

Bulletin

BASAS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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Editor's Comment

The Bulletin has not appeared for a while. Your Executive Committee has been deliberating BASAS' publishing policy, and you will be aware that Bobby Sayyid is editing a special BASAS sponsored edition of Contemporary South Asia. For a while it was thought that an annual such edition might supplant the Bulletin. But we now have a committee with a new post: Membership Services Secretary. The idea is that we can do more for members, and that providing an index of areas of research interest would be a good starting point. So this edition of the resurrected Bulletin is mostly dedicated to just that.

Association News

The Executive Committee know that you will be pleased to hear that Lord Bhikhu Parekh has agreed to become our President. This is a reincarnation for him, since he has held the post in the past, and rendered the Association sterling service then. We know he will again have a beneficial impact.

The committee have also agreed, having deliberated on the issue as instructed by the AGM at Oxford, that we should have a category of **Honorary Member of the Executive**, which can be granted to distinguished persons in any walk of life who may help advance the aims of the Association. We will bring the proposal and some names to the next AGM to be held in Norwich at the time of the Annual Conference in April 2004. **We are asking members now to write to the Secretary with nominations and circa 150 words of recommendation.**

Reminder

The next Annual Conference will be held at the University of East Anglia. The programme so far may be viewed at www.basas.ac.uk

The Index of Members' Research Interests

Who is included?

When you first apply to join BASAS, you are asked to note down your research interests. Not all people write something in response. The 230 entries in the register are for those who did not leave this slot blank. Most are current members: some are people who are now overdue with subscriptions – but we are taking an inclusive view on them for the sake of providing information. **Almost certainly some of the address information is out of date. That is because the Membership Secretary cannot guess when and to where members move.** If you want to change your address details – contact the Membership Secretary, Dr Marie Lall using the form supplied with this Index.

If you spot any mistakes, please let the Membership Secretary know. We intend to bring out a second edition in time for the Annual Conference.

How is the Index Organised?

Persons included are listed alphabetically, with an identifying number.

People's interests have been listed as one or more gobbits of information, separated by colons. Two examples are

educational achievements: Muslim Educational issues: small businesses

Indian and Pakistani Federalism: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

The words South Asia and India are eliminated. All entries are assumed to refer to South Asia at least in some degree, and the overwhelming majority of entries are explicitly or implicitly referring at least in part to India. But Nepal, Pakistan etc are retained.

All the gobbits from all entries are listed alphabetically, eliminating redundancies (e.g. the word 'rural' will appear only once, not many times.) This gives a basic dictionary of 485 entries. Higher level categories are tagged to each entry in the dictionary. These categories were devised by your Membership Secretary as seemed appropriate while scanning the dictionary. The words obviously reflect what is said by members. There is, for example, no word for Orissa, since no-one put Orissa in their entry. Anybody else could use other categories. I settled on the following list:

Category	Broad meaning
afgh	Afghanistan
agrar	Agrarian, agriculture,rural
anchist	Ancient History
anthrop	Anthropology
arch	Archaeology
asia	Asia outside S Asia
bengal	Bengal and Bangladesh
britain	Britain/UK
canad	Canada
china	China
computer	Computers and IT
crime	Crime, violence, law-breaking
demog	Demography and population
dev	Development Studies
diasp	Diaspora
econ	Economics
educ	Education
env	Environment
gender	Gender, women's studies
geog	Geography
gov	Government
gujarat	Gujarat
health	Health/sickness/Medical
himalaya	Himalayas
hist	History undefined by period
ident	Identity
internat	International relations, international trade and economics
islam	Islam, Islamic studies, Islamic culture
kashmir	Kashmir — Pakistani and Indian controlled
law	Law, litigation, legal systems
ling	Linguistics and Languages

literature	Literature
maharashtra	Maharashtra
maldives	Maldives
matart	Material Arts
media	Mass Media
migration	Migration – nearly all international
modhist	Modern History – sort of later than C16th
music	Music, music manuscripts, musicology
myan	Myanmar – Burma
mysore	Mysore
nepal	Nepal
north	North India in general or some mentioned region
northeast	Northeastern states of India
pak	Pakistan
politic	Politics and Political Science
punjab	Punjab – both India and Pakistan
rajasthan	Rajasthan
reference	People selling books etc
rel	Religion
science	Science and technology
sociol	Sociology
south	South India
srilanka	Sri Lanka/ Ceylon
tibet	Tibet, Tibetan studies
up	Uttar Pradesh

A few of the middle lines of the dictionary look like this:

local government	gov
local state	gov

low caste	sociol
low class movements	sociol:politic
maharashtra	maharashtra
maldives	maldives
manchester	britain
manipur	northeast
manuscripts	literature
material culture	matart
material culture;art	matart
media	media
media analysis	media
medical	health
medical anthropology	health:anthrop

Note that multiple classification is possible.

This dictionary is then used to replace the original gobbits of information for each person with the higher level categories. So:

educational achievements: Muslim
Educational issues: small businesses

econ:educ:islam

Indian and Pakistani
Federalism: Nationalism and Ethnic
Conflict

crime:gov:ident:internat:pak

The index is based on these categories. All people are first listed under all possible combinations of their categories. For example “econ:educ:islam” gives rise to 8 combinations (including the null set) – namely

“econ:educ:islam”

“econ:educ”

“econ:islam”

“educ:islam”

“econ”

“educ”

“islam”

“”

2310 combinations occur in this data set. This number is reduced by retaining only those combinations that reflect an original entry in full, or which occur for more than one person. So subsets of an entry that occur for only one person are excluded. This reduces the number of combinations used in this Index to 350.

The categories are always in alphabetical order. If you want to look for Development and Government, look for “dev gov”, not for “gov dev”.

The data allows for a little reflection on the interests of our members. In the Table here are listed all those combinations which have 10 members associated. Mostly, and not surprisingly, these are single categories – but there are also some double categories that are well represented.

politic	57
hist	50
modhist	41
anthrop	40
rel	37
sociol	36

econ	35
ident	31
dev	21
gender	20
gov	20
internat	20
env	17
pak	17
agrar	16
islam	16
matart	16
diasp	15
literature	15
anthrop rel	14
hist politic	14
ident politic	13
ling	13
econ politic	12
gov politic	12
health	11
hist rel	11
north	11
arch	10
britain	10
econ internat	10
ident rel	10

Privacy

Because names and contacts are included in this Index, it is not being placed on the web. It is for members only for their private use, and must not be passed on to third parties. We have omitted private addresses in this issue of the Index. If you wish to have your private address included, or to update your contact details, please inform the Membership Secretary using the form sent with this index. If you want to contact a member with a 'Personal Address' listed please contact the Secretary, Katharine Adeney.

Graham Chapman, Lancaster University

If you wish to join BASAS and have access to the Index, please fill in the [Membership Form](#) and specify on it that you would like to receive a copy of the latest Index.

BASAS annual conferences are noted for their friendliness, informality, and open interdisciplinary intellectual exchange.

The **2004 BASAS Annual Conference** will be held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, Norfolk, 5-7 April. The major theme will be **Contemporary Developments in South Asia**. Panels which have already been suggested include:

- Contemporary Cinema
- Dalit Literatures
- South Asian Political Economies
- International Relations: Changing Relationships between South Asia and the USA
- Anthropologies/social histories
- Diaspora
- Gender and intra-household relations

The 2004 conference will include publishers' stands, and cultural events including a film show and live music, a drinks reception and a conference dinner.

There will also be two keynote speakers, by Piers Blaikie, Emeritus Professor of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, and Tirthankar Roy, Professor at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. The local organising committee includes Dr Nitya Rao at n.rao@uea.ac.uk, Dr Ben Rogaly at b.rogaly@sussex.ac.uk and Dr Kunal Sen at k.sen@uea.ac.uk

Postgraduate students are particularly welcome. Some bursaries are available to assist postgraduate students to attend.

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