

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2-4 APRIL 2014
ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

DRAFT TIMETABLE (14 MARCH 2014)

WEDNESDAY (2 APRIL)

11:00 – REGISTRATION BEGINS

12:30-14:30

McCrea 201 Terrains of Resistance in Neoliberal India I

Chair: Alf Gunvald Nilsen (University of Bergen)

Subhir Sinha (SOAS), *Subalterns, the NGO form and the outside/inside of mainstream politics and development in India*

Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo) & Alf Gunvald Nilsen (University of Bergen), *Law-struggles and hegemonic processes in neoliberal India: Gramscian reflections on land acquisition legislation*

Srila Roy (University of Witwatersrand), *Empowering women, producing subjects: feminist politics in liberalized India*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 219 The Longue Duree of Intellectual History I

Chair: Benjamin Zachariah (Heidelberg University)

Oyndrila Sarkar (Heidelberg University), *Scientific innovators or 'native informants': Radhanath Sikdar, Mohsin Husain and the great trigonometrical survey of India*

Ana Jelnikar (University of Primorska), *Hospitality in South Asia: ancient legacy, modern tool of resistance*

Chandak Sengoopta (Birkbeck College), *In the prisonhouse of 'humanism': Satyajit Ray and the West*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 325 Work in Post-Liberal India: Continuities & Transformations

Chair: Phillippa Williams (Queen Mary)

Tom Chambers (University of Sussex), *Informality, supply chain capitalism and Muslim labour in India*

Barbara Harriss White (Oxford University), *Labour and petty production: evidence, theory and praxis*

Diego Maiorano (University of Liege), *The politics of the right to work*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 336 Mountain Economies and Lived Realities of Culture

Chair and commentator: *TBC*

Neelam Raina (Middlesex University)

Emma Dick

Mari Miyomoto (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan), *Slaughter and Buddhism in contemporary Bhutan*

IB 243 **Negotiating Gender and Rights in Changing Landscapes**

Chair: Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam)

Anjali Datta (University of Cambridge), *'Locating' women in the Chardiwari: Muslim marginalization in post-partition Delhi*

Andrea Fleschenberg (Quaid-i-Azam University), *Democratization and empowerment post-2001: tales of political participation from Afghanistan*

Tahrat N. Shahid (University of Oxford), *Sexual equality in family laws for Muslims in Bangladesh: a fear of change*

Comment: The audience

IB 244 **The wider world of social marginalization in India**

Chair: Hugo Gorringer (University of Edinburgh)

Vedita Cowaloosur (University of Warwick), *Class, caste and the English language in India*

Shruti Chaudhry (University of Edinburgh), *Marriage among the dalits of western Uttar Pradesh*

Jacob Copeman (University of Edinburgh), *Naming trouble: caste, secularism and onomastic politics in urban north India*

M. Raisur Rahman (Wake Forest University), *Qasbahs, Muslims and the question of being a minority: social and cultural order in colonial India*

Comment: The audience

14:30-15:00 – REFRESHMENT BREAK

15:00-17:00

McCrea 201 **Terrains of Resistance in Neoliberal India II**

Chair: Kenneth Bo Nielsen (University of Oslo)

Nandini Nayak (Ambedkar University), *Rights, resistance and citizenship: claiming the 'right to work' in southwest Madhya Pradesh*

Prakash Kashwan (University of Connecticut), *Radical reforms: what do they miss?*

Patrick Oskarsson (University of Gothenberg), *The creation of mining as a subject of resistance in central India*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 219 **The Longue Duree of Intellectual History II**

Chair: Ali Raza (Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Benjamin Zachariah (Heidelberg University), *Chasing an idea*

Utathya Chattopadhyaya (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), *To see the sea: the Indian Ocean and its historiographical construction*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 325 **Roundtable: Development and Welfare States in South Asia**

Chair: Deepta Chopra and Gabriele Koehler (Institute of Development Studies)

Deepta Chopra (Institute of Development Studies), *The Indian case: towards a rights-based welfare state?*

Gabriele Koehler (UN Research Institute for Social Development), *Nepal: social policy in a nascent welfare state*

Comment: Barbara Harriss White (Oxford University)

McCrea 336 Transnational political & religious networks in South Asia

Chair: Humayun Ansari (Royal Holloway)

Sana Haroon (University of Massachusetts Boston), *Mosque-building in Mauritius and Burma: North Indian Muslims in the Empire*

Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam University), *Pandita Ramabai and liberal religious networks between India, Britain and the United States*

Somak Biswas (Jawaharlal Nehru University), *Passages to India: politics of affect in an age of empire, 1895-1925*

Marina Martin (University of Pretoria), *Project codification: Legal legacies of the British Raj on the Indian indigenous mercantile credit institution Hundi between 1969-1978*

Comment: The audience

IB 244 Constitution Making in Asia

Chair and comment: Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway)

Harshan Kumarasingham (University of Cambridge), *Constitution Making and Decolonisation in the Eastminsters*

Asanga Welikala (University of Edinburgh), *'Specialist in Omniscience'? nationalism, constitutionalism and Sir Ivor Jennings' Engagement with Ceylon*

Roger D. Long (East Michigan University), *The 'Eastminster' system: Sir Ivor Jennings and the trials and tribulations of constitution making in Pakistan*

17:15-18:30 – GECN session

19:00 – DINNER (ALL-INCLUSIVE PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

THURSDAY (3 APRIL)

8:00 – REGISTRATION BEGINS

9:00-11:00

McCrea 201 Dalit Lives: Dynamism and Discrimination in India and Beyond

Chair: Jacob Copeman (University of Edinburgh)

Karim Kapadia (independent scholar), *Dalit Pentecostal Metropolitans in South India*

Hugo Gorringe (University of Edinburgh), *Untouchability Unlimited? caste discrimination, hierarchy and politics in contemporary Tamil Nadu*

Ishita Mehrotra (Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies), *No Leap Forward: change and continuity in lives of rural Dalit women*

David Mosse (SOAS), Meena Dhanda (University of Wolverhampton), Annapurna Waughray (Manchester Metropolitan University), *Negotiating caste: public discourse and legal change in the UK*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 219 The Local Life of Big Ideas: Villages as Sites of Diversity, Politics and History in South Asia

Chair and comment: Patricia Jeffery (SOAS)

- Tommaso Sbriccoli (SOAS), *Small stories and epochal trends: changing voting patterns in a village in Central India*
- Tina Otten (SOAS, University of London), *Ideas of the Indian state and their implementation in a village in the Kandhamals, Odisha*
- Alice Tilche and Edward Simpson (SOAS), *Take me to London! migration and nationalism in Central Gujarat*
- Rajiv Verma (University of Hohenheim), *Village outcastes, entitlements and the struggle against corruption: a case-study of Samajik Shodh Evam Vikas Kendra in rural Bihar, India*

McCrea 325 **Bridging Regions: Emerging Trends in India's Interactions with Southeast Asia**

Chair: *TBC*

Rahul Advani (National University of Singapore), *Culture and consumption: India in Southeast Asia*

Laldinkima Sailo (National University of Singapore), *'Looking east' through northeast: development and connectivity*

Sinderpal Singh (National University of Singapore), *India-Southeast Asia relations: unpacking the narrative(s)*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 336 **Democracy at Work in Post-Independence India**

Chair: Paul McGarr (University of Nottingham)

Gaia von Hatzfeldt (University of Edinburgh), *Agonistic Democracy: the endurance of the Gandhi and Nehru legacy*

Patrick Clibbens (Oxford University), *Nasbandi kā vaqt? time, sterilisation and the Indian Emergency*

Rebecca Williams (University of Warwick), *The 'inarticulate premise': family planning under the Emergency in India, 1975-77*

Comment: The audience

IB 243 **Liberalisation's Children? Youth, Subjectivities, and Aspirations in India**

Chair: Sneha Krishnan (University of Oxford)

Sneha Krishnan (University of Oxford), *Gender, student politics and aspiration in the neoliberal university*

Divya Nambiar (University of Oxford), *Deconstructing "success": youth encounters with skill training programmes in Rajasthan*

Phillippa Williams (Queen Mary), *Aspirations, agency, angst: Muslim graduates in New Delhi's post-liberal economy*

Comment: Jamie Cross (University of Edinburgh)

IB 244 **South Asia's Science and Environments**

Chair and comment: Daniel Haines (Royal Holloway)

Graham P. Chapman (Lancaster University) and Kalyan Rudra (West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation), *Time Streams: history and rivers in Bengal*

Gautam Chando Roy (Vidyasagar University), *Science education in a colonial situation: Bengali children's literature, c.1880- c.1920*

Markus Kröger (University of Helsinki), *The politics of iron mining in India*

Abin Thomas (King's College London), *The bioeconomy of 'obligation', 'empathy' and 'donation': contemporary reflections on organ donation in Kerala*

Main Lecture Theatre Muslim Politics and Identity in South Asia

Chair: Markus Daechsel (Royal Holloway)

Tanweer Fazal, *Emerging Muslim middle class in India and the shifting political discourse*

Heewon Kim (SOAS), *United Progressive Alliance government, Muslims, and public sector employment: an unfulfilled promise?*

Yaqoob Bangash and Sarmad Hussain (Forman Christian College), *Pakistan's May 2013 General Elections: monitoring the democratic experiment*

Comment: The audience

11:00-11:30 – REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:30-12:45 – ROUNDTABLE: South Asia and its Wider Worlds

Magnus Marsden (University of Sussex)

Paul M. McGarr (University of Nottingham)

Clare Midgley (Sheffield Hallam)

Alistair Pinkerton (Royal Holloway)

13:00-14:00 – LUNCH

14:15-16:15

McCrea 201

South Asian Diasporas and the Negotiation of British Multiculturalism(s)

Chair and comment: Humayun Ansari (Royal Holloway)

Ed Anderson (University of Cambridge), *Hindutva, political representation, and the public articulation of Hindu identity in multicultural Britain*

Jed Fazakarley (University of Oxford), *The British campaign for Bangladeshi independence: the emergence and recognition of a 'new ethnicity'*

Sundeep Lidher (University of Cambridge), *Unwelcome subjects, undesirable multiculturalisms: the evolution of immigration control in Britain, 1945-1962*

John Zavos (University of Manchester), *Social action and cultures of service in the BrAsian city*

McCrea 219

Architecture and the Politics of Space

Chair: Edward Simpson (SOAS)

Tariq Jazeel (University College London), *Architecture and Auroville: modernity, modernism and the aesthetic politics of utopianism*

Deborah Sutton (Lancaster University), *Inhabited pasts: the politics of space and urban monuments in New Delhi*

Pushpa Arabindoo (University College London), *The politics of global architecture in India*

Claire Dwyer (University College London), *South Asian religious architecture in the diaspora: recreation and reinvention*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 325 Ideas of the Frontier in South Asia

- Chair and comment: Sujit Sivasundaram (University of Cambridge)
Tom Simpson (University of Cambridge), *Tangled lines: bordering and frontier-making in colonial north-east India, 1830-1930*
Daniel Haines (Royal Holloway), *The narrow frontier: local agency in Punjab's international borderland, 1952-1955*
Elisabeth Leake (Royal Holloway), *A frontier undone: the Durand Line and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan*

McCrea 336 Patterns of Conflict in South Asia: National and International Dimensions

- Chair and comment: Lion König (Heidelberg University)
Lion König (Heidelberg University), *Communal violence and cognitive clashes in India: Hindus, Muslims and the conceptual problem of secularism*
La Toya Waha (Heidelberg University), *Analysing Buddhist monastic violence: identity and conflict in Sri Lanka*
Yang Lu (Heidelberg University), *From the conflict- to the post-conflict stage: the India-China border dispute and the 'news war'*
Bernhard Beitelmaier (Heidelberg University), *Conflicting concepts: exploring Indian strategic culture(s) and the impact on security*

IB 244 Early modern cultural & artistic interactions in South Asia

- Chair: Francis Robinson (Royal Holloway)
Marc Tiefenauer (Université de Lausanne), *The realm of the Lord of Death as depicted by an eighteenth century Persian translation of the Ramayana*
Blain Auer (Université de Lausanne), *Persian literati, acculturation and Persianate identity in the early Delhi courts of South Asia*
Apurba Chatterjee (Uppsala University), *Imaging the authority: the early British presence in Bengal, 1756-1793*
Sara Mondini (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *The mihrab of the Jami Masjid of Bijapur*
Comment: The audience

Main Lecture Theatre A Long History of Politics in Pakistan

- Chair: Markus Daechsel (Royal Holloway)
Muhammad Mushtaq (University of Gujrat), *Regional identities in the quest for separate provinces: a new challenge for the Pakistani federation*
Fakhar Bilal (Quaid-i-Azam University), *A survey of Nawab Sadiq of Bahawalpur State's relations with British administrators*
Raza Naeem (Lahore School of Economics), *'Dear Uncle Sam, From Pakistan, With Love': Manto's 'Letters to Uncle Sam' in His Time, and In Ours*
Mushtaque Ali Abbasi (Forman Christian College), *The politics of One Unit and the interests of troika: a case study of Sindh*
Comment: The audience

16:15-16:45 – REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:45-18:00 – PLENARY SESSION

Professor Francis Robinson (Royal Holloway), *South Asia and West Asia from the Delhi Sultanate to the Present; Security, Resources and Influence*

18:00-19:00 – DRINKS RECEPTION

19:30 – DINNER (PRE-REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

FRIDAY (4 APRIL)

10:00-12:00

McCrea 201 Migrants, Refugees, Infiltrators

Chair: Phillippa Williams (Queen Mary)

Sahana Ghosh (Yale University), *Borderwork: producing certainty along and across the India-Bangladesh border*

Antara Datta (Royal Holloway), *The refugee within: Indian Muslims and the war of 1971*

Subhankar Ghosh (University of Oxford), *Identity at the Gates of Politics: Muslims in Contemporary West Bengal*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 219 Gender Empowerment in South Asia: A Double Burden?

Chair: Deepta Chopra (Institute of Development Studies)

Zahra Nesbitt-Ahmed (Institute of Development Studies), *Public policies and an agenda of care: the case of Nepal*

Alexandra Wanjiku Kelbert (Institute of Development Studies), *Gender roles and global crises: the case of Bangladesh*

Deepta Chopra, *Making the connection: caring for child rights and women's rights*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 325 Cultures of State and Identity in the Diaspora

Chair: Ed Anderson (University of Cambridge)

Ravinder Barn (Royal Holloway) and Mujibur Rehman (Jamia Millia Islamia Central University), *Examining the role and relationship among the Indian diaspora, state and Indian democracy*

G.S. Jandu (Royal Anthropological Institute), *Stereotyped Sikh images in diaspora: public portrayals and citizenry identity politics*

Jasjit Singh (University of Leeds), *The cultural value of South Asian arts in Britain*

Comment: The audience

McCrea 336 Urban Citizenship and Political Change across South Asia

Chair and comment: Louise Tillin (King's College London)

Thomas Cowan (King's College London), *Fragmented subjects: space and the political in Gurgaon, India's 'Millennial' city: Migrant workers and their claims to the city*

Matt Birkinshaw (London School of Economics), *Nehru's new mission and the Aam Admi: infrastructure, informality and politics in Indian cities*

Nina Kaysser (SOAS), *Contesting urban spaces: socio-economic change and Hindu-Muslim violence in India*

Shankar Jayaram (King's College London), *From bottom-up to top-down: political contestation, Dalit politics and the right to the city in Uttar Pradesh*

IB 243 Historical Networks in Colonial South Asia

Chair: Sana Haroon (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Kate Boehme (University of Cambridge), *Smuggling India: deconstructing western India's illicit export trade, 1818-1870*

Alexander Bubb (Linnaeus University), *Class, cotton and woddaries: the business networks of railway contractors in the Bombay Presidency, 1855-1870*

Devyani Gupta (University of Cambridge), *The Post Office of British India: a story of mail movement, imperial expansion and global networks of exchange*

Comment: The audience

IB 244 Arts, Media and Identity in South Asia

Chair: Markus Daechsel (Royal Holloway)

Muhammad Azfar Nisar and Ayesha Masood (Arizona State University), *The nostalgic detective: Identity formation in detective fiction of Pakistan*

Najia Mukhtar (SOAS), *Approaching religious difference differently: ideas and critiques in contemporary Pakistan*

Nirmal Kumar (Vienna University), *Why small regions get a film: analysis of Bhojpuri cinema in the context of India*

Piyush Roy (University of Edinburgh), *Rasa and Phalke: tracing Natyasastra influences in the auteurship of the father of Indian cinema*

Comment: The audience

13:00-14:00

Main Lecture Theatre GECN session