

**BASAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004:
CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA**

**SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
5TH TO 7TH APRIL 2004**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**CONFERENCE ORGANISERS:
NITYA RAO, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
BEN ROGALY, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
KUNAL SEN, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA**

**CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR:
GILES HEATHER**

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (BASAS) ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004: CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) is the largest UK academic association for the study of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and the South Asian Diaspora.

BASAS Office Holders:

♣ President	Lord Bhikhu Parekh
♣ Chair	Graham Chapman
♣ Secretary	Katharine Adeney
♣ Treasurer	Pat Ellis
♣ Membership Sec	Maire Lall
♣ Editor	Bobby Sayyid
♣ Webmaster	Apurba Kundu

For further information: www.basas.ac.uk

SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH GROUP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

The South Asia Research Group is one of the School of Development Studies' most active research groups. It includes faculty, research students and others with an interest in South Asia.

Areas of research interest include:

- ♣ Poverty in India and Bangladesh
- ♣ Health policy in Sri Lanka
- ♣ Migration in India and Nepal
- ♣ Privatisation policy in Pakistan
- ♣ Gender relations
- ♣ Ethnic conflict
- ♣ Environment and livelihoods

For further information: www.uea.ac.uk/dev/research/saintro.shtml

Monday 5th April

1200-1400 Registration – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

1400-1530 **Plenary**

Location: **Chair: David Eastwood** (Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia)

Elizabeth Fry 01.08

Tirthankar Roy (Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics)
“Out of Tradition: Skill and Agency in the Crafts of Colonial India”

1530-1600 Coffee break – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

1600-1730 **Panel 1: Indian Film and Literature in the Public Sphere**

Location: **Chair: Meena Dhanda** (University of Wolverhampton)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.08

Jyoti Argadé (Northwestern University)
“Ethnic Ambivalence and Hollywood Ethnology: Thoughts on the Movie Star Sabu”

Tasleem Shakur (International Centre for Development & Environmental Studies)
“Heat and Dust: A post-modern, south Asian post-colonial space?”

Lakshmi Holmstrom (Writer & translator)
“A literature of resistance: Autobiography & fiction of Baama, a Tamil Dalit woman”

1730-1830 BASAS Executive Committee

Location:

Elizabeth

Fry 01.10

Monday 5th April

1830-2000 Cultural Event

Location: Two short films will be screened:

Lecture

Theatre 2

1. 'Laden is not my friend' by Bikramjit Gupta

On Sept 11, as the twin towers crumbled, a war began between USA and Osama Bin Laden, and a religion received a brand name of barbarism. The film, a satire, is a story of a boy, 25-year-old Bengali Muslim far away from New York, his mind and state of identity affected by the incident. He aspires to go to the US and tries to convince Mr. Bush of his innocence..

This film has been screened at the 8th Kolkata Film Festival, Indo-British Digital Film Festival 2003, Indian Cultural Event (Spain), Human Rights Watch International Film Festival 2004, New York, Best Fiction Film, 2nd International Video Film Festival Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 2003

2. 'Hunger in the time of plenty' by Sagari Chabra

This film explores the irony of starvation deaths in the time of food surpluses. Shot in the interiors of Rajasthan and in the lush tropical forests of Orissa as well as in New Delhi, the film is a personal journey, in quest for the truth. Screened at Toxic Links & India International Centre Film Festival

2000 Evening Dinner

Location: Dinner is available for residential delegates only

**The
'Diner'**

Tuesday 6th April

0900-1030 **Panel 2A: Politics and Security in South Asia**

Location: **Chair: Katharine Adeney** (University of Oxford)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.08

Raju Das (Dundee University)

“Naxalite Movement, Development and Internal Security Threat to the Indian State”

Prasun Sonwalkar (University of the West of England)

“Violence as Noncommunication: The News Differential of Kashmir and Northeast Conflicts in the Indian National Press”

Panel 2B: Transformations in South Asian Religions

Location: **Chair: Emma Tomalin** (University of Leeds)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.10

Anja Kovacs (University of East Anglia)

“Gender and Violence, Tradition and Violence: Refashioning Durga in the Service of Hindu Nationalism”

Anjoom Mukadam (University of Reading) and **Sharmina Mawani** (SOAS, University of London)

“Post-Diasporic Gujaratis in the West: Examining National, Religious and Ethnic Identity”

Emma Tomalin (University of Leeds)

“Bio-divinity and Biodiversity: perspectives on religion and environmental conservation in India”

1030-1100 Coffee break – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

Tuesday 6th April

1100-1230 **Panel 3A: Resources, Identities and Conflicts**

Location: **Chair: Pritam Singh** (Oxford Brookes University)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.10

Gunnel Cederlöf (Uppsala University)

“Claiming history for the privilege of right: land conflicts in early 19th century Nilgiris”

Prabin Manandhar (University of East Anglia)

“The potential for political transformation of rural Nepalese civil society - a case-study of a Maoist-run village”

Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes University)

“River, Region and Religion: Some Observations on the River Water Dispute between Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and the Centre”

Panel 3B: Agency and Exclusion in South Asian Contexts

Location: **Chair: Catherine Locke** (University of East Anglia) and **Lou**

Waite (University of East Anglia)

Fry 01.08

Tina Basi (University of Leeds)

“Faces and Places: Contested Spaces and Identity Construction of Women Working in the Delhi Call Centre Industry”

John Cameron (University of East Anglia)

“Nepalese NGOs desperately seeking inclusion: a Janus model of agency”

Sumi Madhok (University of Birmingham)

“Resisting popular imaginaries of agency: gendered subordination and the recovery of desire”

1230-1400 Lunch – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

Tuesday 6th April

1400-1530 **Panel 4A: Understanding Complex livelihoods**

Location: **Chair: Janet Seeley** (University of East Anglia)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.08

Urs Geiser (Zurich University)

“Concern for forests – or concern for livelihoods? Impressions from North-West Pakistan”

Kaveri Gill (University of Cambridge)

“Waste as Work: Measuring and Comparing Poverty and Job-Related Well Being”

Lucy Norris (University College London)

“Creative Entrepreneurs: the recycling of clothing in India”

Panel 4B: History of Medicine in South Asia

Location: **Chair: Sunita Puri** (University of Oxford)

Elizabeth

Fry 01.10

Sanchari Dutta (University of Oxford)

“Quarantine, the ‘Great Game’, and the Perceived Threat to Empire, 1897- 1907”

Amna Khalid (University of Oxford)

“Disease and Pilgrimage in Northern India, 1867-1894”

Sunita Puri (University of Oxford)

“Picturing Plague: Visual Narratives of the Indian Body, Colonial Power, and Infectious Disease in Bombay, 1896-1897”

1530-1600 Coffee break – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

Tuesday 6th April

1600-1730 **Panel 5A: Sri Lanka – The Peace Process, Democratisation, Federalism and Future Development Prospects**

Location: **Chair: Alan Bullion** (Open University)

**Elizabeth
Fry 01.10**

Sarah Holt (University of York)

“From Checkpoints to Billboards: Conceptual and methodological issues in researching Sri Lanka’s recovery”

Lalith Welamedage (University of Newcastle upon Tyne)

“Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) development in post-conflict areas: Lesson for Sri Lanka”

Panel 5B: Identity, Development and the State in the Himalayan region

Location: **Chair: David Seddon** (University of East Anglia)

**Elizabeth
Fry 01.08**

Vibha Arora (University of Oxford)

“Identity, State and Development in Sikkim: The case of the Lepchas and the Bhutia tribes”

Francis Lim (SOAS, University of London)

“Hotels as Sites of Power: Tourism, Status and Politics in Nepal Himalaya”

Richard Whitecross (University of Edinburgh)

“‘I’m Tashi Drukpa!’: Identifying oneself - the mirror of modernity in Bhutan”

1730-1830 BASAS Annual General Meeting

Location:
**Elizabeth
Fry 01.08**

Tuesday 6th April

1900-2000 **Plenary**

Location: **Chair: Barbara Harriss-White** (University of Oxford)

Council

Chamber

Piers Blaikie (University of East Anglia)

“Himalayan Environmental Policy: Chimera or Trying to Get Real?”

2000-2130 Conference Dinner

Location: Conference Dinner is only for residential delegates and any non-residential delegates that have paid for this option when registering

The ‘Top Floor’

2130-2230 Cultural Event (open to all delegates)

Location: Radical ghazals in Urdu and English by Norwich-based singer/songwriter Samia Malik

The ‘Top Floor’

Wednesday 7th April

0900-1030 **Panel 6: Changing Agrarian Relations in South Asia**

Location: **Chair: Barbara Harriss-White** (University of Oxford)

**Elizabeth
Fry 01.08**

Daniel Coppard (University of East Anglia)
“The Persistence of Patronage: A Social History of Agrarian Relations in a Chottanagpur Village of Eastern India”

Adam Pain (University of East Anglia)
“Women, Landownership and Household Headship in Bhutan”

Barbara Harriss-White (University of Oxford)
“Rural Commercial Capitalism and the Left Front – The Era of Liberalisation”

1030-1100 Coffee break – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

1100-1230 **Panel 7: International Relations in South Asia**

Location: **Chair: Rajat Ganguly** (University of East Anglia)

**Elizabeth
Fry 01.08**

Apurba Kundu (European Institute for Asian Studies)
“National Security in India under the BJP/NDA Administrations”

David Seddon (University of East Anglia)
“Hundi and Havala: Informal Money Transfers after 9/11”

Rajat Ganguly (University of East Anglia)
“Is Sri Lanka's Peace Process Terminally Ill?”

1230-1400 Lunch – *Constable Terrace Common Room*

1400-1530 **Historical Visit to the Old Council Chamber in Norwich Guildhall**

John Cameron (University of East Anglia)
“Norwich and India and delayed transition to capitalism – the destruction of handloom weaving and East India Company”

BASAS gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance provided for this conference from the **Society for South Asian Studies (SSAS)** and the **School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia**.

