

Bulletin

BASAS BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

www.basas.ac.uk

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The New BASAS

On October the 1st 2007 the old BASAS merged with SSAS (the Society for South Asian Studies). Many members will not have noticed any particular change so far - but there has been a lot of work behind the scenes and the process of merging procedures and cultures is still ongoing.

The new society is a registered charity, and is in receipt of public funds via the British Academy, to which it makes an annual application for a grant. This grant contains two elements - an amount for maintenance of the office and outreach, and an amount for sustaining research.

It is important that members understand the broad outlines of the second component. Whereas once we were able to ask for a pot of money, and then distribute it to applicants as we thought fit, under a new procedure we have to specify individually several research projects, which then collectively constitute our research bid. Last summer the process happened at such a rate that the projects (they are listed on the web-site in the Corporate Plan) were mostly proposed by members of, or close, to Council.

This year we want to widen the pool of applicants – ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY HAVE SOME PROJECT OF SAY UP TO £10,000 WHICH THEY WISH TO PROPOSE FOR INCORPORATION. Particular attention has been paid recently to projects which link South Asian Studies to studies in other regions (e.g. India and East Africa.)

If you want to register an interest in this process, please send a single page of A4 with a project outline and costs to Assistant Secretary, Brenda McGregor, at ssas@btconnect.com, or by post to the office in Stephenson Way, as soon as possible, preferably before the end of July.

The deadline for the FINAL version of this year's submission is early September, so the Council is working to a difficult deadline.

Change of Chairmanship

From 1st July Professor Kunal Sen is taking over as Chairman of BASAS Council. This mid-term change is because Graham Chapman is leaving the UK to take up a research post at the National Academy in Oslo.

The BASAS blog

BASAS has recently launched a blog. The blog, which is available for viewing at www.basas-southasia.blogspot.com, will enable all registered BASAS members to post notices of forthcoming events, job postings, call for papers, etc. This facility will also enable all registered BASAS users to post comments, photographs, and documents.

The blog has been a great success. If you want to sign up as a registered BASAS blog user, please contact the BASAS Secretary at ls4@soas.ac.uk. The registration process is very simple and it is free of charge.

Members' News

HIMALAYAS

Congratulations to **Vibha Arora** who has been awarded an Outstanding Young Faculty Award and Al-Sagar Fellowship, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, for 2008-2010.

She is at the Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Indian Institute of Technology, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, and will be chairing the panel

Roots and Routes of Democracy in the Himalayas

at the European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies, University of Manchester, 8-11 July 2008.

See her 2007 papers: "Assertive Identities, Indigeneity and the Politics of Recognition as a Tribe: The Bhutias, the Lepchas and the Limbus of Sikkim, *Sociological Bulletin*, May-August, Vol. 56, No. 2, pp. 195-220. and "Unheard Voices of Protest in Sikkim, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 25th August, Vol. 42, No. 34, pp. 3451-54.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

From **Francis V. Tiso** (ftiso@usccb.org)

Francis has just edited articles for an issue of *Chicago Studies* (Spring 2008): **The Catholic-Muslim Dialogue: Reflections and Perspectives**

He has also just published a chapter: "Spoken Dialogue" for a volume *InterActive Faith: The Essential Inter-religious Community-Building Handbook* (2008).edited by Bud Heckman of Religions for Peace USA

PUNJAB

Pritam Singh has just had

Federalism, Nationalism and Development India and the Punjab Economy

Published by Routledge ISBN: 978-0-415-45666-1 February 2008

His book explores the triangular relationship between federalism, nationalism and the development process, focusing on the development of Punjab, which has been accompanied by federal conflict. Pritam's thesis is that the paramountcy of the project of Indian nation-building has forced individual states to play idiosyncratic roles.

AFGHANISTAN

Gérard FUSSMAN avec la collaboration d'Eric OLLIVIER et de BABA MOURAD, *Monuments bouddhiques de la région de Caboul-Kabul Buddhist Monuments*, II, Publications de l'Institut de Civilisation Indienne du Collège de France, fasc. 76¹ et 76², Paris, 2008. In print, will be available from September 2008 from DIFFUSION DE BOCCARD, 11 rue de Médecis, 75006 Paris, courriel : deboccard@deboccard.com ; <http://www.deboccard.com>.

The first part of this study was published in 1976 (Gérard FUSSMAN et Marc LE BERRE , *Monuments bouddhiques de la région de Caboul, I, Le monastère de Gul Dara*, Mémoires de la Délégation Archéologique Française en Afghanistan, tome XXII, Paris, Diffusion De Boccard). It contained mainly the final report of Gul Dara excavations. In this second and last part, every Buddhist monument in the Kabul and Koh Daman (Begram) areas discovered, surveyed or noticed till 2007 is precisely localized, described and set in its geographical and political environment. Most of the data and plentiful illustrations are published here for the first time.

JOBS: Studentship available

AHRC PhD Studentship: History of Medicine/ India

'The Civil Veterinary Departments of British India 1876-1947'

The Department of History at the University of Strathclyde has been awarded an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Studentship in partnership with the National Library of Scotland (NLS) for the topic 'The Civil Veterinary Departments of British India 1876-1947: Science, medicine, power and nature in a colonial context'. The PhD will be supervised by Dr James Mills at Strathclyde and Ms Jan Usher at the NLS and will start in October 2008.

For further details see http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/LS950/AHRC_PhD_Studentship/

Or contact jim.mills@strath.ac.uk

JOBS: Post-doc available

Postdoc at Cambridge University (starting October 2008) on any aspect of

Contemporary relations between India and East Africa.

Details below, deadline 13 June!

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/jobs/vacancies.cgi?job=3167>

Contact emma.mawdsley@geog.cam.ac.uk

JOBS Internships in Sri Lanka

The Point Pedro Institute of Development (PPID) is an independent, private, non-partisan and non-profit social science research institution based in Northern Sri Lanka. Visit <http://pointpedro.org> for further details. PPID specialises on research into economic dimensions of intra-state conflicts with particular focus on Sri Lanka. PPID offers unpaid internships to undergraduate or postgraduate students or recently graduated persons from within and outside the country, particularly to those who are undertaking or expect to undertake research on the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Due to the prevailing security situation in Northern Sri Lanka, interns will be based in Colombo. A modest office space with a desktop computer, printer and broadband Internet facility will be provided free of charge. Those who are interested may contact Muttukrishna Sarvananthan sarvi@pointpedro.org

WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

PERSIAN LITERATURE IN MULTILINGUAL INDIA: GENRES, CONTEXTS, STYLES

Faculty of Middle Eastern & Asian Studies (FAMES), University of Cambridge,
Department of the Languages and Cultures of South Asia, SOAS

University of Cambridge, **16-18 June 2008**

THEMES:

Language ideology and language use; Localism and internationalism; The culture of the Persian book; Rethinking *sabk-i hindi*; Courtly norms; Literary & other identities; Translations & rewritings; Indo-European encounters in texts & art; Patronage and poetic culture; Shaping a literary culture - Persian and Hindavi

Contact Dr Francesca Orsini fo@soas.ac.uk



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

GENDER AND SOUTH ASIA: NEW DIRECTIONS
Monday June 16

University of Nottingham Room A41, Sir Clive Granger Building, 9.45am

Speakers include: Nayanika Mookherjee (University of Lancaster), Srila Roy (University of Nottingham), Yasmin Sakia (University of North Carolina), Karen Adler (University of Nottingham), Parvati Raghuram (Open University), Sarah Hodges (University of Warwick), Siobhan Lambert-Hurley (Nottingham Trent University), Stephen Legg (University of Nottingham)

No registration fee but please confirm attendance for catering purposes. Follow the link for the full programme

For further details please contact:

Stephen Legg

T: 0115 8468402

stephen.legg@nottingham.ac.uk

20TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

The European Association of South Asian Studies

July 8-11th 2008 University of Manchester

Full programme at: <http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/ecmsas/programme/>

COURSES

GANESHA AND MURUGAN:

INDIAN PSYCHIATRY ENCOUNTERS MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

2nd UCL - BALM Short Course

Kovalam Village, Tamil Nadu, India

3-5 November 2008

Objectives: 1) Enable participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural validity of current theory and practice of mental health in South Asia, 2) Offer participants a critique of current mental health theory and practice 3) Conceptualise alternative frameworks for understanding mental health concerns in the region.

Target audience: Mental Health Professionals, Medical Anthropologists & other Social Scientists working or researching in mental health across cultures. The course is aimed at those who seek a broader perspective on the current official psychiatry; and wish to *theorise* alternative models of mental health in the region. Basic knowledge of social sciences as applied to mental health theory is essential. Maximum class size 35.

Outcome: An enhanced understanding of how medical anthropology could inform theoretical and applied issues on mental health in South Asia. A UCL - BALM certificate of participation will be issued to the trainees.

Teaching Faculty: Clinical Academic Psychiatrists and Medical Anthropologists from University College London (UCL); & Trainers from BALM (Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health), Chennai. *Course faculty include: Sushut Jadhav (Course Director), Jane Derges, David Goldberg, Sumeet Jain, Roland Littlewood, Madhuri Menon, Madhu Sharan, Mohan Ramamoorthy, & Chaitali Shetty (Course Co-ordinator).*

Contact: For further details, contact Chaitali Shetty, *Course Co-ordinator*. email: <chaitali.shetty@thebanyan.org>, Cell phone: +91-9840796637, Tel: +91-44-43532324, 43532223.

Web site www.thebanyan.org