware of as think about when they want to be at SOAS. These months were the only time I could be there, but I was still able to meet a number of faculty members who work on South Asia and/or faculty whose research interests matched

my own. I want to thank Caroline Osella, Magnus Marsden, Matt Nelson, Kostas Retzikas and Ravi Ahuja at SOAS, and Sarah Ansari at Royal Holloway for making out the time to see me. It was wonderful to hear about the work they were doing and to discuss my work with them. I found my meeting with Kate Crosby—who has been working on Buddhism for the last twenty years—to be extremely useful. I hope to study the Buddhist community of Pakistan in the future and was able to get a lot of helpful suggestions and pointers from her. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Jane Savory, at the Centres and Programmes Office for taking such good care of me and for making me feel so at home. All in all, I spent a very productive three months at SOAS, and was able to meet the goals that I had set for myself at the beginning of the three months. I go back to Pakistan with a very clear sense of what I want to do in the future.

Report by Dr Sadaf Ahmad

Information about Charles Wallace Trust: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/fellowship/>

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Music & Dance



### THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ANNUAL LECTURE 2009

#### The Study of South Asia's International Relations: Towards an Agenda?

#### KANTI BAJPAI

Professor in the Politics and  
International Relations of South Asia,  
Oxford University

South Asia's international relations seem to garner much less scholarly attention than its domestic politics. This is worrisome for various reasons — first, because the region's international relations is consequential for international politics more broadly, especially in Asia; second, because external relations and domestic politics are mutually affecting; and third, because the region is a potential laboratory for testing the utility of various ideas, theories, and methods in international relations. Those who study South Asia need to begin to lay out an agenda for research. What are some of the key puzzles, problematques, and policy issues in South Asia's international relations? Can we begin to lay out some key priorities and a roadmap? This talk will attempt to answer those questions in an effort to stimulate discussion and debate.

A reception will follow the event.

The BASAS Annual Lecture 2009 is co-sponsored by the Politics of South Asia Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association.

12th November 2009, starting at 1730  
British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace,  
London



#### BASAS

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) supports advanced research in the humanities and social sciences of South Asia.

BASAS is one of the world's leading learned societies for the study of South Asia. It is the largest UK academic association for the study of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Tibet, and the South Asian diaspora.

For further information visit: [www.basas.org.uk](http://www.basas.org.uk)



#### IMR SOUTH ASIA MUSIC AND DANCE FORUM

Wednesday 2 December 2009

1.30 - 6.30 pm  
Room ST274/5  
Stewart House,  
32 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DN

#### Caste, class and social mobility in South Asian music & dance

#### Speakers include:

Carol Babiracki (Syracuse University, USA)  
Katherine Brown (KCL)  
Jaime Jones (University College, Dublin)  
Anna Morcom (RHUL)  
Meg Walker (Queen's University, USA)

Email [music@sas.ac.uk](mailto:music@sas.ac.uk) to Register



#### CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ANNUAL LECTURE

27 May 2010

Landscape and Nature  
Ebba Koch

Enquiries: [events@soas.ac.uk](mailto:events@soas.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 7898 4893 /2

#### PORTRAITURE IN SOUTH ASIA

May 2010

#### Conference

Further details will be confirmed in due course.

Enquiries: [events@soas.ac.uk](mailto:events@soas.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 7898 4893 /2

#### FRAMES OF COMPARISON: NIHILISM & THE MODERN SIKH IMAGINARY

30 November 2009

Professor Arvind Mandair  
(University of Michigan)

#### Lecture

5.00–6.00pm  
Khalili Lecture Theatre (Main Building)  
6.00–7.00pm  
Room T102 (21-22 Russell Square.)  
Department of the Study of Religions

Enquiries: Dr Ulrich Pagel  
[up1@soas.ac.uk](mailto:up1@soas.ac.uk) or 020 7898 4782

#### FILM SCREENING: THE SKY BELOW

26 November 2009

Sarah Singh (Director)  
5.30pm  
Room 116  
First Floor, SOAS Main Building

All Welcome. No registration necessary  
(first come, first served basis).

Enquiries: [events@soas.ac.uk](mailto:events@soas.ac.uk)  
Tel: 020 7898 4893 /2

# Indian Art

Lectures organised under the Department of Art & Archaeology. SOAS and supported by the British Association for South Asian Studies. All meetings take places at SOAS.

## LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2008 / 2009

Wednesday 11 November  
Michael Willis  
**The Archaeology of Hindu Ritual -- a new publication**  
B111 - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 9 December  
Malini Roy  
**Awadhi painting in the second half of the eighteenth century**  
B111 - 6.30pm

Wednesday 13 January  
Sue Stronge  
Tipu's Tigers  
B111 - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 10 February  
Fiona Buckee  
**Reconstructing a Latina temple spire: Temple 45, Sanchi**  
B111 - 6.30 pm

## LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2009 / 2010

Wednesday 3 March  
Mark Elliott  
**The Aesthetic of Wonder: Accommodating Magic in the Indian Museum, Kolkata**  
B111 - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 7 April  
Richard Axelby  
**Picturing science in Colonial India**  
B111 - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 5 May  
Emily Shovelton  
**The 12th Annual Toby Falk Memorial Lecture**  
**Traces of the now-lost Delhi Sultanate school of painting in a fifteenth century illustrated Khamisa of Nizami?**  
Room TBD - 6.30 pm

Wednesday 2 June  
Irving Finkel  
**Adventures with Indian Board Games**  
Room TBD - 6.30 pm

Enquiries: Crispin Branfoot  
cb68@soas.ac.uk

## SOUTH ASIA HISTORY SEMINAR SOAS

Autumn Term, 2009  
Tuesdays, 5.00 PM  
Room FG08, Faber Building, SOAS

17 November 2009

**Sanjay Seth** (Goldsmiths College)  
The 'Moral Crisis' of the Educated Indian: Modern, Western Knowledge and its Indian Object

24 November 2009

**Taylor Sherman** (Royal Holloway)  
Land, Language and Belonging in Postcolonial South India: Hyderabad, 1948-56

1 December 2009

**Zawahir Moir** (Independent Scholar)  
Sufis and Heretics: The Identity of Nur Turk aka Satgur Nur (13th century CE)

15 December 2009

**Joydeep Sen** (University of Warwick and the Science Museum)  
Astronomy and Astrology in a History of Science in Nineteenth-Century India

### Convenors:

Sunil Kumar [sk114@soas.ac.uk](mailto:sk114@soas.ac.uk)  
Shabnum Tejani [st40@soas.ac.uk](mailto:st40@soas.ac.uk)

## SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH

SAR has continued to publish (since Volume 26) three issues per year and is now receiving an increasing number of submissions of high quality from all over the world. The following articles have been published or are in the process of publication after a rigorous peer review process:

### VOL 29 No 1 (February 2009)

PARTHA S. GHOSH  
Politics of Personal Law in India: The Hindu-Muslim Dichotomy

BIKRAM K. PATTANAIK  
Young Migrant Construction Workers in the Unorganised Urban Sector

MIRIAM SHARMA  
Censoring India: Cinema and the Tentacles of Empire in the Early Years

### VOL 29 No 2 (July 2009)

ISABELLA NARDI  
Re-evaluating the Role of Text in Indian Art: Towards a Shastric Analysis of the Image of Shri Nathji in Nathdvara Miniature Painting

SAMBIAH GUNDIMEDA  
Democratisation of the Public Sphere: The Beef Stall Case in Hyderabad's Sukoon Festival

KATHRYN HANSEN  
Staging Composite Culture: Nautanki and Parsi Theatre in Recent Revivals

ASHOK K. PANKAJ  
Development versus Democratic Essence: Voters' Preference in Assembly Elections in Haryana and Bihar

### VOL 29 No 3 (November 2009)

VELAYUTHAM SARAVANAN  
Political Economy of the Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006: Conflict Between Environment and Tribal Development

MADAN LAL  
Gurudom: The Political Dimension of Religious Sects in the Punjab

SHAHIDUR RAHMAN  
Socio-Economic Vulnerability and Neo-Liberalism: Lessons from Bangladesh

PRARTHANA PURKAYASTHA  
Warrior, Untouchable, Courtesan: Fringe Women in Tagore's Dance Dramas

KHOLA HASAN  
The medical and social costs of consanguineous marriages among British Mirpuris.



# JOIN US

## SOAS Centre of South Asian Studies

### Centre Chair:

**Dr Francesca Orsini**  
fo@soas.ac.uk

### Centres and Programmes (REO)

Office Manager: Jane Savory  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4892  
E-mail: js64@soas.ac.uk

### Executive Officer: Rahima Begum

Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4893  
E-mail: rb41@soas.ac.uk

### E-mail Distribution List

If you would like to be added to the Centre of South Asian Studies email distribution list please send an email to Jane Savory (js64@soas.ac.uk) stating your First Name, Surname and the email address you want us to use.

### Postal Address

Centres & Programmes (REO)  
School of Oriental and African Studies  
University of London  
Thornhaugh Street  
Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/centresoffice/>

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.

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/>



### South Asian Newsletter 2009

**Editorial:**  
Francesca Orsini  
Jane Savory

**Designer:**  
Rahima Begum

**Produced by:**  
Centres & Programmes (REO)

**Printed by:**  
SOAS Print Room

*Special thanks to Glen Ratcliffe for photography*

## Phd Students

### Crispin Branfoot

**Marjo Alafouzo** (PhD 2008-2009)  
The Iconography of the Drinking Scene at Alchi, Ladakh.  
Supervisor: Philip Denwood.

**Malini Roy** (PhD 2008-2009)  
Idiosyncrasies in the late Mughal painting tradition of Awadh: The artist Mihr Chand, son of Ganga Ram (fl. 1759-86).  
Supervisor: Doris Behrens-Abouseif

### Werner Menski

**Robin Wyatt** (PhD May 2008)  
Unshackling the dowry debate: Re-assessing dowry, marital breakdown and conjugal violence.

**Helena Wray** (PhD March 2009)  
A stranger in the home: Immigration to the UK through marriage after 1962.

### Mara Malagodi

Constitutional nationalism and legal exclusion in Nepal (1990-2007)

### Anwasha Arya

Tradition and text: Marriage expectations among Hindus and dowry arrangements as sadācāra

### Biswajit Chanda

Family law reforms in Bangladesh: The need for a culture-specific legal system

### Federica Sona

In the shadow of uniformity: Islamic marriages in the UK and Italy

### Sonia Khan

Caretaker government arrangements in Bangladesh

### Nazmuzzaman Bhuian

Freedom of the Press in Bangladesh

### Renate Söhnen-Thieme

For three PhDs the examiners have been nominated in June (**Ana Jelnikar**, **Manjita Mukharji nee Palit**, and **Mara Malagodi**).

### Richard Widdess

**David Kane**  
Puthi Porla: 'Melodic Reading' and its Use in the Islamisation of Bengal

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/southasianstudies/research/completed-phd-thesis/>