**2016 British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference**  
6-8 April 2016  
Fitzwilliam College & the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

Schedule (4 March 2016)  
**PLEASE NOTE: This schedule is still subject to change, both in terms of panel composition, titles, and timings.**

**Schedule at a glance**

### 6 April 2016

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td>Understanding the Roles of National Experts in South Asian development</td>
<td>Translating Christianity: Print, Conversion and Religious Identity in Colonial India</td>
<td>The Faces of Secularism and Extremism: Bangladesh and its Diaspora</td>
<td>Social and political relations in South Asia and beyond</td>
<td>Performance, power and the state in South Asia</td>
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<td>15:30-17:00</td>
<td>Fort William College and Company politics</td>
<td>Gender, Migration, and Urban Space in South Asia and its Diaspora</td>
<td>Roundtable: Academic Freedom in South Asia</td>
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17:15-17:45 – British Association of South Asian Studies Annual General Meeting  
18:00 – Drinks reception, sponsored by the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

### 7 April

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<td>The Present’s Past: Historicizing the ‘Political’ in Kashmir</td>
<td>Contested Identity and Urban Spaces in Contemporary India</td>
<td>Indentured Identities: Colonial Discourse, Subaltern Agency and Indian Labour Migration, 1834-1920'</td>
<td>Political art in postcolonial times: Left-wing aesthetics in South Asia, 1950s-60s</td>
<td>The politics of land and labour in contemporary South Asia</td>
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12:30-14:00: Lunch  
12:45-13:45: Early Career Researchers session on how to publish (details to be announced)

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<td>Topographies of Exclusion: Women in Pakistan’s Labor Market</td>
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<td>Muslim citizens and the construction of post-colonial states in South Asia</td>
<td>Digital media and new technologies in South Asia and its diaspora</td>
<td>Masculinity and femininity in South Asia</td>
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South Asian Communities decade after the Sachar report

| Room 5 | Representation and performance in South Asian literature | Power structures and economics in contemporary India |

17:45 – Keynote and words from the University of Cambridge Vice-Chancellor
18:45 – Drinks reception, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, publisher of *South Asian Studies* and *Contemporary South Asia*

### 8 April 2016

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<td>Agricultural Markets and the State in India: Exploring the Impact of Liberalisation</td>
<td>Complicating South Asian kinship and family</td>
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Detailed Schedule

6 April 2016

13:30-15:00

Room 1
Understand the Roles of National Experts in South Asian development
Palash Kamruzzaman (Bath), Chair
Palash Kamruzzaman (Bath), Understanding the role of national development experts in development ethnography
Abid Shah (Bath), National experts in Pakistan – Architects or contractors of development?
Priyan Seneviratna (Leeds Beckett), Political Economy of Hybridity: Civil Society, Market Society or Both?

Room 2
Translating Christianity: Print, Conversion and Religious Identity in Colonial India
Leigh Denault (Cambridge), Chair
Mou Banerjee (Harvard), The words and worlds of Munshi Meherullah: Muslim apologetics in late colonial Bengal
Shinjini Das (Cambridge), An Imperial Apostle? St Paul, Conversion and Bengali Christianity
Leigh Denault (Cambridge), Encountering New Print Publics: Debating Christianity, Identity, and Society in the late-Colonial Hindi press
Muhammed Niyas (Berlin), Muslim-Christian Polemics and the Emergence of a “Rational” Muslim Discourse in Colonial South India

Room 3
The Faces of Secularism and Extremism: Bangladesh and its Diaspora
Nowrin Tamanna (Reading), Chair
Rokeya Chowdhury (University of Dhaka/McGill University), The Trajectories and Challenges of Secularism in Bangladesh
M. Sanjeeb Hossain (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), Analysing the Nature and Implications of Religious Extremism among British Bangladeshi Diaspora

Room 4
Social and political relations in South Asia and beyond
Edward Anderson (Cambridge), Chair
Venya De Silva (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 (St. Andrews), Indian Diaspora/Migrants in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia: The Similarities and Differences in Soft Power Implementation

Room 5
Performance, power and the state in South Asia
Nicholas Evans (Cambridge), chair
Maria Rashid (SOAS), Disciplining Narratives of Pain: Corpses and Military Funerals in Pakistan
Zahra Shah (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

Room 1

**Fort William College and Company politics**
David Washbrook (Cambridge), Chair
Cleo Roberts (Liverpool), Fort William College and the manufacture of immaturity
Diviya Pant (Kent), Kinship of Vernaculars: The comparative rhetoric of early colonial Hindustani Grammars
Joshua Ehrlich (Harvard), The Politics of the East India Company’s Colleges

Room 2

**Gender, Migration, and Urban Space in South Asia and its Diaspora**
Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (Cambridge), Chair
Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (Cambridge), Feminisation and Commercialisation of Space: Women's Informalities and New Urban Forms in Delhi
Lucie Berroider (Heidelberg), The Street, the Market and the Café: Challenges and Comforts of an Independent Inner City Life
Rita Afsar (University of Western Australia), South Asian Women on the Move: Health Outcomes and Family Integration
Kavita Ramakrishnan (University of East Anglia), Between a ‘Calling’ and Resentment: Attitudes Towards NGO Work Amongst Women in Delhi

Room 3

**Roundtable: Academic freedom in South Asia**
Joya Chatterji (Cambridge), Chair
Discussants TBD

7 April 2016

9:00-10:30

Room 1

**Realms of Government: Crime and Contestation, 1858-1992**
Taylor Sherman (LSE), Chair
Alastair McClure (Cambridge), Legitimising colonial rule: the politics of imperial clemency in the 19th century
Saumya Saxena (Cambridge), Politics of Legitimising Personal Law in Post-Independence India

Room 2

**Complicating Islam across South Asia**
Majid Sheikh (LUMS), Chair
Ali Khan (Ashoka), Hindu rituals during Muharram in North India
Anisha Padma (University of North Carolina), TITLE NEEDED
Tahir Kamran (Government College, Lahore), The Genesis, Evolution and Impact of ‘Deobandi’ Islam on the Punjab
Mridu Rai (Presidency), “We are Shudras; we are the indigenous peoples of India. We are Muslims after”

Room 3

**Writing Transnational Histories of South Asian Monarchies: Between Regional Dynamism and Global Entanglement (ca. 1850-1950)**
Room 4

Examining claims of ‘transformative constitutionalism’ in India and Nepal

Sandipto Dasgupta (King’s College London), Chair
Souvanik Mullick (Yale), Comprehending Trends in Social Rights Adjudication in India
Amy Johnson (Yale), 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

Room 5

Gender and violence in India and the diaspora

Deborah Sutton (Lancaster), Chair
Gemma Scott (Keele), ‘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
Punita Chowbey (Sheffield Hallam), Gender, poverty and economic violence: The narratives of South Asian women in Britain and in South Asia

11:00-12:30

Room 1

The Present’s Past: Historicizing the ‘Political’ in Kashmir

Chair TBC
Idrees Kanth (Leiden), 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), TITLE NEEDED

Room 2

Contested Identity and Urban Spaces in Contemporary India

Prithvi Hirani (Aberystwyth), Chair
Prithvi Hirani (Aberystwyth), Mumbai’s Chhota Pakistans: Exploring the Border in Urban Space.
Kalyani Devaki Menon (De Paul University), Muslims in Old Delhi: Place and Belonging in Contemporary India
Bani Gill (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

Room 3

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

Crispin Bates (Edinburgh), Chair/Discussant
Andrea Major (Leeds), Ignorant and Helpless Beings’: Rethinking the Emergence of the ‘Coolie’ Stereotype in Nineteenth Century Colonial Discourse
Saurabh Misra (Sheffield), Becoming a Coolie: Violence, Solidarity and Resistance on ‘Coolie ships’
Reshaad Durgahee (Nottingham), Subaltern Careering: Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Re-migration Across the Sugar Colonies of the Indentured Archipelago

Room 4

**Political art in postcolonial times: Left-wing aesthetics in South Asia, 1950s-60s**
Saadia Toor (College of Staten Island), Chair
Lotte Hoek (Edinburgh), Political velocities: Film appreciation and the force of the moving image in 1960s East Pakistan
Saadia Toor (College of Staten Island), "Chale Chalo ke Voh Manzil Abhi Nahin Aai": The Progressive Writers Association in Pakistan
Sanjukta Sunderason (Leiden), In the image of man: Socialist realism in the shadow of Nehruvian India

Room 5

**The politics of land and labour in contemporary South Asia**
Bhaskar Vira (Cambridge), Chair
Filippo Boni (Nottingham), Sino-Pakistani relations and the port of Gwadar: an analysis of Pakistan’s gateway to the Indian Ocean
Irene Pang (Brown), 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

**12:45-13:45**

Early Career Session on Publishing

**14:00-15:30**

Room 1

**Diaspora, (trans)nationalism, citizenship**
John Zavos (Manchester), Chair
Ed Anderson (Cambridge) and Patrick Clibbens (Oxford), ‘Smugglers of truth’: The Emergency, the Indian diaspora, and transnational citizenship
Joya Chatterji (Cambridge), Citizenship and belonging in the Bengal diaspora
Sundeep Lidher (Cambridge), Citizenship and immigration policy in post-1945 Britain: the case of non-white nationals
Ornit Shani (Haifa), Making democratic citizenship in the midst of partition, 1948-50

Room 2

**The culture and politics of food in South Asia**
Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway), 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 (JNU), Producing the prisoner’s body: jail dietaries and punishment in colonial north India in the early nineteenth century
Abhijit Sarkar (Oxford), Communalism on the Site of Famine-Relief: Famine-Relief and Hindu Mahasabha during the Great Bengal Famine of 1943

Room 3

**Topographies of Exclusion: Women in Pakistan’s Labor Market**
Bhaskar Vira (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

Room 4
**Mobility, Equality and Economics in South Asian Communities**
Nitya Rao (UEA), Chair
Niranjana Ramesh (UCL), Seawater & techno-urbanism: how a state re-invents itself
Klara Feldes (Humboldt), 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)

Room 5
**Representation and performance in South Asian literature**
Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam), Chair
Indrani Karmakar (York), Mothers’ Voice: Representation of Motherhood in Mahasweta Devi’s ‘Bayen’ and ‘Ma, from Dusk to Dawn’
Piyush Roy (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), Sophia Dobson Collet and Rammohun Roy: writing cosmopolitan biographies between Britain and India

16:00-17:30

Room 1
**Muslim citizens and the construction of post-colonial states in South Asia**
William Gould (Leeds), Chair
Laurence Gautier (Cambridge), ‘De-hyphenating’ Indian Muslims: non-majoritarian discourses on the nation and citizenship around partition
Layli Uddin (Royal Holloway), “Poor Person’s Pakistan Zindabad”: Nation-Building in East Pakistan, 1947-52
Salma Siddique (Westminster), Film, Flag and Photos: The Unruly Archives of Pakistan
Aishwarya Pandit (CSDS), Property, Rehabilitation and Citizenship : The issue of Waqf and Evacuee Property in Uttar Pradesh 1947-70

Room 2
**Digital media and new technologies in South Asia and its diaspora**
Leigh Denault (Cambridge), Chair
Yagna Nag Chowdhuri (Cornell), Managing life, Making subjects: Discourses of Spirituality in Modern India
David Riley (Cardiff), @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), Balbir Barn (Middlesex) and Utsa Mukherjee (Royal Holloway), The role of social media in contemporary India: A case study of India’s Daughter
Room 3
Masculinity and femininity in South Asia
Anjali Bhardwaj-Datta (Cambridge), Chair
Sophie-Jung Kim (Cambridge), Vivekananda as a Parivarajak: 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 (KCL), Nautch Girls and Mirasis in Nineteenth Century Punjab

Room 4
Muslims' marginalization in urban India a decade after the Sachar report
Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences Po), Chair/discussant
Raphael Susewind (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

Room 5
Power structures and economics in contemporary India
Manali Desai (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?
Ritanjan Das and Kumar Nilotpal (Portsmouth), Structures of Authority and Power in Rural India: A Comparative Study of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal
Kunal Sen/Rajesh Raj (Manchester), Out of the Shadows? The Informal Sector in Post-Reform India

8 April 2016
9:00-10:30
Room 1
Politics and remembrance in the diaspora
Edward Anderson (Cambridge), Chair
Priya Swamy (Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asia and the Caribbean), Towards a definition of public 'Dutch Hinduism': Surinamese Hindu articulations of Hindu-ness
Jed Fazakarley (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 Western Capetown), Collective and Individual Biographies of Sikhs in Early Twentieth Century Cape Town, South Africa

Room 2
Rethinking Connected Empires in Sri Lankan History
Sujit Sivasundaram (Cambridge), chair
James Wilson (Cambridge), A Paper Empire in an Itinerant World: Migration, Militarism, and British Regulation in Sri Lanka, 1796-1816
Room 3
**Food Security in South Asia, 1**
Bhaskar Vira (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 (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

Room 4
**Revolutionary Politics in British India: Representation, Strategy and Praxis**
Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway), Chair
Aparna Vaidik (Ashoka), Revolutionary Praxis: Asceticism, Violence and Nationalism
Anwesha Roy (JNU), 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 (Cambridge), The ‘threatened’ constabulary strikes of early twentieth-century Bengal

Room 5
**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

Room 1
**Political Animals in South Asia**
Sujit Sivasundaram (Cambridge), chair
Nayanika Mathur (Cambridge), The Mark of the Beast: Identifying, Hunting, and Conserving ‘man-eating’ big cats in India
Jonathan Saha (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 (Reading), Vectors of Empire: Mosquitoes in British India and Beyond, c. 1900-1940

Room 2
**Legacies of partition**
Joya Chatterji (Cambridge), Chair
Garima Dhabhai (JNU/Yale), From Princely to the Popular: Study of Jaipur’s Transition to a Capital City
Uttara Shahani (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

Room 3
**Food Security in South Asia, 2**

Bhaskar Vira (Cambridge), chair

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

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

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

Room 4
**Rethinking the other in India’s peripheries**

Tom Simpson (Cambridge), chair

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

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

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

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

Room 5
**Complicating South Asian kinship and family**

Chair TBC

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

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

Syed Mohammed Faisal (Sussex), Trade and Kinship on the Coast of Karnataka: Role of religion in reimagining exchange