

SASNET

- The Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) is an interdisciplinary network, based at Lund University, that disseminates information, promotes research, and encourages the development of South Asian studies at Swedish universities and research institutions.
- SASNET serves as a national network linking Swedish undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, teachers, and journalists working on projects related to the South Asia region.
- SASNET's web site disseminates information on South Asia-related education and research at more than 300 Swedish university departments, and about conferences and seminars throughout the world on topics concerning South Asia. In addition, SASNET publishes a monthly on-line newsletter that reaches more than 3 000 people worldwide. Subscribe to the SASNET newsletter by sending an e-mail to sasnet@sasnet.lu.se.



SASNET Web site: www.sasnet.lu.se/

CME

- The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CME) was founded in 2007 in an effort to support and coordinate research on the region at Lund University. Research on the Middle East has existed in Lund since the university's founding in 1666. Over the last few decades, an increasing amount of disciplines across all faculties of the university have begun conducting research and teaching courses on the region. CME will continue to support these efforts by becoming an international hub in Scandinavia for interdisciplinary research on the Middle East.



CME Web site: <http://www.cmes.lu.se>

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LUND UNIVERSITY



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SWEDISH SOUTH ASIA STUDIES NETWORK

CME

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Joint Seminar Series spring 2016



Programme for Spring 2016

During the spring of 2016 SASNET and the Center of Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) organize a joint seminar series. South Asia and the Middle East regions have a long history of common interest and this series will highlight some of these. These seminars constitute a first step for SASNET and CMES to further collaborations in the future

Venue for all seminars: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Finngatan 16, seminar room 1

– Thursday 25 February, 15.15 – 17.00



Professor Olle Qvarnström
& Dr. Martin Gansten, Lund University

Topic: Hindu Reception of Perso-Arabic Traditions of Knowledge and the Role of Jainism in Cultural Transmission

Abstract: Almost no research has been done on Sanskrit-language reception of Islamic divination/astrology, and the few studies which have been made of Jaina-Muslim relations mainly concern later periods in history. This project therefore constitutes vital foundational research. The research work, dealing chiefly with medieval textual sources and based on philology and historical criticism, is related to the areas of previous research and specialist competence of the applicants, with regard both to reception history and interreligious relations. Research results will be published as English-language articles and at least one monograph on Persian-Indian cultural exchanges, history of astral disciplines, and Jainology.



– Tuesday 15 March, 15.15 – 17.00

Professor Rakhee Timothy,
V V Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, India

Topic: Migration of Women Workers from South Asia to the Gulf

Abstract: Given the increasing feminisation of international migration, the proposed talk will focus on the processes, outcomes and problems associated with the migration of women workers from South Asian

countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to the Gulf region (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). Taking into account how the labour market in the Gulf mirrors the dominant sexual division of labour, focus will be to explore the vulnerabilities of low skilled women migrant workers.

The talk will elaborate how regulatory regimes of different countries have often adopted contradictory policy measures, which reflect the pressures experienced by sending and receiving States.

Sending states attempt to balance the macro benefits of increasing remittances, the micro/local experiences of subtle yet important changes in gender relations within and outside the household, and the imperative of protection of migrant workers' rights.

Receiving states, on the other hand, while benefiting from abundant and inexpensive low skilled labour, must balance anti-immigrant sentiments and demands for indigenisation.

– Monday 2 May, 15.15 – 17.00



Professor Dennis B. McGilray,
University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

Topic: Sufi Transnational Networks
– South Asia and Middle East connection

Abstract: Professor McGilray ethnographic interests are in South Asia, with a research focus on the Tamils and Muslims of south India and Sri Lanka. His book, *Crucible of Conflict* (Duke 2008), examines matrilineal Hindu and Muslim kinship, caste structure, religious ritual, and ethnic identities in the Tamil-speaking region of eastern Sri Lanka, an area that was deeply affected by the island's civil war.

He also co-edited a collection of essays resulting from a multidisciplinary NSF project on Sri Lanka's recovery from the 2004 tsunami (McGilray and Gamburd, eds. 2010). The fieldwork that he currently undertaking explores transnational Sufism and matrilocal marriage patterns in Sri Lanka and southern India. A published photographer (*Symbolic Heat*, Mapin 1998), Professor McGilray also have an interested in visual anthropology and alternative modes of cultural representation.

Before retiring from the classroom in 2014, He taught a lower division course on Tamil culture; upper division courses on Symbolic Anthropology, Foundations of Theory, and South Asian ethnography; and a graduate seminar on Ethnography and Cultural theory.