

South Asia Newsletter



Centre of South Asian Studies

www.soas.ac.uk/csas/

No 71

January 2009

Forthcoming events at SOAS this term:

Food & Migration workshop

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Annual Jaina Studies Lecture and Workshop

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Tellings, Not Texts: Singing, story-telling and performance Workshop

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Exhibition: Asian Dance Theatre: performance through the lens

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SOAS Food Forum Distinguished Lecture

Further details on

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STAFF NEWS

Letter from the Chair



The Centre of South Asian Studies is certainly not a stronghold of wealth except in one respect: its members potentially form one of the largest communities of South Asianists outside the subcontinent. To realize this potential, to facilitate the development of a community of academic exchange is the most important task of this Centre. We are happy to serve as an 'umbrella' and support base for every member of faculty and research student who wishes to discuss problems of South Asia research in a wider, interdisciplinary context. The wide-ranging programme contained in this newsletter shows that we are largely successful in this though some disciplines are remarkably more active than others.

Apart from creating a space of interdisciplinary exchange, the Centre can also help to further develop SOAS's links with South Asia. One of the avenues we are currently exploring is the possibility of creating 'strategic partnerships' with a limited number of universities in South Asian countries – partnerships that do not merely exist on paper but imply very concrete measures of cooperation in both teaching and research matters. Hopefully, we will be able to present first results in our next newsletter.

Another change concerns the South Asia Newsletter itself. Like other SOAS Centres, we have decided to switch over to an annual publication rhythm. The last newsletter in the present form will thus be published in April 2009; the first annual newsletter will be out by the beginning of the next academic year. Electronic means have come to be more effective than printed matter in announcing upcoming events. Our newsletter can now serve other purposes. It can be turned into a report on the activities of the Centre and its members. We wish to include articles on commencing as well as concluded research (ranging from large-scale programmes to individual PhD projects), an overview over recent activities (including fieldwork, conference participation, international exchange and publications) and announcements of larger upcoming events (such as workshops, conferences or exhibitions). We hope this new format will facilitate the active participation of many more members of the Centre in the production of the newsletter. If we succeed in this, we are sure that the result will be even more useful and attractive.

Professor Ravi Ahuja
Chair, Centre of South Asian Studies

New Centre Member

Dr Sunil Kumar joined SOAS in September 2008 as Reader, Medieval Indian History. He was previously professor of medieval history at the University of Delhi. Dr. Kumar's research interests focus on the pre-Mughal period (1200-1550). They cover questions relating to the history of the Muslim community, political culture and governance, the making of urban societies, monumental architecture and landscape archaeology.

His publications include *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate*, (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2007), *The Present in Delhi's Pasts* (Delhi: Three Essays Press, 2002) and an edited volume, *Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples?* (Delhi: Three Essays Collective, 2008). Together with Richard M. Eaton, David Gilmartin and Munis Faruqui, he co-edited a special issue of *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 43, no. 1, (January 2009), *Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History: Essays in Honour of John F. Richards*, and a history school text-book, *Our Pasts II*, (Delhi: NCERT, 2007) together with Kunal Chakrabarti.

He is currently working on an urban history of the military and cultural elites in thirteenth and fourteenth century Delhi.

Dr Kumar is also the managing editor of the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*.



Tellings, Not Texts: Singing, story-telling and performance Workshop

In the context of a research project on literary culture in north India in the 15th to 17th centuries from a multilingual perspective, it was clear from the beginning that music, songs, story-telling and performance traditions would be crucial to the picture we would try to piece together, for a number of reasons.

Music and singing were cultivated intensively at several princely courts, at the homes of noblemen and merchants, at some Sufi khanqahs and formed an essential part of Bhakti practice as well as of entertainment at fairs, festivals and other celebrations, with varying degree of access. Musical knowledge and expertise, both in form of treatises, song collections and embodied in performers, connoisseurs and patrons circulated between (and connected) these different spaces and different languages. The work of F. Nalini Delvoye has done much to uncover the textual and musical landscape of this period, and can be usefully taken as a guide to explore other oral and performative aspects of literary culture.

This focus on orality and performance allows us:

- (a) to explore literary culture beyond the court;
- (b) to understand the links between forms and performers outside and within the courts, and dynamics of classicisation and popularisation;
- (c) to attend to the oral-performative aspect of poetic culture and repartee/wit, so obviously valued as a cultural asset;
- (d) to consider the relationship between religious message and entertainment, and generic similarities between religious and non-religious stories and wit;
- (e) to consider the dynamics between oral exposition and written recording (e.g. of malfuzat or sermons).

By considering singing, story-telling and performance (including religious discourse) in a variety of languages and traditions, we hope to capture the layered and inter-connected nature of literary culture in north India in these centuries, and some of the processes of cultural transmission and diffusion.

Proposed themes:

- Singers, singing and songs: networks, diffusion, tastes. Can we map the connection between singing for temples and for bhaktas and singing for other patrons?
- Story-telling: what do we know about professional story-tellers (dastan-go and katha-vachak) in this period? What were their repertoires? Which stories were particularly popular, and what oral and performative aspects can we identify in their written versions?
- Poetic performances: bait-bazi, mahfils. What textual evidence do we have for poetic performances inside, and especially outside, the court in this period? Is there any relation between the performative code of the evolving Braj Bhasha riti poetic culture and Persian codes?
- Religious sermons, stories and malfuzat: what themes/topics and performative strategies can we see through the written records? And what do we know about audiences and context of performance? Can we see shared "floating anecdotes" or rhetorical strategies?
- Response: how can we read traces in the texts (given that contextual evidence is so scant and patchy) in order to identify their intended audiences? Do the texts themselves theorise response? Does a comparative approach to the arts (art, music, poetry, etc.) help in this enterprise?
- Patrons: what clues do we have about those who enabled the performances? What was the difference between Sultans and Mughals as patrons, and between the patronage of khanqahs, temples, maths and merchants?
- How can contemporary oral contexts help us in understanding the dynamics of these past performances?

Convenors:

Francesca Orsini (SOAS)
Katherine Brown (King's College, London)
Aditya Behl (UPenn)

Venue: Room B102, SOAS, University of London

Date: 8-10 June 2009

Enquiries: Francesca Orsini, fo@soas.ac.uk



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

CSAS CONVERSATIONS AND EXCHANGES

The place of pleasure: Hindustani music in Mughal society Lecture Series

Three lectures on the cultural history of music, musicians and their patrons in Mughal North by Dr Katherine Butler Brown (King's College) will take place at SOAS on the following dates:

Friday, 6 March 2009

Friday, 20 March 2009

Friday, 24 April 2009

Further information will be available in due course:

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

SOAS/UEL Framing Muslims Seminar Series

Framing Muslims: Representation in Culture and Society Post 9/11 - Seminar

Date: **Thursday, 5 February 2009**

Venue: **G52 (Main Building, SOAS, University of London)**

Time: **5:30-7:00pm**

Moustafa Bayoumi (City University of New York)

'How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Muslim in America Today'

Abstract

Since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, Arabs and Muslims in the United States have become the newest minorities in the American imagination and the latest 'problems' of American society. In this lecture, Moustafa Bayoumi will discuss how this new reality complicates contemporary American understandings of race, religion, and belonging and how young American Muslims, who seek to forge lives for themselves in a country that often mistakes them for an enemy, are particularly effected.

Biography

Moustafa Bayoumi is an Associate Professor of English at Brooklyn College, the City University of New York. He is the author of *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America* (The Penguin Press) and co-editor of *The Edward Said Reader* (Granta).

and

Bob Cannon (University of East London)

'Goodbye Multiculturalism - Hello Cosmopolitanism? Social Justice in a Divided World'

Abstract

Multiculturalism is under attack from both left and right. At best it is accused of promoting segregation and at worst fostering 'home grown' terrorism. Most of these accusations are factually incorrect and theoretically unwarranted. But multiculturalism for all its benefits is unable to place the question of cultural diversity in a global context: (1) Cultural differences cannot do justice to political conflicts; (2) multiculturalism is too bound by the national-state and (3) it lacks a sufficiently robust defence of universal human rights. In short, multiculturalism doesn't adequately relate to globalization and the geo-political issues that impact upon nation-states. Cosmopolitanism is a better way to think ethnic divisions in relation to issues of social justice at the global level - not least Western foreign policy in the Middle East. Multiculturalism is unable to incorporate these geo-political fault-lines, which is a powerful motive for political Islam. Cosmopolitanism is in a better position to address ethnic tensions at the global level by placing them in a social justice context

Biography

Bob Cannon is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of East London.

All are Welcome. Booking is not required.

For further information contact: Peter Morey on p.g.morey@uel.ac.uk

<http://framingmuslims.org/>

SOUTH ASIAN HISTORY SEMINAR SERIES

Winter Term, 2009

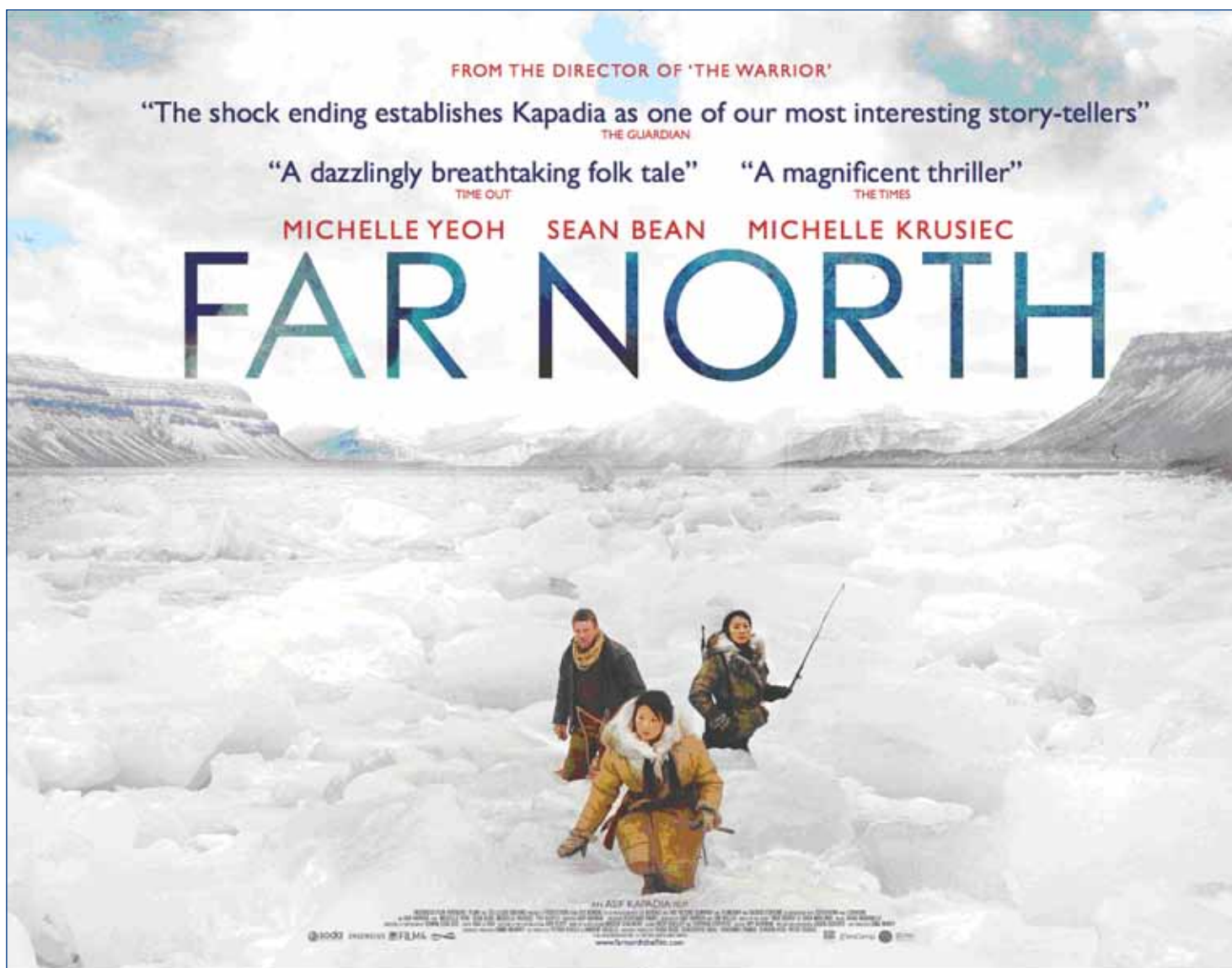
Tuesday, 5pm
Room FG08 (Faber Building)
SOAS

- 6** January **Sunil Kumar** (SOAS)
The Woman in the Accounts (hisab) of Men: Sultan Raziyya and the Makings of Early Sultanate Society
- 13** January **Tirthankar Roy** (London School of Economics)
Water and the Economic History of India
- 20** January **Iftekhar Iqbal**
(Dhaka University & Aga Khan University)
Wilderness and Social Power in Colonial Bengal
- 27** January **Ed Simpson** (SOAS)
Gunards, Sovereignty and Colonialism: An Ethnographic History of the Foreshore in Western India
- 3** February **Tara Mayer** (SOAS)
Clothing the Imperial Image: Dress, Identity and Authority in Late 18th to early 19th Century North India
- 10** February Reading Week
- 17** February **Uditi Sen** (Cambridge)
Demystifying 'Refugee Power': Myth and Memory in the Refugee Colonies of Calcutta
- 24** February **Jon Wilson** (King's College)
The Real Life of the Post-National State. Bangladesh, 1971-5
- 3** March **Joya Chatterjee** (Cambridge)
Migration and Citizenship in South Asia, 1947-2007
- 10** March **Om Prakash** (Delhi School of Economics)
Indian Merchants in the Indian Ocean Trade in the Early Modern Period: Some Issues
- 17** March **Valerie Anderson** (SOAS)
'The Most Rapidly Accumulating Evil': 'Half-Castes' in Nineteenth-Century Bengal

Convenors:

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

Tongues on Fire Film Festival



Monday, 9 March 2009
in the Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building, SOAS

Film maker Asif Kapadia will present a director's workshop with a screening of his film Far North. Further details will be confirmed in due course on the Centre's website.



Tongues on Fire (TOF) is a film festival dedicated to expressing the drive and spirit of Asian independent media and cinema cultures of **South Asia**. It provides a unique international platform for Asians working in film and media around the world. Our screenings and events include feature films, documentaries, short films, panel discussions, and educational and community screenings.

Further information: <http://www.tonguesonfire.com>

CSAS CONVERSATIONS AND EXCHANGES

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A dark epic tale set in the harsh beauty of the Arctic where SAIVA and ANJA struggle to survive on the frozen wastes. They are forced further North to escape soldiers taking over their homeland and settle on a desolate island. One day a figure, LOKI, appears on the ice and collapses, close to death. SAIVA against her instincts brings him back to their tent where both women compete for his affections with terrifying and tragic consequences.

Adapted from Sara Maitland's short story, FAR NORTH is directed by acclaimed BAFTA Award winning filmmaker Asif Kapadia (THE WARRIOR) from a screenplay by Asif Kapadia and Tim Miller.

FAR NORTH stars Michelle Yeoh (CROUCHING TIGER, MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA), Sean Bean (LORD OF THE RINGS, GOLDENEYE, PATRIOT GAMES) and Michelle Krusiec (SAVING FACE), the film is produced by Bertrand Faivre (co-Producer of Oscar nominated MERRY CHRISTMAS, RATCATCHER) of The Bureau.

FAR NORTH executive produced by Tessa Ross Controller of Film and Drama, C4 (THIS IS ENGLAND, THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND) from Film4; Hengameh Panahi of Dreamachine (YOU AND ME AND EVERYONE WE KNOW, JINDABYNE) Peter Touche (HALLAM FOE, WAZ) and Duncan Reid (BRIDE AND PREJUDICE, HOTEL RWANDA) of Ingenious.

Director's Statement

My co writer Tim and I had discussed many projects to follow up The Warrior, it took us a long time to find the right idea, but once I read the short story TRUE NORTH by Sara Maitland, I felt a tingle of excitement I had not felt since Tim first mentioned the tale of the Samurai Boy being shown a severed head which eventually developed into The Warrior. There was something exciting in the idea of filming this timeless tale in the Arctic in direct contrast to the hot Indian desert.

Tim and I love folk tales and classic fairy stories and this one had the same special feeling, although here the lead character's journey was complex and dark. Saiva's story did not end in redemption but in her carrying out a horrific deed which fulfils the curse that the shaman pronounced when she was born.

I was interested in the ambiguity of the relationship in the short story between the two women, I was never sure if the older woman and younger woman were mother and child, sisters, cousins or even lovers. It was not clear. They survived together, they needed one another to stay alive, if one left the other would probably die. In the short story they didn't even have names, there was no need, they hardly spoke to one another. Suddenly everything changed when the man came into their lives. The women began to compete for his attention and grew apart.

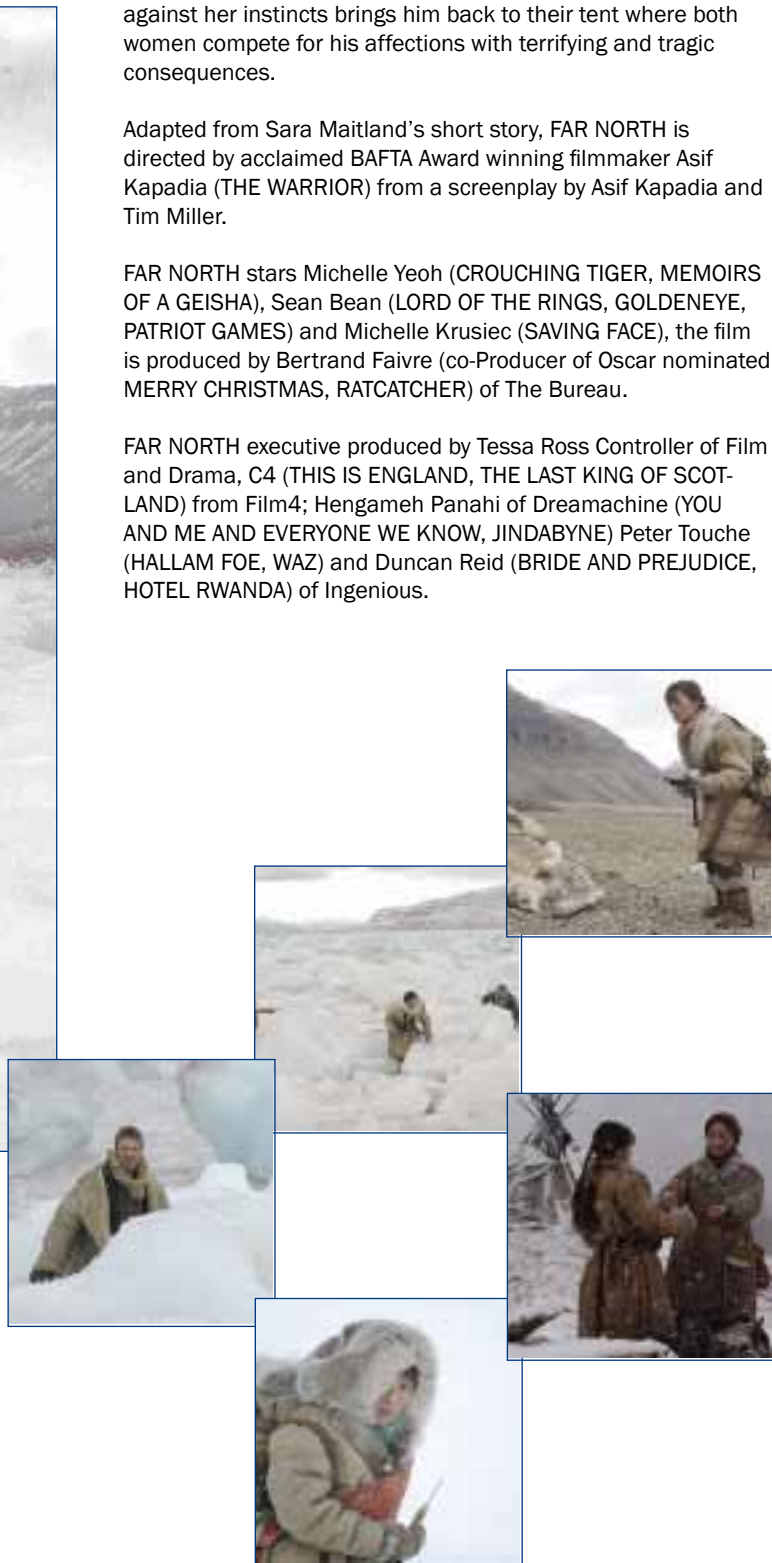
It was important to me to work once again with the crew of The Warrior, key members of the team that I have collaborated with since making my short films at film school. So once again Bertrand Faivre was Producing, Tim Miller and I Co Wrote, Roman Osin was the DOP, Andy Shelley was the Sound Recordist and Sound designer, Ewa J. Lind edited and Dario Marianelli was the composer. I was working with my friends, my 'film family'.

I went into the project thinking this would be a simple, low budget film. We had the essential story, the beginning, middle and an amazing end. It featured only three people and one key location, the set consisted of a lone tent in the middle of nowhere. It could be shot anywhere. The story took place mainly within interiors, there was little dialogue. After spending so much time looking for projects, we had our story, it was all there, our first 'adaptation', I honestly thought it would be simple. What could go wrong?

I believed we could write it swiftly, cast it, finance it and shoot it without too much talking or 'development'. Tim and I could then get on with thinking about the next one, maybe something bigger and more complex ...

Little did I know the film would take us more than four years to make. We would be shooting out of one of the Northernmost settlements in the world. We needed armed protection everywhere we went in case we came across a hungry polar bear, the unit lived on a Russian Ice Breaker, which travelled overnight to each new location as we slept. At times the temperature dropped to minus 40 degrees... This film would prove harder and more logistically complex than anything I have previously done. Now the film is complete, I'm back in London day dreaming about the awe inspiring Arctic, though the feeling is only just coming back to my frostbitten fingertips!

ASIF KAPADIA



EXHIBITION

Asian Dance Theatre: performance through the lens

An exhibition of images of Asian performers taken by UK photographers in the past 30 years.

22 January – 21 March 2009



How has Asian Dance Theatre been photographed in Britain in the past 30 years?

This exhibition will present images of Asian dance theatre performance, especially, but not exclusively, of South Asian dance, as seen through the lens of six well known British photographers who specialise in performance/dance shoots, covering the period from the late 1970s to present times. In addition, the exhibition will feature images of Asian performers in Britain commissioned by Akademi, one of the leading South Asian dance organisations in the UK, currently celebrating its thirtieth year of activities. A smaller, complementary exhibition will run separately in the foyer of the SOAS Khalili Lecture Theatre, presenting a history of South Asian dance in Britain through images belonging to Akademi. The images in both exhibitions will be of a range of performance styles, some of which tradition based, others of artists who see themselves as working in a contemporary hybrid mode. The overall aim is to visualise how contemporary imaginaries inform new styles of presentation and determine new ways of perceiving, and consuming, Asian dance performance as a visual medium in the UK context.



**Helen Burrows
Hugo Glendinning
Nick Gurney
Chris Nash
Allan Parker
Vipul Sangoi**

A colloquium on the topic of 'Photographing Asian dance performance' open to the general public and organised by the SOAS Centre for Media and Film Studies will take place on 28th February 2009 in the SOAS Khalili Lecture Theatre, as a major event associated with the exhibition. Through the colloquium a range of questions will be explored, pertaining to the relationship between photography, choreography and the performance of Asian dance theatre.

Exhibition curated by Alessandra Lopez y Royo.
Sponsored by:

Akademi
SOUTH ASIAN DANCE UK

<http://www.akademi.co.uk>

**Brunei Gallery, SOAS
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG**

Email: gallery@soas.ac.uk

Open: Tuesday – Saturday 10.30 – 17.00
Closed: Sunday And Monday
Admission Free
T. 020 7898 4046 (Recorded Information)
F. 020 7898 4259

For further details of the exhibition and events please visit www.soas.ac.uk/gallery

9th Annual Lecture

The Annual Lecture is held the evening before the workshop.

A Reassessment of the Role of Pārśvanātha in Jaina Literature and Culture **Bansidhar Bhatt (University of Münster, Germany)**

6pm on Thursday, 12 March 2009

in the **Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre**, Brunie Gallery, SOAS

All are Welcome (free and open to the public)

11th Jaina Studies Workshop

Jaina Scriptures and Philosophy

Research on the Jaina Āgamas, once the main domain of Jainology and Prakrit Studies, has become rare nowadays, while studies of Jaina philosophy and religion based on sources in Sanskrit, Middle and New-Indo-Aryan languages are increasing. The conference seeks to reconnect research on canonical and non-canonical sources and their uses. Contributions are invited on Jaina scriptures and philosophy.

- **Nalini Balbir** (University of Paris) **Layman's Atonements: The Sāvayapacchitta and the Shrāddhajītakalpa**
- **Piotr Balcerowicz** (University of Warsaw) **Do Attempts to Formalise Syād-vāda Make Sense?**
- **Johannes Bronkhorst** (University of Lausanne) **What Happened to Mahāvīra's Body?**
- **Anne Clavel** (University of Lyon) **Sensuous Cognition - Pratyaksa or Paroksa? Jinabhadra's Reading of the Nandīsūtra**
- **Paul Dundas** (University of Edinburgh) **Pokkhali's Visit to the Fasting Hall: The Ramifications of a Canonical Episode**
- **Anna Aurelia** (University of Würzburg) **Esposito Intertwining Narrative and Philosophy? Some Doctrinal Passages in the Vasudevahindī of Sanghadāsa**
- **Peter Flügel** (SOAS) **Reflections on the Origins of the Jaina Doctrine of Karman**
- **Sin Fujinaga** (Miyakonojo, Miyazaki) **Śvetāmbara gamas in the Digambara Scriptures**
- **Prem Suman** (Shravanabelagola) **Jain One Rare Manuscript of the Prakrit Text Bhagavatī rādhana**
- **Olle Qvarnström** (University of Lund) **Jaina Critique of Sāmkhya Philosophy**
- **Jayendra Soni** (University of Marburg) **Aspects of Philosophy in the Satkhandāgama**
- **Herman Tieken** (Leiden University) **On the Composition of Jaina Canonical Texts and in Particular the Uttarajjhāyā**
- **Frank Van den Bossche** (University of Ghent) **Haribhadra Sūri on Yogācāra**
- **Kenji Watanabe** (Tokyo) **A Bee and Mendicant: Two Different Versions in the Extant Jaina gamas**

9am on Friday, 13 March 2009

in the **Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre**, Brunie Gallery, SOAS

All are Welcome (free and open to the public)

Initiative for European Cooperation on Jaina Studies

In November 2004 the European Network for Jaina Studies (was established at SOAS by Dr Eva De Clerq (University of Gent), Dr Peter Flügel (SOAS), Dr Kornelius Krümpelmann (University of Münster), Prof Olle Qvarnström (University of Lund), and Dr Erik Seldeslacht (University of Gent).

The network has since been joined by Prof Nalini Balbir (University of Paris-3, Sorbonne Nouvelle), Dr Piotr Balcerowicz (University of Warsaw), Prof Frank van den Bossche (University of Gent), Dr Julia Hegewald (University of Heidelberg), and Prof Robert Zydembos (University of Munich).

WORKSHOP

Food & Migration

**A two day workshop on 2-3 February 2009
in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, Brunei Gallery, SOAS**

Convenors: Monica Janowski (Sussex) & Parvathi Raman (SOAS)

Migration and food are two areas of study which are commanding increasing interest and analysis in contemporary society. Ongoing public and academic debate about the causes and consequences of migration is matched by growing speculation into food related practices and their social, economic and cultural outcomes. Yet the complex, and multidimensional, relationship between food and migration remains both under-researched and under-theorised. This workshop brings together both national and international scholars across disciplines in order to engage in critical dialogues that aim to further our knowledge of these issues.

Participants include:

Dr Anne Kershen (*Queen Mary's University of London*)
Professor Janice Thompson (*University of Bristol*)
Dr Anne Menely (*Trent University, Ontario*)
Dr Krishnendu Ray (*New York University*)
Dr Nefissa Naguib (*University of Bergen*)
Dr Caroline Osella (SOAS)
Dr Filippo Osella (*University of Sussex*)

Registration:

£20 per guest
£15 concessions

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card
For more information and to book a place, please contact
Rahima Begum, Centres and Programmes Office (Room 479)
Email: rb41@soas.ac.uk or Call: 020 7898 4893/2

Registration and an up-to-date programme will be available on:
<http://www.soas.ac.uk/events/event48177.html>

Jointly organised by the SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, SOAS Food Studies Centre and Sussex Centre for Migration Research



For migrants, food and drink have a key role in maintaining kin, social and cultural ties brought from other places; in building new groups conceived of as based on cultural or social identity brought from elsewhere or based on new ties forged in one's new home; and in creating divisions, both among immigrants themselves and between migrants and 'host' groups.

Over time, migrant foodways are altered through contact with those of other migrants and of groups already living in a place, as well as in the context of the availability of different foodstuffs. New, syncretic foodways are constructed which reflect new social, economic and cultural configurations. The response of natives and other migrants to incoming foodways plays a part in this process and relates to processes of identity construction among these groups as well as within an immigrant group.

As these processes play themselves out, they create the potential for deliberate statements, through foodways, of continuity or change. Individuals or groups may draw on new notions about appropriate feeding, offering and sharing relationships involving food and drink, and about the appropriate elements and structure of eating and drinking events, to alter relationships within the migrant group as well as to generate new relations outside the group. They may also cling to existing foodways and the relationships which go with them to resist change. These complex processes are likely to lead to tensions within a migrant group, particularly between generations.

Foodways are not normally static. However, with migration, foodways have a tendency to become 'fossilized' and to become 'identity markers'. They take on a symbolic role – not only for migrants but also, to some extent, for host groups and members of other migrant groups. For an immigrant group, this may lead to the consumption of ritual meals representing cultural, religious or group identity on certain occasions. For host groups and other migrants, too, these 'marker' foods may, in their consumption at home or elsewhere, play a role in the construction of their own syncretic identity.

Our understanding of the process of migration, of identity construction, and of the relations between different groups, both migrant and host groups, can benefit greatly by peering through the lens of food and drink. However, there has not as yet been any systematic attempt to compare and contrast the ways in which food is playing a role in the process of migration among different migrant groups, and in relations between groups. The role of migrant foods in the construction of identity among natives and other migrant groups is also an area of research which has received little attention.

We hope that this workshop will both provide a context for sharing existing knowledge about migrant foodways and also an opportunity to discuss the possibility of future transdisciplinary research carried out on a collaborative basis.



A SOAS Food Forum Distinguished Lecture

The Role of Agrobiodiversity in Food and Livelihoods for the Rural Poor

by *Dr Suman Sahai*

(Geneticist, and Founder and Convener of Gene Campaign)

at 6.30pm

on Thursday, 29 January 2009

in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

All Welcome. Entry is free of charge.

To register contact Jane Savory on js64@soas.ac.uk

Organised by the SOAS Food Studies Centre and the Centre of South Asian Studies



School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London,
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Design: Centres & Programmes Office, SOAS

SOUTH ASIAN ART SEMINARS

Winter Term, 2009

South and Southeast Asian Art & Archaeology Research Seminars

Wednesdays at 5pm

in Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Dr Crispin Branfoot, cb68@soas.ac.uk and Dr Elizabeth Moore

14 January

Dr Mandy Sadan (SOAS)

Transnational Identities and Jinghpaw (Kachin) Dress in Burma, Northeast India, Thailand and Yunnan

28 January

Julian Brown (SOAS)

Welcome to Champa, Mind the Gap:
the Architectural Line-Drawings of Henri Parmentier

25 February

Mark Brand (Cambridge University)

Articulating the Sacred in Early Modern Islam:
The emergence of cultic architecture in the Bijapur Sultanate

11 March

Dipti Khera (Columbia University, New York)

Iconography and History as "wealth of beautiful ornament":
Adapting metal work in late nineteenth century Jaipur and Madras

18 March

Dr Sandra Dudley (University of Leicester)

(title forthcoming)

Indian Art Circle

Wednesdays at 6.30pm

in Room B104, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Convenors: Dr Crispin Branfoot, cb68@soas.ac.uk

7 January

Alka Hingorani

In The Face Of God: mohras and mohra-makers in the Kullu valley

4 February

Robin Jones

Interiors, objects and identity in colonial South Asia

4 March

Charlotte Martin de Fonjaudran & Sibylla Tringham

The 18th century Rajput-Mughal wall paintings at Nagaur fort, Rajasthan:
Research and Conservation

8 April

John Clarke

The image of the Buddha and the V&A's new Buddhist sculpture gallery

13 May

Debra Diamond

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

CHARLES WALLACE VISITING FELLOWSHIPS AT SOAS

2008-2009 Fellows

Charles Wallace Fellow from India

This year's 3 month Charles Wallace India Fellowship at SOAS 2008/09 was awarded to Dr K.C. Bindu.

Research Topic: Sexuation and Sexualisation among Adolescent Women in Contemporary Kerala: A Study based on Convent Schools in the Region.

Introduction

K.C. Bindu used to work for Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies, Hyderabad. Her theoretical preoccupation throughout her career has been the construction of identities in postcolonial India with special emphasis on the region of Kerala. She has a Ph.D from the University of Hyderabad on the making of Adivasi Identity. She is right now engaged in looking at the institution of convent school education in Kerala and its role in the making of dominant femininities in the region.



Dr Bindu Covilakam

Charles Wallace Fellow from Pakistan

This year's 3 month Charles Wallace Pakistan Fellowship at SOAS 2008/09 was awarded to Dr Sadaf Ahmad.

Research Topic: Religious minorities in Pakistan.

Introduction

Sadaf Ahmad is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. Her doctoral dissertation (2006) was an exploration of Al-Huda's—an Islamic school for women established in Islamabad in the early 1990s that was unique in its ability to make inroads into the upper classes of the city—transformation into a social movement. Her book, *Transforming Faith: The Story of Al-Huda and Islamic Revivalism Among Urban Pakistani Women* will be published by the Syracuse University Press in the Fall of 2009. Apart from gender and religion, and religion and culture, Sadaf's research interests also include gender based violence, body politics, identity matters, social movements, and minority issues, and her teaching reflects many of these interests.

2009-2010 Fellowship

Two fellowships are awarded annually by the Centre of South Asian Studies, SOAS and the Charles Wallace India/Pakistan Trust for students who have completed a PhD: one fellowship is awarded to a student from India and another to a student from Pakistan. The fellowships are 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 or Pakistan. Applicants must be an Indian/Pakistan national and be residing in India/Pakistan at the time the application is submitted.

Who is eligible?

Indian/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. 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 for up to three months and an international economy return air fare to India/Pakistan.

Criterion

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

How to Apply

Application forms should be downloaded from the SOAS website: www.soas.ac.uk (from the SOAS home page click on Centres/ Centre of South Asian Studies/ Charles Wallace Fellowship Trust)

Queries may be addressed to the Jane Savory, Office Manager, Centres & Programmes Office:

Email: centres@soas.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4892

Forthcoming Seminars

Dr K.C. Bindu and Dr Sadaf Ahmad will be giving a seminar in Terms 2/3 at SOAS. Please check the Centre website in due course for further information.

The conflict economy of Jammu and Kashmir by Kabira Namit (MA student)

The state of Jammu and Kashmir in general and the Kashmir valley in particular is the most intractable part of the dispute between India and Pakistan. The Kashmiri struggle for independence has received widespread attention by political analysts particularly since the sharp escalation of conflict in the region in 1988 – 89. My research attempts to assess the economic impact of this conflict on the dominant sectors of the state and inquire into the reason why a massive flow of resources from the Indian government in an effort to suppress the conflict has failed to achieve any results.

My research finds that even the 'war invulnerable' sectors (Collier, 1999) like agriculture have faced a sharp decline in production and the growth of infrastructure and the tourism industry have had to face the steepest decline. Apart from negatively affecting the economy of the state, this paper argues that the conflict has created greater political economy constraints to the solution of the Kashmir problem. It concludes that the present Central government policy in Kashmir is unfeasible and unviable in the long run.

This research shall be published in the 'Kashmir Security and Conflict Analysis' journal this quarter.



Kashmiri women praying, copyright cartier bresson

SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH (SAR)

South Asia Research is an interdisciplinary area journal for the South Asia region, now published by Sage Publications in London and edited by Werner MENSKI. The topics covered include modern and pre-modern history, politics, economics, anthropology, literary and visual culture, language and literature. Its primary aim is to give rapid access to current research work and to provide opportunities for publication to research students as well as to established scholars. In addition to reports of research in progress and book reviews, review articles are also welcome. South Asia Research also publishes 'thought pieces' and interpretative essays that address issues and problems arising from new research.

SAR now appears three times a year and is available electronically through SAGE, which has led to a much larger readership for the journal, as access figures demonstrate.

SAR is available online at <http://sar.sagepub.com/>

SAR Vol 28.3 (Nov 2008) is published and contains the following:

ARTICLES

ELLA ROLFE

Refugee, Minority, Citizen, Threat: Tibetans and the Indian Refugee Script

NILE GREEN

Moral Competition and the Thrill of the Spectacular: Recounting Catastrophe in Colonial Bombay

MUHAMMAD ZAMAN

Socio-cultural Security, Emotions and Exchange Marriages in an Agrarian Community

REVIEW ARTICLE

ROHIT CHOPRA

Destinations New and Exciting

BOOK REVIEWS

RIDWANUL HOQUE

M. Shah Alam, Enforcement of International Human Rights Law by Domestic Courts

SUSANNAH FISHER

D.L. Haberman, River of Love in an Age of Pollution: The Yamuna River of Northern India

LIVIA HOLDEN

Joanne Punzo Waghorne, Diaspora of the Gods. Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World

NILIMA DEVI

Lalita du Perron, Hindi Poetry in a Musical Genre: Thumrī Lyrics

SAR Vol 29.1 (February 2009) is in preparation and will contain the following:

ARTICLES

PARTHA S. GHOSH

Politics of Personal Law in India: The Hindu-Muslim Dichotomy

BIKRAM K. PATTANAİK

Young Migrant Construction Workers in the Unorganised Urban Sector

MIRIAM SHARMA

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

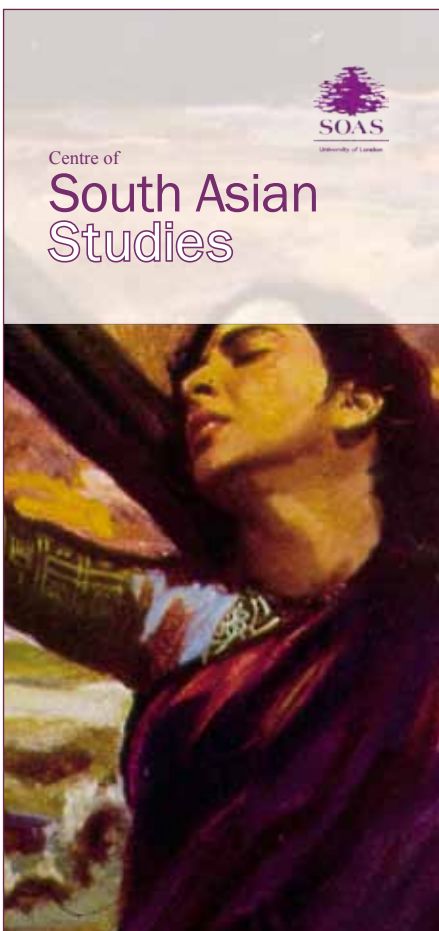
CENTRE OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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

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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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