

South Asia Institute

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012



Letter from the Director



Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

It has been a busy year since I took over as director of the South Asia Institute. We started the academic year with a celebration of fifty years as a program in South Asian Studies, and ended with a conference bringing South Asian scholars from all across Texas to UT, Austin. In between we invited scholars, writers, artists, filmmakers, performers and activists related to South Asia. This fall we have already organized two workshops, one on Pakistan and the other on Buddhism in South Asia. We are already planning the seminar series for Spring of 2013, while this semester's seminar series on Religion and Society in Traditional India, a tribute to our own Patrick Olivelle, is well under way.

This vibrant intellectual life at our Institute is matched by our students, under-graduate and graduate, earning degrees, receiving fellowships, getting post-docs and academic teaching positions. Along with this we also anticipate growth in our faculty positions in departments of Asian Studies, History, Government and Religious Studies and the coming years may find us welcoming new members to our affiliated group of scholars on campus.

The Spring of 2012 was a busy time for the Institute, we applied for several federal grants, some in collaboration with other area study programs on campus. Our efforts paid off when we received a Federal Grant of almost a million dollars for a three-year partnership

with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The focus of the grant is to create an exchange program to mentor faculty members from FJWU. Each semester, FJWU faculty members will spend four months in Austin, to be followed by a two-week visit from University of Texas at Austin faculty members to FJWU in Pakistan. Our first batch of FJWU scholars will be arriving in January of 2013. They will be introduced to SAI affiliated faculty and students and please make them feel welcome during their four-month stay at UT. The grant was a collective effort with ample support from our colleagues in the University and from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts' office. However, we could not have received the grant without the dedicated attention Rachel Meyer brought to the process. I am personally indebted to her for her assistance during the grant writing period.

To be sure, the Institute is very fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and hard-working set of staff members who deserve our collective vote of thanks. With their assistance and the support and trust of our faculty and students, I look forward to another exciting and intellectually invigorating year ahead.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

K. Asdar

Kamran Asdar Ali



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Front cover and border image by Naiza Khan, *Henna Hands*, Site specific project, Cantonment Railway Station Karachi. Medium: henna pigment on the wall, dimensions variable, 2003

Faculty & Student News

Faculty

PROFESSOR OF ASIAN STUDIES MARTHA ANN SELBY traveled to Singapore in late November 2011 to participate in a workshop entitled "The History and Cultures of Friendship in Precolonial South Asia," organized by Professors Daud S. Ali of the University of Pennsylvania and Emma J. Flatt, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The workshop was held on the Nanyang campus, where Selby gave the paper "*The Ecology of Friendship: Early Tamil Landscapes of Irony and Voice*."

IN MARCH 2012 HERMAN VAN OLPHEN presented a paper "New Directions in the Teaching of Hindi in the United States" at the European Hindi Conference at the University of Valladolid, Spain. On June 20, 2012 the President of India, Pratibha Patil, presented him with the George Grierson Award for service to Hindi by non-Indians at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi (see photo below).



IN THE PAST YEAR, PROFESSOR SHAMA GAMKHAR (LBJ School of Public Affairs) and graduate student Ian Partridge have done research on the health effects of coal fired power generation: <http://www.rff.org/Publications/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationID=21942>. This research was also presented at the American Social Science Association meeting and at the World Bank in 2012. They also authored two articles on the power sector in China, highlighted on this web page (they are currently working on similar issues in India): <http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/facultyresearch>.

JENNIFER BUSSELL (LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS) recently published a book, *Corruption and Reform in India*, in which she asks: Why are some governments better able to reform public services than others? Her analysis provides insights into this fundamental question through investigation of a new era of administrative reform, in which digital technologies may be used to facilitate citizens' access to the state. In contrast to factors such as economic development or electoral competition, she highlights the importance of access to rents, which can dramatically shape opportunities and threats of reform to political elites. The book also illuminates the importance of political constituencies and coalition politics in shaping policy outcomes.

A Q&A was done on the book for ShelfLife@Texas (<http://www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/shelflife/2012/05/21/indias-digital-transformation-in-the-public>).

sector/) and it was also recently reviewed in *The Hindu* (<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/article3705398.ece>).

PROFESSOR ASHWINI DEO joined the Department of Linguistics as a Harrington Faculty Fellow for Academic Year 2012-13. Prof. Deo is an assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics at Yale University who received her doctorate from Stanford in 2006. Her research interests include the semantics of tense and aspect, the historical linguistics of Indo-Aryan languages, and the Paninian grammatical tradition.

STEPHEN PHILLIPS, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, Asian Studies, published two books during the last year: *Epistemology in Classical India: The Knowledge Sources of the Nyaya School* (New York and London: Routledge, 2012) <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415895545/>; and with Joel Feldman, who received his PhD from UT and studied Sanskrit with Prof. Traude Harzer: *Ratnakirti's Proof of Momentariness By Positive Correlation* (New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies, distributed by Columbia University Press, 2012) <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/978-1-935011-06-4/ratnakirti-s-proof-of-momentariness-by-positive-correlationksanabhangasiddhi-anvayatmika>.

KAMRAN ASDAR ALI, ANTHROPOLOGY, published *Women, Work and Public Spaces: Conflict and Co-Existence in*

Karachi's Poor Neighborhoods. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. As President of American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) he was PI for several grants received by the organization, including a four year DOE Title VI Grant (\$260,000) and a Multiyear Grant for AIPS' administrative expenditure (five years) and academic exchange program (two years) from the US Department of State. (\$1.9 million).

Students

AMBER ABBAS (HISTORY) completed her dissertation on Aligarh University and has accepted a tenure- track position at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

EMILIA BACHRACH (ASIAN STUDIES) was awarded a Mike Hogg Research Fellowship from the Office of Graduate Studies. Emilia was one of only thirteen graduate students at UT to receive a Named Continuing Fellowship from the Office of Graduate Studies. Emilia's award is to support her dissertation on the living tradition of hagiography in the Vallabh sect of contemporary Gujarat.

NOMAN BAIG (ANTHROPOLOGY) received a National Science Foundation and a Wenner Gren Foundation grant to conduct pre-dissertation fieldwork on markets in Karachi, Pakistan.

MAX BRUCE (ASIAN STUDIES) received an American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship. Max's dissertation is on the life and works of Shibli Nomani (1857-1914).

ABDUL HAQUE CHANG (ANTHROPOLOGY) received a Wenner Gren Foundation grant to conduct pre-dissertation field work in the Indus Delta, Sind, Pakistan.

ANINIDITA CHATTERJEE (ANTHROPOLOGY) attended the seventh International Gender and Language Association Conference (IGALA-7) held at the Universidade do Vale dos sinos (UNISINOS) at Sao Leopoldo, Brazil during 20th to 22nd of June 2012, with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Her paper, "Who is a gossip? Questioning gossip as a gendered activity", focused on how Bengali female and male speakers reconstruct the speech activity of gossip (or "PNPC" as used more commonly in Bengal) within the framework of a casual informal conversation often referred to as "adda" in Bengal. She focused on how participants discuss the different stereotypical assumptions associated with the discourse activities like adda and PNPC.

ZAINAB CHEEMA (COMPARATIVE LITERATURE) presented her paper, "Photography of Desire: Examining the Courtesans of 19th Century Lucknow through Darogha Abbas Ali's *The Lucknow Album and Haseenain-Lucknow*" at the 100th Annual Conference of the College

Art Association (CAA) and at the 2012 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA).

EBEN GRAVES (ETHNOMUSICOLOGY) was awarded a Junior Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies to fund his doctoral dissertation research on Bengali Vaishnava kirtan. He is currently in Kolkata working with kirtaniyas (kirtan musicians), visiting archives and bookstores, and attending kirtan performances throughout Kolkata and other areas of West Bengal.

AMY HYNE (ASIAN STUDIES) received a Fulbright Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad award. Amy is conducting research in Pune, India, for her dissertation on the history, development, and cultural constructions of insanity in India.

HAFEEZ JAMALI (ANTHROPOLOGY) received a three month fellowship to complete his dissertation on Baluchistan, Pakistan from ZMO, Berlin (Center for Modern Oriental Studies), Summer 2012.

MUBBASHIR RIZVI (ANTHROPOLOGY) did research in Pakistan on an AIPS Short Term Fellowship (Summer 2012).

IAN WOOLFORD (ASIAN STUDIES) defended his dissertation titled "Renu Village: An Ethnography Of North Indian Fiction." Ian is a post-doctoral fellow at Cornell University.

ASIAN STUDIES

DOCTORAL STUDENTS Amy Hyne, Mike Jones, and Hillary Langberg presented papers on Sanskrit philology at the 22nd annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in March of this year. The meeting, held in Boston, MA, focused primarily on philological aspects of non-western languages and pre-modern religious texts including those of East Asia, South Asia, and the Near East/West Asia.

In her second presentation for AOS, Amy Hyne analyzed the vocabulary employed in definitions of unmāda in Sanskrit medical texts with a paper entitled "Interpreting unmāda in Sanskrit Medical Literature." Mike Jones' paper, "Kṛṣiparāśarah 6-10 in light of Taittirīya Upaniṣad 2.2, 3.7-10," analyzed the construction of scriptural authority through allusion in a didactic agricultural text. Hillary Langberg's paper, "The Term *vaineya* in Two Medieval Buddhist Texts," looked at diverging translations of *vaineya* in both the *Kāraṇḍavyūha Sūtra* and *Mañjusrīmūlakalpa* and the resulting impact on scholars' attitudes toward Buddhist and Brahmanical deity interaction in these works.

Veteran attendees Dr. Joel Brereton and Dr. Patrick Olivelle also presented at the meeting. Dr. Brereton's paper, "The *Rgvedic Ghoṣā Hymns and the Atirātra*," suggests that two hymns citing *Ghoṣā*, the personified scream, might be appropriately placed within the ritual context of *Atirātra soma* rite. Dr. Olivelle closed the meeting's three days of talks with his paper, "Showbiz in Ancient India: Data from the *Ārthaśāstra*." Several Asian Studies alumni also presented. The abstracts and program for the meeting may

be found at <http://www.umich.edu/%7Eaos/Programs.html>.

HUF STUDENTS

FLORENCE KERNS AND ISHITA PAUL both won first place in their respective categories at the prestigious national Hindi debate held at Yale University on April 6, 2012.

The debate featured contestants from Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Pennsylvania, NYU, Cornell, Wellesley, UCLA, and Wesleyan, all of whom were asked to articulate a defense or critique of higher education. The panel of judges awarded second-year HUF student Florence Kerns first-place in the category of non-native non-heritage Hindi speakers, while fourth-year HUF student Ishita Paul was awarded first-place among native heritage speakers. The judges particularly applauded Kerns' ability to improvise and respond thoughtfully to questions without relying on a memorized Hindi 'script'. Similarly, they praised Paul's remarkable range of Hindi register and nuanced thought on a difficult subject. HUF Foundation Year Hindi lecturer, Vidhu Chaturvedi, assisted both students in their extensive preparations for the debate and accompanied them to the event to serve as member of the Hindi faculty panel.



Rana Imran Ahmed, HEC scholar from Pakistan and Gwendolyn Kirk, graduate student, Anthropology.

Congratulations to the 2012-2013 FLAS Awardees!

Academic Year 2012-2013 Awardees:

- **Dana Johnson**, Asian Studies, Hindi
- **Colin Pace**, Asian Studies, Hindi
- **Gwendolyn Kirk**, Anthropology, Urdu
- **Charlotte Giles**, Asian Studies, Urdu
- **Elizabeth Bolton**, Radio-Television-Film, Urdu
- **Jack Loveridge**, History, Hindi
- **Jonathan Seefeldt**, Asian Studies, Hindi
- **Jacob Hustedt**, Radio-Television-Film, Hindi
- **Saba Danawala**, Public Affairs and Public Health, Pashto
- **Emily Ernst**, Asian Studies, Urdu
- **Hillary Langberg**, Asian Studies, Hindi

Summer 2012 Awardees:

- **Benjamin Krakauer**, Ethnomusicology, Bengali
- **Michaela Nielson**, Asian Studies, Malayalam
- **Jacob Hustedt**, Radio-Television-Film, Hindi
- **Jack Loveridge**, History, Hindi
- **Ralph Bauer**, Asian Studies, Tamil
- **Farhana Maredia**, Asian Studies, Urdu

Hindi Urdu Flagship Report

Rupert Snell
Director, Hindi Urdu Flagship

THE HINDI URDU FLAGSHIP (HUF) continues to develop its mission of bringing undergraduate learners to a high level of proficiency in South Asia's principal pair of languages. HUF moves into its sixth year of operations with a reconfigured administrative staff: following Sarah Green's retirement in May 2012, Selina Keilani has stepped up to the new position of Assistant Director, while Kristine Anderson has joined the team as Administrative Associate. Jonathan Seefeldt continues as HUF's masterly Media Coordinator, though on a part-time basis from fall 2012 as he returns to his graduate study. All members of Asian Studies faculty in Hindi and Urdu are involved in the program in teaching and in other modes of engagement with the students; and HUF continues to host numerous events that bring the world of Hindi and Urdu to UT, not only for HUF students but for the wider South Asianist community.

The new academic year brings some important curriculum changes, blending HUF's program more efficiently with the 'non-HUF' Hindi and Urdu courses taught in Asian Studies; the new course sequence is displayed on HUF's ever-growing website, hindiurduflagship.org. A further change is being introduced in the program's Overseas year taught by the American Institute of India Studies: the fall and spring semesters will henceforth be held, respectively, at the AIIS Hindi center in Jaipur and the AIIS Urdu center in Lucknow (and not at Lucknow alone, as previously). HUF students also have the good fortune to enjoy a study tour of the city of Hyderabad, guided and taught by HUF's eponymous Associate Director for Urdu, Akbar Hyder.

HUF's role in developing open-access online learning and teaching materials for Hindi and Urdu has been honored very fully this last year, with the launch of **LANGUAGE FOR HEALTH** (hindiurduhealth.org), a new interactive website featuring specially filmed interviews with practitioners of the various different traditions of health-care in contemporary India; it teaches proficiency in the specialized medical registers of Hindi and Urdu. This ambitious project was funded by HUF's parent body, The Language Flagship (thelanguageflagship.org), through a grant administered by the Institute of International Education; it was developed as a collaboration with New York University and Columbia University under the direction of our very own Jishnu Shankar. The Language for Health website is in every sense dynamic, and will



Jishnu Shankar speaking at the launch of Language for Health

continue to grow in the future, subject to the availability of resources, i.e. funds and time.

Although the current economic climate means that HUF has to do more with less, the program is in a healthy state; several of its students have won major awards, and our recruitment efforts are bearing fruit in the increased numbers of students applying to the program — especially its extended (five-year) version, which admits students with no prior knowledge of Hindi or Urdu. Our collaboration with UT academic advisors across campus has been of great importance to HUF's development, as has an increasing awareness of the nationwide role of the Language Flagship in developing the reach and efficacy of programs in strategic languages. Strong support from both the Department of Asian Studies and the College of Liberal Arts has made it possible for HUF to fulfill its mandate, while UT's strong South Asian focus provides an ideal background for the program's work.



Celebrating the Centenary of Sa'adat Hasan Manto

Syed Akbar Hyder
Associate Professor, Asian Studies

THE SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE, in collaboration with the Hindi-Urdu Flagship program, celebrated the centenary of the literary icon Sadat Hasan Manto with stimulating lectures and discussions. Dr. Shamim Hanfi, the distinguished critic of Urdu prose and poetry, and former chair of the Department of Urdu Studies at Jamia Milia Islamia, presided over three academic sessions that

candidates at the university.

In the next two sessions, Snehal Shingavi (English), Afsar Mohammed (Asian Studies), Kamran Ali (Anthropology), and Syed Akbar Hyder (Asian Studies) placed Manto into broader discussions of regionalism, comparative aesthetics, and censorship in South Asia. The event was further enriched by the presentations of

"Manto was a genius and an author whose writing transcends time; this is why the importance of Manto is still evident today. So, to the connoisseur of alcohol and prose, on his 100th birthday, I say cheers Sa'adat Hasan Manto."

Sabeena Shaikh, Hindi-Urdu Flagship Student

engaged the aesthetics and legacy of Manto.

The opening session showcased presentations from undergraduate and graduate students from a Spring 2012 class that focused on Manto. In addition to Manto's role in framing the narratives of 1947—the year that witnessed the births of India and Pakistan—students also explored Manto's contribution to the short story genre in particular and South Asian aesthetics in general. The first two presentations, by third-year undergraduate students of Urdu Sabeena Shaikh and Saif Kazim, set the tone for the three-day event. These were followed by presentations by Gwen Kirk, Roanne Sharp, and Suzanne Shulz, doctoral

Sarah Waheed (professor at George Mason University) and Asif Farrukhi (a distinguished critic and editor of Urdu's prominent journal *Dunyazad*). Professor Hanfi commented on each presentation in Urdu before delivering a stellar talk on Manto's humanism.



Sarah Waheed, Kamran Ali and Syed Akbar Hyder



Dr. Shamim Hanfi (l) and Asif Farrukhi (r)

Fall 2011 Conference – Bureaucracy through South Asia

HEATHER HINDMAN, UT ASIAN STUDIES and Anthropology, organized a conference on “Bureaucracy through South Asia” that took place on September 30 and October 1, 2011, sponsored by the South Asia Institute. The License Raj and resulting red tape that were a part of the legacy of British colonialism have long been a source of consternation and at times humor for scholars and visitors to India. Less studied have been the contemporary manifestations of bureaucracy in the region and the novel forms of administration that shape daily life for many. Akhil Gupta has focused his attention for the last several years on how the expansion of the state bureaucratic apparatus in India has had vastly different effects on Indian citizens; its arbitrariness often advantaging the wealthy and well-educated while harming those who already suffer at the margins of society. The two-day conference began with a roundtable discussion of “Poverty as Biopolitics” - a section of Gupta’s now released book *Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India* (Duke University Press 2012). Faculty from UT discussed the issues raised by this provocative piece, asking questions about the way in which bureaucratic violence, such as lack of access to food, education and clean water, can exert a far higher death toll than more visually dramatic and frequent discussed forms of violence. Dr. Gupta followed up this discussion with a formal lecture that brought home for many the scale of devastation, enumerating the millions of “excess deaths” in India and the world that are a result of some form of bureaucratic neglect and sharing stories of individuals whom he met in regional offices in North India who were often inadvertent perpetrators of such violence, as well as its victims.

The second day of the conference explored bureaucracy beyond the confines of the Indian state. Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley College, discussed how cultural difference is codified in the training of Indian IT professionals. Multinational corporations, from India and working in India, are redefining not only “Indianness” but also good business practices through their pursuit of an “internationalism” that can be implemented anywhere in the world. Matthew Hull, University of Michigan, presented

on the (ultimately failed) attempts by a transnational joint venture to create “Islamabad New City.” Hull discussed with key figures on the project their struggles to establish who owned pieces of land they sought to purchase and the conflicts that occurred as overlapping and conflicting land titles appeared and disappeared, depending upon whom one consulted. Ahmed Kanna, University of the Pacific, brought a historical dimension to the discussion, examining the long-term influence of British Imperial trading strategies in South Asia and the Pacific on the development of the contemporary city-states of Dubai and Singapore. Although the lessons learned from

Bureaucracy Through South Asia

Friday, September 30th 12:00 noon, Meyerson Conference Room WCH 4.118
Red Tape: Bureaucracy, Structural Violence, and Poverty in India
 A Roundtable discussion of Akhil Gupta's work lead by Kamala Visweswaran, Lok Siu, Barbara Harlow and Heather Hindman of the University of Texas at Austin

Friday, September 30th 3:30 pm, Ayres Auditorium ACE 2.302; Keynote
The State in India After Liberalization: The Declining Power of Bureaucracy and the Rise of Service-Sector Capitalism
 Akhil Gupta, University of California, Los Angeles

Convenor: Heather Hindman, Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
www.utexas.edu/cola/insta/southasia/events/15330
 *Please bring a photo ID to attend the round table should RSVP to safesouth@utexas.edu to receive the paper.

Saturday, October 1st 10:00 am, Meyerson Conference Room WCH 4.118
Cultural Streamlining in Indian IT Multinationals
 Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley College
 Chair, Heather Hindman, The University of Texas at Austin
 Discussant, Sharmila Rudrappa, The University of Texas at Austin

Saturday, October 1st 1:00 pm, Meyerson Conference Room WCH 4.118
Paper, Databases, and the Ontology of Land Holdings in South Asia
 Matthew Hull, University of Michigan
 Chair, Jennifer Bussell, The University of Texas at Austin
 Discussant, Tahir Naqvi, Trinity University

Saturday, October 1st 3:30 pm, Meyerson Conference Room WCH 4.118
The Indian Ocean Contexts of the City - Corporation: Dubai and Singapore
 Ahmed Kanna, University of the Pacific
 Chair, Kamran Ali, The University of Texas at Austin
 Discussant, Neha Vora, Texas A&M University

Empire had different resonances in the two locations, both locations used techniques to control dissent and conjoin state and private enterprise that can be traced to British practices. The formal talks provided a framework for what became a wider discussion of how something as seemingly mundane as paperwork influences wealth and poverty, mobility and immobility, and even life and death in the region. Commentary and discussion from guests such as Neha Vora, Lafayette College, and Tahir Naqvi, Trinity University, brought new perspectives to the lively conversations that took place throughout the weekend. Many UT students and faculty participated in the conference and conversations that continued beyond formal event, including Kamala Visweswaran, Lok Siu, Barbara Harlow, Heather Hindman, Sharmila Rudrappa, Jennifer Bussell and Kamran Ali.

Becoming South Asian American

Amber Abbas
 Graduate Student, History

I HAD ALWAYS RESISTED the idea that I was Asian American. Though I am half-Pakistani, half-American, I did not grow up in the United States, and I thought I did not share the experience of migration and settlement that characterizes Asian America. But, it turns out, I do, and over the last ten years I have become a South Asian American. In the fall of 2011 I began teaching UT undergraduates what that might mean.

South Asian Americans are underrepresented in public perceptions about who constitutes Asian America. In fact, on the first day of class, when I reviewed the syllabus for the course, “South Asian Migration to the U.S.” (offered through UT’s Center for Asian American Studies), many students were surprised to discover that South Asian America existed at all! “I had never thought about that,” they told me. “I thought we’d be studying East Asian migration.” The broad label “Asian,” meant to be inclusive, often masks the terrific diversity in Asian America and still has more work to do to encourage the building of solidarity across the ethnic and religious boundaries. To draw out the complexity of South Asian America alone, however, we had to explore the history of Asian migration to the United States more broadly, and this showed the intertwined histories of disparate groups and the importance of those solidarities. In addition, we had to understand the history of South Asian global migration to see how South Asian migration to the U.S. was sometimes similar and sometimes wildly different from it. The class therefore began with a global scope, and as the semester wore on, we narrowed our focus to specific communities, geographies and groups. Ultimately we narrowed our focus to the level of the individual.

Each of my 23 students located a South Asian migrant who came to the United States under their own power (was not born here or brought by a parent or family member). They then conducted an oral history interview about that individual’s migration and experience, transcribed the interview and wrote an analytical essay linking their narrators’ story with the themes of the

course. The narrators who generously shared their stories resisted the homogenizing tendency of the blanket term “Asian.” Rather, they exposed the diversity of South Asian America. Students interviewed Muslims, Hindus, Parsis, Christians; Sri Lankans, Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. These narrators arrived in the United States variously in college, high school, graduate school, in early career and after retirement; they have made love marriages, arranged marriages, interfaith, interracial and intercaste marriages, or even chosen not to marry; they speak Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Bengali, Urdu, English, Punjabi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Sinhalese; they are men and women; they have been here from three years to sixty years. Some came directly to the United States from

their home country, some came via Africa, England or the South Pacific. This incredible complexity is hidden inside the stereotype that South Asians represent a “model minority,” seamlessly assimilated into the American system. Oral history interviews, like these, offer access into lives beyond the stereotypes and serve to deepen our understanding of lived experience.

These stories reveal the contours of the South Asian American community in the

United States. We have much to learn about its dynamics, the bonds of solidarity between groups, the politics that might divide them, and what it means to be South Asian American. These same stories also now form the foundation of two South Asian American oral history collections I have curated that are open and available to other researchers. On April 17, I deposited seven of the students’ interviews into the Asian American collection at the Austin History Center; in the coming weeks another twelve interviews will be archived in the South Asian American Digital Archive (www.saadigitalarchive.org). As these collections continue to grow, they invite us to explore the meaning of experience, to move beyond stereotypes and to explore the specificity and complexity of individual lives in this new category of South Asian America.



Amber Abbas (second from left) with her students at the inauguration of the South Asian American Digital Archive at the Austin History Center.

Symposium on Archaeology in South Asia: Recent Excavations and Re-Interpretations

Gail Minault
Professor of History

ON APRIL 13, 2012, the South Asia Institute hosted a one-day symposium on “Archaeology in South Asia: Recent Excavations and Re-Interpretations.”

The object of this gathering was to bring together archaeologists, historians, and those with linguistic and textual knowledge to examine the archaeological record, past interpretations, and current re-interpretations based on new discoveries, that might cast new light on past distortions of the historical record.

The morning session included papers relating to archaeology in Pakistan. Mark

Kenoyer, Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Wisconsin, presented “New Perspectives on the Indus Civilization: Origins, Character, and Legacy.” Kaleem Ullah Lashari, Secretary, Government of Sindh, Pakistan, and a practicing archaeologist, spoke on “The Pottery of Banbhore: New Evidence.” Kenoyer’s paper surveyed how new excavations have illuminated the development of urbanism in the ancient Indus Valley civilization, while Lashari’s showed the complexity of trade patterns in the Persian Gulf and Indus delta regions in early Islamic times, based on the provenance of pottery finds. Discussion of the papers was by Samuel Wilson of the Department of Anthropology, University of Texas.

The afternoon session was devoted to papers dealing with the history and archaeology of the Deccan plateau in central India. Richard Eaton, Professor of History at the University of Arizona, spoke on “Mosque-to-Temple and Temple-to-Mosque Conversions in Medieval and Modern Deccan.” Carla Sinopoli, Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Michigan, presented a paper on “Materializing Difference: Social Change in the South Indian Iron Age.” Eaton’s paper

showed the fluidity of “Hindu” and “Muslim” categories in the 14th through 16th centuries that belies more recent categorization of the monuments he described. Sinopoli traced the development of social stratification in the ancient Deccan, through the evidence of artifacts found in recent archaeological excavations. The discussant was Azfar Moin of the History Department, Southern Methodist University.

The South Asia Institute was joined in sponsoring this event by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Houston.

Spring 2012 Seminar Series: Tracings and Shadows: Moving Pictures and Drawing Images

LALITHA GOPALAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the Departments of Radio Television Film and Asian Studies, organized SAI’s Spring 2012 seminar series around the presumption that there is a common ground between multi-media artists and film scholars. The series highlighted projects forged in the name of South Asian visual cultures both from the region and Diaspora, in order to isolate absences and gaps in the archives; unsettle received paradigms differentiating high and popular art; seek unlikely associations between found objects; animate lost images and acoustics; and question politics of location. Tying together formal presentations and structured conversations, the series formalized the ongoing dialogue between artists and scholars in their various gestures towards images and moving pictures.



Conference on Buddhism in South Asia

Joel Brereton
Associate Professor, Asian Studies

AT THE END OF this academic year, after a career of more than twenty years at UT, Patrick Olivelle will be retiring from the University of Texas. During his time at UT, Patrick has served as the Chair of the Department of Asian Studies and as Director of the Center for Asian Studies, which later became the South Asia Institute. In the year before Patrick’s retirement, the Institute, with additional support from the Department, is sponsoring a series of lectures and seminars that will honor his many contributions to the study of classical South Asia and to the South Asia program at UT. One of the major events of that series will be a conference on Buddhism in South Asia, to be held at UT on October 4-5.

The roots of this conference go back several years to another gathering, this one an international conference for which Patrick was the prime mover and organizer. This conference on “Āśoka and the Making of Modern India” was held at the International Centre, New Delhi, August 5-7, 2009. It had two major themes: the reassessment of the evidence concerning Āśoka and the empire he ruled in the third century BCE and the significance of the memory of Āśoka in subsequent Indian history. The conference was truly an international one, since it was organized and supported not only by the Department and the Institute but also by three institutions in India, and since it included scholars from India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, France, China, Korea, and Thailand.

The conference at UT this October continues the work of the Āśoka conference, but will more broadly explore new material and reexamine other evidence bearing on the nature and role of Buddhism in ancient India. Five scholars will be presenting papers, three from outside of UT and two of our own faculty. Steven Collins from the University of Chicago and Oliver Freiberger

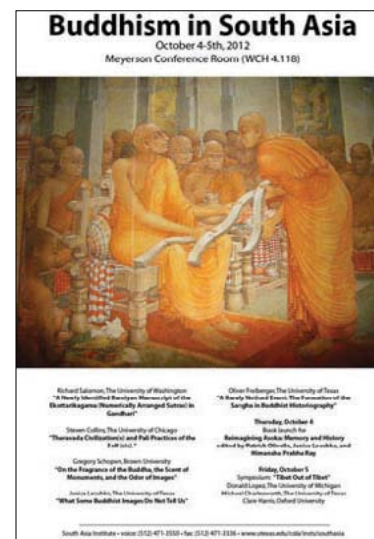


Patrick Olivelle (front left) at the Āśoka conference in Delhi

from UT will be discussing aspects of the southern or Theravāda Buddhist tradition. Collins will examine one of the central concerns of Buddhist thought, the concept of the person, and Freiberger one of the central moments in Buddhist history, the establishment of the Buddhist monastic order. Richard Salomon from the University of Washington will present the results of his study of a very early Buddhist manuscript that was recently discovered in Afghanistan. And finally Gregory Schopen from Brown University and Janice Leoshko from UT will be discussing what images can and cannot tell us about ancient Buddhism. A list of the talks and the full schedule for the conference is available on the website of the South Asia Institute.

As part of the conference at UT, there will also be a book launch for the proceedings of the Delhi conference on Āśoka. This volume, *Reimagining Āśoka: Memory and History*, has been recently published by Oxford University Press. It collects 19 papers written for the Delhi conference, which have been edited by Patrick Olivelle, Janice Leoshko, and Himanshu Prabha Ray from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. This substantial volume will allow others to share some of the best current writing on Āśoka and best current thinking about Āśoka.

A conference on Buddhism in honor of Patrick Olivelle is academically appropriate, since the topic intersects one aspect of Patrick’s work. But it is appropriate for another reason as well. Two paramount ideals of Buddhism are the pursuit of wisdom and the cultivation of kindness. These qualities lead naturally back to Patrick, for he will be deeply missed for the great wisdom and genuine kindness that have been his.



Texas South Asia Conference

Roanne Kantor
Graduate Student, Comparative Literature

ON APRIL 20-21, 2012 scholars of South Asia from all over Texas and neighboring states gathered together at the University of Texas at Austin to participate in the first Texas South Asia Conference. Organizers designed the conference with an eye toward stimulating conversation among disciplinary, regional, and epochal neighbors who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to learn about each other's work, and to showcase the great range of projects that animate South Asian Studies in the region.

The conference covered a wide variety of disciplines across the social sciences and the humanities and provided a forum of discussion and dialogue for South Asian Studies scholars from the Texas region. Participating scholars came from Texas A&M, University of North Texas, Texas State University, University of Houston, Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Arkansas and The University of Oklahoma.



Shreerekha Subramanian, Masood Ashraf Raja and Sucheta Choudhuri

"...an invaluable opportunity to bring together a community of South Asian scholars in the region and to connect us more closely."

For two days, UT's South Asia Institute served as a gathering place for twenty-five graduate students and professors, who presented in panels of three to four each. Scholars brought to light unexpected connections between fields. One panel on literature focused on novels as a space for political critique, while another panel on sanitation and water spoke to issues of cultural difference and conflicts around gender. Other panels explored

themes related to the South Asian diaspora; historical perspectives on religion; masculinity in media and music; the intersection of caste, class, and gender identity; and performance and politics.

The structure of the conference, which featured panels running in a single stream, allowed participants to get a full sense of the offerings. Ample time for questions and an inquisitive audience ensured a vibrant conversation that continued into the dinner hour and served to further knit this burgeoning community together.

One participant summed it up nicely: "I loved this conference-- the pace, the size, and the group of scholars it brought together, both in range and scope." Another called it "an invaluable opportunity to bring together a community of South Asian scholars in the region and to connect us more closely."

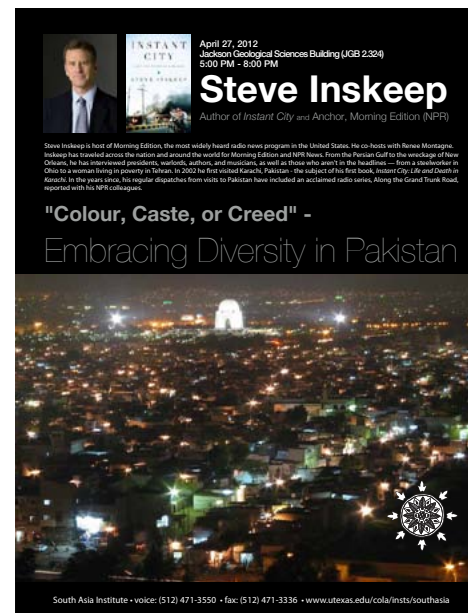
Another attendee commented that the event "really helped crystallize the group and bring everyone in closer conversation. I left feeling a sense of community with my colleagues and scholars scattered across Texas. I think this solidarity is going to be important to generate future events and research. A most productive conference!"



Zoe Sherinian and Mariam Mufti

Pakistan in Texas

Steve Inskeep at UT



ON APRIL 27TH, 2012 the South Asia Insitute had the honor of hosting Steve Inskeep for a public lecture titled "Colour, Caste, or Creed" - Embracing Diversity in Pakistan. Steve Inskeep, as many of us know, is the co-host of Morning Edition on National Public Radio, the most widely heard radio news program in the United States. Inskeep, who has traveled across the nation and around the world for NPR News has recently written *Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi*. In 2002 he first visited Karachi, Pakistan - the subject of his book, in the years since, his regular dispatches from visits to Pakistan have included an acclaimed radio series, *Along the Grand Trunk Road*, reported with his NPR colleagues.

Karachi, the largest and most cosmopolitan city in Pakistan is a considered a microcosm of Pakistani life, a country which itself is frequently in the news due to the various security interests that US has in the region. However, Inskeep's talk was a refreshing departure from the overwhelming representation of Pakistan as one of the most violent spaces in the world, as he described the various layers of society and individual energies that people bring to their everyday lives in large cities like Karachi. He did not shy away from describing the violence that is endemic in the city itself, an urban area divided by class, ethnicity and sectarian identities. Yet he pointed out the dynamism he found among the inhabitants of the city and its civil society leadership who despite great odds seek to make the Karachi a

livable city for themselves and others. It was a well attended public talk and helped the South Asia Institute bring more contemporary concerns about South Asia to a wider audience, within and outside the university.

Emergent Voices: Pakistan in the 21st Century

THE SOUTH ASIA INSITUTE organized a two day workshop on Pakistan on September 21-22, 2012. This workshop brought together recent scholarship on Pakistan from a range of disciplines. The discussion opened up new avenues of dialogue and debate based on themes from urban history, cultural politics, to art and aesthetics and social movements. While rethinking the dominant paradigm in Pakistan studies (security studies, gender, Islam), the workshop introduced new perspectives that showcase the dynamic and changing nature of Pakistani society. The invitees specifically included scholars who have published monographs on Pakistan in past few years. Another special feature of the program was highlighting of the contemporary art scene in Pakistan and the experimentations in art forms that are ongoing in the country. The key-note speaker for the event was Professor Aamir Mufti, who teaches Comparative Literature at UCLA. His well attended talk was titled "Revolution's Late Style: Dialectics of Multitude in Faiz Ahmed Faiz".

As evident from the title, Mufti's talk was on the famous Urdu poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz (February 1911-1984), who was also an influential left-wing intellectual.

(cont'd on p. 18)



From left to right: Humeira Iqtidar, Farina Mir, Cabeiri Robinson, Asad Ahmed, Rochona Majumdar

Graduate Student Dispatch from India

Jacob Hustedt
Graduate Student, Radio-Television-Film



THERE IS A CLUB in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur that I have gone to on a couple of nights with some friends from Mumbai and a couple of friends from Jaipur. It's a noisy, garish place divided in two parts by its dual dance floors— one strictly labeled couples-only and the other for a more general audience.

On most Saturday nights, this audience consists of a group of men who have met on “PR” or planetromeo, a networking and hook-up website for gay and bisexual men. Like most guys in gay bars, they're there to dance, drink, meet their friends, and hopefully, by night's end, to hook up. My friends from Mumbai were surprised by how busy it was. They had thought Jaipur would be more provincial. Yet still, they said, it was no Mumbai or Delhi. I had to go to a Mumbai or Delhi party. They'd take me. Jaipur just wasn't quite the same. When I arrived in India this summer to do the AIIS Hindi program in Jaipur, I was already interested in the growth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender activism in India and its connection to India's global cities— Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai. I hoped to trace the interaction between Indian and diasporic LGBT activism onto patterns of economic and migratory circulations in these Indian IT hubs to better understand the global confluence of technological capital, migration, and the emergence of a global LGBT politics. Prior to my arrival in Jaipur, I had thought my research would concentrate on these large cities themselves, yet, already, my time here has changed the way I am conceptualizing my project. While I am still interested in the ways these global centers of technology assist in the distribution and propagation of particular forms of queer identity, I have realized that my research for this project need not necessarily concentrate on these megacities as research sites. Rather, I am becoming increasingly interested in how queer lives in so-called “second-tier cities” are influenced by the technological hegemony of the Mumbais, Delhis, and San Franciscos of the world. What of Pune, Gurgaon and San Jose? How is queer life in these cities shaped and altered by the global capitals of technology and culture

that they border? The power of the global city model is not just in how these centers grew into economic and cultural powerhouses but in how the economic and sociocultural pull of these centers has multiple effects across space and time. Moreover, in both India and the United States much work has been done on queer culture in these urban centers, but little has been written on their second-tier counterparts. What does it mean that Jaipur's clubs are “almost, but not quite” as good as Mumbai's? And what does it mean about the lives of queer persons in these smaller cities? How does the Internet help these men imagine their relationship to these larger urban centers? My time in Jaipur has made me seriously rethink my preconceived notions of the role of the city in queer life, and this wouldn't have been possible without the Hindi language training and research funding that South Asia Institute has provided.

Graduate Student Dispatch from El Salvador

Hafeez Jamali
Graduate Student, Anthropology

FROM MAY 15 TO 20, 2012 a delegation of doctoral students from the University of Texas at Austin's Department of Anthropology, including Giovanni Batz, Maya Berry, Sarah Ihmoud, Hafeez Jamali, and Elizabeth Velásquez, traveled to El Salvador to launch *Peacetime for Whom? A South-South Dialogue on Geographies of Violence and Resistance*. Students designed the initiative to further develop anthropological exchange, dialogue and solidarity between the Middle East, South Asia and Latin America regions. The diverse group of graduate student scholars from UT's Activist Research, Diaspora Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Social Anthropology tracks led a five-day academic exchange and dialogue with scholars, students and activists affiliated with two of El Salvador's most renowned academic institutions: Universidad de El Salvador, Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador, and Universidad Centroamericana - José Simeon Cañas.

The UT delegation was featured at the “V Foro de Estudiantes de Antropología Sociocultural,” where members gave a panel discussion and a methodology roundtable with UES students. Approximately 100 people attended the event. UT's panel discussion covered divergent geographies of violence in the everyday life of L.A.-Guatemala, Israel-Palestine, Balochistan-Pakistan, Cuba and El Salvador. UT students argued that contemporary structural and political violence



neoliberal world order. The panel raised and addressed the following questions: How are narratives of violence deployed by sovereign powers in their attempts to legitimize themselves? What types of subjectivities do encounters with and resistance to everyday violence create? What do these encounters reveal/hide about the discourses of multiculturalism and neoliberal democracy?

SAI-affiliated graduate student, Hafeez Jamali presented his work on megaprojects in Balochistan Province, Pakistan – which initially generated surprise more than anything else. Pakistan seemed too far away to register on students' and ordinary Salvadorians' images of the world, except as a safe-haven for ‘terrorists’ (courtesy of the western media). Even in the context of traditional leftist ideas of class struggle and international solidarity, places like Pakistan (and Balochistan), do not seem to evoke any familiarity. In a sense, the door to the memory of an era of international cooperation between different leftist national movements in the 1960s and 70s appears to be closing. Nevertheless, UES students and scholars recognized that inequalities being generated by development projects like Gwadar Port in Pakistan shared structural features with similar development projects on the Salvadorian Coast and elsewhere in Latin America.

Universidade de El Salvador (UES)

UES is a public university, with a very politically active student body. They continue a radical political tradition dating back to the 1970s, prior to the Salvadorian Civil War. The Anthropology Department was founded in 2005.

Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador (UTEC)

UTEC is a private academic institution that founded an anthropology department in 1998 that focuses on Social Anthropology and Archaeology. Between 20 and 25 faculty and students from anthropology, history, and business departments attended the event, as well as national media outlets.

blurs conceptual divisions between conflict and post-conflict, ordinary and exception, hegemony and domination. The indeterminacy of these concepts forces a reconsideration of official narrative accounts about violence and its relationship with the contemporary

The Texas Asia Conference 2013 is Coming Next Fall!

The Texas Asia Conference (TAC) is a biennial and international graduate student conference organized by the University of Texas at Austin Department of Asian Studies graduate students. The TAC invites graduate students working on original research projects in all academic disciplines and across traditional academic divisions of Asia to present their work. The conference provides students with the opportunity to present their research and engage in transregional, transtemporal, and interdisciplinary dialogues on Asia.

The Fall 2013 Conference will take place next September. Our call for papers for TAC 2013 will be released in early February. We welcome papers from graduate students engaged in research on South, Southeast, Central, and East Asia, and their communities in the diaspora. Our previous conference, in spring of 2011, drew over 100 participants and featured two faculty keynote speakers and 31 student panelists from nearly a dozen universities (including universities in India, Canada, and University of Oslo, Norway). Rather than focusing on one unifying theme, TAC 2011 was structured around 8 distinct theme-based panels, which addressed a wide range of issues including urban change and development, visual culture, nationalism, gender, and textual interpretation. See:

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/southasia/_files/downloads/Texas%20Asia%20Conference%202011%20Panels.pdf.

The TAC planning committee is now seeking graduate students from all UT departments to join our committee and get involved! At our upcoming November meeting we will brainstorm sources for funding and potential keynote speakers. Additionally, we welcome any suggestions regarding both funding sources and keynote speaker availability from South Asia Institute affiliated faculty and students. All those interested, please contact TAC committee co-chair Hillary Langberg at hlangberg@austin.utexas.edu. Thank you.



K-12 Outreach

FOR THIS YEAR'S K-12 Outreach section of our newsletter, SAI interviewed Snehal Shingavi, Assistant Professor of English, who has participated significantly in our Educator Outreach Programs. Our Outreach program hosts a number of professional development workshops for K-12 educators on the UT campus throughout the year.



SAI: Can you share a little about the different kinds of K-12 educator outreach events you've done with the South Asia Institute?

SS: I've now had the privilege in participating in two such events. The first was about postcolonial literature from South Asia, in which faculty at UT and Texas A&M shared their thoughts about how to teach literatures from India and Pakistan in high school settings. The presentations on Premchand, Amitav Ghosh, and Mohsin Hamid connected careful readings of the prose with cultural and historical contexts that were deeply informed by new theoretical tools. The second was an outreach event about global cities, in which I gave a presentation about the career of Delhi through 150 years of literature and film. So I covered the transformation of a predominantly Urdu-speaking Delhi at the time of the Mutiny by reading poems from *Fugan-i-Dilli*, through its transformation under British rule in a novel like Ahmed Ali's *Twilight in Delhi*, and its new character as a globalized city in Aravind Adiga's *White Tiger*. Of course, any such presentation would have been incomplete without also showing clips from the recent film, *Delhi Belly*.

SAI: How has working with K-12 educators impacted your own research and teaching at the university level?

SS: At a really fundamental level, it has made me excited about teaching and thinking about literature. Usually, when I am researching, I am thinking about a very specialized set of people who share a common jargon and have a pretty set approach to literary questions. Working with grade school teachers makes you rethink all of your assumptions--why did I choose this passage, how did I choose this piece of history--because they are not given. It also brings a fresh set of eyes to literary passages, and that is always helpful.

SAI: What was the most unexpected/surprising thing about working with K-12 educators?

SS: I think that at one level I was surprised by both how much and how little people understand about South Asia. Whenever one gives a presentation about anything related to India and Pakistan, one is forced to answer all kinds of big questions that some times don't really have anything to do with the piece of literature you are thinking about. When talking about India, someone always wants to know about caste; when it is Pakistan, there are always questions about fundamentalism and terrorism. That is both because people are genuinely curious and also because there is baseline of information (or misinformation) that is disseminated over the news media and people are constantly trying to see what they know or think they know in the literature that they are reading. Bollywood films can occasionally come up in conversation, even when there are no South Asian teachers in the audience, too. So there is this a constant shuttling back and forth between trying to dispel some misconceptions and deepen already developed knowledges about the subcontinent.

SAI: How do you think K-12 educators benefit from these outreach workshops and how would you hope they use the material you presented?

SS: I tend to think that there are few opportunities for K-12 teachers, who face incredible demands on their time, to get their own questions answered about how to teach material from countries about which they know very little. So on the one hand, there is a really genuine interest in the ideals of multicultural education, but not always a deep enough knowledge to make that education accomplish its ends. I think that what these programs do is give teachers an opportunity to work with specific materials, ask specific questions, and then have a package of tools that they can use more effectively in their own classrooms. I don't claim to have a monopoly on literary interpretation by any stretch of the imagination, so what I hope my presentations do is to give people the confidence to engage with the material in more creative and interesting ways in their classes. I've always believed that you are much better at teaching material that you are genuinely excited by, and that's what I think these programs are really good at: exciting teachers.

SAI: Are there any topics you would like to see covered in future workshops?

SS: I tend to think that Pakistan is now a place that deserves more attention in American classes. The media's portrayals of the country as well as some of the political rhetoric coming from both parties has tended to distort people's understanding of the country. It

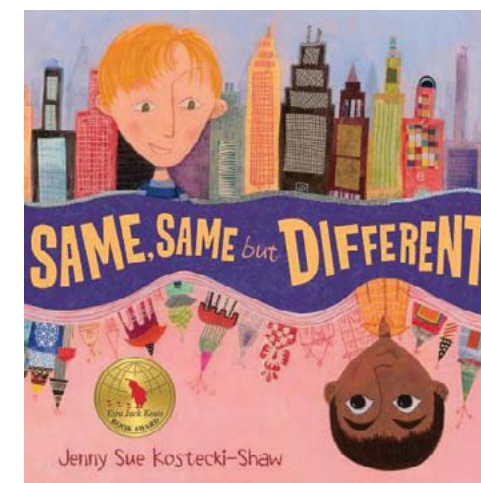
deserves attention not simply because it has become more important as a part of American foreign policy, but also because it is making such important cultural contributions to the world. Pakistani art and literature have undergone something of a renaissance in the post-Zia era and these are things that need to find their way into the west as well.

2012 South Asia Book Awards for Children's and Young Adult Literature

The annual South Asia Book Award (SABA), established in 2011 by the South Asia National Outreach Consortium (SANOC) recognizes up to two outstanding works of literature, from early childhood to secondary reading levels, which accurately and skillfully portrays South Asia or South Asians in the diasporas. Additionally, up to five Honor Books and Highly Commended Books are recognized by the award committee for their contribution to this body of literature on the region.

For more information about the SABA Award visit: <http://southasiabookaward.org/> or Email: saba@southasiabookaward.org

The 2012 Award Winners:

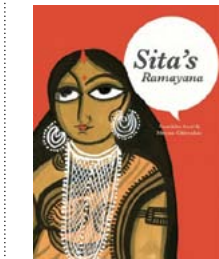


Same, Same but Different
by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
(Henry Holt and Company, 2011). Pen Pals Elliot and Kailash discover that even though they live in different countries—America and India—they both love to climb trees, own pets, and ride school buses (Grade 5 & under).

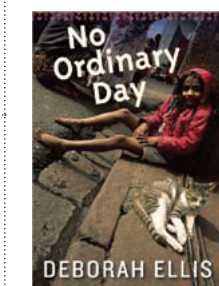


Island's End
by Padma Venkatraman (G.P. Putnam's Sons, division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2011). A young girl trains to be the new spiritual leader of her remote Andaman Island tribe, while facing increasing threats from the modern world (Grade 6 & above).

The 2012 Honor Books:



Sita's Ramayana by Samhita Arni, illustrations by Moyna Chitrakar (Groundwood Books, 2011)



No Ordinary Day by Deborah Ellis (Groundwood Books, 2011)



Following My Paint Brush by Dulari Devi and Gita Wolf (Tara Books Pvt. Ltd, 2010)



Small Acts of Amazing Courage by Gloria Whelan (Simon & Schuster, 2011)

South Asia Institute to Partner with Women's University in Pakistan

THE SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE has initiated a three-year partnership with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, that will bring faculty members from FJWU to Austin in January to work on research and course development in liberal arts and communication.

Each semester, FJWU faculty members will spend four months in Austin, to be followed by a two-week visit from University of Texas at Austin faculty members to FJWU in Pakistan.

The partnership aims to help raise The University of Texas at Austin's profile as a global leader in expanding knowledge and improving lives. It will concentrate on the professional development of FJWU faculty members, with a focus on the exchange of academic values and on building capacity for teaching and research in the areas

of women's and gender studies, social anthropology, communication and media studies. The program's administration will be housed in the South Asia Institute, which

Starting in January 2013, four FJWU faculty members will travel to Austin each semester to work directly with their American counterparts. The South Asia Institute will facilitate close collaboration with the university's Center of Women's and Gender Studies, the Department of Anthropology and select faculty members from the College of Communication's School of Journalism and the Department of Radio-Television-Film.

The partnership was made possible by a \$999,600 grant from the US Department of State/United States Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.



Front row (l to r), Kathryn Schalow, U.S. Embassy; Samina Amin Qadir, Vice Chancellor, FJWU; Kamran Asdar Ali, Director of the South Asia Institute.

Call for Papers: UT Austin's Sagar: A South Asia Research Journal

SAGAR: A SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH JOURNAL seeks innovative academic writings on the history, society, culture, literature, religion, economics, technology and media of South Asia. The journal was established in 1993 and is published annually online and in print by The South Asia Institute at The University of Texas at Austin. As of August 2012, we have made the transition to peer-reviewed status. Submissions are now coordinated by an editorial collective of UT graduate students and blindly evaluated by an editorial board of advanced scholars in the field. We are currently seeking:

- 1. Full-length research articles:** Full-length-articles should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words and should include a one-paragraph article abstract.
- 2. Original translations:** Translations should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words and should be preceded by a 300-600 word introduction contextualizing the text or excerpt. Our translation feature will familiarize scholars of particular linguistic regions of South Asia to new literatures, both popular and literary. Such exposure will facilitate comparison, perhaps drawing out common currents in the literatures of South Asia. For the English language reader, this feature will showcase writings outside the commonly translated canons of South Asian literature.
- 3. Response essays:** Responses should be 1500 words or less, and where applicable should include an image or recording of the work to which you are responding. Our second new feature, the response essay, will allow for continuous reflection on images, speeches, exhibits, performances, architecture, songs, and the like. Here, we are not looking for responses to scholarly writings (i.e. book reviews); rather, we encourage scholars to venture outside their areas of specialization, to intervene with timely responses to current events, or take the first steps along the way to future scholarly projects.

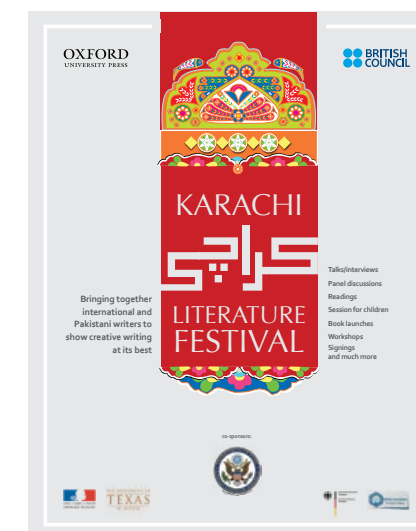
Authors should submit electronic copies of papers saved as Microsoft Word files to sagarjournal@gmail.com. Manuscripts should follow the 16th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style. All submissions for inclusion in the 2013 issue are due by October 22, 2012. Submissions

received after October 22, 2012 will be considered for the 2014 issue of Sagar. Please visit us online at sagarjournal.wordpress.com.

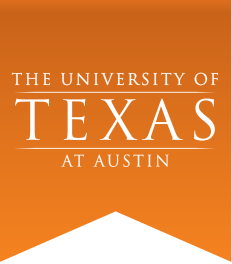
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In a provocative thesis enjoyed by all, Mufti argued that in a number of his late poems, Faiz turned to the question of the nature of the historical present, a "moment" characterized by the "lateness" of its emergence. These works, according to the speaker, revisit the entire arc of the twentieth century and raise fundamental questions about the vocabulary of the revolutionary imagination, the terms in which the revolutionary subject has been historically imagined and conceived. They rearticulate the hope for human emancipation, find a new language for its articulation, precisely in the aftermath of the collapse or containment of revolutionary politics worldwide.

The keynote and the first day's proceedings set the tone for the entire workshop that showcased the maturity of scholarship on Pakistan as moving beyond the discussion on Muslim nationalism and the debates on what can euphemistically called, "Bombs and Burqas". During the workshop there were various kinds of synergies, agreements and disagreements, but always in the spirit of learning and intellectual solidarities. It certainly was a unique event in the history of our Insitute and brought forward our commitment to bring together the most critically attuned scholarship on the South Asia region.



SAI co-sponsored the Karachi Literature Festival 2012



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