

CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

University of
Michigan
Fall 2013
Newsletter

Letter from the Director



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Cover: Iftikhar Dadi & Elizabeth Dadi, detail of *Gandhi*. Digital image in circular backlit frame, 18" diameter. From *They Made History* series.

I'd like to wish everyone—

students, community members, staff, and faculty—a warm welcome back to campus, and thank everyone for their support of the CSAS and for making last year a success. Over the course of the year, we hosted 11 visiting speakers, six of whom were based at US institutions, four in India, one in Pakistan, and one in Bangladesh. We hosted two conferences: “The Environment of India, Part II,” made possible by the generous support of the Trehan India Initiative (see p. 10); and “Pakistan + Human Rights,” co-sponsored by the Pakistan Students' Association (see p. 11). We also had the opportunity to hear from our colleague Varuni Bhatia of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. If you add to these events a dastangoi performance by scholar/artist-in-residence Mahmood Farooqi and our annual Summer in South Asia colloquium, then we surely had a busy year! This year promises to be even more vibrant.

It has been an active summer at the Center, preparing for what we hope will be a memorable set of activities focused on India and South Asia as a whole. Part of what makes this a particularly exciting year for the Center is that President Mary Sue Coleman will be leading a delegation to India this November (see p. 3). On the heels of this trip, in Winter 2014, the CSAS will be hosting a College of Literature, Science, and the Arts' Theme Semester on India. Titled *India in the World*, the Theme Semester seeks to highlight the ways that India plays a role in our everyday lives, and in diverse realms

of art and aesthetics, history and culture, economics and information technology, film, and geopolitics (for more details, see p. 4).

We have a busy year planned, with a range of activities. Our Fall 2013 scholarly lectures series kicks off with a talk by our new colleague, art historian Nachiket Chanchani, and then brings Amita Baviskar of Delhi University, Nusrat Chowdhury of Amherst College, DD Nampoothiri of the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (Kerala), Paromita Vohra from Mumbai, Jeffrey Witsoe of Union College, and Iftikhar Dadi of Cornell University to Ann Arbor. The *India in the World* Theme Semester will have a range of activities, including a scholarly lecture series, a media series organized by Aswin Punathambekar of Communication Studies (see p. 5), musical events in collaboration with the University Musical Society, exhibitions, and visits by leading artists. You'll find complete details of all of our Fall 2013 events in this newsletter; information on the Winter 2014 program will soon be available online. Please visit our website—www.ii.umich.edu/csas—early and often! There, you'll find details and additional information on speakers, talks, performances, and exhibitions.

I am pleased to announce that we will be welcoming two scholar/activists from South Asia for short residencies in Ann Arbor in Winter 2014 as Hughes Fellows: Lawrence Liang and Arif Hasan. Liang is a co-founder of the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore and a leader in the field of the Law and Public Affairs in

India. Based in Karachi, Hasan is an architect, urban planner, and activist who is one of South Asia's leading thinkers on urban issues.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to report that our Summer in South Asia (SiSA) undergraduate fellowship program continues to thrive (see p. 14). This summer we once again sent seven U-M students to India to work on an array of projects. Please join us on December 6, when the students will share their experiences with us at the SiSA Fellows' symposium. I'm sure you, too, will be inspired by their stories!

I sincerely hope our programming this year will offer something for everyone. You'll find the Center's website a great resource for programming information, as well a place to learn about our faculty, students, fellowships, and programs. We can also keep you informed of events via social media. Please visit our Facebook page and “like” us, and follow us on Twitter.

I look forward to seeing you at our events, and to your contributions to the conversation.

Farina Mir

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

President Coleman to visit India in November



President Mary Sue Coleman will lead a University of Michigan delegation on a visit to India in November to strengthen collaborations with several leading higher education institutions.

“This is a natural extension of the strong partnerships the University has enjoyed in India for many years now. Just as we have built upon educational bonds in China, Ghana, South Africa and Brazil in recent years, we look forward to increasing our collaborations in India,” said President Coleman.



Mary Sue Coleman

James Holloway, Vice Provost for Global and Engaged Education, says this visit will provide an opportunity to build new collaborations and enhance existing ones. “India offers unique opportunities for our students to engage in educational experiences that have benefit to both India and to the communities with which they engage.”

The U-M group will have meetings and working sessions in two cities, Delhi and Mumbai, November 13-17, 2013.

Coleman will deliver the keynote address at the India Business Conference in Mumbai, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year.

Over the last few years, the U-M India Business Conference has evolved as a platform not only for U-M alumni and students, but also for prominent industry executives and policy-makers to meet and discuss issues of common interest to U.S. and Indian business.

“The annual conference is attended by over 300 people and attempts to address the opportunities and challenges facing global businesses in the context of an emerging Indian economy,” said M.S. Krishnan, Director of India Initiatives at the Ross School of Business.

Part of the delegation will also meet U.S. Embassy and Indian government officials to discuss broader partnership possibilities.

For more information about U-M’s activities in India, check out Global Michigan’s interactive map: <http://global.umich.edu/worldwide/map/>.

— Mandira Banerjee

LSA Theme Semester W '14: India in the World

Farina Mir



Rajasthani folk musicians perform in *The Manganiyar Seduction*

The LSA Theme Semester, *India in the World*, in Winter 2014 will encourage students, faculty, and community members to explore the many facets of India by providing an opportunity to engage with India's history, culture, politics, economy, art, religions, architecture, music, philosophy, contributions to mathematics and other sciences, and its diaspora. *India in the World* is organized around a set of musical events, art exhibits, a media series, a lecture series, and a range of courses across the disciplines.

In her 1994 book, *Karma Cola: Marketing the Mystic East*, Gita Mehta wittily captured the fact that since the 1960s India has been perceived in the United States as a font of spirituality and mysticism. This perception was uncomfortably coupled with notions of India's poverty and its status as a third world country. While vestiges of both of these perceptions remain today, India has emerged on the world scene in entirely new ways: as one of the world's most vibrant economies; as a key player in geopolitics; as the world's largest democracy; as home to the world's largest "middle class;" as the site of one of the world's largest and most vibrant film industries; as a contributor to global trends in art and aesthetics; and as "home" to well-established and significant immigrant communities around the world, including the United States. *India in the World* seeks to underscore this, as well as to emphasize the ways that India is a part of everyday life in our increasingly globalized world.

This is a particularly opportune moment for a theme semester on India both for its increasing significance on a global stage and because we at Michigan are in the process of strengthening our engagement with India. In Fall 2013, President Mary Sue Coleman will be leading a delegation to India (see p. 3).

The Manganiyar Seduction will be the opening event of *India in the World* (October 26 & 27, 2013). Conceptualized by acclaimed Indian director Royston Abel, *The Manganiyar Seduction*,

which has played at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, features a troupe of Rajasthani folk musicians performing Sufi and Bhakti lyrics. We are pleased to have worked with UMS to bring them to Ann Arbor. UMS will also be bringing Asif Ali Khan Qawwali ensemble from Pakistan this year. A protégé of the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Asif Ali Khan has established himself as one of the finest exponents of the art of *qawwali*, mystical lyrics set to music.

India in the World will be co-sponsoring four exhibitions on campus: one on the South Asian diaspora in the US (Hatcher Gallery Space, early March–April 21), another of South Asia maps at the Clark Library (beginning in January, see p. 14), a third at the Museum of Natural History that will include wonderful material from South Asia, and a fourth at the Matthei Botanical Gardens on plants related to India.

We are pleased to be working with the University Museum of Modern Art to bring two leading contemporary artists to campus. On March 14, we will be hosting Nilima Sheikh and on April 11, Mithu Sen.

In conjunction with the Theme Semester Media Series (see p. 5), we will be hosting two of India's leading documentary filmmakers and screening their films: Safina Uberoi (February 21), *My Mother India*; and Sanjay Kak (March 17), *Maati ke Lal* (Red Ant Dream).

The semester will also bring a number of leading scholars and activists to campus, including: Kathleen Morrison of the University of Chicago

(January 10), Francesca Orsini of the School of Oriental and African Studies (February 14), Samip Mallick of the South Asian American Digital Archive (March 24), Pranab Bardhan of UC Berkeley (April 18), and Lawrence Liang (CSAS Hughes Fellow). Two of our alumni will be returning to give talks: Francis Cody (January 30) and Bhavani Raman (January 31), both of the University of Toronto. We will also have a series devoted to pre-modern India, in which Thomas Trautmann (Emeritus, Departments of History and Anthropology) will speak on elephants in Indian history, Richard Davis (Bard College) will speak on the *Bhagavad Gita*, and Peggy McCracken (Departments of Romance Languages and Literature, Women's Studies, and Comparative Literature) and Donald Lopez (Department of Asian Languages and Cultures) will speak on Barlaam and Josaphat.

We are still in the process of scheduling events, so please check our website for more details on these events, and updates on the schedule: ii.umich.edu/csas.



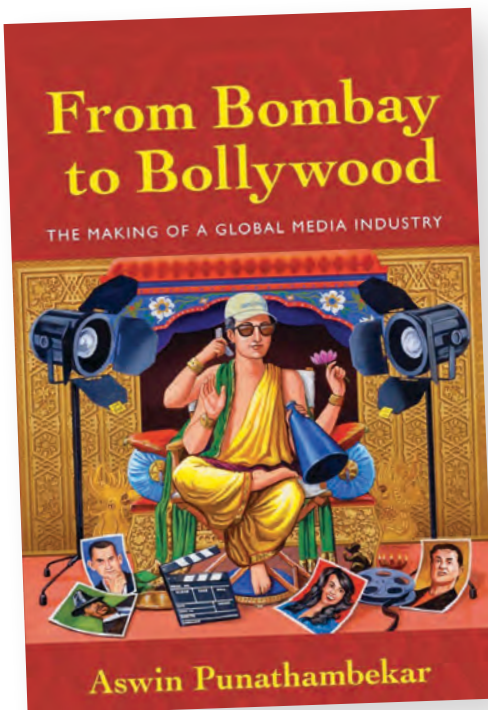
Safina Uberoi

Matthei Botanical Gardens hosts an exhibition on plants related to India.



Beyond Bollywood: Indian Media in the World

Aswin Punathambekar



If moving beyond Hindi-language films is one concern, the other involves getting students to think about Indian media as part of the world and not, as is often the case, as something exceptional (with Hollywood remaining the barometer of comparison). To be sure, there are particularities to Indian film, television and other forms of cultural production that this course will explore: the history of state-cinema relations; shifts from a national development-oriented and state-run broadcasting sector to an advertising-based, decidedly commercial television industry; the sheer pace of media transitions (the emergence of satellite television, internet, and mobile phones in a span of 10-15 years); vibrant pirate networks, and so on. The key is to explore these developments without implying that there is something essentially Indian about them.

Of course, none of this would be much fun without a good media series. Over the course of



the Fall semester, I will be working with the Center for South Asian Studies to curate a media series that will feature screenings (films, television programs, and documentaries), a number

of prominent media artists and producers, and a visit to the Art, Architecture and Engineering library to explore UM's fantastic collection of Indian comics. We have already lined up visits by two path-breaking documentary filmmakers – Sanjay Kak (*Maati ke Lal*; Red Ant Dream, 2013) and Safina Uberoi (*My Mother India*, 2009), and we will announce the full schedule of events soon. This media series is open to the public, and all screenings and lectures will be held on Mondays from 7-10 pm in 2435, North Quad. Please check the Center for South Asian Studies' website later this Fall semester for further details.

When Professor Farina Mir asked me if I would like to develop a course on Indian cinema as part of the College of Literature, Science and Arts' *India in the World* Theme Semester, I said yes right away. I was enthusiastic in part because my own research deals with Indian cinema and I had not yet had a chance to develop a course on the topic. But, what excited me more was the opportunity to introduce students to Indian media beyond Bollywood.

To be sure, a course on Hindi-language films would offer students a wonderful introduction to cultural politics in postcolonial India. But there is no denying that Bollywood has come to occupy a privileged position in the study of media in India, and in processes of media globalization in general. This focus on Bollywood marginalizes other media forms and provides too partial a view of Indian media's place in the world. I decided, therefore, to develop a course that would look not only beyond Bollywood to include Tamil or Telugu-language cinema but weave in a range of media forms including radio, television, documentary films, music, and comics/graphic novels.



Stills from Sanjay Kak's *Maati ke Lal* (Red Ant Dream)

Faculty News



Arun Agrawal, Professor in the School of Natural Resources & Environment,

recently accepted a new position, as Editor in Chief of *World Development*, starting January 1, 2013. Last year, he published 8 papers, 3 as first author:

- Arun Agrawal, Nicolas Perrin, Ashwini Chhatre, Catherine Benson, and Minna Kononen, "Climate Policy Processes, Local Institutions, and Adaptation Actions: Mechanisms of Translation and Influence," *WIREs Climate Change* 3: 565-79 (2012).
- Arun Agrawal, Daniel Brown, Michael Bommarito, Rick Riolo, Derek Robinson, and Gautam Rao, "Interactions between Organizations and Networks in Common-Pool Resource Governance: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach," *Environmental Science and Policy* 25: 138-46 (2012).
- "Local Institutions and the Governance of Forest Commons." In Paul Steinberg and Stacy D. VanDeveer, eds., *Comparative Environmental Politics: Theory, Practice and Prospects* (MIT Press, 2012): 313-40.



Leela Fernandez, Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science, published,

Transnational Feminism in the United States: Knowledge, Ethics and Power (New York University Press,



2013). The book critically examines interdisciplinary knowledge about international issues in the United States. She has also just completed editing a forthcoming volume on the state of the field of feminist scholarship on South Asia: *Routledge Handbook on Gender in South Asia* (in press). Professor Fernandez is currently researching and writing on gender, inequality and the state.

V.V. (Sugi) Ganeshanathan,



Delbanco Visiting Professor of Creative Writing, recently wrote about Tamil writer

Shobasakthi for Granta's website; the piece can be accessed at:

<http://www.granta.com/New-Writing/Best-Untranslated-Writers-Shobasakthi>

(Shobasakthi's translator, Anushiya Ramaswamy, spoke at CSAS last September). Ganeshanathan's story "K Becomes K," an excerpt from her second novel (in progress), appears in the fall issue of *Ploughshares*, which was guest-edited by Professor Peter Ho Davies.

Will Glover, Associate Professor in the Departments of Architecture and History, is currently working on a research project entitled, "The Rural-Urban Continuum in Modern India."



This year he published the following:

- William J. Glover and Kenneth Kollman, eds., *Relevant or Obsolete? Rethinking Area Studies in the U.S. Academy* (University of Michigan, 2012).



- "Thinking with the City: Urban Writing in Colonial Lahore." In Khalid Bajwa, ed., *Urban Pakistan: Frames for Imagining and Reading Urbanism* (Oxford University Press, 2013).
- "The Khalsa Heritage Complex by Moshie Safdie." In Pashaura Singh and Louis Fenech, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
- "The Troubled Passage from 'Village Communities' to Planned New Town Developments in Mid-Twentieth-Century South Asia." In Anne Rademacher and K. Sivaramakrishnan, eds., *Ecologies of Urbanism*

in India: Metropolitan Civility and Sustainability (Hong Kong University Press, 2013): 93-118.



Matthew Hull, Associate Professor of Anthropology, published *Government of Paper: The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan*, (University of California Press, 2012). He



also received a Senior Short-term American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Fellowship for a

project called, "Lotteries: Economic Governance and Speculation in India." He will begin this work in January 2014 in Chandigarh, India.

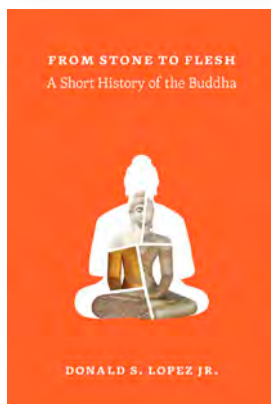
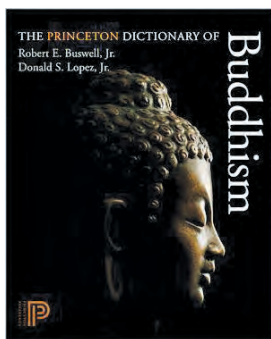
Don Lopez, Distinguished Professor of Buddhist Studies and Chair, Department of Asian Languages &



Cultures, has four books coming out in 2013-14: *From Stone to Flesh* (University of Chicago Press,

2013), *Grains of Gold* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), and *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*

(Princeton University Press, 2013); the fourth, on Barlam and Josaphat (still in design), is co-authored by Peggy McCracken.



Christi Merrill, Associate Professor in the Departments of Asian Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature, will be based in New Delhi for the 2013-14 academic year on a Senior Fellowship through AHS



doing research for her next book project, *Genres of Real Life: Mediating Stories of Injustice*

Across Languages. She will be examining works of literary nonfiction translated from and into Hindi that address systemic human rights abuses (such as caste-based dis-

crimination), and thinking explicitly on the role of the translator in setting the terms for narratives that have no ready counterpart in the target language.

Aswin Punathambekar, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, published *From Bombay to Bollywood: The Making of a Global Media Industry* (New York University Press, 2013). He also edited, "Television at Large in South Asia," a special issue of the journal, *South Asian History and Culture* 3.4 (2012).

Mrinalini Sinha, Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History, has been on leave in 2013 with the support of

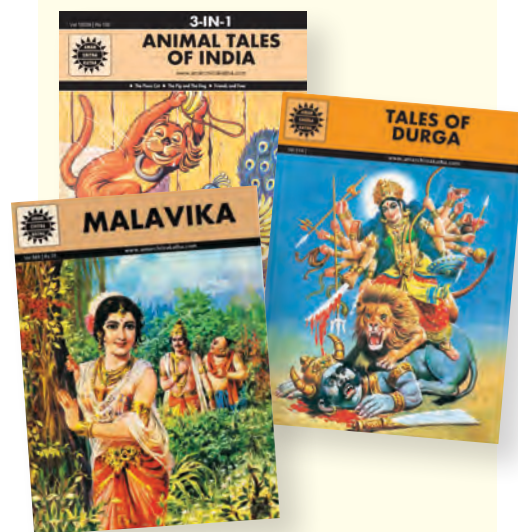


a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship. She is spending this year doing

archival research on a project on the 1920s as a critical turning point in the history of modern India. She is exploring the influence of external and international factors, specifically the so-called Indian question or the problem of the status of Indians overseas, on the course of politics within India. This year her research has taken her, apart from London, New Delhi, and Kolkata, to several cities and small towns in northern India. Professor Sinha was also elected Vice President of the Association for Asian Studies, 2013.

Library News

The **U-M South Asia Collection** attempts to make many notable acquisitions each year. Recently, with the turn in scholarly interest towards graphic novels and comic books, we have added a number of titles from *Amar Chitra Katha* to the library's growing collection of graphic materials. These titles are important both for their interest to scholars, and also as an important resource for students of South Asian religion and culture.



We have also recently acquired three Afghan serials (on microfilm):

- **Islakh** (Kabul, 1936-1971); daily religious/political magazine in Pashto, 15 reels.
- **Kabul** (Kabul, 1931-1984); monthly political magazine in Pashto, 35 reels.
- **Ariane** (Kabul, 1946-1983); monthly magazine on history and literature in Pashto, 14 reels.

For information on our South Asia collections, please contact Jeffrey Martin, Hatcher Library, South Asia Division, jeffmart@umich.edu.

Introductions

Sarah Besky

Sarah Besky joined the University last year as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows and Assistant Professor in the



Department of Anthropology and the School of Natural Resources and Environment. She received

her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has published articles in *Fair Trade and Social Justice: Global Ethnographies* and *Anthropology of Work Review*. Sarah has presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting and the First Annual Nepal and Himalayan Studies Conference. Her book, *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair Trade Tea Plantations in India* (University of California Press), will be released in January 2014.

CSAS: Tell us what you would like to accomplish during your time as a Fellow at the University of Michigan.

SB: I spent my first year as a Fellow writing a book based on my dissertation research on Darjeeling tea plantations. That has led to a couple of new article projects that come out of that same research, on environment and labor in Darjeeling. I'm also starting a new project in 2014 on tea tasting and brokerage, and I hope to travel to Kolkata to begin research on that.

CSAS: Much of your work and research has been on the Indian tea industry, and particularly on Fair Trade practices. In what ways has

the fair trade industry influenced the overall Indian tea industry?

SB: That's a good question. I'm not sure that it really has. What really fascinates me about Indian tea are the labor codes that exist to protect plantation workers. Whether these codes are followed, of course, is another issue. Sections of my book actually analyze the origins of these labor laws, and how fair trade and other non-state international certification schemes come into conflict with state institutions like labor law. So if it is doing anything, fair trade may actually be undermining the Indian state's ability to ensure the welfare of laborers.

CSAS: You are also conducting an historical and ethnographic study on the brokerage and connoisseurship in tea trade called, "Brokers, Blenders, and Bureaucrats." Tell us about how you connect the practices of tea brokers, tasters, and blenders to the production of tea taste.

SB: In general, as an anthropologist, I am really interested in sensory perception: how we learn through seeing, doing, touching, feeling, and walking. Of the senses, taste seems rather unexplored. My earlier work comes out of a burgeoning study of food in the social sciences, so I want to connect food studies with phenomenological anthropological concerns. In other words, I want to explore the connection between political economy and aesthetics. I want to do this both historically and ethnographically. U-M is a great place to do this because of the cross-disciplinary work that is being done in anthropology, history, and

Asian studies. Tea blenders and brokers in auction houses in Kolkata actively manufacture tastes for different locales (American, European, Iranian, Russian, and even Chinese). They do this not only in response to the market and numbers but also by engaging a complex set of ideas about who people are, where they live, and what kinds of sensory experiences they desire. These cultural and geographical ideas have deep roots in inter-Asian interactions that date back to the colonial period and even before.

CSAS: You have recently completed two months of research for your book manuscript in Darjeeling, India. Describe your experience there. What were some of your major challenges and successes?

SB: Right as I began dissertation fieldwork in 2008, an ethnic subnationalist movement in Darjeeling was revived after 20 years of dormancy. The Gorkhaland movement is an agitation by Indian Nepalis (known as Gorkhas) for a separate state within India. Darjeeling was the center of both the first agitation, in the 1980s and the second, which ended in 2011. Neither was very successful. Indian Nepalis make up the region's majority—and the majority of the tea plantation labor force—but they still do not have their own state. I went back in 2012 to see where the movement was and how its end might affect the book's narrative. The book has a chapter devoted to the Gorkhaland movement, and some of my new work will consider its consequences. As always, it is great to return to the field, to see old friends, and to share my work.

CSAS: While Ann Arbor might not be as exciting as Darjeeling, what are some things you enjoy here?

SB: I love going running and walking in Bird Hills with my dog, Sidney. The farmer's market in Kerrytown is great, because I love to cook. I have also really enjoyed the vibrant intellectual community of the Society of Fellows and the Department of Anthropology.

CSAS: What will you be teaching this year?

SB: In the fall, I am teaching a senior seminar in Anthropology called "Food, Politics, and the Environment." This spring, in keeping with the LSA India theme semester, I'll be teaching an undergraduate class on the anthropology of the Himalayas.

Nachiket Chanchani

Nachiket Chanchani (PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 2012) joined U-M's Departments of History of Art and Asian Languages and Cultures as an



Assistant Professor in Fall 2012. He spent his first year at Michigan on scholarly leave, in

Washington, DC, as a Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellow at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. Nachiket's writings are appearing in *Artibus Asiae*, *Archives of Asian Art*, *Arts Asiatiques*, *History of Photography* and other journals. He has presented papers at many symposia, and been involved with projects at multiple museums.

CSAS: Can you tell us about your work as a Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellow? What attracted you to this position?

NC: In addition to housing a recension of the *Vasanta Vilasa*—the centerpiece of my ongoing project on the production, dissemination, and performance of the linguistically hybrid and profusely painted scrolls and manuscripts of western India—the Freer and Sackler Galleries have an incredible collection of book arts and allied objects from across Asia. The latter served as wonderful comparative material and allowed me to ask and begin investigating broader questions. Finally, the Galleries inimitable location and position permitted me to continue observing the challenges and rewards of museum work today.

CSAS: Your interest in art ranges from pre-Mughal painted manuscripts in Western India to the American photographer, Alfred Stieglitz. In what ways can “classical” South Asian art and symbolism be seen throughout American and European art history. Is it still present in contemporary Euro-American art?

NC: European and American artists have engaged with South Asian arts and aesthetics in diverse ways. While nineteenth-century artists often mimicked strands of South Asian design and craft production techniques to reinvigorate their own national art traditions (which they perceived as weakening in the face of industrialization), Alfred Stieglitz and his comrades referenced cultural logics and symbolic morphologies to make their own modernist

works more ‘universal.’ As Francesco Clemente’s paintings and some of Bill Viola’s video performances attest, contemporary art in the West is replete with self consciously borrowed ideas and wryly habilitated images.

CSAS: You have recently published a number of essays. These publications span a variety of different time-periods and mediums. How does your broad knowledge and research interest(s) influence your teaching? Do you have a particular time-period and/or medium that you feel especially passionate about?

NC: My interests allow me to present the visual arts of South Asia as a gateway to understanding the entirety of intellectual and cultural heritage of humanity from prehistoric times to the present day. I often explain to my students that the assemblages of objects and images produced and used in South Asia—Buddhist stupas, temple-cities, cotton textiles, glazed ceramics, Mughal paintings, Satyajit Ray films and much else—represent more than the inheritance of this subcontinent. I like to show them how these objects and images are equally the heritage of numerous cultures for they have emerged from encounters with civilizations around the globe, each reflected, reshaped, and reformed by the art of the subcontinent.

CSAS: Can you tell us about your research project that is geographically centered in the Himalayas?

NC: These days, I am continuing my investigations on the expansion of sacred geographies, the movements

of builders, and the creation of a mosaic of polities in the Central Himalayas and my assessment of how these activities intersected with stone temple construction and with the development of sculptural forms between the seventh and twelfth centuries CE. Several articles on this subject are now in press.

CSAS: As you may or may not have heard, Ann Arbor is beloved by its current and former residents. What are some things you’re looking forward to doing or experiencing?

NC: I’m looking forward to kayaking down the Huron River, meandering through Nichols Arboretum and discovering the town’s cycling trails.

CSAS: What will you be teaching this year? Do you have anything specific you’d like to accomplish?

NC: I would like to generate greater interest in South Asian material and visual culture and make full use of campus resources (which are varied as lantern slides in the visual resource collection, unpublished treasures in the art, anthropology, and archaeology museums, and rare books in the libraries). To these ends, I will be teaching four new interdisciplinary courses. They are “Art of Yoga,” “Introduction to South Asian Art: Home and the World,” “Ocean of Stories: Telling Tales in the Indian Subcontinent,” and “Himalayas: An Aesthetic Exploration.”

Audrey Buswell

Audrey Buswell joined U-M and the Center for South Asian Studies as its Programmer in early July. Her principal responsibilities are



managing logistics, events organization, and publicity for the Center. Audrey comes to us from

American Councils for International Education in Washington, DC, where she worked on the Critical Language Scholarship Program as a Program Associate and managed a CLS Program in Azerbaijan. Audrey holds a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and an M.A. in International Training and Education from American University. Prior to her M.A. and work at American Councils, Audrey served for two years as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan.

Trehan Environment of India Conference

Richard Tucker

On November 16, 2012 the Center for South Asian Studies sponsored a conference on environmental dimensions of life in India. The conference was the concluding event of the Trehan Theme Year on the Environment of India. Three speakers were invited to present their research at the conference: J. Mark Baker of California State College, Humboldt; Shubhra Gururani of York University, Toronto; and K. Kannan of the State University of New York, Albany. The speakers began the conference with a luncheon that included students in the program, which was followed by their presentations.



J. Mark Baker,
“Neoliberalism and the Environment: Small Hydropower

Development in the Western Himalaya.” Dr. Baker is a leading specialist on community-level management of water resources, in Himachal Pradesh and elsewhere around the subcontinent. His talk presented the complex details of local contestation and cooperation over water in the regulatory context of state and central water resources management. This shed light on the complex critical issue of public policy regarding the allocation of scarce water resources for agricultural, industrial, and urban uses.



Shubhra Gururani,
“When Nature Goes Green: The Story of Pastures and Parks in India’s

Urban Peripheries.” Against the background of Dr. Gururani’s highly praised studies of changing communities in the Himalayan foothills, she is now studying ethnographic patterns among urban planners and urban villages of Gurgaon, a burgeoning area of suburban New Delhi. Her talk placed this study of environmental management under intensive pressures of immigration, in the context of a broad SSHRC-MCRI research agenda on “Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land, and Infrastructure in the 21st Century.”



K. Kannan,
“A Glimpse of Environmental Chemical Pollution and Human Exposure to Toxic

Chemicals in India.” Dr. Kannan, an eminent specialist on environmental toxics in India and elsewhere, surveyed the pervasive deterioration of public health conditions that has resulted from urbanization, industrialization and indiscriminate use of pesticides in agriculture. He presented an assessment of state and central governments’ efforts to ameliorate the impacts of solid waste generation in urban areas, uncontrolled dumping and open burning of wastes, and severe pollution of groundwater resources.



Gurgaon cityscape

The three presentations were followed by an enthusiastic discussion by members of the audience, and was moderated by Rebecca Hardin and Richard Tucker, both of the School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

U-M Pakistan Conference 2013



On April 5, 2013, the Pakistani Students' Association (PSA) and the CSAS co-hosted a conference on Pakistan. This annual event, which began in 2010, has established itself as an important forum for the analysis of Pakistan. This year's conference, "Human Rights + Pakistan," focused on drawing attention to three particular aspects of human rights: political process, economic foundations, and foreign policy. An interdisciplinary group of scholars from the United States and Pakistan participated. The conference proved to be a wonderful success, and drew large audiences for each of its three panels. The success is surely a testament to the hard work and commitment of the PSA students, and the engagement of both U-M undergraduate and graduate students.

The conference brought together scholars at the forefront of Pakistan Studies as well as emerging scholars, all of whom brought new insights based on their field research in Pakistan. The speakers were:

Ayesha Jalal, Director of the Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, and Mary Richardson Professor of History, Tufts University. Jalal is Pakistan's leading historian, and author of a number of path-breaking books on Pakistan's history, including the foundational works *The Sole Spokesman* and *State of Martial Rule*. She is currently working on a manuscript on Muhammad Ali

Jinnah and on a book entitled, *Battle for Pakistan*. Jalal provided the conference's closing remarks, posing questions for broader consideration.

Anjum Altaf, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lahore University of Management Sciences. Altaf is an economist whose prior experience at the World Bank provides him a keen perspective for his research and writing on development, urbanization and the environment. Altaf spoke on the relationship between poverty alleviation and human rights. His talk at U-M was the basis for an op-ed essay published in Pakistan's leading English-language newspaper, *Dawn*, on June 4, 2013, entitled, "Poverty and Human Rights." You can access the essay at: <http://thesouthasianidea.wordpress.com/2013/06/05/poverty-and-human-rights/>.

Sadia Toor, Associate Professor of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, College of Staten Island. Toor is a leading expert on the history of the Left in Pakistan, and a critic of great acuity on Pakistan's contemporary politics. She is the author of *State of Islam: Culture and Cold War Politics in Pakistan*. Toor's presentation related the long history of democracy in Pakistan to current human rights concerns there.

Miriam Mufti, Assistant Professor of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma. Mufti specializes on regime change and political

participation in hybrid regimes, and is currently working on a manuscript tentatively titled, *Patterns of Accessing Political Power and Regime Change in Pakistan*. Mufti spoke about the electoral process, and political parties' electoral manifestoes and platforms.

Madiha Tahir is an independent journalist. Her work has appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The National*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on Democracy Now!, PRI and BBC's The World. Tahir spoke about the representation of Pakistan's North West over the long duree, relating this to current representations of communities being subject to drone strikes. She also showed parts of a new film which she is currently producing on drone strikes in Pakistan, "Wounds of Waziristan." You can see a trailer at: <http://vimeo.com/71199302>.

James Cavallaro, Director of the Stanford International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic. Cavallaro is a leading human rights lawyer who co-authored the important report, *Living Under Drones* (2013). He spoke about international human rights law and the legality of the drone program.

South Asian Languages offered in 2013-14

Hindi: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced

Urdu: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced

Punjabi: Beginners

Tibetan: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced

Student News

Sayan Bhattacharyya is an alumni of the Department of Comparative Literature and the School of Information. His dissertation, "Reading Dialectically: The Political Play of Form, Contingency and Subjectivity in Rabindranath Tagore and C.L.R. James," argues that theatricality and the form of the play specifically afforded both James and Tagore a resource that enabled each of them to work out similar conceptions of an alternative, non-West-centric, modernity. Furthermore, he makes a more general argument that the affordances created by the performative quality of theatrical work have a special affinity for a dialectic that enables such a conception of modernity. Sayan has accepted a three-year position as a Council for Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Post-doctoral Research Fellow, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Library and at the UIUC Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Nishaant Choksi is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. His dissertation examines the politics of script among speakers of Santali, an Austro-Asiatic language spoken on the border areas of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Assam. He looks at the use of multiple scripts to write Santali, as well as how it intersects with broader patterns of multilingualism. Nishaant's dissertation also explores the creation of new scripts for Santali, and movements around Santali-language literacy. He holds a Rackham Merit Fellowship for 2013-14.

Emily Ernst graduated from Michigan in 2012 having majored in the Program in the Environment, and minored in Asian Studies. She held a FLAS Fellowship for Urdu during her senior year, awarded by the CSAS. Emily is currently a master's student at the University of Texas at Austin in the Asian Studies Department, focusing on modern politics and government in Northern India and Pakistan. She is the recipient of a Boren Fellowship, and will be studying intensive Urdu in 2013-14 in Lucknow. After her Fellowship period she will return to UT to complete her master's degree and expects to graduate in spring of 2015. Her goal is to work in the federal government.



Leslie Hempson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History. She will spend the 2013-14 academic year in India and England conducting research on her dissertation, "The Social Fabric of Khadi: Experiments in Industry in Twentieth-Century India." Her research is funded by a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship and the Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship.



Hafsa Kanjwal is a doctoral candidate in the joint degree program in History and Women's Studies. Hafsa was awarded the Rackham International Research Award for 2013-14 to conduct

research on her dissertation, entitled "Defining the New Kashmir: The Role of Religion, Culture, and Politics (1947-1987)." She will be headed to Srinagar, Kashmir this fall and hopes to return to Ann Arbor in 2014-15.



Jane Lynch is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Her dissertation

explores the consequences of market liberalization in contemporary India through a study of the handloom textile industry. Based on ethnographic research undertaken in the historic town of Chanderi, as well as in the cities of Indore and Delhi, she argues that a key effect of liberalization on the manufacture of handloom cloth is heightened competition over intellectual property and rights to production. In particular, this study details the ways in which practices of branding are being defined not only in terms of consumer sentiment, but also through the essentially moral claims of institutions and new corporate bodies as they seek to delineate the ways in which cloth can be manufactured, valued, and owned. She holds a Titiev Library Fellowship for 2013-2014 from the Department of Anthropology.

Purvi Mehta is a doctoral candidate in the Program in Anthropology and History. She is currently completing her dissertation, "Recasting Caste: Histories of Dalit Transnationalism and the Internationalization of Caste Discrimination." Her dissertation is both an intellectual history and a political ethnography of institutional dalit activism and the internationalization

of caste-based discrimination. The dissertation explores two primary issues: the affective and political bonds dalits have developed with other marginalized communities and social justice movements, and the simultaneous use and critique of human rights in dalit activism. Purvi will be a Post-doctoral Fellow at Colorado College in 2013-14. Beginning in September 2014, she will take up a position as Assistant Professor in the History Department at Colorado College.



Faiza Moatasim is a doctoral candidate in the Architecture Department. The title of

her dissertation is "Making Exceptions: Politics of Place in the Planned Modernist City of Islamabad." Her research focuses on understanding the sustenance of urban phenomena at odds with official plans, and building codes yet necessary for the functioning and everyday life of the planned capital city of Pakistan. In particular, Faiza is interested in investigating inconsistent modern urban phenomena across a socio-economic spectrum as both poor and affluent communities routinely engage in creating spatial exceptions in Islamabad. For her fieldwork in London and Islamabad in 2012-13, she received the Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies Research Grant, an International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and a Rackham International Research Award. She is currently writing her dissertation with the support of a Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship.

2013–14 Graduate FLAS Fellowships

Bobby Poulson-Houser, an MA student at the Center, has just completed nearly eleven months on a Boren Fellowship in Delhi, where he studied Urdu privately, volunteered at a local educational NGO, and conducted research for his MA thesis. His thesis explores the actions of the Reserve Bank of India prior to the global financial crisis of 2008, with an emphasis on policies that helped India maintain the world's second highest rate of GDP growth throughout the crisis. He plans to complete his thesis this fall, and to graduate in December.



Rohit Setty, who received his MA from the Center in 2007, defended his doctoral dissertation in the School of Education,

“The Practice of Dialogic Modeling: A First-Person Research Study in India,” in August, 2013. His dissertation committee members are Deborah Loewenberg Ball (chair), Matthew Ronfeldt, Nita Kumar, and David K. Cohen. From January 2014, he will be an Assistant Professor at Shiv Nadar University in India. Rohit recently published two articles: “What do we mean by ‘inappropriate’? Questions to consider in the political science textbook controversy” (In Hindi), *Shiksha Vimarsh*, July-October, 2012: 137-44; “Whose line is it anyway?: Strengthening the Role of Research in the NCERT Textbook Controversy,” *The Indian Express*, July 11, 2012. Available at: indianexpress.com/news/whose-line-is-it-anyway-/972880/0.

The Center awarded a total of 19 FLAS fellowships this year. Six academic year and five summer fellowships were awarded to the graduate students below. Eight academic year fellowships were awarded to undergraduate students (see box on page 14).



Farida Begum is a first-year PhD student in the History Department. Her particular areas of interest are gender and social-cultural histories of South Asia. She is currently interested in studying the interaction between women from various communities in undivided Bengal. Farida has an academic year FLAS fellowship, to study Urdu.



Rebecca Bloom is a second-year PhD student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Her research focuses on Tibetan Buddhism and Himalayan Art. Becky has recently returned from a summer research trip to Ladakh, and will now concentrate on medieval temple arts of the Western Himalayan region—particularly in relationship to the development of Tibetan Buddhism and the history of trans-Himalayan encounters there. Her visits to many Ladakhi monasteries and temples have also sparked an interest in contemporary issues of art conservation, cultural preservation, and “museum-fication” at Tibetan Buddhist sites in the Western Himalayas. Becky received a summer FLAS fellowship to study third-year Tibetan in Kathmandu.



Andrew Haxby is a third-year PhD student in the Anthropology Department. His area of interest is the urbanization of Kathmandu, Nepal. He is particularly interested in changes in the land market and land usage, as well

as how people arrange their economic lives in the face of constant political instability. Andrew received both summer and academic year FLAS grants. He spent the summer studying third-year Nepali in Kathmandu, and will be studying second-year Tibetan this year.

Jasmine Hentschel is a U-M graduate, who will be joining the MS Program at the School of Information this year. Her undergraduate background is in applied linguistics, and she will focus her graduate training



on computational linguistics. Jasmine is mindful of how speakers of languages written in non-Roman scripts currently face a huge “digital divide;” her research will focus on Hindi and other Indian language technologies to bridge this gap. She received both summer and academic year grants, to study third-year Hindi.



Zain Khan is a second-year student in the Center's MA Program. Zain's particular areas of interest are the visual culture and anthropology of Pakistan, specifically related to discourses of gender, patriarchy, and public space. Zain will be working on his MA thesis this year. He received a summer FLAS grant, to study Urdu.



Adam Liddle joins the Center's MA Program this year. His focus is Tibetan language and culture. He hopes to learn the languages of Tibet and related regions in order to do translation work, primarily of Buddhist texts.

Adam has an academic year fellowship, and will be studying second-year Tibetan.



Alexander Persaud is a second-year PhD student in economics. He received his BA from Carleton College in History with a concentration in South Asian Studies. Alexander's research interests in South Asia

currently lie in both labor—educational attainment, wages, migration for work, and rural landlord-tenant relations—and firm structure. Furthermore, he is interested in demographic trends across South Asia in the 20th century. Alexander has an academic year FLAS to study advanced Hindi.



Nishita Trisal is an incoming doctoral student of socio-cultural anthropology. Her research interests revolve around questions of finance, debt, law, secularism, Islam, and ethnographic theory. She has received an academic

year FLAS to study Urdu.

Summer in South Asia Fellowships 2013

In summer 2013, the CSAS sent seven U-M undergraduates to India on the SiSA program. Made possible by the generous support of an anonymous donor, the program is now in its eighth year and has sent 49 students to India. Each has devised his or her own summer project, with Center support. Please join us for the SiSA Fellows Symposium on December 6, 2013, where you'll hear from each of these students about their experience.



Sarah Anjum will be a junior this fall, and is majoring in Neuroscience and minoring

in Medical Anthropology. This summer, she traveled to the Narayana Healthcare Hospital in Bangalore to investigate the burden of healthcare on poverty.



Bailey Binke will be entering her third year at U-M this fall, and is working towards a double major

in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and French, and an Anthropology minor. Bailey spent five weeks in Karnataka working with other students at the Indian Institute of Science in the Ecology Department studying elephant-human interactions through crop raiding.



David Buruchara will be joining the Stephen M. Ross School of Business this fall as a sopho-

more; he hopes to double major in Finance and International Studies. He used his fellowship to work with Sammaan Foundation in Patna, Bihar.

Sammaan's mission is to empower the downtrodden, create income opportunities for the unskilled, and inspire their social inclusion.



Courtney Green will be a junior this year at the Ford School of Public Policy. Courtney spent

seven weeks in Mumbai working for Pratham, a child education NGO and conducting her own research on women's safety.

Dustin Hartz is double majoring in Physics and Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience, and minoring in Computer Science. Dustin used his SiSA fellowship to investigate the relationships between Vedanta and modern physics in India, with a focus on applications toward cognitive research.



Magdalene Kuznia will be entering her third year at the School of Nursing this fall. She used

her fellowship to work with Jayaa Singh, a U-M alumna who founded the Salokaya College of Nursing, in New Delhi. Through this school, Magdalene was able to visit different HIV/AIDS treatment centers, and analyze the health care resources available to Delhi residents. Magdalene also taught a class on the value of nursing to incoming freshmen at Salokaya.

Akeram Suleiman will be entering her senior year this fall, and is majoring in Mechanical Engineering, and minoring in International Studies. She was awarded a fellowship to carry out a research project at the Center for Integrated Rural Development in Udaipur.

Undergraduate FLAS Recipients

Matthew Brown, Junior, Neuroscience, LSA

Sarah Cunningham, Junior, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, UMMS

Shazia Ijaz, Junior, Business, R-BUS

Farhan Iqbal, Senior, Business, R-BUS

Zunaira Jilani, Junior, Psychology, LSA

Haseeb Khan, Sophomore, South Asian Studies, LSA

Eleni Lazarou, Junior, Asian Languages and Cultures and Women's Studies, LSA

Nadia Syed, Junior, Neuroscience, LSA

Ansari Tahoora, Junior, Microbiology and South Asian Languages and Cultures, LSA

South Asian Maps Exhibition

In conjunction with the *India in the World* Theme Semester in W'14, the Clark Library will mount an exhibition of South Asian maps. After an informal opening in January 2014, there will be several events with speakers discussing research informed by materials in the University of Michigan Libraries. Please consult the CSAS website for further details.

The South Asian Map Collection of the University of Michigan Library is an outstanding source for cartographic materials ranging from early Ptolemaic maps to current atlases and roadmaps. Among the maps to be displayed in this exhibition will be a 16th century Ptolemaic map of Sri Lanka from 1597, a map from the French cartographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon deAnville, James Rennell's map of the Indian subcontinent, and a stunning map of the Coromandel Coast depicting fortresses then controlled by the French, English, and the Nawab of Arcot.



Fall 2013 Events

Sept 6:

Nachiket Chanchani, Departments of History of Art and Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan

Figures of Speech: Picturing Poetry in Fifteenth-Century Gujarat
3 pm/Room 1636/SSWB

Sept 17:

Amita Baviskar, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University

Good to Eat, Good to Think: India's Changing Food Cultures
4 pm/Room 1644/SSWB



Sept 20:

Nusrat Chowdhury, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Amherst College

Revealing Powers: Money, Morality, and Politics in Bangladesh
4 pm/Room 1636/SSWB
Cosponsored by the Department of Anthropology



Sept 30:

Rajeeb Chakraborty, Sarod Expert

Sarod Performance
8 pm/Stamps Auditorium
Cosponsored by the Center for World Performance Studies & The School of Music, Theater & Dance

Oct 2:

D.D. Nampoothiri, Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST), Kerala

Addressing Under-Representation in the Time of Globalization: A Kerala Experience in Affirmative Action
4 pm/Room 1636/SSWB
Cosponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Oct 4:

Paromita Vohra, Filmmaker, Writer, & Critic

Screening of *Partners in Crime* (2011)
4 pm/Room 1636/SSWB
Cosponsored by Screen Arts & Cultures

Oct 25:

Jeffrey Witsoe, Department of Anthropology, Union College

Theorizing Lower Caste Politics: A View from Bihar
4 pm/Room 1636/SSWB
Cosponsored by the Department of Anthropology

Oct 26-27:

The Manganiyar Seduction*

Oct 26: 8 pm/Power Center;
Oct 27: 4 pm/Power Center
Cosponsored by the University Musical Society

Nov 1:

John Stratton Hawley, Department of Religion, Barnard College

When Blindness Makes for Sight
4pm/Room 180/Tappan Hall
Cosponsored by the Department of History of Art

Nov 22:

Iftikhar Dadi, Departments of Art, and History of Art and Visual Studies, Cornell University

Urdu Cinema During the 1940s and 50s
4 pm/ Room 1636/SSWB
Cosponsored by the Department of History of Art, the Islamic Studies Program, and Screen Arts & Cultures



Dec 6:

Summer in South Asia Symposium

4 pm/ Room 1636/SSWB

* Tickets are required for The Manganiyar Seduction and can be purchased from UMS at UMS.org.

All other events are free and open to the public.

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