



**CENTER FOR
SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES**

**CSAS
Announces
Trehan India
Initiative Theme
Year for
2008–09**

PAGE 7

**University of
Michigan
Spring 2008
Newsletter**

From the Director

Center for South Asian Studies

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

This has been an active and rewarding year of programs and events at the Center for South Asian Studies. We kicked off the year with a film screening of two recent films on Mumbai by Anjali Monteiro and K.P. Jayasankar, both of whom were present to discuss their work. A few weeks later the Center hosted a conference in honor of University of Michigan History Professor Thomas R. Trautmann entitled “Conceptualizing South Asia’s Past at Michigan.” Romila Thapar, from JNU university in Delhi, presented the keynote address and Ann Arbor’s population swelled with the arrival of many of Tom’s former students, including Cynthia Talbot (University of Texas) who was the conference’s organizer in chief. Our graduate students held their own national conference later that month, with the theme “Language and Mediation in South Asian Societies.” Professor Chaise Le Dousa, from Hamilton College, delivered the keynote address.

Our regular scholarly lecture series brought a number of important speakers to campus this Fall, including Father Noel Sheth (Pontifical Institute of Pune), Anand Yang (University of Washington), Joseph Alter (University of

Pittsburgh), and Laura Brueck (Hamilton College). Our own Manishita Dass, assistant professor in the Screen Arts and Cultures and Asian Languages and Cultures departments also delivered a lecture in the series entitled “Singin’ in the Streets: Critique, Entertainment, and Utopia in 1950s Bombay Cinema.”

This year the Center initiated a series focused on public affairs entitled, “Conversations on South Asia.” Our first guest was Dalit activist and Delhi-based journalist Chandra Bhan Prasad, who delivered a controversial but lively and well-attended lecture in November. University of Michigan professor Juan Cole (History) was next in the series, and presented a timely lecture on events unfolding in Pakistan to a standing-room-only audience. Most of them returned in February to hear independent research scholar Ayesha Siddiqi lecture on “The Politics of an Elite Military Economy,” and to engage with her thoughts on the Bhutto assassination, the lawyer’s strike, and the impending (at that time) elections in Pakistan.

In addition to excellent lectures by Michigan faculty Tom Fricke (Anthropology) and Barbara Metcalf (History), CSAS welcomed Wendy Singer (Kenyon College), Sunil Kumar (Delhi University), Muhiuddin Haider

(University of Maryland), and Ali Riaz (Illinois State University) to our Winter speakers series.

The Center also helped keep South Asia scholarship in sharp focus across campus this year by co-sponsoring lectures by Vijay Prasad (Trinity College), Antoinette Burton (University of Illinois), Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago), and Veena Das (Johns Hopkins University).

Students enrolled in the Center’s graduate proseminar, SAS 501, had the pleasure of meeting many of our Winter term visitors personally, due to the efforts and foresight of Jayati Lal, associate director of CSAS and assistant professor in Sociology. Jayati scheduled the course in such a way as to include our visiting guests as speakers in the classroom. During those weeks when no visitors were in town, Michigan faculty associates of the Center presented their research and helped lead discussions.

I want to acknowledge more fully the wonderful energy and insights our graduate students brought to the Center this year. Members of our graduate student programming committee—Monika Bhagat (English), Laura Brown (Anthropology), Punnu Jaitla (CSAS), and Jane Lynch (Anthropology)—were particularly active, and particularly impressive. In addition to organizing a graduate student

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workshop on conducting research in South Asia, they planned and presented a well-attended film series this Winter entitled, "Marginal Life."

The series screened seven films focused on marginal and underrepresented communities in South Asia, and brought writer/director Prashant Kadam to Ann Arbor to discuss the making of his "Bioscopewallah." Doctoral students Monika Bhagat and Rebecca Grapevine (History) ably ran a Center-sponsored reading group this year, Kitabmandal, after long-time convener Lee Schlesinger handed over the reins. In addition to discussing Ramchandra Guha's important recent book, *India After Gandhi*, Kitabmandal participants met with Sunil Kumar (Delhi University) and Rochona Majumdar (University of Chicago) to discuss their recent works in progress.

I could go on to discuss the classical flute concert given by R.K. Srinivasan in September, the undergraduate summer internship fellows symposium held later that month, the entertaining visit by Pune-based actor Mohan Agashe last Fall, Michigan's South Asian Awareness Network (SAAN) Annual Conference, and the Intercollegiate Raas-Garba competition held in Ann Arbor this Spring but I think I have said enough already to establish an earlier point: it

has been a very active and rewarding year at the Center and I'm grateful to everyone who helped make this year a success.

Enough about the past, however. I get very excited looking ahead to next year. In particular, I am delighted to announce the Center for South Asian Studies' new Trehan India Initiative, made possible by a generous three-year grant from the Trehan Foundation. Details of the initial year's theme: "State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian Cities in the Global Era" (2008-09) can be found elsewhere in this newsletter but I want to take this opportunity to congratulate associate professor Gavin Shatkin (Urban and Regional Planning) and doctoral student Neha Sami (Urban and Regional Planning) for successfully proposing the theme and providing a template for next year's activities. Their innovative program of lectures, films, and other activities (including offering a graduate seminar taught by a visiting scholar from India) will enhance the Center's regular activities next year and provide a valuable platform for innovative multi-disciplinary discussions. We are immensely grateful to Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan for their generous support of this initiative.

Finally, I want to welcome David Merchant and Sreyashi Dey to the Center, both of whom joined us during the year. David is our new Program Administrator, and Sreyashi is our new Program Coordinator. You will find more about both of these remarkable people elsewhere in this newsletter, but I can tell you that with all the activities either planned or underway it is a good feeling to have them both on the team.

Don't forget to keep track of our undergraduate fellows in India this summer by tuning in to their web log from time to time (<http://mblog.lib.umich.edu/csassummer08>). You can find out more about what each of them will be doing elsewhere in this newsletter. In the meantime, here's to a productive, enjoyable, and peaceful summer and I look forward to seeing you at future Center events.



Will Glover
Director, CSAS

This year the Center initiated a series focused on public affairs entitled, "Conversations on South Asia."

Faculty News

Ashutosh Varshney

Ashutosh Varshney, Professor of Political Science and Faculty Associate of the Centers for South and Southeast Asian Studies, has been awarded two prestigious national awards to support his research on ethnocommunal violence.

A 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship will support Varshney's research project entitled, "Cities and Ethnic Conflict: a Multicountry Study." In this project, Ashutosh will analyze ethnic conflict in 15 cities from four countries: Indonesia, Nigeria, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. He has also received a Carnegie Scholars award for his project, "Ethnocommunal Conflict, Civil Society, and the State."

In his research, Professor Varshney will examine the determinants of ethnocommunal violence and attempt to identify the conditions under which ethnocommunal peace endures. To do so he will build upon his earlier work in India by examining ethnic and communal relations in 15 cities across four countries all of which are, or were at one time, prone to violence. In the cities and countries involved in the research, Varshney seeks to demonstrate that in these countries, whether Muslims get involved in repeated and large-scale riots is not a function of Islamic religiosity *per se*, but of the kinds of links built between them and other communities, and the role of the state. The volume that he intends to publish as a result of his work

will serve as a guide for public policy makers and academics and will facilitate a deeper understanding of ethnocommunal peace and violence.

Varshney's ongoing project gathering data from regional and local sources in Indonesia continues this summer under the sponsorship of the World Bank, and his co-investigator, Prof. Rizal Panggabean of Gajah Mada University in Yogyakarta will join him and his team May 5-7 on the Michigan campus.

Please join us in congratulating Ashutosh on his superb scholarship and the national recognition it is receiving.

C K Prahalad/ M S Krishnan

Management Gurus and Ross School of Business professors C.K. Prahalad and M.S. Krishnan recently published *The New Age of Innovation: Driving Cocreated Value Through Global Networks* (McGraw-Hill, 2008). In their new work Prahalad and Krishnan suggest that the nature of innovation is changing; as the world flattens, company- and product-centric ideas must give way to strategies that reinvent business processes to leverage resources on a global scale. It is increasingly clear to global managers, they contend, that outsourcing is not about "exporting jobs;" rather, it is about "importing competitiveness." Firms compete with one another: Motorola competes with Nokia and Samsung; GE competes with Siemens; IBM competes with Accenture, Infosys, and TCS.

These are competitions between firms, not countries. It is no surprise that global firms have recognized the need to access skills from around the world in order to compete effectively and provide superior service to customers. This recognition is forcing firms to build project teams that are multi-geographic and multicultural. The focus is not just on cost, but equally on quality, innovativeness of solutions, and speed of delivery. The patterns of work and the composition of the teams vary considerably as the nature of projects and access to talent required varies.

Arun Agrawal

Professor Arun Agrawal received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation's Perspectives on Conservation program for his project, "Mapping Donor Perspectives on Conservation" with co-author Daniel Miller.

Professor Agrawal's recent publications include:

Agrawal, A. 2007. "Forests, Governance, and Sustainability: Common Property Theory and its Contributions." *International Journal of the Commons* 1(1): 51-76.

Agrawal, A. and A. Chhatre. 2007. "State Involvement and Forest Co-Governance: Evidence from the Indian Himalayas." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 42: 67-86.

Agrawal, A. and M.C. Lemos. 2007. "A Greener Revolution in Making? Environmental Governance in the 21st Century." *International Forestry Review* 9(2): 670-84.

Wollenberg, E., L. Merino, A. Agrawal, and E. Ostrom. 2007. "Fourteen years of monitoring community-managed forests: learning from IFRI's experience." *International Forestry Review* 9(2): 670-84.

Stephen Rush/ Carol Richardson

In the summer of 2008, Michigan students will be in Mysore with UM professors Stephen Rush and Carol Richardson of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance. The summer program has two parallel objectives, one in the arts and the other in community development. The first objective is to learn Yoga, music and dance through the rote-style tradition of instruction unique to India, known as the Gurukula style. By studying at the feet of the master (guru) in the home of the guru, the pupil learns the sociological context of the artist, including the place of the artist in the family. Most of the teachers have "artist families," whose tradition of art-making goes back generations. The second objective is to learn about the problems of development in South India. By working with the Vivekananda Center in Mysore, students will encounter first-hand the problem of literacy in contemporary India.

Thomas Weisskopf

From November 29 to December 1, 2007, UM economics professor Thomas

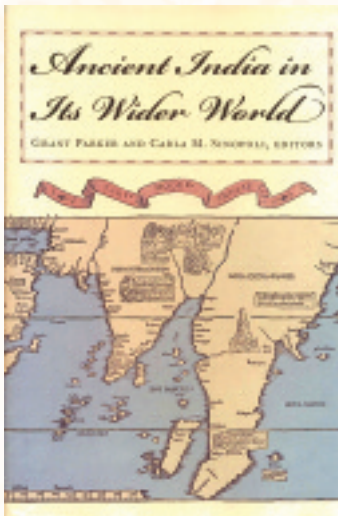
Weisskopf attended the 33rd Annual Conference of the Indian Sociological Society, in Dharwad, Karnataka.

Professor Weisskopf delivered an invited address entitled "Lessons from the Experience of India and the United States with Affirmative Action."

Tom also presented a paper at the *Conference on Affirmative Action in Higher Education in India, the United States and South Africa*, held this March in New Delhi. The conference was organized by the Program for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, at the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Center for Comparative Constitutionalism at the University of Chicago. The title of his paper was, "Re-thinking Affirmative Action in Admission to Higher Educational Institutions."

Carla Sinopoli

New Publication: *Ancient India in its Wider World* Edited by Grant Parker and Carla M. Sinopoli



Ann Arbor: Centers for South and Southeast Asian Studies, 2008. 192 pages.

The Center is pleased to announce the publication of a new edited volume – *Ancient India in Its Wider World*, edited by Grant Parker (Classical Studies, Stanford University) and Carla M. Sinopoli (Museum and Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan). This volume – with contributions by Himanshu Prabha Ray, Shinu Abraham, Martha Ann Selby, James Romm, Grant Parker, Madhav Deshpande, Alka Patel, and Thomas R. Trautmann – derives from a CSAS sponsored conference held in Ann Arbor in March 2000. The conference and the book sought to examine ancient India through diverse lenses and from diverse perspectives. Accordingly, contributors derive from a broad range of disciplinary perspectives – anthropology, archaeology, history, classical studies, and Sanskrit and Tamil studies.

Given this broad range of contributors, the papers address a similarly broad range of issues grouped around three major themes: Power and Material Culture; Mediterranean Image Making, and Language and Otherness. Under the first theme, Himanshu Prabha Ray (Jawaharlal Nehru University) presents a wide-ranging analysis of South Asia's first empire – the third century BCE Mauryas – considering the relations between political authority



and other non-state sources of power in the Deccan and South India. Shinu Abraham (St. Lawrence University) reports on her archaeological survey in the Palghat Pass region of Kerala – the major overland transport route linking the Tamil and Kerala coast in Early Historic times during the period of intensive interaction between South India and the Mediterranean. Martha Selby (University of Texas, Austin) examines references to *yavanas* (Greeks/foreigners) in Tamil *cankam* poetry to address how foreign merchants and visitors were understood by poets and their patrons.

The second theme, "Mediterranean Image Making," shifts the focus from India to Greece and Rome to consider how Mediterranean peoples thought about and visually represented India. James Romm (Bard College) looks at the intellectual history of Alexander's campaign failures in the East, and how ancient Greek sources understand the larger implication of Alexander's conquests and

his failure to reach the ends of the known world beyond the Indus. In the second essay in this section, Grant Parker concentrates on the visual tradition through which India was represented in Greek and Roman art.

Papers in the third section of the book, grouped under the theme, "language and otherness," once again ground their discussion in India and its relations with a wider world, though in widely varying periods of time. Madhav Deshpande (University of Michigan) considers how Sanskrit grammarians of the Mimamsa tradition understood the language of the Mleccha (barbarians); Tom Trautmann (University of Michigan) explores linguistic understandings of early British Orientalists and how these were shaped by Biblical understandings of a "Mosaic ethnology." The final paper in the book by Alka Patel (University of California, Irvine) is also concerned with the intersection of languages, but in her case, the focus is on one of a number of bilingual inscriptions carved in western India in the early second millennium CE.

Widely separated in time and space, together the papers in this volume seek to provide a broad picture of Ancient India during periods of dynamic change and wide-ranging social and political connections.

New Faculty Profiles



Aswin Punathambekar's research and teaching revolve around globalization, cultural industries, new media and media convergence, and public culture. He is currently working on a manuscript that provides a historical and critical account of the substantial changes occurring in the media sector in Mumbai and examines the operations of film, television, and new media companies as they grapple with the challenges of imagining "Bollywood" as a global cultural industry.

Aswin's research also involves ethnographic work among fan communities that cohere around different aspects of film and television (for e.g., fans of A. R. Rahman, the TV show *Indian Idol*) in order to map the dynamics of participatory culture in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora. He has published articles on these topics and has also co-edited an anthology of essays (*Global Bollywood*, NYU Press). Aswin blogs about these and other topics at BollySpace 2.0 (<http://bollyspace.wordpress.com>).

Anna Sloan's scholarly interests include medieval Indian architecture and epigraphy as well as contemporary Pakistani painting and mixed media. Her current manuscript, *Between Polity and Culture: the Architecture of Medieval Jaunpur*, is on the formation of mosque architecture and epigraphic language in Sultanate India. Among the courses she offers are: South Asian Art and Architecture, Writing about Indian Art, Arts of Colonial India, Art after Independence, Twentieth Century Asian Art, Indian Art in Ritual Context; and seminars on the Taj Mahal, the Hindu temple, India's encounter with Europe, and issues in twentieth-century Asian art.

Anshu Malhotra, Delhi University Historian, to be Hughes Fellow next Fall



The Center for South Asian Studies is pleased to welcome Delhi University professor of history Anshu Malhotra to the University of Michigan next fall as a Hughes Visiting Lecturer. Professor Malhotra is a historian of modern South Asia who specializes in the history of social and religious reform and questions of gender. She has written numerous

scholarly articles and is the author of *Gender, Caste, and Religious Identities: Restructuring Class in Colonial Punjab* (Oxford, 2002). Her current research focuses on the malleability of religious identities in mid-nineteenth century Punjab, particularly through an examination of the writings of Peero, a radical woman poet who "brought to her writings the claims and counter-claims to her person by different religious communities." Anshu also coordinates an effort at the University of Delhi to develop multi-media learning materials for undergraduate students of History. Professor Malhotra will arrive in Ann Arbor at the beginning of the Fall Semester and be in residence for six weeks. We look forward to welcoming her to Ann Arbor and to engaging with her scholarly and pedagogical projects. Recent Hughes Lecturers at CSAS have included Romila Thapar, Nyanjot Lahiri, and Yogendra Yadav.

Sepideh Bajracharya named Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellow

The Center for South Asian Studies is pleased to welcome, and to co-sponsor, 2008-2011 Michigan Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellow Sepideh Bajracharya. Sepideh will receive her doctoral degree in Cultural Anthropology from Harvard University in 2008. Her dissertation looks at the role

rumor and similar speculative discourses play in how political sovereignty and spectacle are anticipated and enacted in contemporary urban Nepal. Contrary to political theories that define sovereignty within the limits of the legal state, and posit a categorical difference between legitimate and illegitimate rule, Bajracharya asks how illicit and alleged claims to sovereign justice are negotiated in Kathmandu's streets and neighborhoods where an integral but volatile relationship appears to link these seemingly disparate realms of power in the popular political imaginary. Her next project will focus on the social history of an untouchable caste community in Kathmandu since the late 1980s when it became the target of a series of intensive development, state, and vigilante interventions. For more information about the Michigan Society of Fellows, please visit their website: www.rackham.umich.edu/faculty_staff/sof



Trehan India Initiative

IN 2006 the Trehan Foundation, led by Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan, generously donated \$1,000,000 to the Center for South Asian Studies. With this gift the foundation charged the Center with the responsibility of seeking out and funding research proposals that encourage collaboration between the University of Michigan and India.

To date the Center has awarded five grants (see inset), the first three of which were profiled at length in the pages of our Winter 2007 newsletter. In the months since then the Center has funded two new projects.

The five ongoing Trehan Grant projects:

Title/Subject	Principal UM Investigator
Indian Archeological Research	Carla Sinopoli
VisualIndia: A Trans-national Digital Archive for Popular Indian Visual Culture	Manishita Dass
Indian Democracy and Politics	Ashutosh Varshney
Biomarkers of Arsenic Exposure and Assessment of Risks of Arsenic in Drinking Water in Nadia District, India	Jerome Nriagu
Trehan India Initiative	Gavin Shatkin, Neha Sami

The first project entitled “Biomarkers of Arsenic Exposure and Assessment of Risks of Arsenic in Drinking Water in Nadia District, India” is a collaboration between scholars at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and two institutions in West Bengal, India. Its Principal Investigators are Professor Jerome Nriagu of the University of Michigan School of Public Health; Dr. Debashis Chatterjee of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kalyani; and Dr. D.N. Guha Mazumder of the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research in Calcutta.

The second project is a major new three-year undertaking by the Center for South Asian Studies entitled “The Trehan India Initiative.” The goal of the Initiative is to enrich thinking on the key social, political, and economic issues facing India today and to provide opportunities for substantial collaboration among scholars, activists, and community groups across disciplinary and knowledge culture boundaries. To that end the Initiative will provide funding for the Center to develop a Theme Year for each of the coming three academic years. Each theme will involve a visiting scholar from India, graduate student support, and a year-end conference culminating with an edited volume. In addition, a lecture series and other events tuned to the thematic focus will be developed. Each theme will be coordinated by one or more faculty members, and/or by a faculty/graduate student group, selected on the basis of a winning proposal.

Trehan India Initiative announces its first Theme Year for 2008-09:



PHOTO: WILL GLOVER

STATE, SPACE, AND CITIZENSHIP: INDIAN CITIES IN THE GLOBAL ERA

Co-coordinated by professor Gavin Shatkin (Urban and Regional Planning), and doctoral candidate Neha Sami (Urban and Regional Planning)

Urbanization is one of the defining aspects of contemporary change in India—the United Nations estimates that the country’s urban population will nearly double to reach 586 million by 2030. This urbanization is taking place as the country grapples with the dramatic impacts of economic liberalization and exposure to global flows of people, ideas, finance and investment, and media. **State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian Cities in the Global Era** is the thematic focus for the inaugural year of a new three-year Trehan India Initiative at the University of Michigan. The first Theme Year will address the role of India’s urban future for its identity as a nation, situate this rapid urbanism in a global frame, and assess the challenges posed by urban transitions.

The program elements of this first Theme Year will highlight three closely related areas of investigation. First, it will focus on **transformations in urban politics and the role of state in urban development**. Until the recent liberalization of the Indian economy and accompanying deregulation of corporate sector investment in city-building, post-colonial urban planning, design and architecture had largely reflected Nehruvian aspirations of a state-sponsored reshaping of Indian society in a secular, modernist vein. This has been manifest in the adoption of urban design, land use planning, and building codes modeled in part on those of Britain and the United States, and through



state-sponsored development of modernist new towns and housing estates. Post-colonial writings on Indian urbanism have revealed how this agenda has been contested and reshaped both by civil society and by what Partha Chatterjee has termed “political society,” or the majority of urban populations who “transgress the strict lines of legality in struggling to live and work.” This contestation has occurred in the realm of politics, as well as through multiple transgressions on urban spaces—for example, the incursion of vendors into “public” spaces, the construction of multifamily housing units on single family lots, and the construction of temples in public parks. The outcome has been the gradual pluralization of urban politics, and the hybridization of urban form. With liberalization and globalization, however, the role of the state has shifted from one of building modernist utopias to one of facilitating the development of globally competitive spaces and infrastructures, usually by corporate actors. How have state institutions been restructured in response to the challenges of a global era? What discourses have been deployed to legitimate these new strategies? How has this changing state role reshaped power dynamics between various actors (including state, municipal, and national government, corporate actors, and civil and “political society” actors)? What impact have these changes had on representation of civil and political society in urban governance?

Second, the theme will focus on changes in the **production of urban space**. As implied in the previous paragraph, the emergent role of corporate actors has led to dramatic spatial change in Indian cities. Most visible and notable in this regard is the construction of for-profit new towns and industrial estates, and massive investment in transportation infrastructures, including urban rail systems, highways and flyovers. What implications do these new forms of development have for social and cultural change? Are we witnessing intensified social segregation as an emerging consumer elite retreats into exclusive enclaves, or will the wealthy and the poor of Indian cities continue in many instances to live in close proximity? What types of spaces are developed within large, commodified urban developments such as those springing up in Gurgaon or on the

outskirts of Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore? How do these developments relate to the rest of the city, and what is their meaning for the urban experience?

Finally, the theme will look at **issues of citizenship** relating both to changes in politics and urban space. James Holston and Arjun Appadurai argue that, as globalization strengthens cross-national economic and cultural linkages between predominantly urban globalized elite classes, it drives a “wedge between national space and its urban centers.” The result, they argue, is a gradual dissolution of the historical norm of citizenship based on a shared identity of members of a geographically defined nation-state. Others have argued that we are seeing a fragmentation of citizenship as states employ technologies of architecture and urban planning to carve out enclaves for privileged elites, while much of the rest of the population is denied the full benefits of citizenship. Are we seeing a fragmentation of citizenship in Indian cities? What is the role of state actors in defining the meaning of citizenship in Indian cities? What is the role of other actors in civil and political society, as well as the corporate sector, in supporting or contesting changes to the meaning of citizenship?

We believe these three issues are central to any understanding of contemporary Indian political, social and cultural change. In order to shed light on the questions posed above, and with the goal of contributing a well-informed voice to on-going policy discussions, the first Theme Year of the Trehan India Initiative will include the following components:

- **A Distinguished Visiting Scholar** from India will be in residence during the Winter semester of 2009. This scholar will be chosen for the strength of their research on topics related to our theme and for their ability to help the University of Michigan establish lasting institutional links in India.
- **Winter semester graduate seminar.** Our visiting scholar will teach a weekly graduate seminar aimed at an interdisciplinary student audience. At the end of the term, students enrolled in the course will be eligible to compete for a small number of research grants to conduct fieldwork during the summer of 2009. Grantees will present the results of their research to the campus community at Michigan and to sponsoring institutions in India.
- **A year end conference** will be organized to assess the year’s findings by bringing scholars together from the US and South Asia. Approximately 15 to 20 scholars will be invited to participate (a mix of prominent scholars in India and the United States as well as advanced PhD students at Michigan); we will also solicit participation by representatives of foundations currently working in India (Ford, Rockefeller, UNCHS, etc.) on a special panel focused on the policy relevance and actionable outcomes of the year’s work in a two-day workshop organized according

New Staff Profiles



SREYASHI DEY AND DAVID MERCHANT

We are pleased to announce that in March of this year the Center hired **Sreyashi Dey** as our new Program Coordinator. Many of you will know Sreyashi already from her dance performances in the area and her participation in other Center events. Fewer will know that in addition to being an expert proponent of Odissi classical dance, Sreyashi also has an MBA, and an MS in Economics, has worked in market research and consulting in the high-tech world for several years, is the founder and president of SPARSH, a non-profit organization that provides health resources to disadvantaged women and children in India, and has taught at Carnegie Mellon and Purdue universities, among others. She is also a very congenial and creative soul, and we're glad to have her heading up programming at CSAS.

David Merchant joined CSAS as our new Center Administrator in November 2007. David comes to us from the University of Michigan's

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), where he coordinated the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research for thirteen years. In addition to making sure that instructors and students were in the right classrooms at the right times, he helped students from all over the world find their way to and around Ann Arbor and make the most of their "stats camp" experience. David is an alumnus of the University of Michigan's English Department and has also done graduate work in Urban Planning. When he isn't tending to CSAS business David can be found swimming laps at the NCRB, growing hostas and Japanese Maples in his backyard, hunting or fishing up north with his brother, reading on his porch swing, or at the Michigan Theater with his wife, Emily. David possesses both a wide body of knowledge and an infinite curiosity, making him an invaluable addition to CSAS.

to the three topics addressed above. The best papers from the workshop will be compiled into an edited volume that we anticipate will be a touchstone for emerging scholarship on urbanization and social and political change in India.

- Throughout the year, the Center for South Asian Studies will help facilitate **collaborative teaching between the University of Michigan and institutions in India**. Examples of such efforts may include coordinating discussions between students in India and at Michigan through blogs and wikis around common reading materials and course themes.

- **Monthly program events** related to the theme will be held during the academic year, including: a **lecture series** focused on topics related to the theme and involving faculty from Michigan as well as universities across the country; regular **panel discussions led by PhD students** working on related issues at Michigan; and a theme-based film series featuring post-screening discussions by an inter-disciplinary group of faculty and graduate students at the University of Michigan, invited filmmakers, and visiting scholars.

Faculty associates and students interested in participating in Theme Year programming and/or organizing related events of their own are encouraged to contact CSAS director Will Glover wglover@umich.edu. On behalf of the Center for South Asian Studies, we welcome your ideas and participation!

Gavin Shatkin, Assistant Professor, Urban and Regional Planning Program

Neha Sami, **Doctoral Candidate**, Urban and Regional Planning Program



PHOTO: WILL GLOVER

Student Jobs,
Grants, Research
Plans for the
Summer

Francis Cody (Ph.D. Anthropology) received a Distinguished Dissertation Award for his thesis "Literacy as Enlightenment: Written Language, Activist Mediation and the State in Rural Tamilnadu, India. Frank will take up a position in the department of anthropology at the University of Toronto next fall.

Jennifer Yim, (Ph.D. Psychology & Women's Studies) received an Outstanding GSI Award and a Tapestry Award.

Rebecca Grapevine, (Ph.D. History) received an American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Dissertation Fellowship. She will be conducting archival research in Delhi and Lucknow for academic year 2008-9. Her dissertation is provisionally entitled "Defining the Nation-State: Citizenship and Marriage Law in Post-Colonial India." She also received the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs Percy Buchanan Prize for best graduate student paper on South Asia ('From /Appa's Case/ to /Danial Latifi/: The Judiciary and the Legislature in Post-Colonial Indian Personal Law'). Rebecca presented her paper at Washington University in St. Louis in October 2007. Rebecca has also been awarded an Urdu Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) for this summer's AIIS program in Lucknow (in intermediate Urdu).

PHOTO: SARAH SIMMONS



Spotlight on Graduate Student Research

Sundari Balan, (Ph.D. Psychology) Her research interests include gender and families, women's work, immigration, and mental health. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Mumbai, India and a Master's degree in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India. After graduating from the Tata Institute, Sundari worked at a large engineering firm where she became interested in women's work and family roles, and issues faced by women in the workplace. Her dissertation research focuses on work, family, mental health and the well-being of Asian Indian mothers in the United States through an online community survey. Sundari has been particularly interested in understanding what psychological pathways would be beneficial to immigrant women's mental health, stress and coping. She is also exploring motherhood practices in the Asian American population in the United States through qualitative interviews.

Being Asians, Good "Moms," and Great Workers: Investigating the psychological contours of Asian Indian Immigrant Women's "Model Minority" experience

Stereotypes and belief systems can inform and influence our lives in myriad ways. One such stereotype is the model minority or the belief that Asian immigrants are more hardworking and successful than many other groups in the U.S. Both Asians and non Asians alike endorse this stereotype. An interesting question relates to Asian American mothers and the impact of this stereotype on their stress levels and coping strategies. Particularly for South Asian American women who have children and who have immigrated from patriarchal contexts where women traditionally take on the role of preserving their cultures, this stereotype can pose interesting challenges. Apart from trying to meet the expectation of the stereotype within the family (as good mothers producing successful children), they also need to be hardworking and successful in their own work-spheres. How do Asian Indian working women with children cope with these multiple challenges? How does this stereotype impact stress and coping? We are currently doing a survey of Asian Indian immigrant women with children under age 16 to understand the various belief systems that women hold and how these belief

systems are related to their mental health. Through this study we are also trying to examine how contextual factors, like socio-economic status and availability of social support, impact working Asian Indian mothers' stress, coping, and well-being. To learn more about the study or to participate, please write to Sundari Balan (sundari@umich.edu).

International Institute Individual Fellowships

The International Institute Individual Fellowships are designed to support University of Michigan students, regardless of citizenship, who are enrolled in a degree program and wish to participate in internships or conduct research abroad. The following are a few representative projects in South Asia.

Shama Cash-Goldwasser, (M.S. Public Health & Music) will assist a hospital and field epidemiology project at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR), located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The project will study the cost/benefit of introducing the Hib vaccine (a vaccine that can prevent childhood meningitis) to the national immunization program of Bangladesh.

Lisa Averill, (Undergraduate Economics) will work as an intern in New Delhi with the National Council of Applied Economic Research analyzing



PHOTO: SREYASHI DEY

data concerning rural housing and chronic poverty throughout India.

David Lai, (Undergraduate LS&A) will spend his time abroad conducting an internship at the Public Health Foundation of India, investigating the effects of health inequality, access to medicines, and financing of health-care across the stream of India's population.

Jane Lynch, (Ph.D. Anthropology) will travel to India with the support of an International Institute Individual Fellowship to undertake an internship with the retail company Fabindia at their headquarters in New Delhi. Her work with Fabindia will focus on the company's textile design process and sourcing networks in rural India. For the duration of the summer, she will study Hindi at the

American Institute for Indian Studies in Jaipur with the support of a Summer FLAS Fellowship.

Jane will return to Michigan in the fall to continue her doctoral work in anthropology with the support of a FLAS Fellowship for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Summer in South Asia

About the initiative

Thanks to a special grant made available to the Center for South Asian Studies by a generous anonymous donor, Michigan undergraduate students have an opportunity each summer to design and carry out their own programs in India. This year, CSAS has selected six applicants who will each receive summer funding.

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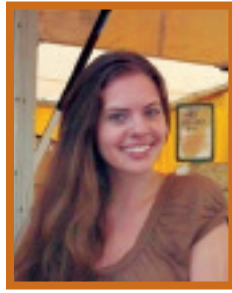
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“The Center received applications from students across a wide spectrum of disciplines on campus, from the honors program at the Residential College, to the departments or schools of History, Anthropology, Biomedical Engineering, Architecture, Ecological Biology, Nursing, and Engineering. In this sense, this program has helped the Center for South Asian Studies establish robust connections to departments and students (particularly in the hard sciences) that have not traditionally been active in South Asia related programming.”

—Will Glover,
CSAS Director

**You can learn
about these exciting
summer projects on
the student blog:
[mblog.lib.umich.edu/
csassummer08](http://mblog.lib.umich.edu/csassummer08)**



Ginger Cline

Ginger is a sophomore majoring in History and Political Science. At Michigan she is a member of the Detroit Partnership Planning Team and Students for Social Justice. This summer, Ginger will be traveling to Lucknow, to volunteer for SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association). SEWA Lucknow is an organization dedicated to women's economic empowerment. They provide women with the skills to embroider chikan which is then marketed at fair prices. SEWA also helps its employees form unions. The women employed at SEWA are paid higher wages than they would otherwise receive, but are still very poor. Many of the workers cannot afford health care or insurance of any kind. Ginger plans to conduct a health care needs assessment for SEWA workers through interviewing and an analysis of pre-existing data. In this way, Ginger hopes to help SEWA initiate a program to address the health needs of the women who work there.



Hyunmin Han

Hyunmin is a junior from South Korea majoring in Evolutionary and Ecological Biology at the University of Michigan. Always fascinated by aquatic ecosystems, he finds Evolutionary and Ecological Biology to be a natural place for him to study and build his academic career. Hyunmin is also an Environmental Sciences major specializing in conservation biology; the preservation of biodiversity has been his principal concern and interest.

Hyunmin's internship project concerns the Gangetic freshwater dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), a highly endangered mammal native to the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. Because they are the top predators of the Indian freshwater ecosystem, these mammals' health is indicative of the health of India's aquatic ecosystem. Hyunmin will participate in field research at the UNESCO office of India to analyze the rivers' water quality, characterize the food web by collecting field data, and detect dolphin populations, all in an effort to enhance this rare species' chances of survival.



Lainie Kokas

Lainie is a junior in the Residential College studying Arts and Ideas in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Through her individual concentration paths in these majors Lainie focuses on the impact of art on community development. While in New Delhi she will be working with the non-profit organization Dastkar which utilizes grassroots development strategies to empower women to be self-sustaining through the production of traditional crafts. During her stay with Dastkar, Lainie will use her artistic background by working directly with artisans to strengthen product development. Her work will take place mainly in New Delhi and include trips into the field to further her understanding of the production and culture behind each art form. Lainie plans to document her findings in a photo journal that visually assesses the efficacy of Dastkar's development and sustainability projects.



Sasha Preston-Suni

Sasha is a junior Political Science major at the University of Michigan. She is from Lansing, Michigan and recently transferred to Michigan from the University of Pittsburgh. Sasha hopes to attend graduate school in Public Policy so that she can work in infrastructure development. This summer she will be working for an NGO called *AID India* in Satankulam, southern Tamil Nadu. Sasha will be working within the organization's microcredit program, raising its efficiency and helping with overall execution of the program. Additionally, she is currently writing a proposal to implement an adult literacy program for female loan recipients in the Thoothukudi district to ensure that microcredit's benefits are long-term in nature. While the microcredit program is well-established and quite successful, the literacy program faces many challenges. Among them is developing the incentive for women to participate when learning may mean a loss in vital working time. Sasha is excited to begin work with this NGO, and believes it will be one of the most thought-provoking and important experiences of her life.



Mounica Vallurupalli

Mounica is a junior studying Cell and Molecular Biology and minoring in Asian Studies. This summer she will be interning along with CSAS Fellow Jane Xiao with the *Society for Voluntary Action, Revitalisation and Justice* (SVARAJ) in Bangalore.. Mounica will be performing an analysis of the water quality of lakes on the outskirts of Bangalore that are affected by industrial pollution. She will investigate the pollutants present in lakes and any potential health effects on villagers and their livestock. Mounica looks forward to an exciting opportunity to combine her analytical/scientific background with her interest in social justice.



Jane Xiao

Jane is a junior majoring in Biomedical Engineering. This summer she will be traveling to Bangalore to study how polluted drinking water affects the villagers near Lake Veerapura. Jane will be working with fellow University of Michigan student Mounica Vallurupalli and the *Society for Voluntary Action, Revitalization, and Justice* (SVARAJ), a local NGO. Jane and Mounica will be helping SVARAJ establish a program to improve the quality of drinking water near Lake Veerapura which has been polluted with industrial waste. Jane hopes this summer project will provide experience and insight for a future career in medicine and biomedical engineering research.

Center for South Asian Studies

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A LOOK BACK: CSAS EVENTS 2007-2008

SCHOLARLY LECTURE SERIES

Sept. 14, 2007

"Singin' in the Streets: Critique, Entertainment, and Utopia in 1950s Bombay Cinema"
Manishita Dass, University of Michigan

Sept. 21, 2007

"Hindu Avatara and Christian Incarnation: A Comparison"
Noel Sheth, Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion

Oct. 19, 2007

"From Banaras to Bengkulu: Local and Global Contexts of Indian Convict Workers"
Anand Yang, University of Washington

Oct. 26, 2007

"Like all her life she was speaking Bhojpuri with her parents, and naturally she wouldn't have known any Hindi": School as Site of Language Mediation Amid Scholarly Developments"
Chaise Ladousa, Hamilton College

Nov. 12, 2007

"Islamic Cosmopolitanism: Hakim Mohammed Said and the Society for the Promotion of Eastern Medicine"
Joseph Alter, University of Pittsburgh

Nov. 30, 2007

"Good Dalits, Bad Brahmins: Melodramatic Realism in the Hindi Dalit Short Story"
Laura Brueck, Hamilton College

Jan. 11, 2008

"Changing Politics of Reservations: Women, Dalits, Backwards Classes and the History of Indian Elections"
Wendy Singer, Kenyon College

Feb. 15, 2008

"Cultural Politics and the Tamang Christian Conversion Narrative in Nepal"
Tom Fricke, University of Michigan

Feb. 20, 2008

"The Queen and the Accounts (hisab) of Men: Raziyya Sultan and Early Sultanate Society"
Sunil Kumar, Delhi University

March 7, 2008

"International Innovations in Health Communication"
Muhiuddin Haider, University of Maryland

March 14, 2008

"Democracy in Bangladesh: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back"
Ali Riaz, Illinois State University

March 28, 2008

"Reflections on 'Islam in South Asia in Practice': Is There a Story to Tell?"
Barbara Metcalf, University of Michigan

CONVERSATIONS ON SOUTH ASIA LECTURE SERIES

Sept. 28, 2007

CSAS Undergraduate Fellows Symposium
2007 Summer in South Asia Undergraduate Fellowship recipients

Oct. 11, 2007

"Sexuality and the Indian: From Ancient Text to Modern Cinema"
Mohan Agashe, Actor

Nov. 5, 2007

"Architectural Heritage in India"
Janhwi Sharma, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

Nov. 12, 2007

"Evening with Dalit Activist and Writer, Chandra Bhan Prasad"
Chandra Bhan Prasad, Author

Dec. 7, 2007

"Pakistan's Crisis: Crushed Mosques, Civilian Generals, and Exiled Politics"
Juan Cole, University of Michigan

Feb. 8, 2008

"The Politics of an Elite Military Economy"
Ayesha Siddiq, Visiting Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania

OTHER CO-SPONSORED LECTURES

Sept. 25, 2007

"Africa's Silk Road: China and India's New Economic Frontier"
Harry Broadman, The World Bank
Center for Chinese Studies

Oct. 8, 2007

"Women and Children First?: Representing and Rescuing Women and Children from Prostitution in the Third World"
Jayati Lal, University of Michigan
The CEW Mullin Welch Lecture Series

Oct. 18 and 19, 2007

"Metissage and Imperial Violence: Revisiting the Portuguese Indies"
Sanjay Subrahmanyam, University of California at Los Angeles and "Historiography and History-Writing Across the Early-Modern World"
Sanjay Subrahmanyam, University of California at Los Angeles
Ahmed Azfar Moin, University of Michigan
Farina Mir, University of Michigan
Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Lecture

Oct. 23, 2007

"CWPS Ethnography and Performance Roundtable Series: R.K. Srinivasan"
R.K. Srinivasan, CWPS Artist-in-Residence
Center for World Performance Studies

Nov. 6, 2007

"Making Human Rights in the Vernacular: Plural Legalities and Traveling Rights in India, China, and the U.S.A."
Sally Merry, New York University
Center for Chinese Studies

Feb. 6, 2008

"When Asia was the World"
Stewart Gordon, Independent Scholar
Book reading/signing

March 25, 2008

"Empire, Ethics, and the Calling of History"
Dipesh Chakrabarty, University of Chicago
Marc and Constance Jacobson Lecture
Institute for the Humanities

April 8, 2008

"On Violence and Naming"
Veena Das, Johns Hopkins University
Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Lecture

KITABMANDAL READING GROUP

Oct. 4, 2007

"Demography of Ancient South Asian Populations"
Subash Walimbe, Deccan College, India
UM Museum of Anthropology

Oct. 14, 2007

“Lessons Learned from My Life in Films, Theatre, and Psychiatry”

Mohan Agashe, Actor

November 14, 2007

“India After Gandhi” Faculty-Student Discussion of new book by Ramchandra Guha

February 20, 2008

“The Ignored Elite: Turks, Mongols and a Persian Secretarial Class in the Early Delhi Sultanate,” and “Qutb and Modern Memory”

Discussion with Sunil Kumar, Professor of Medieval History, University of Delhi

March 24, 2008

“Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Bengali Histories”

Discussion

Rochona Majumdar, University of Chicago

April 17, 2008

Discussion with Priyamvada Gopal, University of Cambridge, U.K., on her forthcoming book, an introduction and situating of Anglophone Indian literature

CSAS FILM SERIES

Sept. 12, 2007

“Imagining the City: Two Films on Mumbai”

Anjali Monteiro and K.P.

Jayasankar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Oct. 8, 2007

“Born into Brothels” Screening
Co-directed by Zana Briski

Oct. 12, 2008

“Kay Dyache Bola”

Directed by Mohan Agashe

March 4, 2008

Marginal Life: “Words on Water”

Directed by Sanjay Kak

March 11, 2008

Marginal Life: “Kitte Mil Ve Mahl”

Directed by Ajay Bhardwaj

March 21, 2008

Marginal Life: “The Die is Caste”

Directed by Ranjan Kamath

Marginal Life: “We are not Monkeys”

Directed by Anand Patwardhan

Marginal Life: “Bioscopewallah”

Directed by Prashant Kadam

CONFERENCES

Oct. 5-6, 2007

“Conceptualizing South Asia’s Past at Michigan: A Conference in Honor of

Thomas R. Trautmann”

CSAS Conference

Keynote Speech: “Perceptions of the Past”

Romila Thapar, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Oct. 26-27, 2007

“Language and Mediation in South Asian Societies”

University of Michigan Graduate Student Conference

PERFORMANCES/ EXHIBITS

Sept. 18, 2007

“Classical Indian Flute Concert”

R.K. Srinivasan, CWPS artist-in-residence

February 2, 2008

“Dandia Dhamaka”

Michigan Theater
Coordinated by the UM Raas Association

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312354: S Asian Studies, President’s Challenge for Grad Support

Purpose: To provide funds for graduate student support. Donations to this fund will receive a 50% match from the University of Michigan President’s Challenge, i.e., each dollar donated will be matched by an additional 50 cents from the President’s Fund.

362651: South Asia Studies

Purpose: To provide general funding for CSAS programming needs.

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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.

Summer Teacher Workshop

INDIA IN THE WORLD: AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS

Tuesday, July 22, 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

LAST FALL, the Michigan Department of Education introduced new World History mandates for a much-revised Social Studies curriculum. Both the State and local school districts realized that Social Studies teachers would need considerable professional training to teach World History at all, much less in an exciting, relevant manner. With that in mind, the Center for South Asian Studies has organized an interactive workshop on July 22, offering the expertise of its faculty to approximately twenty teachers.

This workshop will be divided into three sections. The first will be devoted to strategies for teaching World History and aligning content to the new Michigan mandates. This session will be run by Dr. Stewart Gordon, Research Scholar at the Center for South Asian Studies. Both a South Asianist and a World Historian, Dr. Gordon recently conducted two workshops on teaching World History at the Michigan Council for Social Studies meetings. He is a consultant with the Ann Arbor Public Schools district on aligning World History standards. His most recent book is "When Asia was the World" (Da Capo Press, 2008).

The second session will focus on materials that teachers are already using in World History. Teachers will be encouraged to bring textbooks, films, and sources that they have tried or want to try, and will present a couple of thematic units. Teachers and Asian Studies faculty from the University of Michigan will discuss materials and units. Handouts will include an annotated bibliography of appropriate World History studies, sources, and websites.

The third session will be on the history and culture of South Asia, providing background for better teaching. Carla Sinopoli, Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Museum of Anthropology will lead this session. She will introduce her work on Iron Age sites and also on the interactions of history and archeology in the South Asia setting.

Overall, we look forward to fruitful interaction and expect this to be the first of several such workshops.



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