



Centre of **SOUTH
ASIAN STUDIES**



British Association for South Asian Studies

British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference 6-8 April 2016

Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge

Conference schedule (for full schedule with abstracts, see separate PDF)

Wednesday 6 April 2016

13:30-15:00

Trust Room

Understanding the Roles of National Experts in South Asian development

Palash Kamruzzaman (University of Bath), Chair

Palash Kamruzzaman (University of Bath), Understanding the role of national development experts in development ethnography

Abid Shah (University of Bath), National experts in Pakistan – Architects or contractors of development?

Priyan Senevirathna (Leeds Beckett University), Political Economy of Hybridity: Civil Society, Market Society or Both?

Reddaway Room

Translating Christianity: Print, Conversion and Religious Identity in Colonial India

Leigh Denault (University of Cambridge), Chair

Mou Banerjee (Harvard University), The words and worlds of Munshi Meherullah: Muslim apologetics in late colonial Bengal

Shinjini Das (University of Cambridge), An Imperial Apostle? St Paul, Conversion and Bengali Christianity

Leigh Denault (University of Cambridge), Encountering New Print Publics: Debating Christianity, Identity, and Society in the late-Colonial Hindi press

Muhammed Niyas (Freie Universität Berlin), Muslim-Christian Polemics and the Emergence of a “Rational” Muslim Discourse in Colonial South India

Gaskoin Room

The Faces of Secularism and Extremism: Bangladesh and its Diaspora

Bidit Dey (Brunel University London), Chair

Rokeya Chowdhury (University of Dhaka/McGill University), The Trajectories and Challenges of Secularism in Bangladesh

M. Sanjeeb Hossain (University of Warwick), The ‘Shahbag’ Protest and the Conflict of Identities in Bangladesh

Rayhan Rashid and Haseeb Mahmud (Heilbronn University), Pens versus Machetes: Colliding Worlds in a Battle for Secular Bangladesh

Haseeb Mahmud and Bidit Dey (Brunel University London), Analysing the Nature and Implications of Religious Extremism among British Bangladeshi Diaspora

Old Senior Common Room

Social and political relations in South Asia and beyond

Philippa Williams (Queen Mary University of London), Chair

Venya De Silva (University of Oxford), The work of ethnicity: Contemporary perspectives from youth in Colombo

Dominic Esler (King's College London), Martyrs, flags and funerals: Caste and Catholicism in post-war Sri Lanka

Piyanat Soikham (University of St Andrews), Indian Diaspora/Migrants in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia: The Similarities and Differences in Soft Power Implementation

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Performance, power and the state in South Asia

Nicholas Evans (University of Cambridge), chair

Maria Rashid (SOAS), Disciplining Narratives of Pain: Corpses and Military Funerals in Pakistan

Zahra Shah (University of Oxford), Persian Lithograph Printing in the 1840s and 1850s in North India

Valentina Gamberi (University of Chester), Darśan in museum cabinets: Problematizing museum culture

Jean-Thomas Martelli & Khaliq Parker (King's College London), The Organisational Vote: Making sense of Political Socialisation in an Indian Campus

15:30-17:00

Trust Room

The East India Company and the College of Fort William: Art, Literature, Politics

David Washbrook (University of Cambridge), Chair

Cleo Roberts (University of Liverpool), Fort William College and the manufacture of immaturity

Diviya Pant (University of Kent), The Comparative Rhetoric of John Gilchrist's early Hindustani Grammars

Joshua Ehrlich (Harvard University), The Politics of the East India Company's Colleges

Reddaway Room

Roundtable: Academic freedom in South Asia

Joya Chatterji (University of Cambridge), Chair

Discussants:

Priyamvada Gopal (University of Cambridge)

Humeira Iqtidar (King's College London)

Edward Anderson (University of Cambridge)

Parth Pratim Shil (University of Cambridge)

Laurence Gautier (University of Cambridge)

Mamun Rashid (University of Cambridge)

Thursday 7 April 2016

9:00-10:30

Trust Room

Realms of Government: Crime and Contestation, 1858-1992

Taylor Sherman (LSE), Chair

Alastair McClure (University of Cambridge), Legitimising colonial rule: The politics of imperial clemency in the 19th century

Ishan Mukherjee (University of Cambridge), Crime and Politics in Late Colonial India: Legitimizing Urban Policing Practices and its Post-Colonial Legacy

Saumya Saxena (University of Cambridge), Politics of Legitimising Personal Law in Post-Independence India

Reddaway Room

Complicating Islam across South Asia

Majid Sheikh (Lahore University of Management Sciences), Chair

Ali Khan (Ashoka University), Hindu rituals during Muharram in North India

Tahir Kamran (Government College University, Lahore), The Genesis, Evolution and Impact of 'Deobandi' Islam on the Punjab

Mridu Rai (Presidency University, Kolkata), 'We are Shudras; we are the indigenous peoples of India. We are Muslims after'

Gaskoin Room

Writing Transnational Histories of South Asian Monarchies: Between Regional Dynamism and Global Entanglement (ca. 1850-1950)

Jörg Gengnagel (Heidelberg University), Chair

Jörg Gengnagel (Heidelberg University), The King, the Court, and the City: On a Controversy about the Construction of a New Gate in Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Simon Cubelic (Heidelberg University), Transnational Entanglements, Shifting Political Cultures: Kingship, Law, and Collective Identity in Nineteenth Century Nepal

Milinda Banerjee (Presidency University, Kolkata), Between the British Indian Empire, European Royal Networks, and the Papacy: Writing a Transnational History of Late Nineteenth-Century Cooch Behar

Old Senior Common Room

Examining claims of 'transformative constitutionalism' in India and Nepal

Berenice Guyot-Rechard (King's College London), Chair

Souvanik Mullick (Yale University), Comprehending Trends in Social Rights Adjudication in India

Amy Johnson (Yale University), Historicizing the Emergence of a "Transformative" Constitution in Nepal

Moiz Tundawala (LSE), Constituent power and social transformation: Fundamental rights and directive principles in the Indian Constitution

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Gender and violence in India and the diaspora

Deborah Sutton (Lancaster University), Chair

Gemma Scott (Keele University), 'My Wife had to get Sterilised?': Exploring Women's Experiences of Sterilisation under the Emergency in India, 1975-1977

Mirna Guha (University of East Anglia), Imperfect victims?: Female sex workers' everyday experiences of violence in India

Parul Bhandari (Centre de Sciences Humaines de New Delhi), Pre-marital relationships and violence: Making of modern Indian coupledom

Nandini Sen (Goethe-Universität), The Role of Women and Gender in short stories of Rabindranath Tagore: An anthropological introspection on kinship and family in relation to gender

11:00-12:30

Trust Room

The Present's Past: Historicizing the 'Political' in Kashmir

Idrees Kanth (Leiden University), Chair

Idrees Kanth (Leiden University), The geographies of belonging, and the making of the political in Kashmir in the 1940s

Sarbani Sharma (Delhi School of Economics), Everyday Politics of Mohalla Maisuma, Srinagar: Notes on Azadi and its Actions

Debadrita Chakraborty (Cardiff University), A Kashmir of their Own: Reading marginalised literary voices and exclusionary politics

Reddaway Room

Contested Identity and Urban Spaces in Contemporary India

Prithvi Hirani (Aberystwyth University), Chair

Prithvi Hirani (Aberystwyth University), Mumbai's Chhota Pakistans: Exploring the Border in Urban Space.

Kalyani Devaki Menon (DePaul University), Muslims in Old Delhi: Place and Belonging in Contemporary India

Bani Gill (University of Copenhagen), 'Getting By': Narratives of everyday social practices amongst African migrant communities in Delhi, India

Sruthi Muraleedharan (SOAS), Statues of Dis 'Order': Ambedkar Parks and Dalit Politics in India

Gaskoin Room

Indentured Identities: Colonial Discourse, Subaltern Agency and Indian Labour Migration, 1834-1920'

Andrea Major (University of Leeds), Chair

Andrea Major (University of Leeds), Ignorant and Helpless Beings: Rethinking the Emergence of the 'Coolie' Stereotype in Nineteenth Century Colonial Discourse

Saurabh Misra (University of Sheffield), Becoming a Coolie: Violence, Solidarity and Resistance on 'Coolie ships'

Reshaad Durgahee (University of Nottingham), Subaltern Careering: Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Re-migration Across the Sugar Colonies of the Indentured Archipelago

Old Senior Common Room

Political art in postcolonial times: Left-wing aesthetics in South Asia, 1950s-60s

Javed Majeed (King's College London), Chair

Lotte Hoek (University of Edinburgh), Political velocities: Film appreciation and the force of the moving image in 1960s East Pakistan

Saadia Toor (CUNY-College of Staten Island), "Chale Chalo ke Voh Manzil Abhi Nahin Aai": The Progressive Writers Association in Pakistan

Sanjukta Sunderason (Leiden University), In the image of man: Socialist realism in the shadow of Nehruvian India

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

The politics of land and labour in contemporary South Asia

Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge), Chair

Filippo Boni (University of Nottingham), Sino-Pakistani relations and the port of Gwadar: An analysis of Pakistan's gateway to the Indian Ocean

Irene Pang (Brown University), Precarious Stateness: How Construction Workers in Delhi and Beijing Navigate Informality in Claim-Making

Devanshi Chanchani (University of East Anglia), Disobeying the principle of self-selection: The Pardhi and public works under NREGA.

Rashid Memon, Melissa Fernandez, Sunil Kumar (LUMS and LSE), The Urbanisation-Construction-Migration Nexus in South Asia: the Politics of Land Conversion, Construction and Contract Labour Migration in Lahore

12:30-14:00 Lunch (Upper Hall)

12:45-13:45 Early Career Session on Publishing (Location TBC)

14:00-15:30

Trust Room

Citizenship, diaspora and democracy

John Zavos (University of Manchester), Chair

Joya Chatterji (University of Cambridge), Citizenship and belonging in the Bengal diaspora
Ornit Shani (University of Haifa), Making democratic citizenship in the midst of partition, 1948-50

Sundeeep Lidher (University of Cambridge), Citizenship and immigration policy in post-1945 Britain: the case of non-white nationals

Edward Anderson (University of Cambridge) and Patrick Clibbens (University of Oxford), 'Smugglers of truth': The Emergency, the Indian diaspora, and transnational citizenship

Reddaway Room

The culture and politics of food in South Asia

Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway, University of London), Chair

Sreya Mallika Datta (Delhi University), Empire on a Plate: Colonial Food Cultures and Cosmopolitan Modernity

Saumya Gupta (Delhi University), The Nation and Its Kitchen: Dietary Dictacts from Hindi Recipe Books

Rachna Singh (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Producing the prisoner's body: Jail dietaries and punishment in colonial north India in the early nineteenth century

Gaskoin Room

Topographies of Exclusion: Women in Pakistan's Labour Market

Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge), chair

Misbah Tanveer Choudhry (LUMS), Determinants of Women Entrepreneurship: An Empirical Analysis

Ghazal Zulfiqar (LUMS), Labor Rights for Home-based Workers – The Anatomy of a Non-Indigenous Movement in Pakistan

Hadia Majid (LUMS), Female Status and Time-Saving Durables: Reducing Women's Triple Burden

Rashid Memon (LUMS), Gender Prejudice as a Sense of Social Position

Old Senior Common Room

Mobility, Equality and Economics in South Asian Communities

Nitya Rao (University of East Anglia), Chair

Niranjana Ramesh (University College London), Seawater & techno-urbanism: how a state re-invents itself

Klara Feldes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), The Indian River Interlinking Project and the Promise of 'Progress'

Sarah McKeever (King's College London), Network Inequality: Issue-Based Movements and ICT in New Delhi, India

Anna Ruddock (King's College London), 'Go for a walk': Learning to dictate responsible patienthood at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Representation and performance in South Asian literature

Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam University), Chair

Indrani Karmakar (University of York), Mothers' Voice: Representation of Motherhood in Mahasweta Devi's 'Bayen' and 'Ma, from Dusk to Dawn'

Piyush Roy (University of Edinburgh), Performing Heroism – Characterising veera rasa through the brave hearts of Baahubal

Arnab Dutta (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), Bangla horizontal books and an 'alternative' materiality of reading: A note towards a history of reading

Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam University), Sophia Dobson Collet and Rammohun Roy: Writing cosmopolitan biographies between Britain and India

16:00-17:30

Trust Room

Muslim citizens and the construction of post-colonial states in South Asia

William Gould (University of Leeds), Chair

Laurence Gautier (University of Cambridge), 'De-hyphenating' Indian Muslims: Non-majoritarian discourses on the nation and citizenship around partition

Layli Uddin (Royal Holloway, University of London), "Poor Person's Pakistan Zindabad": Nation-Building in East Pakistan, 1947-52

Salma Siddique (University of Westminster, London), Film, Flag and Photos: The Unruly Archives of Pakistan

Aishwarya Pandit (Center for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi), Property, Rehabilitation and Citizenship: The issue of Waqf and Evacuee Property in Uttar Pradesh 1947-70

Reddaway Room

Digital media and new technologies in South Asia and its diaspora

Leigh Denault (University of Cambridge), Chair

Yagna Nag Chowdhuri (Cornell University), Managing life, Making subjects: Discourses of Spirituality in Modern India

David Riley (Cardiff University), @SouthAsia71: Live tweeting the Bangladesh Liberation War

Tine Vekemans (Ghent University), The Virtual and the Virtuous: The Reception of Online Ritual in Different Parts of the Jain Diaspora

Ravinder Barn (Royal Holloway, University of London), Balbir Barn (Middlesex) and Utsa Mukherjee (Royal Holloway, University of London), The role of social media in contemporary India: A case study of India's Daughter

Gaskoin Room

Masculinity and femininity in South Asia

Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (University of Cambridge), Chair

Sophie-Jung Kim (University of Cambridge), Vivekananda as a Parivrājaka: Masculinity and Political Selfhood of a Wandering Monk

Sudipa Topdar (Illinois State University), Reading the Muscular Body: Childhoods and Boy Cultures in Late Colonial Bengal

K.R. Kavyakrishna (independent), Inventing a Dance Tradition: Kerala Kalamandalam and the Constitution of Mohiniyattam as a Modern Dance Form

Radha Kapuria (King's College London), Nautch Girls and Mirasis in Nineteenth Century Punjab

Old Senior Common Room

Muslims' marginalization in urban India a decade after the Sachar report

Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences Po, Paris), Chair/discussant

Raphael Susewind (University of Oxford), Muslim 'ghettoization'? A quantitative comparison across eleven Indian cities

Raheel Dhattiwala (University of South Australia), Next-door strangers: Explaining 'neighborliness' between Hindus and Muslims in a conflict setting

Heewon Kim (SOAS), United Progressive Alliance (2004-14), Muslims and communal violence bill

Sumeet Mhaskar (University of Göttingen), Ghettoization of economic choices in a global city: A case study of Mumbai

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Power structures and economics in contemporary India

Manali Desai (University of Cambridge), Chair

Dyotana Banerjee (Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar), A ghettoized smart city: Caste and capital in the remaking of Ahmedabad

Sunil Mitra Kumar (King's College London), Why does caste still influence access to agricultural credit?

Kunal Sen and Rajesh Raj (University of Manchester), Out of the Shadows? The Informal Sector in Post-Reform India

18:00 – Keynote Public Lecture given by Professor William Gould (University of Leeds):

'Hidden Citizens: Space, place and rights in India and Pakistan, 1947-1952'. Introduced by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz. (Auditorium)

19:00 – Drinks reception, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, publishers of South Asian Studies and Contemporary South Asia (Upper Hall)

20:00 - Dinner (Dining Hall)

Friday 8 April 2016

9:00-10:30

Trust Room

Politics and remembrance in the diaspora

Edward Anderson (University of Cambridge), Chair

Priya Swamy (Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asia and the Caribbean Studies, Leiden), Towards a definition of public 'Dutch Hinduism': Surinamese Hindu articulations of Hindu-ness

Jed Fazakarley (University of Oxford), Celebrating and Critiquing the Nation from Afar: Indian National Day Events in Britain, 1947-97

Nandi Bhatia (Western University, Ontario), Remembering the 1947 Partition in the Diaspora

Uma Mesthrie (University of the Western Cape, South Africa), Collective and Individual Biographies of Sikhs in Early Twentieth Century Cape Town, South Africa

Reddaway Room

Rethinking Connected Empires in Sri Lankan History

Sujit Sivasundaram (University of Cambridge), chair

James Wilson (University of Cambridge), A Paper Empire in an Itinerant World: Migration, Militarism, and British Regulation in Sri Lanka, 1796-1816

Alicia Schrikker (Leiden University), Migration, Debt, and Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Jaffa

Mark Frost (University of Essex), Epic Migrations: India and the Rise of a Cosmopolitan Vernacular in Colonial Ceylon, 1870-1914

Gaskoin Room

Food Security in South Asia, 1

Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge), chair

Andaleeb Rahman (Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore), Universal food security program and nutritional intake: Evidence from the hunger prone districts of Odisha
Lana Whittaker (University of Cambridge), The role of India's midday meal scheme in realising food security.

Mehroosh Tak (SOAS), Agriculture and Nutrition Linkages in India: A State Level Analysis

Old Senior Common Room

Revolutionary Politics in British India: Representation, Strategy and Praxis

Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway, University of London), Chair

Aparna Vaidik (Ashoka University), Revolutionary Praxis: Asceticism, Violence and Nationalism

Anwasha Roy (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Re-Exploring Gandhian (Non-)Violence: The Quit India Movement (1942-45)

Francesca Fuoli (SOAS), Incorporating north-western Afghanistan through indirect rule: Categories of social difference in the making of an imperial border, 1884-87

Partha Pratim Shil (University of Cambridge), The 'threatened' constabulary strikes of early twentieth-century Bengal

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Agricultural Markets and the State in India: Exploring the Impact of Liberalisation

Shreya Sinha (SOAS), chair

Shreya Sinha (SOAS), Reflections on 'Unbundling' the Food Corporation of India: Production and Procurement in Punjab

Misha Velthuis (SOAS), Modernising the Market: Tracing Supermarket Procurement in Maharashtra

Nithya Natarajan (SOAS), Contesting the 'Market': Caste, Class and Liberalisation among Tobacco Farmers in Tamil Nadu

11:00-12:30

Trust Room

Political Animals in South Asia

Sujit Sivasundaram (University of Cambridge), chair

Nayanika Mathur (University of Cambridge), The Mark of the Beast: Identifying, Hunting, and Conserving 'man-eating' big cats in India

Jonathan Saha (University of Leeds), A Panopticon for Pachyderms? Colonial Discipline, Imperial Capital and Scientific Knowledge in Burma's Imperial Capital and Scientific Knowledge in Burma's Elephant Camps

Rohan Deb Roy (University of Reading), Vectors of Empire: Mosquitoes in British India and Beyond, c. 1900-1940

Reddaway Room

Legacies of partition

Joya Chatterji (University of Cambridge), Chair

Garima Dhabhai (Jawaharlal Nehru University/Yale University), From Princely to the Popular: Study of Jaipur's Transition to a Capital City

Anwasha Sengupta (Calcutta Research Group/Jawaharlal Nehru University), Unthreading Partition: The Politics of Jute Sharing between Two Bengals, 1947-1952

Uttara Shahani (University of Cambridge), Pre-Partition Movements for Autonomy in South Asia: Separating Sind 1927-1937

Jack Loveridge (University of Texas-Austin), Between Hunger and Growth: Defining Development in Partition's Aftermath

Gaskoin Room

Food Security in South Asia, 2

Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge), chair

Ksenia Gerasimova (University of Cambridge), Indian Farmers' Perceptions of Genetically Modified Crops

Regina Hansda (University of Cambridge), Understanding small-scale, agro-ecological farming and questions of food security in India through a feminist political ecology framework

Tsveti Bandakova (University of Edinburgh), 'Seed sovereignty for food security and livelihood improvement': Community-led efforts in conservation of indigenous crop diversity in Maharashtra

Old Senior Common Room

Rethinking the other in India's peripheries

Tom Simpson (University of Cambridge), chair

Siddharth Pandey (University of Cambridge), Mountains, Memories, Materialities: Understanding the Present of Shimla's Otherness

Angma Jhala (Bentley University/Harvard University), A Colonial Archive of a Border Region: At the Crossroads of India, Bangladesh and Burma

Saba Sharma (University of Cambridge), Narrating Blame: Post-Conflict Discourse in Bodoland, Assam

Aryendra Chakravartty (Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas), Politics of Difference: Regionalism and the National Imagination in Colonial India

Gordon Cameron Lecture Theatre

Gender, Migration, and Urban Space in South Asia

Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (University of Cambridge), Chair

Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (University of Cambridge), Feminisation and Commercialisation of Space: Women's Informalities and New Urban Forms in Delhi

Lucie Bernroider (Heidelberg University), The Street, the Market and the Café: Challenges and Comforts of an Independent Inner City Life

Kavita Ramakrishnan (University of East Anglia), Between a 'Calling' and Resentment: Attitudes Towards NGO Work Amongst Women in Delhi