Letter from the Director

I write this as the summer draws to a close, with a sense of eager anticipation and excitement about the year ahead at the CSAS. We have many wonderful things in store for you, but before touching on this year's activities and events, let me share the Center's good news: in September 2014 we received notification that our applications to the Department of Education (DoE) for National Resource Center (NRC) status and for Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships were successful. We are honored to be awarded NRC status by the Department of Education once again; only twelve universities in the United States have this distinction and we are proud that our South Asia program has received this recognition on the basis of the Center's programs and the quality of our faculty. Our NRC grant allows us to continue our outreach work and to support our language program through initiatives such as the introduction of Bengali in 2015. Our FLAS award will allow us to distribute approximately $1.3 million of funding to students over four years.

The good news from the DoE in September 2014 marked the beginning of a wonderful academic year at the Center. 2014–15 was bookended by conferences—we opened the year with *Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present* (see p. 5) and ended the year with two back-to-back conferences on Pakistan (see p. 6-7). In between these events, we hosted lectures by eleven eminent scholars and public intellectuals, including Arundhati Roy and Vikram Chandra.

One of these was by our Hughes Visiting Fellow, Mary John (see p. 15). The CSAS co-sponsored an additional six lectures, delivered at venues such as the annual South Asia Awareness Network Conference, organized by our undergraduate students.

This year promises to be as robust. Although the year is not explicitly organized around any themes, two have emerged that push us in new directions at the CSAS. In fall, two of our events consider media in South Asia. On September 16, we host filmmaker Lalit Vachani and screen his latest documentary, *An Ordinary Election* (see p. 3). And on October 2-3, we host a major international conference on "Digital South Asia" (see p. 4); we are grateful to Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan for their support of this conference.

In Winter 2016, we will host a series of three lectures on science in South Asia. The series is organized by our colleague Jeff Wilson (Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, and Associate Curator, Museum of Paleontology), who will give the first of the three lectures on his research in India on dinosaur extinction (see p. 9). The second lecture will be delivered by Mark Wilkinson of the Natural History Museum, London, on biodiversity in India. Peter Molnar of the University of Colorado will deliver the third lecture, on a new theory of the Indian monsoon. This mini-series promises to be immensely informative to both scholars in these fields and laypersons, alike! We also look forward to welcoming Faisal Niaz Tirmizi (Consul General

of Pakistan, Chicago), Venkat Dhulipala (University of North Carolina, Wilmington), Dilip Menon (University of Witwatersrand), Rohini Pande (Harvard University), Sarah Hodges (University of Warwick), Gurminder Bhambra (University of Warwick), and Sunil Amrith (Harvard University) in our 2015-16 Lecture Series (see p. 16 for details). The series will be kicked off by our colleague Madhumita Lahiri, on September 11, 2015.

In the pages that follow you'll find more information on the Center's activities over the past year as well as those we have planned for the coming year. You'll also read about research on and engagement with South Asia from across U-M. This year, we are highlighting the work of our colleagues in the School of Information (p. 10) and the School of Public Health (p. 11).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, faculty, and students for their support of the CSAS in all of our endeavors this past year. I would also like to thank Matthew Hull, Associate Professor of Anthropology, for serving as Interim Director of the CSAS for 2015-16. I hope you'll join him for what promises to be a wonderful year!

Farina Mir
Associate Professor,
Department of History
Director,
Center for South Asian Studies

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A Conversation with Lalit Vachani

On September 16, 2015, the CSAS welcomes Lalit Vachani to U-M for the screening of his latest documentary, *An Ordinary Election,* on the Aam Aadmi Party (4:00pm, North Quad Room 2435). Vachani is an established Indian documentary filmmaker, whose credits include the acclaimed *The Boy in the Branch* and *The Men in the Tree.* Vachani's visit and the screening of *An Ordinary Election* are timed in conjunction with the CSAS's conference on "Digital South Asia," being held on October 2-3, 2015 (see p. 4).

Earlier this summer, the CSAS engaged Vachani in a conversation about his practice.

CSAS: How did you get drawn into documentary filmmaking?

LV: I was a graduate student at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania from about 1986-1989. We had a Documentary Filmmaking Theory and Production class, and quite unexpectedly I fell in love with the documentary film form as a means of doing ethnographic research and of storytelling using reality forms. I say "unexpectedly," as I had only had previous exposure to some Films Division documentary films as a school student in India—films that you were usually forced to see before the entertainment feature film was screened at cinema theatres in India. These documentaries were usually excruciatingly painful to watch. At the Annenberg School, I was suddenly exposed to the powerful and visually exciting work of documentary filmmakers like Jean Rouch, Bert Haanstra, Frederick Wiseman and D.

A Pennebaker, and to a whole new philosophy and training in visual research methods that was in marked contrast to the Indian state's propaganda films that I had seen.

CSAS: Given the emergence of new forms of media over the past decade (or more), do you see the role of documentary filmmaking changing?

LV: Yes. More than the need to change forms in documentary filmmaking and storytelling, I feel that documentary filmmakers have to learn to use the new media to gain larger audiences and maybe, niche audiences. Web streaming is an exciting way of reaching newer audiences and as technologies change further, we will have to selectively embrace some of these new technologies to tell the stories that we want to tell. Serialization and episodic storytelling of longer documentaries may be a way forward.

CSAS: What is the most vital aspect of documentary film as a form for you?

LV: How do you tell reality-based stories as truthfully as possible using the devices of fiction? As a filmmaker doing research, filming, and editing I try to

tell my subjective stories of truth using an objective methodology. How do I tell my story (in a limited time span) in a way that most closely approximates my experience of research and filming at the location? How do I convince my audience of its veracity and its importance? What is the most effective documentary narrative form that I should find to tell this particular story? Finally, as a political documentary filmmaker, I sometimes make films on movements that I am critical of. How can I make a film that must critique the ideology of that movement, yet be fair and ethical towards the filmed subjects who are a part of that movement?

CSAS: How did you come to make *An Ordinary Election?*

LV: I have always wanted to make a documentary film about an Indian election. And I have always wanted to make a film that focuses entirely on a particular election campaign, from beginning to end.

I was interested in studying AAP (the Aam Aadmi Party, or "Common Man Party") over the Indian national elections of 2014. My partner, Srirupa Roy (Professor of State and Democracy in Modern India and Director, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen) and I decided to begin work on the Delhi assembly elections of 2013, almost as a pilot project for the later research project. We never got the grant to study AAP in the national elections, but we were able to study the campaigns in three constituencies in the 2013 Delhi Assembly elections, one of which was filmed by me. And that was the RK Puram Assembly constituency in South Delhi, which had Shazia Ilmi as the AAP candidate.

AAP was very open to the media, to academics and filmmakers interested in doing research and documentation. The access to the RK Puram campaign was possible only because Shazia Ilmi gave me that access. I know her from her days as a student at the Mass Communication Research Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi, as I was a lecturer at the Centre at the time.

I found that all the AAP volunteers were incredibly open to talking, and to being filmed. Then, it was just a case of following the story of the campaign and I never anticipated that it would be quite so dramatic, or that there would be the kind of internal politics and differences of opinion that the volunteers ended up expressing.

Digital South Asia: An international conference on media, culture and politics in South Asia

The CSAS is pleased to announce that it will be holding an international conference on "Digital South Asia" this October. Since media and communication studies began in the 1970s, its object of study has changed in fundamental ways. Media was at first thought of almost wholly within the frame of the nation-state, and its national politics and culture. Since then, the diffusion of continuing technological innovations, driven by the world economy, has changed the media landscape beyond recognition, producing the 'globalized' world that we inhabit today. Situated within this larger frame, this conference, organized by Aswin Punathambekar (Associate Professor of Communication Studies), will bring together an international array of scholars with a shared interest in the rise of digital and mobile media technologies, the ongoing transformation of established media industries, and emergent forms of media practice and use that are reconfiguring socio-cultural, political, and economic terrains across the Indian subcontinent. The conference will also focus on the everyday lived experiences of audiences and publics—in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora—in their interaction with different kinds of media: old and new, state and private, elite and popular, global and national.

The rise of digital and mobile media technologies, and new forms of media practice and use associated with them, parallels the emergence of new forms of commercial media and communications enterprises across the global South. Our primary aim in convening this international conference is to draw together hitherto scattered national, comparative and transnational work on media and communication in South Asia; and secondly, in working through the overlapping themes of the conference, to discover common areas of interest and emerging lines of enquiry for future research. The conference is organized around four themes; a panel will be devoted to each of the following: "digital imaginaries," "digital media and the new political," "love and longing in digital South Asia," and "television's newness."

We look forward to welcoming: Rohit Chopra (Santa Clara University); Lotte Hoek (University of Edinburgh); Lilly Irani (University of California, San Diego); Sangeet Kumar (Denison University); Shanti Kumar (University of Texas, Austin); Purnima Mankekar (University of California, Los Angeles); Rahul Mukherjee (University of Pennsylvania); Wazhmah Osman (Temple University); Nimmi Rangaswamy (Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad); Biswarup Sen (University of Oregon); Sahana Udupa (Max Planck Institute, Germany); Paromita Vohra (Independent Filmmaker, Mumbai); and Huma Yusuf (Woodrow Wilson Senior Fellow and Control Risks Consulting).

This conference is made possible by generous support from Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Full details on conference participants and the schedule can be accessed at: **http://www.ii.umich. edu/csas/events/conferences**.

Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present
Mrinalini Sinha

The Center for South Asian Studies hosted a two-day conference, *Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present,* on Sept 5-6, 2014. The conference was made possible with support from Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. 19 outside scholars from institutions in the U.S., India, the U.K, Germany, and Singapore participated in 6 panels over the course of two days. They were joined by several University of Michigan faculty from a variety of departments, including the Law School and the Departments of History, Anthropology, American Culture, Communications, and Psychology, who served as chairs and discussants for the panels. The panels, which were all well attended by members of the university community as well as the public, provoked a lively and sustained discussion on the meanings, contours, and trajectories of Indian democracy.

The Michigan conference was the second of two conferences organized around the goal of rethinking India's twentieth century through a specific focus on the concepts, conjunctures, and currency of its distinct political imaginaries. It represents an attempt at grasping the shifting modes and meanings of the "political" in India with specific relation to the twentieth century, understood in qualitative terms as inaugurating new conjunctures and forms of the political rather than in the more familiar sense of a neutral chronological period. This conceptual ambition of linking "the political" to shifts in historical temporality extends the project's reach beyond the interdisciplinary arena of South Asian studies to cognate late-colonial and postcolonial formations in the twentieth century. The emphasis at the first conference, which was held in New Delhi on January 10-11, 2014, was on the diverse political imaginaries that have animated political projects and social movements across the twentieth century. The second conference at Michigan, with a new list of participants, focused on the institutional context of these political imaginaries. By selecting "democracy" as the theme for the two day conference at Michigan, indeed, we intended precisely to open up various lines of inquiry into the shifting grounds of the "political" in India's twentieth century that were not captured by the focus on imaginaries.

The interpretation of the term "democracy "in the conference-title "Recalling Democracy," as well as in many of the individual papers at the conference, put specific stress on the implications of the suffix *cracy,* that is power or rule. And, as such, the various panels tracked changes and continuities in the configurations of "rule" across the 20th century, from the late colonial through the post-independent to the present. Democracy, as understood thus, enabled an exploration of the political in myriad social relations that included the state as an especially charged field of politics, but not as necessarily the primary one. The theme of democracy also brought into greater focus the question of institutions, of the law, of elections, and of political economy, among others, that were relatively absent from the earlier iteration of the project at the first conference in Delhi. The Michigan conference nicely complemented the Delhi conference and rounded out the goals of the project.

The papers at the conference contributed to a reconsideration of the infrastructures (institutions and concepts) and everyday practices of democracy. The topics ranged from constitutionalism and civil liberties lawyering to the idea of the "vote bank" and the rise of the Aam Admi Party in Delhi. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, the most heated exchange followed discussion of the implications of the economic changes of the 1990s. One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote lecture delivered by Nivedita Menon from the Department of Political Science, Jawaharalal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi. Her lecture entitled, "Science, Nature, Environment: Debates around Development in late-20th to early-21st century India," provided a touchstone for many of the themes that surfaced in the discussions that followed. By bringing together scholars from different disciplinary and theoretical perspectives, the conference created an opening for histories of the present that were at once critical and transdisciplinary. The papers presented at both conferences will be published in a volume tentatively entitled, *Political Imaginaries: Rethinking India's Twentieth Century.*

The co-organizers of the conference, Mrinalini Sinha from the University of Michigan and Manu Goswami from New York University, wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support from the Center for South Asian Studies, especially its director Farina Mir, and Audrey Buswell, who was at the time the CSAS programmer.

Conference Participants (external): Itty Abraham (Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore); Rohit De (History, Yale University); Sandipto Dasgupta (Newton International Fellow of the Royal Society and British Academy); Manali Desai (Sociology, University of Cambridge); Satish Deshpande (Sociology, Delhi School of Economics); David Gilmartin (History, North Carolina State University); Manu Goswami (History, New York University); Mary John (Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi); Ritu Gairola Khanduri (Anthropology, University of Texas, Arlington); Sankaran Krishna (Political Science, University of Hawaii, Manoa); Michael Levien (Sociology, Johns Hopkins University); Nivedita Menon (Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, JNU); Eleanor Newbigin (History, SOAS); Aditya Nigam (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi); Priti Ramamurthy (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington); Kalyani Ramnath (History, Princeton University); Anupama Roy (Centre for Political Studies, JNU); Srirupa Roy (Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen); Julie Stephens (History, Yale)

University of Michigan Participants: Juan Cole (History); Manan Desai (American Culture); Geoff Eley (History); Matthew Hull (Anthropology); William Glover (History); Vikramaditya Khanna (Law); Ramaswami Mahalingam (Psychology); Farina Mir (History); Aswin Punathambekar (Communication Studies); Mrinalini Sinha (History)

New Media and Social Change in Pakistan

Zehra Hashmi

The 5th annual U-M Pakistan conference, held on April 3, 2015, engaged the theme of "New Media and Social Change in Pakistan." The day-long event was collectively organized by the Pakistan Students' Association and the CSAS, and consisted of presentations by activists and academics, as well as practitioners in the field of media in Pakistan.

The second panel, "Interrogating New Media: Limitations and Possibilities," was composed of academics Mobina Hashmi (Brooklyn College) and Marta Bolognani (University of Bristol), and activist Sana Saleem. Saleem works on minority rights and internet freedom, and is the director of Bolo Bhi, a non-profit free speech group, and co-founder of Stories Beyond Borders. Her talk examined the relationship between online spaces such as twitter and existing social relations in Pakistan. Hashmi and Bolognani introduced a scholarly aspect of the conversation. Hashmi analyzed a range of online Pakistani publics and the ways in which they serve as spaces of contestation over varying visions of Pakistan. Bolognani opened up the conversation by considering the issue of representations of Pakistan, reflecting on both the potential and limitations posed by new media.

(L to R): Manan Ahmed, Salman Hussain, Sharik Bashir, Mahvish Ahmad, Jaswinder Singh, Marta Bolognani, Sana Saleem, Iftikhar Dadi, Kamran Asdar Ali, Mobina Hashmi, Yasmin Saikia, Haris Gazdar, Raza Rumi (not pictured: Rabia Nadir)

The conference opened with a panel titled "Practitioners: Negotiating the New Media Landscape," with presentations by Mahvish Ahmad and Raza Rumi. Ahmad, currently pursuing her PhD in Anthropology at Cambridge University, is an independent journalist and co-founder of the online magazine *Tanqeed.* Her presentation focused on the national imagination and the ways in which it shapes the making of news. She discussed her own experiences reporting on Pakistan's military operation in North Waziristan, and demonstrated the need to move beyond the question of censorship. Rumi is a leading Pakistani journalist and policy analyst who serves as an editor at *The Friday Times,* Pakistan's foremost liberal weekly paper. In March 2014, he survived an assassination attempt that took the life of his driver, forcing Rumi to leave Pakistan. Since then he has been based in the U.S. and is currently a visiting fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington DC. Rumi's presentation reflected on the rise of social media in Pakistan and the response of the Pakistani state to this new media landscape. Both panelists spoke from their perspective as journalists who have directly engaged with the challenges involved working in media in Pakistan.

Over the course of the day, the conference drew an engaged audience of well over 100 people, many of whom brought thought-provoking and insightful questions to the conversation. In addition, the discussion benefited greatly from the presence of a number of academics, both from the U.S and from Pakistan, who were present for a conference on the future of Pakistan Studies held the following day. Collectively, the panelists and audience members generated a productive discussion extending beyond the novelty of new media and towards the ways it intersects with existing socio-political relations and material conditions in Pakistan.

(L to R): Zehra Hashmi, Sharik Bashir, Haris Gazdar, Salman Hussain, Manan Ahmed

Future Direction in Pakistan Studies

Farina Mir

On April 4, 2015, the CSAS hosted an international conference on "Future Directions in Pakistan Studies." Jointly organized by Farina Mir of the University of Michigan and Kamran Asdar Ali of the University of Texas and jointly supported by the CSAS and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), the conference brought together eight outside scholars to share their research on Pakistan, and to consider the future of Pakistan Studies. CSAS faculty participated in the conversation as chairs and respondents. The conference was timed to correspond with the fifth U-M Pakistan conference, which was held the day before. Holding the conferences back-to-back allowed for a critical mass of individuals actively engaged with and in Pakistan to be present, and both conferences benefited from this synergy.

The Future of Pakistan Studies is the first in a series of three conferences that will be co-sponsored by AIPS, each to be held at a different institution. The series was conceived by AIPS President, Kamran Asdar Ali, as a site for exploring themes beyond those that currently dominate academic work on Pakistan—security studies, gender, and Islam/Islamic radicalism. The series is intended to bring more breadth to areas of inquiry in the study of Pakistan. This inaugural conference was focused on themes of particular scholarly strength at U-M: art and architectural history, urban studies, and cultural history.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Farina Mir, Associate Professor of History and Director of the CSAS. Kamran Asdar Ali then framed the day's discussion in terms of the broader intellectual goals for the series. The first panel, on Art/Architectural History, included presentations from Iftikhar Dadi (Cornell University), who spoke on contemporary art in Pakistan, and Kishwar Rizvi (Yale University), who discussed three architectural sites (Mohenjo-Daro, Makli, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah's mausoleum) that represent three moments in the history of Southern Sind. Christiane Gruber of the U-M Department of History of Art served as the respondent for the panel.

The second panel, chaired by U-M's Matthew Hull (Department of Anthropology), on urban issues in Pakistan, featured Rabia Nadir (Lahore School of Economics) and Haris Gazdar (Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi). Nadir presented on her ongoing research into the lifeworlds of Pathan communities in the walled city of Lahore. Gazdar's talk focused on the ways that the city—in this case Karachi—serves as a productive site for interdisciplinary work. William Glover of U-M's Department of History responded to the panel and kicked off discussion.

The final panel of the day was on cultural history, and was chaired by Juan Cole of U-M's Department of History. Framji Minwalla (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi), Manan Ahmed (Columbia University), and Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas, Austin) presented papers. Minwalla spoke on contemporary theater in Pakistan. Ahmed spoke about questions of space, scale, distance, and alterity in the writing of history, drawing on his work on the early history of Sind. Asdar Ali discussed homosociality and desire in Pakistani cinema. Yasmin Saikia (University of Arizona) served as discussant for the panel.

The day was capped by a robust discussion on the institutional, political, and intellectual issues that hamper the breadth—and often the quality, also—of scholarship on Pakistan. Many shared insights, strategies, and suggestions for how to produce a more robust field.

Sabeen Mahmud
(1975-2015)

Farina Mir

It is with great sadness that the CSAS commemorates Sabeen Mahmud, social and human rights activist, who was assassinated in Karachi on April 24, 2015. As I wrote in these pages last year, "Sabeen Mahmud [is] founder of The 2nd Floor Café (T2F) in Karachi, a project of PeaceNiche. T2F

is a community space for open dialogue and provides Pakistan's citizens with a platform for social change through rich cultural activities, public discourse, and advocacy using progressive ideas and new media." Mahmud was a pioneer and an inspiration to people of all generations in Karachi, in Pakistan more broadly, and increasingly to people beyond its borders. As noted in the wake of this tragedy in such publications as *The New Yorker, The Economist, The New York Times*, and *The Guardian,* among others, Mahmud was creating a space for public discourse in Pakistan, and giving selflessly to create a more robust civil society in Pakistan. Her life was violently cut short and the CSAS community joins the many who mourn her loss.

Mahmud was known to the CSAS community, as she had spoken to us in April, 2014. A participant in the 2014 U-M Pakistan conference on "Arts and Activism in Pakistan," Mahmud spoke on the occasion about why she had started T2F and PeaceNiche, and their goals. She shared some examples of advocacy she had helped initiate, capturing the audience's attention with both her wit and the significance of the work she was undertaking with colleagues in Pakistan. It was our privilege to host Sabeen, and to have the opportunity to learn from her first-hand about the work she was doing in Pakistan. It is a testament to Sabeen that the goals she was so committed to will continue to be pursued, as others take up the mantle at T2F.

Faculty News

Arun Agrawal, Professor at the School of Natural Resources & Environment, has three forthcoming collaborative publications: "Community Forest Management and REDD+" in *Forest Policy and Economics;* "Motivational Crowding in Sustainable Development Interventions: Assessing the Effects of Multiple Treatments" in *American Political Science Review;* and "Adaptive Development" in *Natural Climate Change.* He was also a co-author of the article "Governing Agriculture-Forest Landscapes for Climate Change Mitigation" in *Global Environmental Change.* He is currently co-principal investigator for the NASA grant "Large-Scale Land Transactions as Drivers of Land-Cover Change in Sub-Saharan Africa," and principle investigator for the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) grant "Integrating Forest Commons and Global Datasets."

Ravi Anupindi, Professor of Technology and Operations and David B. Hermelin Professor of Business Administration, has been appointed to the board of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan. He also received the Contribution to the Research Environment (CORE) Award for 2015, an annual award given to senior faculty for creative, substantive, and high impact contributions in improving the research environment at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. H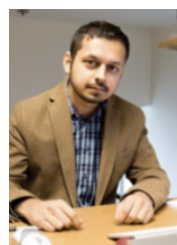e published the case study "Delivering Health Care in Rural India: ITC-CARE Experience" in *Globalens* (case 1-429-319, June 2015), and was also a co-author of "Costing the Supply Chain for Delivery of ACT and RDTs in the Public Sector in Benin and Kenya," in *Malaria Journal,* 2015.

This year, **Nachiket Chanchani,** Assistant Professor of History of Art and Asian Languages and Cultures, has published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals and anthologies. These articles are on subjects as varied as the functions of paintings embedded in letters sent by mercantile communities to Jaina preceptors and the nexus between alchemy and metallurgy in medieval South Asia. Chanchani's most recent piece, "'Monuments Men' needed in Nepal," has recently appeared on the main editorial and opinion pages of *The Hindu,* one of India's leading English-language newspapers, with nationwide circulation and a daily print run of nearly 1.4 million copies.

Manan Desai, Assistant Professor of American Culture, published "Caste in Black and White: Dalit Identity and the Translation of African American Literature" in the March 2015 issue of *Comparative Literature.* His article "Korla Pandit Plays America: Exotica, Racial Performance, and Fantasies of Containment in Cold War Culture," is forthcoming in the August 2015 issue of *The Journal of Popular Culture.*

This past year, **Leela Fernandes,** Glenda Dickerson Collegiate Professor of Women's Studies and Professor of Political Science, contributed "India's Middle Classes and the Post-Liberalization State: A Theoretical Perspective" to the 2015 Cambridge Scholars Publication *The Trajectory of India's Middle Class: Economy, Ethics, and Etiquette.* She also published "The Paradox of India's Middle Class" in the *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary India.* She is also a Senior Fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows and organized a major symposium on the post-liberalization state.
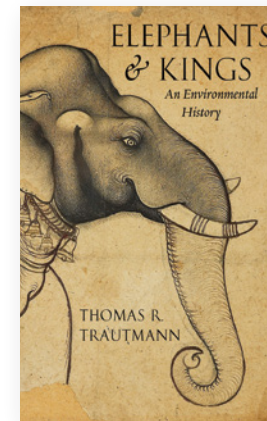
Madhumita Lahiri, Assistant Professor of English, published "An Idiom for India: Hindustani and the Limits of the Language Concept" in *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* (2015). On September 11, 2015, she will be presenting the opening lecture in the CSAS 2015-16 lecture series. The talk is entitled, "Talking Pictures, Noisy Audiences: Early Sound Cinema in South Asia."

Farina Mir, Associate Professor of History, published "Introduction: AHR Forum on 'The Archives of Decolonization'," *American Historical Review* (June, 2015). She has been awarded a Faculty Fellowship at U-M's Institute for the Humanities for 2015-16, where she will be working on her research project, "Producing Modern Muslims: Everyday Ethics in Late-Colonial India."

Aswin Punathambekar, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, published "Satire, Elections, and Democratic Politics in Digital India" in *Television and New Media* (May, 2015), and co-authored "Race and Ethnicity in Post-Network American Television: From MTV-Desi to Outsourced" *(Television and New Media,* forthcoming 2015) with Lia Wolock (PhD candidate in the Department of Communication Studies). In May 2015, Punathambekar was awarded the "Outstanding Young Scholar" Award from the Popular Communication Division of the International Communication Association. The award citation commended him for "the remarkable quality of [his] published scholarship, which has contributed significantly and richly to media, cultural, and communication studies, and to global media studies in particular." In October 2015, the CSAS will be hosting "Digital South Asia: An International Conference on Media, Culture and Politics in South Asia," which has been organized by Punathambekar (see p. 4).

Thomas Trautmann, Professor Emeritus of History, has published *Elephants and Kings: An Environmental History.* The book traces the history of the war elephant in India and the spread of the institution to the west—a history which spans 3,000 years and a considerable part of the world. Publisher and editor Rukun Advani wrote a piece about *Elephants and Kings* in *The Telegraph* (Calcutta), calling it "that rare gift of a great book which publishers don't ordinarily get, or get only twice or thrice over their careers." It has been published in India by Permanent Black and in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press.

In summer 2015, **Jeff Wilson,** Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, co-led a workshop dedicated to the research of biotic change across the Cretaceous-Paleogene of India. This workshop, the first supported by STEPPE (Sedimentary Geology, Time, Environment, Paleontology, Paleoclimatology, Energy), an NSF-supported consortium dedicated to the promotion of multidisciplinary research and education on Earth's deep-time sedimentary crust, brought together a team of 16 geochemists, geochronologists, paleoclimatologists, paleontologists, and volcanologists to focus on time, life, and environment during the end of the dinosaur era in India.

The end of the dinosaur era (the Mesozoic Era, roughly 65 million years ago), was punctuated by one of the most devastating mass extinctions in Earth history, which led to a collapse of dinosaur-dominated terrestrial ecosystems and a radiation of mammals that shaped today's biota. A widely held view is that an asteroid

Snake vertebrae and rupee coin (photo by Monica Wilson)

impact and its immediate aftereffects caused this mass extinction. While there is no scientific doubt that this impactor struck and had devastating effects, there was ecological instability in land-based ecosystems prior to impact, raising questions about its efficacy as the sole killing agent. The Deccan Traps of peninsular India are the remnants of 1.1 million km^3 of basalt that began erupting several hundred thousand years prior to the end-Mesozoic impact and continued after that event. It has been suggested that the Deccan Traps played a critical role in destabilizing ecosystems prior to the asteroid impact. Wilson and his team evaluated this hypothesis by tracking changes in the Indian biota preserved in sedimentary rocks associated with the Deccan Traps. These fossils of dinosaurs, mammals, and other terrestrial animals, which represent a fauna that existed during this key interval, have the potential to provide a fossil chronology in India that would track biotic change across the end-Mesozoic extinction event.

On January 15, 2016 (4pm, 1636 SSWB), Wilson will be sharing his research in the CSAS Lecture Series. His lecture is entitled, "India Before the Himalayas: Dinosaurs, Deccan Traps, and Mass Extinction."

New Staff Introduction

Desiree Gerner joined U-M and the Center for South Asian Studies as its Programmer in mid-January. Her principal responsibilities are managing logistics, event planning and organization, and publicity for the Center. Desiree, a Montana native, comes to us most recently from Cincinnati, where she worked on the Mummies of the World travelling exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Desiree holds two B.A. degrees from the University of Montana in English and Classical Civilization, an M.A. in Classics from the University of Oregon, and an M.A. in Ancient History from the University of Cincinnati.

Deccan Traps in western ghats (photo by Steve Self)

Global Information Engagement Program 2015

In summer 2015, the Global Information Engagement Program (GIEP) sent its second cohort of students to India. 20 University of Michigan graduate students from 8 schools and colleges traveled to India to work in teams with a variety of non-profit organizations. Student participants came from the School of Information, the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the Health Informatics program, and the Schools of Public Health, Education, Nursing, and Social Work. Each GIEP project allows students to engage international communities through application development, needs assessment, product design, information management and other skills obtained while studying for graduate degrees.

This year's GIEP teams aided senior citizens, the hearing impaired, community health workers, disabled athletes and many others. Among their projects, they helped to make real estate pricing more transparent, enabled educational opportunities outside the traditional higher education curriculum, and developed a learning management system to standardize training for a multi-site hospital group. In each case, the students helped these organizations tackle information challenges and implemented solutions that they had designed and developed during the winter semester.

This year's projects were:

• Urban Informatics Portal: Mapping City Data in Bangalore, India
Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore; Betsy Cooper, Malcolm MacLachlan, Drew Phillips, Frank Romo

This project sought to increase transparency and clarity in Bangalore's property market through a web-based mapping system which compiles, compares, and displays relevant housing data. The website was designed to demonstrate how property pricing information can be gathered and presented to the public.

• Library Management
National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum; Sybil Boone, Jharina Pascual

NISH is both a research center and a college for the deaf. In addition to creating a website for the NISH, the team assisted the institute's library in establishing formal procedures and a collection development policy that will help the librarian make good decisions on how to expand services and materials going forward.

• Disability and Sport
National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Trivandrum; Sessie Burns

This project entailed creating a website to assist people with disabilities to become more involved in sporting activities. A central component of the site is a 10-part video series of inspiring stories of athletes with disabilities discussing their challenges, how they overcame them to play, and how sports enriched their lives (disabilitsportkerala.wordpress.com).

• Health Learning Management System
Sundaram Medical Foundation/Be Well Hospitals, Chennai; Shannon Fearday, Allyson Mackay, Abir Viqar

The team configured and implemented an open source learning management system (LMS) for two distinct health organizations. Be Well Hospitals used the LMS to standardize training across their seven satellite units, while the Sundaram Medical Foundation focused adoption on specific departments that would serve as models for further expansion within the organization.

• India ElderConnect
Nightingales Medical Trust, Bangalore; Pritika Dasgupta, Anna Myers, Rachel Atwood, Tom Bergman

India ElderConnect is a web portal that addresses the needs of senior citizens and their families, and provides an outlet for eldercare organizations to share their services. The goal is to support senior citizens with useful information that encourages healthy living and fosters community connections, all within an accessible, user-friendly interface.

• Flexible Learning Management System
The Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore; Verena Gerahum, Jesse Kerstetter, Brandon Patterson

The team used the online learning management system Moodle to expand the traditional higher education curriculum in India and offer experimental modes of instruction on topics of interest to the intellectually curious with courses ranging from Time and Hindi Translation to Comics and Urban Imagination. Moodle was customized to allow instructors to create courses and manage content.

• Mobile Maternal-Child Health
iKure, Kolkata; Amjulil Dasika, Nick Reid, Jackie Wolf

The team developed the KOL-Health mobile application to connect community health workers in rural communities with medical care providers. The application improves real-time health data collection, such as patient registration, collection of vitals, recording of symptoms, surveys, and messaging and prescription requests sent to doctors for faster patient care.

Faculty lead for the GIEP is Assistant Professor Joyojeet Pal of the School of Information.

For more information on this year's projects and the GIEP, go to: **giep.si.umich.edu**.

School of Public Health: Research, Training, and Educational Collaborations with India

Amy Sarigiannis

The University of Michigan School of Public Health (SPH) has expanded research, training, and academic exchanges in India over the past ten years through multiple institutional partnerships. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), established in 2006 to build national public health capacity with its five affiliated Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH) located throughout India, represent one of the school's long-standing partners. More recently, the SPH has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh and with the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Pondicherry, which are two of the four autonomous Institutes of National Importance for Medical Education and Research as designated by the Indian Government.

Research

Multiple grant and foundation-funded public health research projects are underway in India involving SPH researchers. A sample of these diverse projects are:

• Professor Bhramar Mukherjee in the Department of Biostatistics was awarded MCubed Diamond funding to evaluate and track maternal and child health in rural villages in West Bengal in collaboration with the School of Information and University of Michigan Health System.

• Dr. Matthew Boulton, Senior Associate Dean for Global Public Health, in collaboration with PGIMER, is studying mother-infant measles sero-prevalence in Chandigarh. He has completed studies with PHFI and IIPH-Gandhinagar evaluating vaccine delivery in Gujarat, assessing health indicators on school-aged children in Haryana, and characterizing vaccination timeliness on 300,000 Indian children.

• Assistant Professor Andrew Jones in the Department of Nutritional Sciences is developing a behavior change intervention integrating evidence-based strategies to improve birth outcomes through increased nutritional status.

• Assistant Professor Ritesh Mistry in the Department of Health Behavior & Health Education is working on an antenatal intervention focused on tobacco cessation among pregnant women and new mothers.

• Dr. James Koopman, Professor of Epidemiology, is funded by WHO to investigate the ongoing epidemiology of polio in India and assess the probability for re-emergence of disease through development of mathematical models of disease transmission dynamics.

Training, Education, Scholar Exchange

Partner institutions in India have expressed a strong interest in health information technology and biostatistics training, education, and consultation from SPH. As a result, SPH researchers are invited several times each year to different institutions in India to present workshops on statistical research methods and advanced methodology.

The SPH within the last couple of years has begun accepting scholars from partner institutions in India for three-four month rotations in Ann Arbor. In collaboration with an identified SPH faculty mentor, Indian scholars conduct applied research including preparation of a manuscript and ongoing collaboration after the scholar returns home. Scholars also attend academic courses for non-credit, attend lectures and seminars at U-M, present a seminar, and learn about the U.S. public health system through visits to the state health department and local health departments. Moreover, students at SPH are placed at partner institutions to complete three month summer internships.

GLOBAL STATCORE
Given the continued demand for training and education in India and other parts of the world, the SPH Office of Global Public Health recently launched GLOBAL STATCORE, an initiative co-directed by Professors Yi Li and Bhramar Mukherjee, intended to enhance biostatistical support of global public health research, education and training at the SPH, U-M, and in collaboration with international partners across the globe.
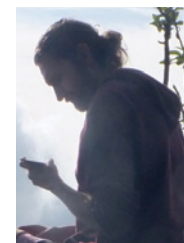
Graduate Student News

2015 GRADUATES

The CSAS would like to congratulate our 2015 graduates: Faiza Moatasim (PhD, Architectural History and Theory), Adam Liddle (MA, CSAS), and Jasmine Hentschel (Masters of Science Information).

Faiza Moatasim defended her dissertation, "Making Exceptions: Politics of Nonconforming Spaces in the Planned Modern City of Islamabad," in April, and graduated with her PhD in Architectural History and Theory in May 2015 (CSAS faculty associate William Glover chaired her dissertation committee, and Interim Director of CSAS, Matthew Hull served on the committee). Her dissertation investigates the interplay between formally and informally planned spaces in Islamabad, Pakistan. By examining a wide spectrum of nonconforming spaces in the planned city of Islamabad, Moatasim argues that these are not only representative of the everyday acts of resistance of the poor and the marginalized but also include routine acts of entitlement involving the rich and the influential. Urban nonconformity in her dissertation also emerges as an act of city governance, evident in the involvement of city officials and the courts in the creation and furthering of informal spaces. Hence, spatial nonconformity in her work materializes not as marginal dysfunctional phenomena, belonging only to the dispossessed, but instead as a central feature of contemporary city-making, belonging to the realms of a range of actors including ordinary rich and poor citizens, and government functionaries. Moatasim has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Asian Studies at Hamilton College for 2015-17, where she will be teaching courses on Asian Urbanism and revising her manuscript for publication.

Adam Liddle graduated in August with an MA in South Asian Studies from the CSAS. Liddle focused his studies on Buddhism. His MA thesis is entitled, "Advertising Cross-Cultural Pilgrimage: Addressivity and Similarity in the Promotion of a Tibetan Buddhist Pilgrimage in Peru." It focuses on the ways in which a Cusco, Peru based Tibetan Buddhist center is promoting a pilgrimage to Machu Picchu by the leader of their lineage, H.H. Chetsang Rinpoche. By showcasing the similarities between Tibetan Buddhist and Peruvian Inca practices and belief systems, the center seeks to entice other western Dharma practitioners to join the pilgrimage, in an effort to raise funds to build a Tibetan monument in the Sacred Valley outside of Cusco.

Jasmine Hentschel completed her M.S. Information degree at the School of Information this spring. She was awarded a FLAS fellowship in 2014-15 to study Punjabi language and culture. This spring she made a presentation in Singapore at the Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development. Her paper was titled, "Sada Vehra: A Framework of Crowdsourcing Punjabi Language Content." It was published in the conference proceedings and is available in the ACM digital library.

CONTINUING STUDENTS

In August 2015, **Padma Chiru-mamilla,** Ph.D. candidate in the School of Information, traveled to India to apprentice with television repairmen in rural Andhra Pradesh and talk to television watchers and cable and satellite distributors in the area. She hopes to get a grounded sense of how television has become a commonplace, everyday device in rural south India.

Harjeet Singh Grewal, PhD candidate in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, is currently writing his dissertation, "Baba Nanak, Forgetting, Remembrance and Language: Devotional Thinking and the Formation of a Public Commons." Using the earliest sympathetic histories of the Sikhs, written by John Malcolm (1769-1833) and Joseph Davey Cunningham (1812-1851), in conjunction with examples from quasi-biographical *Janamsakhi* literature, the dissertation examines two sites of expression: dialogic colonial historicism and transformative devotional thinking.

Sara Hakeem Grewal is a PhD candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature. She is currently working on her dissertation, "Historicity of Urdu Ghazal: Translation and Canonization," which traces the processes through which the *ghazal* form and its most canonical practitioners—including Mirza Ghalib and Faiz Ahmed Faiz—have come to define both the Urdu language and Muslim identity in India today.

Leslie Hempson, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department, has completed her fieldwork and has begun writing her dissertation, "The Social Fabric of Khadi: Experiments in Industry in Twentieth-Century India." The dissertation explores how "ordinary" people encountered the economy and economics in late-colonial and early post-colonial India.

Randeep Hothi, who is pursuing his PhD in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, has been awarded three fellowships for his dissertation research: the Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship, the National Science Foundation's Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, and the Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. His dissertation is tentatively titled, "Disseminating Sikhism–Recognition, Reasoning, and Religion-Making amongst British Sikhs." It investigates how British Sikhs translate Sikh concepts into English, and seeks to contribute to an understanding of the relationship between public discourse, secularity, and diasporic religion. For summer 2015, Hothi was awarded the Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship for Research on issues of European Integration by the Center for European Studies at the University of Michigan.

Hafsa Kanjwal, PhD candidate in the Joint Program in History and Women's Studies, completed her fieldwork (principally in Srinagar, Kashmir) in October 2014. She is currently writing her dissertation, "The *Naya Kashmir:* Education, Culture, and Muslim Empowerment in Modern Kashmir." Her dissertation analyzes state-led modernization projects during the Bakshi era (1953-63), one of the early post colonial regimes in Indian-administered Kashmir. Kanjwal examines the intents and outcomes of these projects, and the ways in which they intersected with and shaped a particular form of Muslim modernity.

Gurveen Khurana, PhD candidate in the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, completed her dissertation fieldwork in September 2014. Her dissertation is tentatively titled, "Ritualizing Heritage through 'Building Strategy:' A Study of the Golden Temple in the Twentieth Century." In the dissertation, Khurana highlights the significance of "building strategies" and "ritualizing" building activity in the Sikh case and their role in constructing notions of heritage and historical thinking.

Vishal Khandelwal is a Ph.D. student in the Department of the History of Art. He received an International Institute Individual Fellowship for a summer research project titled "The Prehistory of Building Tall in the Indian Subcontinent." This project focuses on Hindu and Buddhist architecture in the Indian subcontinent from the 3rd c. BCE-12th c. AD.

Jane Lynch, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, is completing her dissertation, "The Good of Cloth: Bringing Ethics to Market in India's Handloom Textile Industry." Based on multi-scalar and multi-sited research, her dissertation explores questions of property, value, materiality, and the role of corporate institutions in the production and trade of handloom cloth in India. She is specifically interested in how claims about the "goodness" of handloom cloth offer insights into the ways in which the material and immaterial dimensions of social, economic, and ethical life are fundamentally entwined. Lynch is the recipient of the Marshall Weinberg Dissertation Fellowship from the Department of Anthropology for Fall 2015 and will be defending her dissertation in Winter 2016.

Tapsi Mathur, PhD candidate in the Department of History, completed her dissertation fieldwork in August 2015. Her dissertation is titled, "'Known Geography': Indian Exploration and Professionalization in Nineteenth-Century South Asia." It traces a tradition of native surveying and exploration to examine how a professional class of Indian explorers emerged and took form in the colonial period; a class that then died out when the theater of exploration shifted away from Asia.

Lia Wolock, Ph.D. candidate in Communication Studies, co-authored the article "Race and Ethnicity in Post-network American Television: From MTV-Desi to Outsourced," in *Television and New Media* (2014). She is a FLAS recipient for 2015-16, and will be studying Hindi while writing her dissertation.

CSAS is pleased to announce that 4 graduate students and 8 undergraduates have been awarded FLAS fellowships for the 2015-16 academic year.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ojaswi Adhikari is pursuing a Nutritional Sciences Master's in Public Health from the College of Public Health. Adhikari will study Hindi.

Wajiha Ibrahim is pursuing a Master's in Urban Planning from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Ibrahim will study Bengali.

Melissa Rice is a pursuing a Master's of Science from the School of Natural Resources and Environment in the Environmental Policy and Planning track. Rice will study Hindi.

Lia Wolock is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication Studies. Wolock will study Hindi.

UNDERGRADUATES

Amanda Allen (Urdu): Junior, International Studies major and Linguistics minor

Jacob Anderson (Urdu): Senior, Cellular and Molecular Biology major

Abir Azeem (Urdu): Senior, Neuroscience major, Asian Languages and Cultures and Mathematics minors

David Harrison (Hindi): Senior, Cognitive Science major, Asian Languages and Cultures minor

Ibrahim Ijaz (Urdu): Sophomore, College of Literature, Science & Arts

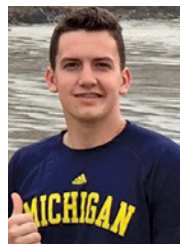**Elise Jayakar** (Hindi): Senior, Sociology and Asian Studies major

Syeda Mahmood (Urdu): Sophomore, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Victoria Powers (Hindi): Senior, Political Science major

Summer in South Asia Fellows **2015**

The Summer in South Asia (SiSA) Fellowship Program was established in 2006 with a generous endowment from an anonymous donor. Each summer, the CSAS sends select undergraduate students to India to conduct their own research projects, in conjunction with an institution—usually an NGO. Including this year's fellows, the program has now supported 62 students to go to India on projects they devise and execute.

This year we had an impressive group of 41 applicants. After a rigorous review process, a faculty selection committee chose the six students below. Please join us on October 9 at 4pm in room 1636 of the School of Social Work Building for a symposium where the fellows will present their findings.

Jacob Anderson is a sophomore studying Cell and Molecular Biology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Jacob plans to pursue medical school after graduation and has an interest in international and urban health disparities.

Jacob spent seven weeks working with Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) at the Vivekananda Memorial Hospital. The hospital works to provide cost-effective health care services to rural and/or marginalized populations. Jacob had the opportunity to both shadow doctors, and also to work with administrators on a public health campaign. Jacob's project

involved collecting patient volumes on preventable health issues before and after the public health campaign to explore its efficacy and to make suggestions for future campaigns.

Sam Corey is a junior with a double major in Political Science and Psychology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Sam interned with Nirantara Community Services in Bangalore. Nirantara is an NGO that provides financial literacy training and micro-finance loans to empower community members. Sam's project explored the perception of microfinance institutions and their ability to alleviate poverty in Bangalore.

Morgan Fitzgerald is a freshman planning to double major in International Studies and Environmental Science in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Morgan is passionate about exploring the tension between economic development and environmental sustainability, particularly in the realm of sustainable farming.

Morgan spent five weeks volunteering with Navdanya located outside Dehradun. Navdanya promotes biodiversity conservation, organic farming, the rights of farmers, and the process of seed saving. Morgan spent her days sowing seeds, cooking food, and strengthening camaraderie with other local volun-

teers on the farm. She also had the opportunity to explore the administrative side of Navdanya. Morgan's project focused on Nadanya as an organization and considers how it goes about fulfilling its mission, the extent to which it is successful, and other strategies it may employ.

Jamie Lutz is a junior majoring in Architecture in the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Jamie plans to pursue a graduate degree in urban planning with a focus on developing countries.

Jamie volunteered with Human Wave, an NGO based in Kolkata. Human Wave serves the local community in a variety of capacities, including community development projects and English medium schools for children who reside in slums. Her volunteer work included teaching English in one of the schools and participating in ongoing community development projects. Jamie's project focused on the distribution of public and private schools in Kolkata in comparison to population density and demographic data. She explored possible gaps in public education and how these relate to the locations of slum communities. Jamie utilized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software in her research.
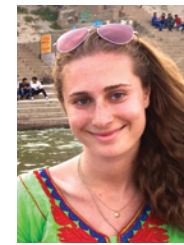
Ariana Paredes-Vincent is a freshman majoring in International Studies in the

College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Ariana is interested in pursuing a career working in NGO settings and international development.

Ariana volunteered with SETCO Foundation in Kalol. SETCO Foundation strives to ensure that all women and children in a community have full access to healthcare, nutrition, education, and opportunity for growth. Her project focused on the impact of SETCO's livelihood trainings and the affect they have on empowering women participants.

Talia Rothman is a sophomore intending to double major in Women's Studies and History in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Talia wanted to further explore her passion for human rights in an NGO setting after the experience she had as an intern in the Sexual Violence Program at the the Human Rights Center at the UC, Berkeley School of Law.

Talia volunteered with Guria in Varanasi. Guria is an NGO that fights the sexual exploitation of women and girls with a focus on forced prostitution and human trafficking. As a volunteer, Talia participated in outreach campaigns, coordinated creative projects for second generation prostitute victims and shadowed senior officials within the organization. Her project focused on the efficacy of Guria and also explored how employees work with second-generation prostitution victims and their perceptions on what makes this population most vulnerable to prostitution.

CSAS Hughes Fellow **2014**

Mary E. John, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi, was a Hughes Fellow at the CSAS in fall 2014. While in Ann Arbor, she worked on her book project, tentatively titled, *Feminist Trajectories in Time and Space: Perspectives from India.* The project seeks to provide a sense of how "feminism" in India (in its many definitions and loose connotations about women) acquired its conceptual vocabularies from the nineteenth century to the first decades of the twenty-first. It both contributes to and questions mainstream approaches to the history of thought and the disciplinary genealogies of modern India by tracking the significance of new conceptual vocabularies as they took shape around "women" and their perceived wrongs and rights. These concepts effectively preceded the institutionalization of disciplines such as sociology, economics, or politics during the colonial period, and played a founding role for new movements like the women's movement in the 1970s. Several

> **The project seeks to provide a sense of how "feminism" in India acquired its conceptual vocabularies from the nineteenth century to the first decades of the twenty-first.**

chapters track conceptual shifts across broad periods and in so doing trace the histories of thought around "women" in relation to the actual working out of leading nodal questions. In so doing, standard arguments about the "difference" of spaces like India in theoretical discussions are subjected to scrutiny. The most prominent of these is the West/non-West dichotomy, which has led to various efforts to think "authentically" outside the West and its categories. Yet another grid has been the universal-particular opposition.

Instead, the project demonstrates that there is considerable insight to be gained by actually heeding the sets of categories that were set in motion and acquired a certain density and stability over time, whether during the period of social reform, the era of development, or the postnational destabilizations of more recent decades. This mode of theorizing is not only good for India, but also offers fresh ways of thinking comparatively in order to promote South-South and South-North conversations. John presented the opening chapter of the book in a public lecture on September 19, 2014, entitled, "Feminist Trajectories in the History of Thought: Perspectives from India."

Library **News**

Partnering with the CSAS the University Library has purchased a new database called "India, Raj & Empire." This database contains the manuscript holdings of the National Library of Scotland which are extremely rich in coverage of South Asia from the foundation of the East India Company in 1615 to the granting of independence to India and Pakistan in 1947. Some of the areas that are well covered include:

- The East India Company: Government and Administration c.1750-1857
- Agriculture and Trade c.1750-1857
- Society, Travel and Leisure c.1750-1857
- The Mysore and Maratha Wars
- Indian Uprising 1857-58
- The Raj: British Government and Administration of India after 1858
- Agriculture and Trade after 1858
- Society, Travel and Leisure after 1858
- India: Literature, History and Culture

There are also a number of essays, biographies, etc. that provide useful context for students and researchers alike. "India, Raj & Empire" is available through the library's Mirlyn catalog. Simply search the title under "databases". Please feel free to contact the South Asian librarian (Jeff Martin, jeffmart@umich.edu) should you have any questions concerning this new resource. Assistance can be provided on an individual basis or class sessions.

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CSAS Lecture Series **2015-16**

September 11, 2015
Madhumita Lahiri *Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Michigan*
"Talking Pictures, Noisy Audiences: Early Sound Cinema in South Asia"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

September 16, 2015
Film Screening with **Lalit Vachani,**
Independent Filmmaker
An Ordinary Election (125 minutes in Hindi and English, with English subtitles)
4pm • Room 2435 • North Quad

October 2-3, 2015
Digital South Asia: An International Conference on Media, Culture and Politics in South Asia
October 2, 2015 9:00am - 5:30pm
October 3, 2015 9:30am – 12:30pm
Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

October 9, 2015
Summer in South Asia Fellowship Symposium
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

October 12, 2015
Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, *Consul General of Pakistan (Chicago)*
"Pakistan—U.S. Relations: An Appraisal"
6pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building
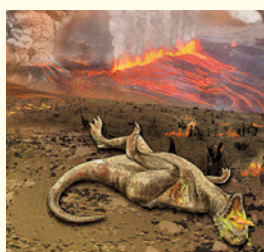
October 29, 2015
Venkat Dhulipala *Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of North Carolina, Wilmington*
"Longing for a New Medina: State Power, Islam, and the Struggle for Pakistan in Late Colonial North India."
4pm • Room 1029 • Tisch Hall
Sponsored by the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies

November 16, 2015
Dilip Menon, *Mellon Chair in Indian Studies, Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa*
"Writing History in Colonial Times: The Space and Time of Religious Polemic in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Southern India"
5pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

December 4, 2015
Rohini Pande, *Mohammed Kamal Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University*
"India's Information Deficit and the Governance Challenge: Some Experimental Evidence"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building
Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

January 15, 2016
Jeffrey Wilson, *Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Associate Curator, Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan*
"India Before the Himalayas: Dinosaurs, Deccan Traps, and Mass Extinction"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 19, 2016
Mark Wilkinson, *Life Sciences Department, Natural History Museum, London*
"Advances in the Study of Cryptic South Asian Biodiversity"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 22, 2016
Sarah Hodges, *Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Warwick*
"Biotrash: The Afterlives of Medical Garbage in India"
4pm • Room 1029 • Tisch Hall
Co-Sponsored by Science and Technology Studies

March 11, 2016
Peter Molnar, *Department of Geological Sciences, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder*
"The Growth of the Himalaya and the Tibetan Plateau and the Effect of High Terrain on the Indian Monsoon"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 18, 2016
Gurminder Bhambra, *Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick*
"Theory for a Global Age: Postcolonial Commitments, Interdisciplinary Entanglements"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 25, 2016
Sunil Amrith, *Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies, Harvard University*
"Struggles for Citizenship around the Bay of Bengal"
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

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