



पृथ्वी

Letter from the Director



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I'd like to wish all of our students, staff, faculty, and community members a warm welcome to the 2014–15 academic year. The CSAS had an exceptionally busy last year with (now past) President Mary Sue Coleman's launch of a university-wide India initiative in Fall 2013 and a CSAS hosted Theme Semester on "India in the World" in Winter 2014. The India initiative was launched in November 2013 when President Coleman led a delegation to India to meet with alumni, to strengthen existing institutional relationships, and to forge new ones. The trip was a wonderful success, and resulted in: the signing of three new Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), with Delhi University, Ashoka University, and the National Council of Applied Economic Research; the fostering of a deeper, collaborative relationship between U-M and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences; and laid the groundwork for six U-M units and schools—including the CSAS—to expand their student programs in India. The MOUs and opportunities created by the Presidential India initiative herald a new era for U-M's engagement with India.

Following on from the momentum created by President Coleman's trip to India, the CSAS worked to raise awareness of and knowledge about India on campus by hosting a Theme Semester, *India in the World*. The semester featured: 46 courses that ranged across disciplines, from American Culture to Music to History and Communications; five exhibitions organized by U-M faculty—on the South Asian diaspora, South Asia maps, plant life, zoology,



and paleontology; four conferences/symposia—including one on "India as a Regional Power" that brought speakers to campus from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka (see box p. 13); a media series, that included presentations by Indian documentary filmmakers Sanjay Kak and Safina Uberoi; 42 public lectures, in subjects across the social sciences and humanities; 16 music and dance performances, including the internationally acclaimed Manganiyar Seduction and Asif Ali Khan; and visits by two of India's preeminent contemporary artists: Nilima Shaikh and Mithu Sen. All in all, it was a particularly vibrant year at the CSAS.



We hope to make this year just as exciting. The year begins for us with a flourish of activity, as the CSAS hosts a two-day major international conference, "Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present," co-organized by Professors Mrinalini Sinha (Department of History) and Manu Goswami (NYU). Taking place on September 5 & 6, the conference will assemble an international group of scholars to rethink India's

democratic politics in the concrete political landscapes of late-colonial and postcolonial India (details at: www.i.umich.edu/csas/events/conferences).

The keynote address of "Recalling Democracy," on September 5 (4:15pm), kicks off our Scholarly Lecture Series for the year, which will include talks by U-M faculty and visitors. Our new colleagues Tarfia Faizullah and Ritesh Mistry will be speaking on December 5 and January 30, respectively. Faizullah, an award-winning poet, joins the U-M faculty this fall as the Zell Visiting Professor of Creative Writing. Mistry, who joined the School of Public Health in 2012, works on cancer prevention. You can read more about these new faculty members on pages 8-9 below.

The Scholarly Lecture Series will highlight the work of a number of visitors through the year, also. We look forward to welcoming Arvind Rajagopal (Communications, NYU); Daisy Rockwell (literary critic, translator, and artist, whose "Green Goddess" adorns our cover); Iftikhar Dadi (Art & Art History, Cornell); Richard Wolf (Ethnomusicology, Harvard); Allison Busch (Hindi Literature, Columbia); and Vinay Gidwani (Geography, University of Minnesota). And in conjunction with the Institute for the Humanities we will be hosting two award-winning authors: Arundhati Roy and Vikram Chandra. Our full program is on p.15 below, and more detailed information on all talks is on our website (ii.umich.edu/csas).

The Scholarly Lecture Series also features (on Sept. 19) 2014 Hughes

Visiting Scholar, Mary John. John is Senior Fellow (Professor) at the Centre for Women's Development Studies, and served as its Director from 2006-2012. The author of *Discrepant Dislocations: Feminism, Theory and Postcolonial Histories* (1996), *Women's Studies in India: A Reader* (2008), and of several co-edited volumes, including *A Question of Silence? The Sexual Economies of Modern India* (1998), John is one of India's leading scholar-activists in the field of women's and gender studies. We very much look forward to having her as a member of the CSAS community for the Fall semester.

I am pleased to announce that the CSAS will collaborate once again this year with the Pakistan Students' Association on the U-M Pakistan conference. This annual conference, now in its fifth year, has raised the level of discourse about Pakistan at U-M, and draws on our particular faculty strengths in this area. You can read about the 2014 conference on p.9 below. The 2015 conference will be held on April 3. Please check our website in the coming months for details (ii.umich.edu/csas).

2014–15 promises to be another exciting year at the CSAS. Please join us for our programs, all of which are free and open to the public, and check our website regularly for updates and news about South Asia at U-M. I look forward to seeing you at our events, and to your contributions to the conversation!

Farina Mir

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



Limitless potential with India

(L to R): James Holloway (Vice Provost for International and Engaged Education), Farina Mir, Vineet Gupta (Founder & Trustee, Ashoka University), Mary Sue Coleman, Pramath Sinha (Founder & Trustee, Ashoka University).

By now it is widely known that President Mary Sue Coleman took a four-day trip to India in November 2013 to help build on the University of Michigan's longstanding ties with the South Asian country.

The India delegation led by Coleman included representatives from the University of Michigan Health System; Stephen M. Ross School of Business; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Institute for Social Research; Center for South Asian Studies; and College of Engineering. Their goal was to discuss new research collaborations and to expand on existing partnerships. Furthermore, they aimed to explore new opportunities for Michigan students to study in India, find ways to welcome more Indian students to Ann Arbor, and to reconnect with the vibrant and enthusiastic alumni community.

Coleman first visited India in 1993 and was excited to be back in the country, where she met with dignitaries from several Indian institutions. Coleman discussed overall international achievements made by the University during her tenure as president. "Since becoming the University's president 12 years ago, I've worked with faculty to build our academic partnerships in China, Ghana, South Africa and Brazil," she said. "I'm proud that we have deepened our work in five countries on three continents because it means deeper experiences for students and faculty."

James Holloway, the University of Michigan vice provost for global and engaged education, was enthusiastic about the trip and said the visit would provide unique opportunities for students. "It will allow our students to engage in global educational experiences that benefit both the people of India and the students who participate there," he said. This excitement was shared by Coleman and the delegation of University of Michigan representatives.

Coleman's trip began on November 13, 2013 with a signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding with Ashoka University, one of the first private liberal arts universities in India. Under the agreement, the two universities will share opportunities for faculty exchange, innovative teaching methods, opportunities for student exchange and mutual visits of fellows and research scholars.

On November 14, 2013, the University of Michigan expanded its partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), one of India's top academic medical programs. The relationship involves collaborative research on cancer, genetics, immunology, trauma and disaster medicine.

Coleman and her delegates went to the Vice-Regal lodge, office of the vice chancellor of the University of Delhi, in New Delhi on November 15, 2013. At the lodge, they discussed an agreement developed between the University of Michigan and Delhi University. This agreement provides opportunities for collaborative research both in India and in Ann Arbor. It will also allow University of Michigan students the opportunity to participate in a unique program involving long train trips across India. The educational journeys are inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, who rode the rails as a way to acquaint himself with his homeland when he returned after living in South Africa for two decades. President Coleman reacted to this aspect of the program opportunity in a very positive way, "I am very excited that U-M students will be able to take the train journey. There are some experiences that cannot be learned by reading about it."

Farina Mir, the director of U-M's Center for South Asian Studies, added to Coleman's insights by noting that a global education has become central to student learning. "Our world is increasingly globalized and our partnerships with Indian institutions will provide opportunities for experiential learning for our students," she said.

Finally, the delegation rounded out their trip with a stop in Mumbai to attend the India Business Conference sponsored by the University of Michigan India Alumni Association, where Coleman was hosted by Michigan alumnus, Sanjay Reddy, managing director of Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd.



India in the World: A Multidisciplinary Success

The campus-wide *India in the World* Theme Semester of Winter 2014 was centered in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and coordinated by the Center for South Asian Studies, a faculty steering committee, and a student advisory board. *India in the World* brought an incredibly wide variety of South Asian events, performances, lectures, and scholars to Ann Arbor and reached students, faculty, and community members in ways the center has not been able to do in the past. The success of the semester would not have been possible without the generous support of the Office of the Dean, College of Literature, Science, and

the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design to bring three influential contemporary South Asian artists to campus: Nilima Sheikh, Shazia Sikander, and Mithu Sen. Along with the weekly media series, the center hosted two of India's

The center hosted a reception to mark the end of the Theme Semester where CSAS director, Farina Mir, and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts' Interim Dean, Susan Gelman, gave remarks. The College's student government representative, Dhananjaya Premawardena, also presented awards for the *India in the World* writing and art contests. It was a great way to end the semester as many of the participating schools, centers, and departments were present.

India in the World sought to engage faculty and students and raise the profile of South Asia at Michigan. The level of energy, commitment, time, and thoughtful participation from faculty, students, and community members exceeded all expectations. The center hopes to continue to provide a space for rigorous thought and discussion about India and South Asia.

the Arts; the International Institute; the Office of the Vice-Provost for Global and Engaged Education; and the many participating schools, centers, and departments.

The center is proud of the breadth of events and activities that took place throughout the Theme Semester. Among these were five exhibitions that were organized around University of Michigan faculty expertise and collections, on:

- The South Asia diaspora
- South Asia maps
- South Asia plant life
- South Asia zoology
- South Asia paleontology

The Theme Semester also included a media series, four conferences, 16 music and dance performances, and 42 lectures.

The center was thrilled to be able to work with

leading documentary filmmakers and screened their films: *My Mother India*, by Safina Uberoi; and *Maati ke Lal*, by Sanjay Kak. Furthermore, the Theme Semester offered a wide range of courses available to undergraduate and graduate students. The courses ranged from "An Introduction to Hinduism" (taught by Madhav Deshpande) to "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Media in the World" (taught by Aswin Punathambekar).



U-M PAKISTAN CONFERENCE 2014

Cultures of Activism: Arts, Expression, and Pakistan

The Pakistan Students' Association collaborated with the CSAS to organize the 4th annual U-M Pakistan Conference, held on April 4, 2014. This year's conference was focused on activism, with an emphasis on art and urban culture. The conference featured talks by three eminent Pakistanis, each a force in his/her respective field.



Sabeen Mahmud

The conference opened with a talk and multimedia presentation by Sabeen Mahmud, 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 gave an overview of why she started T2F, its goals, and then

highlighted for the audience some of the public projects undertaken by T2F and Peaceniche, more generally. One project that particularly captured the audience's attention was a campaign to convince the Pakistan Government to remove its ban on YouTube, a campaign that emphasized humor and wit and engaged a broad Pakistani public.



Arif Hasan

The second speaker of the day was Arif Hasan. Based in Karachi, Hasan is an architect, planner, activist, social researcher, and writer. He is the recipient of a Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest award for its citizens. Since 1982, he has been involved with the Orangi Pilot Project, which focuses on development in urban slums, and is the founder Chairman of the Urban Resource Centre, Karachi, since its inception in 1989. Hasan spoke about his career, how he turned to addressing urban problems, and discussed specific development projects he has been involved with.



Shazia Sikander

The day's third speaker added a different dimension to the discussion on activism. Shazia Sikander is a renowned artist and recipient of a MacArthur "genius" award whose art has been and is part of the permanent collections of established institutions such as the MOMA, the Smithsonian, and the Whitney. Sikander discussed her overall trajectory as well as some recent works, including an animated short film that she screened.



The discussion with each of the speakers centered on the role of activism in their practice, and how they see their work impacting Pakistani society. The conference closed with a screening of *These Birds Walk*, directed by Omar Mullick and Bassam Tariq. The celebrated 2013 documentary examines the work of the Edhi Foundation, a Pakistani charity, by tracing the life of a runaway boy. The conference attracted well over 100 people through the course of the day, and was marked by engaging discussions about the breadth of activities through which Pakistanis are addressing contemporary social and political problems, and reshaping their society.



Still from *These Birds Walk*, directed by Omar Mullick and Bassam Tariq.

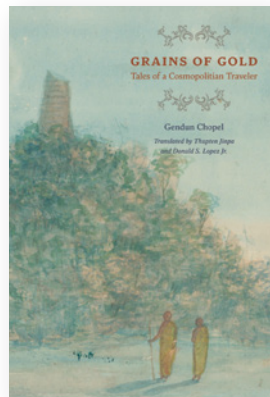


Over the past year, **Nachiket Chanchani**, Assistant Professor of History of Art and Asian Languages and Cultures, developed and taught four new courses: “Art of Yoga;” “Himalayas: An Aesthetic Exploration;” “Ocean of Stories: Telling Tales in the Indian Subcontinent;” and “Home and the World: Introduction to South Asian Art.” His forthcoming essays include, “The Jageshwar Valley: Where Death is Conquered” in *Archives of Asian Art* and “From Asoda to Almora, the Roads Less Taken: Maru-Gurjara Architecture in the Central Himalayas” in *Arts Asiatiques*. Nachiket is guest-editing the next issue of *Ars Orientalis* and is working on a book project on the construction of sacrality around the glacial sources of the Ganga River.



In January, **Donald Lopez**, Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, published (in collaboration with Thupten Jinpa) *Grains of Gold: Tales of a Cosmopolitan Traveler* (University of Chicago Press, 2014).

It is the translation of the magnum opus of Gendun Chopel (1903-1951), regarded as the greatest Tibetan author of the twentieth century. A former Buddhist monk, Gendun Chopel spent 1934-1945 traveling throughout South Asia, including Sri Lanka. *Grains of Gold* is an account of his journey, with detailed descriptions of South Asian history, geography, and culture. It includes a scathing account of European colonialism, a lengthy description of Islam, and the first Tibetan



exploration of the compatibility of Buddhism and science. Gendun Chopel was also a distinguished painter, producing dozens of watercolors that he intended as illustrations for *Grains of Gold*. Most of these have sadly been lost, but those that have survived were published last year in Lopez’s *Gendun Chopel: Tibet’s First Modern Artist* (Serindia: 2013).



Recently, **Leela Fernandes**, Glenda Dickerson Collegiate Professor of Women’s Studies and Political Science, published and edited the *Routledge Handbook of Gender in South Asia* (2014).



She also taught a course for the Winter 2014 Theme Semester, *India in the World*, called “Women, Politics and Society,” which is now a permanent course she is teaching in Women’s Studies.

Fernandes is currently serving on the Fulbright National Selection Committee for undergraduate and graduate research and study in India.



Stephen Rush, Professor and Interim Chair of Performing Arts Technology, this summer administered and guided a group of students on the U-M Varanasi India Program, a Hindustani music immersion program. This summer marked the ninth student group that he has guided, which has resulted in over 110 students traveling and studying in India.

Mrinalini Sinha, Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History, served an apprenticeship year as Vice President of the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), which ended after

the annual AAS conference in Philadelphia, in March 2013, when she began her term as President. Sinha is honored and excited to have this opportunity to build on and extend many of the initiatives begun by her predecessors.

She is committed to AAS’s global outreach initiatives, and was fortunate enough to see the AAS-in-Asia initiative—conceived at the annual AAS conference in Hawaii in 2011 for hosting a series of mini-conferences



in different locations in Asia in partnership with local institutions—come to fruition during her

presidency. She opened the inaugural AAS-in-Asia conference in Singapore in July 2014, organized with the the AAS’s local partners, the Asian Research Institute and the National University of Singapore. The conference—there were some 500 people from 30 different countries registered for the conference—exceeded all expectations in many ways. The 2015 AAS-in-Asia will be held in Taipei and the 2016 in Kyoto. Sinha’s hope is that there will be an AAS-in-Asia in South Asia in 2017.

Sinha also looks forward to what she thinks is one of the more pleasant duties of the President, visiting and addressing the annual conferences of the several regional AAS affiliates in North America. She attended the Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ), the only international AAS affiliate, in Tokyo and will be starting on her other visits this fall. In the meantime, Sinha continues to work

with the AAS officers and the AAS secretariat on various initiatives for the memberships and for outreach.



V.V. (Sugi) Ganeshanthan concluded five years as the Delbanco Visiting Professor

of Creative Writing in the Helen Zell Writers’ Program this spring. This fall, she heads to the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study for a year-long fellowship. In the fall of 2015, she will join the faculty at the University of Minnesota. Her story, “K Becomes K,” which was in the Fall 2013 issue of *Ploughshares* (edited by Professor Peter Ho Davies), will be included in *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2014*. Sugi will be missed at U-M; we wish her the best in her future pursuits.



Jeff Wilson, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, spent February 2014 in India

researching dinosaurs and other continental vertebrates from the Late Cretaceous period (ca. 67 million years ago). Jeff and colleagues conducted field work in Madhya Pradesh and museum collections research at the Indian Museum/Geological Survey of India in Kolkata. Jeff and colleague Bandana Samant established a formal research collaboration to better understand how India’s backbone animals responded to its dynamic geological and geographic history.

New Director of the International Institute

LSA Interim Dean Susan Gelman has named Pauline Jones Luong director of the International Institute. She started her three-year term on July 1, 2014. Jones Luong is also the director



of the Islamic Studies Program and was instrumental in the launch of the Global Islam Initiative colloquium series and the recent establishment of the Islamic Studies Virtual Curriculum. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Science degree and Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University. Jones Luong joined the Department of Political Science in 2012. Her work has been primarily focused on the former Soviet Union, particularly the five Central Asian republics. However, she has engaged in broad cross-national comparisons across regions, including Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa, utilizing a combination of controlled case comparisons and statistical analysis.

Jones Luong replaced former International Institute Director Ken Kollman, who stepped down after taking over in 2010. — *Margo Lakin*

RECALLING DEMOCRACY: LINEAGES OF THE PRESENT

SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2014
1636 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK BUILDING
8:30AM - 5:30PM

Decolonization is justly claimed as an axial event of the twentieth century. From this vantage, India’s place in social science resided in its relatively early achievement of the status of a nation-state and its illustration of the dilemmas of a conjoined commitment to democracy and development. A range of empirical and theoretical developments in the last few decades has now converged to transform India from an object of received social science to an instigator of new cross-disciplinary approaches. This project builds upon and extends this shift by rethinking conceptions of the political and of the twentieth century in relation to India.

The two-day conference at Michigan is the second to emerge out of this project. The first conference was held in New Delhi on January 10 & 11, 2014 with a focus on India’s political imaginaries. The Michigan conference assembles an international group of scholars to rethink India’s democratic politics in the concrete political landscapes of late-colonial and postcolonial India. Scholarly evaluations of India’s democracy have been as contentious as the phenomenon in question. The purpose of the conference is neither to adjudicate existing disciplinary debates or definitions of democracy as such nor to offer yet another normative evaluation. It is rather to foster a consideration of India’s democracy as a trans-disciplinary object, paying attention to its long-run making across distinct practices, infrastructures (institutions and concepts), and conjunctures.

Mrinalini Sinha, *Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History, University of Michigan*

Manu Goswami, *Associate Professor of History, New York University*

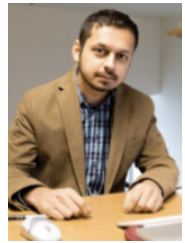
For further details on the conference please see the CSAS website:
<http://www.ii.umich.edu/csas/events/conferences>

THIS CONFERENCE IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM RANVIR AND ADARSH TREHAN AND THE COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS.

Introductions: New CSAS Faculty Associates

Manan Desai

After receiving his Ph.D. in English at the University of Michigan in 2011 and spending time at Syracuse University as an Assistant Profes-



sor in the Department of English, Manan Desai is returning to U-M as an Assistant Professor in American Culture. Desai began working on a book manuscript titled *The United States of India* while at Syracuse University. He has served on the board of directors for the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), since 2010, where he has helped build collections pertaining to the South Asian diaspora. Desai is interested in postcolonial studies, Asian American studies, and twentieth century American literature.

CSAS: First, welcome back to Michigan! Tell us a little bit about what you have been researching and writing during your time at Syracuse University.

MD: Thank you – I look forward to returning! My time at Syracuse coincided with my involvement with the South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), and one of the things I do with SAADA is to provide original archival research, write short pieces, and write up metadata for the items in our repository. This work has put me in touch with materials that I hadn't been able to access during my dissertation research—things like Angel Island immigration files, Chatauqua lecture pamphlets, and so on. As a result, I've started a new project on visual representations of South Asians in the U.S.

before the waves of migrations that began in 1965, from photographs of early South Asian laborers that circulated in North American media to mid-century performers like Korla Pandit.

CSAS: What courses will you be teaching in the upcoming academic year?

MD: I will be teaching a course called "Counterculture" and another on "Comedy and Social Change" in Fall 2014. In the Winter term, I am planning to teach a graduate course on race, performance, and visual culture, and will be co-teaching a course with Penny Von Eschen called "Practice of American Culture." I am also planning to teach a course on the South Asian Diaspora in North America in the near future, which I'm really looking forward to, since it was a course I'd wished I could have taken when I was an undergraduate at U-M.

CSAS: You helped build the South Asian diaspora collections for the South Asian American Digital Archive during your time on its board of directors. In what ways will this influence the courses you will be teaching?

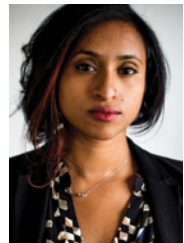
MD: I'm hoping to use SAADA to incorporate primary sources for students, especially as they pertain to the history of the South Asian diaspora and 20th century transnational networks. I am also looking forward to working with graduate students who are interested in producing similar sorts of digital projects, archival or otherwise—after all, SAADA started when we were all graduate students.

CSAS: What is one thing you are looking forward to doing again in Ann Arbor?

MD: That's easy—going to Encore Records on Liberty Street, again.

Tarfia Faizullah

In Fall 2014, Tarfia Faizullah joins the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program as the Delbanco



Visiting Professor of Creative Writing in Poetry. She is also a writer-in-residence for InsideOut

Literary Arts and co-edits the Organic Weapon Arts Chapbook Press & Video Series with Jamaal May. She is an accomplished writer, with many awards and prizes to her credit, including the 2012 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First book Award, a 2009 Cohen Award, the AWP Intro Journals Project Award, and a Cooper Nickel Poetry Prize. We are very excited to welcome her to U-M!

CSAS: Your 2014 collection *Seam* has garnered an impressive amount of positive feedback for its ability to bridge generational and cultural gaps and for examining the lingering and painful memories of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War. Tell us a little about the motivations behind this collection.

TF: My former professor, David Wojahn, has said that our obsessions pick us, not the other way around. From the first moment I learned about the *birangona*, Bangladeshi women raped by the Pakistani army in 1971, I was haunted. I could not help but write their stories, or the stories of those affected by them, myself included.

CSAS: What are you most looking forward to doing as the Nicholas Delbanco Visiting Professor of Creative Writing in Poetry? Do you have specific plans for what you would like to accomplish during your time at U-M?

TF: I'm looking forward to any number of possibilities and opportunities that might arise to do better work with more heart. Cross-disciplinary conversation is something I'm particularly interested in, as well as being invigorated by the work my students and colleagues are doing. I believe that everything affects everything else, so I'm looking forward to seeing the way my worldview is affected by being at the University of Michigan as I continue to work on my memoir and second book of poems.

CSAS: Your work has taken you to a variety of different places. What draws to you Michigan?

TF: I haven't had the opportunity to explore much of the greater state of Michigan yet, but here are a few things: the largeness of the sky, the flatness of the land, which reminds me so much of where I grew up in West Texas. The openness of folks here, how they are kind rather than nice. 24-hour access to chili cheese fries. A deep and abiding love of the arts, and a desire to make space for it. Detroit, where I live, is one of our oldest and most ancient cities: I'm drawn to its power.

CSAS: Since you live in Detroit you are probably quite familiar with Ann Arbor. Nevertheless, tell us about one thing you're looking forward to doing while you're here.

TF: I'm a big comic book nerd, so I'm looking forward to browsing at Vault of Midnight between classes!

Madhumita Lahiri

Madhumita Lahiri joins the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. She has a BA from Yale and a Ph.D. from Duke University. Prior to joining the University of Michigan she was an Assistant Professor at the University of Warwick, in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. Before that she held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of the Witwatersrand,



and a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University. Lahiri's interests include (but are not limited to): postcolonial, South Asian, and world literature; her research focuses on translation, genre, and multilingualism.

CSAS: Tell us a little about yourself, where you come from, and what draws you to the University of Michigan.

ML: I'm coming, most recently, from a town named Royal Leamington Spa, which is right in the center of England and has been my home while I have been at Warwick. In a biographical sense, I finished my schooling from New Delhi, spent my undergraduate and graduate years in Connecticut and North Carolina, and then had a wonderful year in Johannesburg, South Africa, before moving to Brown and then finally to England. All this moving has been wonderful for my own research interests, which are focused around questions of transnational circulation, reception, and collaboration.

I'm delighted to be joining the University of Michigan, where I look forward to collaborating with colleagues in the English department as well as South Asian studies scholars across the university. I know several people who have spent time at Michigan in various capacities, and so I've been hearing wonderful things about the university for many years.

CSAS: What courses are you teaching this coming academic year and how are you preparing for them?

ML: This fall I'll be teaching a course called "Black Britain," which introduces students to British literature through its many immigrant authors, including writers like V.S. Naipaul, Sam Selvon, and Zadie Smith. I'm also teaching a graduate course on postcolonial theory, and in the spring I'll be teaching a theory course at the undergraduate level, on debates in the subfield known as world literature. I'll also be teaching one of my favorite courses in the spring, called "Global South Asia," which is an introductory class covering the vast and exciting terrain of South Asian writing in English.

I'm tremendously excited about teaching at Michigan, and much of the material I'll be covering is quite dear to my heart. As a result, the preparation is a pleasure—though I do spend a lot of time looking at enormous piles of books, wishing that I could teach them all.

CSAS: You've written widely on a variety of topics including postcolonialism, internationalism, and translation. Tell us a little bit about what you're currently researching and future projects you have in mind.

ML: I have two current projects that would be of particular interest to scholars and enthusiasts of South Asia. The first examines the adoption of sound technology in Indian commercial cinema in the 1930s, arguing that the eventual mixed Hindi argot of what we now know as Bollywood film was part of a political and social consensus-making project to forge a common language for the entirety of the subcontinent—a utopian dream which the technology of the cinema, then radically new, seemed particularly well posed to accomplish.

My second incipient project concerns the discourses of pan-Asianism of the early 20th century, considering how artists, intellectuals, and writers from Japan, China, and the Indian subcontinent worked together and learnt from one another in the attempt to form a new Asian novel. The book manuscript that I am completing, *Fictions of Internationalism*, traces intellectual and literary collaborations across the globe; with this new project, I am tracing them across the Himalayas, positioning South Asian literature firmly in its continental context and not, for instance, within the frame of the British Empire.

CSAS: Tell us about one thing you're looking forward to doing in Ann Arbor.

ML: I spend perhaps too much time trying to recreate the delicious Indian meals of my childhood, and so I'm particularly excited about Ann Arbor's great farmers' markets. I'm also a college basketball fan, so March may be a busy month for me – go blue!

Ritesh Mistry

Ritesh Mistry received his Ph.D. from the UCLA School of Public Health and completed his post-doctoral



training at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education and has spent a significant amount of time and research focusing on South Asia. As such, we are very pleased to welcome him as a CSAS faculty affiliate.

Professor Mistry has conducted studies in the U.S. and internationally in areas of tobacco use, physical activity, food choice, and health care utilization. Among his many accomplishments, he was a recipient of a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar Award to study the implementation of India's tobacco control policy and adolescent tobacco use. Professor Mistry is giving a talk for CSAS' scholarly lecture series on January 30, 2015 at 4:00 pm (School of Social Work Building, Room 1636). The talk is titled "Youth Tobacco Control in India." We look forward to the contributions he will make to the center!

The Global Information Engagement Program

Joyojeet Pal and Kelly Kowatch

This past summer, 19 University of Michigan students traveled to locations across India to work with farmers, community leaders, nonprofits and other civic-minded organizations to tackle information challenges and implement socially impactful solutions with wide-ranging applications.

Students from the School of Information (UMSI), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Health Informatics program, School of Public Health, and Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning teamed up to address various issues facing Indian citizens, leading one group to help create India's first accessible website for the disabled community, AccessHub.org.



Working with the National Institute for Speech and Hearing in Kerala, the students helped build AccessHub.org to address shortcomings in accessibility to disability law and policy information. The website offers up-to-date disability news, a discussion forum, a localized disability service search facility, and policy information at state, territory and national levels.

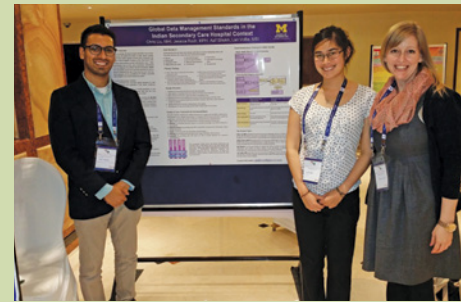
The project was developed by one of six teams participating in UMSI's inaugural Global Informa-

tion Engagement Program (GIEP)(<https://www.si.umich.edu/global-information-exchange-program>), an innovative approach to learning that brings together nonprofit, research and educational organizations to create projects addressing information problems across multiple domains. The program is directed by Joyojeet Pal and Kelly Kowatch in the School of Information.

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.

In addition to AccessHub.org, the following projects comprised GIEP's 2014 session:

- Human Rights Advocates Connect partnered U-M students with the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore. HRAC (hrac.in) includes a directory of lawyers, a legal material archive and a forum for lawyers to connect and respond to one another's queries. These resources allow citizens to find legal professionals to aid with human rights concerns and give professionals opportunities to consult with each other and develop cases.
- Visualizing India's Cities built reliable urban metrics for Indian settlements. Students developed a Web mapping and data visualization tool with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements and helped create a database that provides researchers access to demographic and economic data and a way to visualize the information in real time. The website is currently privately hosted, with updates posted on umsigiepurbaninformaticsportal.wordpress.com.



- Data Driven Healthcare crafted performance metrics and tools to improve quality of care in hospitals. Students partnered with Indian healthcare providers Be Well Hospitals, Quantiphi and Aspada Investments to understand global data management standard applicability to Indian healthcare, and propose modifications. More information at giepbewell.weebly.com.
- Hampi Arts Initiative surveyed, documented and archived Hampi region arts and crafts with the goal of educating the community about Hampi's rich cultural heritage. These students collaborated with Jaaga Trust, an entrepreneurial, activist, designer and artist community in Bangalore. More information at teamhampi.weebly.com.
- Harvesting Knowledge aided Digital Green, a New Delhi nonprofit committed to improving rural livelihoods, health and nutrition by training local farmers to facilitate discussions on agricultural techniques. Students developed a prototype to grow the organization's training efforts and worked with its tech team to integrate the application into Web services. More information at harvesting-knowledge.wordpress.com.



Ross School Initiatives in India

Multidisciplinary Action Project Sponsored by Equitas in Tamil Nadu

Karen Lewis

The Multidisciplinary Action Project (MAP) at the Ross School of Business is a critical component of the Ross MBA program. Interested first year Ross MBA students dedicate themselves to MAP for seven weeks each spring as a requirement of the MBA core curriculum. The MAP projects selected have proven to be fantastic corporate, entrepreneurial, and nonprofit projects both domestic and internationally. The MAP projects require analytical rigor, critical thinking, teamwork, and are guided by faculty advisors. The kinds of projects selected are examples of how Ross has built bridges between academia and the business world.

This year's C.K. Prahalad MAP team was sponsored by Equitas. Equitas operates as one of the most efficient and fastest growing microfinance institutions in India with a goal of extending micro credit to low income households that are underserved by mainstream banking channels. The primary objective of Equitas is to make credit products available at a reasonable cost in a transparent manner.

The MAP team's main objective was to conduct a study to identify the financial services requirements of the base of the pyramid customers in Tamil Nadu.

In order to satisfy this objective, the MAP team formulated a structured interview questionnaire that was conducted in the urban and semi-urban areas of Tamil Nadu. From the questionnaire, the MAP team concluded that financial services must take into consideration the voice of the customer, and that major barriers to utilization of financial services included convenience, access, trust, and consumer education.



"MAP was a fantastic experience and really the highlight of my first year at Ross. Working with a microfinance organization in India really showed the power of positive business in action. The company had a core mission for alleviating the burdens of the poor and under-banked communities. In addition to applying concepts from core classes such as statistics, finance, and strategy, this project really taught me about the power of passion and leadership in achieving a company's vision." – Claire Van Horn // MBA '15

MAP TEAM: Hugh Manahan, Jenny Simonson, Shawn Tydlaska, Claire Van Horn

Ross August Course

Liz Muller

In August 2014, the Ross School of Business, through a collaboration of India Initiatives and Global Initiatives, launched its first-ever short course in India. The Ross August Course in India, also known as Strategy 320: Doing Business in India, enables undergraduates from all U-M schools with an interest in Indian culture or international business development to travel to multiple cities in India for two weeks of intensive study and exploration. 22 undergraduates joined the course for August 2014.

This action-based course, led by Professor Anuradha Nagarajan, involved extensive exploration of business in India and a broad array of lectures, company visits, cultural visits, interactions with local alumni and students, and group projects. During the Winter 2014 semester, prior to departure, students attended three required course meetings, in which they built leadership skills, established goals for their trip, gained insights into Indian culture, prepared for travel, and connected with their fellow India course teammates. Once students arrived in India,

classroom instruction familiarized them with Indian cultural attitudes, economics, politics, history, and social issues. Lectures and site visits provided insights into India as both a source for talent acquisition and idea generation and as a market with a large and increasingly upwardly mobile population. Visits to government institutions, manufacturing plants, outsourcing firms, and multinational companies enabled students to see first-hand the standard practices of Indian businesses, speak directly with Indian business leaders, and learn about Indian entrepreneurial strategies to expand and succeed within a developing country.

Participants took trips to nearby cities and historic or culturally important sites. During free time, students were able to explore local shops and markets, participate in cultural events, and enjoy outdoor activities. Lastly, students were able to have interactions with students from Indian universities as well as local residents, which helped broaden their cultural understanding immensely and in a way that only total immersion can.

GRADUATE STUDENTS



Farida Begum will be a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of History. She was the

recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu, and spent this summer learning Bengali at the American Institute of Indian Studies in Kolkata, India and visiting archives and libraries. Much of her time was spent reading the biographies, essays, and letters of the Bengali feminist, writer, and educator Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, who opened the first school for Muslim girls in Calcutta in the early twentieth century. Farida is currently interested in the role Hossain played in the Urdu-Bengali debates of the early twentieth century.



Jillian Gross, a Ph.D. student in the School of Social Work, received a summer FLAS

fellowship to study elementary Hindi at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's South Asian Summer Language Institute (SASLI). The group she studied with was diverse and made up of 19 students from across the country. The intensive course has given her a grounding in reading, speaking, and writing in Devanagiri script. This will be of immense value to her as she engages in the study of community colleges in India.



Leslie Hempson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History. She spent the

2013-14 academic year conducting research for her dissertation, "The Social Fabric of Khadi: Experiments in Industry in Twentieth-Century India." She will continue this research during the Fall semester. Her research is funded by a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship and the Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship.



Through the first half of 2014 **Jasmine Hentschel**, a second year student in the

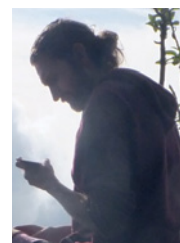
Master of Science in Information program, and recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Punjabi, worked with Digital Green, an organization that helps farmers share best agricultural practices within their communities. She spent the summer in New Delhi helping design the user interface for a new quality assurance and training platform that will be used in the thousands of communities Digital Green reaches throughout India and Africa. She'll be continuing her studies in information communications technology and development this upcoming year, and plans to focus her efforts more specifically on creating tools for populations with low literacy levels. This past year she received

the School of Information's Global Information Engagement Program Fellowship and the Award for Excellence in Punjabi Language.



Eleni Lazarou, a FLAS recipient for both the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years,

has studied Hindi and focused on Indian studies. Eleni recently graduated with a BA in Women's Studies and Asian Languages and Cultures and is beginning a Master's program at U-M's School of Social Work this year, where she will concentrate on Community Organization. Her academic goals include improving current reproductive health education systems and researching the effects that menstruation education (or lack thereof) has in reinforcing gender binaries.



Adam Liddle is a graduate student entering the second year of his Master's program in South

Asian Studies. He was the recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Hindi. This summer, under the auspices of a summer FLAS fellowship, he continued learning the Tibetan language in Kathmandu, Nepal at the Rangjung Yesh Institute where he enrolled in the Advanced Colloquial Tibetan intensive course. The focus of the program was primarily on the use of the language in the context of the teachings of Buddhism.



Alexander Persaud, a Ph.D. student in Economics and recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellow-

ship for Urdu, is currently working on several research projects pertaining to South Asia. He has been looking at long-run demographic and economic trends in India using colonial and post-independence data. Additionally, he has looked for similar trends in Pakistan and also at how early-life education affects later educational outcomes. Alexander will continue working on these topics, as well as other research projects on immigration in Europe and the United States, in the coming year.



Nishita Trisal, a Ph.D. student in the Anthropology Department and recipient of a 2013-14

FLAS fellowship for Urdu, recently finished seven weeks of preliminary field research in Kashmir, India, where she was examining political-economic transformations caused by the ongoing conflict. Nishita also spent time at the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, her primary fieldsite, along with various indigenous business communities (shawl weavers and apple producers namely). During this time, she also worked on her Kashmiri language skills. She will be returning to Kashmir late next year to carry out long-term dissertation research.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Sarah Cunningham, an LSA student, received a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu and this summer completed a Critical Languages Scholarship for Urdu study in Lucknow, India. She is now turning her attention to public health work, and is currently researching the effect of the rural-urban shift on adolescent stress levels for her undergraduate honors thesis. Sarah is currently applying to graduate schools to pursue a degree in public health, focusing on international epidemiology.

Pedro Fialho, an LSA student, participated in a new program established between the University of Michigan and Delhi University. As a participant in this program, Pedro became part of a student-faculty team at DU that is studying the process behind the assignment of credit ratings to countries and sovereign states, as well as the consequences that arise from the credit rating agencies' activities. In the winter 2015 semester, he collected and organized data regarding this topic in Ann Arbor. Then, in the summer, he went to New Delhi to work with the professors and students involved in the project.

Shazia Ijaz, a student in the Ross School pursuing a Bachelors in Business Administration with a minor in Asian Languages and Cultures, received a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for Urdu. She is currently working at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation in San Jose, California. The foundation works to integrate technology and classroom practices, as well as to pre-

pare students for high school. She has continued to practice her Urdu speaking skills outside of the classroom as frequently as possible with family and friends. Furthermore, after the next two semesters at Michigan, she plans to graduate and hopes to go on to start a non-profit organization.

Zunaira Jilani, an LSA student and a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship recipient for Urdu, is a senior double majoring in International Studies of Global Health and Psychology. She is currently working in a psych research lab on a project exploring the relationship between personality traits and multi-dimensional spirituality. This coming year she will be writing an honors thesis examining the role of different dimensions of spirituality in predicting psychological maladjustment, such as depression and anxiety, using hope as a mediator. This past year she received the Anne Rudo Memorial Award which is a \$1,000 scholarship to conduct research in the field of Psychology, which she hopes to use to present research at conferences. Zunaira's future plans consist of completing the Accelerated Degree Program to achieve a Masters in Psychology and apply to Ph.D. programs in either Public Health or Clinical/Health Psychology.

Haseeb Khan is currently a junior in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts with a concentration in neuroscience and a minor in South Asian studies. He was the recipient of a 2013-14 FLAS fellowship for the study of Urdu. He hopes to become a translator for the US army to use his knowledge of Pashto and Urdu.

"India as a Regional Power" Symposium

On January 25th, 2014, the CSAS hosted a one-day symposium on "India as a Regional Power." The symposium focused on regional dynamics in South Asia, and given India's rising prominence in geopolitics, particular attention was paid to how India is perceived in and its impact on Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

The symposium brought together an interdisciplinary group:

Mohammed Hanif, special correspondent for BBC Urdu, Karachi, Pakistan, and one of Pakistan's preeminent fiction writers.

Arijit Sen, Senior Editor, Northeast India, CNN-IBN.

Bhavani Fonseka, lawyer and Senior Researcher, Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Naeem Mohaiemen, visual artist, writer, New York and Dhaka. Mohaiemen is also a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at Columbia University.

The symposium had an impressive turnout leaving standing room only for its opening session. The speakers led lively discussions and presented the audience with unique and thoughtful talks throughout the day.



Mohammed Hanif with Farina Mir

Summer in South Asia Fellows 2014

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—in India. Including this year's fellows, the program has now supported 56 students to go to India on projects they devise and execute.

This year we had an impressive group of 30 applicants. After a rigorous review process, a faculty selection committee chose the eight students below. Please join us on October 24, in 1636 School of Social Work Building at 4pm, for a symposium where the fellows will present their research findings.



Alexa Ariazi, Junior, LSA. Alexa interned at a New Delhi women's rights NGO called

Shakti Shalini. This NGO arose out of the Indian feminist movement that blossomed in the early 1980s in response to the growing attention given to gendered violence such as dowry death. She analyzed how this history influences the organization's mission and interactions with the community and other women's rights NGOs in the area. Because Shakti Shalini is a small, localized NGO, Alexa examined how its methodologies compared with larger women's rights NGOs in New Delhi, especially those with operations in other cities (or countries).



Lucia Ceroni, Sophomore, Nursing. Lucia interned at Swami Vivekananda

Youth Movement, a development organization, engaged in building a new civil society in Bangalore, India through its grassroots to policy-level action in health, education, and community development sectors. While interning there she gained nursing experience by working in a local hospital under a mentor. Additionally, Lucia taught health care related workshops to the English speaking community members.



Brianna Labelle-Hahn, Junior, Engineering. Brianna LaBelle-Hahn worked along-

side BLUElab India, a multidisciplinary student organization at the University of Michigan dedicated to co-designing sustainable, appropriate technology with the communities in and around the city of Kalol in Gujarat, India. BLUElab India is focused primarily on solutions to health problems that are caused by lack of potable water.



Man Kuan Lei, Junior, Stamps School of Art and Design and LSA. Man Kuan worked in

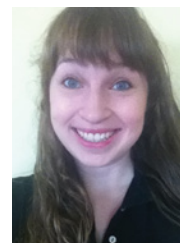
Dharamsala, India with the environment/waste management organization Waste Warriors. Openly discarded waste is a widespread problem across

India. Man Kuan learned about waste management systems that strive to reduce the social stigma attached to waste in order to improve the quality of life of those who work in the waste industry. Her main goal was to focus on waste workers in Dharamsala who make their living by picking waste and to assess how the NGO has made a difference in their lives.



Lydia Lopez, Junior, LSA. Lydia worked with a youth-oriented NGO called Yuva Unstoppable.

She worked at Yuva's headquarters in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Her primary work was under the position of program associate where she directly worked in the already existing partnerships with government funded schools. Through this position, she worked to supplement her social research project and senior thesis by analyzing how international NGOs operate and remain sustainable in a place with high levels of poverty.



Emily Preuss, Junior, LSA. Emily worked with Jeevika Development Society for approximately

eight weeks, in Kolkata, India. Jeevika is an organization dedicated to furthering women's rights—particularly the rights of women in poverty—through research and the provision of resources. She collaborated with Jeevika to run a survey about the marriage of young girls in India and investigated the ties between these marriages

and the stigma of female sexuality. The survey was conducted within the communities outside of Kolkata that Jeevika works closely with.



Daniel Vollrath, Junior, LSA. Daniel spent summer 2014 as a research and develop-

ment intern at Yuva Unstoppable, an NGO that acts as a catalyst for change by helping the disadvantaged youth of India, in Ahmedabad, India. As part of the research and development team, he worked on analyzing the effectiveness of programs the organization completes, which includes rebuilding schools, digital literacy programs, donation drives, and much more. Along with his internship Daniel conducted independent research on the motivations and attitudes of Indian students on education. The survey was administered to middle-class students in the city of Ahmedabad.



Elisa Warner, Junior, LSA. Elisa worked with the Hope Project, an NGO that is

centered in the Hazrat Basti Nizamuddin, a slum in Delhi. Her focus was working with the Hope Project clinic and investigating the relationship between the NGO and the community. She placed particular focus on the degree to which the NGO is able to sustain or assist the community, and to the extent to which the community needs the NGO.

Upcoming CSAS Events

September 19, 2014

Mary John, Senior Fellow, Center for Women's Development Studies
"Feminist Trajectories in the History of Thought: Perspectives from India"
4:00 pm • Room 1644
School of Social Work Building
Co-sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender

October 3, 2014

Arvind Rajagopal, Professor of Media, Culture and Communication, New York University
"Cold War Communication and the Cold War: An Indian History of a Global Form"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building
Co-Sponsored by Communication Studies

October 7, 2014

Arundhati Roy, writer and political activist
"The Half Life of Caste"
The Jean Yokes Woodhead Lecture
5:00 pm • Rackham Amphitheatre (fourth floor), 915 E. Washington St.
Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities

October 24, 2014

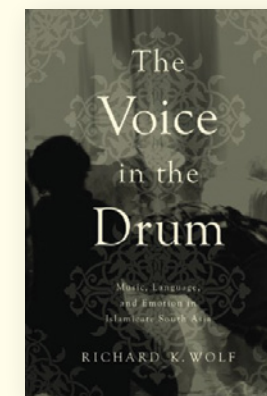
Daisy Rockwell, writer and artist
"Translation, Bilingualism and Hinglish"
12:00 pm • Department of Comparative Literature Room 2018, Tisch Hall
Co-sponsored by the Department of Comparative Literature

November 14, 2014

Iftikhar Dadi, Associate Professor of History of Art and Visual Studies; and of Art, Cornell University
"Urdu Cinema During the 1940s and 50s"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building
Co-sponsored by the Department of History of Art, the Islamic Studies Program, and Screen Arts & Cultures

December 5, 2014

Tarfia Faizullah, Delbanco Visiting Professor, Helen Zell Writers' Program, University of Michigan
"The Syntax of Witness: A Reading and Discussion"
4:00pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building



January 23, 2015

Richard Wolf, Professor of Music and South Asian Studies, Harvard University
"The Voice in the Drum: South Asian Ethnography and Creative Writing"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building

January 30, 2015

Ritesh Mistry, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
"Youth Tobacco Control in India"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building

February 9, 2015

Vikram Chandra, writer
"Geek Sublime"
The Marc and Constance Jacobson Lecture
5:00 pm • Rackham Amphitheatre (fourth floor), 915 E. Washington St.
Sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities

February 13, 2015

Allison Busch, Associate Professor of Hindi Literature, Columbia University
"History of Elegy: The Politics of Commemoration in Early Modern Hindi"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building



March 13, 2015

Vinay Gidwani, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota
"The Work of Waste: Inside Urban India's Infra-Economy"
4:00 pm • Room 1636
School of Social Work Building

April 3, 2015

U-M Pakistan Conference
Room 1636
School of Social Work Building

All events are free and open to the public. A complete and updated list can be found on our website, www.ii.umich/csas.

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