



CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

University of
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Newsletter

Letter from the Director



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I'd like to welcome students, community members, staff, and faculty to the 2016-17 academic year and invite you to be a part of an exciting year at the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS).

Last year the Center hosted several stimulating conferences. The *Digital South Asia* conference explored the transformation of media on the Indian subcontinent (see p. 5). We are grateful to Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the Trehan Foundation Fund for making this conference possible. In April, the Organization of Pakistani Students and CSAS hosted its Sixth Annual Conference, *Infrastructure and its Discontents in Pakistan* (see p. 6), which brought together scholars from Pakistan and the US to focus on the complex issues surrounding development and infrastructure in Pakistan. Our final conference, a collaboration with other International Institute area centers, *Land Transactions and their Social-Ecological Impacts*, was a two-day conference attended by scholars from South Asia, Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia (see p. 4).

His Excellency Arun Kumar Singh, Indian Ambassador to the US, and Mr. Faisal Tirmizi, Consul General of Pakistan, spoke about current US relations with their countries (see p. 7). We also held two events focused on Dalits: representatives of the Dalit Women's Self-Respect movement discussed their stirring activities; and U-M and outside faculty discussed the pressing problems of discrimination, inequality, and suicide in higher education in India. Our Lecture Series included presentations on diverse topics, including dinosaurs, the geology of the monsoon, colonial

religious polemic, contemporary governance, and two film screenings about Indian elections and anti-Muslim violence (see p. 3). The CSAS also co-sponsored lectures organized by undergraduate students including the Sikh Students Association and the South Asia Awareness Network.

Last year the CSAS collaborated with the U-M College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to establish partnerships with two premier academic institutions in Pakistan: Lahore University of Management Sciences and Habib University (Karachi). These partnerships will bring students from these two universities to U-M and foster faculty collaboration between our institutions (see p. 7).

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our Summer in South Asia (SISA) undergraduate fellowship program continues to thrive. This summer we sent ten U-M students to India to work on a terrific range of research projects, including textiles, domestic labor, Ayurvedic and allopathic medicine, literacy, and waste management (see p. 14). Please join us on September 30 for the SISA Fellowship Symposium to hear about the fellows' experiences in India. We are grateful to an anonymous donor for making this wonderful program possible.

We have an exciting program for next year. On October 7-8 a major international conference, *Sound and South Asia*, will explore the the place of wide variety of sounds in South Asian life (see p. 4). We are grateful to Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan for their support of this conference. Our Lecture Series next year will include talks on a diverse set of topics, including Indian Ocean piracy, surrogate

mothers, river port bureaucrats, rural development, justice and tolerance in Islamist thought, Buddhist concepts of mind, colonial medical jurisprudence, medieval Indian public sphere, Bollywood and Hollywood, and caste in elite contemporary institutions (see p. 16).

I would like to thank Desiree Gerner, who has left her position as Academic Program Specialist, for her valuable contribution to the Center over the past two years. We are excited that Janelle Fosler, former CSAS Fellowships Coordinator, will step into the position. We are grateful to Megan Erskine who did terrific work for the Center during the transition. Lastly, I am grateful for the tremendous work Farina Mir did for the Center last year, despite her leave, and we look forward to her return to full duty as Center director this fall.

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 Engineering (p. 10) and the Law School (p. 11).

Please check the Center's website for more information about events and news about South Asia at U-M. I look forward to seeing you at our events (all of which are free and open to the public) and to your contributions to the conversation.

Matthew S. Hull

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

Varuni Bhatia

A Conversation with Nakul Sawhney



On April 1, 2016 the CSAS welcomed Nakul Sawhney to U-M for the screening of his latest documentary, *Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai* (*Muzaffarnagar Eventually*), on the anti-Muslim massacre that broke out in 2013 during the run-up to the 2014 elections in Muzaffarnagar. Sawhney is an established Indian documentary filmmaker, whose credits include the highly acclaimed *Izzatnagari ki Asabhya Betiyan* (*The Immoral Daughters in the Land of Honour*).

Varuni Bhatia, Assistant Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, recently spoke with Sawhney about his start in filmmaking and his recent films. This discussion was lightly edited for clarity.

How did you come to documentary filmmaking?



In college, between 2000 and 2003, we saw documentary films like *Ram ke Nam* (*In the Name of Ram*) by Anand Patwardhan. Before that, the only documentary films I had seen

were the Films Division documentaries telecasted on Doordarshan—and that was what one understood as “documentaries.” The Patwardhan documentaries introduced me to another kind of storytelling which was fascinating to me. Since then, I saw Rahul Roy's films, and other kinds of films which got me clued into this form. Gujarat happened (2002 Gujarat riots) and a whole range of films were being made and screened on the violence that had taken place in those riots. The power of this kind of cinema, this kind of narrative form, this kind of story telling, really appealed to me. I was already a political person in college, and hence I was drawn to these kinds of films. At the same time, I enjoyed traveling a lot. I enjoyed the idea of storytelling through another form, another kind of medium. Everything put together just fascinated me about this form.

Can you tell us a little bit about your Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) days and your decision to become a documentary filmmaker?

By the time I went to FTII, I was already quite sure I wanted to make documentary films. I went to Bombay after that for a couple of years, but I just didn't enjoy working in the film industry. It was good that I went there because I went back to my first love. I could see more clearly that this is what I wanted to do.

Coming to Izzatnagari ki Asabhya Betiyan (The Immoral Daughters in the Land of Honour), how did you come to making this film? There are these powerful women in the film, how did you find them and get them to speak to you on the camera?

There was so much happening at the time in the region—these so-called honor killings were all over the media, and coming from Delhi, it was so close to home. I was keen to see this, explore this a little more. I went there and I began shooting and then I traveled extensively and met a lot of people. One recurrent feature was young women.

How did you negotiate the gender field as a male filmmaker speaking with women and men on a topic so controversial?

One learns from one's mistakes. I remember walking into a school, a girl's school where there were just three of us men as a part of the film crew, and they were very uncomfortable. That was an experience I took with me and when I went to Muzaffarnagar for the next film, I took this lesson with me. That said, the protagonists of the film *Izzatnagari* were very forthcoming. The protagonists were already familiar with being in the public glare as well.

In our earlier conversations, you spoke about the connection between Izzatnagari ki Asabhya Betiyaan and Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai. One of the things you mentioned (and which comes

out brilliantly in the two films) are the changes within the Jat agrarian economy. Your films tease this aspect out, such that gender and religion do not become simply cultural components but are also very strongly linked to the political economy of the region. I am curious to have you talk a bit more about this.

When I was working on *Izzatnagari*, in December 2010, I had also traveled to Muzaffarnagar then. My aim was to understand what was happening in the Jat belt outside of Haryana. Muzaffarnagar and Shamli district (in western Uttar Pradesh) also have a strong Muslim population.

One could sense, then, that this kind of Jat identity politics, which had shown itself to be anti-women and anti-Dalit in Haryana, could be channeled to become anti-Muslim as well—and it would have a lot to do with gender issues, where the diktats by *khap panchayats* against inter-caste marriages and so forth at a time when inter-caste marriages were on the rise. Now in western Uttar Pradesh where you have a strong Muslim population the same diktats would be issued against inter-religious marriages. That's where the whole concept of “honor,” which a woman is supposed to bear—community honor, family honor, so on and so forth—these would fit well into the diktats against “love jihad” mounted by the VHP. All this found a resonance with each other. I wasn't very surprised when I heard about the riots and especially when it was all instigated in the name of “honor,” protecting Hindu women's honor from “Muslim men” allegedly “on the prowl.”

When I saw the two films, Izzatnagari and Muzaffarnagar, I felt that the films needed to be seen together even though they are separated by three years, that they tell two sides of the same story where the agrarian economy, gender and religion are closely tied to each other. Am I right in thinking this way?

I think *Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai* is very much a sequel of *Izzatnagari ki Asabhya Betiyan*. Yes, absolutely. It happened very unconsciously. I came to *Muzaffarnagar* largely because of *Izzatnagari*. And as a result, I had some understanding of what had transpired in the riots in Muzaffarnagar. I did not know it would become a documentary, or what kind of a documentary when I first went there after the riots.

Land Transactions and their Social-Ecological Impacts

Suhyun Jung

The Center for South Asian Studies co-sponsored a two day conference, *Land Transactions and their Social-Ecological Impacts*, on April 20-21, 2016. This workshop brought together nineteen scholars from Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Sweden, Vietnam, Liberia, and the US who work on land transaction issues globally. The workshop was intended to discuss the state of research on land transactions, identify key areas for future research, and fill the gap in the land transactions literature by bringing together researchers studying land transactions from very different epistemological and methodological perspectives.

The past decade has seen a surge in efforts aimed at gaining control of land and land-based resources all over the world. Over this period, food, energy, finance and environmental crises have led to large scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by international and national actors. Although the motivations for the investments vary, they all involve new, distant actors (be they domestic or international) who seek control over land in ways that change existing land use patterns and affect the livelihoods of local residents. As research on land transactions has blossomed in the last decade, it has generated new research findings about the antecedents, structure, and outcomes of land transactions globally. Many aspects of land transactions and land grabbing have been explored in detail. Yet, some aspects have received relatively less attention.

Madhumita Lahiri

Sound and South Asia Conference October 7-8, 2016

The Center for South Asian Studies is pleased to announce an international conference titled *Sound and South Asia* on October 7-8, 2016. The study of what we hear has conventionally been reserved for the medical specialist, the acoustic engineer, and the ethnomusicologist. However, in recent years the life of sounds – from the most refined of classical music to the most irritating of street noises – has become a topic for disciplines as diverse as history, law, economics, performance studies, and film studies.

This two-day conference will bring together scholars from India, the United Kingdom, and the United States to explore and answer several related questions. How does sound become a commodity in South Asia, whether through its purchase in music stores or through its theft in digital arenas? How do the instruments through which we receive sound, from seemingly optional technologies like the radio to expensive medical technologies like the hearing aid, shape our understandings of the social worlds that we inhabit? What might we learn from studying sound in performance contexts that are not solely focused on music, such as the

On the first day, papers by Kennedy Gastorn, Namita Wahi, and Laura German reviewed legal frameworks on land tenure that guide land transactions, and presented case studies in India, Tanzania, and Mozambique. The following three papers by Jens Friis Lund, Sai Balakrishnan, and Patrik Oskarsson investigated the causes and impacts of land tenure change through different types of interventions such as conservation laws in Tanzania and urbanization in India.

On the second day, Ian Baird, Nga Dao, Miles Kenney-Lazar, and Kevin Woods provided in-depth analysis of dynamics in causes and consequences of land transactions in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. In contrast, Suhyun Jung, Chuan Liao, and Kerstin Nolte studied patterns and environmental and livelihood outcomes of land transactions by looking into existing large datasets on land transaction boundaries/attributes and livelihood indicators and using statistical and simulation methods.

The co-organizers of the workshop, Arun Agrawal, Dan Brown, Suhyun Jung, and Chuan Liao at the University of Michigan and Jens Friis Lund at the University of Copenhagen would like to acknowledge and thank the Center for South Asian Studies, African Studies Center and Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan, as well as NASA, for their financial and/or staff support.

Urdu poetry recitation known as the *mushaira* or the Tamilian dance forms of *sadir* and *bharatanatyam*? And might South Asian film and moving image media, with their distinctive song-and-dance traditions, provide a distinctively subcontinental ideal for the use of sound? In keeping with these guiding questions, the conference is organized around four major themes: instruments of sound; sound in performance; sonic commodities; and the sound of images.

We look forward to welcoming Jayson Beaster-Jones (University of California Merced), Corey Creekmur (University of Iowa), Michele Friedner (Stony Brook University), Linda Hess (Stanford University), Isabel Huacuja Alonso (University of Texas-Austin), Madhuj Mukherjee (Jodhpur University), Neepa Majumdar (University of Pittsburgh), Daves Soneji (University of Pennsylvania), Pavitra Sundar (Kettering University), Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University), and Amanda Weidman (Mount Holyoke College).

Digital South Asia

Aswin Punathambekar

The Center for South Asian Studies hosted a two-day conference, *Digital South Asia*, on October 2-3, 2015. The conference was made possible with support from Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the *Global Media Studies Initiative* of the Department of Communication Studies. Thirteen outside scholars from institutions in the US, India, and the UK participated in four panels over the course of this two day conference. They were joined by several University of Michigan faculty from a variety of departments, including the School of Information and departments of Communication Studies, History, Anthropology, English, and Psychology, who served as chairs and discussants for the panels. The panels, which were attended by members of the university community as well as the public, addressed various dimensions of digital culture and politics across South Asia.

Home to about one-fourth of the world's population and the largest demography of youth across the globe, South Asia continues to stay outside the purview of scholarship concerned with how digital culture and politics are reshaping societies and states. South Asian nations' location at the cusp of a colonial past and a globalizing present, their burgeoning and heterogeneous citizenry, and diverse and fractious polities make them particularly rich sites for studying the ways in which digital affordances enable and constrain social and cultural politics.

This conference brought 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. Taking a comparative approach, speakers explored the study of digital and mobile media in South Asia at the intersections of a range of technologies, institutions, cultural practices, and spaces: old and new,

state and private, elite and popular, rural and urban, national and regional.

The Web, as a number of scholars have come to recognize, is better understood as a mosaic of online regional cultures that associate in complex and contingent ways with physical places. Given the sheer scale and complexity of 'regional cultures' such as digital South Asia, this conference marked an important step towards mapping and analyzing the relationship between digital media on the one hand, and on the other hand, 'South Asia' as an imagined regional, political, and cultural construct. The challenge facing participants in this conference was to locate various platforms, infrastructures, and practices within global contexts, while retaining a keen awareness of how the particularities of national, regional, and border-spaces in South Asia open up opportunities to generate more nuanced, and in the process, more expansive accounts of how digital media are reshaping our world. In doing so, papers at this conference also offered a timely snapshot of accumulated developments in media and technology environments over the last 30 years in a region that has shifted from being a strategic backwater for the West to a home to key global players in the information age. Over the course of two days, speakers investigated this

re-shaping by examining a range of networked digital technologies with consequences beyond South Asia, while being rooted in the specific historical trajectories of digital media within and across the boundaries of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.

The papers presented at the conference also spanned a wide methodological range. Taking stock of new forms of commercial and popular media production and use in these spaces, speakers presented industry and policy analysis, thematic analyses of digital and mobile media artifacts and infrastructures, discourse analysis of various online forums, and other approaches focused on understanding audience/user practices. Each presentation combined first-hand research with multi-disciplinary perspectives to offer original insights on the fast-changing landscape of Digital South Asia.

The papers presented at this conference will be published in an open-access volume entitled *Digital South Asia* (currently under review at the University of Michigan Press, co-edited by Aswin Punathambekar and Sriram Mohan).

The organizer of the conference, Aswin Punathambekar from the University of Michigan, wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the support from the Center for South Asian studies.



Infrastructure and its Discontents in Pakistan

Zehra Hashmi



Back (L-R) William Glover, Osman Khan, Matthew Hull, Majed Akhter, Hafeez Jamali, Nausheen Anwar, Leslie Hempson, Farina Mir, David Gilmartin; front (L-R) Nishita Trisal, Ahsan Kamal, Zehra Hashmi, Tara Weinberg, Pareesa Memon, Shahana Rajani

Capitalize “Back” at beginning of caption

The 6th Annual Pakistan Conference, organized by the Organization of Pakistani Students and the Center for South Asian Studies, was held on April 8, 2016. The panelists, academics and artists from Pakistan and the United States, focused on the theme of infrastructure and development. From the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to the jungle of flyovers and underpasses in Lahore, the development of infrastructure in Pakistan has rapidly transformed the country's landscape. This process has been accompanied by both critique and approval within Pakistani society. Through a conversation between artists and academics, conference participants engaged infrastructural development not as predetermined or inevitable, but as a process entangled with social and political implications. By exploring the particularities of infrastructural production and experience in Pakistan, the conference participants including both panelists and audience members grappled with the complex and multi-faceted aspects of infrastructure in Pakistan today.

The conference began with an introductory talk titled, “Rethinking Infrastructure & Development in the 21st Century in Industrializing Pakistan,” by Nausheen Anwar from the Institute of Business

Administration in Karachi, Pakistan. Her talk analyzed the relationship between infrastructure and industrial development in the 21st century through the prism of Pakistan's post-independence history, industrialization, and the present discourse of an ‘infrastructure crisis’ in the context of a globalizing Pakistan.

This talk was followed by a panel on “Infrastructure, Identity, and Place: The Politics of Mega Development Projects in Pakistan” with presentations by Majed Akhter (Department of Geography, Indiana University) and Hafeez Jamali (School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Habib University, Karachi). Akhter's paper examined the series of development projects collectively labeled the China-Pak-Economic Corridor. He drew on debates in political geography, Marxist political economy, world systems theory, and Asian studies to situate the controversy within the longer history of contradictory infrastructural intervention in the Indus region. His talk was followed by Jamali's, which explored the struggles over land and practices of place emerging from ethnic Baloch fishermen's entanglements with the Pakistani government's plans and practices for developing a large commercial seaport in the

coastal town of Gwadar. Collectively, they presented a nuanced and well rounded picture of the stakes and effects of infrastructural projects in Pakistan.

The second panel at the conference titled, “Detritus and Development: Seeing Infrastructure in Ruined Landscapes,” consisted of two artists, Shahana Rajani and Zahra Malkani, members of the Tentative Collective based in Pakistan. Aside from their art practice, they are teachers at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture and co-founders of the Karachi Art Anti-University. Using artistic and interdisciplinary research methods, they focus on the relationship of infrastructure to the landscape and ecology of cities. Reframing the controlled and constructed image of infrastructure as modern and technological progress, they highlighted the ruination of landscapes and degraded ecologies. They focused on the Ravi river in Lahore and its system of dysfunctional water sanitation plants and the mega-development project of Bahria Town, where a vast network of private infrastructure is displacing indigenous communities. By documenting the impact of infrastructural ruination at these two sites, the two artists powerfully portrayed the ruins created across a rapidly transforming landscape alongside ‘development.’

David Gilmartin, Professor of History at North Carolina State University, provided comments as discussant for all three panels. He put the presentations in conversation with one another, drawing them together within a longer history of state power, and regimes of property and law in South Asia.

The conference ended with a roundtable discussion on engaged scholarship in which scholars are involved in a beneficial reciprocal partnership with the community they study. This session included short presentations by graduate students working in various parts of the globe including India, South Africa and the United States. The roundtable was motivated by the discontent around development, which often manifests in contentious political action by communities, individuals, and social formations that are directly impacted by development projects and scholarship concerning them.



Ambassador Arun K. Singh chats with U-M students following his address.

CSAS Welcomed His Excellency Arun K. Singh

Janelle Fosler

The University of Michigan Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) welcomed His Excellency, Arun K. Singh, Ambassador of India to the United States, to campus on October 14, 2015.

Ambassador Singh delivered a public lecture, *India and the United States: Shaping a Partnership for the 21st Century*. Singh's public address focused on partnerships and continued cooperation between India and the United States. Singh pointed out that this partnership is mutually beneficial, citing economic ties, the achievements of United States' Indian-origin community, India's advancements in the field of science and technology, and the strategic role India plays in combating terrorism.

“Global peace and prosperity can be the outcome of US and India partnership... We shouldn't ask what India and the US can do for each other, we should ask what India and the US can do for the world,” he stated during the address.

University of Michigan sophomore Hannah Lynn was in attendance at the public lecture and appreciated the contextual knowledge that Singh shared regarding Indian society. “I came to hear more about the politics between India and the US, which he definitely covered, and just a little more insight on what his position is,” said Lynn, as quoted by the *Michigan Daily*.

Ambassador Singh participated in a roundtable discussion with a small group of faculty members and students who are involved in some of the many ongoing partnerships and research projects involving U-M and India. Approximately seventy U-M faculty are actively engaged in research in India and South Asia, and U-M scholars have at least seventeen research projects underway on Indian soil. CSAS has coordinated some of those



University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel and Ambassador Arun K. Singh

activities and supports ongoing research on India among faculty and students.

“The Center's work is to promote the study of and knowledge about South Asia, both within the university community, and beyond. The Ambassador's presence here today affirms this goal,” said Matthew Hull, director of CSAS.

The Ambassador also met with U-M president, Mark Schlissel and discussed areas for future collaborations between U-M and Indian institutions of higher education. Following his talk, Andrew D. Martin, Dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, hosted a dinner for the Ambassador attended by faculty, alumni, and community members engaged with India.

Ambassador Singh joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1979 and has over 36 years of Foreign Service experience. Arun K. Singh assumed his assignment as Ambassador of India to the United States on April 30, 2015. Previously he served as Ambassador of India to France from 2013-2015, and to Israel from 2005-2008. Singh has also held postings in Addis Ababa, Tokyo, Moscow, and New Delhi.

U-M Establishes Relationships with Two Pakistani Universities

Janelle Fosler

The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, in collaboration with the Center for South Asian Studies, is pleased to announce that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lahore University of Management Sciences and Habib University in Pakistan. Up to 10 students from each institution may now enroll in a semester of study at U-M for the next three years.

The Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), located in Lahore, is a private research university that ranked as the top university in Pakistan by *QS University Rankings*. The MoU was signed on December 30, 2015.

Habib University is a private liberal arts and sciences university located in Karachi, Pakistan. Habib University President Wasif Rizvi travelled to Ann Arbor to attend an official ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the relationship between the two institutions on June 17, 2016. The ceremony was hosted by James Penner-Hahn, LSA Associate Dean of Budget; Matthew Hull, Director of the Center for South Asian Studies; and Farina Mir, Associate Professor of History.



Matthew Hull (Director, Center for South Asian Studies), Wasif Rizvi (President, Habib University), James Penner-Hahn (LSA Associate Dean for Budget), and Farina Mir (Associate Professor of History) pose for a photo during Rizvi's visit to U-M's campus in June, 2016.

Under these agreements, both academic institutions are expected to build scholarly ties, facilitate academic cooperation, and promote mutual understanding. The Center for South Asian Studies looks forward to welcoming and working with students from Lahore University of Management Sciences and Habib University in the future.

Faculty News

Arun Agrawal, Professor at the School of Natural Resources & Environment, was awarded the STEP



Best Paper Award from the American Political Science Association, for the article, "Motivational Crowding in Sustainable Development Interventions: Assessing the Effects of Multiple Treatments," which was published in the *American Political Science Review*. Agrawal co-authored "Carbon, Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Forest Commons: Synergies, Trade-offs, and Implications for REDD+" in *Environmental Research Letters*. He is currently co-principal investigator for the National Science Foundation RAPID funded investigation titled "Global Dependence of Livelihoods on Forests and the Impacts of Forest Investments: Disaster Recovery in Nepal."

Nachiket Chanchani, Assistant Professor of South Asian Art, Architecture, and Visual Culture, received a



Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences Gonda Fellowship and spent six months in residence at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden. He gave invited talks at many venues including the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Mumbai; Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi; University of Delhi, Delhi; Teen Murti Museum and Library, Delhi; University of

Leiden, University of Bonn, and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Chanchani organized and chaired two scholarly panels at the 104th annual conference of the College Art Association in Washington, DC, while also jointly guest-editing volume 45 of *Ars Orientalis*. Publications include chapters in anthologies, and an essay on the main editorial and opinion page of the respected and widely read *The Hindu* newspaper.



Juan Cole, Richard P. Mitchell Professor of History, was the keynote speaker at the 76th Indian History Congress Annual Session that took place at Gour Banga University in Malda, West Bengal. His keynote lecture addressed the ways in which Persian poetry and Sufism, especially Qalandari works, became a vehicle for secular and heretical sentiments in Islam.

Manan Desai, Assistant Professor of American Culture, is on the Board of Directors of the South Asian



American Digital Archive (SAADA), where he contributes original archival research, assists in building digital collections, and serves as an editor and contributor to *Tides*, the online publication of SAADA. Desai authored "The Indian Wants the Bronx" and "D.W. Griffith Presents: The Hindoo Dagger" for the *South Asian*

American Digital Archive. He was a keynote speaker for the South Asian Awareness Network Conference in January, 2016.



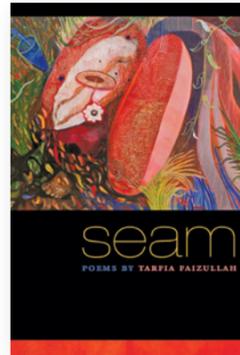
Jatin Dua, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, co-edited a special collection for

the *Journal of East African Studies* (Volume 9: 3: 2015) entitled "Pirates, preachers and politics: Security, religion and networks along the Indian Ocean coast." This volume featured an article by Dua titled, "After Piracy? Mapping the means and ends of maritime predation in the Western Indian Ocean." Dua also published an article titled, "Dhow Encounters" in a special issue of *Transition* on Afro-Asian Worlds. In April, 2016 Dua was awarded an NSF grant to begin a new research project on global chokepoints of trade. Dua will begin fieldwork in the summer of 2016 in Djibouti on the Bab-el-Mandeb strait and rethinking the boundaries of South Asia and Africa in the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean.

Tarfia Faizullah, Delbanco Visiting Professor of Creative Writing, authored *Seam* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2014), a work of poetry which



focuses on women being raped by Pakistani soldiers during the Liberation War of 1971. Faizullah received several awards for this book: the 2015 Great Lake College



Association New Writers Awards, the 2015 VIDA Award in Poetry, and the 2015 Binghamton University Milton Kessler Poetry Book Award.

Leela Fernandes, Glenda Dickerson Collegiate Professor of Women's Studies and Political Science, has been working on two projects. The



first is an edited volume, *Feminists Rethink the Post-liberalization State: Inequality, Exclusion and Change* (NYU Press, forthcoming). The second is based on new research she is conducting in India for a book project, *Public Works in a Post-Liberalization State: Urbanization, Inequality and the Politics of Water in India*. Fernandes is the South Asia editor of the journal *Critical Asian Studies* and serves on the selection committee for the American Institute for Indian Studies.



Matthew S. Hull, Associate Professor of Anthropology, published a feature in *Herald*, the

leading Pakistani news magazine, titled, "Paper Reform: Tweaking the journey of the humble government file" (February 2015).

Vikramaditya Khanna, William W. Cook Professor of Law, authored and co-authored a number



of chapters in *The Indian Legal Profession in the Age of Globalization: The Rise of the Corporate Legal Sector and its Impact on Lawyers and Society*. Khanna also co-authored chapters titled "Board Independence in India: From Form to Function?" in *Independent Directors in Asia: A Historical, Contextual and Comparative Approach* and "Anticipatory Bail in India: A Novel Way to Address Misuses of the Criminal Process" in the forthcoming *Research Handbook on Comparative Criminal Procedure*.



Farina Mir, Associate Professor of History, spent 2015-16 as the Jane and Norman Katz Fellow at U-M's Institute for the Humanities, where she worked on her research project, "Producing Modern Muslims: Everyday Ethics in Late Colonial India." In 2015, she published "Introduction: AHR Forum on 'The Archives of Decolonization,'" in the *American Historical Review* and "Muslim Religious Reform Movements," in *Keywords in Modern Indian Studies*.

Joyojeet Pal, Assistant Professor of Information, was the filmmaker of the documentary *For the Love of*



a Man, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September, 2015, and was later screened at the Mumbai Film Festival. This film follows fans of Tamil cinema 'superstar' Rajnikanth, and documents ways in which their fandom often becomes integral to their identities and to the identities of the people around them. *For the Love of a Man* will be available on Netflix. Pal also recently coauthored the article "Twitter and the Rebranding of Narendra Modi" in the Mumbai-based journal, *Economic & Political Weekly*.



Shobita Parthasarathy, Associate Professor of Public Policy, is conducting new research on grass-



roots innovation projects that encourage Indian people with limited education and resources to develop low-tech and low-cost innovations to benefit their communities.

Parthasarathy is also exploring policy frameworks to foster such projects, whether and how this approach to innovation can contribute to the public interest, and how it might challenge or upend our traditional approaches. She has received seed grant funding for the project from U-M's Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and plans to begin her fieldwork in India at the beginning of the Winter, 2017 academic term.

Mrinalini Sinha, Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History and Professor of English and Women's



Studies, was awarded a 2016-2017 Faculty Fellowship from the Institute for the Humanities and is a Nominated Senior Fellow for the Michigan Society of Fellows. She is currently working on two book projects. *Complete Political Independence: The Curious Genealogy of a Nationalist Indian Demand* examines the historical run-up to the momentous 1929 decision by the official anti-colonial movement in India to demand a nation-state of its own. The other book project is a study of M. K. Gandhi's politics that eschews "internalist" accounts of his unique perspective on nationalism and attempts to place his views in relation to the political context of his times. Recent publications include: "Premonitions of the Past" in *Journal of Asian Studies* and "Crooked Lines and ZigZags: From the Neocolonial to the Colonial" in *How Empire Shaped Us*.

New Staff Introduction

Janelle Fosler transitioned into the role of Academic Program Specialist at the Center for South Asian Studies in April from her former position as the Fellowships Coordinator. Janelle began working at the Center in January, 2015 and has a professional background



and interest in study abroad and international education. Her principal responsibilities are managing logistics, event planning and organization, student fellowships, and publicity for the Center. Janelle holds a B.S. from Northern Michigan University in Secondary Education and a M.A. in Higher Education Student Affairs from Eastern Michigan University.

CSAS Executive Committee

The Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) is pleased to announce that Manan Desai (Assistant Professor, American Culture) and Aswin Punathambekar (Associate Professor, Communication Studies) have been elected to the CSAS Executive Committee for the 2016-17 academic year. Varuni Bhatia (Assistant Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures) will serve the second year of her two-year term.

The Center would like to thank Syed Ekhteyar Ali (Director, South Asian Language Program, Asian Languages and Cultures) for his service on the Executive Committee during the 2015-16 academic year.



Summer Travel Team members, Natasha Desai, Rushil Bakhshi and Kaylla Cantilina building our first iteration of a new prototype with Sumitaben, a partner stove builder.

Conducting a condensed water boiling test on the most current stove prototype.

Daniel Cameron

College of Engineering: BLUElab India Student Run Organization

BLUElab is a University of Michigan student organization composed of ten project teams who are united through a sustainable, human-centered design process. BLUElab believes that design is all about people, and that the best designs are sustainable, taking into account all social, economic and environmental impacts. Project teams are multidisciplinary and emphasize collaboration with local and international stakeholders to ensure that identified needs are appropriately addressed through co-designed technology.

BLUElab has taken their dedication to building sustainable technologies around the world, recently adding India as a destination. Michigan alumnus Harish Sheth met with BLUElab representatives Sita Syal and Erica Dombro in 2013. This relationship would build over the coming years, with groups researching and assisting the efforts of the Setco Foundation.

Sheth is the owner of Setco Automotive, which has a factory in Kalol, Gujarat on the west side of India. A portion of their profits go to the Setco Foundation, which “works to promote early childhood education, adolescent health, and women’s empowerment in the small villages surrounding the factory in Kalol,” according to the BLIP website.

In 2014, BLUElab India Project (BLIP) team members returned to Kalol for an intensive needs assessment that determined local villagers would greatly benefit from improved cook stoves and usable toilets. Smoke from stoves often accumulated in the home, posing various significant health risks. Usable toilets are scarce in Dolatpura, the village that BLIP works with, so the team collaborated with community members to create appropriate toilet technology.

In early 2015 and 2016, more teams went back

to work on the stove-building techniques they hoped would improve the living standards. BLIP is dedicated to assisting in the development of the process, and not simply importing modern stoves. The team worked with local women, men, and children to first learn their techniques before working together to improve those structures. Improvements were made and various prototypes were built using new designs with existing local techniques. Braving the triple-digit temperatures time and again, the stove team built and rebuilt stoves, working to decrease smoke inhalation and improve efficiency. With local contribution, the team was able to research material costs, functional needs, and construction techniques that would make new stoves affordable, efficient, and sustainable. Combining high-tech engineering tools and research with local materials provided some challenges for the team, such as figuring out exactly which of the available materials would be best for their needs. Various materials were used for different stoves, and time will be the next variable in determining what works best for the stoves in the future.

After iterations on the design, the more advanced technology came out to measure carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. The team discovered that they had drastically reduced these numbers, providing much safer and more efficient means of cooking in the homes of Dolatpura. More data analysis will be done over the coming year, but the team is excited about the work they have done with the community members and the progress they have made together. Understanding the existing toilets in Dolatpura was also a priority during travel. The concerns over privacy and sanitation are important to local

community members. Short and long term goals were coordinated with families in Dolatpura. These discussions also revealed complex social standards about how human waste is viewed. Composting toilets were selected to address the need for toilets while respecting social practices. Research was conducted in India, as well as back in the United States, producing invaluable information. Working with contractors and suppliers, the toilet team put their plans together.

After speaking to several contractors, one was hired and construction plans for the compost bins and outhouse were made. There was a quick turnaround as the foundation for the outhouse was laid within days. The full construction was completed with the BLIP team and the local community helping the construction crew at every turn ensuring the build would stay on schedule.

The effectiveness of the new composting toilet in Dolatpura will be assessed through data collection and ongoing communication with the family. One of the goals over the coming year is to work with the Setco Foundation to develop sanitation education with the goal of increasing adoption of toilet technology.

Reflecting on his time in BLIP, Sai Bolla remarked, “Over the past few years, we have developed incredible bonds and ongoing relationships with people in Dolatpura and the Setco Foundation that lead to lasting experiences and connections.”

Gifts, laughs, and tears were shared as the BLIP team said goodbye to the people of Dolatpura and the crew at Setco Automotive and the Setco Foundation. The work will continue back in Ann Arbor as well as India, preparing for the next stages of their collaboration over the coming years.

School of Law: Research, Training, and Educational Collaborations with India

Vikramaditya Khanna

The University of Michigan Law School (Michigan Law) has been expanding its activities in India over the last few years.

Michigan Law and Jindal Global Law School at O.P. Jindal Global University (Jindal) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Joint Centre for Global Corporate and Financial Law & Policy.



Professor C. Raj Kumar, O.P. Jindal Global University's Vice Chancellor and Dean of Jindal Global Law School [center] with Michigan Law Dean Evan Caminker and Professor Vikramaditya Khanna during a visit.

This provides the framework for Michigan Law and Jindal to develop collaborative initiatives on faculty and student exchange programs, teaching and research initiatives, conferences, publications and continuing legal education programs. Professor Vikramaditya Khanna, William W. Cook Professor of Law at Michigan Law, is Co-Director of the Joint Centre.

Among the areas of study are the regulation of financial markets and corporate governance in the United States, India, and other jurisdictions. The Centre’s activities primarily focus on research and legal policy analysis, facilitating development of collaborative research and teaching, and organizing lectures, conferences and symposia.

As one of the first steps toward developing this collaboration, Professor Khanna was appointed

a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Jindal for 2010-2011 and taught a course, *Law & Economic Development in India*, which had students from both Michigan Law and Jindal enrolled. The classes were conducted utilizing live via web-based video conferencing to facilitate interaction and engagement between classrooms in India and Michigan. Also, Michigan and Jindal jointly held a Conference in March 2011 on *Global and Comparative Corporate Governance* and Professor Khanna organized a Workshop on *Responses to Impediments to Doing Business in India* in February 2011.

Complementing its interactions with Jindal, Michigan Law has also had some of its students complete externships at a variety of organizations in India including the Alternate Law Forum (<http://altlawforum.org/>) and the Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education (IDIA) initiative (<http://idialaw.com/>) amongst others. Further, along with the *Law & Economic Development in India* course at Michigan Law, Professor Khanna also offers a mini-seminar on *Hollywood, Bollywood and the Law: The Globalizing Media and Entertainment Industry*.



Professor Vikramaditya Khanna teaching a course at Jindal Global University with students participating via live web-based video conferencing from U-M Law School.

FLAS Students

CSAS is pleased to announce that 8 undergraduates and 6 graduate students have been awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for the 2016-17 academic year. FLAS Fellowships provide tuition support and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The Center for South Asian Studies offers FLAS awards in Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Tibetan, and Urdu.

UNDERGRADUATES

Amanda Allen (Hindi) Senior, International Studies and Asian Languages and Cultures majors.

Sabrina Bilimoria (Urdu) Senior, Psychology and International Studies majors

Ibrahim Ijaz (Urdu) Junior, Public Policy major, South Asian Studies and Law, Justice and Social Change minors.

Syeda Zaynab Mahmood (Urdu) Junior, Sociology major, Asian Studies and Linguistics minors

Fatima Nasir (Urdu) Junior, Intended individualized major with an intended minor in International Studies

Naveena Thota (Hindi) Junior, International Studies major, South Asian Languages and Culture minor.

Komalpreet Tur (Punjabi) Sophomore, Intended Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience major.

Aneasha Yande (Hindi) Sophomore, Neuroscience major, Business minor (intended)

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Rachel Hirsch (Hindi) is pursuing a Master’s degree in South Asian Studies from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Salman Hussain (Punjabi) is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthro-History in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Janaki Phillips (Hindi) is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology from the Rackham Graduate School.

Salman Khan (Punjabi) is pursuing a Master’s degree in Area Studies from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Ojaswi Adhikari (Hindi) is pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Health from the School of Public Health.

Erika Linenfelser (Hindi) is pursuing a Master’s degree in Urban Planning and Urban Design from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Graduate Student News

2016 GRADUATE

The Center for South Asian Studies would like to congratulate 2016 graduate, Trevor Brabyn (MA, CSAS).

Trevor Brabyn completed his MA this spring in South Asian Studies. His thesis, entitled “Revisiting the Garden of Kings: Sovereignty and representation in a chronicle of Golkonda,” examines the most detailed surviving chronicle from



the Qutb Shahi kingdom of Golkonda, composed in courtly Persian in a region still beyond Mughal imperial reach in seventeenth-century Hyderabad. It demonstrates how the author’s complex discursive literary-political project was undertaken in dialogue with the powerful Indian Mughal (c. 1504-1857) and Iranian Safavid (c. 1500-1722) literary legacies, and attempted to elevate the Qutb Shahi rulers to the status of full-fledged world sovereigns. It also sheds new light on the highly mobile Indo-Iranian elite cultural milieu in the Deccan and the manner in which the practice of royal touring served as a main pillar of the Qutb Shah’s sovereignty across territory.

CONTINUING STUDENTS

Padma Chirumamilla, a PhD student in the School of Information, is in the midst of conducting a 12-month research project that explores the emergence of regional language cable television in the 1990s in the state of Andhra Pradesh in Southern India.



Chirumamilla is interviewing and working with television repairmen and cable television operators and focusing her studies on the factors that affected the swift popularity of television in this area. She was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant and a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork grant for this work.

Zehra Hashmi is a PhD student in the Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History. Her dissertation project examines the intersection of information and security infrastructures in urban Pakistan,



focusing on the encounter between Pashtun migrants in Islamabad and the state-run biometric identification system NADRA. Hashmi is interested in the historical continuities between the current state of security and colonial identification practices, through the territorialisation of the northwest frontier and tribal areas in Pakistan. She has received an International Institute Individual Fellowship, a Rackham Summer Research Grant and Rackham International Student Fellowship for preliminary ethnographic fieldwork and archival research.

Drew Haxby, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, is currently conducting fieldwork on land, debt and household economies in Kathmandu. In particular, his research

explores the boundary between formal and informal economic practices within family economic planning, and how this border area has shifted in the aftermath of the April 25th earthquake in Nepal. Based on multi-sited ethnography, his project explores the ethical dimensions of bureaucratic paperwork, the nature of



familial ownership in post-disaster Nepal, and the strategies employed for organizing kin within a changing urban environment. Haxby’s research is currently funded by the University of Michigan, the Wenner Gren Foundation and the National Science Foundation. He will be returning to Ann Arbor in the Fall of 2016 to begin writing his dissertation.

Leslie Hempson, PhD Candidate in the Department of History, is completing her dissertation, “Making the Khadi Economy: A Political Economy of Non-Violence for the Twentieth-Century India.” Hempson received the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship for the 2016-17 academic year.



Rachel Hirsch joins the Department of South Asian Studies this fall as an MA student. This past year, she worked as a research



assistant in the South Asian Department of the Smithsonian’s Freer and Sackler Galleries and began studying Hindi at SASLI in Madison, Wisconsin. Her research interests pivot around the cross-cultural dimensions of South Asian visual material.

Randeep Singh Hothi, a graduate student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, was awarded a fellowship to carry out his project, “Global Disseminations of Sikhism: An



Ethnographic Study of Sikh Television Production in Punjab.” Hothi’s fellowship is funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

Salman Adil Hussain is a doctoral student in the History and Anthropology program. He intends to undertake a historic and ethnographic study of the experience of transnational migrations to the Gulf from Sahiwal—a small, provincial city in central Punjab, Pakistan. Hussain hopes to explore the connections between the political, cultural, economic, and spatial shifts in the everyday life of this city and these gendered, transnational migrations. Hussain is a FLAS recipient for 2016-17 and will be studying Punjabi.



Amit Ittyerah joins the Taubman College of Architecture this fall as a first year PhD student. Ittyerah plans



to study the architecture developing along highway corridors in India. Ittyerah will examine these areas as characteristic of a post “urban/city” condition, in which the expansion of infrastructure and technologies into the periphery of cities undoes previous urban-rural and center-periphery divides.

Jane Lynch, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, will defend her dissertation, “The Good of Cloth: Bringing Ethics to Market in India’s Handloom Textile Industry,” in September



2016. Her dissertation traces the history, networks, and corporate projects of the Delhi-based company *Fabindia*—the largest private retailer of craft in India—as they intersect with regimes of property, efforts to support rural livelihoods, and the interests and ambitions of middlemen (*seths*) and weavers who produce cloth sold in *Fabindia* stores. Lynch will be a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome for 2016-2017, where she will undertake new research on the manufacture and marketing of artisanal textiles by *Fabindia Rome*.

John Mathias, PhD candidate in the Joint Program in Social Work and Anthropology, is completing his



dissertation, “The Ethics and Politics of Social Change: Two Approaches to Community Organizing in Kerala, India.” Based on ethnographic fieldwork with organizers in Kerala’s “people’s struggles,” his dissertation examines how environmental and social activists undertake ethical work such as identifying injustices, envisioning justice, sustaining commitment to this vision, and persuading others to recognize their causes as just. Mathias is particularly interested in how organizers distinguish between the ethical and political aspects of their work even while pursuing them in concert. He will be defending his dissertation in Winter 2017.

Janaki Phillips joins the Department of Anthropology this fall as a first year PhD student. Phillips received a Summer FLAS award for Hindi and participated in the South Asian Summer Language Institute in Madison, WI. Her future research interests include the intersection of urban studies, religion, and environmentalism in India. Phillips hopes to engage with and unsettle ideas surrounding the disenchantment of modernity.



Puninder Singh is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology. Singh has been based in Amritsar, Panjab, India for the last two years conducting fieldwork for his doctoral dissertation project, entitled “Living the Word: Language, Symbol, and Experience in Sikh Devotional Practice.” The project examines the Sikh concept of *shabad-guru* (which



translates most literally as “language-as-guru”) as a semi-otic/linguistic phenomenon. The study further takes an ethnographic look at Sikh devotees’ practices around *shabad-guru* that are thought to mediate the relationship between the mind/self/ego and the sensory world, with the aim of transcending their apparent phenomenological differences.

Nishita Trisal, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology, will begin her dissertation fieldwork in Indian-Administered Kashmir in July 2016. Her research examines the intersection of banking, finance, and the politics of insurgency and counterinsurgency through a study of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank and local debt courts. Her fieldwork has been funded by the Social Science Research Council, Wenner-Gren Foundation, National Science Foundation, and U-M’s Rackham International

Research Award. A co-authored publication with Dr. Mona Bhan on a previous research project is forthcoming in *Critique of Anthropology*, titled “Fluid Landscapes, Sovereign Nature: Conservation and Counter-insurgency in Kashmir.”

Lia Wolock, a PhD candidate in Communication Studies and 2015-16 FLAS recipient for Hindi, was named the 2016-17 James Winn Graduate Fellow by the Institute for the Humanities.



Her project examines the pioneering use of digital media among second-generation Asian Americans tracing their roots back to the subcontinent, and how this is related to a rising popular awareness of the idea of being South Asian American. In doing so, she offers a careful study of the mundane and unremarked digital labor that sustains new imaginaries of belonging and coalition building, and reframes connectivity, arguing it is as much a cultural process and practice—of endless, mundane care—as a technological feat.

Summer in South Asia Fellows 2016

The Summer in South Asia (SiSA) Fellowship program was established in 2006 with a generous endowment from an anonymous donor. Each summer, CSAS supports select undergraduate students to conduct independent research projects—usually in conjunction with an organization—in India. Please join us on September 30, 2016 at 4pm in room 1636 of the School of Social Work Building for the Summer in South Asia Symposium.

Grace Beckman is a junior with a major in English and a minor in Community Action and Social Change. Grace spent six weeks in Jaipur vol-



unteering with Pratham's Second Chance program, which provides women who dropped out of school with the opportunity to complete their secondary education. Grace's final project explored the factors that led women participating in the Second Chance program to drop out of school and, in turn, what motivated them to enroll in this program.

Hanna Dougherty is a sophomore with a major in International and Comparative Studies and a minor in Community Action and Social Change.



Hanna spent 12 weeks in India volunteering with the Jaymang Foundation, an organization dedicated to equal educational opportunities and literacy for girls and women in the Indian Himalayas. Hanna explored native perspectives of

the most pressing issues concerning education that exist in the region, and how international humanitarian aid has helped or harmed the path to improvement of the educational sector.

Aaruran Chandrasekhar is a second year student with a major in Philosophy and a minor in Mathematics.



Aaruran will be traveling across the country, exploring the relationship between wealth and textile accessibility. Considering the diversity of clothing options – from roadside shops to shopping malls to luxury Western fashion houses – Aaruran studied the factors associated with textile industrialization to determine whether they follow the general Indian wealth disparity trend.

Vaidehi Dongre is a sophomore majoring in International Studies with a focus on Southeast Asian political



economy and development. After graduation, she is interested in obtaining a JD/MBA in International Law. Vaidehi worked with scholars in Pune for four weeks exploring the difference in relationships between female employers and female maids depending on age group and income level.

Matthew Greydanus is a freshman that is pursuing a degree in Political Science and focusing his studies on a pre-medical track. Matthew spent five weeks interning on the Lifeline Express, the world's first hospital on

a train that has performed surgery on more than 100,000 people in rural India completely free of cost.



Matthew's final project explores whether mobile health care is safe, effective and efficient and how this type of care could fill a needed void in rural outreach of health care systems in developed and developing nations alike.

Samuel McMullen is a junior with a double major in Cellular and Molecular Biology and Philosophy. Samuel travelled throughout



India for four months to visually document the effects of waste generated by the production of goods across India.

Tsukumo Niwa is a junior with a double major in Oboe Performance and International Studies. Tsukumo spent seven weeks in Varanasi



volunteering with NIRMAN, an NGO with a focus on the development and patronage of the arts. Tsukumo's final project focuses on how the arts program benefits children's overall education.

Hanna Pfershy is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Hanna spent five weeks interning in Kasaragod with the Institute of Applied Dermatology, an



organization focused on research and application of integrative medicine – combining the benefits of Allopathy other traditional Indian medicines. Hanna's final project focused on how this organization has innovated and modernized classic Ayurveda medicine to fit the present conditions and needs of its patient population.

India Solomon is a junior with a major in Public Policy focused on Comparative Urban Policy and Sustainable



Development and a minor in Crime and Justice. India spent four weeks in Bangalore volunteering with Bubbles Centre for Autism, a specialized school for children on the Autism spectrum. India's final project explored how grassroots alternatives to treatment and education are improving the future prospects for children attending this school.

Madeline Stagner is a sophomore with a major in Elementary Education. Madeline spent six weeks



in Bangalore volunteering with Sparsha Trust, where she lived in a girls shelter that houses and educates roughly forty children. Madeline's final project explored how an academically focused residential program facilitates reintegration into mainstream education.

CSAS Visiting Scholar Library News

Jeff Martin

In spring 2016 Shahnaz Rouse, Professor of Sociology at Sarah Lawrence College, conducted archival research at the University of Michigan. While in Ann Arbor, Rouse worked with the Stewart Family Papers, which are part of the holdings at the Bentley Historical Library.



Hladia Porter and Ralph Stewart's wedding in 1954 in Punjab.

Both Ralph Randles Stewart and his second partner, Winifred Hladia Porter Stewart, were United Presbyterian Missionaries in what is today Pakistan. Hladia, a fourth generation member of a mission family, was born in 1896, in Gujranwala, now part of Pakistan.

From 1919 to 1954 she served as teacher of English and Bible, Vice Principal, and the acting Principal of Kinnaird College, Lahore. Ralph first taught biology at Gordon College in Rawalpindi in 1912 and remained there until 1960, serving as principal for two decades. Upon his retirement the couple moved to Ann Arbor, where Ralph was a Research Associate at the University of Michigan until 1981.

This research is part of Prof. Rouse's larger study entitled *Landscapes of Desire: Memory and History in Colonial Lahore*. One portion of that study is a close reading of missionaries and missionary education in Lahore. While Rouse is interested in Ralph, Hladia is especially significant for her study. Hladia was a transnational figure (born and raised in India) whose relationship with India spanned the colonial and post-colonial period. According to Rouse, examining her papers adds depth to our understanding of missionaries and women's education, and complicates the colonial/local divide.

One of the most important recent developments in South Asian collections across the country is a new cooperative initiative, the South Asian Materials Project Open Archive Initiative (SAMP OAI). The University of Michigan Library is a founding member of this initiative, which consists of twenty-three member institutions from North America and South Asia. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is the administrative home for the SAMP OAI.

The newly established SAMP OAI creates and maintains a collection of open access materials for the study of South Asia. This major collaborative initiative is aimed at addressing the current scarcity of digital resources pertinent to South Asian studies and at making collections more widely accessible both to North American scholars and to researchers elsewhere in the world. SAMP OAI will address needs in all academic disciplines, from the humanities through the sciences. With an initial emphasis on colonial-era

materials from South Asia, a carefully curated collection of resources will fill gaps in available online collections.

Several criteria will be used to select and prioritize resources for digitization, including:

- Value to research
- Utility for a broad population of users
- Uniqueness (not available through other credible, sustainable sources)
- At risk – due to condition, environmental or sociopolitical factors, or other threats
- Complementarity to other resources

“This project is a great move forward in terms of opening South Asian materials to researchers throughout the world. The University of Michigan Library is proud to be involved in this initiative.” says Jeff Martin, Librarian for South Asia & Anthropology.

Stay tuned for more information on this development from Jeff Martin or feel free to contact him should you have questions regarding this new resource (jeffmart@umich.edu).

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

OUR CENTER DEPENDS upon your generosity. If you would like to make a gift you may do so online by going to our website at: www.ii.umich.edu/csas and clicking on the “Give Online” button.

You may also call the Gift Help Hotline from Monday through Friday, any time between 8 am and 5 pm: **1-888-518-7888**

Thank you for considering a gift to the **CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES!**

CSAS Lecture Series 2016-17

September 16, 2016

Jatin Dua, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

Encounters at Sea: Piracy and Protection in the Indian Ocean
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

September 30, 2016

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

October 7-8, 2016

Sound and South Asia Conference
9:00am - 5:00pm
Room 1636 - School of Social Work Building

October 14, 2016

Jyojeet Pal, Assistant Professor, School of Information, University of Michigan
Screening and discussion of his film, *For the Love of Man*
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building



Courtesy of Anecdote films

October 28, 2016

Sharmila Rudrappa, Professor, Department of Sociology and Director, Center for Asian American Studies, University of Texas at Austin
Markets in Life: Surrogate Mothers on India's Reproductive Assembly Lines
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

November 11, 2016

Laura Bear, Associate Professor, London School of Economics
For the Vitality of Labour
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

November 18, 2016

Cynthia Talbot, Associate Professor, South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin
Royal Rage in Rajputana: The Politics of Anger in Mughal India
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

December 2, 2016

Tariq Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
The Making of the "Comilla Model": Experiments in Rural Development in East Pakistan, 1959-1971
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

January 20, 2017

Humeira Iqtidar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Economy, King's College London
Justice and Tolerance in Islamic Thought: Maududi's Al-Jihad fil Islam
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 3, 2017

Jonardon Ganeri, Professorial Research Associate, Department of Philosophy, New York University
Attention as the Key to Early Buddhism's Understanding of the Human Mind
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

February 17, 2017

Mitra Sharafi, Associate Professor of Law, University of Wisconsin Law School
Fear of the False: Sex Crimes and Medical Jurisprudence in Colonial India
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 10, 2017

Christian Novetzke, Associate Professor, South Asia Program; Comparative Religion Program; International Studies Program, University of Washington
Sonic Equality: Religion, Social Justice, and Everyday Life in the Nascent Public Sphere in Medieval India
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building



March 17, 2017

Nitin Govil, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California
Technicolor Transnationalism: Film Technology between Hollywood and Bombay in the 1950s
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

March 31, 2017

Ajantha Subramanian, Professor, Department of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Harvard University
Meritocracy and Democracy: the Social Life of Caste in India
4pm • Room 1636 • School of Social Work Building

April 7, 2017

U-M Pakistan Conference
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Room 1636 - School of Social Work Building