Letter from the Director

I write this as the summer draws to a close, with a sense of eager anticipation and excitement about the year ahead at the CSAS. We have managed to do wonderful things in store for you, but before touching on this year’s activities and events, let me share the Center’s good news: in September 2014 we received notification that our applications to the Department of Education (DoE) for National Resource Center (NRC) status and for Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships were successful. We are honored to be awarded NRC status by the Department of Education once again; only twelve universities in the United States have this distinction and we are proud that our South Asia program has received this recognition on the basis of the Center’s programs and the quality of our faculty. Our NRC grant allows us to continue our outreach work and to support our language program through initiatives such as the introduction of Bengali in 2015. Our FLAS award will allow us to distribute approximately $1.3 million of funding through initiatives such as the annual South Asia Awareness Network Conference, organized by our undergraduate students.

This year promises to be as robust. Although the year is not explicitly organized around any themes, two have emerged that push us in new directions at the CSAS. In fall, two of our events consider media in South Asia. In September 16, we host filmmaker Lalit Vachani and screen his latest documentary, An Ordinary Election (see p. 3). And on October 2-3, we host a major international conference on “Digital South Asia” (see p. 4); we are grateful to Ranvir and Ashadh Thulan for their support of this conference.

In Winter 2016, we will host a series of three lectures on science in South Asia. The series is organized by Jeff Wissal (Associate Professor of History and Environmental Sciences, and Associate Curator, Museum of Paleontology), who will give the first of the three lectures on India in a movement of Wilkinson of the National History Museum, London, on biodiversity in India. Peter Molnar of the University of Colorado will deliver the third lecture, on a new theory of dinosaur extinction (see p. 9). The second lecture will be delivered by Mark Wilkinson of the Natural History Museum, London, on biodiversity in India. Peter Molnar of the University of Colorado will deliver the third lecture, on a new theory of dinosaur extinction (see p. 9). The second lecture will be delivered by Mark Wilkinson of the Natural History Museum, London, on biodiversity in India. Peter Molnar of the University of Colorado will deliver the third lecture, on a new theory of dinosaur extinction (see p. 9).

In the pages that follow you’ll find more information on the Center’s activities over the past year as well as those we have planned for the coming year. You’ll also read about research on and engagement with South Asia from across U-M. This year, we are highlighting the work of our colleagues in the School of Information (p. 10) and the School of Public Health (p. 11).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, faculty, and students for their support of the CSAS in all of our endeavors this past year. I would also like to thank Matthew Hull, Associate Professor of Anthropology, and the School of Music, Theatre & Dance for understanding the CSAS and for their support of the Center for 2015-16. I hope you’ll join in for the events we will hold and the discussions we will have this year.

I also look forward to welcoming Faisal Naiz Tirmizi (Consult General

One of these was our Hughes Visiting Fellow, Mary John (see p. 15). The CSAS co-sponsored an additional six lectures, delivered at venues such as the annual South Asia Awareness Network Conference, organized by our undergraduate students.

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On September 16, 2015, the CSAS welcomes Lalit Vachani to U-M for the screening of his latest documentary, An Ordinary Election, on the Aam Aadmi Party (4-6pm, North Quad Room 2435). Vachani is an established Indian documentary filmmaker whose credits include the acclaimed The Boy in the Branch and The Men in the Tree. Vachani’s visit and the screening of An Ordinary Election are timed in conjunction with the CSAS conference on “Digital South Asia,” being held on October 2-3, 2015 (see p. 4).

Earlier this summer, the CSAS engaged Vachani in a conversation about his practice.

CSAS: How do you get drawn into documentary filmmaking?

LV: If I were a graduate student at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania from about 1996-1999, I would have a Documentary Filmmaking Theory and Production class, and quite unexpectedly fell in love with the documentary film form as a means of doing ethnographic research and of storytelling using reality forms. I say “unexpectedly,” as I had only had previous experience with filmmaking and its importance? What is the most effective documentary form? How do i convince my audience of its veracity? And how do you tell reality-based stories as truthfully as possible using the devices of fiction? As a filmmaker doing research, filming, and editing I try to tell my subjective stories of truth using an objective methodology. How do I tell my story (in a limited time span) in a way that most closely approximates my experience of research and filming at the location? How do I convince my audience of its veracity and its importance? What is the most effective documentary narrative form that I should find to tell this particular story? Finally, as a political documentary filmmaker, I sometimes make films on movements that I am critical of. How can I make a film that truly critiques the ideology of that movement, yet be fair and ethical towards the filmed subjects who are a part of that movement?

CSAS: What is the most vital aspect of documentary filmmaking as a form for you?

LV: What is the most important aspect of documentary filmmaking? How do you tell reality-based stories as truthfully as possible using the devices of fiction? As a filmmaker doing research, filming, and editing I try to...
Digital South Asia: An international conference on media, culture and politics in South Asia

The CSAS is pleased to announce that it will be holding an international conference on “Digital South Asia” this October. Since media and communication studies began in the 1970s, the object of study has changed in fundamental ways. Media was at first thought of almost wholly within the frame of the nation-state, and its national politics and culture. Since then, the diffusion of continuing technological innovations, driven by the world economy, has changed the media landscape beyond recognition, producing the “globalized” world that we inhabit today. Situated within this larger frame, this conference, organized by Kranti Panthambekar (Associate Professor of Communication Studies), will bring together an international array of scholars with a shared interest in the rise of digital and mobile media technologies, the ongoing transformation of established media industries, and emergent forms of media practice and use that are reconfiguring socio-cultural, political, and economic terrains across the Indian subcontinent. The conference will also focus on the everyday lived experiences of audiences and publics—in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora—in their interaction with different kinds of media old and new, state and private, elite and popular, global and national.

The rise of digital and mobile media technologies, and new forms of media practice and use associated with them, parallels the emergence of new forms of commercial media and communications enterprises across the global South. Our primary aim in convening this international conference is to draw together hitherto scattered national, comparative and transnational work on media and communication in South Asia; and, secondly, in working through the overlapping themes of the conference, to discover common areas of interest and emerging lines of inquiry for future research. The conference is organized around four themes: a panel will be devoted to each of the following: “digital imaginaries,” “digital media and the new political,” “love and longing in digital South Asia,” and “television’s newness.”

We look forward to welcoming: Rohit Chopra (Santa Clara University; Lotte Hooik University of Edinburgh); Lily Ivan (University of California, San Diego); Sangita Kumar (Deakin University); Shanti Kumar (University of Texas, Austin); Purvima Manekar (University of California, Los Angeles); Rahul Mahalekar (University of Pennsylvania); Wasimn Osman (Temple University); Nirmi Rangaswamy (Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad); Bhowmik Sion (University of Oregon); Sahana Udapa (Max Planck Institute, Germany); Paromita Vohra (Independent Filmmaker, Mumbai); and Humay Posad (Woodrow Wilson Senior Fellow and Control Risks Consulting).

This conference is made possible by generous support from Ramani and Adarsh Thevan and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Full details on conference participants and the schedule can be accessed at: http://www.ii.umich.edu/csas/events/conferences.

The Center for South Asian Studies hosted a two-day conference, Recalling Democracy: Lineages of the Present, on Sept 5-6, 2014. The conference was made possible with support from Ramani and Adarsh Thevan and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Among the topics covered were: “vote bank” and the rise of the Aam Admi Party in Delhi; the interpretation of the term “democracy” in the Indian Constitution; the history of the shift from the British model of democracy to the Indian model; various lines of inquiry into the shifting grounds of the “political” in India’s twentieth-century democracy that were not captured by the focus on imaginaries.

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The interpretation of the term “democracy” in the conference title “Recalling Democracy” as well as in many of the individual papers at the conference, put specific stress on the implications of the suffix “cracy” that is power or rule. And, as such, the various panels tracked changes and continuities in the configurations of “cracy” across the 20th century, from the late colonial through the post-independence present to the present. Democracy, as understood today, capitalized an exploration of the political in myriad social relations that included the state as an especially charged field of politics, but not as necessarily the primary one. The theme of democracy also brought into greater focus the question of institutions, of the law, of elections, and of political economy, among others, that were relatively absent from the earlier iteration of the project at the first conference in Delhi. The Michigan conference nicely complemented the Delhi conference and rounded out the goals of the project.

The papers at the conference contributed to a reconsideration of the infrastructures (institutions and concepts) and everyday practices of democracy. The topics ranged from constitutionalism and civil liberties lawmaking to the idea of the “vote bank” and the rise of the Aam Admi Party in Delhi. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, the most heated exchange followed discussion of the implications of the economic changes of the 1990s. One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote lecture delivered by Nivedita Menon from the Department of Political Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi. Her lecture entitled, “Science, Nature, Environment: Debates around Development in late-20th to early-21st century India” provided a touchstone for many of the themes that surfaced in the discussions that followed. By bringing together scholars from different disciplinary and theoretical perspectives, the conference created an opening for histories of the present that were once critical and transdisciplinary. The papers presented at both conferences will be published in a volume tentatively entitled, Political Imaginaries: Rethinking India’s Twentieth Century. The co-organizers of the conference, Mrinalini Sinha from the University of Michigan and Manu Goswami from New York University, wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support from the Center for South Asian Studies, especially its director Fairia Mir, and Audrey Buswell, who was at the time the CSAS programmer.

Conference Participants (external): Riti Abraham (Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore); Rohit De (History, Yale University); Sandipyo Dasgupta (Newtown International Fellow of the Royal Society and British Academy); Mandel Desai (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi); Santhi Deshpande (Sociology, Delhi School of Economics); David Gilmartin (History, North Carolina State University); Manu Goswami (History, New York University); Mary John (Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi); Ritu Gairola Khanduri (Anthropology, University of Texas, Arlington); Sanikaran Krishna (Political Science, University of Hawaai, Maui); Michael Levien (Sociology, Johns Hopkins University); Madhur Meen (Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, JNU); Eleanor Newbigin (History, SOAS); Aditya Nigam (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi); Prith Ramamurthy (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Waterloo); Kamal Ramnath (History, Princeton University); Arupama Roy (Centre for Political Studies, JNU); Sitara Roy (Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen); Julie Stephens (History, Yale).

University of Michigan Participants: Juan Cole (History); Manan Desai (American Culture); Geoff Ely (History); Matthew Hall (Anthropology); William Glover (History); Vikramaditya Khanna (Law); Ramamani Mahalingam (Psychology); Fariba Mir (History); Aseem Punathambekar (Communication Studies); Mrinalini Sinha (History).
New Media and Social Change in Pakistan

Zeba Hashmi

The 5th annual U-M Pakistan conference, held on April 3, 2015, engaged the theme of “New Media and Social Change in Pakistan.” The day-long event was collectively organized by the Pakistan Students’ Association and the CSAS, and consisted of presentations by academics and practitioners, as well as journalists in the field of media in Pakistan.

The second panel, “Interrogating New Media: Limitations and Possibilities,” was composed of academics Mobina Hashmi (Brooklyn College) and Marta Bolognani (University of Bristol), and activist Sara Saleem. Saleem works on minority rights and internet freedom, and is the director of Bolo Bhi, a non-profit free speech group, and co-founder of Stories Beyond Borders. Her talk examined the relationship between online spaces such as twitter and existing social relations in Pakistan, Hashmi and Bolognani introduced a scholarly aspect of the conversation. Hashmi analyzed a range of online Pakistani publics and the ways in which they serve as spaces of contention over varying visions of Pakistan. Bolognani opened up the conversation by considering the issue of representations of Pakistan, reflecting on both the potential and limitations posed by new media.

Over the course of the day, the conference drew an engaged audience of well over 100 people, many of whom brought thought-provoking and insightful questions to the conversation. In addition, the discussion benefited greatly from the presence of a number of academics, both from the U.S and from Pakistan, who were present for a conference on the future of Pakistan Studies held the following day. Collectively, the panelists and audience members generated a productive discussion extending beyond the novelty of new media and towards the ways it intersects with existing socio-political relations and material conditions in Pakistan.

Conference Report

Future Direction in Pakistan Studies

Farina Mir

On April 4, 2015, the CSAS hosted an international conference on "Future Directions in Pakistan Studies." Jointly organized by Farina Mir of the University of Michigan and Kamran Asdar Ali of the University of Texas and jointly supported by the CSAS and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS), the conference brought together eight outside scholars to share their research on Pakistan, and to consider the future of Pakistan Studies. CSAS faculty participated in the conference as chairs and respondents. The conference was timed to correspond with the fifth U-M Pakistan conference, which was held the day before.

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Farina Mir, Associate Professor of History and Director of the CSAS. Kamran Asdar Ali then framed the day’s discussion in terms of the broader intellectual goals for the series. The first panel, on Art/Architectural History, included presentations by Mahvish Ahmad (Coalition for Social Research, Karachi), who discussed three architectural sites (Mohenjo-daro, Makli, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah’s mausoleum) that represent three moments in the history of southern Sind. Christine Granier of the U.M. Department of History and Art served as the respondent for the panel.

The second panel, chaired by U.M.’s Matthew Hahn (Department of Anthropology), on urban issues in Pakistan, featured Rabia Nadir (North South University) and Haris Gauhar, who discussed the potential and limitations posed by new media.

The day was capped by a robust discussion on the institutional, political, and intellectual issues that hamper the breadth—and often the quality, also—of scholarship on Pakistan. Many shared insights, and the day’s discussion extended beyond the novelty of new media, and towards the ways it intersects with existing socio-political relations and material conditions in Pakistan.

In Memoriam

Sabeen Mahmud (1975-2015)

Farina Mir

It is with great sadness that the CSAS commemorates Sabeen Mahmud, social and human rights activist, who was assassinated in Karachi on April 4, 2015. Actively involved in the arts, culture, and politics, Mahmud was a leading Pakistani journalist and co-founder of the online magazine ‘2nd Floor’. Her presentation focused on the national imagination and the ways in which it shapes the making of news. She discussed her own experiences reporting on Pakistan’s military operation in North Waziristan, and demonstrated the need to move beyond the question of censorship. Mahmud’s work was characterized by an insider’s perspective and an outsider’s curiosity, and she was known for her fearless reporting on issues ranging from women’s rights to the plight of the country’s communities situated along its borders. As noted in the wake of this tragedy in such publications as ‘The New Yorker,’ ‘The Economist,’ ‘The New York Times,’ and ‘The Guardian,’ among others, Mahmud was creating a space for public discourse in Pakistan, and giving herself the opportunity to create a more robust civil society in Pakistan. Her legacy will live on as we continue to learn from the strength and resolve with which she fought for justice.”

Niche, and their goals. She shared some examples of advocacy she had helped initiate, capturing the audience’s attention with both her wit and the significance of the work she was undertaking with colleagues in Pakistan. It was our privilege to host Sabeen, and to have the opportunity to learn from her first-hand about the work she was doing in Pakistan. It is a testament to Sabeen that the goals she was so committed to will continue to be pursued, as others take up the mantle at TFF.

image: Sabeen Mahmud was a leading Pakistani journalist and co-founder of the online magazine ‘2nd Floor’.
Arun Agrawal, Professor at the School of Natural Resources & Environment, has three forthcoming collaborative publications: “Community Forest Management and REDD+ in Forest Policy and Economics: Motivational Crowding in Sustainable Development Interventions: Assessing the Effects of Multiple Treatments” in American Political Science Review; and “Adaptive Development” in Natural Climate Change. He was also a co-author of the article “Governing Agriculture-Forest Landscapes for Climate Change Mitigation” in Global Environmental Change. He is currently co-principal investigator for the NASA Large-Scale Land Transitions as Drivers of Land Cover Change in Sub-Saharan Africa,” and principal investigator for the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) grant “Integrating Forest Comms and Global Datasets.”

Ravi Anupindi, Professor of Technology and Operations and David B. Hermelin Professor of Business Administration, has been appointed to the board of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan. He also received the Contribution to the Research Enviro- ment (CREOR) Award for 2015, an annual award given to senior faculty for creative, substantive, and high-impact contributions in improving the research environment at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. He published the case study “Delivering Health care in Rural India: ITC-CARE Experience” in Globalisation (case 1-429-319, June 2015), and was also a co-author of “Costing the Supply Chain for Delivery of ACT and RDTs in the Public Sector in Benin and Kenya,” in Malawi Journal, 2015.

This year, Rechiket Chanchani, Assistant Professor of History of Art and Asian Languages and Cultures, has published a number of articles in peer-reviewed journals and anthologies. These articles are on subjects as varied as the functions of penning paintings in letters sent by mercantile communities to Jaina precursors and the nexus between architecture and metallurgy in medieval South Asia. Chanchani’s most recent piece, “Monuments Men needed in Nepal,” has recently appeared on the main editorial and opinion pages of The Hindu, one of India’s leading English-language newspapers, with nationwide circulation and a daily print run of nearly 1.4 million copies.


This past year, Leela Fernandez, Glenn Dicker- son Collegiate Professor of Women’s Stud- ies and Professor of Political Science, contributed “Indias Middle Classes and the Post-Liberation State: A Theoretical Perspective” to the 2015 Cambridge Scholars Publication The Trajectory of India’s Middle Class: Economy, Ethics, and Envoi. She also published “The Paradigm of India’s Middle Class” in the Routledge Handbook of Contemporary India. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows and organized a major symposium on the post-liberalization state.


Faruin Miq, Associate Professor of History, published “Introduction: AHR Forum on ‘The Archives of Decolonization,’” American Historical Review (June, 2015). She has been awarded a Faculty Fellowship at U-M’s Institute for the Humanities for 2015-16, where she will be working on her research project, “Producing Modern Muslims: Everyday Ethics in Late-Colonial India.”

Aswin Punnambecker, Associate Professor of Communi- cation Studies, published “Satire, Elections, and Democratic Politics in Digital India” in Television and New Media (May, 2015), and co-authored “Race and Ethnicity in Post-Network American Television: From MTV-Desi to Outs- ource” (Television and New Media, forthcoming 2015) with Lila Wolcott (PhD-candidate in the Department of Communication Studies). In May 2015, Punnambecker was awarded the “Outstanding Young Scholar” Award from the Popular Com- munication Division of the International Communication Association. The award citation commended him for “the remarkable quality of [his] published scholarship, which has contributed significantly and richly to media, cultural, and communication studies, and to global media studies in particular.” In October 2015, the CSAS will be hosting “Digital South Asia: An International Conference on Media Culture and Politics in South Asia,” which has been organized by Punnambecker (see p. 4).

Thomas Trautmann, Professor Emeritus of History, has published Elephants and Kings: An Environ- mental History. The book traces the history of the war elephant in India and the spread of the institution to the west—a history which spans 3,000 years and a considerable part of the world. Publisher and editor Rukun Advani wrote a piece about Elephants and Kings in The Telegraph (Calcutta), calling it “that rare gift of a great book which publishers don’t ordinarily get, or get only twice or thrice over their careers.” It has been published in India by Permanent Black and in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press. In summer 2015, Jeff Wilson, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, co-led a workshop dedicated to the research of biotic change across the Cretaceous- Paleogene of India. This workshop, the first supported by STEPPE (Sedimentary Geology, Time, Environment, Palaeoclimatology, Energy), an NSF-supported consorti- um dedicated to the promotion of multidisciplinary research and educa- tion on Earth’s deep-time sedimen- tary crust, brought together a team of 16 geochemists, geochronologists, palaeoclimatologists, palaeontologists, and volcanologists to focus on time, life, and environment during the end of the dinosaur era in India. The end of the dinosaur era (the Mesozoic Era, roughly 65 million years ago), was punctuated by one of the most devastating mass extinctions in Earth history, which led to a collapse of dinosaur-dominated terrestrial ecosystems and a radiation of mam- mals that shaped today’s biota. A widely held view is that this asteroid impact and its immediate aftereffects caused this mass extinction. While there is no scientific doubt that this impact struck and had devastating effects, there was ecological instability in land-based ecosystems prior to impact, raising questions about its efficacy as the sole killing agent. The Deccan Traps of peninsular India are the remnants of 1.1 million km² of basalt that began erupting several hundred thousand years prior to the end-Mesozoic impact and continued after that event. It has been suggested that the Deccan Traps played a critical role in destabilizing ecosystems prior to the asteroid impact. Wilson and his team evaluated this hypothesis by tracking changes in the Indian biota preserved in sedimentary rocks associated with the Deccan Traps. These fossils of dinosaurs, mammals, and other terrestrial animals, which represent a fauna that existed during this key interval, have the potential to provide a fossil chronology in India that would track biotic change across the end-Mesozoic extinction event. On January 15, 2016 (4pm, 1361 SWWR), Wilson will be sharing his research in the CASA Lecture Series. His lecture is entitled, “India Before the Himalayas: Deccan, Deccan Traps, and Mass Extinction.”

New Staff Introduction

Desiree Gerner joined U-M and the Center for South Asian Studies as its programmer in mid-January. Her principal responsibilities are managing logistics, event planning and organization, and publicity for the Center. Desiree, a Montana native, comes to us most recently from Cincin- nati, where she worked on the Mummies of the World travelling exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center. Desiree holds two B.A. degrees from the University of Montana in English and Classical Civilization, an M.A. in Classics from the University of Oregon, and an M.A. in Ancient History from the University of Cincinnati.
In summer 2015, the Global Information Engagement Program (GiEP) sent its second cohort of students to India. 20 University of Michigan graduate students from 8 schools and colleges traveled to India to work in teams with a variety of non-profit organizations. Student participants came from the School of Information, the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, the Health Informatics program, and the Schools of Public Health, Education, Nursing, and Social Work. Each GiEP project allows students to engage international communities through application development, needs assessment, product design, information management and other skills obtained while studying for graduate degrees.

This year’s projects were:

- **Urban Informatics Portal: Mapping City Data in Bangalore, India**
  - Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore; Betty Cooper, Malcolm MacLachlan, Drew Phillips, Frank Romo
  - This project sought to increase transparency and clarify in Bangalore’s property market through a web-based mapping system which compiles, companies, and displays relevant housing data. The website was designed to demonstrate how property pricing information can be gathered and presented to the public.

- **Library Management**
  - National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum; Sybil Boone, Jharna Pascual
  - NISH is both a research center and a college for the deaf. In addition to creating a website for the NISH, the team assisted the institute’s library in establishing formal procedures and a collection development policy that will help the librarian make good decisions on how to expand services and materials going forward.

- **Disability and Sport**
  - National Institute of Speech and Hearing, Trivandrum; Sessie Burns
  - This project entailed creating a website to assist people with disabilities to become more involved in sporting activities. A central component of the site is a 20 part-video series of mapping stories of athletes with disabilities discussing their challenges, how they overcame them to play, and how sports enriched their lives. (disabilityportals.wordpress.com).

- **Health Learning Management System**
  - Sundaram Medical Foundation/Be Well Hospitals, Chennai; Shrihan Fearad, Alyson Mackay, Abi Vijayar
  - The team configured and implemented an open source learning management system (LMS) for two distinct health organizations. Be Well Hospitals used the LMS to standardize training across their seven satellite units, while the Sundaram Medical Foundation focused adoption on specific departments that would serve as models for further expansion within the organization.

- **India ElderConnect**
  - Nearthings Medical Trust, Bangalore; Pritha Dasgupta, Anna Myers, Rachel Alward, Tom Bergman
  - India ElderConnect is a web portal that addresses the needs of senior citizens and their families, and provides an outlet for eldercare organizations to share their services. The goal is to support senior citizens with useful information that encourages healthy living and fosters community connections, all within an accessible, user-friendly interface.

- **Flexible Learning Management System**
  - The Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore; Serena Goraah, Jesse Kenttster, Brandon Patterson
  - The team used the online learning management system Moodle to expand the traditional higher education curriculum in India and offer experimental modes of instruction on topics of interest to the intellectually curious with courses ranging from Hindi Translation to Comics and Urban Imagery. Moodle was customized to allow instructors to create courses and manage content.

- **Mobile Maternal-Child Health**
  - Koin, Kolkata; Amulya Dasika, Nick Reid, Jackie Wolf
  - The team developed the KOL-Health mobile application to connect community health workers in rural communities with medical care providers. The application improves real-time health data collection, such as patient registration, collection of vital signs, recording of symptoms, surveys, and messaging and prescription requests sent to doctors for faster patient care.

- **School of Public Health: Research, Training, and Educational Collaborations with India**

  - **The University of Michigan School of Public Health (SPH)** has expanded research, training, and academic exchanges in India over the past ten years through multiple institutional partnerships. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), established in 2006 to build national public health capacity with its five affiliated Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPH) located throughout India, represent one of the school’s longstanding partners. More recently, the SPH has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh and with the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Pondicherry, which are two of the four autonomous Institutes of National Importance for Medical Education and Research as designated by the Indian Government.

  - **Professor Bhramar Mukherjee** in the Department of Biostatistics was awarded McKnight Foundation funding to evaluate and track maternal and child health in rural villages in West Bengal in collaboration with the School of Information and University of Michigan Health System.

  - **Dr. Matthew Boutron**, Senior Associate Dean for Global Public Health, in collaboration with PGIMER, is studying mother-infant measles sero-prevalence in Chandigarh. He has completed studies with PHFI and IIPHI-Gandhinagar evaluating vaccine delivery in Gujarat, assessing health indicators on school-aged children in Haryana, and characterizing vaccination timeliness on 300,000 Indian children.

  - **Assistant Professor Andrew Jones** in the Department of Nutritional Sciences is developing a behavior change intervention integrating evidence-based strategies to improve birth outcomes through increased nutritional status.

  - **Assistant Professor Rishi Mistry** in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education is working on an antenatal intervention focused on tobacco cessation among pregnant women and new mothers.

  - **Dr. James Koopman**, Professor of Epidemiology, is funded by WHO to investigate the ongoing epidemiology of polio in India and assess the probability for re-emergence of disease through development of mathematical models of disease transmission dynamics.

  - **Training, Education, Scholar Exchange**

    - Partner institutions in India have expressed a strong interest in health information technology and biostatistics training, education, and consultation from SPH. As a result, SPH researchers are invited several times each year to different institutions in India to present workshops on statistical research methods and advanced methodology.

  - **GLOBAL STACORE**

    - Given the continued demand for training and education in India and other parts of the world, the SPH Office of Global Public Health recently launched GLOBAL STACORE, an initiative co-directed by Professors Yi Li and Bhramar Mukherjee, intended to enhance biostatistical support of global public health research, education and training at the SPH, U-M, and in collaboration with international partners across the globe.
Faiza Moatasim defended her dissertation, “Making Exceptions: Politics of Nonconforming Spaces in the Planned Modern City of Islamabad,” in April, and graduated with her PhD in Architectural History and Theory in May. 2015. CSAS-faculty associate William Glover chaired her dissertation committee, and Intern Director of CSAS, Matthew Hull served on the committee. Her dissertation investigates the interface between formally and informally planned spaces in Islamabad, Pakistan. By examining a wide spectrum of nonconforming spaces in the planned city of Islamabad, Moatasim argues that these are not only representative of the everyday acts of resistance of the poor and the marginalized but also illustrate routine acts of entitlement involving the rich and the affluent. Urban nonconformity in her dissertation also emerges as an act of city governance, evident in the involvement of city officials and the courts in the creation and furthering of informal spaces. Hence, spatial nonconformity in her work materializes not as marginal dysfunctional phenomena, belonging only to the dispensable, but instead as a central feature of contemporary city-making, belonging to the realms of a range of actors including ordinary rich and poor citizens, and government functionaries.

Adam Liddle graduated in August with an MA in South Asian Studies from the CSAS. Liddle focused on his studies in Buddhism. His MA thesis is entitled, “Adventuring Cross-Cultural Pilgrimage: Addressivity and Similarity in the Promotion of a Tibetan Buddhist Pilgrimage in Peru.” It focuses on the ways in which a Tibetan Buddhist, Peru based Tibetan Buddhist center is promoting a pilgrimage to Machu Picchu by the leader of their lineage, H.H. Chetsang Rinpoche. By showcasing the similarities between Tibetan Buddhism and Peruvian Inca practices and belief systems, the center seeks to entice other western Buddhists to join the pilgrimage, in an effort to raise funds to build a Tibetan monument in the Sacred Valley outside of Cusco.

Lindsay Hentschel completed her M.S. Information degree at the School of Informatics this spring. She was awarded a FLAS fellowship in 2014-15 to study Punjabi language and culture. This spring she made a presentation in Singapore at the Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development. Her paper was titled, “Sada Yehra: A Framework of Crowdsourcing Punjabi Language Content.” It was published in the conference proceedings and is available in the ACM digital library.

In August 2015, Padma Chiramanimali, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Information, traveled to India to apprentice with television repairmen in rural Andhra Pradesh and talk to television watchers and cable and satellite distributors in the area. She hopes to get a grounded sense of how television has become a commonplace, everyday device in rural south India.

In her dissertation, “Historicity of Urdu: Chazas, Translation and Canonization,” which traces the processes through which the ghazal form and its most canonical practitioners—including Mirza Ghalib and Faiz Ahmed Faiz—have come to define both the Urdu language and Muslim identity in India today.

In 2015, Pedra Chiramanimali, PhD candidate in the Department of Information, traveled to India to apprentice with television repairmen in rural Andhra Pradesh and talk to television watchers and cable and satellite distributors in the area. She hopes to get a grounded sense of how television has become a commonplace, everyday device in rural south India.

Randeep Herhi is pursuing his PhD in the Department of Information and Communication Technologies, and seeks to contribute to an understanding of the relationship between public discourse, secularity, and diasporic discourse. For summer 2015, Herhi was awarded the Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship for Research on Issues of European Integration by the Center for European Studies at the University of Michigan.

Hofsa Kanjwal, PhD candidate in the Joint Program in History and Women’s Studies, completed her fieldwork (principally in Srinagar, Kashmir) in October 2014. She is currently writing her dissertation, “The Making of Kashmir: Education, Culture, and Muslim Empowerment in Modern Kashmir.” Her dissertation addressed state-led modernization projects during the Bhashk era (1953-63), one of the early post colonial regimes in Indian-administered Kashmir. Kanjwal examines the intents and outcomes of these projects, and the ways in which they intersected with and shaped a particular form of Muslim modernity.


Vishal Khandelwal is a PhD student in the Department of the History of Art. He received an International Individual Fellowship for a summer research project titled “The Prehistory of Building Tall in the Indian Subcontinent.” This project focuses on Hindu and Buddhist architecture in the Indian subcontinent from the 3rd c. BCE-12th c. AD.

Jane Lynch, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, is completing her dissertation, “The Good of Cloth: Bringing Ethics to Market in India’s Handloom Textile Industry.” Based on multi-scalar and multi-sited research, her dissertation explores questions of property, value, materiality, and the role of corporate institutions in the production and trade of handloom cloth in India. She is specifically interested in how claims about the “goodness” of handloom cloth offer insights into the ways in which the material and immaterial dimensions of social, economic and ethical life are fundamentally entwined. Lynch is the recipient of the Marshall Weizenberg Dissertation Fellowship from the Department of Anthropology for Fall 2015 and will be defending her dissertation in Winter 2016.

Topi Mathur, PhD candidate in the Department of History, completed her dissertation fieldwork in August 2015. Her dissertation is titled, “Known Geography: Indian Exploration and Professionalization in Nineteenth-Century South Asia.” It traces a tradition of native surveying and exploration to examine how a professional class of Indian explorers emerged and took form in the colonial period—a class that then died out when the theater of exploration shifted away from Asia.

Lisa Melick is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication Studies. Melick will study Hindi.

Amanda Allen (Urdu): Junior, International Studies major and Linguistics minor

Jacob Anderson (Urdu): Senior, Cellular and Molecular Biology major

Abir Azeem (Urdu): Senior, Neurosciences major, Asian Languages and Cultures and Mathematics minors

David Harrison (Hindi): Senior, Cognitive Science major, Asian Languages and Cultures and Mathematics minors

Ibrahim Ijaz (Urdu): Sophomore, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Elise Joycekar (Hindi): Senior, Sociology and Asian Studies majors

Syeda Mahbouba (Urdu): Sophomore, College of Literature, Science & Arts

Victoria Powers (Hindi): Senior, Political Science major

Melissa Rice is a pursuing a Masters of Urban Planning from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Bohim will study Bengal.

CSAS is pleased to announce that 4 graduate students and 8 undergraduates have been awarded FLAS fellowships for the 2015-16 academic year.

Graduate Student News

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES • FALL 2015
Summer in South Asia Fellows 2015

The Summer in South Asia (SiSA) Fellowship Program was established in 2006 with a generous endowment from an anonymous donor. Each summer, the SiSA sends select undergraduates students to India to conduct their own research projects, in conjunction with an institution—usually an NGO. Including this year’s fellows, the program has now supported 62 students to go to India on projects they devise and execute.

This year we had an impressive group of 41 applicants. After a rigorous review process, a faculty selection committee chose the six students below. Please join us on October 9 at 4pm in room 1636 of the School of Social Work Building for a symposium where the fellows will present their findings.

Jacob Anderson is a sophomore studying Cell and Molecular Biology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Jacob plans to pursue medical school after graduation and has an interest in international and urban health disparities. Jacob spent seven weeks working with Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) at the Vivekananda Memorial Hospital. The hospital works to provide cost-effective health care services to rural and/or marginalized populations. Jacob had the opportunity to work with both doctors and to work with administrators on a public health campaign. Jacob’s project involved collecting patient volumes on preventable health issues before and after the public health campaign to explore its efficacy and to make suggestions for future campaigns.

Sam Corey is a junior with a double major in Political Science and Psychology in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Sam interned with Nirotara Community Services in Bangalore. Nirotara is an NGO that provides financial literacy training and micro-finance loans to empower community members. Sam’s project explored the perception of micro-finance institutions and their ability to alleviate poverty in Bangalore.

Morgan Fitzgerald is a freshman planning to double major in International Studies and Environmental Science in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Morgan is passionate about exploring the tension between economic development and environmental sustainability, particularly in the realm of sustainable farming. Morgan spent five weeks volunteering with Nandanjan located outside Dehradun. Nandanjan promotes biodiversity conservation, organic farming, the rights of farmers, and the process of seed saving. Morgan spent her days sowing seeds, cooking food, and strengthening camaraderie with other local volunteers on the farm. She also had the opportunity to explore the administrative side of Nandanjan. Morgan’s project focused on Nandanjan as an organization and considered how it goes about fulfilling its mission, the extent to which it is successful, and other strategies it may employ.

Jamie Lutz is a junior majoring in Architecture in the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Jamie plans to pursue a graduate degree in urban planning with a focus on developing countries. Jamie volunteered with Human Wave, an NGO based in Kolkata. Human Wave serves the local community in a variety of capacities, including community development projects and English medium schools for children who reside in slums. Her volunteer work included teaching English in one of the schools and participating in ongoing community development projects. Jamie’s project focused on the distribution of public and private schools in Kolkata in comparison to population density and demographic data. She explored possible gaps in public education and how these relate to the location of slum communities. Jamie utilized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software in her research.

Ariana Paredes-Vincent is a freshman majoring in International Studies in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Ariana is interested in pursuing a career working in NGO settings and international development. Ariana volunteered with SETCO Foundation in Kolkata. SETCO Foundation strives to ensure that all women and children in a community have full access to healthcare, nutrition, education, and opportunities for growth. Her project focused on the impact of SETCO’s livelihood trainings and the affects they have on empowering women participants.

Talia Rothman is a sophomore intending to double major in Women’s Studies and History in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Talia wanted to further explore her passion for human rights in an NGO setting after the experience she had as an intern in the Sexual Violence Program at the Human Rights Center at the UC, Berkeley School of Law. Talia volunteered with Guita in Varanasi. Guita is an NGO that fights the sexual exploitation of women and girls with a focus on forced prostitution and human trafficking. As a volunteer, Talia participated in outreach campaigns, coordinated creative projects for second generation prostitution victims and shadowed senior officials within the organization. Her project focused on the efficacy of Guita and also explored how employees work with second generation prostitution victims and their perceptions on what makes this population most vulnerable to prostitution.

CSAS Hughes Fellow 2014

Mary E. John, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi, was a Hughes Fellow at the CSAS in fall 2014. While in Ann Arbor, she worked on her book project, tentatively titled, Feminist Trajectories in Time and Space: Perspectives from India. The project seeks to provide a sense of how “feminism” in India (in its many definitions and loose connotations about women) acquired its conceptual vocabularies from the nine-teenth century to the first decades of the twenty-first. In both contributes to and questions mainstream approaches to the history of thought and the disciplinary genealogies of modern India by tracking the significance of new conceptual vocabularies as they took shape around “women” and their perceived wrongs and rights. These concepts effectively preceded the institutionalization of disciplines such as sociology, economics, or politics during the colonial period, and played a founding role for new movements like the women’s movement in the 1970s. Several chapters track conceptual shifts across broad periods and in so doing trace the histories of thought around “women” in relation to the actual working out of leading nodal questions. In so doing, standard arguments about the “difference” of spaces like India in theoretical discussions are subjected to scrutiny. The most prominent of these is the West/non-West dichotomy, which has led to various efforts to think “authentically” outside the West and its categories. Yet another grid has been the universal-particular opposition. Instead, the project demonstrates that there is considerable insight to be gained by actually heeding the sets of categories that were set in motion and acquired a certain density and stability over time, whether during the period of social reform, the era of development, or the postnational destabilizations of more recent decades. This mode of theorizing is not only good for India, but also offers fresh ways of thinking comparatively in order to promote South South and South-North conversations. John presented the opening chapter of the book in a public lecture on September 19, 2014, entitled, “Feminist Trajectories in the History of Thought: Perspectives from India.”

Partnering with the CSAS the University Library has purchased a new database called "India, Raj & Empire". This database contains the manuscript holdings of the National Library of Scotland on an extensive rich in coverage of South Asia from the foundation of the East India Company in 1615 to the granting of independence to India and Pakistan in 1947. Some of the areas that are well covered include:

• The East India Company; Government and Administration c.1750-1857
• Agriculture and Trade c.1750-1857
• Society, Travel and Literature c.1750-1857
• The Mysores and Mysa Wars
• Indian Uprising 1857-58
• The Raj; British Government and Administration of India after 1858
• Agriculture and Trade after 1858
• Society, Travel and Leisure after 1858
• India; Literature, History and Culture

There are also a number of essays, biographies, etc. that provide useful context for students and researchers alike. “India, Raj & Empire” is available through the library’s MyLibrary catalog. Simply search the title under “databases!”. Please feel free to contact the South Asian librarian (Jeff Martin, jeffmart@umich.edu) should you have any questions concerning his new resource. Assistance can be provided on an individual basis or class sessions.

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Thank you for considering a gift to the CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES!
September 11, 2015
Madhumita Lahiri, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Michigan
“Talking Pictures, Noisy Audiences: Early Sound Cinema in South Asia”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

September 16, 2015
Film Screening with Lalit Vachani, Independent Filmmaker
An Ordinary Election (125 minutes in Hindi and English, with English subtitles)
4pm • Room 2435 • North Quad

October 2–3, 2015
Digital South Asia: An International Conference on Media, Culture and Politics in South Asia
October 2, 2015  9:00am - 5:30pm
October 3, 2015  9:30am – 12:30pm
Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

October 9, 2015
Summer in South Asia Fellowship Symposium
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

October 12, 2015
Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan (Chicago)
“Pakistan—U.S. Relations: An Appraisal”
6pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

October 29, 2015
Venkat Dhulipala, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
“Longing for a New Medina: State Power, Islam, and the Struggle for Pakistan in Late Colonial North India.”
4pm • Room 1029 • Tisch Hall
Sponsored by the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies

November 16, 2015
Dilip Menon, Mellon Chair in Indian Studies, Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
“Writing History in Colonial Times: The Space and Time of Religious Polemic in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Southern India”
5pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

December 4, 2015
Rohini Pande, Mohammed Kamal Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University
“India’s Information Deficit and the Governance Challenge: Some Experimental Evidence”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building
Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

January 15, 2016
Jeffrey Wilson, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Associate Curator, Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan
“India Before the Himalayas: Dinosaurs, Deccan Traps, and Mass Extinction”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 19, 2016
Mark Wilkinson, Life Sciences Department, Natural History Museum, London
“Advances in the Study of Cryptic South Asian Biodiversity”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 22, 2016
Sarah Hodges, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Warwick
“Biotrash: The Afterlives of Medical Garbage in India”
4pm • Room 1029 • Tisch Hall
Co-Sponsored by Science and Technology Studies

March 11, 2016
Peter Molnar, Department of Geological Sciences, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 18, 2016
Gurminder Bhambra, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick
“Theory for a Global Age: Postcolonial Commitments, Interdisciplinary Entanglements”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 25, 2016
Sunil Amrith, Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies, Harvard University
“Struggles for Citizenship around the Bay of Bengal”
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building