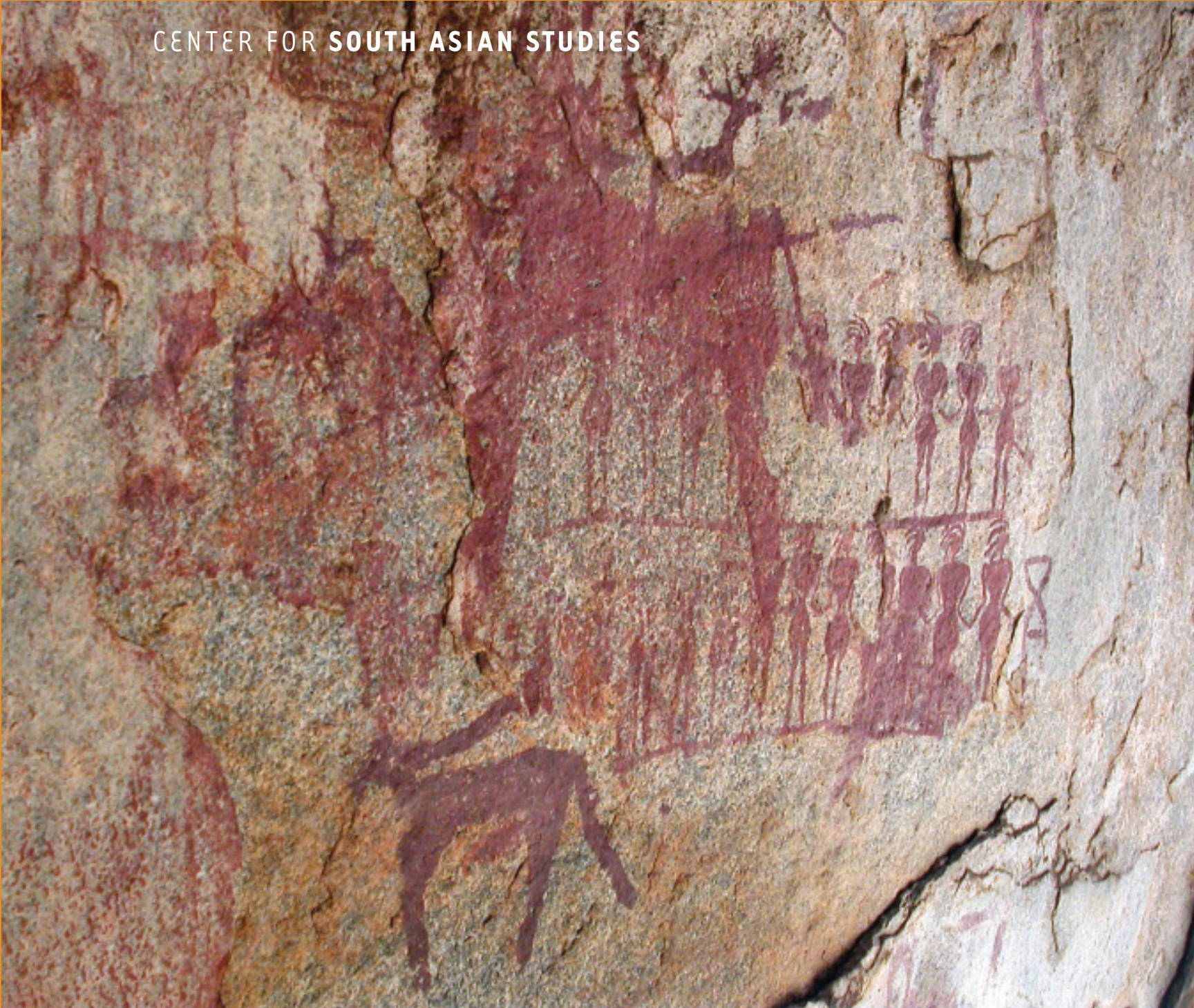




CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



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DESIGN:
Marty Somberg/Somberg Design

EDITOR:
Zilka Joseph/CSAS

ON THE COVER:
Kadebakele rock art

We've had another exciting fall at the Center, made possible by the energy and dynamism of our students, faculty, visitors and community. We were privileged to welcome to campus an old friend, Gyanendra Pandey of Emory University, to kick off our speaker series in the fall, speaking on "Dalit Memoirs: Re-Scripting the Subaltern Body." His ethnographic and historical sensibility, and his comparative remarks on African-American studies in the US, gave us a wide canvass for understanding urgent social issues. Pandey had been a visitor at U-M in the 1990s, and his vital contributions are still remembered fondly. The opportunity to again benefit from his scholarship and keen social conscience was most welcome. In the same spirit was the talk by Sharika Thiranagama of the New School on "All Tigers are Tamil, but not all Tamils are Tigers": Anthropology and the Culturalisation of Politics in Sri Lanka."

As usual, we were edified by the annual presentations of the Summer in South Asia undergraduate researchers, at an afternoon colloquium. This program, made possible by an anonymous donor, sends undergraduates to India each summer to conduct research at a friendly local institution.

Martha Johnson, Sonya Usman, Nader Hakim, Alexandra Passarelli, and Julia Field all showed initiative, pluck and intellectual acumen in navigating an unfamiliar environment and coming back with interesting findings. Kirin Narayan of the University of Wisconsin presented on "The Many Lives of Family Stories: Mythology and Memoir," and the event was co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Department of Anthropology. We also had two mini-conferences and a film presentation. The International Institute held a day-long seminar on "New Media," which CSAS co-sponsored. Moinak Biswas of Jadavpur University in Calcutta showed his independent, somewhat existentialist film, "Spring in the Colony." And CSAS Associate Director Christi Merrill and Program Manager Zilka Joseph planned and hosted a tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on the 150th anniversary of the birth of this important modern Indian thinker. The event included a graduate student panel, a performance of Tagore songs by our own Mousumi Banerjee (accompanied on tabla by Amit Chatterjee), and a talk by Keya Ganguly of the University of Minneapolis on visual modernism in Tagore.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the contributions of Executive Committee members Aswin Punathambekar, Meilu Ho, Mrinalini Sinha, Associate Director Christi Merrill and our staff.

We're excited to go forward in 2012 with another Trehan Theme Year, this time on "The Environment of India," made possible by a generous gift from Drs. Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the Trehan Foundation Fund.

We're proud of the support our events receive from faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and dedicated members of the community in Southeast Michigan, and we will do our best to continue to bring you the best in South Asian studies, analysis and culture in 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juan Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cole".

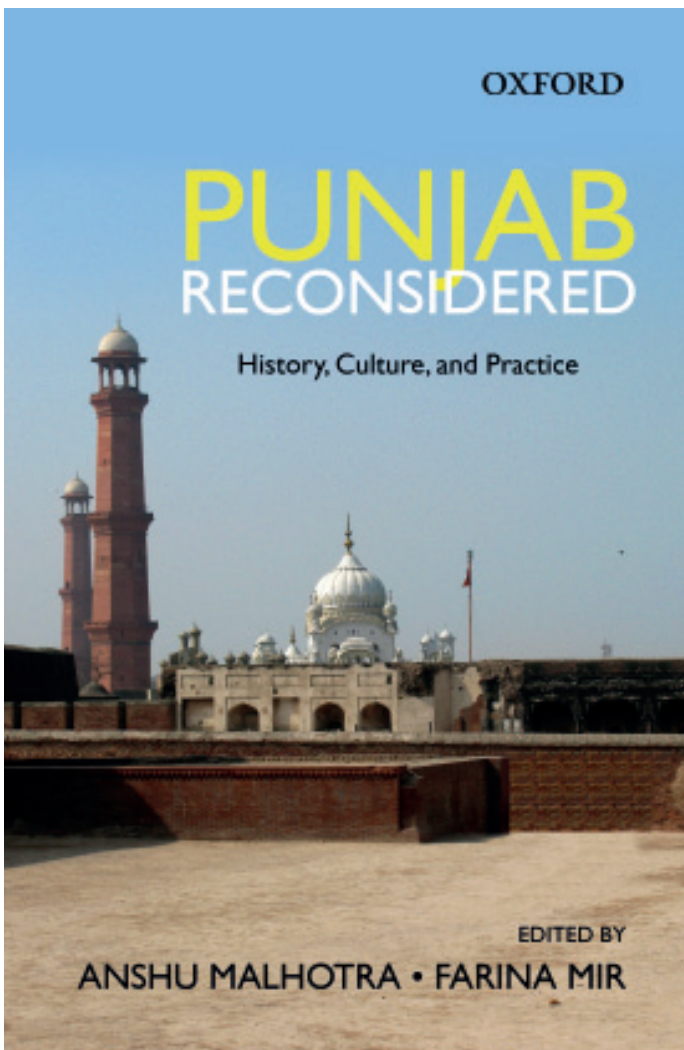
Juan Cole, Director
Center for South Asian Studies
Professor of Middle East and
South Asia History

FACULTY NEWS

Ram Mahalingam received the *Excellence in Education* Award from LSA and has been elected as Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

Farina Mir has been based in India for the last two semesters as a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Scholar working on a project on Muslim Socio-religious reform in late colonial India entitled, "Producing Modern Muslims." She will return to Ann Arbor in Fall 2012.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Farina Mir

The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in British Colonial Punjab, has been awarded the John F. Richards Prize in South Asian history by the American Historical Association. More information is available at:

www.historians.org/prizes/index.cfm?PrizeAbbrev=Richards

Punjab Reconsidered: History, Culture, and Practice was published by Oxford University Press in March 2012. Co-edited with Anshu Malhotra of Delhi University, and formerly a Hughes Fellow (2008).

Tom Weisskopf

"Why Worry about Inequality in the Booming Indian Economy?" *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 46, No. 47, November 19, 2011, pp. 41-51.

Juan Cole

"The Place of Democracy in the Postcolonial Islamic World," *The Democratic Imaginary in the Era of Globalization*. XXIII Conference of the Academy of Latinity (Academy of Latinity: Barcelona, 2011), pp. 21-70.

"Islamophobia and American Foreign Policy Rhetoric: The Bush Years and After." In John L. Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin, eds., *Islamophobia: the Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 127-142.

T R I B U T E T O T A G O R E

December 2, 2011 / 1-5:30 pm



Mousumi Banerjee



Keya Ganguly, University of Minneapolis

A fun, festive and certainly well-attended event was held the afternoon of December 2nd to commemorate what would have been the 150th birthday of Rabindranath Tagore. While he is famous as the only Indian recipient (so far) of the Nobel Prize for literature, the participants investigated a fuller range of his ongoing legacy and how to think about it today. First, there was a panel of graduate students: Sara Hakeem Grewal from the Department of Comparative Literature talked about his travel writing in translation as an example of world literature; Harjeet Grewal from the Department of Asian

Languages and Cultures talked about issues of religious identity and nationalism in Tagore's work; Sayan Bhattacharyya, currently at the School of Information, spoke on the politics of Tagore as seen through his plays; and Rohit Setty from the School of Education discussed the influence of Tagore's pedagogical philosophy. We then paused for an Ann Arbor version of a Bengali high tea, replete with fish fry, mustard kasundi, pakoras and gulab jamun.

We reconvened to hear Mousumi Banerjee perform several of Tagore's most beloved Bengali folk songs, and participated



Christy Merrill, Sara Hakeem Grewal, Harjeet Grewal, Sayan Bhattacharyya, Rohit Setty

enthusiastically in singing *Aguner Paroshmoni* along with her. She was accompanied on the tabla by Amit Chatterjee. We finished the afternoon with a keynote address by Keya Ganguly, an associate professor in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, who considered Tagore's work as a visual artist and its contribution to (and in some ways, independent from) visual modernism.

This event was cosponsored by CSAS and the Department of Comparative Literature.



Amit Chatterjee



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SOUTH ASIA:

Trehan Initiative Results Carla M. Sinopoli

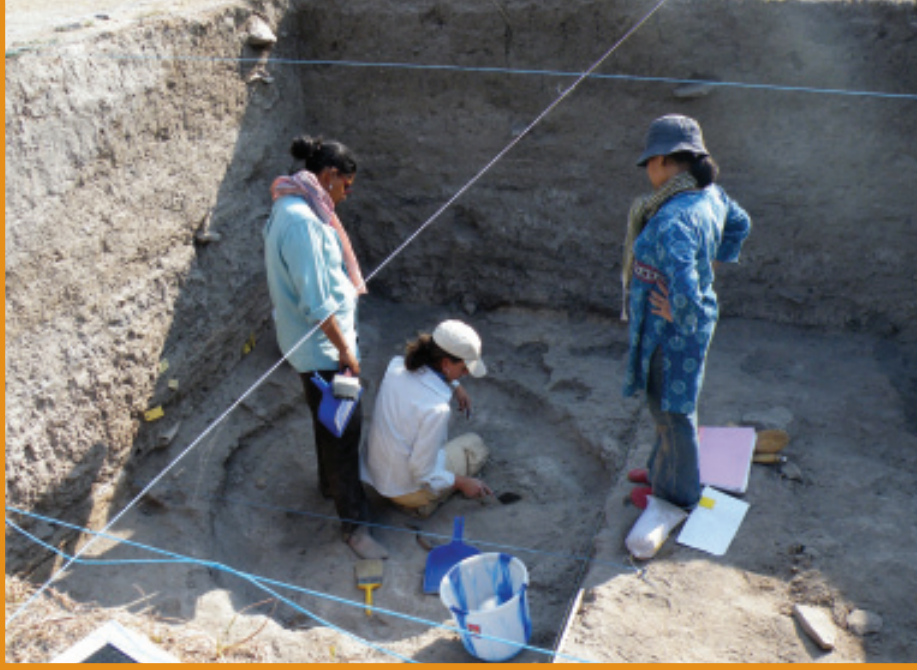


2010 team photo

From 2007 through 2011, the Trehan Award for Indian Archaeological Research generously provided resources for U-M Professor Carla Sinopoli and undergraduate and graduate student in anthropology to conduct archaeological research in South India. Our work has focused on periods spanning from 2000 BC to 1800 AD, from the earliest Neolithic farming communities through the medieval Vijayanagara Empire and together provide important new insights into changes in political, social, economic, and religious life over this lengthy span.

Grants from the Trehan Award have supported three doctoral research projects in Karnataka. The first directed by **Hemanth Kadambi** (Anthropology, PhD 2011) focuses on sacred and urban landscapes of the early Chalukya kingdom through the systematic survey and documentation of the Chalukya capital of Aihole in northern Karnataka. The second directed by **Elizabeth Bridges** (Anthropology, PhD expected Spring 2012),

focused on a much later period, and examined the relations of the regional state of Keladi-Ikkeri to the Vijayanagara empire, exploring how subsidiary polities maintained and asserted their unique identities and political authority in the context of expanding (and contracting) empire. And, the third doctoral project, directed by **Uthara Suvrathan** (Anthropology, PhD expected Dec 2012), focuses on the ancient city of Banavasi, a political and religious center spanning from the early centuries AD through AD 1200 and encompassing times of dramatic political change; her research focuses on persistence – how places and political identities endure in fragile and unstable political environment. In each of these projects, Kadambi, Bridges and Suvrathan worked with and trained Indian undergraduate and graduate students in archaeological survey and documentation. Many of these students are now pursuing professional careers in Indian archaeology, so that along with conducting original and significant research, Michigan doctoral students also lived up to the Trehan Award's goals of building long-



excavating an Iron Age house

lasting collaborative relations between US-based and Indian scholars. Trehan funds also supported Professor **Carla Sinopoli's** ongoing field project on the Iron Age and Early Historic periods along the Tungabhadra River of central Karnataka. This multi-year research project is directed by Carla Sinopoli (University of Michigan), Kathleen Morrison (University of Chicago), and R. Gopal (Directorate of Archaeology and Museums). Work focuses on a c. 38.5 square kilometer region along the Tungabhadra River in central Karnataka (Koppal and Bellary Districts), where more than two dozen sites spanning from the second millennium BC Neolithic period through first millennium BCE Iron Age and the first millennium CE Early Historic and Early Medieval periods. Our collaborative Indian and American team of researchers and students examines how social, economic and political inequalities were created and maintained throughout this span. Most of our work has been at the large settlement of Kadabakele, where over four seasons of excavation we have recovered detailed information on household organization, economic practices, sophisticated crafting technologies (including some of the world's earliest steel!), and ritual and memorial behaviors. Additional survey, excavation, and surface documentation have taken place at several other sites in the project region, including excavations in a megalithic cemetery site and surface documentation of two Iron Age villages.

In addition to the nuts and bolts of our research, we are also committed to building strong collaborative relations with our Indian colleagues and to the training of students from both the US and India. Our research involves undergraduate and graduate students in fieldwork and analyses. Over the course of the fieldwork to date, 13 US based students and 23 Indian students have participated in fieldwork and laboratory analyses. In addition, material from the project has been used to develop a museum exhibition in Karnataka, in workshops for middle and high school teachers in southeastern Michigan, in an exhibit in the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History (which services c. 60,000 schoolchildren per year) and has been presented in an exhibition mounted in the Karnataka Directorate of Archaeology's museum in South India.

After four seasons of excavations, and a mass of new data acquired, our project has now shifted to a period of data analysis and writing. Several publications have already appeared and more are in progress. Members of our team will be presenting a suite of papers on the project at the biennial conference of South Asian Archaeology to be held in Paris in 2012.

Over the last four years, University of Michigan students and myself have benefited tremendously from the Trehan Award for South Asian Archaeology to the University of Michigan. Through this generous gift three doctoral students were able to conduct their doctoral research; several other students were able to participate in archaeological fieldwork in South India; and Indian collaborators were able to visit the University of Michigan and conduct new research. The legacies of this award will continue for years to come, both in the knowledge generated through our fieldwork and as these students launch successful careers in the archaeology of India and continue to develop collaborative relations between the United States and India.



Carla on final day

WINTER 2012 THIRD TREHAN THEME YEAR

The Environment of India

JANUARY 27

Anup Saikia, Associate Professor at the Department of Geography,
Gauhati University

Tribes, Tea and Tigers in India's Far East

4 pm in Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute
1080 S. University Ave.

FEBRUARY 10

Sunil Bhatia, Associate Professor of Human Development,
Connecticut College

Globalization and Culture: Mimicry and Identity in Indian Call Centers

4 pm at Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute
1080 S. University Ave.

FEBRUARY 17

Tanika Sarkar, Professor of Modern History at the Centre for Historical
Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**The Fire Eaters: Law and Faith in Colonial Public Sphere Debates on
Widow Immolation**

4 pm in Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute
1080 S. University Ave.

Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender and CSAS

MARCH 9

CONFERENCE: THE ENVIRONMENT OF INDIA / PART I

**Eminent scholars from India and the US will present papers and
participate in panel discussions.**

Ann Grodzins Gold, Professor of Religion and Anthropology,
Syracuse University

**From Snakes' Blood to Sewage: Mythology and Ecology of a Minor
River in Rajasthan**

Ashwini Chhatre, Department of Geography, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

**Complex Interdependence and Co-evolution of Environment,
Development, and Democracy**

Mahesh Rangarajan, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library,
New Delhi

Conserving Nature as if Democracy Mattered

Discussant: **Arun Agrawal**, Professor, School of Natural Resources
and Environment

2-6 pm in Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute

MARCH 23

Mrinalini Sinha, Professor of History, University of Michigan

Indenture, Abolition, and the Nation-State Form

4 pm in Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute
1080 S. University Ave.

MARCH 29

Harish Kapadia, Mountaineer and Peace Activist

Siachen Glacier: The Battle of Roses

4 pm in Room 100

Hatcher Graduate Library

Cosponsored by the Mountaineering Culture Studies Group and CSAS

APRIL 13

Tom Trautmann, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

The Persistence of the Elephants

4 pm in Room 1636

School of Social Work /International Institute
1080 S. University Ave.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Student Awards



Dana Kornberg, Doctoral Student, Sociology and Urban & Regional Planning won a Graham Fellowship. The Graham Institute competitively selects and admits six doctoral students into the Graham Doctoral Fellowship Program. As a recipient of this honor, each Graham Fellow receives up to \$25,000 per year for two years to help support their doctoral-level research and studies. Applicants are reviewed by a strict

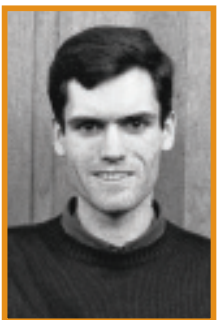
set of criteria and considered only if their doctoral research projects are related to environmental sustainability and if they demonstrate significant leadership potential. For more information go to: www.graham.umich.edu/education/fellows.php

Thanks to our Dedicated Volunteer



Sean Chauhan is finishing his masters' and thinking ahead to PhD programs. In the interim between programs, he will be in India studying Punjabi and Urdu and learning how to make tasty pakoras. He sends his warm regards to Michigan winter.

CSAS Welcomes Graduate Student and FLAS Award Winner Trevor Brabyn



Trevor is a first year Master's student at CSAS. He received his Bachelor's degree in history at Stanford University, before spending several years out of academics working on his family's farm in northern California. He is now starting his graduate work on early modern South Asian history, with interests in premodern Islam, Indo-Persian culture and early modern state formation in South India.

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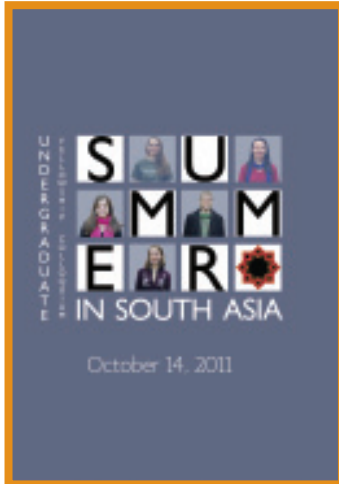
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Mary Sue Coleman (*ex officio*)

SUMMER IN SOUTH ASIA FELLOWSHIPS

2011

Thanks to our anonymous donor for the continued support of our students



Alexandra Passarelli

Global Health & Environment in International Studies major and Biology minor

Alexandra Passarelli's very specialized research with the Indian Migration Study (IMS) in New Delhi focused on associations of leg length with adult cardiometabolic risks and childhood social circumstances. Studies from developed nations have shown leg length as being better than height for predicting later life outcomes, and that both height and leg length are associated with childhood socioeconomic conditions. However, studies from developing nations and nutritionally stunted populations have presented inconsistent results regarding

the use of leg length. Due to a lack of research on this matter in India, she examined data to determine if indeed leg length was more strongly associated with cardio-metabolic risk than height as well as to see if it was more strongly associated with childhood social circumstances than with height.

Martha Johnson

Economics and International Studies

Martha Johnson interned within a small rural development NGO in Punjab for two months to research micro-finance as a tool for women's empowerment. She witnessed how the small organization struggled to effectively and strategically make use of its limited resources and how

complicated the goal of 'financial empowerment' can be.

Nader Hakim

Psychology and Near Eastern Studies major

With the help of the Public Health Research Institute of India, Nader Hakim conducted a qualitative, formative study to answer questions about sources of information and norms regarding sexual health and sexual behavior among young adult males. The study focused on the correlation between sexual education in schools and sexual risk behavior. Major themes regarding social norms regarding sexual health were studied to propose culturally sensitive interventions to improve sexual health conditions in the area.

Sonya Usman with a Shramik Bharati self-help group in Kanpur.



Sonya Usman

Political Science and International Studies major
While volunteering for Shramik Bharti, a nongovernmental organization, Sonya Usman researched the methods used to combat the water crisis in the urban slums of Kanpur with a specific focus on women's self-help groups. These self-help groups aimed to provide a holistic approach to addressing the needs of their communities and their access to sanitary drinking water. Her research focuses on the effectiveness of these self-help groups and the changes they strive to make.



Nader Hakim in Mysore.

Julia Field

Anthropology major and Urban Studies minor
Julia Field's research looks into the current state of education and globalization in rural Punjab and the possible effects one has on the other. With the help of the Indian nongovernmental organization, EduCARE India, Julia researched and took part in educational programs aimed at empowering marginalized communities. Working with the community members helped shed light on how education programs effectively empower individuals and how globalization has impacted the traditional culture in Punjab.



Julia Field (extreme left) and Martha Johnson (extreme right) and "The Girls Club", in Punjab.

For more information go to:

www.ii.umich.edu/csas/academics/fellowshipsgrants/summerinsouthasia



CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

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312354: South Asian Studies, Graduate Student Support

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- 1.** At the top of the page select “I want to choose the areas my gift should help.” And then follow the link to “View areas I can give to.”
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You can also go to:

www.kintera.org/site/c.kwKTJdNVJrF/b.4340155/k.872E/Give_Online/apps/s/custom.asp?msource=ucCode:lisa-southasian

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