

Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Michigan

# Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference on South Asia

9:15am Welcome Remarks

9:20-11am **Imperial Identities, Imperial Afterlives**

Chair: REN Chao, PhD student, History

**Brittany Puller**, PhD student, Asian Languages and Cultures  
The Making of a Masand: Sikh Agents and Political Actors in 17th Century Punjab

**Rachel Hirsch**, Masters degree student, South Asian Studies  
The Sivalayathir and the Formation of Imperial Identity

**Matt Schissler**, PhD student, Anthropology  
Primordial, Postcolonial, Foretold: Historicizing  
Violence Against Rohingya in Myanmar

11:10-12:15pm **Mediations of Mobility**

Chair: Vishnupriya Das, PhD student, Communication Studies

**Sriram Mohan**, PhD student, Communication Studies  
Transacting to Belong: Mobile Payments and the Mediation of  
Technological Citizenship in Digital India

**Vaishnav Kameswaran**, PhD student, School of Information  
Accessible Transportation and Technological Mediation

1-2:15pm **Innovating the Modern**

Chair: TBD

**Conner Singh VanderBeek**, PhD student, Ethnomusicology  
Whose Punjab? Bhangra, Gurdas Maan, and the Multi-temporal  
Sikh Framing of Indian Punjab

**Swarnim Khare**, PhD student, Asian Languages and Cultures  
Literary Innovation in Dalit Women's writing in Hindi:  
Anita Bharti's Intertextual Dialogue with Premchand

2:20-4pm **City Dreaming**

Chair: TBD

**Janaki Phillips**, PhD student, Anthropology  
The Chill of Ghosts and the Weight of History: Engagements  
with Shimla's Haunted Architectural Heritage

**Amit Ittyerah**, PhD student, Architecture  
Commodity Architecture, the City, and Beyond: Emerging  
Urban Morphologies along National Highway 1

**Salman Hussain**, PhD student, Anthro-History  
Gulfee City: Provincial Dreams

Keynote speaker:

**Ajay Skaria**

Department of History  
University of Minnesota

4:10-6PM

**WEISER HALL  
ROOM 1010  
SATURDAY  
JAN 27**

