

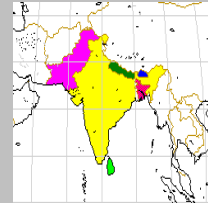
# B.A.S.A.S.

British Association for South Asian Studies

## BASAS Bulletin

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

VOLUME 4 No. 2 | SUMMER 2001 | ISSN 1461-8907



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### From the Editor

In the last issue of the Bulletin I suggested that any notices about forthcoming events should be posted (with contact details) on the BASAS WebPages. Alas, those of you who have tried to search for the BASAS homepage, will have found nothing but disappointment. This is because it is not up and running. In a hard-hitting exclusive to the Bulletin, **p.12**, Dr. Apurba Kundu of the University of Bradford explains why (and how we will very soon be back on-line, at a more *exclusive* and permanent cyber-site.). Several Conference reports, **p. 3 ff**, are printed (including on our own annual conference in Coventry) and details of some coming events. But perhaps some of you will turn first to the guide to help you get research money from the British Academy, **p.2**.

I have also included the BASAS constitution, **p.15**, partly because it was recently amended, but also because organisations often forget their history as new members replace old members (this is not, I hasten to add, an age-ist comment, I am referring to the length of service one has devoted to BASAS), and past decisions are lost in the mists of time or post-conference haze (you know you have been to too many BASAS conferences when they all seem to merge into one). Another aspect of re-covering BASAS' past involves trying to clarify the actual origins of the organisation. Following the last issue of the Bulletin, I received an email from Professor Colin Simmons, in response to Virinder Kalra's article about the need for a journal, Professor Simmons pointed out that BASAS was established by a small group of South Asianists in Gregynog in mid-Wales during a conference which was convened by Colin Simmons and Mike Shepperdson (Swansea) to review the centenary of the INC.

The first ever edition of the BASAS Bulletin suggests that the British Association for South Asian Studies was established as a result of two meetings on 14 December 1985 and 15 April 1986. The first BASAS executive included the following: Michael Lipton (IDS) Chair, David Arnold (Lancaster) Secretary, David Taylor (SOAS) Assistant Secretary, Primit Chaudhuri. Members: John Harriss (then UEA but now Professor at LSE and re-incarnated as BASAS current Chairman), Patricia Jeffery (Edinburgh), Naila Kabeer, Subrata Mitra (Hull), Devadas Moodley (SOAS), Elizabeth Nissen (Sussex/Durham), T. V Sathyamurthy (York), Colin Simmons (Salford), and John Smith (Cambridge). I guess it all depends on what we mean by the origins of BASAS.

No doubt all of us have watched with some concern the recent disturbances in Oldham and

Burnley. Virinder Kalra's piece, **p.13**, examines some of the factors behind these events.

The next edition of the Bulletin will be coming out around Dec/Jan. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the Bulletin, either a paper (a work in progress), a discussion piece, a conference or workshop notice or report, or even an old fashioned letter, please email them to me at the following address: [s.sayyid@salford.ac.uk](mailto:s.sayyid@salford.ac.uk)

**Bobby Sayyid**

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### **How can the British Academy help research in South Asian Studies?**

If you are a scholar of South Asian Studies who has completed a PhD and involved in high-calibre research in the social sciences or humanities, you may be eligible for one of the broad range of British Academy awards.

The British Academy has been supporting research for nearly a century. We now help over a 1000 scholars each year with research support schemes totaling £5.6 million. Whether you are a young academic embarking on your first postdoctoral project or a retired academic seeking funding outside of the university system, the British Academy has research grants, research posts, prizes, international exchanges and support for conferences that could sustain your work. Below is description of some of these awards.

#### **Small Research Grants**

One of our most popular means of support is the Small Research Grant. They have a maximum value of £5,000 and are open to all individual researchers in the UK who hold a PhD. The small grants can be particularly useful if you are engaging in a fledgling project, perhaps as a pilot-study before seeking more substantial funds. The awards are open to individual scholars, regardless of the RAE rating of your host institution, and indeed regardless of whether you are a member of a university: retired academics, library staff, curators and independent scholars have all been previous recipients. The quality of scholarship is the central criterion for your eligibility.

#### **New Larger Research Grant**

In June 2000 the British Academy launched its larger research grant scheme for pilot projects and field studies. The grants are open to all UK postdoctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences and have a maximum value of £20,000. The first winners will be announced in March 2001

The new scheme, with a first-year budget of £500,000, was agreed after a British Academy consultation exercise found a demand amongst UK academics for medium-level funding. Some research work requires support below the large grants provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) but more than the small grants provided by such bodies as the British Academy.

#### **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

We also have awards aimed at scholars who have recently completed a PhD. Because it is increasingly difficult for postdoctoral researchers to find permanent positions in UK universities, the British Academy offers awards for scholars to help their prospects of

obtaining permanent posts. For example, Dr Chiriyankandath was a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow between 1990 and 1993 at the University of Hull (Department of Politics). He is now Senior Lecturer in Politics at London Guildhall University.

The awards are tenable for three years and offer a salary starting at spine point 6 on the University Lecturer's Grade A scale (currently £18,731), or an equivalent scale. The next deadline for applications is not until February 2002 but if you are approaching the end of your PhD it is worth planning your Postdoctoral Fellowship now.

### **Why the British Academy?**

The descriptions of awards given above are only some of the ways we can help researchers focusing on South Asia. As the national academy for the humanities and social sciences, we have a broad range of expertise and bring together a wide range of disciplines. Support, such as the small research grants for individual researchers, means that the Academy complements the schemes for institutionally-based project funding provided by the AHRB (in the humanities and the ESRC in the social sciences).

If you have any queries about the awards discussed here or the other means of Academy support, please consult our website [www.britac.ac.uk](http://www.britac.ac.uk) (which includes downloadable award forms) or telephone on 020-7969-5200.

*Jonathan Breckon, External Relations Officer, The British Academy* Email: [jbreckon@britac.ac.uk](mailto:jbreckon@britac.ac.uk)

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### **Conference Reports**

#### **1) BASAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2001**

The BASAS annual conference this year was held at Coventry University through the kind auspices of Ian Talbot and Shinder Thandi. The meeting lasted one and a half packed working days, and had to go into parallel sessions on the second morning. About 50 people attended, most joining in the invasion of a local Indian restaurant on the Friday night for a convivial dinner. 26 papers were given in 7 panels. These were (with conveners in brackets): **Islam in South Asia** (Ishtiaq Ahmed), **Partition** (Ian Talbot), **Regional Economies** (Shinder Thandi), **Postgraduate Forum** (papers from Michael Carrington and Marcus Daechsel), **Diaspora** (Stacey Burlet), **Media** (Philip Woods), **South Asian Security** (Zafar Cheema and Graham Chapman). The guest plenary lecture was given by V.N. Balasubramanyam Lancaster University on "**The Evolution of National Economic Management in India**" drawing heavily and also wittily on his just published book Conversations with Indian Economists (Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2001), itself the result of in-depth interviews with ten of India's most prominent architects of economic policy since Independence.

**BASAS Postgraduate PRIZE** for the best p.g. paper presented at the conference was raised from £100 to £150, so that it could be shared between two front-runners. The Committee **congratulate David Tyrer** for his paper entitled "Pulp Friction: Constructing Fundamentalism and Muslim Student Antagonisms" and **Michael Carrington** for his paper entitled "The 'Pucka' Viceroy's Moral Empire Under Threat: the looting of monasteries during the 1903/4 Younghusband mission to Tibet".

#### **Paper Abstracts: BASAS Coventry Conference March 2001**

The following abstracts were submitted by e-mail attachment. (We apologise for not including the few abstracts submitted on paper, but we would have had to re-type them, something beyond our secretarial strength at the moment.) The abstracts are presented in the

order of the author's surname.

**Barrow, Joy, [JoyBarrow@aol.com](mailto:JoyBarrow@aol.com)**The effects of the past on the present: the development of gurdwaras in the Southall Sikh communityBased on empirical research that I conducted in the Southall Sikh community between 1993 and 1999 I will examine the development of gurdwaras in the town. I will identify three distinct Sikh traditions: those of the predominantly Jat migrants who arrived direct from Punjab in the late 1950s, the Ramgarhias who arrived from East Africa in the 1960s, and those who attend a gurdwara opened with the blessing of a sant whose dhera is in Luddhiana. I will analyse the reasons why, from its early days, the Southall Sikh community has not worshipped in one gurdwara, unlike the pattern in other Diaspora communities in Britain, and the ways in which these reasons continue to influence the interaction between the main gurdwaras in Southall to this day. However, I will also examine recent occasions when the main gurdwaras have united in a public demonstration of panthic unity.

**JOINT PRIZE WINNER Carrington, Michael, Dept. of History, Coventry University**The 'Pucka' Viceroy's Moral Empire Under Threat: the looting of monasteries during the 1903/4 Younghusband mission to Tibet.Fundamental to the moral development of the British Empire in India were the actions of far-sighted individuals willing to challenge orthodox perceptions of colonial rule. In this sense, the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon [1899-1905] was an important transitional period, administratively, psychologically and philosophically. Administratively, there was a minor revolution in the way Government in India attempted to reduce the mountains of paperwork and implement Curzon's major reforms. Psychologically and philosophically, the period was notable because Curzon attempted to implement policies and transmit ideas which would reinforce his belief in the righteousness of the Raj. He hoped to fulfil the role and ultimate destiny of the British Empire as the arbiter of moral justice in the colonial situation. He resolved to challenge a number of issues, some of which met with serious resistance from many in India and Britain [for example his campaign against collisions between natives and Europeans]. However, one event was to severely test the Viceroy's moral perception of Empire; this was the looting of the monasteries during the 1903/4 Younghusband mission to Tibet. The mission to Tibet opened up a country, which for many individuals held an obsessive fascination. It was thought that Tibet might hold vast storehouses of treasure or certainly enough Buddhist paraphernalia to satisfy the contemporary obsession with collection and classification. The mission advanced as far as Lhasa, the Tibetan capital. Reports in the Indian press of the defilement and looting of religious buildings challenged Curzon's conception of moral Empire and called into question one of the most important representations of British moral character, that of the officer and gentleman. The official reporting of the mission, however, always denied improper behaviour. The books, which were subsequently published by members of the mission, all reproduced a sanitised version of events, which saw the mission as either a regrettable, though necessary imperial event, or as a 'jolly caper'. Most of the publications, which followed the return of mission, ignored the triumph of technology over medieval tactics and weaponry and there was little or no mention of looting. More recently, there has been an attempt to produce a more realistic version of events, but apart from Chinese attempts to propagandise, no comprehensive survey of the extent of the looting has yet been produced. My paper provides a narrative of events, backed by research in Britain and India, which seriously challenge Lord Curzon's conception of moral empire.

**Cheema, M. Zafar Iqbal, St Anthony's College, Oxford [zicheema@yahoo.com](mailto:zicheema@yahoo.com)**Pakistan's Security And Defence: The Decision-Making ProcessSecurity and Defence decision-making in Pakistan have primarily focused on the military and strategic dimensions with an Indo-centric threat perception, and how to cope with that threat by maintaining a conventional defence capability and a nuclear deterrent posture. A distinctive feature of the process has been dominant role of the military in the decision-making. Civilian inputs have been fewer and more recent. Z. A. Bhutto's government instilled greater political

participation and tried to exercise civilian control over the military. It created a HDO (Higher Defence Organization), comprising a DC (Defence Council), a DCC (Defence Committee of the Cabinet) and JCSC (Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee). These institutional inputs have survived various somersaults in the Pakistani political-military system; activating themselves under civilian governments, while remaining dormant under military regimes. From early 1980s, the civilian institutional inputs have gradually increased, partly due to the process of gradual nuclearisation of the security system and partly due to the functional differentiation of professional expertise. At present, there are many academic institutions involved in research on security and defence related issues, providing inputs for policy making and promoting a strategic culture. Since the 1998 nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, strategic decision-making has increasingly focussed on the nuclear issues: weaponization, deployment, command and control, and doctrinal dimensions. After India's declaration of a draft nuclear doctrine, the government in Pakistan has announced the structure of its National Command Authority dealing with nuclear weapons development and employment control, which injects greater transparency in the system. The process also highlights the urgent need for both India and Pakistan to have direct communications and early warning systems to avoid miscalculation, false alarming and accidental use of nuclear weapons in the Sub-continent.

**Dudrah, Rajinder K**, School of Social and Historical Studies, University of Portsmouth. Vilayati Bollywood: Bollywood Cinema-Going in Birmingham Drawing on theoretical developments in the studies of Black British diasporas, combining textual analysis with extended qualitative interviews, and focusing on the citizenry of British South Asians in Birmingham, this paper offers an account of the history of the emergence, fall, and rise again of Bollywood cinema-going in the city as a cultural and leisure activity. This paper will argue that the localised space of the Asian cinema in which Bollywood films are viewed and made sense of are useful to an understanding of the films importance as texts and as an engagement with diasporic British South Asian social identities and geographies. As shall be demonstrated in the paper, Bollywood cinema-going in Birmingham, as in other parts of Britain, embodies notions of diasporic belonging and a remaking of post-war urban British landscapes that sustain and develop Black British public spheres.

**Ghelani, Tilusha** Email [t\\_ghelani@hotmail.com](mailto:t_ghelani@hotmail.com) Black and Brown Unite: Hip-hop and South Asian youth Identities in Britain Theorists such as bell hooks (1992) , and Ellis Cashmere (1997) argue that the consumption of rap music and hip-hop culture is marketed to and consumed by white, suburban, middle-class youth'. This is not the whole picture as disenfranchised urban youth in marginalized or impoverished communities overarchingly taken up hip-hop culture as a global reference point, often appropriating it to their own language or circumstances. In this paper, I will be referring to my research into the appropriation of a globally marketed African-American culture by some South Asian youth in Britain. I will be addressing the appeal of mediated 'black' American culture for South Asian youth, as well as the wider reasons for its take-up. In the 1980's, the use of the umbrella term 'black' for political reasons to include all visible ethnic minorities, contributed to a setting in which cultural resources began to be shared. Furthermore, the demonization of orthodox Islam as alien and threatening meant that 'cool' hip-hop culture (with its affiliations with the Nation of Islam) became an inspiration for many young Muslims. I will also discuss the ways in which some Asian youth have appropriated African-American culture to reconfigure what it means to be a young South Asian person in Britain. The appropriation of African-American culture has created the space from which to challenge the cultural binarism that prevails in Britain, in which "narratives of black masculinity, sit alongside ideas of unmasculine Asian men" [Banerjea & Banerjea, 1996:109] .Through consuming African-American cultural forms, notions of 'the passive Asian' are being contested.

**Glyn, Sarah** [glynnsarah@hotmail.com](mailto:glynnsarah@hotmail.com) The Spirit of '71 - how the Bangladesh War of

Independence has haunted Tower Hamlets On January 8th 1972 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was declared president of the liberated nation of Bangladesh - in London. For Mujib this neatly avoided possible challenges to his party's assumption of supreme power in the new country, as he went on to an ecstatic reception in Dhaka; and, although his presence in the city had been decided by the Pakistan government, it served, too, to acknowledge the role played by probashi, or emigrant Bengalis in the independence struggle, and especially the role of the community in London. This was a defining moment for East Bengal, but also for the London Bengalis, and the consequences of that time and their role in it continue to affect members of the London community, not just directly, but in many different aspects of their lives. It is this legacy that I hope to explore. Most immediately, the independence struggle brought the community together. Professionals and uneducated factory workers, the liberal left and Mao-inspired socialists were united in a common cause. And through this they raised their own profile in Britain and made lasting contacts with the British political process, especially Labour MPs such as Peter Shore, member for Stepney. The developing community organisations in London grew up along similar lines to the new nation, and as in the Bangladeshi Constitution, they proclaimed their belief in the essential principles of socialism, democracy and secularism. As in Bangladesh, too, the ideas of the more radical left were sidelined, allowing the British Bengalis to identify easily with their new friends in the Labour Party, which was later to become the natural vehicle for Bengali political ambitions. In recent years, however, the hegemony of the secular nationalists has been challenged by the growing force of a revivalist Islam. The post-'71 generation often show little respect for the pragmatic town hall politics of their elders, which has failed to release them from the alienation of the inner city, and increasing numbers seek ideological guidance and practical inspiration in the mosque. The secular forces are trying to regain their influence, but their constant reference to the independence struggle may obscure their message for the future. While the elders fight out the politics of Bangladesh on British soil, they fail to address the problems faced by the generation growing up in Tower Hamlets today. In a twist of irony, the secular forces may be losing the ideological battle now, in part at least, because they won it 30 years ago in 1971.

**Gupta, Sangeeta, Venkatesh Gupta** Shree Krishna Temple, Harnall West lane, Coventry CV4 4FB. Women's film in India. In India women filmmakers have been visible over the last two decades. This is connected with the rise of the women's movement and the discourse over women's issues in politics, marriage/ property laws and in the cultural sphere (literature, theatre, film). These filmmakers consciously resisted mainstream stereotypes and represented realistic female protagonists. Much of this work was produced within the parallel cinema genre. With increasing globalisation and the growing market for popular Indian cinema, is this form of cultural expression slowly becoming impossible? This presentation will take a historical and sociological overview of women's film in India.

**Hansen, Anders Bjørn**, Centre for Development Research, Gammel Kongevej 5, Copenhagen V, Denmark 1610. Punjab 1937-47: A Case of Genocide? The paper traces the changes in the nature of violence over a decade-long period in pre-partition Punjab. It is argued that the 'traditional violence' i.e., the frequently occurring inter-community riots in Punjab gave way to 'genocidal violence' as the date of partition approached. The 'traditional violence' was characterised by being limited to public sphere; male participation; sacrilege of religious symbols, and; which resulted in more incidents of injury than death. This was in complete contrast with the violence that occurred along the actual partition. It was no longer limited to public arena, but had invaded the private sphere of people's homes, destroyed their sources of livelihood; while the perpetrators remained male, the victims, now, included women and children as well; and the contentious political issues were added to the prevalent sacrilegious provocations. A very significant change was the unprecedented increase in the number of killings, which earlier would be very low compared to the injuries. Now, the evident focus was on ethnic cleansing one's land instead of being limited to injuring the 'other' community. The finality of partition had eased out the worries of co-existence and

post-violence reconciliation. Another crucial difference was the engendering of violence. Both the male and female victims were subjected to sexual violence where the genitals were destroyed; pregnant women were knifed through the stomach and infants killed mercilessly. It was both a symbolic as well as a real death of the 'enemy' community.

**Stephen Hughes**, House Full: silent film genres, exhibition and audiences in south India This paper considers how silent film exhibitors in south India used film genres in multiple and complex ways according to the local conditions to help define and cultivate audiences. The purpose of the paper is two-fold. The first is to situate the development of silent film genres as they relate and were related to film audiences in the context of their exhibition in south India. This move is meant to shift the analysis of film texts into the historically contingent and culturally specific locations, institutions and practices which mediated them for their audiences. The second purpose of the paper is to counter widely-held historical assumptions about Indian film audiences as being an undifferentiated category composed of the masses or working classes. From the mid-1910s, film genres became an important means by which those in the cinema business conceived, calculated and to some extent contributed to the social differentiation of their market. This paper follows the emerging patterns of silent film programmes offered by cinema exhibitors in south India from their early reliance on imported films in the early 1910s through their increasing use of Indian films by the late 1920s. I document how, as the exhibition business grew throughout the 1910s and 1920s, exhibitors developed a stereotyped hierarchy of film tastes. That is, exhibitors developed a working theory of how each film genre appealed to Indian cinema-goers across a wide social geography of south India.

**Kaur, Ravinder**, Centre for Development Research, Gammel Kongevej 5, Copenhagen V, Denmark 1610. Earning Livelihood, Earning Space away from Refugeeeness: The 1947 Punjabi Hindu migrants in Delhi. The resettlement of the refugees, displaced in the course of 'exchange of population' between India and Pakistan in 1947, posed the most immediate challenge to the new administrators. The city of Delhi alone, was sought by over 1 million (approx.) refugees, who had fled the communal battlefields of Punjab to make their new homes elsewhere. This paper looks at the metamorphosis of the Punjabis in Delhi from being refugees to locals over half a century. It first deals with the conceptual issues of 'refugeeness' and lays emphasis on the 'self-perception' of the refugees who may distinguish between the social and legal implications of being a refugee. Thereafter, it focuses on the process of rebuilding one's 'private universe' through resuming familiar livelihood practices, establishing old kinship networks in the new place to recreate the known 'cultural spaces'. This 'refugee to local' journey is often told through the master narrative of hardworking, versatile, proud Punjabi who has a rags-to-riches success story. This paper attempts a critical review of this narrative, which appears variously in oral histories, personal accounts, political speeches and sometimes, even government documents. However, this study cannot be dealt without a simultaneous review of the rise and consolidation of 'Hindutva political theology' in the Punjab region and its appeal to the Punjabi Hindu refugees, especially during and after the Partition. This study is based on both archival sources as well as personal interviews conducted in Delhi for a pilot study in December 2000.

**Malik, Iftikhar**, email [i.malik@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:i.malik@bathspa.ac.uk) Problematizing Historiography on South Asian Islam: Old Parameters New Frontiers! This paper is an exercise in reviewing the intellectual history of Islam in South Asia in recent decades. This particular genre is a weak tradition but, despite its relevance to a comprehensive understanding of various Muslim communities in South Asia, it has been compromised or even hampered by projects such as community-identification, nation building and state formation. Of course, the inter-state conflicts have not helped its autonomous growth either. The communalisation of the entire discourse with Islam and Hinduism being offered as the building blocks for the national identities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, respectively, have hampered an open, trans-territorial or even subaltern understanding of Muslim histories in the region. The two

current approaches are too worn-out. Firstly, positing Islam (and for that matter Hinduism as well!) as an irredentist or separatist and overarching panoply in open confrontation with other religions, or secondly, a romanticised view of Hinduism, Islam and other religions as mutually syncretic, complementary and tolerant traditions both have to give way to fresher discourses. The Cambridge interpretation(s), Hasan's idealisation of a historical Pakistan movement or Qureshi's dictum of the inevitability of Pakistan need to be reassessed so as to establish some newer paradigm(s). The presentation aims at reviewing some of the noted works--and they are too many due to obvious reasons--with a view to delineate some new terrain.

**Moir, Martin**, 20 Denning Rd, London NW3 1SU. [Government archives in Pakistan](#) Despite improved access rules and some new archives publications, researchers still experience difficulties in finding out what government archives are available in the provincial and national archive centres in Pakistan. This paper reports on a recent visit to some of these centres aimed at clarifying some of these questions.

**Mundair, Raman**, email [breatheraman@hotmail.com](mailto:breatheraman@hotmail.com) [Kaagaz ki Phool'](#); [Migratory Translations](#) The West has always had a complex relationship with all things Indian. With attitudes ranging from the Orientalist perspective as illuminated by Edward Said, to the exoticized, appropriated, re-cycled images of India, as generated in popular culture by artists such as the Beatles and Madonna. This paper questions how this impacts on writers whose heritage can be traced back to the Indian sub continent, who choose to write in English, but whose narratives are based firmly within the Indian sub continent experience. The paper is an introduction to some of the issues at play in the midst of a negotiation of language and translation of experience. It will outline a historical and social context from which a canon of South Asian Literature in English emerged and explore the origins of South Asian Literatures in English, and the politics of writing in English. Drawing on theoretical developments in the study of 'post colonial' literature, and my personal experiences as a writer, community arts practitioner and an academic, and using examples from contemporary South Asian writing in English, this paper will demonstrate how English can be used to as a strategy of language to refer to a cultural experience that is firmly rooted outside of the common English context.

**Nizamani, Haider K**, email [Haider.Nizamani@miis.edu](mailto:Haider.Nizamani@miis.edu) [Living with the Bomb: Pakistanis and the Nuclear Bomb after the May-1998 Explosions](#) The myth has it that there is a consensus among Pakistanis about the strategic, symbolic and political value of the country's nuclear arsenal. Thirty months down the overt nuclear path, an etiology of the nuclear issue in the political culture of one of the world's newest nuclear power is warranted. This paper is in part an attempt in that direction, and part sharing preliminary results of my research that I conducted during my fieldwork in Pakistan over the summer of 2000. I conducted an opinion survey and interviews to assess the ordinary peoples' views on the country's security and the role of nuclear weapons in its security milieu. I would be presented preliminary findings and comparative analysis of the two provinces (Sindh and NWFP) covered in the survey. This is part of the larger research project titled *Whose Bomb is it Anyway? A Differentiated Account of the Nuclear Issue in Pakistan* that I am pursuing as a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies. A differentiated account of the nuclear discourse in Pakistan will help policy-makers and academics to assess the stake-holders in understanding the existing form of nuclear weapons politics and identify forces that are, or have the potential of, changing the nature and direction of the prevalent nuclear myths in the country. The paper aims to offer a theoretically sound and empirically rigorous study of an issue that is usually analyzed wearing the lenses of national interests. The objective is to share my findings with colleagues and seek their critical feedback in refining the form and content of the larger project.

**Virdee, Pippa**, email [p.virdee@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:p.virdee@coventry.ac.uk) 1947 – Stories of Partition The 1947

Partition was a pivotal time in the formation of India and Pakistan. In the province of Punjab it was responsible for one of the most violent upheavals the twentieth century has ever experienced. Overnight there was the displacement of an estimated 12 million people and a death toll in excess of 200,000. To date there has been limited attention paid to the people who witnessed this calamity and bore the brunt of partition. This paper examines the experiences of these people and if and how they differed from the national preconceptions of partition. In an attempt to move away from seeking answers to why and how India was divided, this study will focus on the people, exploring the human dimension of mass migration. This is also in line with current trends in history that is seeking to explore experiences "from beneath," used by scholars such as Urvashi Butalia. An attempt will be made to eliminate some of misconceptions that are generally flaunted about, that all communities were filled with hatred and revenge for the opposite community and overnight becoming enemies. The regional variations of partition will also be explored to highlight the variety of underlining issues at stake for the people who were uprooted during the violence.

Woods, Philip, email [philip.woods@talk21.com](mailto:philip.woods@talk21.com)'Indian News Parade: the creation of an all-India newsreel in the 1940s' Indian News Parade was created in 1943 and survived to 1946. It fulfilled the pre-war demands of the Indian film industry for a government sponsored all-India newsreel, and was a primary means of government film propaganda during the Second World War. After independence Films Division revived the newsreel, which continued to be shown compulsorily in all cinemas. This paper examines the development of the newsreel in India, its wartime propaganda function, target audiences, and impact.

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## **2) REPORT ON A WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL RELATIONS AND WELL-BEING IN SOUTH ASIA**

School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia

23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March 2001

A Workshop on Social Relations and Well-Being in South Asia was organised at the School of Development Studies (DEV), University of East Anglia on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2001. The purpose was to encourage the fourteen DEV faculty members and growing number of research students, whose research interests are focused on South Asia, to meet and present work to each other in the presence of a small number of specially invited external speakers.

The theme of the Workshop was intended to provide a space for presenting research on South Asia which fell within one of the social science disciplines or was interdisciplinary. Paper-givers were invited to focus on the micro, meso or macro (national or international) scales or on some of the linkages between them. It was envisaged that all the papers would consider the connection between social relations on the one hand, and well-being outcomes on the other. Both these concepts were defined broadly - social relations referring to class, ethnic, caste, religious, regional and / or gender relations and well-being including both "subjective" and "objective" perspectives concerned with the multi-dimensionality of human existence. Well-being was thus explored in the language of the research discipline in some papers and in the language of the people researched in others. It referred as much to dignity and self-esteem as to physical and human capitals; as much to the subjective experience of being at the wrong end of unequal relationships as to the measurement of income-based poverty.

Contributors (all from DEV except where indicated) included Piers Blaikie, John Cameron, Daniel Coppard, Meena Dhanda (Wolverhampton), Rajat Ganguly, Barbara Harriss-White (Oxford), Vegard Iversen, Anja Kovacs, Catherine Locke, Masako Ota, Adam Pain, Richard Palmer-Jones, Nitya Rao, Ben Rogaly, Steve Russell, David Seddon, Janet Seeley, Kunal Sen, Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes). We intend to publish a special journal issue from the selected papers. More importantly, having established to our own satisfaction that we have a critical mass of South Asianists at DEV, we look forward to building up links with other groups of UK-based South Asianists in the future.

Ben Rogaly and Kunal Sen, South Asia Workshop Conveners,

School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia

**Email: b.rogaly@uea.ac.uk k.sen@uea.ac.uk**

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### **3) INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES LAW FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RIVER GANGES BASIN**

4-5<sup>th</sup> June, 2001, Middlesex University

Organised by Professor Surya Subedi, Professor of International Law, Middlesex University.

The objective of this conference was to address the strengths and weaknesses of the existing bilateral treaties between the riparian States of the River Ganges, and thereby the working of the international watercourses law, in the context of a complex situation such as the one to be found in the River Ganges Basin. The possible effectiveness of some of the major principles of the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourse in resolving practical problems surrounding the River Ganges was examined - though with the result that the Convention was deemed weak, almost irrelevant, and drawn up through western eyes and concepts only. Another criticism was that it was too concerned with effects on downstream riparians and their rights, without taking enough cognisance of upstream needs. Professor Philippe Sands of SOAS in his opening remarks suggested that more local solutions involving local practice and public participation might go a lot further.

About 30 people attended, the majority of them faculty in law, with only passing knowledge of the rivers and geography of the GBM (Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna) basin. Experts from India and Bangladesh, including some senior former (Mr Ramaswamy Iyer, now Winrock International, New Delhi) and present civil servants, added specific insights, but unfortunately the Nepalese delegation had to stay in Kathmandu following the appalling tragedy of June 1<sup>st</sup>. It therefore fell to the organiser, Professor Subedi, who comes from Nepal, to give the Nepalese perspective on his own, which he did ably.

It became clear that a proper understanding of the problems and their solutions required a deep appreciation of the geopolitical history of the basin. Two inspired invitations offered us visions of what has been achieved in the Rhine valley (Professor Andre Nollkaemper, University of Amsterdam) and what is beginning to happen in the Mekong (Ms Bantita Pichyakorn, Researcher, Bangkok, Thailand). Though very helpful and informative, actually they clearly made the point that the economic, political and environmental conditions vary so much between these two and the GBM, that there would be little experience that could be directly transferred.

Other papers included "Problems and Prospects for co-operation between the Riparian States of the River Ganges Basin" by Professor B.S.Chimni, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; "Utilization of Water Resources and Prevention of Pollution of Water in India" by Professor Bharat Desai, also of Jawaharlal Nehru University; "The Law and Policy of Bangladesh concerning the Utilization of her Water Resources" by Mr. Humayun Kabir, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Dhaka; "The 1997 UN Convention on International Watercourses Law and Freshwater Resources Problems of the World", by Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Queen Mary College, University of London and Professor Gerhard Loibl, Universitat Wien, Austria.

Professor Subedi hopes that a book may emerge from the conference.

Graham Chapman

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## COMING WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

### 1) SASNET

Partly by virtue (?) of being Secretary of BASAS I have been invited to attend the SASNET conference in Lund August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Well, there has to be some pay-off for looking after the back office. I am in the process of writing a paper, hopefully to fit the specifications below.

Graham Chapman (GPC) ,Lancaster

#### **Background:**

The background is the formation of SASNET, a new Swedish academic network, supporting networking in research, education and information on South Asia. The aim is to encourage and promote an open and dynamic networking process in which Swedish researchers/teachers co-operate and work in partnership with institutions and researchers in South Asia and globally. SASNET will involve and integrate researchers from the natural sciences, medicine, technology, social sciences, law, and humanities. The network is financed by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and by Lund University.

#### **Aim of the Workshop:**

In the forthcoming workshop on global networking SASNET wants to place its work in a broader discussion about patterns and mechanisms in the current global changes brought about by information technology, the growth of global “network societies” and the implications of this for researchers and teachers networking between the West (including Sweden) and South Asia globally. SASNET has asked how it can avoid becoming a tool for the negative aspects of globalisation like increased westernisation, marginalisation and impoverishment of large groups of people all over the planet. *(GPC: It may be a bit premature to think that it would anyway do all of this?)*

#### **Issues to be discussed are, for example:**

- How can we ensure that the sciences and education will be concerned with the big material and social issues facing South Asian as well as other societies and also work towards alleviating and solving important social and material problems?
- What are the problems involved in interdisciplinary networks between South Asia and the West?
- What positive aspects of computer-mediated interaction can SASNET develop that allows South Asian researchers/teachers/students to participate on equal terms?
- What are the material and infra-structural aspects that SASNET needs to develop in order to move ahead? How should SASNET network and link up with smaller regional universities and institutes with weak infrastructures?
- How can a network, like SASNET, avoid being swallowed by the power emanating from India and New Delhi? How can SASNET avoid being confined just to the contacts we have already developed, often on the basis of Swedish aid interests and finance? How can we build networks for all of South Asia: Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives?

Lisbeth Andersson, program secretary of SASNET; Dept. of History of Religions, Lund University

Jan Magnusson, webmaster of SASNET, School of Social Work, Lund University

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(Snail mail to: SASNET, International Office, Lund University, Box 117, 221 00 Lund.

Phone: + 46 46 222 73 40, Fax: + 46 46 222 96 65)

## **2) WEB-SITE FOR CONFERENCE INFORMATION: AGENDA ASIA**

Agenda Asia is a database of Asian Studies conferences, workshops and seminars, maintained from Leiden by Afelonne Doek and from Copenhagen by Jens-Chr. Sorensen. Agenda Asia is a cooperation project between the IAS Newsletter published by the International Institute of Asian Studies in Leiden and NIASnytt, published by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies in Copenhagen. You may not believe it, but the following actually is a genuine URL that takes you to the site: <http://130.225.203.37/agenda/>

## **3) ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON CONTEMPORARY PAKISTAN**

**At Wolfson College, Oxford, 13 July 2001--**

Iftikhar Malik is organizing a one-day, informal workshop at Wolfson College, Oxford, on the 13th of July (1030-1700). It comprises of four thematic sessions: History and Heritage; Politics and Governance; Culture and Society; and, Regional and Global issues. The Workshop will have 12-13 short presentations with enough time for discussion. The subject specialists and post graduates are welcome in particular. Coffee, tea and lunch will be available though a small charge of 10 (employed) and 5 pounds (students and visitors) will be made to cover the food expenses. For invitation email Iftikhar .

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## **WEB NEWS**

### **1) BASAS WEB-PAGE: THE STORY SO FAR...**

Currently, BASAS does not have presence on the web. This is because the internet host which used to provide a free hosting location for BASAS at <http://basas.homepage.com> recently decided to terminate this service.

The options then considered were to move the BASAS website to (a) another free service, (b) a subsection of my own professional webspace at the University of Bradford, or (c) apply for a "proper" UK academic web address. Choice (a) entailed agreeing to continue accepting the common free service condition of an advertising banner on the BASAS homepage, the probability of a long-winded web address, and the possibility that this also might prove a transitory location. Similarly, choice (b) would mean an unduly complex and probably impermanent web address. Thus, the Executive Committee accepted my advice that BASAS opt for choice (c). Although this entails an initial application and then bi-annual service fee, BASAS would gain the <http://www.basas.ac.uk> web address permanently.

This process-involving getting a UK academic institution, in this case the University of Bradford, to provide suitable hard disk space and a connection to JANET (Joint Academic Network) and then sponsor the application to UKERNA (UK Education and Research Networking Association). This is currently underway. It is hoped that the new BASAS web address of <http://www.basas.ac.uk> will become active by the end of this month.

Apurba Kundu, Bradford

## **2) ANNOUNCING THE NEW-LOOK CASBAH WEB SITE**

..... at <http://www.casbah.ac.uk>!

CASBAH is a demonstrator project funded by the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP) which was established in January 2000 to identify and map national research resources for Caribbean Studies and the history of Black and Asian people in Britain.

In preparation for the launch of the CASBAH database and subject gateway in 2002, the website has recently been redesigned, revised and updated. The address remains the same:  
<http://www.casbah.ac.uk>.

Some of the new features about the site include: - 'News and Events' at <http://www.casbah.ac.uk/news.htm> - featuring sections entitled 'Latest News!' 'Article of the Month' and forthcoming events, etc. The site's first article of the month was written by Stella Britzolakis, Resident Tutor at the University of Warwick, and is entitled ' Mapping Newspaper and Periodical Sources Relating to Black and Asian Communities in Britain 'The content is based on several weeks of research at the British Library's newspaper collections at Colindale, carried out under the auspices of the CASBAH Project.

- 'CASBAH Database and Subject Gateway' at <http://www.casbah.ac.uk/projectdata.html> - featuring full text archive survey reports, details of forthcoming regional surveys and samples of collection level descriptions from partner and associate institutions that will eventually be housed on the site's searchable database.

- 'Your comments?' at <http://www.casbah.ac.uk/feedback.html> - an online feedback form for sending information to CASBAH about research resources for Caribbean Studies and the history of Black and Asian people in Britain.

The CASBAH team are extremely grateful to members of our partner institutions, Steering Group advisors, staff at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies and other affiliated HEIs, and contacts within the library and information sector for all the support offered during the development of the new site, so we are looking forward to receiving your initial feedback.

Monthly revisions, amendments and updates will continue to be made to the web site throughout the life of the project so any comments/suggestions on how you think the pages can be improved are welcomed. In particular we are keen to hear about additional web site URLs that could be included on the 'Links' page at <http://www.casbah.ac.uk/links.html>.

Carol Dixon Project Officer CASBAH Project (Caribbean Studies, Black and Asian History)  
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## COMMENT

How Little has changed!

by

Virinder Kalra

It is now twenty years since 12 young Asian men from Bradford were arrested for defending their communities from attack by fascist groups. The resistance by the local community in Oldham and Burnley against the British National Party is a sad indictment of how little has changed for Britain's racialised minorities. Much has been written about the reasons for the intensity and spread of the violence that erupted in Oldham over the weekend of the second May Bank holiday and more recently in Burnley. The overt and taunting presence of the BNP and other far right groups,

longstanding mistrust between the police and local communities and of course entrenched unemployment poverty. However, these need to be placed in the context of everyday life in places like Oldham which for its Black and minority ethnic communities is marked by ongoing, mundane and persistent racism. Defending communities against the British national Party and other fascist groups clearly lies behind the recent disturbances in Oldham and Burnley. But the anger and ferocity of the attacks shows how much the everyday racism that pervades life in Oldham came to the boil. At the same time as the much vaunted attack on a white pensioner was taking place, unreported incidents concerning Asian families living outside of the protection of Asian areas were rife. Attacks on taxi drivers, abuse of workers in take-aways and restaurants are so much part of the fabric of life for Asians in Oldham and Burnley. The effect of the daily grind of racism was behind the intensity and length of the troubles in Oldham. And the police have come to represent all that is at fault with wider society, unwilling to deliver effective protection against racist attack, but ever willing to arrest those engaged in self-defence. It is worth highlighting the role of the police in perpetrating the violence in Oldham. The release of statistics that supposedly show racist attacks against white people to be greater than that against Black, with no explanation or transparency about data collection, has set up the Asian community as a target for a white backlash. It is also now clear that in any situation where a white person is the victim of mugging or affray, which involves an Asian, this is recorded by the police as a racial incident. Do these statistics have any meaning? For years anti-racist activists have been arguing that police statistics are useless because they hugely under-report incidents of racial attack against Black and minority ethnic groups. This situation has come full circle, when it is the police doing the defining, and once again targeting Black groups as perpetrators. The McPherson report was intended to provide new impetus to improving relationships between the police and Black communities. The violent disturbances in Leeds clearly show that a police backlash against the criticisms that emerged in McPherson is creating a situation in which Asian young men are being targeted for police harassment. In the 1970s, it was the mugging crises and the enactment of SUS (Stop and Search) laws that was part of a tactic of making African-Caribbean males seem pathologically criminal. The same process is now being applied to Asian Muslim males. But now there is no need to hide behind the notion of mugging, rather straightforward accusations of 'black racism' are common place. To repeat the mantra that there are social problems in these areas, belies the underlying reasons behind these issues. Statistics about levels of unemployment, concentration in poor housing, low educational attainment have all emerged to portray the context of the violence in Oldham. But there has been no mention of the racist killing of Tahair Akram in 1990. The arrests of Asian school children for defending themselves against racist attack; the expulsion of a young woman from a local school for wearing a head dress; the false accusations of conspiracy to commit racist crime' which is not routinely used by the police against Asian young people; these incidents are numerous and have created a situation of profound distrust between the police and the community, and an even greater gulf between all institutions and Asian young people. Some have argued (notably Tony Blair) that events in Oldham were unique. However, the disturbances in Burnley and before that in Leeds, show that this is but the tip of an iceberg. To argue that those people who voted for the BNP are not racists, but just frustrated and misinformed is a convenient avoidance of the stark reality that after fifty years of migration and settlement, Britain's racialised minorities can still become the target and scapegoat of rightwing attack, that those who should be defending communities against violence are part of the problem and that no proposals for investigating the police role are forthcoming. It is perhaps truly depressing that there is no effective policy response to the situation. If one thing has changed since the 1970s it is the demise of the Black left. If these events can spark off any new alliances in this direction perhaps the scars of the violent events can become emblems for future solutions.

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## THE BASAS CONSTITUTION

The Association's constitution, as revised at the preliminary meeting held at SOAS on 15 April 1986, and revised at the AGM held in Edinburgh, September 2000, runs as follows:

1. The organisation shall be known as *'The British Association for South Asian Studies'*.
2. The objectives of the Association shall be i) to promote and support South Asian studies in Britain;

ii) to facilitate and encourage contact and communication between South Asianists and with South Asianists in other countries;

iii) to represent South Asianists working in Britain in matters pertaining to the pursuit of South Asian studies;

iv) to co-operate with other organisations with related or similar interests.

### 3. Membership of the Association shall be

i) open to scholars, students and others with an interest in South Asia, subject to the discretion of the Executive Committee;

ii) on an individual basis;

iii) at such subscription rates as the Annual General Meeting shall decide after consultation with the general body of members.

### 4. The Association shall consist of

i) an Executive Committee including a President or Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be considered necessary. The Committee may co-opt additional members.

ii) such standing and ad hoc committees as the Executive Committee may decide to be necessary;

iii) a general body of paid-up members.

5. There shall be an Annual General Meeting, at which the Executive Committee shall present a report on the year's work.

i) Ballots will be held for the annual elections to the Executive Committee and on such matters as the Executive Committee shall consider it necessary or appropriate. Candidates for election must be paid-up members, nominated by one member of the Association and seconded by another.

ii) Rates of subscription, changes in the constitution, and any other matters to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Committee, shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting, but with the opportunity for absent members to vote by e-mail. Notice of such votes shall be issued at least twenty-one days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

6. The Executive Committee is empowered to open a bank account on behalf of the Association, and its accounts shall be subject to the annual scrutiny of an auditor as appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

### **NEWS titbit:**

The Asia-Pacific Foundation has started to publish APF Bulletin, N0. 1 being published in June this year. Eighty percent of this edition of 16-17 pages is devoted to issues on terrorism and security in South Asia.

No address is given for either the Editor (Fiona Brown) nor the printer, nor the Foundation (but it does include a homily by Earl Inchape, ( Senior President of APF.) However, interested BASAS readers will no doubt track it down.

## The BASAS Annual Conference Easter 2002

### FIRST NOTICE

15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April

The Conference will be held in Lancaster University

Student B+B accommodation will be available at £25 per single room (or £32 en suite). Luxury Hotel accommodation will also be available on campus at around £80 per double room. The conference fee has yet to be decided.

The substantive sessions will be

- Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m.
- All-day Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April till 1 p.m.

*We are open to offers from members wishing to convene a panel.*

So far three panels look very likely: **Diaspora** (Stacey Burlet) **Economics** ( V. Balasubramanyam) **Geography and development** (Graham Chapman)

Please discuss propositions in the first instance with the Secretary **Graham Chapman**, Dept of Geography , Lancaster University, LA1 4YB [g.chapman@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:g.chapman@lancaster.ac.uk) 01524 593737/593742

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