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 Seneviratna (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 Pakistan: 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 Pardi 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
Sundeep 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 patiethood 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 Baahubali
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 Parivrājak: 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 Dhattiwal (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.

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
Anwesha 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 Velthius (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
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