



SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE

SOAS University of London

100 Years

SSAI Annual Review

2015/16

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From the Director Professor Michael Hutt



Welcome to this third edition of the SOAS South Asia Institute's Annual Review. As you will see from the event listing and members' reports, 2015-16 was another extremely busy year for us.

We organised and hosted a large number of conferences and seminars on topics ranging from caste in development discourse in India, to an appraisal of Prime Minister Modi's first 18 months in office, to two centuries of UK-Nepal relations. We contributed to debates on the future of higher education in India at conferences and roundtables in London, Kerala and Delhi organised by the British Council, the Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Universities UK.

We exchanged graduate students with JNU and Presidency University and welcomed students from both universities to our second annual graduate student workshop, on the theme of 'Radical South Asia'. We also sent the first of our Masters students to study in Kathmandu University. HEFCE funding received under the Postgraduate Study Support scheme enabled us once again to take 18 Masters students working on South Asia away for a two-day residential dissertation writing workshop.

We enjoyed our interactions with Dr Bidu Bhushan Dash, our Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellow, and were delighted to re-establish SOAS's relationship with the Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust. We look forward to welcoming Charles Wallace fellows from both India and Pakistan next year.

Due to the generosity of Mr Michael Palin we were able to offer a full two-year scholarship on our MA Intensive South Asian Studies. Mr Palin's donation also enables us to digitise a long lost archive of photographs and films created in the sacred Braj area of Uttar Pradesh by SOAS faculty and research students during the 1970s. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations [ICCR] also approved two short-term scholarships for students on our MA Intensive South Asian Studies: these cover return air fares to India and provide a stipend for the period of the students' attachment to an Indian university.

A donation from the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust enabled us to award the first annual prize to the Masters student whose dissertation embodies the spirit of Noor and contributes to our understanding of the issues that concerned her.

I travelled to India and Nepal twice during the year, visiting Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai), Panjab University (Chandigarh), JNU, the Yes Institute, Kathmandu University, the ICCR and NDTV, and meeting students, alumni and friends and supporters of SOAS. In March, I was one of several members of the SSAI who participated in the launch of the Everlasting Flame exhibition (curated by Dr Sarah Stewart) and associated events at the National Museum in Delhi, which inaugurated SOAS's centenary programme on Indian soil.

On 6 June 2016, in collaboration with SOAS's Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy and the Diplomatic Academy of the UK government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, we launched a new online Masters programme in Global Diplomacy (South Asia). One of the SSAI's stated aims is to make SOAS 'the first point of contact for government departments, NGOs, business and the media seeking training, policy guidance, analysis and expert comment on South Asia': this is a major step in that direction.

In April we said goodbye to Jennifer Ung-Loh, who served as our Executive Officer on a temporary basis for six months, and welcomed Rosa Vercoe to the role. I am grateful to them both, and to Jane Savory, for providing the administrative support that is so crucial to the success of any academic endeavour. I am also grateful to Navej Purewal for her enormous contribution to our work in her role as Deputy Director, and to all of the many colleagues, friends and supporters who enabled us to make 2015-16 another very successful year.

SOAS South Asia Institute Research Themes

1. Resources Under Pressure.

The finite nature of natural resources presents pressing challenges to the sustainability of the environment for future generations. South Asia's people face a significant shortage of replenishable water and mass food insecurity, exacerbated by both rapid economic growth and climate change. Our specialists in development studies and anthropology focus on pressures on land, the environment and food and water supplies; the delineation of private and public space; the relationships between agriculture, nutrition and health; the effects of climate change; and the development of infrastructure and roads.

2. Citizenship, Rights and Inequality.

Imperatives to address social and economic inequality run across the South Asia region, raising questions about how governments and communities are responding to local and global discourses of inequality and exclusion. Debates on caste and gender-based violence and injustice and the rights of religious minorities and migrants continue to raise questions about political rights in South Asia and in South Asian diaspora communities around the world. SSAI scholars working in the fields of law, history, politics, development studies and migration and diaspora studies focus on inclusion and exclusion on the basis of gender, caste, language and differing ability; migration networks and regimes; the understanding of political rights; and labour and social movements.

3. The Politics of Culture and Religion.

The cultural realm transcends many facets of South Asian societies and calls for sophisticated linguistic and cultural analysis. Religion, in particular, shapes the evolution of mainstream processes and politics (whether by overtly representing religious identities or merely utilising religion to mould vote banks and publics within postcolonial nations), while also existing on the fringes and margins of society in other forms. Our political scientists and historians and our specialists in language, literature, and religion research constructions of national and religious identities; the exercise of Indian soft power; textual production and circulation; the creation of publics across regions and periods; popular religious movements; and linguistic hybridity.

4. Interactions and Interventions in the Arts.

Creative expression and South Asia's cultural industries reflect how South Asian societies interact, respond and intervene through artistic mediums. For example, the Bollywood film industry and the region's burgeoning 'art house' cinema all voice cultural analysis and critiques of society. SSAI researchers working in media, music, film studies and anthropology investigate the production, distribution and consumption of films; urban soundscapes; literary festivals; and patterns of broadcasting, listening and viewing.

5. Lineages of knowledge and power.

The means by which power is exercised, and the tools it uses, are widely understood to rely not merely upon force but also (and perhaps more significantly) upon systems of knowledge. The exploration of lineages of knowledge and power is a strength of the SSAI, given SOAS's long tradition of critically analysing historical and contemporary trajectories of power. Our historians research topics including South Asian urban modernities; South Asian knowledge systems; pre-colonial regional identities and non-metropolitan cultures; and justice in the pre-modern period.

6. Prospects for the Indian economy.

The fast-growing Indian economy is included in the BRICS group along with Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa, and is amongst the G-20 major economies, according to the WTO. Our economists and our specialists in financial and management studies focus on India in the global economy; changing patterns of trade specialization and public finance; technological and strategic interactions between Indian firms; formal and informal lending; labour management relations; and Special Economic Zones.

Studying South Asia: Michael Palin's gift

The South Asia Institute's MA Intensive South Asian Studies offers students the opportunity to develop real proficiency in a South Asian language, study at a university in the region, and develop regionally focused research skills. In August 2015 students on this programme set out for three different universities for their semester of study: Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, Presidency University in Kolkata, and Kathmandu University, Nepal.

It is now very clear that there is a market for this programme, and that the main barriers to recruitment are financial. We were therefore delighted when SOAS Honorary Fellow Michael Palin CBE donated a major gift worth £70,000 in order to fund a full two-year scholarship for a student enrolling on the MA Intensive South Asian Studies in 2016. Mr Palin's donation will also support the digitisation and cataloguing of a collection of about 4,500 photographs of sacred sites in Vrindaban and Braj, the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Uttar Pradesh (India). The photographs were taken by the late Dr Alan Entwistle (1949-96) during the mid-1970s, while he was a PhD student at SOAS, and are part of the SOAS Library collection.

We are dedicated to creating a deep and sophisticated understanding of South Asia in our students and SOAS' resources in this field exceed those of any other British university. Michael Palin's very generous gift opens a door for students who are unable to access this type of academic training on the grounds of cost. We are also delighted that the long lost Entwistle collection of photographs of Braj will now become accessible to students of devotional Hinduism and Indian religious history worldwide.



Michael Palin CBE with Professor Anuradha Lohia (Vice-Chancellor, Presidency University) and Baroness Valerie Amos (Director, SOAS).



Juli Perczel, (MA Intensive South Asian Studies 2014-16) with Professor Alam, Head of the Centre of Indian Languages and Literatures, and colleague at JNU.

The Noor Inayat Khan Dissertation Prize

A donation from the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust in 2015 will henceforth enable us to award an annual prize of £1000 to the SOAS Masters student whose dissertation in South Asian Studies, Gender Studies or History related to South Asia embodies the spirit of Noor Inayat Khan and contributes to our understanding of the issues that concerned her.

Noor Inayat Khan was born in Moscow in 1914 to an Indian father and an American mother. She began a career as a children's writer, but as World War 2 broke out she joined the British Special Operations Executive and supported the Resistance in France. The first woman radio operator to be smuggled into occupied Paris, Noor was executed at Dachau concentration camp in 1944, at the age of 30. She was posthumously awarded the George Cross, the highest British civilian award for bravery, and the Croix de Guerre by France.

A bust of Noor, established by the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust in 2012, stands in Gordon Square, close to where Noor lived at 4 Taviton Street from 1914 to 1920. Shrabani Basu, Noor's biographer, records that she used to often sit in her uniform on one of the benches in the Square and read a book on her days off, and as a child she played in Gordon Square with her siblings.

The first awardee of the Noor Inayat Khan Dissertation Prize was Geetakshi Arora (MA Gender Studies 2014-15). The prize was awarded in Delhi and was reported on in several leading Indian newspapers.



Geetakshi Arora with (L-R) Smita Tharoor of the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust, Shashi Tharoor, and Michael Hutt.

MSc Contemporary India

A new MSc programme in Contemporary India began accepting applications for admission to start in September 2016. This is an exciting programme which has an emphasis on a social science approach to cutting edge issues related to the study of contemporary India. Being an increasingly significant actor on the global and regional stages, India has become a place of academic, economic and policy interest in its own right. The South Asia Institute looks forward to welcoming the first batch of MSc Contemporary India students to SOAS.

The MSc Contemporary India Studies degree offers a critical, cutting edge study of present day India. The programme takes an interdisciplinary approach and provides analytical training.

Students have the opportunity to choose to study contemporary India topics, issues and challenges in the following subjects: anthropology, cinema, culture, development studies, history, law, literature, politics, study of religions and languages.

The MSc Contemporary India Studies programme:

- introduces students to recent topics, methods and debates in the study of India
- prepares students at an advanced level to pursue research interests
- allows students to opt in for language training in Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Panjabi and Urdu

The MSc Contemporary India Studies is based in the South Asia Institute which has an active schedule of events and seminars throughout the year and attracts renowned speakers and scholars not only from India but also internationally.

Internship opportunity

The MSc Contemporary India Studies degree offers students the opportunity to go on a 2-4 week work placement to India during the course of their studies, with placements provided through SOAS' vibrant alumni network and the Careers Office.

Opportunities for placements fall within three broad areas: NGOs and development; business and economics; and media and journalism. They are arranged through the Careers Office and administered by the South Asia Institute.

The MSc Contemporary India Studies is designed to appeal to those interested in understanding current events and developments in India and who want to gain a deeper understanding for academic or commercial purposes such as business, industry, government departments or NGO.'



Are you interested in our MA or MSc?

Please contact:

SOAS Student Recruitment Office,
Ground Floor, Main Building
SOAS, Russell Square,
London WC1H 0XG

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7898 4700
Email: study@soas.ac.uk
Website: www.soas.ac.uk/sro/

Announcing the new MA Global Diplomacy (South Asia)

SOAS will be offering a new online programme, MA Global Diplomacy (South Asia), from this autumn. The programme has emerged from an extended conversation between the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth office and the SOAS South Asia Institute, and is being offered by the SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy [CISD] and the South Asia Institute [SSAI] in collaboration with the FCO's Diplomatic Academy. It was officially launched in the Map Room of the FCO in Whitehall on 6 June 2016.

This new initiative brings SOAS' experience in innovative online learning and its excellent international reputation in the fields of Global Diplomacy and South Asian Studies together in one programme. The programme will provide students with an in-depth critical understanding of the nature of South Asian diplomacy and political economy and will cover, inter alia, diplomacy and security in the region, modern history and the effects of colonization, political economy, religion, caste and gender.

The programme aims to introduce students to the complexities of the region and provide a sound grounding in diplomatic studies. It is intended to benefit those who are engaged in or embarking on a career in diplomatic or related fields. Students will deepen their understanding of international affairs and contemporary diplomatic practice with a regional focus on South Asia. We look forward to enrolling the first cohort of FCO-funded students onto this innovative online programme in October 2016, and to welcoming growing numbers of students from other departments, and indeed from other governments and other walks of public life, in the years to come.



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Email: study@soas.ac.uk
Website: www.soas.ac.uk/sro/

Recent Achievements by SSAI Scholars

Crispin Branfoot was on sabbatical leave funded by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship for his project 'Pious Vandalism: Building Temples in the Tamil Renaissance, 1850-1930' and conducted research in Tamilnadu in February and August. In January 2016 he and Archana Venkatesan of University of California Davis discussed their new book *In Andal's Garden: art, ornament and devotion in Srivilliputtur* (Marg Publications, 2015) at the Jaipur Literary Festival. In April he delivered the keynote lecture for a two-day workshop 'New Directions in Nayaka Studies' at the University of Chicago on the art, history and literary cultures of 16th to 18th century south India. In August he delivered a talk at the British Council in Chennai during Madras Heritage Week on British architectural photography in Madras Presidency 1855-1910. His publications included 'The Tamil gopura: from temple gateway to global icon' in *Ars Orientalis* vol. 45, Special Issue: The Transmission of Architectural Knowledge in South Asia, 78-112; Venkatesan, Archana & Crispin Branfoot *In Andal's Garden: art, ornament and devotion in Srivilliputtur* (Mumbai: Marg Publications, 2015) and the edited volume *Traditional Arts of South Asia: continuities in contemporary patronage and practice* (London: Saffron Books, 2015).

James Caron began his sabbatical year at the 4th Annual Herat Security Dialog, organised by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies in October 2015. This conference gathered academics, poets, diplomats, journalists, and activists in the Herat Citadel, Afghanistan, to explore new paradigms of security based in Islamicate critical humanities, alongside more commonplace approaches. His sabbatical year ended with his participation as one of two mentors from SOAS, alongside Jan-Peter Hartung, in the University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel foundation's two-week summer school in Governance, Conflict, & Peace Building. He also presented at the University of Peshawar's fifth annual Borderland Studies conference, and used this opportunity to lay the foundations, along with Peshawar-based faculty, for a monthly Borderland Studies Reading Circle—to be conducted in the near future via e-conferencing between faculty and research students at SOAS and at the University of Peshawar's department of Political Science. Finally, he and Dr Hartung presented on Afghan-Pakistan borderland studies at four leading universities of Islamabad. In between, James also discussed the early stages of his research into digital humanities methods for historical ontologies at events in Melbourne, Aarhus, London, and Kyoto. His publications for the year included four articles in *South Asian History and Culture* ('Borderland Historiography in Pakistan', (SAHC 7(4)); 'Sufism and Liberation across the Indo-Afghan Border: 1880-1928' (SAHC 7(2)); 'Popular Culture, Radical Egalitarianism, and Formations of Muslim Selfhood in South Asia' (SAHC 7(2)); and 'Activism, knowledge and publishing: some views from Pakistan and Afghanistan' (SAHC 7(1), with M. Ahmad). He also published 'The Lives of Amir Hamza Shinwari: on personal histories against an imperial border' *Tanqeed | a magazine of politics and culture*, 10.

Philippe Cullet served as a member of Committees formed to draft the Model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Act, 2016 and the Draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 for the Government of India's Ministry of Water Resources. In 2016 he was awarded a Leverhulme International Academic Fellowship to work on a project entitled 'Sanitation in India: Understanding a Complex and Controversial Right.' He delivered a keynote speech on water security at the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-V in Leh-Ladakh in September 2016, and also organised a workshop on 'Right to Sanitation: from Articulation to Implementation' at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi. He published a book chapter entitled 'International Water Norms and Principles – Impacts on Law and Policy Development in India', in Mauro Bussani & Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler (eds), *Comparisons in Legal Development – The Impact of Foreign and International Law on National Legal Systems* (Zurich: Schulthess).

Peter Flugel organised the 18th Jaina Studies Workshop on Jainism and Science of the Centre of Jaina Studies at SOAS on 18-19 March 2016 and co-organised with Nalini Balbir the Jaina Studies Panel at the 16th World Sanskrit Conference in Bangkok on 29 June, at which conference he also delivered a paper on Jaina Prosopography. Peter Flugel further reports that during 2015 three new volumes appeared in the Centre of Jaina Studies edited series *Routledge Advances in Jaina Studies*: these were Piotr Balcerowicz' monograph *Early Asceticism in India: Ajivikism and Jainism*, and two edited volumes: *Jaina Yoga*, edited by Christopher Key Chapple, and *Jaina Scriptures and Philosophy* edited by Peter Flügel and Olle Qvarnström. In February 2015 the three year research project Johannes Klatt's Jaina-Onomasticon, financed by Leverhulme Trust Research Grant RPG-2012-620, was successfully completed by Peter Flugel and Kornelius Krümpelmann. Two new research projects were started in 2015-16: the Exploratory Survey of the Jaina Heritage in Pakistan (2015-16), sponsored through a Gift of Baron Dilip Mehta, Antwerp; and Literary Heritage of the Aniconic-Traditions (2016-17), financed by British Academy / Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant SG152131.



Amal Gunasena presented jointly with Prof. Kate Crosby a paper entitled 'Boran kammatthana manuscripts from Sri Lanka' at a conference on Traditional Theravada Meditation in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 4th to 8th July 2016 organized by King's College, London and Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient.

Almut Hintze was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2015 and in March 2016 she was notified of the award of an ERC Advanced Investigator Grant of 2.5 million Euros for a project on the training of Zoroastrian priests, the performance of their key ritual, the Yasna, and the edition and translation of their sacred texts. In March 2016 she attended the opening of the exhibition 'The Everlasting Flame' in New Delhi which she co-curated. Her publications included 'Who are the Zoroastrians?' in the *British Academy Review* 28, (Summer 2016); and (with Anna Tessmann), 'Zarathustra's Time and Homeland: Linguistic perspectives' in: M. Stausberg and Y.S.D. Vevaina (eds.), *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism*. (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Fezy Ismail co-authored an article entitled 'Class struggle, the Maoists and the Indigenous Question in Nepal and India' in *Economic and Political Weekly* (L(35): 112-23) and an encyclopaedia entry on 'Nepal, imperialism and anti-imperialism', and wrote about Nepal's 2015 earthquake in *OpenDemocracy* ('Nepal: Natural disaster, unnatural suffering' *OpenDemocracy*, 2 May 2015). At SOAS she co-organised the event 'Nepal's Earthquake One Year On: Resilience, Relief and Remembering', with colleagues from the Britain-Nepal Academic Council. She participated in a workshop on 'What is South Asia?' and gave a seminar presentation on 'Ethnic unrest and rising nationalism in South Asia', both at Oxford University.

James Mallinson's Hatha Yoga Project team had a very productive year collating and editing manuscript readings for the ten texts they are editing and undergoing fieldwork. The highlights have been two discoveries: that the *Amritasiddhi*, the oldest text on physical yoga (c.11th century), was composed by tantric Buddhists; and the oldest depictions of complex yoga postures, on a decorated city gate in Dabhoi, Gujarat. More information about the project can be found at the project website: hyp.soas.ac.uk.

Werner Menski continues to edit South Asia Research and produced a Special Issue on Caste for SAR 36.3 (November 2016), dedicated to former SOAS Director Paul Webley. He published 'Still Asking for the Moon? Opening Windows of Opportunity for Better Justice in India', in a Special Issue on India for *Verfassung und Recht in Übersee* (49.2) and provided a joint introduction to the book edited by Kyriaki Topidi and Lauren Fielder on *Religion as Empowerment: Global Legal Perspectives* (Routledge). Apart from serving on numerous editorial boards, he was involved in several doctoral training programmes and Summer Schools in Switzerland, Italy and Germany and presented a paper at the 4th ICLARS Conference in Oxford on Freedom of Religion in India..

Alessandra Mezzadri contributed lectures on globalisation and labour in the Middle East and in India and on labour informalisation and health and safety provisions in India in the University of Turin's India summer school programme in 2016. Her publications during the year included 'Class, gender and the sweatshop: on the nexus between labour commodification and exploitation' *Third World Quarterly*, 37(10); 'The informalization of capital and interlocking in labour contracting networks' *Progress in Development Studies*, 16(2); and 'Working poverty in many sizes: A survey of Delhi garment workers challenges key assumptions in the labour standards debate' *Global Labour Column* (235). University of Witzwaterstrand, *Global Labour University* (GLU); and her monograph *The Sweatshop Regime: Labouring bodies, exploitation and garments Made in India* (Cambridge University Press).

Satoshi Miyamura presented a paper entitled 'Industrial Relocation, Organisations of Labour and Conditions for Industrial Development in India' at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, at Madison, Wisconsin in October 2015 and published an article entitled 'Diverse trajectories of industrial restructuring and labour organising in India' in a special issue of *Third World Quarterly*, 37(10): 1921-1941) of which he was also co-editor. The special issue of TWQ, entitled 'Class Dynamics of Development', also contained an article co-authored by Miyamura with Jonathan Pattenden, Liam Campling and Benjamin Selwyn, entitled 'Class Dynamics of Development: A Methodological Note' (*Third World Quarterly*, 37(10):1745-1767.)

David Mosse was invited by the Committee for the Celebration of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr B. R. Ambedkar to speak in the Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur on 'The Relevance of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar – Today and Tomorrow'. He delivered further public lectures at events celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University and VN Institute of Technology, Nagpur. On 21 April 2016 he delivered the 2016 Ambedkar Lecture at Edinburgh University, entitled 'Caste, Religion and Nation: Warping the Terrain of Social Policy'. His publications for the year include Jadhav, S., Mosse, D. and Dostaler, N., 'Minds of caste – Discrimination and its affects' *Anthropology Today*, 32: 1-2; 'Misunderstood, misrepresented, contested? Anthropological knowledge production in question' *Focaal—Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology* 72 (2015); a review article entitled 'Caste, class and the reproduction of privilege' in *Anthropology of this Century* 14, September 2015 (<http://aotcpress.com>); and 'Accommodation, reconciliation and rebellion in the history of Tamil Catholicism' in Malekandathil, Pachau and Sarkar, (eds). *Christianity in Indian History: Issues of Culture, Power and Knowledge* (New Delhi: Primus Books).

Nigel Poole continued to work on the DFID-funded programme on Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia, with particular responsibilities for research on value chains in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and also research in Afghanistan. Working papers have been produced on agriculture-nutrition policies and value chains, and some publications are in the pipeline. New research under way concerns drivers of dietary diversity in Afghanistan, supported by local partners.

Rahul Rao was on research leave in 2015-16, funded by a Leverhulme Research Fellowship. He is working on a book that will explore the relevance of time and temporality in the politics of queer movements in three locations—Uganda, India and Britain—yoked together by the experience of British imperialism and its afterlives. During the year he published three articles: 'The Diplomat and the Domestic: Or, Homage to Faking It' *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*; 'Recovering Reparative Readings of Postcolonialism and Marxism' *Critical Sociology*, and 'Global Homocapitalism' *Radical Philosophy*, 194 (Nov/Dec).

Amrita Shodhan published two articles during the year: 'The East India Company's Conquest of Assam, India, and "Community" Justice: Panchayats/Mels in Translation', *Asian Journal of Law and Society* 2; and 'Gandhi: Imperialism and Anti-imperialism' in *The Encyclopaedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism*, published by Palgrave-Macmillan.

Subir Sinha lectured at the University of Turin in June 2016 and published four papers during the year: 'Marxism and Postcolonial Theory: What's left of the debate?' *Critical Sociology* (online 17 December 2015, with Rashmi Varma); 'Histories of Power', the 'Universalization of Capital', and India's Modi Moment: Between and Beyond Marxism and Postcolonial Theory' *Critical Sociology* (online April 27 2016); 'On the verge of civil society in Contemporary India' in Alf Nielsen and Srija Roy (eds). *New Subaltern Politics* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press) and 'Commentary on Structures and Subjectivities' in Uday Chandra and Daniel Tariff (eds). *Staking Claims* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).

Mayur Suresh presented papers at Kings College India Institute on 2 December 2015 and the Contemporary South Asia Seminar Series, University of Oxford, 4 February, 2016 entitled, respectively, 'Law and the Culture of Epistolarity: Why "terrorists" write letters' and 'Magical horrors and absurd realities: the law of the police in a terrorism trial' and contributed to panel discussions on Sedition and the Nation, at Somerville College, University of Oxford on 8th March, 2016 and Global Sexual Politics on 16 March, 2016. On 18 February 2016 he served as a discussant at a conference on 'Legal Transfer within the Common Law World' organised by the Centre for Critical European Law, Birkbeck, University of London and Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt.

Navtej Purewal organised a two-day workshop in collaboration with the University of Hull: 'Gendering (In)security,' in July 2016. She is currently editing a journal special issue coming out of the workshop. She also gave invited talks at Panjab University, Chandigarh India, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi India, and the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), in Karachi Pakistan. Several publications came out this year, including two journal articles: Purewal, N. (2015) 'Interrogating the Rights Discourse on Girls' Education: Neo-Liberalism, Neo-Colonialism, and the Beijing Platform for Action', *IDS Bulletin*, Vol. 46, Issue 4; Purewal, N. and V. Kalra (2016) 'Adaptation and Incorporation in Ritual Practices at the Golden Temple, Amritsar,' *Journal of Ritual Studies* as well as a book chapter: T. Kamran and N. Purewal (2015) 'Pakistan's Religious Others: Reflections on the Minority Discourse on Christians,' in R. Long et al. (eds.), *Beyond Islam and Security: State and Nation-Building Since 1947 in Pakistan*, Routledge: London.

Simona Vittorini travelled to India in October 2015 to attend the Third India-Africa Forum Summit, funded by a grant from the British Academy and BASAS. She contributed commentary on and analysis of this summit and also of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the UK in November 2015, for Islam Channel, the BBC, the Financial Times, South Asia Monitor, and the Italian radio station Radio Popolare. In March 2016, she was invited to present a paper entitled 'The Third India-Africa Forum Summit 2015. Charting Narendra Modi's Africa Policy' at the Global Insecurities Centre, University of Bristol, and in September 2016 she attended The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom's annual conference in Cambridge where she presented a paper entitled 'Reciprocal Perceptions in Contemporary Indian-Ghanaian relations' with Dr David Harris. On 23 September 2016, Simona was invited by the Centre for African Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University and the African Studies Association of India to deliver a key note speech to a symposium on Contemporary India-Ghana Relations.

Burzine Waghmar presented a paper at the National Museum's 'Zoroastrianism in the New Millennium' conference that formed a part of the Everlasting Flame International Programme in Delhi in March 2016, and wrote the lead essay for the catalogue accompanying the 'Zoroastrian Threads: Life & Culture' exhibition at the IGNA. He co-edited (with Sunil Sharma) and contributed three papers to Firdawsii Millennium Indicum: Proceedings of the Shahnama Millenary Seminar (Mumbai: K R Cama Oriental Institute). He also delivered a talk, 'The East is a career: a centennial appreciation of SOAS', to the Camden Historical Society in July 2016. (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).

Burzine Waghmar and **Farzana Whitfield** co-hosted the 95th South Asia Archive and Library Group conference, 30 June 2016, focusing on Indo-Persian studies in memory of the first SOAS director, Sir Denison Ross. European Legal History, Frankfurt.

Alumni: Taking the South Asia Institute to India

In November 2015 a gathering of alumni took place in Delhi at Lodhi Gardens. Over 60 alumni attended the evening reception which was an opportunity to meet classmates as well as to network with other SOAS alumni living and working in and around Delhi.



At the opening of the Everlasting Flame exhibition in March 2016, a reception was held at the National Museum in Delhi for alumni as well as for SOAS offer-holders interested in meeting former SOAS students as well as faculty visiting India for the exhibition.



Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship Report

Bidu Bhusan Dash

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For information on how to apply for the Charles Wallace Trust Visiting Fellowship, please visit:
www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/fellowship/



February-April, 2016

On 19 October 2015, I received a mail from Jennifer Ung Loh on behalf of Michael Hutt informing me that I am selected for the Charles Wallace India Trust 3 Month Visiting Fellowship at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The next day I received a congratulatory mail from Richard Alford, Secretary of the trust. I started to research more about my project, SOAS and London, and finally landed at Heathrow on 1 February 2016. The moment I landed, I fell in love with London and its unpredictable weather.

I joined SOAS on 2 February 2016. From the very beginning of my stay at London, I attended as many seminars, talks, documentary screenings, book releases, and protest events as I could, to experience the charm of an international student's life, I was spoilt for choice. At SOAS I was introduced to several new ideas on media and development in South Asia. I also spent a good amount of time in the SOAS Library and the British Library to look at history of society in Kerala and other issues and writing my paper on moral policing and social media in the state of Kerala. I presented the working paper in a conference on Internet, Participation and Society: Opportunities for the Global South at University of Warwick on 17 March 2016. I also had the privilege of sharing my research at a seminar at SOAS on 27 April 2016, which was chaired by Subir Sinha. I really appreciate the interest with which the audience engaged with my presentation and the enriching discussion that followed. I also attended the ECR Social Media Workshop at the University of Aberdeen on 19-20 April 2016 for which I have Jennifer A Holden to thank as she invited me to the workshop. These events provided me with wonderful opportunities to connect with scholars from different universities across the United Kingdom.

Apart from the great academic environment that SOAS provided, every day of my stay in London brought something new. Staying at the International Lutheran Students' Centre (ILSC) brought many benefits. Academic engagement started right from the breakfast table in ILSC, where we would discuss a wide range of international issues; whether it is blasphemy in South Asia, or refugee in Germany, attack on Syria or tea culture of Colombia.

BBC Radio was my all-time favourite radio channel during my stay in London. Far from the home, when I heard songs like Likhe jo khat tujhe on NuSound Radio, a community radio station in East London,

on my way back from SOAS to ILSC late in the evening, made me feel nostalgic. I soon discovered that there are a good number of community radio stations in the United Kingdom which are managed by the South Asian diaspora. I visited the Desi Radio in Southall and Betar Bangla in East London. I also visited the RadioLab 97.1 FM, a campus based community radio of the University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus. I thank Janey Gordon, Lawrie Hallett and their students for having a wonderful interaction about their community radio. Though radio was not my research project for CWIT fellowship, as a scholar of community radio studies, I could manage to visit them and write stories on them. My article 'Going Desi in London' is published in CRNews, a community radio newsletter published by the University of Hyderabad.

Two long walks – from ILSC to Tower Bridge via Westminster and the walk back, and the Thames Path from Hampton Court Palace to Richmond are ever memorable. I will also never forget losing a few pounds in gambling on the Westminster Bridge. I had the rare privilege of seeing the idols of Shiva Pārbati and Sri Jagannath trinity in anthropological tribal attire from my home state Odisha now housed in the British Museum, London and at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford respectively. It was definitely a rich experience in terms of meeting people and also learning so much.

It was indeed an honour to be awarded as the Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT) visiting fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London for the academic year 2015-16. I could never have engaged better in the various academic activities at SOAS, London and other parts of the UK. Hence, I am highly grateful to the CWIT secretary Richard Alford, not only for arranging this visit but also taking interest in my research, coming to my office in the third floor of 21-22 Russell Square, having tea in the SOAS canteen, and the wonderful farewell I received. I would also like to thank Michael, Navtej, Jane, Jennifer and Subir, who were wonderful and always patient with my queries. I express my sincere thanks to the CWIT, SOAS and British Council India for their kindness and support, which made this a dream come true.

Visiting Scholars' Reports

Aratrika Bhattacharya, Visiting Scholar

As part of a link between Presidency University in Kolkata, India and SOAS, University of London; I was selected from Presidency University to make a research trip to London for five months (February to June 2016). The offer letter came as a shock and surprise at the same time. I was very excited at the prospect of crossing boundaries and taking my work outside of my country to discuss, debate, research and incorporate reviews and ideas from researchers worldwide and use one of the best libraries in the UK. However, I was getting married just a week before my departure to the UK, and it was not really an easy decision to leave the one-week old husband and a newfound family to make the trip alone for half a year. Thank God for such wonderful and ever-supportive parents, husband, in-laws and professors at PU that everything beautifully fell in place!

At SOAS, I felt at home with amazing hosts at SSAI. Prof. Michael Hutt being my academic guardian, my initial days were made easy with the constant help from Jennifer, Jane and Nenna. My research on the music performance tradition and the dynamics of ageing in the Bauls of Bengal also received multiple and constant inputs from Prof. Hutt, Dr. Navtej Purewal, Dr. Stephen Hughes, Dr. John Stevens, Dr. Sanjukta Ghosh, Dr. Priyanka Basu and Ms. Sahana Bajpaie. I extensively benefited from the archives at SOAS library, and of course, the huge collection of sound archives at the British Library. By the virtue of thi

s fellowship, I also got to access the LSE and Senate House libraries. During my stay at London, a part of my research was published in the US-based online journal, 'Café Dissensus' (Issue 27), and I acknowledge Ms. Sanjukta Ghosh wholeheartedly for giving me the opportunity. I was fortunate to be a part of SSAI's doctoral workshop 'Radical South Asia' during my stay and also got to exhibit my music in as part of the SSAI's Sangat series on Basant. With so much to learn, relish, experience and take back home at the end of the fellowship, I know that the decision which once seemed difficult, was wholly worth taking..

Shabana Shamaas Gul Khattak, Visiting Scholar

My Postdoctoral research study, 'The War on Terror is a War on Women in Swat Valley: Women Education under Terror and Displacement (2001-2011)' brought me in to one of the world prestigious institutes, SOAS. I loved the atmosphere; it was incredibly warm welcoming and friendly. I found myself in a diverse global village rather than an institute, full of all shades of cultures. I was supported and encouraged by teaching as well as administration staff. I felt like home and enjoyed SOAS multicultural community.

My close interaction was with the Centre for the Study of Pakistan (CSP) and Gender Studies because the relevance of my research project. My profound gratitude to Dr. Gina Heathcote of Gender Studies for allowing me to attend her lectures about gender and terrorism that indeed strengthened my study's theoretical framework. Amina Yaqin, my mentor and formal chairperson of the CSP has been a constant supporter; we had long

discussions on different issues of gender and Pakistan. I have been honoured by attending the annual lecture of 2016, 'ISIS, Paris, Pakistan and the search of Peace' by Prof. Ahmad and his film screening 'Journey in to Europe'. It inspired me by the variety of his conversation about Muslim minorities and their integration in peace building for multicultural peaceful society of the West.

We had great opportunities of all SOASIAN visiting scholars get together. These meetings were full of simulative intellectual discussions in informal enjoyable settings of cafes and public lawns, sometimes on walks.

I attended numbers of workshops, seminars and tutorials during my stay at SOAS. The library and IT support is remarkable, once you join in SOAS; it means you are in safe hands. Their timely resources provision enabled me to publish my research article from Sage Publications; 'Women Representation in Pakistani Legislatures: A Study of 2002, 2008, and 2013 General Elections'. I would like to take this opportunity to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to the entire community of SOAS, who made my stay memorable.

Professor Yanfen Wang, Visiting Scholar

My experience as a visiting scholar at SOAS from July to December of 2016 can be described as beautiful. I really enjoyed the time when I was in London.

First of all, I would like to thank Professor Michael Hutt who offered me the opportunity to be a Visiting Scholar at SOAS South Asia Institute. I was able to get some valued advice and access to a lot of resources about Nepal to do my project in the library of SOAS and at the British library. As a result this resource, in December of 2016, one of my articles (which belong to my project) was published. Secondly, my grateful thanks go to the staff in the library of SOAS. During the first three months (from July to September) the School was on a summer vacation, but the service that was provided despite this holiday period was beyond satisfactory. When the new academic term began in October I was attracted to the colourful campus life of SOAS, like participating the conference "the Past before us: heritage and history in South Asia" held at the beginning of October.

Attending the conference gave me a chance to meet and communicate with different scholars from UK, USA, India, Pakistan and Singapore. Participating in some lectures at SOAS and LSE, contributing in part to some seminars or even auditing some classes in different places gave me a new perspective on my area of research. All of these events, the different topics and the ideas have all broadened my horizon.

Lastly but not the least, I would like to thank the staff of SOAS South Asia Institute. Jane and Rosa did me a great favour upon my arrival at SOAS; they made my academic journey a smooth one. Both Jane, Rosa, as well as Dorinne, Thomas and Yasimin were very nice and helpful.

All in all, I had a valued academic trip to SOAS and I have collected enough materials and developed new ideas to do further or more researches. I enjoyed and will treasure the good memory of my experience in SOAS.

The Centre for Pakistan Annual Review

The last year has been an eventful year for Pakistan culturally and politically with continuing challenges for its democracy and the limits of free speech.

Here at SOAS the Centre for Pakistan has had a very busy year curating a series of events that highlighted the latest scholarship on key issues connected from radicalisation to minority rights in Pakistan from a variety of contexts including the disciplines of Anthropology, Film, Gender, History, Literature, Journalism, and Politics. One of the highlights of the year was the Centre's collaboration with the Graham Layton Trust for a charity film screening of the Pakistani film Manto directed by Sarmad Sultan Khoosat. The film director has received the President's Pride of Performance award since. For the Centre, the screening of Manto was a culmination of our cultural trajectory for the last few years from when Professor Ayesha Jalal first delivered the Annual lecture on the Pity of Partition to the SOAS student production Tales of 1947.

Our Annual lecture was delivered in the format of a conversation by notable SOAS alum Professor Akbar Ahmad on 'ISIS, Paris, Pakistan and the search for peace' and Professor Lord Bhikhu Parekh. The coming together of two eminent academics resulted in a dynamic exchange of ideas reminding us of the wealth of scholarship in Pakistan, India and its diasporas in the UK and USA. We also screened Professor Ahmed's new documentary film, 'Journey into Europe' as part of the Centre's collaboration with the Muslims, Trust and Cultural Dialogue project. Both events attracted high profile visitors and the film screening brought the honourable High Commissioner of Pakistan, Syed Ibne Abbas and his wife to the KLT. Ahmad's documentary film has been described as an emotionally powerful and fascinating story representing feelings of identity and acceptance amongst Muslims in Europe historically and in the present bringing together perspectives from archbishops, chief rabbis, the grand mufti, heads of right wing parties and everyday people. It advocates a message of bridge building in times of crisis revisiting Al-Andalus.

This year we also welcomed a new Visiting Scholar in the Centre, Dr Shabana Gulkhan Khattak who is working on a postdoctoral project on the impact of terrorism and counter-terrorism on women's education in Swat, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. Dr Khattak completed her PhD at Middlesex university and was formerly a lecturer at Qurtabah university Peshawar and International Islamic university, Islamabad. She will be dividing her time



between Swat and London and we wish her good luck with her field research. I feel a great sense of sadness that I am writing this as my last Annual Review as Centre Chair. It is a job that has been close to my heart and I have been enriched by conversations with so many academics, activists, artists and others dedicated to the project of a research led Centre on Pakistan. I am truly honoured to have had the support of colleagues at SOAS who invested in me the responsibility for the Centre as part of a new initiative to make visible the study of Pakistan at SOAS. I hope that we have succeeded in developing a forum where people can freely exchange ideas, develop new projects and research collaborations both within the School and beyond. I have enjoyed listening to and taking part in a variety of conversations from different perspectives that have opened up new ways of looking at Pakistan. I am convinced that we can change the Pakistan brand through a continued investment in cultural dialogue, a tolerance of difference and mutual respect.

I would like to thank the admin teams in the Centres and Programmes office who have tirelessly supported the Centre's extensive schedule of events, project partnerships and kept everything ticking over. I am also indebted to the South Asia Institute team and the Pro Director of Research for including the Centre as part of South Asia led resources at SOAS. I am also thankful to those who have freely given their time to the Centre including our incredibly resourceful and energetic student body.

I wish my successor the very best for the future.

Amina Yaqin
Centre Chair, July 2016

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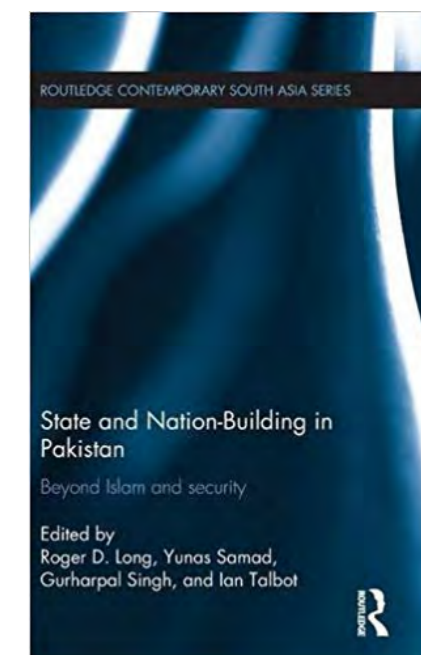
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SSAI – Events Listing

September 2015 – August 2016

Seminars

23 November 2015

Seminar

The Maldives: Islamic Republic, Tropical Autocracy

J.J. Robinson (author)

8 December 2015

Seminar

India, Islamophobia, and the Global War on Terror

Professor Achin Vanaik
(University of Delhi)

3 February 2015

Seminar

The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities

Amanullah de Sony
(University College Cork)

24 February 2016

Seminar

State, religious institution and community: Conservation and stigmatized slaughter in pastoral societies in the Himalayas

Mari Miyamoto (Newton International Fellow, SOAS South Asia Institute)

9 March 2016

Seminar

Lost in Transition: Rebuilding Nepal

Kul Chandra Gautam (Author)

17 March 2016

Seminar

The New Pakistani Consensus: Democracy As An Agreed Façade?

Christophe Jaffrelot (King's India Institute)

21 April 2016

Seminar

Syncretic Erotics: Pre-colonial Modernity in Nawabi Lucknow

Professor Ruth Vanita
(University of Montana)

27 April 2016

Seminar

Kiss Me!: Protest Against Moral Policing In Kerala, India

Dr Bidu Bhusan Dash (Charles Wallace India Fellowship 2015-2016 Recipient)

27 April 2016

Seminar

Contemporary Hindi Film Directors: From Behind the Scenes to Being Scene Stealers

Professor Aysha Iqbal Viswamohan
(IIT Madras, India)

20 April 2016

Seminar

Cultures of Fear: Community Journalism amidst Chronic Urban Unrest

Laurent Gayer
(CNRS/CERI-Sciences Po, Paris)

24 May 2016

Seminar

The Dabistan and Orientalist views of Sufism

Professor Carl W. Ernst (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Events

5 September 2015

Conference

Caste out of the Shadows: A conference on caste, inequality and development

5 October

Panel Discussion

Commemorating the Life of Radical Kenyan Trade Unionist and National Liberation Activist Makhan Singh

Chaired: Dr Navtej Purewal
(SOAS University of London)

9 October 2015

Conference

Muslim South Asia Graduate Conference 2015

7 October 2015

Film Screening and Q&A with Director

Between Memory and Museum

Arun Wolf (Director)

15 October – (until 31.12.2016)

Exhibition

Rural world in India

Edward Simpson
(SOAS University of London)



20 October 2015
Book Launch

Secularism, Islam and Education in India, 1830–1910

Speaker: Robert Ivermee
(SOAS University of London)

Discussant: Professor David Arnold
(Warwick University)



28 October 2015
Film Screening

An Ordinary Election

Subir Sinha (SOAS University of London)

Lalit Vachan (Director)

Professor Srirupa Roy
(University of Göttingen, Germany)

28 October 2015

Book Launch

To End a Civil War: Norway's Peace Engagement with Sri Lanka

Mark Salter (Author) & Various Speakers

30 October 2015

Conference

The future of the rural world? Africa & Asia

Chair: Baroness Valerie Amos

Keynote Speaker: Edward Simpson
(SOAS University of London)

12 November 2015

Lecture

Britain Nepal Academic Council Annual Lecture: The Unique Blend of Literature, Politics, and History in the Writings of Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala

Professor Abhi Subedi
(Tribhuvan University)

13 November 2015

Film Screening

What the Fields Remember

Conversant: Mayur Suresh
(SOAS, University of London)

Subasri Krishnan (Filmmaker)

Nicole Wolf (Goldsmiths University)

18 November 2015

Book Launch

Tellings and Texts: Music, Literature and Performance in North India

Francesca Orsini
(SOAS University of London)

Katherine Schofield (Historian of Music in Mughal India)



6 – 7 November 2015

Conference

Mountstuart Elphinstone and the Historical Foundations of Afghanistan Studies: Reframing Colonial Knowledge of the Indo-Persian World in the Post-Colonial Era

Keynote Speaker: William Dalrymple

Keynote Discussant: Shah Mahmoud Hanifi

19 November 2015

Panel Discussion

Assessing Modi's Track Record, Eighteen Months On

2 December 2015

Panel Discussion

Making Social Responsibility the Main Course: Social change and good business in the restaurant world

Iqbal Wahhab, OBE, FRSA
(Founder Of Roast Restaurant And The Cinnamon Club on page 7)

29 January 2016

Film Screening

Zinda Bhaag

Discussant: Rachel Dwyer
(SOAS University of London)

Speaker: Dr Meenu Gaur (Director)

4 – 5 February 2016

Film Screening and Q&A with Director

Chauthi Koot and Anhey Ghorhey Da Daan

Derek Malcolm (The Guardian)

Gurvinder Singh (Director)

Centre for Study of Pakistan – Events Listing September 2015 – August 2016

16 February 2016
Film Screening

Documentary Screening of *Azad and Jinnah: A Political Rivalry in Late Colonial India*

Amar Sohal (Merton College, Oxford)

10 March 2016
Film Screening

Tongues on Fire Film Festival: True Cost

23 March 2016
Workshop

Britain-Nepal Academic Council
Bicentenary Workshop on
Britain-Nepal Relations

9 May 2016
Workshop

Radical South Asia (Workshop with
graduate students)

Dissertation

9 May 2016

Panel Discussion

Indian University Campuses under
Pressure: National and International
Dimensions of Recent

18 May 2016

Panel Discussion

Nepal's Earthquake One Year On:
Resilience, Relief and Remembering

20 May 2016

Workshop

Ambedkar Dialogues: Challenges Faced
By Ambedkarite Radicalism Today
– Interrogating Attempts To Silence
Debates On Caste

16 and 17 June 2016

SSAI MA workshop for
MA dissertation students,
Cumberland Lodge

1 – 2 July 2016

Workshop

Gendering (In)Security: The Exclusionary
Affects of Neo-Liberalism



Sangat: Dialog Punjab

The monthly term-time meetings of Sangat have seen a rich programme of readings, discussions and recitations of poetry written by prominent figures in Punjab's literary and shared Sufi tradition. During the 2015/2016 academic year, many students and members of the public from outside of SOAS attended the sessions in broadening its reach with many postgraduate students from SOAS also attending and participating. Amarjit Chandan, a renowned London-based Punjabi poet, along with the Sangat team, including Radha Kapuria a PhD student in Music and History at King's College London, maintained the energy and sharpness of the sessions over the year.

Particular highlights were the sessions on Waris Shah when writers Ruksaana Ahmed and Ravinder Kaur led a session on gender and 'honour' in Waris Shah's *Heer* and the session on Shah Hussain (Madho Lal) in which sexuality and its taboo status in 16th century Punjab were discussed in relation to the life and poetry of Shah Hussain.

6 October 2015

Poetry Reading

Rendition of *Heer Ranjha*
Waris Shah (Poet)

3 November 2015

Poetry Reading

Sangat: Dialog Punjab – *Heer*
Waris Shah (Poet)

7 March 2016

Poetry Reading

Sangat: Dialog Punjab – *Basant*

Seminars

1 October 2015

Seminar

The causes of radicalisation in Pakistan
and in Britain

Owen Bennett Jones
(BBC World Service)

22 October 2015

Seminar

The history of the Durand Line and its
relevance today

Bijan Omrani (Asian Affairs)

12 November 2015

Seminar

Rhyming One Culture with Another: A
Poetry Reading and Conversation with
Shadab Zeest Hashmi

Shadab Zeest Hashmi (poet)
Ahsan Akbar (author)

26 November 2015

Seminar

Islamisation of Names in Pakistan

Dr Tariq Rahman
(Beaconhouse National University)

7 January 2016

Book Launch

State and Nation-building in Pakistan:
beyond Islam and Security

R. Long, I Talbot, Y Sumand & G. Singh
(eds)

Chair: Dr James Caron
(SOAS University of London)

21 January 2016

Seminar

Can commerce cover the umma?
National and regional taste

Reina Lewis (London College of Fashion)

17 March 2016

Seminar

The new Pakistani consensus:
Democracy as an agreed façade?

Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences Po and
CNRS (Paris) and King's India Institute
(London))

Events

8 October 2015

Lecture

New Muslim Elite and the Vernacular:
An Anthropological Perspective on
Colonial Sindh

Michel Boivin (National Centre for
Scientific Research, CNRS)

30 November 2015

Book Launch

The Shias of Pakistan: Andreas Rieck in
Conversation

Andreas Rieck (author)

3 December 2015

Panel Discussion

APS: A turning point in Pakistan's war
against terror?

Dr. Farzana Shaikh (Chatham House)
Huma Yusuf (Dawn Newspaper)
Saqlain Imam (Journalist)

29 January 2016

Film Screening

Zinda Bhaag

Meenu Gaur (Film Director)

Chair: Rachel Dwyer

(SOAS University of London)

20 May 2016

Annual Lecture

ISIS, Paris, Pakistan and the search for
peace: conversations with an Islamic
scholar

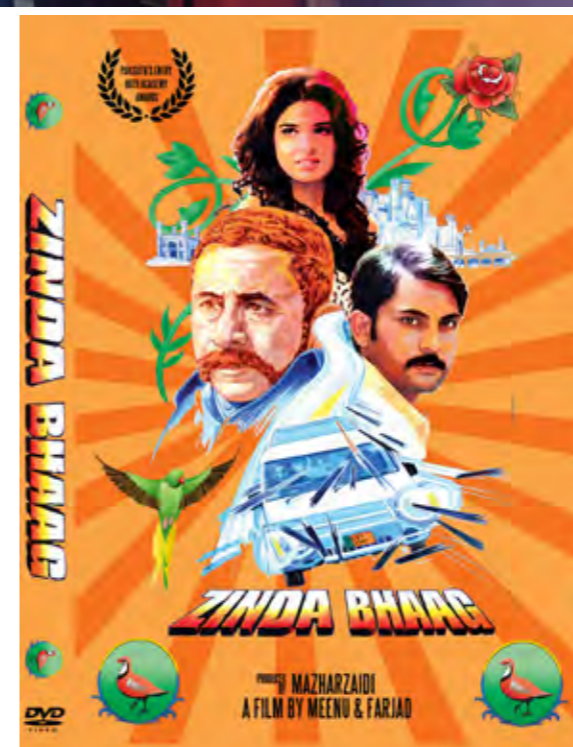
Speaker: Professor Akbar Ahmed
(American University in Washington, D.C.)
Discussant: Bhikhu Parekh
(Emeritus professor at the Universities
of Hull and Westminster)

21 May 2016

Film Screening

Journey into Europe

Chair: Dr Amina Yaqin
Professor Akbar Ahmed
(American University in Washington, D.C.)
Professor Peter Morey
(Professor at the Universities of
East London)



SOAS Exhibition: The Everlasting Flame, Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination

By Sarah Stewart



School visit to the SOAS exhibition at the National Museum.

In March 2014 the Indian Government's Minister of Finance, Mr Arun Jaitley, announced in his budget speech that the Government would sponsor the SOAS exhibition, *The Everlasting Flame, Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination*, to go on tour to India.

So began a two-year preparation for the exhibition that was first held in the Brunei Gallery (October 9 – December 15, 2013) to be reassembled for the National Museum in Delhi. Not only was this the first time that a SOAS exhibition had been taken on tour but sponsors of the EF in London, particularly the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, were rewarded by its tangible success in Delhi where there was a footfall of over 43,000 visitors.

The exhibition lent its name to the International Everlasting Flame Programme, organized by Dr Shernaz Cama, Director of Unesco Parzor, that presented two additional exhibitions on the Parsis of India as well as a cultural programme. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA) sponsored the Programme and Minister Dr Najma Heptulla took a special interest in the project.

The SOAS exhibition was opened by Baroness Valerie Amos, and Mr Venu Vasudevan, Director of the National Museum. Present were Baroness Tessa Blackstone, Chair of the British Library Trust, Professor Michael Hutt, SOAS, and Lord Karen Bilimoria.

Taking the exhibition to India gave the curators the opportunity to expand the collection to include new objects, paintings and textiles that have been described in a Supplement to the existing Catalogue, published by the National Museum. These included objects from the V&A, gold coins from the British Museum, manuscripts from the British Library and the National Museum in Delhi, and some original wall paintings from Penjikent, Samarkand courtesy of the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. The exhibition was greatly enhanced by loans of Sasanian silverware and Achaemenid stone tablets from the National Museum of Iran, Tehran. We were also able to borrow new paintings, furniture and textiles that had not been displayed before thanks to the Bombay Parsi Panchayet.

The exhibition provided a visual narrative of Zoroastrianism, from its ancient roots in Central Asia, through its history as the state religion of imperial Iran, to the settlement of Zoroastrians in India after

the Arab conquest of Iran in the seventh century. The National Museum refurbished a magnificent gallery, twice the size of the Brunei Gallery, and procured 30 new display cases. The exhibition kept its original designer, Colin Morris Associates, and the installation of a walk-in fire temple and 10-metre glass etching of a monumental staircase from Persepolis were installed.

Unique to the Delhi exhibition was a Schools programme, organized by the Museum, for children of all ages. Activities included themed walks, project work centred on highlight objects as well as mini lectures. Through the programme many young people learned not only about Zoroastrianism but were also introduced to SOAS. An alumni event with a guided tour of the exhibition (organized by the SOAS alumni office) attracted a large number group of alums and friends.

Exhibition curators and Catalogue editors in Delhi: Sarah Stewart (SOAS), Firoza Punthakey Mistry (Zoroastrian Studies Mumbai), Ursula Sims-Williams (British Library), Almut Hintze (SOAS), Pheroza Godrej (independent author and curator, Mumbai), Shernaz Cama (Director, Unesco Parzor).



Left: Silver dish showing watery scenes loaned from the Iran National Museum in Tehran.
Right: Portrait of Khanbahadur Hormasjee Kharshedji Bhaba loaned from the Bombay Parsi Panchayet.

SOAS South Asia Institute Key Staff



Michael Hutt (Director)
& Navtej Purewal (Deputy Director)



Join the SSAI

The South Asia Institute welcomes individuals and groups with an interest in South Asian studies who would like to get involved with our activities.

There are several ways of getting involved:

- **As a Student:** The SSAI runs our own two-year MA Programme, MA Intensive South Asian Studies and (from 2016) a new MSc in Contemporary India Studies. SSAI members also supervise PhD students working on a range of subjects relating to South Asia. We hold seminars and workshops specifically for students.
- **As a Public Member:** We hold many events free and open to the wider public, including our regular seminar series events (Wednesday evenings) and Sangat Dialog Punjab (Monday evenings). Join up to the e-bulletin and receive regular updates about our activities.
- **As a Visiting Scholar or Research Associate:** We welcome applications from interested scholars to join the SSAI. Contact the Institute for further information or visit www.soas.ac.uk/research/honorary-appointments/visiting-scholars.html

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Twitter: Follow and interact with us: @SOAS_SAI

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Blog: blogs.soas.ac.uk/ssai-notes

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