



BASAS



British Association for South Asian Studies

Now merged with the [Society for South Asian Studies](#) and including [Indology: Resources for Indological Scholarship](#)

BASAS Annual Conference 2008



University of Leicester, UK

26-28 March 2008

Provisional Programme

Wednesday, 26 March

12.00-1.00pm

Collection of conference packs; registration; lunch

1.00-2.30pm

Panel 1

[Sites of Infection, Sites of Epidemiological Enquiry in Colonial India](#)

Conveners: Sanchari Dutta and Nandini Bhattacharyya

Chair: Anu Garg (University of Lancaster)

Cholera, Ka'aba and Commerce: the Haj from the Indian subcontinent, 1860-1920

Saurabh Mishra (University of Oxford)

Locality, Ecology, and Anti-Malarial Practices in Colonial Plantations

Nandini Bhattacharyya (UCL / University of Warwick)

Cholera, Clinical Trials, Convict Subjects: Waldemar Haffkine's jails experiments, 1893-8

Sanchari Dutta (University of Oxford)

Panel 2

Open Panel: Environment and Conservation

Chair: Graham Chapman (University of Lancaster)

The GM Crops Controversy and Indian Environmentalism

Richard Bownas (Cornell University)

EPSRC Fair Tracing Project

Ashima Chopra (University of Bradford)

Panel 3

Post-tsunami 'communities' and Sri Lankan space

Convener: Kanchana N. Ruwanpura

Chair: Vishvajit Pandya (Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Putting Houses in Place: Re-Building Communities in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka

Kanchana N. Ruwanpura (University of Southampton)

Transitioning Nowhere: Rights, Claims, and Entitlements in Post-Tsunami Housing Reconstruction

Cynthia Caron (United Nations Office for Project Services / American Institute for Lankan Studies, Colombo)

RE-LOCATING: Social Processes in the Aftermath of the Tsunami and in the Wake of War in Eastern Sri Lanka.

Katharina Thurnheer (University of Bern, Switzerland)

2.30-3.00pm

Refreshments

3.00-4.30pm

Panel 1

Integrated Histories of the Andaman Islands (1)

Convener: Clare Anderson (University of Warwick)

Chair: Frank Conlon (University of Washington, Seattle)

'Varnished Savages': The Indian Naval Brigade in the Andamans, 1858-64

Clare Anderson (University of Warwick)

Representing the Sentinelese- Histories between text and image

Vishvajit Pandya (Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Settler Histories of the Andaman Islands: A Contested Terrain

Uditi Sen (Clare College, University of Cambridge)

Panel 2

Open Panel: Partition and Identity

Chair: Justin Jones (University of Cambridge)

The 1947 Violence in Sialkot

Ilyas Chattha (University of Southampton)

Sacred Space to Sectarian place: Contested Muslim identities in Pakistan

Saleem Khan (London Metropolitan University)

Dalit Youth in Punjab: Social dynamics of transitions in identity

Meena Dhanda (University of Wolverhampton)

4.30-6.00pm

Panel 1

Integrated Histories of the Andaman Islands (2)

Convener: Clare Anderson (University of Warwick)

Chair: Frank Conlon (University of Washington, Seattle)

Narrativizing the Past: A history of the colonization of the Andamans

Aparna Vaidik (Georgetown University, USA)

Model Subjects: Representations of the Andaman Islands at International Exhibitions in Victorian England

Claire Wintle (University of Sussex / Brighton Museum and Art Gallery)

Roundtable discussion

Panel 2

Open Panel: Performing Culture and Identity

Chair: Stephanie Jones (University of Southampton)

Migrant male Indian doctors and their wives: Breach of colonial expectations and mental dissonance

Anu Garg (University of Lancaster)

Constructing Queer Bollywood: Race and Homosexuality in Ode to Lata

Sandeep Bakshi (University of Leicester)

People's Theatre as social and political space, IPTA 1949-1994

Talat Ahmed (University of Leeds)

Panel 3

Open Panel: Gender, History, Representation: Subaltern Voices in and of South Asia

Chair: Carole Spary (University of Warwick)

The Chromosome Woman: E. K. Janaki Ammal and the History of Plant Genetics in India (1897-1984)

Savithri Preetha Nair

Art, Ritual and the Voice of the Past: A Case Study of Maithil Paintings

Neel Rekha, Leeds University

Cultural Christians? Punjabis, Belgians, and Brits in the Battle to Socialize a Convert Generation, 1890 – 1910

Christopher Harding, University of Edinburgh

6.00-8.00pm

Bar open

6.30-7.30pm

Presentation by London-based arts organisation Motiroti of 360°. Launched in November 2007, it is a programme of exchanges that will reveal a contemporary picture of cultural dynamics between the UK, India, and Pakistan. Sixty films, residencies and exchanges across borders, publications and a new collaboration will bring artists together to excite imaginations and progress the role that art can play in building alliances for intercultural dialogue and engagement. 60x60 Secs is the first project of the programme, offering sixty one-minute film commissions to artists from the South Asian Diaspora living in Britain, India and Pakistan. See www.motiroti.com for more details.

8.00pm

Coaches leave for dinner at **Halli restaurant** (off site; return 11.00pm)

Thursday, 27 March

9.00-10.30am

Panel 1

State-society interactions in South Asia: the mediations of 'political society (1): Leaders, Mediators and Followers

Conveners: Cressida Jervis-Read (University of Sussex) and Ward Berenschot

(University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Chair: Barbara Harriss-White (university of Oxford)

Daily Elections: The Everyday Mediation of the State in Ahmedabad, India

Ward Berenschot (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Co-existence and the Politics of Recognition: "Tribal" and "Non-Tribal" Interaction and the Shaping of Leadership in Western India

Devika Bordia (Yale University, USA)

Sex, Secularism and the State: "Lifestyle Education" in West Bengal

Mark Maclean (University of Cambridge)

Panel 2

'Out of East Africa'? East African Asians in the UK and Canada

Conveners and Chairs: Margret Frenz (University of Leicester) and Jo Herbert (Queen Mary, University of London)

Oral Histories of the Ugandan Asian Diaspora in Britain

Joanna Herbert (Queen Mary, University of London)

M G Vassanji and the Politics of the Novel Form

Stephanie Jones (University of Southampton)

The Subjectivities of the East African Asian Women Involved in the Emblematic Grunwick Dispute of 1976-77

Sundari Anitha (University of Leeds), Ruth Pearson (University of Leeds), Linda McDowell (University of Oxford)

10.30-11.00am

Refreshments

11.00-12.30pm

Panel 1

The Genealogy of Colonial Discourse

Convener: Raf Gelders (Ghent University, Belgium)

Chair: Prashant Kidambi (University of Leicester)

Embedding a Genealogy into a Framework

S.N. Balagangadhara (Ghent University, Belgium)

On the Genealogy of Colonial Stereotypes

Jakob De Roover (Ghent University, Belgium)

Indian Traditions and Cosmography: the genealogy of colonial discourse

Raf Gelders (Ghent University, Belgium)

Panel 2

State-society interactions in South Asia: the mediations of 'political society (2): Sites for Interaction, Sites for Mediation?

Conveners: Cressida Jarvis-Read (University of Sussex) and Ward Berenschot (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Chair: Urs Geiser (Zurich University, Switzerland)

Revisiting the Civil and the Political: 'A Secret Public Hearing' on Nuclear Reactors in South India

Raminder Kaur (University of Sussex)

Dealing with the State: NGO Mediations in a Political Society

Tom Harrison (St Antony's College, Oxford University)

"NGOs should not do this kind of work" The Struggle over Representation in a Delhi Resettlement Colony

Cressida Jervis Read (University of Sussex)

Panel 3

Dalits in the Indian Economy

Conveners: Barbara Harriss-White (University of Oxford) and Aseem Prakash (University of Oxford)

Chair: Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes)

An Atlas of Dalit Discrimination in the Indian Economy

Barbara Harriss-White (Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford)

The Marginalisation of Dalits in the Process of Rural Industrialisation in Western Tamil Nadu around Tiruppur and Coimbatore

Judith Heyer (Somerville College, University of Oxford)

Engaging with State, Markets and Civil Society: An Ethnographic Study of Dalit Entrepreneurs

Aseem Prakash (Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford)

12.30-1.30pm

Lunch

1.30-3.00pm

Panel 1

"Local civil society": an expression of alternative development practices and visions?

Convener: Urs Geiser (Zurich University, Switzerland)

Chair:

How Women's Concerns are Shaped in Community-Based Disaster Management in Bangladesh

Keiko Ikeda (Shizuoka University, Japan / Northumbria University)

Spaces of Power and Participatory Development in Afghanistan: A Case Study of the National Solidarity Programme and (Un)Changing Civil Society in Faryab Province

Jennifer McCarthy (KCL)

Talibans or "Local Civil Society"? – Questioning recent Struggles in the "Social Space between Household and the State" in Swat, Northwest Pakistan

Urs Geiser (Zurich University, Switzerland)

Panel 2

Other Histories: Master Narratives and Minor Stories in Pre-colonial India

Convener: Nilanjan Sarkar (Routledge, New Delhi)

Chair: Frank Conlon (University of Washington, Seattle)

Contextualising Bodhgaya: A Study of Foundations of Bodhgaya in early historical Bodhgaya region

Abhishek Singh Amar (SOAS)

'Imperial Citizens' and the Levity of Political Absolutism in the Delhi Sultanate, ca. 1350

Nilanjan Sarkar (Routledge, New Delhi)

The Girasiyas of Middle Period Gujarat: An Exploration

Aparna Kapadia (SOAS)

Panel 3

The changing experience of childhood and parenting in India c. 1870-present

Conveners: Leigh Denault and Rashmi Chopra

Chair: Werner Menski (SOAS)

Palan-poshan (Child-rearing) texts: Parenting, childhood and the Hindi-speaking household c. 1870-1915

Leigh Denault (University of Cambridge)

What did “education” mean to children? A study of education in the Madras Presidency during the 1930s and 1940s

Catriona Ellis (Edinburgh University)

Debating Childhood in Contemporary India

Rashmi Chopra (University of Cambridge)

3.00-3.30pm

Refreshments

3.30-5.00pm

Panel 1

Continuity and Change: A Comparative Analysis of Contemporary India and Pakistan

Conveners: Jyoti Saraswati (University of Oxford) and Taimur Rehman (SOAS)

Chair: Lawrence Saez (SOAS)

Continuity and Change: Beyond a Superficial Understanding of Contemporary India and Pakistan

Jyoti Saraswati (University of Oxford)

State, Society and Military Rule in Pakistan: Implications for a Future Political Social Order

Syed Sodherwordi (University of Edinburgh)

The Evolving Relationship between Poverty and Begging in India and Pakistan

Sheba Saeed (University of Birmingham)

Islam, Class and Democracy in Pakistan Today

Taimur Rehman (SOAS)

Panel 2

Colonial secularism and the management of religions in South Asia

Convener: Justin Jones (University of Cambridge)

Chair: John Zavos (University of Manchester)

Secularizing public education: a history of religious instruction laws in India and UK

Nandini Chatterjee (KCL)

Colonial Secularism and Islamism

Humeira Iqtidar (University of Cambridge)

Muslim Personal Law and the colonial roots of Islamic contestation in modern India

Justin Jones (University of Cambridge)

Panel 3

Federalism, Nationalism and Development in South Asia: challenges of globalisation (1)

Convener: Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes)

Chair: Kanchana Ruwanpura (University of Southampton)

Will globalisation strengthen or weaken centralisation in India?

Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes)

Hindu nationalism - from protector of culture to a political player in Indian democracy

Marek Moroń (Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland).

When Freedom and Federalism do not go hand in hand: the consequences of global calls for decentralization and the market for Indian education

Shailaja Fennell (University of Cambridge)

5.00-6.00pm

Special BASAS Session: [Water and Mis-development](#)

Convener and Chair: Graham Chapman (University of Lancaster)

Pollution and the Ganges: Scientific and Social Determinants, and the Mysterious Factor X

Julian Crandall Hollick (Independent Broadcasting Associates, Cambridge, Mass., USA)

Inter-linking of Rivers in India: Mega-projects, Myths, and Realities

Kalyan Rudra (Central water Commission, Core Group, National Disaster Management, Kolkata)

6.15-7.00pm

Key Note Lecture

[Signifying practices: The violent Other in placeless-place](#)

Vishvajit Pandya (Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat).

7.00-8.00pm

Drinks Reception

Generously sponsored by the journal *Contemporary South Asia* (published by Taylor and Francis).

8.00pm

Conference Dinner (on site). **Bar Open** until midnight.

Friday, 28 March

9.00-10.30

Panel 1

Transnational Nationalism and the Borders of Race: Afro-Indian Encounters in the Twentieth Century

Conveners: Sana Aiyer (Harvard University, USA) and Nico Slate (Harvard University, USA)

Chair: John Zavos (Manchester University)

From Empire to Uhuru (Freedom): Nationalism and Race in the In-Between World of Kenyan Asians

Sana Aiyer (Harvard University, USA)

'I am a coloured woman': Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya in the United States, 1939-41

Nico Slate (Harvard University, USA)

Remapping the Geography of Indian Nationalism: The League against Imperialism and the Transnational Dimensions of India's Struggle for Independence, 1927-1931

Michele Louro (Temple University, USA)

Panel 2

A New India? Studying India in the Long Twentieth Century (1)

Convener: Anthony D'Costa (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)

Chair: Shailaja Fennell (University of Cambridge)

A New Face of Global Capitalism: Indian Professionals in the World Economy

Anthony P. D'Costa (Copenhagen Business School)

Revivalism, Modernism, and Internationalism: Architecture in India's Long 20th Century

Rebecca M. Brown (Swansea University)

New Challenges for a New India

Meera Tiwari (University of East London)

Panel 3

Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka: National and International Dimensions

Convener: Chaminda Hettiarachchi (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)

Chair:

Role of Diaspora in Sri Lankan Conflict

Chaminda Hettiarachchi (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)

End of CFA and Future of Peace in Sri Lanka

Champika Rajakaruna (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)

India in Sri Lankan Ethnic Conflict

Dilum Welagedara (University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)

10.30-11.00am

Refreshments

11.00-12.30pm

Panel 1

[A New India? Studying India in the Long Twentieth Century \(2\)](#)

Convener and Chair: Anthony D'Costa (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)

Susceptibility of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh: An Appraisal of Different Risk Factors

Pradip Kumar Panday (University of Sheffield / University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh)

'India's Rasputin'? Krishna Menon and Anglo-American misperceptions of Indian foreign policymaking, 1947-1962

Paul McGarr (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Can ICT connectivity foster South Asian regional integration?

Silvia Gaiani (University of Bologna, Italy)

Panel 2

[Muslim Geographies: exploring the construction of religious identities in South Asia](#)

Convener: Philippa Williams

Chair: Nida Kirmani (Birmingham University / Islamic Relief)

'A film at Drive-in; a Nihari in Manek chowk and a falooda at Gandhi's is unimaginable for our boys today': Narratives of the City and its people

Rubina Jasani (University of Warwick)

Living on the Edge: A Study of the Muslim Butchers of Delhi

Zarin Ahmad (Centre for Sciences Humaines, New Dehli)

'Like warp and weft': Negotiating Muslim identity in the 'silk' industry, Varanasi

Philippa Williams (University of Cambridge)

Panel 3

[Nationalism, Identity and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka](#)

Conveners: Rajesh Venugopal, (University of Oxford), David Rampton, Kanchana Ruwanpura (University of Southampton)

Chair: Kanchana Ruwanpura (University of Southampton)

Sri Lanka: The Politics of Market Reforms at a Time of Ethnic Conflict

Rajesh Venugopal (University of Oxford)

Pacifying the Borderlands: Development, Colonization and Conflict in Sri Lanka

David Rampton and Suthaharan Nadarajah (SOAS)

The limits of liberal peacebuilding: international engagement in the Sri Lankan peace process

Jonathan Goodhand and Oliver Walton (SOAS)

Majoritarian Nationalism In Constitutional Praxis: A Short Account Of The Sri Lankan Experience

Asanga Welikala (Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka)

12.30-1.30pm

Lunch and **close**.

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