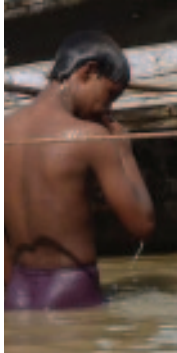
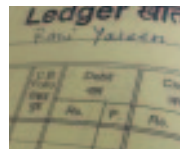
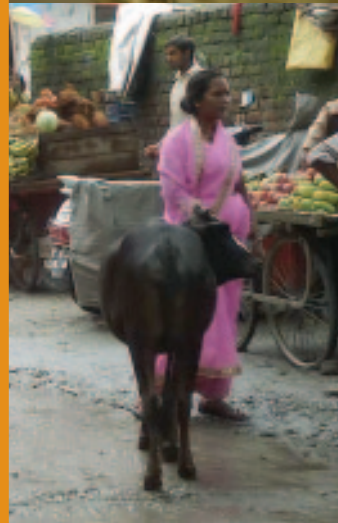
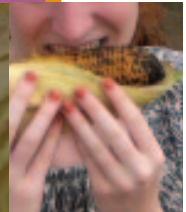




CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



THE CENTER FOR South Asian Studies, thanks to your efforts and support, got off to a great start this school year. Over the summer CSAS was awarded a four-year Federal Title VI grant by the Department of Education, which will support graduate and undergraduate fellowships, library resources, and a whole range of scholarly and administrative activities. The grant is a testimony to the vigor and visibility of South Asian studies on the University of Michigan campus and to the commitment of our departments, schools, and administrators. It speaks as well to the hard work of our Executive Committee and the International Institute staff in writing up an excellent proposal. Only a handful of South Asia centers at major universities across the country are given the status of National Resource Centers, and you have made U-M one of them.

In addition, we continue to benefit powerfully from the generosity of private and alumni donors. An anonymous grant allows us regularly to send six undergraduates to India every summer for research, and we were as usual dazzled by the presentations at the annual colloquium in October at the Center. We are now well into our second Trehan theme year, including talks and conferences generously funded by

Drs. Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the Trehan Foundation Fund. The theme this year is “Inequalities” in India. We hosted a well-attended mini-conference on November 12, where three prominent Indian scholars presented on class, caste, and gender inequalities in India during its rise to new global and economic prominence. The Center will sponsor a follow-up conference in Mumbai in early March, in which a number of our CSAS faculty will be involved. We also, in conjunction with other International Institute units, plan to host a number of Afghanistan-oriented talks in the Winter semester.

As usual, we continue to hold our lecture series, with entries so far on Pakistan’s floods this year by Juan Cole, on the film, “House on Gulmohar Avenue,” by its director, Samina Mishra, and on North Indian musical traditions by our own Meilu Ho. On October 29, we participated in an International Institute symposium on area studies in honor of the 50th year anniversary of the founding of four area studies centers at the University of Michigan, including our own CSAS.

This impressive smorgasbord of rich intellectual events would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, including David Merchant, Marya Ayyash, Esther Lee, and Zilka Joseph, our new program

manager. With the reorganization of the International Institute into clusters, Marya Ayyash will play a central role as key administrator for CSAS, adding to her earlier responsibilities at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

We are lucky to welcome to campus three new faculty members this fall: Mrinalini Sinha, who has joined the History Department; Leela Fernandes, the Women’s Studies and Political Science department; and Varuni Bhatia, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.

Our Center Executive Committee this year consists of Carla Sinopoli, Aswin Punathambekar, Meilu Ho, and Christi Merrill, who is joining us in January as Associate Director of CSAS.

I welcome you to our events in the Winter semester, and continue to be grateful to you all for your active support of the Center and its activities.

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

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

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Zilka Joseph has lived most of her life in Kolkata. She is a teacher, poet, arts-enthusiast, foodie and the eternal student. She moved to Chicago and later to Michigan. She has an MA in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, India, and an MFA from U-M where she won a Zell Fellowship, a Hopwood Award and the Elsie Choy Lee Scholarship. She has been published in journals such as *Review Americana*, *Gastronomica*, *Cutthroat*, and *Cheers to Muses: An Anthology of Work by Asian American Women*. Her work was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and her first chapbook *Lands I Live In* received a nomination for a PEN America Award. Her forthcoming chapbook is titled *What Dread* and she currently has a full length manuscript in circulation. Besides managing CSAS's varied activities, she teaches and gives readings in the US and India, mentors new writers and experiments in interdisciplinary collaborations. A hermit at heart, she deeply loves nature, wildlife and solitude.

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Inequalities in India Conference

REPORT ON THE CSAS CONFERENCE ON INEQUALITIES IN INDIA By Thomas E. Weisskopf



A striking fact of political life in India is that, unlike in most other countries, the poor vote in higher proportions than the well-to-do.

In recent decades India's economy has grown at impressive rates and the country has made important technological advances, giving it a new and enhanced role on the global stage. This theme year examines the implications of the rapid changes in various kinds of inequality in Indian society. We will explore this theme and discuss the scholarly research during two conferences sponsored by the Trehan India Initiative.

Part I was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 12, 2010. Two eminent economists from India and one political scientist from the US spoke at our conference.

Part II will be held in Mumbai, India, March 1 – 4, 2011. About 25 scholars from a variety of disciplines from India and the US, including U-M faculty and graduate students, have been invited to share and workshop each other's cutting-edge research on the subject of inequalities in India. The conference is to be held at the Novotel Hotel in Juhu Beach, Mumbai.

ON THE AFTERNOON of Friday, November 12, the U-M Center for South Asian Studies hosted a 4 hour conference as the opening event in the current Trehan Foundation theme year on "Inequalities in India." Three distinguished Indian scholars were invited to speak at the conference, each of them focusing on different aspects of inequality in post-independence India. The audience of about 75 persons listened with great interest to the three presentations and participated actively in the question-and-answer periods that followed each presentation.

The first speaker, Suresh Tendulkar (Ph.D., Harvard University, 1968) is Professor of Economics (retired) at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi; he is currently a National Fellow at the Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi, and a Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India.

Prof. Tendulkar presented an interpretation of the "Interaction between Social, Political and Economic Inequalities in India." He began by noting that the Indian Constitution sets as an overarching social goal the attainment of a modern egalitarian society, which in his view entails as a central requirement the establishment of equal citizenship on the part of every individual, independently of

Three distinguished Indian scholars were invited to speak at the conference, each of them focusing on different aspects of inequality in post-independence India.

social group identity. He then discussed the way in which India's efforts to aid marginalized communities through reservations policies (a strong form of affirmative action), as well as the drive on the part of many Indian politicians to appeal to particular social identity groups as vote banks, had strengthened group consciousness to the detriment of individual citizenship. On the other hand, he argued, India's pro-market economic reform policies in recent decades, by opening up more opportunities for individual social mobility, are tending to undermine traditional identity group attachments. Prof. Tendulkar concluded with a recapitulation of his basic thesis: that in contemporary India, social and political forces ostensibly aimed at reducing inequalities appear to be working against the growth of citizenship, while economic forces that at least initially generate wider economic inequalities are more likely to end up promoting citizenship.

Amit Ahuja (Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2008) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara; his primary area of research is ethnic politics and political development in South Asia, including in particular a focus on participation and mobilization of marginalized ethnic groups in modern India.

A striking fact of political life in India is that, unlike in most other countries, the poor vote in higher proportions than the well-to-do. Prof. Ahuja explored the reasons for this phenomenon, under the title "If I Don't Vote, I am Dead for the State" – a quotation from one of many poor Indians whom he interviewed in the course of his extensive field research on the motivations of relatively poor Indian voters. He noted that the political science literature on voting behavior suggests four different possible motivations for voting: a sense of civic duty, political patronage, peer pressure and ethnic or religious identity ties. Prof. Ahuja's research suggests, however, that while some of these kinds of motivations may explain rather well the voting behavior of relatively well-to-do voters, they fail to capture an essential reason why India's poorest citizens flock to the voting booth. That reason, he finds, is that poor people in India see the act of voting as a key right – indeed, the main right that they have gained from the modern Indian state, because for so many of them it is the only time that the state goes out of its way to acknowledge them as relevant citizens.

Ashwini Deshpande (Ph.D., University of Delhi, 1994) is Professor of Economics at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, and a recent recipient of the VKRV Rao Award for the most outstanding Indian economist

under 45; her many research interests include the economics of discrimination and affirmative action, with a focus on caste and gender in India.

Speaking on "The Grammar of Caste: Economic Discrimination in Contemporary India" (the title of her forthcoming book), Prof. Deshpande reviewed a substantial body of empirical research undertaken by many scholars, herself included, on the extent of economic discrimination in modern India. "Economic discrimination" means differential treatment of members of less-favored identity groups with respect to opportunities for economic improvement – e.g., fewer opportunities to get good jobs, less pay for equal work, access to lower-quality schooling, less favorable access to credit, etc. Reporting on recent empirical studies of earnings differentials, labor market experiences, and hiring practices, Prof. Deshpande documented the potency of discriminatory practices in modern India – especially discrimination against members of castes that are at the lower levels of the Indian caste hierarchy. In so doing, she presented a compelling argument that, in spite of India's rapid rate of economic growth since opening up to the world market economy, India's subordinated groups continue to endure a great deal of discrimination and inequality



Suresh Tendulkar
Ph.D., Harvard University

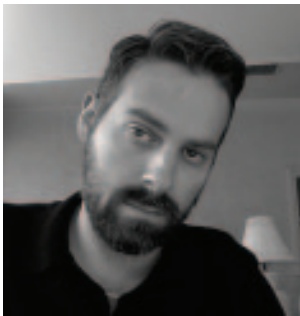


Ashwini Deshpande
Ph.D., University of Delhi

FLAS GRANT RECIPIENTS 2010-2011

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship provides tuition and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies.

The following students have been awarded a FLAS Fellowship for the 2010-2011 Academic Year:



Derek J. Mancini-Lander

Derek is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He is examining the writings of immigrants in Hindustan and the Deccan from the Safavid Empire during the seventeenth century. His dissertation looks at the history and culture of the Iranian cities of the Safavid realm that had begun to decline at this time, and whose residents had turned to the Mughal and Qutb Shahi courts for patronage and employment. Ultimately his work reconstructs important social networks of the Iranian diaspora through these writers' memories of home.



Dana Kornberg

Dana is a Ph.D candidate in sociology. She is concerned with understanding social inequality in India's rapidly-growing cities—an interest that stemmed from the time she lived in Delhi and worked for the Clinton Foundation. The questions she is concerned with relate to the politics and social/spatial inequalities surrounding the provision of municipal services and the roles the state, NGOs, private firms, city residents and the informal sector play in shaping the ways essential infrastructures are arranged.



Bobby Poulson-Houser

Bobby is a first year Master's student at the Center for South Asian Studies. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan in sociology and

FLAS



Sean Chauhan

economics and is originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania. He is interested in Urdu, Pakistani politics and nationalism, and dreams of working in diplomacy. Bobby's interests include travel, reading, tea, sushi and following Michigan athletics.

Sean has a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Florida, and says he doesn't miss the hot weather at all. Currently he is a second year South Asia Studies master's student and is applying for Linguistic Anthropology Ph.D programs. He is interested in Punjabi sociolinguistics and how ideologies of language and affect function within devotional performances. His hobbies include devouring cupcakes and planning his next meal.



Lindsay Ahalt

Lindsay is a second year Ph.D student in the department of Anthropology. She is also a first year member in the U-M Science, Technology, and Society Certificate Program. Her research analyzes converging scientific paradigms by looking at the confluence of traditional and allopathic medicine in contemporary India. In addition to her studies she is co-coordinator of reading group for faculty and graduate students.



Anna MacCourt

Anna is a second year Ph.D. pre-candidate in the department of Anthropology. During 2010-2011, she will study Pashto through the Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship. Her research interests include the archaeology of South Asia, Indian Ocean trade, the materiality of text, and pre-modern political discourse.

FACULTY NEWS

Ram Mahalingam, (Psychology) won the Florence L. Denmark and Mary E. Reuder Award for Outstanding International Contributions to the Psychology of Women and Gender from Division 52 (International Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. Also, he has been chosen Chair-elect for the Asian Caucus for the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD).

Leela Fernandes, (Women's Studies and Political Science) is currently serving as the South Asia editor of the journal *Critical Asian Studies*.

Farina Mir (History) was promoted to Associate Professor in the History Department earlier this year, and was awarded a *Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award* by the College of Literature, Science, and Arts for excellence in undergraduate education. In addition, she has been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship for 2010-11. She will be using the fellowship to go to India in Winter 2011 to do research for her next project, tentatively entitled, "Making Modern Muslims: Muslim *Anjumans* in Colonial India."

Howard Hu (Public Health, Medicine) and **Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan** (Environmental Health & Engineering, Sri Ramachandra

University) who began research on lead toxicity in the late 90s, have recently been joined by U-M faculty **Bhramar Mukherjee** and **Sung Kyun Park**, (SPH). Their groundbreaking research demonstrates that despite the recent phase-out of lead in gasoline in India environmental lead exposure continues, and that it appears to be having a major adverse impact on neurobehavioral function which will have an alarming effect in a rapidly developing country that depends on the knowledge industry for much of its growth.

Drs. Hu and Balakrishnan are also working on the impact of climate change on health in India with other investigators at SRU and U-M professors **Marie O'Neill** (SPH), **Joseph Eisenberg** (SPH), and **Dan Brown** (SNRE). They are looking into the impacts of climate variability on hospitalizations for gastroenteritis. This research is expected to generate pilot data for a grant proposal to the US NIEHS's new R-21 RFA program.

Thomas E. Weiskopf

(Economics, Residential College)

"Reflections on Globalization, Discrimination and Affirmative Action," in Miguel Centeno and Katherine S. Newman (eds.), *Discrimination in an Unequal World*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

"Who is Eligible? Should Affirmative Action be Group- or Class-Based?", with William Darity, Jr., and Ashwini Deshpande in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, forthcoming in January 2011.

Matthew Hull (Anthropology)

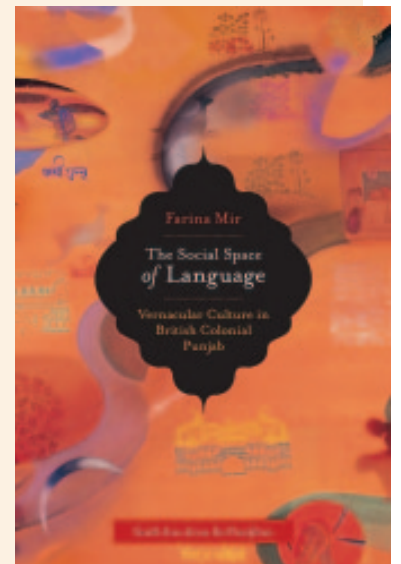
"Democratic Technologies of Speech: From WWII America to Post-colonial Delhi," *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, forthcoming in, Vol 20, no. 2, 2010.

Leela Fernandes (Women's Studies and Political Science)

"Unsettled Territories: State, Civil Society and the Politics of Religious Conversion in India" forthcoming in *Politics and Religion*, April 2011

Farina Mir (History)

The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in British Colonial Punjab was published by the University of California Press (2010). An Indian edition has been published by Permanent Black. The book is part of the *South Asia Across the Disciplines Series* (editors: Dipesh Chakrabarty, Sheldon Pollock, and Sanjay Subrahmanyam).



SUMMER IN SOUTH ASIA COLLOQUIUM



www.umich.edu/~iinet/media3csas/10-11/colloquium_20101001/

EACH YEAR six bright young students who come up with unique and useful projects funded by our donor win our fellowships to work in India. On October 1 our winners presented their reports and shared their experiences with us. The winners this year and the projects they worked on were:

Eman Abdelhadi
Department of Sociology, Economics, and Political Science

Project: Working on issues of health education, social work and community organization, and a qualitative case study of the socio-political situation of the Union Carbide disaster of 1984 in Bhopal

Melissa Alan
Department of International Studies

Project: Working for the Hope Project in Nizamuddin in Delhi to understand the role of microfinance and micro-enterprises for women in a culturally restrictive environment, the benefits and limitations of women's empowerment, and income generation programs in developing countries

Sabic Ksenija
Department of Anthropology and International Studies

Project: A study of the negative effects of human interactions with rhesus macaque monkeys with the goal of helping people in Uttarkhand find ways to live side by side with them

Min Joo Kim
Department of International Studies, Political Science, and Economics

Project: Working with a micro-finance institution which offers credit to the urban poor in Mumbai, India, and conducting field research for a case study with the goal of alleviating poverty around the world

Jordan Eizenga
Political Science and Mathematics

Project: Examining labor organizing practices and schooling among the poor in Delhi, and helping to organize a course titled "Researching the Contemporary"

Rachel Long
Department of Environment and Biology

Project: Learning about herbal medication and sustainable growing practices at Sambhava Clinic, studying its unique model as well as providing a resource for the clinic to help further its work in providing integrative care to the victims of the 1984 Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal

Thanks to all the students and professors who provided photographs from their trips to India for our newsletter.

A MONTH IN MYSORE School of Music, Theater and Dance

My time spent in India has inspired me, transformed me, and influenced my life more profoundly than any other experience I have ever had.

—BRETT CHALFIN, JAZZ STUDIES

IN SUMMER 2010, Stephen Rush (School of Music, Theater and Dance) took students from the University of Michigan (joined by three others from Cal-Poly, Pomona) to Mysore, India for one month, to study Carnatic Music/Dance in the homes of their gurus, and attended over 15 concerts and Yoga classes. The students attended lectures on Gender, Caste, Ayurvedic Medicine, Economics and Biodiversity/Alternative Energy, studied Music/Dance in the homes of their gurus to experience the gurukul system, and attended over 15 concerts and plays during their intense and immersive study. At the end of the month in India, they gave a final concert.

Here's what some of the students said about their experiences:

So life-changing,...it provided us with a cultural study on steroids... an artistic study of religious proportions, and the view/scent/sound/feeling of a landscape and population even one million paintings or photographs could never portray.

Our gurus offered us laughter and wisdom during training and over cups of home-made chai, nurtured us spiritually every day through the arts we chose to study.

Aimee Garcia
BFA Acting Major

My time spent in India has inspired me, transformed me, and influenced my life more profoundly than any other experience I have ever had. I now feel more comfortable with myself and what I am doing with my life.

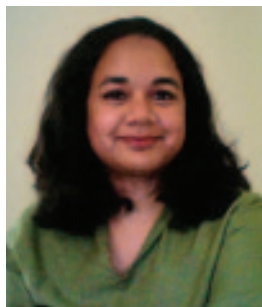
Brett Chalfin
Jazz Studies

As we overcame cultural barriers between us and the world class musicians with whom we studied, we gained a deep sense of the Indian arts, their place in the world. It was transformative both artistically and emotionally, and often in the most unexpected ways.

Patrick Behnke
Violist and Composer



CSAS Welcomes NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Leela Fernandes is Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science. She studies the relationship between politics and culture through both qualitative empirical research and theoretical scholarship. Her research examines the ways in which cultural meanings, practices and identities shape political behavior and deepen our explanations of political conflicts and processes. She has pursued this research agenda through extensive field research on labor politics, democratization and the politics of economic reform in India. Her focus on identity, culture and politics has also led her to focus on qualitative and interdisciplinary methods including ethnographic research and interpretive methods. She previously taught at Rutgers University, New Brunswick and Oberlin College. Her most recent book is *India's New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform*.



Mrinalini Sinha joins the History Department at Michigan as the Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History. Sinha is a historian of colonial India, with interests in imperial history, gender history, and world history. She attempts in her work to situate South Asian history within a global frame. She is the author of *Colonial Masculinity: The 'manly Englishman and the 'effeminate Bengali' in the late nineteenth century* (1995) and of *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of an Empire* (2006). Her current book project is a revisionist history of the shift in the anti-colonial movement in India from demands for rights for Indians within the British Empire to that for complete political independence from Britain.



Varuni Bhatia is Professor of Hindu Studies, South Asian History and Postcolonial Studies. Bhatia works on Vaishnava devotional traditions in Bengal with the aim of exploring the intellectual and conceptual history of bhakti in South Asia. She is currently working on her book manuscript dealing with the reform of Gaudiya Vaishnavism in the late nineteenth century and its relationship with Indian nationalism. She specializes in South Asian religion and history, colonialism in South Asia, Hindu devotional traditions, historiography, and theory and method in the study of religion. Her interests span investigating modern histories of ideas about god and religion, excavating the intertwined nature of devotion, nation, the formation of the modern religious subject in South Asia, and interrogating postcolonial secularisms.

CSAS FALL 2010 EVENTS

September 17 | 4pm | 1636 SSWB

The Politics of the Great Pakistan Deluge of 2010

JUAN COLE, University of Michigan
Center for South Asian Studies Director

September 28 | 3pm and 5pm | 1636 SSWB

Ocean of an Old Man | Film Screening

Presented by CSAS with sponsorship from the Center for Comparative and International Studies (CICS) and the Global Film Initiative

October 1 | 4pm | 1636 SSWB

Summer in South Asia Undergraduate Fellowship Colloquium

Featuring presentations by the 2010 CSAS Summer in South Asia fellows: EMAN ABDELHADI, MELISSA ALLAN, JORDAN EIZENGA, MINJOO KIM, RACHEL LONG, AND KSENIJA SABIC

October 8 | 4pm | 1636 SSWB

The House on Gulmohar Avenue | Film Screening

Followed by a discussion on documentary filmmaking in India with the filmmaker SAMINA MISHRA and U-M communications professor, ASWIN PUNATHAMBEKAR
Cosponsored by the Islamic Studies Program

November 1 | 4pm | 3222 Angel Hall

Indivisible: An Anthology of Contemporary South Asian American Poetry

Readings by and discussions with writers, editors, teachers NEELANJANA BANERJEE, SEJAL SHAH, and FAISAL MOHYUDDIN, to celebrate the first poetry collection of its kind
Co-sponsored by CSAS

November 12 | 2pm – 6pm | 1636 SSWB

Conference on Indian Inequalities: Part I

AMIT AHUJA, University of California – Santa Barbara
ASHWINI DESHPANDE, Delhi School of Economics
SURESH TENDULKAR, Delhi School of Economics
Sponsored by the Trehan India Initiative

November 16 | 7 pm | 1636 SSWB

Dharavi: Slum for Sale

Film screening and discussion with award winning director LUTZ KONERMANN

December 3 | 4pm | 1636 SSWB

Connecting Histories: Retelling the Liturgical and the Classical in North Indian Musical Historiography

MEILU HO, University of Michigan
Department of Ethnomusicology

CSAS WINTER 2011 EVENTS

Friday | January 28 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

Afghanistan: Twenty Years after the Soviet Withdrawal

ALAM PAYIND, Director, Middle East Center Studies, Ohio State University
Cosponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies

Friday | February 11 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

Letters of Longing: The Voicing and Circumscription of Affect in Indian Lesbian Politics

NAISARGI N. DAVE, St. George Campus, Toronto

Friday | February 18 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

Afghanistan 2014: A Photojournalist Capturing War without End

IASON ATHANASIADIS, Acclaimed Mid-East affairs photojournalist and documentary film maker
Cosponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies

Friday | March 11 | 2 –7 pm | Rackham Auditorium

Afghanistan Security Panel

GILLES DORRONSORO, Visiting Scholar, South Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
AMIN TARZI, Director, Middle East studies, Marine Corps University LTC. PATRICK KELLY, South Asia Foreign Officer and Lead Operations Planner for Pakistan, U.S. Central Command
Moderator: JUAN COLE, University of Michigan
Center for South Asian Studies Director
Cosponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, and the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies

Friday | March 25 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

“Why Worry about Inequality in the Booming Indian Economy?”

THOMAS WEISSKOPF, Residential College

Friday | April 8 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

Becoming Woman: Family and Civilization in the Colonial Encounter

RUBY LAL, Director, The South Asia Seminar Series, Emory University

Friday | April 15 | 4 pm | 1636 SSWB

TBD



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312354: S Asian Studies, Graduate Student Support

Purpose: To provide funds for graduate student support.

362651: South Asia Studies

Purpose: To provide general funding for CSAS programming needs.

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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.”
- 2.** You will be presented with a list of schools and colleges. In the bottom right hand corner check the box next to “Other Area” and then enter the name of one of the two funds listed above. Hit the continue button and proceed through the donation process.

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