

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 Arshad Tehan and the Tehan 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 Area Center areas, Landscapes, and Their Socio-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 Ms. Fatima Mir, Consul General of Pakistan, spoke about current US relations with their countries (p. 6). We also held two events focused on Diaspora 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 our Lecture Series. The 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 a lecture 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 (SSA) undergraduate fellowship program continues this year. 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, Hercy, and waste management (p.14).

I hope you will join us September 10 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 place of wide variety of sounds in South Asia (see p. 4). We are grateful to Ranvir and Arshad Tehan 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 Islam and Buddhism, and colonial medical jurisprudence, medical Indian public opinion in Hollywood and Hollywood, and caste in India in contemporary institutions (see p. 16).

I would like to thank Desiree Grenier who has left her position as Academic Program Specialist, for her valuable contribution to the Center over the past two years. We are excited to welcome Janice Foster, former CSAS Fellowships Coordinator, who will step into the position. We are grateful to Megan Erskine who did all the 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.

As your Director, I look forward to being more active in the Center this fall. In the pages that follow you’ll find more information on the Center’s activities over the past year as well as what we have planned for the coming year. You’ll also see our Research on and engagement with South Asia 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 conversations.

Matthew S. Hull
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Director, Center for South Asian Studies

On April 1, 2016, the CSAS welcomed Nakul Sawhney to U-M for the screening of his latest documentary, Muzaffarnagar Raaj Bi (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 Betiyaan (The Immoral Daughters in the Land of Honor).

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.

A Conversation with Nakul Sawhney

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. I was still good at 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.

Comming to Izzatnagi kI Asabhya Betiyaan (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 travelled extensively and met a lot of people. One recurring 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 as men as 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, 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 gaze as well.

In our earlier conversations, you spoke about the connection between Izzatnagari ki Asabhya Betiyaan and Muzaffarnagar Raaj Bi. 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 Izzatnagi in December 2010, I had also travelled to Muzaffarnagar then. My aim was to understand what was happening in the Jat left outside of Haraya. Muzaffarnagar and Shahad district (in western Uttar Pradesh) also have a strong Muslim population.

I could sense, then, that this kind of Jat identity politics, which had shown itself to be anti-women and anti-Dalit in Haraya, could be channelled to become anti-Muslim as well—and it would have a lot to do with gender issues, where the diktats by h~ga~pa~m~pt~h~ng~s 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 “honour” which a woman is supposed to bear—community honor, family honor—on so and so forth—these would be further injected in 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 “honour,” protecting kinds honor from “Muslims” by using the term “love jihad.”

When I saw the two films, Izzatnagar and Muzaffarnagar it 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 Raaj Bi is very much a sequel of Izzatnagar ki Asabhya Betiyaan. 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

The Center for South Asian Studies co-sponsored a two-day conference, Land Transactions and their Social-Ecological Impacts, on October 7-8, 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 and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by and environmental crises have led to large-scale investments in land for conservation, resource extraction, commercial production, and/or speculation by world economies.

On the first day, papers by Kennedy Goettner, Namita Wahl, and Laura German reviewed legal frameworks on tenantry 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, Suiyun 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 discussing statistical and simulation methods.

The co-organizers of the workshop, Arun Agrawal, Dan Brown, Suiyun 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.

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 Ramnath and Adarsh Thanla 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 demographic 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 cross of a colonial past and a globalizing present, their burgeoning and heterogeneous citizenship, and diverse and fractured politics 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 production 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 audiences/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 Punathanbeekar and Sriram Mohan). The organizer of the conference, Aswin Punathanbeekar from the University of Michigan, wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the support from the Center for South Asian studies.
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 in a discourse about and the present context 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-Develop- ment Projects in Pakistan” with presentations by Majed Akhtar (Department of Geography, India University) and Haleez Jamali (School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Habib University, Karachi). Akhtar’s paper examined the series of development projects collectively labeled the China-Pakistan 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 Indo region. His talk was followed by Jamali’s, which explored the struggles over land and practices of place emerging from the Baloch fisherman’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 “Deteriorus and Development: Seeing Infrastructure Ruined Landscapes,” consisted of two artists, Shahnaz Rajani and Zehra Hashmi, 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. Reforming the controlled and constructed image of infrastructure as modern and technological progress, they highlighted the ruin of landscapes and degraded ecologies. They focused on the Rawi 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 ruination 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 use 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.

The University of Michigan Center for South Asian Studies (CSSA) 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. “It’s hard not to hear 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 seven research projects underway on Indian soil. CSSA has coordinated some of those 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 CSSA.

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 India’s ambassador to the United States on April 30, 2015. Previously he served as Ambassador of India to France from 2013 to 2015, and to Israel from 2005-2008. Singh has also held postings in Addis Ababa, Tokyo, Moscow, and New Delhi.
Anurag Agrawal, Professor at the School of Natural Resources & Environment, was awarded the Step Best Paper Award from the American Political Science Review. Agrawal co-authored “Carbon, Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Forest Commons: Strategies, Trade-offs, and Implications for REDD+” in Environmental Research Letters. He is currently co-principal investigator for the National Science Founda- tion funded investigation titled “Global Dependence of Livelihoods on Natural Resources: The Impacts on Lawyers and Society.” Khanna also co-authored chapters titled “Board Independence in India” from Before Function to Function? in Independent Directors in Asia: A Historical, Contextual and Comparative Approach and “Anti-Capital Bail in India” in a special issue of The Rise of the Corporate Legal Sector and its Impact on Lawyers and Society.

Leela Fernandes, Gonda Dickson College 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, is conducting his research project, “Producing Human Rights: Tinkering with the Indian Constitution,” in the summer of 2016 in Delhi. Hull’s research examines the ways in which Persian poetry and Sufism, especially Qalandari works, became a vehicle for secular and heretical sentiments in Islam.

Joyjeet Pal, Assistant Professor of Information, is the filmmaker of the documentary 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 ‘s’uperstar’ Rajinikanth, 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 Inheritance of Narmada Mod?” in the Mumbai-based journal, Economic & Political Weekly.

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 in planning and organization, student life, and library, delhi; University of Delhi; Delhi; Teen Murti Museum and Library, Delhi; University of Leiden, University of Bone, 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-edited volume 45 of Arts Orientaux. Publications include chapters in anthologies, and an essay in the main editorial and opinion page of the respected and widely read The Hindu newspaper.

Nashiket 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 Eastern Michigan 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.

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. 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 an nation-state of its own. The other book project is a study of M.K. Gandhi’s politics that eschews “nationalist” 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: “Paternologies of the Past” in Journal of Asian Studies and “Cinematic Lines and Engaage: From the Noveicained to the Colonial” in New Empire Shobhita Parthasarathy, Associate Professor of Public Policy, is conducting new research on grassroots 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, and how and whether this approach to innovation can contribute to the public interest, and how it might challenge or upset our traditional approaches.

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

The Center would like to thank Syed Ehtekar Ali (Director, South Asian Language Program, Asian Languages and Cultures) for his service on the Executive Committee during the 2015-16 academic year.
In early 2015 and 2016, more teams went back to work on the stove-building techniques they hoped would improve the living standards. BLIP was 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 the members, 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 improvements were made and various prototypes that lead to lasting experiences and connections.

Prof. 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 is 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 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 Profesor 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 Bollywood, Bollywood and the Law: The Globalizing Media and Entertainment Industry.

Influential Student Organizations

In 2014, BLIelan India Project (BLIP) team members returned to Kalol for an intensive needs assessment that determined local villageers 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 worked 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 was 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 the number of members, 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 improvements were made and various prototypes that lead to lasting experiences and connections.

The University of Michigan Law School (Michigan Law) has been expanding its activities in India over the past 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 Vikramaditya 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 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 Bollywood, Bollywood and the Law: The Globalizing Media and Entertainment Industry.

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 is 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 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 Bollywood, Bollywood and the Law: The Globalizing Media and Entertainment Industry.

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 is 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 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 Bollywood, Bollywood and the Law: The Globalizing Media and Entertainment Industry.
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 the area. She was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant and a Werner Griers 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 interaction of information and security in infrastructures in urban Pakistan, focusing on the encounter between Pashtun migrants in Islamabad and the state-run biometric identification project. Hashmi is interested in the historical continuities between the current state of security and colonial identification practices, through the territorialization 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 Hasky, 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 kits within a changing urban environment. Hashy'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 Henspie, 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.” Henspie 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 SAPI in Madison, Wisconsin. Her research interests pivot around the cross-cultural dimensions of South Asian visual material.

Randeep Singh Hetri, a graduate student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, was awarded a fellowship to carry out his project, “Global Dissentions of Sikhs: An Ethnographic Study of Sikh Television Production in Punjab.” Hetri’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 Hussein is a doctoral student in the History in the Department of Anthropology. His dissertation project, the study of the experience of transnational migrations to the Gulf from Sindh and Balochistan, focuses on the role of these areas as characteristic of a “post-urban/city” condition, in which the expansion of infrastructure and technologies into the periphery of cities erodes previous urban-rural and center-periphery divides.

Prince Mathias, PhD candidate in the Department of 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.

Sanal Textiles by Nishita Trisal joins the Taubman College of Architecture this fall as a first-year PhD student. Trisal plans to study the architecture developing along highway corridors in India. Trisal 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 erodes previous urban-rural and center-periphery divides.

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 erodes previous urban-rural and center-periphery divides.

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. She is completing her dissertation 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, Punjab, 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 (a semi-sacred/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/soul/ego and the sensory world, with the aim of transcending their apparent phenomenological differences.

Liz Weisbuch, a PhD candidate in Communication Studies and 2015-16 FLAS recipient for Hindi, was named the 2016-17 James Wren 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 as much a cultural process and practice—of endless, mundane care—as a technological feat.
The Summer in South Asia (SISA) Fellowship program was established in 2006 with a generous endowment from an anonymous donor. Each summer, CASAS selects undergraduate students to conduct independent research projects—usually in conjunction with an organization in India. Please join us on September 30, 2016 at 4:30 pm at 101-386 in 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 volunteering 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 Community Action and Social Change. Hanna spent five weeks in Kasaragod with the Interning in Kasaragod with the Indian Himalayas. Hanna’s final project focused on how the arts program benefits children’s overall education.

Madeline Stagner is a junior 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.

From 1913 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 1932 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.

The University of Michigan Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) is a founding member of this initiative, which consists of 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

Complementary 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 (jmartin@umich.edu).

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.iiumich.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!
All events are free and open to the public. A complete and updated list can be found on our website, [www.ii.umich.edu/csas/news-events/events.html](http://www.ii.umich.edu/csas/news-events/events.html)

**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**
*Joyojeet 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

**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

---

**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

**March 17, 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

---

2016 Regents of the University of Michigan  
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc; Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor; Lawrence B. Delitch, Bloomfield Hills;  
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe; Denise Ilitch, Birmingham Farms; Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor;  
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park; Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor; Mark S. Schlissel, ex officio  
The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable  
federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action.  
This newsletter is funded in part by a Title VI NRC grant from the U.S. Department of Education.