

SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University

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SASNET Newsletters

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Submitted by admin on Tue, 2015-08-04 18:31

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK

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More than 70 researchers from Europe and South Asia turned up for a successful SASNET three-day international conference on the structural transformation of South Asia being held in Lund 20–22 May 2015. The conference was entitled *“South Asia in Transformation: World of Slums, Global Power Houses or Utopias? Migration, labour, and family changes in a dynamic region”*, and consisted of seven panels, each one led by eminent researchers. The theme of the panels varied from *“Urbanization and Social Sustainability”*, to *“Ethnicity, Religion and Changing Caste Relations”*, *“Changes in Family and Household”*, *“Migration, Environment and Social Sustainability”*, *“Governance in South Asia”*, *“Changing Labour Markets”* and *“Structural Transformation and Social Conflicts”*.

The networking was intense with a large contingent of young, promising researchers from South Asia – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan – presenting their papers along with Scandinavian colleagues. SASNET had given travel grants to no less than 30 young South Asian researchers.

The purpose of the conference was to explore the social consequences of the transformation of South Asian societies (and by implication, the world). Structural transformations produce new opportunities and risks as job possibilities and wealth are created and redistributed unevenly. This may lead to the marginalization of some groups as well as social conflicts. The aim of this conference is also to map the social impact of South Asia’s structural transformation so far, with specific reference to changes in labour migration patterns and in the composition of the care economy of families and households. The conference had managed to attract four eminent keynote speakers, namely Prof. Abram de Swaan from University of Amsterdam; Prof. Rajni Palriwala from University of Delhi; Prof. Gita Sen from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; and Prof. Ruth Kattumuri from London School of Economics. Their presentations were video recorded and are now available. [Read the full conference report with photos and links to presentations.](#)



• **Malmö symposium on Cardiometabolic Disease Risk for people from the Middle East and South Asia**

The Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology Unit at the Department of Clinical Sciences (CRC), Lund University, organises a mini-Symposium on *“Cardiometabolic Disease Risk for people from the Middle-East and South Asia”* on 3 September 2015, 12.00–15.00, in Malmö. The symposium is sponsored in part by SASNET. It aims to offer a comprehensive update on the cardiometabolic risk in South Asians and immigrants from the Middle East. Three distinguished national and international faculty will give lectures. Professor K.M. Venkat Narayan from Emory University Atlanta, Georgia, USA, will speak about *“Type 2 Diabetes risk and South Asians”*. Narayanan is professor of epidemiology & medicine, at Emory, and currently Visiting professor in Global Diabetes at the University of Copenhagen. Associate Professor Louise Bennet from the Center for Primary Health Care Research at Lund University will speak about *“Cardiometabolic risk profiles in immigrants from the Middle East”*; and Professor Naveed Sattar from the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK, will speak about *“Cardiovascular disease risk in South Asians”*. Venue: Lecture Hall at CRC (CRC-aula), Jan Waldenströms gata 35, Skåne University Hospital in Malmö. [More information.](#)



Venkat Narayan, Louise Bennet and Naveed Sattar.

• **SASNET facilitates study tour for Bangladeshi delegations**



SASNET is currently involved in planning for a study tour to Scandinavia for local government administrators and Zilla Parishad members from Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has decided to send people working in local administration to Denmark, Norway and Sweden in August, September, October and November 2015 to study local government in these countries. The Embassy in Stockholm



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has chosen the city of Lund to be included in the schedule, and SASNET to act as facilitator in organising the programme.

The first group was supposed to come to Lund in mid-August 2015 but the visit has to be postponed. Besides meeting political and administrative representatives of the city, an academic seminar has been scheduled. Associate Professor Anders Sannerstedt from the Dept. of Political Science, Lund University, will give a lecture focusing on the Swedish Model of Local Democracy. Anders Sannerstedt is a leading Swedish expert on this issue. SASNET is providing logistical assistance to the programme.



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• Staff changes at SASNET

During the period 21 April-11 June, Lars Eklund worked as Acting SASNET director. This coincided with the most intense planning period for the major SASNET conference held on 20-22 May, and he therefore also took over charge as main conference convener. For this work, he was assisted by Andreas Johansson, Lubna Hawwa and Jacco Visser, besides former deputy director Olle Frödin (whose employment at SASNET terminated on 31 May). Anna Lindberg is now back as Director, and Andreas Johansson has continued to work for SASNET on a 50 % project basis to handle seminars and research coordination, tasks that Linda Hiltmann used to work with till she quit SASNET in March 2015. [More information on SASNET's staff and board.](#)

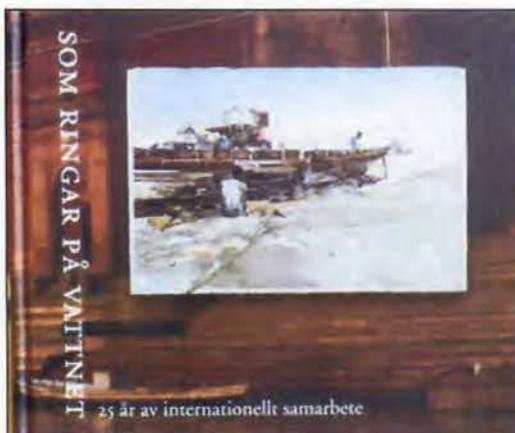
• More information about SASNET and its activities

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sasnet-news>

Research Community News

• Karlstad University's India collaboration documented

What began with a field trip by Karlstad University professors and teachers training students to India in 1987, today, over 25 years later, has developed into a comprehensive collaboration between the Swedish university and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, and a few other Indian universities. In Varanasi, Karlstad University has established a study centre in a riverside palace building at Assi ghat, and over the years, students of religious studies, history, cultural geography, the teaching training and social work, among others, have had the opportunity to travel to India. Usually to do field studies or training. Today, the collaboration also extends to Dharamsala in northern India. To highlight this impressive development, the university has published a book entitled "*Som Ringar på Vattnet. 25 år av internationellt samarbete*", full of impressions by people who have been part of the collaboration projects. It has been edited by Inga-Lill Fjällsby, Peter Olausson and Margareta Ullström. They hope that the book will give inspiration to broaden and develop the cooperation further. [More information.](#)



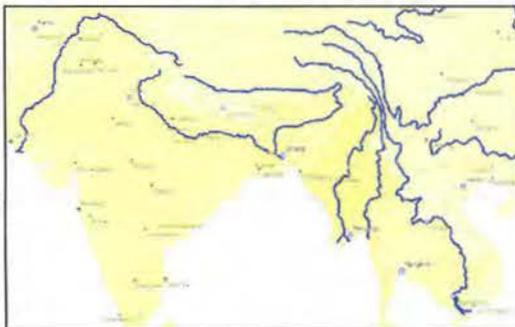
The Varanasi study centre, Ganga Mahal, is primarily meant for Karlstad University students, but in the case the number of KU students are less Ganga Mahal is also open for students and researchers from other Swedish universities. Such is the case right now, and therefore interested persons are free to approach [Inga-Lill Fjällsby](#) or [Per-Olof Fjällsby](#) at Karlstad University with a request for a stay at Ganga Mahal, preferably for 2-3 months during the fall 2015.

• Call for chapters to book on material culture in borderlands between the Mekong and the Indus



Assistant Professor Manjeet Baruah and Lipokmar Dzuwichu at the North East India Studies Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, India, are preparing for an

edited volume entitled "*Objects and Frontiers: Between the Mekong and the Indus, 18th to 20th Century*". They are now inviting chapter proposals for this book that Orient BlackSwan in principle has agreed to publish in May 2016. It will focus on objects that play an important role in the shaping and practice of historical cultures. One of the dominant approaches to the study of objects has been that of material culture. The book brings



objects to the centre of enquiry in the understanding of frontiers and borderlands. Given the significance of the 18th century as a moment of historical transition, the book would like to focus on the period between the 18th and the 20th century. This would enable in understanding the processes of frontier making during this period and the place of objects in it. In this regard, the areas between the Mekong and the Indus provide an exciting field to study the significance of objects and the making of frontiers. Covering major river systems such as the Mekong, the Chindwin, the Irrawaddy, the Brahmaputra and the Indus, the area between the Mekong and the Indus straddles various frontiers and borderlands. It also covers uplands such as the Patkai, the Himalayas, the Karakoram etc. For example, even during colonialism, frontiers such as the North West Frontier and North East Frontier got produced. Deadline for sending abstracts will be 2 October 2015. [More information.](#)

• Pondicherry academic guest scholar at University of Gothenburg

During four weeks of late spring 2015, Dr. Kalpana Rao Hulluru from Pondicherry University in India was a guest scholar at the [Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion \(LIR\)](#) at



University of Gothenburg. At Pondicherry University, Dr. Hulluru is an associate professor at the Department of English, specialized in American and Canadian literature, women's literature and feminist theories. She is also coordinator for the Study India programme involving students from Gothenburg doing field work in Pondicherry. During her stay in Gothenburg she held two public seminars, one on Tamil writer Perumal Murugan and his controversial novel "One Part Woman" (published in English 2014). When it was translated into English the book was banned and angry crowds burned it. The writer was so troubled about this that he decided to give up writing completely. The second seminar dealt with "Identity and Culture: Postcolonial Perspectives in Select South Asian Literature". [More information about her Gothenburg stay.](#)



An interview with Dr. Hulluru was recently published in Karavan issue 2/2015. The article written by Karin Edgardh focuses on the Murugan seminar – "Tamilsk författare tystad till självcensur". [More information.](#)

• Parul Sharma publishes book on Human Rights in India



With a Master of Law degree from the [Department of Law, Stockholm University](#), and doctoral studies at the National Law School of India University (NLS) in Bangalore, Parul Sharma has become an outspoken human rights lawyer specialised on the legal systems and cultures of South Asia. She has specialised on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Human Rights strategies for Swedish companies working in South Asia, most prominently Sandvik and Stora Enso. Over the years, she has published a large number of research papers in the fields of Human Rights and International Law, and for six years she worked as a human rights adviser to Delegation of the European Commission to India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. She is currently heading the Academy for Human Rights in Business (part of CSR Sweden). Parul Sharma has now published a book on Human Rights in India – "*Mänskliga Rättigheter i Indien*", a book that will be officially launched by the publisher Gleerups on Tuesday 15 September 2015, 16.00-18.00. [More information about the book.](#)



• European award for doctoral dissertation on early Buddhist school of India

Jens Wilhelm Borgland from the [Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages](#) at University of Oslo, defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "*A Study of the Adhikaranavastu: Legal Settlement Procedures of the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya*" on Friday 24 October 2014. The Mūlasarvāstivāda was one of the early Buddhist schools of India. The origins of the Mūlasarvāstivāda and their relationship to the Sarvāstivāda sect still remain largely unknown, although various theories exist. The judging committee included Dr. Petra Kieffer-Pülz, Akademie der Wissenschaften, Mainz, Germany; Dr. Ulrich Pagel, SOAS, University of London, UK; Gregory Schopen, Professor University of Los Angeles, USA; and Professor Mark Teeuwen, University of Oslo. Jens' research interests includes languages and religions including Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Buddhism, Jainism, Vinaya, especially Mulasarvastivadavinaya and Tibetan. He completed his Bachelor in Religious Studies and Master in Sanskrit, both from University of Oslo. [More information about the dissertation.](#)



In July 2015, Borgland was awarded the first European Award for Outstanding Dissertations in Buddhist Studies by the Khyentse Foundation. The award is presented every two years to the best PhD dissertation in the field of Buddhist Studies written in Europe, including the UK, during the previous two academic years. The dissertation must be written in English, based on original research in the relevant primary language, and it should significantly advance understanding of the subject or Buddhist scriptures studied. [More information.](#)

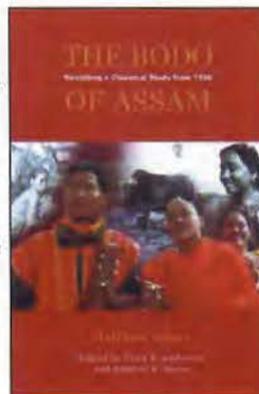
• Halfdan Siiger's unique manuscript about the Bodo people published in new book

Dr. Peter B. Andersen from the Dept. of Cross- Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, and Santosh K. Soren, retired librarian from Roskilde University, have published a book entitled "*The Bodo of Assam. Revisiting a Classical Study from 1950*", highlighting the eminent scholarly work carried out by Prof. Halfdan Siiger (1911-1999) at Aarhus University in the 1940s.



Siiger was briefly keeper of the ethnographic collection at the National Museum of Denmark and later professor of the history of religions at Aarhus University. Much of his research stemmed from his participation in the Third Danish Expedition to Central Asia during which he travelled from Kabul in Afghanistan to Assam in India in 1947-1950. In his 1950 manuscript about the Bodo (or Boro) people of Assam, he offers detailed descriptions of the social and ritual life of the Boros and new insights into the traditions and myths as they were told in the village he studied before the transformation of religious life in recent decades. Thanks to Siiger's diligent translation and interpretation, the manuscript also preserves a number of ritual formulas and songs in the Boro language.

Siiger's manuscript is given even greater relevance by the inclusion of more recent material contributed by the editors and other contemporary scholars. In addition, his original photos are augmented by new photos from the village and by rare images from the collections of the National Museum of Denmark. [More information about the book.](#)



In connection with the publication by NIAS Press, the National Museum of Denmark made an exhibition about Halfdan Siiger and the Bodo people. It includes numerous photos and material objects collected in Assam in the 1940s. The exhibition was inaugurated on Tuesday 16 June 2015. Venue: Entrance to Ethnographic collection, 2nd floor. Peter Andersen and Santosh K Soren presented their book at the occasion.

• KTH report on how to provide arsenic-free drinking water in rural Bangladesh

In February 2015, the [Division of Energy and Climate Studies](#) at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm published a final project report on "*Biogas Based Poly-Generation for Rural Development in Bangladesh*". The report was developed within a research project led by KTH in collaboration with Scarab Development AB (Swedish company involved in developing water-



purification technologies), and Grameen Shakti (a non-profit organization with long track record of work in energy and development in Bangladesh). The project was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



The report, written by the project leader Professor Semida Silveira, has evaluated a small-scale biogas-based poly-generation technology for delivering electricity, cooking gas and arsenic-free drinking water in rural areas of Bangladesh. The project team also included Prof. Andrew Martin, Dr. Brijesh Mainali and Mr. Ershad Khan from KTH; Dr M.S. Islam from

Grameen Shakti; and Mr Aapo Sääsk from Scarab. Valuable inputs have been provided by Mr Abser Kamal, Managing Director of Grameen Shakti, and his entire team. Finally, a number of KTH masters students – Hassan Ahmed, Nasrin Akter, Caroline Saul and Saad Been Emran – made important contributions to the project. [Go for the report.](#)



• Bishnu Pathak report on Nepal's Enforced Disappearance Commission

Nepal's Enforced Disappearance Commission: Roles of International Community. Report by Professor **Bishnu Pathak**, former DANIDA Fellow at the Danish Centre for Human Rights, now Professor of Human Security, and Executive Director for the Peace and Conflict Studies Center in Kathmandu. Dr. Pathak has done a PhD on Conflict Management and Human Rights. Presently, he is working as a Commissioner in the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons in Nepal.

Enforced disappearance has been a long, but a neglected history in Nepal. It is derived from the laws of war where a person secretly arrest, detain, torture and disappear either by a State or armed force refusing to acknowledge whereabouts of his/her fate. The force tries hard to decompose the dead body in such a way not to be ever being found. Nepal is in a phase to conclude the peace process forming a Truth-finding Commission named Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP). The CIEDP is an independent, autonomous, professional, impartial and high-level statutory body. It investigates to discover and reveal past wrongdoings, to exhume the possible remains, to deliver the justice to the victims. [Read more...](#)



• Scholarly works by Göran Djurfeldt and Staffan Lindberg now on the Net

In a very unusual way, Professor Emeritus Staffan Lindberg and Professor Göran Djurfeldt from the Dept. of Sociology, Lund University, have posted their great scholarly works from the 1970s to share with any researcher of today their research. Staffan and Göran carried out field research in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with Indian colleagues including Venkatesh Athreya, A Rajagopal and R. Vidyasagar, and their results were published in two interesting books, *"Barriers Broken"* on Production Relations and Agrarian Change in Tamil Nadu; and *"Pills against Poverty"* on the use of Western and indigenous medicine. Both books are now available to read and download from SASNET's web site.

[Go for Barriers Broken \(as a pdf-file\).](#)

[Go for Pills against Poverty \(as a pdf-file\).](#)



Lindberg and Djurfeldt.

• Yale University announces position as Professor of Hinduism

The Divinity School and the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University, USA, announces a jointly-tenured position as Associate or Full Professor of Hinduism, effective from 1 July 2016. Candidates should be outstanding scholars of Hinduism with substantive research and teaching interests in modern or contemporary Hinduism and its relation to other religious and cultural traditions. Applications from scholars in Religious Studies, Anthropology, Gender Studies, History of Art, Music, Performance Studies, Political Science, and other relevant disciplines are welcome. The review of applications will begin on 15 September 2015. [Full information.](#)

• Pakistan Journal of Historical Studies new peer-reviewed magazine

Submissions are invited for the first issue of the Pakistan Journal of Historical Studies (Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan-Jun 2016), a peer reviewed, biannual journal, to be published by Khaldunia Centre for Historical Research, Lahore. This special issue is on "Emotions and marginalized communities". It aims to explore the role of emotions in defining political, social and cultural attitudes and traditions among marginalized communities. Historians, political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists and literary scholars working on any geographical region and period are welcome to submit their papers. The editor Tahir Kamran and Associate Editor Hussain Ahmad Khan also publish methodological and review essays, book reviews and survey of literature. Deadline for submission is 15 November 2015. [More information.](#)



• Associate professorship in South Asian Studies at University of Copenhagen

The Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark, invites applications for an Associate Professorship in South Asian Studies to be filled by 1 February 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate should expect to teach on the cultures and societies of contemporary South Asia at the BA and MA levels, as well as supervise PhD-students. Research must include the use of source materials in at least one indigenous language. Moreover, it is anticipated that the position requires an active role in developing and implementing cross-disciplinary courses and research projects within the framework of the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies as well as the Asian Dynamics Initiative, which includes wider knowledge dissemination to peers and laypeople, domestically as well as internationally. Application deadline is 1

September 2015. Full Information.

- More information about South Asia related research at Swedish and Nordic universities
See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/research-community-news>

Educational News

- Infinite Me strategy for European outward student mobility to India



Durgha Ramji is Project Manager for the The Global Leader programme within the Indian company Infinite Me (Inme), working in the field of behavioural training and leadership development using adventure based learning. So far focusing on corporates

(CEOs, managers, young professionals), and reputed schools in India (students aged 9–17 years), the Global Leader Inme programme is designed for students who are passionate about exploring a globally mobile career and want to deeply understand India, experience Indian culture and work with Indian organisations. The aim is to form leaders with entrepreneurial mindsets, global perspectives and who can thrive in multiple cultural contexts.

Inme runs several campuses in different parts of India, the largest being on the banks of the Tons river, in village Mora which is 36 kms from Purola in Uttarakhand. Other campuses are located in Uroli – also in Uttarakhand, near Ranikhet; in Yercaud, Tamil Nadu; Honey Valley estate in Coorg, Karnataka; and in Rishikesh along the banks of the river Ganga.

Inme is now in a phase of exploring engagement also with universities and higher education institutions in India and Europe, developing a student outward mobility strategy to enable students to gain valuable employment skills and life skills through an international work/internship placements as well as enjoy the culture of diversity of life in India. Swedish universities are welcome to contact Durgha Ramji. Recently, she presented a report to the 2015 Go International Conference in London. Although the report entitled "Investing in Outward Student Mobility to India" is specific to UK universities, the content is relevant for all universities looking to explore outward student mobility to India. [Read the report.](#)



- No less than 14 universities teach Sanskrit in Germany

The demand for Sanskrit and Indology courses in Germany is great. In Germany, 14 of the top universities teach Sanskrit, classical and modern Indology compared to just four in the UK. Unable to cope with the flood of applications from around the world, the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, had to start a summer school in spoken Sanskrit in Switzerland, Italy and India too.

In an article by Aditya Ghosh in Mail Online India, Professor Dr. Axel Michaels, head of classical Indology at the university, informs about the growing interest for Sanskrit:

"When we started teaching spoken Sanskrit 15 years ago, we were almost ready to shut it after a couple of years. Instead, we had to increase strength and take the course to other European countries".

The summer school is attended by students from all over the world. So far, 254 students from 34 countries have participated in this course. [Read the full article, entitled "Sanskrit fever grips Germany".](#)



- George Yeo new Chancellor for revived Nalanda University



Mr George Yeo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Singapore government, has been appointed to be the next Chancellor of Nalanda Open University near Rajgir in the Indian state of Bihar. His tenure will begin mid-July, 2015, replacing Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen who was appointed the Chancellor in 2012. Sen will however remain a member of the university's Governing Board.

The original ancient Nalanda University existed from the 6th century AD till it was destroyed in 1193 AD, attracting students from across the world. An idea to revive Nalanda University came with a proposal by then President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in 2006, and in 2007, the



Government of India constituted a Nalanda Mentor Group (NMG) under the Chairmanship of Professor Amartya Sen to examine the framework of international regional co-operation under the aegis of the East Asia Summit (EAS), in order to turn the university into an international centre of education. China contributed one million dollars, Singapore five million dollars, Thailand of one lakh dollars and Australia one million Australian dollars for the construction work. It was formally inaugurated in its modern 'avatar' in September 2014 ([more information](#)). Vice Chancellor Gopa Sabharwal now expresses her happiness for the selection of George Yeo as new Chancellor: "I have worked very closely with him on many issues over the last few years. His appointment will give the university much needed continuity at this stage of the project. We are sure that under his leadership, it will continue to fulfil the vision of the EAS participating countries that resulted in the establishment of Nalanda University." [Read more.](#)

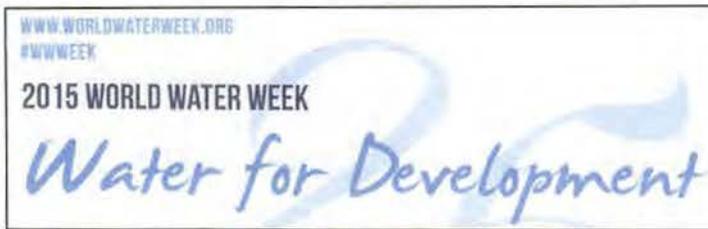
- Other educational news connected to South Asian studies all over the World

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/education-news>

Seminars and Conferences in Scandinavia

• 2015 World Water Week focuses on Water for Development

The 2015 World Water Week in Stockholm will be held 23 – 28 August 2015. World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. It is organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). This year is the jubilee year



for both the Week and the Stockholm Water Prize. The theme for the 25th World Water Week is *Water for Development*. It will again, after a few years otherwise, be held in the heart of Stockholm at the City Conference Centre. Experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries come to Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today. Every year around 200 delegates from South Asia participate (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka).

The programme of 2015 World Water Week consist of over 160 events and 8 workshops. During the 90-minute events, the most relevant topics relating to "Water for Development" will be discussed – i.e. Financing, Gender issues, Climate Change, Energy, Sanitation, Food, Conflict Resolution, Water Management... Plenary speakers include Mr. Rajendra Singh – the 2015 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate ([more information](#)); Professor Hans Rosling, Chair, Gapminder Foundation (and Professor at Karolinska Institutet); and Mr. Adnan Z Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Registration to World Water Week is required for all participants, including speakers and invited participants. Registration is open from 15 April. [Full information about the 2015 World Water Week](#).

In 2014, over 3,000 individuals and 270 convening organizations from 143 countries participated in the Week. The 2014 World Water Week report "*Energy and Water for Development*" is available. The report provides input into the discussions at the 2014 World Water Week in Stockholm. [Go for the 2014 Summary Report](#).

• Örebro conference on Virtual Learning Sites as Linguaging Spaces



The School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (HumEs) at Örebro University hosts an international conference entitled "*Virtual Learning Sites as Linguaging Spaces*" (VILS-2) on 22–24 September 2015. The conference is being organized by the research group CCD, (Communication, Culture & Diversity) at HumES,

within the framework of project CINLE (Communication and Identity processes in Netbased Learning Environments). It is being chaired by Professor Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta.

The main objective of the VILS-2 international conference is to establish a forum for dialogue on the study of interaction, learning and identity formation in virtual environments. The themes and issues raised two years ago will be re-focused again, this time with special attention on the languaging and construction of time and space in virtual sites. The 2015 VILS-2 conference will include presentations by invited plenary speakers as well as provide opportunities for panel discussions led by internationally acclaimed researchers in the conference areas of interest. Confirmed international featured speakers include three Indian professors, Biswajit Das ([photo](#)) from Jamia Milla Islamia University in New Delhi, who will speak about "*Virtual Learning sites in a cross-cultural context Experiences from global South*"; Mathew Martin from AYJ National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped in Mumbai, who will speak about "*Social Media Networks Among Persons with Disabilities and Demographic Outcomes in the Virtual Learning Spaces*"; and Panchanan Mohanty from University of Hyderabad, who will speak about "*Home and school, language issues and the virtual: language learning spaces in multilingual India*". [Full information about the conference](#).



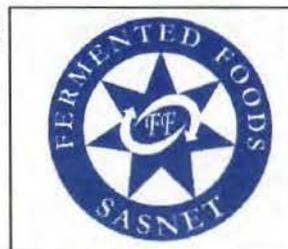
• Oslo PhD course on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in China and India

Oslo Academy of Global Governance, and SUM Research School, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo, invite applicants for a PhD course entitled '*Governing the Asian Giants: Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in China and India*' to be held 21 – 23 October 2015. Venue: SUM, University of Oslo, Sognsveien 68, Oslo. The course will enable doctoral students to better understand key concepts, debates and perspectives. Lecturers include Dan Banik, Professor of Political Science at SUM; Erik Jensen, Professor of the Practice of Law, Stanford Law School, USA; Amit Prakash, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; and Robert Wade, Professor of Political Economy and Development, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK. Applications are accepted until 21 August 2015. [More information](#).

• 7th SASNET-Fermented Foods international seminar in Gangtok

The Swedish South Asian Network on Fermented Foods (SASNET-FF) organises its seventh international seminar on Fermented Foods Health Status and Social Wellbeing on 20–21 November 2015. The seminar will be hosted by the Department of Microbiology at the School of Life Sciences, Sikkim University in Gangtok, India. The theme for the 2015 seminar will be "*Ethnic Fermented Foods and Beverages: Microbiology and Health Benefits*".

SASNET-Fermented Foods was established in November 2003 and is now officially registered as a scientific society in India. It was launched in 2003 by Professor Baboo Nair, Division of Applied Nutrition and Food Chemistry, Lund University, and has helped to strengthen relation among academicians,



researchers and food industry professionals. The network is coordinated by Professor J. B. Prajapati, Head of Department of Dairy Microbiology, SMC College of Dairy Science at Anand Agricultural University. It is basically an association of researchers, professionals, academicians, food industry personnel and all those who are interested in research, development and promotion of fermented foods especially for public health and social well-being. At the present the network has more than 200 members and growing to gather like minded people. The main objectives of the network are to develop a forum for scientists for exchanging information in the field of food fermentation; to promote collaborative research programmes among scientists of Europe and Asian countries and to collaborate with food industries in product development and marketing of fermented foods. [More information about the Gangtok seminar.](#)

• Stockholm conference on Political Participation in Asia

A conference entitled "Political participation in Asia: Defining and deploying political space" will be held at Stockholm University 22-24 November 2015. It is jointly organised by Dr. Eva Hansson from the Dept. of Political Science; and Dr. Meredith Weiss, University at Albany, State University of New York, USA. This conference aims to deconstruct and disentangle political space across interactive subnational, national and transnational scales; across categories of individuals and groups, including those with greater or lesser access to decision-making power; and across modes and media, from street protests and rallies, to documentary film and graffiti, to petitions and press conferences. Papers from across disciplines, focused on these and related questions in the context of East, Southeast, and South Asia, will be presented. [More information.](#)



• Information about South Asia related lectures and seminars

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/lectures-in-scandinavia>

Conferences and workshops outside Scandinavia

• Eighth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum in New Delhi

The Eighth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum in partnership with Common Ground Publishing, the USA, and the International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, Australia/Denmark, is hosted by the National Science Centre, New Delhi, India, on 7-9 August 2015. The theme of the conference is "Museums as Civic Spaces". Museum experts and professionals from all over the world are going to participate and make presentations. Case studies, demonstration projects and multiple voices will inform the sessions with papers from all kinds of museums – social history, anthropology, archaeology, art museums to science museums, ecomuseums and heritage parks. Confirmed plenary speakers include Indian President Pranab Mukherjee; Professor Romila Thapar; and Professor Sudharshan Seneviratne. [More information.](#)



• 21st International Association for the History of Religions World Congress in Erfurt

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) holds its XXI Quinquennial World Congress on 23-29 August 2015 in Erfurt, Germany. The conference is organised by the Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW) in collaboration with the Department of Religious Studies, the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, and the Research School "Religion" at Erfurt University. The 2015 Congress theme is "Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present". The local organizing committee include Prof. Martin Fuchs. Four specific research fields will be highlighted, namely "Religious communities in society: Adaptation and transformation"; "Practices and discourses: Innovation and tradition"; "The individual: Religiosity, spiritualities and individualization"; and "Methodology: Representations and interpretations". [More information.](#)



• 15th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions

The 15th International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2015) will be held 24 - 26 August at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, Sri Lanka. ICTer2015 is technically co-sponsored by IEEE Sri Lanka Section and is the successor to the seminal



International Information Technology Conference (IITC) held in Sri Lanka since 1998. It provides an ideal platform to the researchers and practitioners alike to showcase research and development activities carried out in Computer Science and Information Communication Technology domains. Proceedings of ICTer2015 will be published in both book form and on IEEE Explore. Selected papers will be invited for publication in the special issue of ICTer Journal (journal.icter.org). The main conference will take place on 24th Monday and 25th Tuesday August 2015 at BMICH, Colombo in conjunction with the 8th International Conference on Ubi-Media Computing (UMEDIA2015). In addition to the presentation of the selected papers, several keynote addresses by leading personalities in the IT world will be made. The conference will also include post-conference high quality tutorials/workshops on 26th Wednesday August 2015 in areas of current interest in Information and Communication Technology. ICTer2015 conference will focus on important problems and potential solutions in areas of ICT. [More information.](#)

• **Wellington conference on India as a Global Power in the 21st Century**

The [New Zealand India Research Institute](#) is organizing a conference in Wellington on 25 – 26 August 2015, titled "*India as a global power in the twenty-first century*". The conference aims to address the issues related to India's foreign policy as well as domestic politics to understand what kind of power a rising India will evolve into. This conference aims to bring together scholars from New Zealand, India, Australia, and beyond to discuss issues such as Indian Foreign Policy, Security Policy, Economic Policy, Domestic Policy, and India's 'Soft Power' – related to Bollywood and Buddhism. [More information.](#)



• **International Visual Methods Seminar at University of Antwerp**

The University of Antwerp in Belgium will organise the second round of International Visual Methods Seminar (IVMS) to be held from 26 August to 4 September, 2015 at the university. It is a 10-day program of study in using visual methods for research and teaching in the social and cultural sciences.

The 2015 IVMS will emphasize visual studies of urban cultures and the application of visual methods in general to research and teaching.

Seminar activities are designed and led by experienced scholars whose research, leadership and teaching have contributed substantially to the development of a 'more visual' social science. Visual methods present distinctive challenges and opportunities for studying and teaching about urban cultures. Some of these appear as ethical and theoretical implications of making, collecting and analyzing photographs and video recordings as evidence about the worlds in which people live. Others emerge in trying to use visual evidence to develop engaging, well-informed presentations and reports for diverse audiences.

This seminar is designed to explore these challenges and opportunities with participants interested in evidence-based visual inquiry. Participants will work closely with tutors and peers to examine visual materials as research data and analytical tools, and as teaching and reporting resources. The seminar will also provide hands-on workshops for participants in developing evidence-based visual presentations and reports for specific audiences, such as disciplinary scholars, students, community and advocacy groups, political constituencies, consumers, or for research subjects themselves. [More information.](#)



• **International Student Conference on Asia-Africa Studies to be held in Bandung**

An International Student Conference on Asia-Africa Studies (ISCAAS) will be held in Bandung, Indonesia, 16–18 October 2015. The grand theme for this first undergraduate conference for universities in Asia and Africa is "*Eradicating Poverty Through Equal Development*". It is organised by the Student Organization of Economics and Development Studies, Padjadjaran University. The aim of this event is to facilitate discussion and encourage participants to deliver ideas and propose solution in responding to the issues in economic development. Eradicating poverty is one of the most important challenges faced by developing countries in their attempts to achieve sustainable development. The milestones on eradicating poverty have not yet been met in many of Africa and South Asia. More than a billion people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, and many more experience hunger and are vulnerable to environmental or price shocks. Without eradicating poverty, it will be difficult to sustain development. Given this condition, International Student Conference on Asia-Africa Studies (ISCAAS) invites all undergraduate students from Asia and Africa universities to express their ideas in this conference. Abstracts should be submitted before 31 August 2015. [Full information.](#)

• **Tenth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference at Madison**

The Nepal Study Center is pleased to announce the Tenth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference. It will be held on 22 October 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin, at the pre-conference venue of the University of Wisconsin's 44th Annual Conference on South Asia (22–24 October). Papers are invited encompassing socio-economic growth (macro or sectoral), violent conflict and political processes, institutional development, governance and administrative reform, poverty and income distribution, education and health, regional development, gender and ethnicity, trade and remittances, aid and foreign direct investment, resource and environmental management, climate change, bio-diversity, sustainable community development, public-private partnership in technology and investment, child labor, and many other issues. [More information.](#)



• **Islamabad conference on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation**

The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) in Islamabad, Pakistan hosts an International Conference on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation on 10–11 November 2015, at NUST Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS). It is organised in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). The conference will provide an opportunity for policy makers and senior researchers to share their research on the theme. Although the conference keynote presentations will mostly focus on post-conflict situation in Pakistan's regional context, CIPS invites international and national researchers from the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities to present papers that will also include international best practices related to post-conflict rehabilitation strategies, policies and practices.

The one and a half day conference spread over three sessions will separately look at post-conflict rehabilitation and de-radicalization in Pakistan and other regions of the world. Scholars will address the following questions and themes: • The Processes associated with Efficient Post-conflict Rehabilitation Programmes; • Counter-radicalization programmes as a means to promote national security and stability; and • Challenges of Reintegrating communities in the post-conflict areas. Deadline for submitting paper abstracts is 15 August 2015. [More information.](#)



• **Mysore conference on Global Economic Growth and Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects**

Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute



for Management Development (SDMIMD) in Mysore, India, organises an international conference on "Global Economic Growth and Sustainability: Challenges and Prospects" on 20–21 November 2015. The organisers invite members from the academia and corporate fraternity to participate in the deliberations by submitting research papers and case studies.



Unprecedented growth has been experienced in most part of the globe during last few decades. However, unfortunately, the fruit of such growth has not improved the quality of life for all. While the poverty has been reduced in some of the emerging economies like India, China and Vietnam, half of the world's population owns less than 1 percent of the wealth. Fifty percent of the world population lives on less than \$2.50 a day. Recent statistics also show that the ratio of people at poverty to wealthy level is 88 to 1, while it increased from 44 to 1 in 1973. More than half of total workforce of 2.6 billion in the developing economies is employed in the "unorganised sector" with unfavourable working conditions. Unemployment, especially of youths, is in the range of 40 to 70 percent. With close to 1 billion people suffering from malnourishment and 820 million chronically hungry, 2.7 billion people living without proper sanitation and clean water, around 125 million children not going to school and around 30 million children dying of preventable diseases in last 10 years before reaching the age of five; do clearly indicate that a large part of the population have been deprived of the opportunities in sharing the fruits of the growth. Abstracts should be submitted before 31 August 2015. [More information.](#)

• New Zealand conference on Asian Intersections

The 21st New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA) International Conference will be held in Christchurch 29 November – 1 December 2015. It is being hosted by the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. The theme for the conference will be "Asian Intersections: Identities and Linkages", focusing on the fact that Asia has long been a crossroads, where civilizations, large and small, and their arts, and cultures, have intersected, interacted and evolved.



This has led to complex patterns of social, artistic, political and economic interactions, which have shaped and reshaped identities over the years, in some places peacefully and syncretically, in some places resulting in long lasting conflict or disorder. Panel and paper proposals on any topic related to Asia, broadly defined are invited, from all disciplines. Abstracts should be submitted before 31 August 2015. [More information.](#)

• Kolkata conference on Capitalist Remolding of the Indian State

The 2nd Interdisciplinary Conference on Contemporary India will be held 10–12 December 2015 at the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK). The theme for the conference is "Instruments of Intervention: Capitalist Development and the Remolding of the Indian State". It is jointly organised by Anthony P. D'Costa, Chair and Professor in Contemporary Indian Studies at Australia India Institute, the School of Social and Political Science, University of Melbourne, Australia, and Achin Chakraborty, Professor and Director, IDSK.



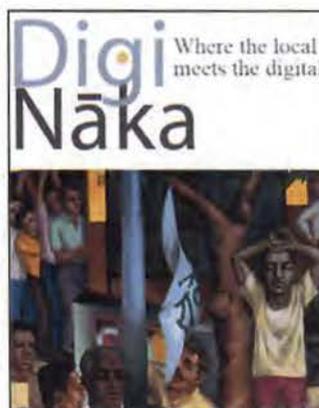
The conference highlights the Indian government's various policies, strategies, and legal measures over the years, raising a number of questions about the continuing role of the Indian state in development and transformation even at a juncture when it is ideologically unacceptable and instrumentally difficult, although it is financially practical. Deadline for submitting abstracts was 20 July 2015. [More information.](#)

• Jadavpur conference on Contemporary Issues in Development Economics

The Department of Economics at Jadavpur University in Kolkata organises its 25th Annual General Conference on 22–23 December 2015. The theme for the 2015 conference is "Contemporary Issues in Development Economics". The organizers invite submissions of both theoretical and empirical papers related to this theme. Deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 September 2015. [More information.](#)

• TISS seminar on the digital and growing access to the Internet in India

The School of Media and Cultural Studies at Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Mumbai, India, organises an international seminar entitled "DIGINAKA – Where the Local Meets the Digital" on 7–9 January 2016. Naka is a Marathi word meaning crossroads or junction. The seminar will focus on the advent of the digital and growing access to the Internet in India. Along with the availability of cheap devices such as mobile phones this has brought about an explosion of user-mediated creativity across various platforms, allowing for sharing, tweaking, co-creating and repurposing of digital media content in the public sphere. While the digital divide reproduces and intensifies various social hierarchies of gender, caste, class and region, one sees a simultaneous deployment of the digital by sections of society that previously were denied access. Papers are invited, from scholars across disciplines on the following themes falling within the rubric of local appropriations of digital technologies in the Indian context, such as Subaltern Image-making Practices; Regional Cinemas; Internet Censorship and Regimes of Control; Social Movements and Online Spaces; and Hate Speech and the Internet. Abstracts should be submitted before 1 September 2015. Please clearly mention in your abstract if you are currently enrolled as a post-graduate student/research scholar in any university. Student/research scholar paper presenters will be provided with free accommodation and hospitality for a maximum period of 4 nights. The seminar will include invited plenary speakers. An edited volume and a journal issue of *SubVersions* are envisaged, based on the seminar papers. [Full information.](#)



• Kolkata conference on Contemporary Debates in Public Policy and Management

The 2nd International Conference on Contemporary Debates in Public Policy and Management will be held in Kolkata, India on 15–17 January 2016. It is organised by the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC), and focuses on emerging



policy challenges like public health and education policies, labor market reforms, social insurance and informal sector, management of rapid urbanization and domestic macro policies in the post-recession international economic order. Scholarly works on public policy and management from all disciplines are invited—including theoretical papers, case studies, historical studies, econometric work, ethnography, survey-based studies, experimental work and others. [More information.](#)



• Goa conference on Regional Cooperation, Conflicts and Constructiveness in South Asia

Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science in Margao, Goa, India, organises an international conference entitled "*Regional Cooperation, Conflicts and Constructiveness in South Asia: Strengthening SAARC*" on 21–23 January 2016. The conference aims at enabling researchers, planners, academicians and social workers to put forth their views on South Asia's promotion and growth as a region of global importance. South Asia, a composite of eight countries, is knitted historically, socio-culturally and economically. It represents diversity in human development, resource enhancement and socio-economic welfare. The region with 3.8 per cent of the world's geographical area, supports nearly one fourth of the world's populace. But in the context of Human Development Index, in South Asia, Maldives and Bangladesh show dismal figures which are as low as 77 and 132 ranks respectively. Even the Human Poverty Index of Nepal and Afghanistan show discouraging figures. In fact, one billion of the world's 2.5 billion poor reside in South Asia. The Global Employment Trend 2013, states that youth employment rate in South Asia is 9.8 per cent, which is significantly higher than global figure of 3.8 per cent.



However, South Asia shows promises for the future. The current labor pool which is 1.8 billion, is expected to increase to 3.1 billion by 2025. Its "demographic dividend" will increase enormously as 60 per cent of its population is below 30 years. Further, 14 per cent of the world's urban population resides in this region and three-fourths of South Asia's economic growth is led by cities. From the present level of 31 per cent urbanization, it is expected that 50 per cent of South Asia's population will reside in cities, especially, megacities in the next 20 years.

The region also has bountiful human and natural resources. But, there are several barriers within the region which restrict their optimum utility and promotion of growth at different scales. The removal of these barriers, optimum and judicious use of all resources will surely help the region in a big way. Further, various issues like bilateral trade, sharing of river water, border disputes and border lands encroachment, cross border mobility of human resources, terrorism, illegal trade, political grievances amongst neighbors, power polarization and third party intervention that affects regional power balance, have put the regions on an edge of high Indo-centric discontent amongst neighbors. Deadline for abstracts/proposals is 15 September 2015, [More information.](#)

• Noida workshop on Chronologies of 'Labour'

The Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH) convenes an International Workshop entitled "*Chronologies of 'Labour': a Global Perspective*" in New Delhi 22–23 January 2016. It is organised in collaboration with the Research Module 'Labour as a Political Category' on behalf of the newly established and New-Delhi-based *M.S. Merian International Centre of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities*. The Research Module is coordinated by Ravi Ahuja (Göttingen), Rana Behal (Delhi), Sharit Bhowmik (Mumbai), Andreas Eckert (Berlin), Chitra Joshi (Delhi), Nicole Mayer-Ahuja (Göttingen), Prabhu Mohapatra (Delhi), Christoph Scherrer (Kassel), Aditya Sarkar (Warwick), Marcel van der Linden (Amsterdam) and Willem van Schendel (Amsterdam). Venue for the workshop: V.V. Giri National Labour Institute in Noida.

The workshop seeks to bring together an interdisciplinary group of younger as well as experienced scholars from both the social and historical sciences in order to compare notes with regard to the temporal dynamics of 'labour' as a political category in the course of the long twentieth century. Such transregional comparisons, it is hoped, will permit to rehistoricize 'labour' by tracing convergences and divergences in its chronologies. Contributions based on original research that examine crucial transformations of 'labour' as a political category in one specific context are invited, the appropriation or adaptation of certain transnational political discourses to specific labour regimes or compare such processes in more than one context. Proposals for papers (including an abstract of maximum 1,000 words) should be submitted before 1 September 2015. [More information.](#)

• Kerala seminar on Rising India and the World Order in the 21st Century

A two Day International Seminar on "*Rising India and the World Order in the 21st Century*" will be held at St. John's College in Anchal, Kerala state, India, on 24–25 January 2016. It is organised by the the Association of Political Scientists-Kerala in association with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, St. John's College. The emergence of India as a major power is a remarkable feature of the 21st century world politics. The impressive economic growth registered by India in the last two decades has placed it in the league of potential great powers. The new political leadership in Delhi has also given a fresh drive to the aspirations of rising India with ambitious foreign policy initiatives. The rise of India along with other developing countries has the potential to reshuffle the existing international order. Global economy and polity is governed by the institutions and mechanisms that were instituted at the end of the second world war by the developed countries led by the US. Most of the institutions are undemocratic and unrepresentative. India demands that it should be provided greater representation in global governing bodies. The seminar is conceived as a platform to discuss the changing international setup. Abstracts should be submitted by 15 November 2015. [More information.](#)



• Sri Lanka hosts 16th Conference of the Science Council of Asia

The 16th Conference of the *Science Council of Asia* will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka 25–27 May 2016. The theme of the Conference is "*Science for the People: Mobilizing New Technologies for the Sustainable Development in*



Asia". Sub-Themes are "Opportunities in mobilizing Information technology"; "Biotechnology and Nanotechnology for National Development"; and "Social Dimensions: Challenges faced by Asia, Risks from technologies". The conference will focus on all areas of emerging technologies, successes in their exploitation for national development and for social welfare and the challenges faced in Asia and by developing countries in utilizing this strategy and how they have been overcome.

Risks involved in the strategies, their identification and mitigation and social issues involved including social accountability in research will also form part of the theme. Papers are invited in all topics within these broad areas. Abstracts should be submitted before 10 January 2016. Venue: Hotel Galadari, Colombo. [Full information.](#)

Foundation for
sustainable development
to a Prosperous, Harmonious
and Greener Asia

• **Other conferences connected to South Asian studies all over the World**

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/conferences/conferences>

Business and Politics

• **Information about South Asia related business and politics in Sweden**

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/news-sources/swedish-politics-and-business-related-south-asia>

South Asia related culture in Scandinavia

• **First International Day of Yoga celebrated in Stockholm and Gothenburg**



Following a suggestion by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi in his September 27, 2014 address at the UN General Assembly, the United Nations in December 2014 passed a

resolution by consensus with a record 177 co-sponsoring countries including Sweden to adopt 21st June as the "International Day of Yoga". The General Assembly resolution recognised that Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being and wider dissemination of information about the benefits of practicing Yoga could improve the health of the world population. The first International day of Yoga (IDY) on 21st June 2015 was celebrated by the Indian Embassy in Sweden, mainly in Stockholm and Gothenburg, but also in Örebro, Malmö, Motala and Helsingborg. Photo from the Gothenburg celebration. [Read more...](#)



• **International Tagore Choir performed at Nordic-Baltic choir festival in Latvia**



In late June 2015, the Lund based International Tagore Choir participated in the seventh Nordic Baltic Choir Festival held in Latvia. The choir took part in the



magnificent main public concerts in Tukums on Saturday 27 June, and at Mezapark arena in Riga on Sunday 28 June, along with 6,000 other choir singers, singing songs from all Nordic and Baltic countries. The choir also gave a separate concert with Tagore songs in the countryside church of Irlava, 20 km south of Tukums, on 27th June. The programme of Rabindrasangheet – songs by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, sung by Swedes in Bengali language, was most appreciated by the audience. *Photo to the right.*

The choir was also prominently displayed by Latvian media – TV and newspapers – when taking part in the grand festival parade through old Riga to the Freedom Monument on Friday 26 June. Even though being part of the Swedish contingent of choirs, the International Tagore Choir naturally waved with Indian flags showing where its cultural roots are (*photo above*), and this was enthusiastically noted by media as well as by Indian nationals watching the parade.



• Iqbal Academy Scandinavia 2015 yearly seminar in Copenhagen

The Iqbal Academy Scandinavia (IAS) organized its yearly Iqbal Seminar on 25 April 2015 in Taastrup outside Copenhagen. It was one day seminar of which the theme was "the message of Iqbal to the youth of society". Speakers included Safdar Ali Hamadani, Bashy Quraishy, Khalid Butt and Ghulam Sabir – the founder of Iqbal Academy Scandinavia. Mr. Sabir (*photo*) recited an Urdu poem of Iqbal titled "Khitaab Ba Nau Jawan-e Islam" (An address to the Muslim youth). The poem captured the mind and heart of audience as the idea behind each and every verse of it was being explained in short and appropriate words. H.E. the Ambassador of Pakistan Mr. Masoor Ahmad Jonajo graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was H.E. the Ambassador of Iran Mr. Hamid Bayat. [Read more...](#)



• Uppsala cultural stipend given to Anisur Rahman

Anisur Rahman, Bangladeshi poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, journalist, literary critic and translator, now living in Sweden, has been awarded one of Uppsala city's 2015 Cultural Stipends ([more information](#)). He has previously, 2009-2011, been a writer in residency in Uppsala, and he has authored a number of books in both prose and poetry. He also contributes prose and poetry to different journals in various countries for instance Bangladesh, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and has initiated several literary festivals, for instance, the Mother Language International Poetry Festival, Fristad festival, Spring Literary Festival, Winter Literary Festival, Poetry on Train and Poetry on Bus. Besides, he has translated works by Tomas Tranströmer into Bengali.



• Information about South Asia related culture in Sweden/ Scandinavia

See SASNET's page, <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/cultural-events>

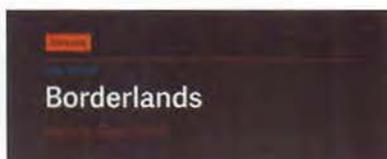
New and updated items on SASNET web site

• Fascinating narrative about the walled Indo-Bangladeshi border

Borderlands. India's Great Wall is a fascinating story by New Delhi based journalist **Kai Friese**. Online publication, 24 March 2015. India's longest border is the 2,545 mile line that encircles Bangladesh. This one is being drawn right now, with steel and electric light.



Travel along the border districts of the east and you will see it unfurling slowly through the





simmering green farmlands of Bengal, turning the territory into a map at last. It is an improbable structure: a double fence, eight feet high, consisting of two parallel rows of black columns made of sturdy angle iron and topped with overhanging beams. The two rows of columns are

draped in a tapestry of barbed wire, with spools of concertina wire sandwiched between them. This imposing national installation is still a work in progress. It has been under construction since 1989; 1700 miles have now been erected, at a cost of approximately \$600 million. There have been many delays and cost overruns, but when it is complete it will render precisely 2042 miles of the invisible border an impenetrable barrier, a gigantic machine for processing bodies—designed, in the words of the DBM, to prevent “illegal immigration and other anti-national activities from across the border.” [Read more...](#)



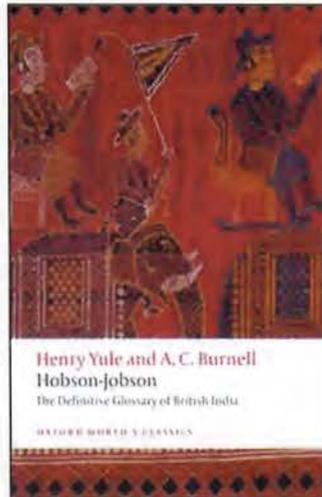
• Edited version of Hobson-Jobson Glossary of Colloquial Anglo-Indian Words

Hobson-Jobson: The Definitive Glossary of British India. Oxford World's Classics paperback edition 2015, updated edited version of **Henry Yule's** and **A.C. Burnell's** 1886 original "*Hobson-Jobson: A Glossary of Colloquial Anglo-Indian Words and Phrases, and of Kindred Terms, Etymological, Historical, Geographical and Discursive*". Edited by **Kate Teltscher**. [More information.](#)

Read an article about this fascinating anglo-indian dictionary by **Rahul Verma** on Words' Worth Language website. The article, posted 22 June 2015, is entitled "*How India changed the English language*", and is a story about how many Indian words have become part of everyday English (for example loot, nirvana, pyjamas, shampoo and shawl; bungalow, jungle, pundit and thug), and how this happened.

"Long before the British Raj – before the East India Company acquired its first territory in the Indian subcontinent in 1615 – South Asian words from languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Tamil had crept onto foreign tongues. The editor of its contemporary edition explains how many of the words pre-date British rule. "Ginger, pepper and indigo entered English via ancient routes: they reflect the early Greek and Roman trade with India and come through Greek and Latin into English," says Kate Teltscher.

"Ginger comes from Malayalam in Kerala, travels through Greek and Latin into Old French and Old English, and then the word and plant become a global commodity. In the 15th Century, it's introduced into the Caribbean and Africa and it grows, so the word, the plant and the spice spread across the world. As global trade expanded through European conquests of the East Indies, the flow of Indian words into English gathered momentum. Many came via Portuguese. "The Portuguese conquest of Goa dates back to the 16th Century, and mango, and curry, both come to us via Portuguese – mango began as 'manga' in Malayalam and Tamil, entered Portuguese as 'manga' and then English with an 'o' ending." The Hobson-Jobson glossary describes an unusual journey for the word 'chilli', recorded as "the popular Anglo-Indian name of the pod of red pepper". According to Yule and Burnell: "There is little doubt that the name was taken from Chile in South America, whence the plant was carried to the Indian archipelago and thence to India." [Read more in Rahul Verma's article.](#)



• Subhas Chandra Bose's little known visit to Poland in 1933

Visit of Subhas Chandra Bose to Poland in July 1933. New documents. New conclusions. By **Marek Moron**, Lecturer at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Published by Institute of Foreign Policy Studies (IFPS), Calcutta University, April 2015.

The visit of Indian freedom fighter Subash Chandra Bose to Poland in 1933 has not been much known – yet the documents found in the archives show that he had defined ideas on how to shape the relations with Poland. These ideas were far from sentimental rethorics on freedom fighting, common ideals etc. But Poland of the 1930s was not ready to see independent India as its future partner. Based on the documents of the Embassy of Poland in Vienna, Consulate of Poland in Bombay as well as original letters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and other central state institutions in Poland, all from the years 1933-1936, Moron has come to the conclusion that the purpose of Bose's visit to Poland was well defined but the ideas he had in mind about Indo-Polish relations could materialise only after almost four decades.

The IFPS is an autonomous research centre inaugurated in 2010, devised for the study of international relations, funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. The institute purports to create a pool of foreign policy specialists capable of offering advice on matters pertaining to India's international relations. Marek Moron was Polish Consular General in Kolkata for four years in the 1990s. [Read the full text document on Bose's visit to Poland \(as a pdf-file\).](#)



• Swedish departments where research on South Asia is going on

Constantly added to the list of research environments at Swedish universities, presented by SASNET. The full list now includes more than 300 departments, with detailed descriptions of the South Asia related research and education taking place! See the full list of departments here: <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/institutions/research-environments>

• Useful travelling information

Look at our [Travel Advice page](#). Updated travel advises from the The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office about safety aspects on travelling to the countries of South Asia. Also updated information on how to find embassies of all nations.

Best regards

Lars Eklund

Deputy Director
SASNET/Swedish South Asian Studies Network

SASNET is a national network for research, education, and information about South Asia and is based at Lund University. Its aim is to promote a dynamic networking process in which Swedish researchers cooperate with their counterparts in South Asia and around the globe.

The SASNET network is open to all branches of the natural and social sciences. Priority is given to interdisciplinary cooperation across faculties, and more particularly to institutions in the Nordic countries and South Asia. SASNET believes that South Asian studies will be most fruitfully pursued as a cooperative endeavour among researchers in different institutions who have a solid base in their mother disciplines.

The network is financed by Lund University.

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SASNET

Swedish South Asian Studies Network

SASNET South Asia Media Project organizes explorative workshops in Lund and Delhi

SASNET is currently launching its South Asia Media Project. The purpose of the project is to create a forum for exchange of ideas, perspectives and future outlooks on the South Asian and Swedish media landscape, and to build up a network of Indian and Swedish journalists, as well as media researchers, to discuss and exchange ideas about work methods, trends within the media industry and business models. It is being planned by Andreas Mattsson, lecturer in journalism at the Department of Communication and Media, Lund University, and currently working as project coordinator at SASNET. More information about the background. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/mediaproject>

During 2015, the South Asia Media Project focuses on Indian media. Two explorative workshops will be held, the first one at Lund University, Sweden, on 19–20 October; and the second in New Delhi, India, to be held 7–9 December. The aim is to highlight the future media landscapes in India and Sweden. The workshops will also link Indian and Swedish media researchers and journalists together to seek new ways of working with future challenges and also to highlight possible projects.

The two-day explorative workshop in Lund will bring up questions related to the following topics: • Working Condition of Journalists; • Political Influence on Media; • Online Ethics; • Gender in Media; and • Innovation in Media. Indian media researchers and journalists will present their experiences and outlooks on the future media landscape during panel talks, presentations and seminars.

Confirmed academic speakers include Associate Professor Vibodh Parthasarathi from the Centre for Culture, Media & Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi; Professor Anjali Monteiro and Professor K P Jayasankar from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Mumbai; and Dr. Devika Jayakumari from Centre for Development Studies (CDS) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Students, researchers, journalists and other interested are welcome to participate in the discussions and to mingle with future colleagues at the Lund workshop. Venue: AF Borgen, Sandgatan 2, Lund. More information including link to registration.

The three-day Delhi workshop in December is being planned in collaboration with Lund University Commissioned Education (LUCE), and the Swedish Embassy in Delhi that has committed itself to cooperate with the project. More information will follow soon.

Malmö symposium on Cardiometabolic Disease Risk for people from the Middle East and South Asia

The Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology Unit at the Department of Clinical Sciences (CRC), Lund University, organises a mini-Symposium on "Cardiometabolic Disease Risk for people from the Middle-East and South Asia" on 3 September 2015, 12.00–15.00, in Malmö. The symposium is sponsored in part by SASNET. It aims to offer a comprehensive update on the cardiometabolic risk in South Asians and immigrants from the Middle East. Four distinguished national and international faculty will give lectures. Professor K.M. Venkat Narayan from Emory University Atlanta, Georgia, USA, will speak about "Type 2 Diabetes risk and South Asians". Narayanan is professor of epidemiology & medicine, at Emory, and currently Visiting professor in Global Diabetes at the University of Copenhagen. Associate Professor Louise Bennet from the Center for Primary Health Care Research at Lund University will speak about "Cardiometabolic risk profiles in immigrants from the Middle East"; and Professor Naveed Sattar from the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK, will speak about "Cardiovascular disease risk in South Asians". Finally, Dr Jason Gill, also from University of Glasgow, will speak about "Why South Asians have more Type 2 Diabetes disease risk?". Venue: Lecture Hall at CRC (CRC-aula), Jan Waldenströms gata 35, Skåne University Hospital in Malmö. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/malmo-symposium-cardiometabolic-disease-risk-people-middle-east-and-south-asia>

Copenhagen discussion event on New Subaltern Politics in South Asia

On Friday 11 September, 10–12, the Centre of Global South Asian Studies within the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studie (ToRS)s, University of Copenhagen, organises a discussion event on New Subaltern Politics. Researchers from Copenhagen along with colleagues in Norway and South Africa written a book on this theme, a volume being edited by Alf Gunvald Nielsen, University of Bergen, and Srila Roy, Witswatersrand University. The book has been published by Oxford University Press. Besides Nielsen and Roy, participants at the event are Luisa Steur, Rina Agarwala, and Dan Hirsland, all from University of Copenhagen. Venue: University of Copenhagen, 4th Floor seminar room, ToRS, Building 10, Karen Blixens Vej 4. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/copenhagen-discussion-event-new-subaltern-politics-south-asia>

Aarhus University announces position as assistant professor in Indian/South Asian Studies

The Department of Global Studies within the School of Culture and Society at Aarhus University, Denmark, invites applications for a position as assistant professor in Indian/South Asian Studies with a special focus on contemporary socio-economic trends in India/South Asia. The assistant professorship is a full-time, three-year training position, and subject to appropriate funding a subsequent associate professorship will be announced in open competition. The position is available from 1 January 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicant must have strong academic competences within the field of socio-

such as possible thereafter. The successful applicant must have strong academic competences within the field of socio-economic trends and developments in India and South Asia. Socio-economic trends in India/South Asia should be understood in broad terms and may encompass political and cultural aspects related to possible sub-fields (such as development, the environment, urbanisation, health etc.). Applicants must be willing to participate in consolidating and expanding the field in terms of both teaching and research. We expect sufficient language proficiency in Hindi and/or a major Indian/South Asian language required to work in a language-based area programme. Applicants must have a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications in political science, anthropology, sociology or related fields. Deadline for submitting applications is 16 September 2015. Full information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/aarhus-university-announces-position-assistant-professor-indiansouth-asian-studies>

Large number of South Asia related courses at Uppsala University

The Department of Linguistics and Philology at Uppsala University is the leading institution of South Asia related courses within the field of Humanities in Sweden. Its Indology section, headed by Professor Heinz Werner Wessler, runs several interesting courses on both Bachelors and Masters level, and also a mix of in-house full-time courses in Uppsala with evening part-time, and online courses.

During the fall semester 2015, 30 credits courses in Sanskrit A and B, and Indology courses on A, B, C and D level are held, besides shorter 15 credits Introduction courses in Sanskrit and Hindi. Students on an advanced level are also offered a 15 credits internship in Hindi, to be carried out at an organisation, department or company linked to India or Pakistan, that has been accepted by the department.

Besides, a 7.5 credits introduction course to Indian Philosophy is given, and a similar 7.5 credits course entitled "Modern History of South Asia", offering a basic introduction to South Asia's modern history with special emphasis on India and Pakistan. Areas covered include politics, economics, domestic and international political events, women's status, language policy and minority issues. The course also provides an insight into the importance of media, especially film and music, as opinion-makers from the early 1900s and onwards.

The department also offers a 7.5 credits evening course entitled "The Dancing Elephant: India as Superpower and Nation with Rich Cultural Heritage"; and a 7.5 credits online course entitled "The Religions, History and Cultural History of India". The course reading for this course includes Arthur Basham Llewellyn's "The wonder that was India: A survey of the history and culture of the Indian sub-continent before the coming of the Muslims"; S A A Rizvi's "The wonder that was India: A survey of the history and culture of the Indian sub-continent from the coming of the Muslims to the British conquest, 1200-1700"; and Barbara Metcalfe's "A concise history of modern India".

A number of Masters level courses are also provided during the fall semester 2015. They include a 15 credits course on South Asian languages with focus on Hindi, and another text course on "Modern History and Culture in South Asia", giving an introduction to South Asia's modern history and culture from the British colonial period to the 21st century. During the course non-fiction and literary texts in Hindi are read as a base for discourse analysis. A second text course focuses on Literature and Religion in South Asia, offering a detailed study of the history of Hindi literature with a focus on Modern Standard Hindi. It also follows up religious discourses, and how the intellectual history of modern South Asia relates to discourses on religion. Full information about the Indology courses at Uppsala University.

Besides these courses, it should also be mentioned the 180 credits Bachelor Programme in Oriental Studies (Orientalistikprogrammet) run by Uppsala University since many years. It is a programme focusing on linguistic and cultural conditions in the Middle East, North Africa, Central and South Asia, where the students have to choose to focus on either Arabic, Hindi, Persian or Turkic language studies. Read more. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/large-number-south-asia-related-courses-uppsala-university>

2015 World Water Week focuses on Water for Development

The 2015 World Water Week in Stockholm is held 23 – 28 August 2015. World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. It is organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). This year is the jubilee year for both the Week and the Stockholm Water Prize. The theme for the 25th World Water Week is Water for Development. It is again, after a few years otherwise, being held in the heart of Stockholm at the City Conference Centre. Experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries come to Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today. Every year around 200 delegates from South Asia participate (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka). Plenary speakers include Mr. Rajendra Singh – the 2015 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate (more information); Professor Hans Rosling, Chair, Gapminder Foundation (and Professor at Karolinska Institutet); and Mr. Adnan Z Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Read more. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/2015-world-water-week-focuses-water-development>

Uppsala seminar on Transboundary Water Cooperation in South Asia

The Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University organises a guest lecture by Paula Hanasz, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University (ANU) on Monday 31 August 2015, 13.15–15.00. Dr. Hanasz will lecture about "The World Bank and Transboundary Water Cooperation in South Asia". Venue: "Russian Library", Gamla torget 3, Uppsala.

The seminar will focus on the deliberative governance of transboundary rivers in the Indus and Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins is the objective of the WorldBank-led South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI). The primary task of SAWI is to facilitate workshops and roundtable dialogues between the riparians of these basins, as well as 'Track II' dialogue between governments and civil society actors. In practice, however, Track II dialogue does not address the political context, historical grievances, or the lack of political will within the basins to act on transboundary water resource issues. Track II dialogue also does not account for the power asymmetries in the basins, especially India's hydro-hegemony. Water cooperation, moreover, takes decades to build, especially in a region that has had water related tensions festering for generations. Furthermore, the resentment from in-basin actors towards the World Bank and SAWI undermines its efficacy. More information.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/uppsala-seminar-transboundary-water-cooperation-south-asia>

The Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2015 now launched

Indore hosted the first Qualifying Round of The Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz 2015, at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) on 12 August 2015. The 10-city Inter-Collegiate quiz competition is a part of the annual Sweden –India Nobel Memorial Week, organised by the Embassy of Sweden and leading Swedish companies to enhance the positive image of Sweden in India. The Week 11–15 October also celebrates the spirit and contribution of the Swedish innovator, entrepreneur & philanthropist Alfred Nobel. The Sweden India Nobel Memorial Quiz will be bringing together quizzers from across reputed colleges & institutes of the city. Participation to this prestigious Quiz will be open to all Under Graduate & Post Graduate students in teams of three, representing a college.

Apart from Indore, the regional qualifiers are also held in Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and New Delhi. National winners will get an all-expense paid trip to Sweden, where they will get to visit head quarters of partner companies, universities and the Nobel Museum. More information.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/sweden-india-nobel-memorial-quiz-2015-now-launched>

Delhi conference on Global Environmental Change in the Himalayas

Heidelberg University organises an international conference on "Global Environmental Change in the Himalayas: Controversies, Impacts, Futures" to be held in New Delhi, India 6–8 November 2015.

A prediction by the IPCC that glaciers would disappear from the Himalayas by 2035 produced considerable public concern, followed by controversy over its accuracy and finally it was shown to be erroneous. This perceived crisis followed in the line of several previous narratives such as "Himalayan environmental degradation". On the one hand, such controversies point to the importance of the Himalayan region in the context of Global environmental change; but they also show how these controversies are exacerbated by insufficient understanding of the Himalayas. To develop such an understanding we require scientific collaboration, research methods that complement each other and an explicit integration of the human dimension in any discussion of environmental change in the South Asian mountain belt. Further, it is important to identify ongoing and potential impacts of these changes in terms of human-environmental interactions, natural hazards, non-equilibrium ecology and socio hydrology. Building on an identification of potential impacts, it is important to examine future scenarios that include a discussion of response pathways and possible adaptation strategies.

The conference will start with a unique exhibition on "repeat terrestrial photography" that identifies changes of glaciers, vegetation, land use and urban development in the Himalayas. This conference aims to bring together scholars, researchers and practitioners from diverse disciplines to share their findings and to intensively exchange on the multifaceted topic. The conference has received generous financial support from the German House for Research and Innovation (DWIH) in New Delhi. There is no conference fee for confirmed participants. Presentations are invited on themes such as, but not limited to: Historical records of climate change; Remote sensing of environmental change; Direct and indirect impacts of climate change; Human development in the Himalayas; Socio-hydrology; and Changes in the cryosphere. Abstracts should be submitted before 31 August 2015. Full information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/delhi-conference-global-environmental-change-himalayas>

Baltimore conference on Human and Physical Environment in Asia

The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), USA, organises a one-day conference in Asian History/Asian Studies on Saturday 7 November 2015, 09.00–15.00. The theme is "Asia in Context: The Human and Physical Environment", and the conference aims to bring together scholars doing exciting work in "reading" Asia beyond textual sources, exploring bodies, objects, and environments to build a more nuanced understanding of the Asian past and present. In the process, it also presents new approaches and methodologies for the study of Asian history and society. Invited speakers include Preminda Jacob from the Department of Visual Arts at UMBC who will lecture about "The Painted Walls of Chennai. Street Semiotics in an Indian City". Attendance is free, but registration is required. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/baltimore-conference-human-and-physical-environment-asia>

New Zealand conference on Asian Intersections

The 21st New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA) International Conference will be held in Christchurch 29 November – 1 December 2015. It is being hosted by the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. The theme for the conference will be "Asian Intersections: Identities and Linkages", focusing on the fact that Asia has long been a crossroads, where civilizations, large and small, and their arts, and cultures, have intersected, interacted and evolved. This has led to complex patterns of social, artistic, political and economic interactions, which have shaped and reshaped identities over the years, in some places peacefully and syncretically, in some places resulting in long lasting conflict or disorder. Panel and paper proposals on any topic related to Asia, broadly defined are invited, from all disciplines. Abstracts should be submitted before 31 August 2015. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/new-zealand-conference-asian-intersections>

TISS seminar on the digital and growing access to the Internet in India

The School of Media and Cultural Studies at Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in Mumbai, India, organises an International seminar entitled "DIGINAKA – Where the Local Meets the Digital" on 7–9 January 2016. Naka is a Marathi word meaning crossroads or junction. The seminar will focus on the advent of the digital and growing access to the Internet in India. Along with the availability of cheap devices such as mobile phones this has brought about an explosion of user-mediated creativity across various platforms, allowing for sharing, tweaking, co-creating and repurposing of digital media content in the public sphere. While the digital divide reproduces and intensifies various social hierarchies of gender, caste, class and region, one sees a simultaneous deployment of the digital by sections of society that previously were denied access. Papers are invited, from scholars across disciplines on the following themes falling within the rubric of local appropriations of digital technologies in the

scholars across disciplines on the following themes falling within the rubric of local appropriations of digital technologies in the Indian context, such as Subaltern Image-making Practices; Regional Cinemas; Internet Censorship and Regimes of Control; Social Movements and Online Spaces; and Hate Speech and the Internet. Abstracts should be submitted before 1 September 2015. Please clearly mention in your abstract if you are currently enrolled as a post-graduate student/research scholar in any university. Student/research scholar paper presenters will be provided with free accommodation and hospitality for a maximum period of 4 nights. The seminar will include invited plenary speakers. An edited volume and a journal issue of *SubVersions* are envisaged, based on the seminar papers. Full information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/tiss-seminar-digital-and-growing-access-internet-india>

Noida workshop on Chronologies of 'Labour'

The Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH) convenes an International Workshop entitled "Chronologies of 'Labour': a Global Perspective" in New Delhi 22–23 January 2016. It is organised in collaboration with the Research Module 'Labour as a Political Category' on behalf of the newly established and New-Delhi-based M.S. Merian International Centre of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The Research Module is coordinated by Ravi Ahuja (Göttingen), Rana Behal (Delhi), Sharit Bhowmik (Mumbai), Andreas Eckert (Berlin), Chitra Joshi (Delhi), Nicole Mayer-Ahuja (Göttingen), Prabhu Mohapatra (Delhi), Christoph Scherrer (Kassel), Aditya Sarkar (Warwick), Marcel van der Linden (Amsterdam) and Willem van Schendel (Amsterdam). Venue for the workshop: V.V. Giri National Labour Institute in Noida.

The workshop seeks to bring together an interdisciplinary group of younger as well as experienced scholars from both the social and historical sciences in order to compare notes with regard to the temporal dynamics of 'labour' as a political category in the course of the long twentieth century. Such transregional comparisons, it is hoped, will permit to rehistoricize 'labour' by tracing convergences and divergences in its chronologies. Contributions based on original research that examine crucial transformations of 'labour' as a political category in one specific context are invited, the appropriation or adaptation of certain transnational political discourses to specific labour regimes or compare such processes in more than one context. Proposals for papers (including an abstract of maximum 1,000 words) should be submitted before 1 September 2015. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/noida-workshop-chronologies-labour>

Jyväskylä conference on Poverty's Consequences in the Urban Developing World

The University of Jyväskylä in Finland invites participants to a conference entitled "Poverty's Causes and Consequences in the Urban Developing World", which will be held 4–6 August 2016. Anthropologists, ethnologists, sociologists, socio-economists, political scientists and development researchers among others are invited to submit session proposals for this conference. Session proposals should be submitted before 30 August 2015.

Keynote speakers will be Harjit Anand, Bipasha Baruah and James Ferguson. This three-day conference will be aimed at both exploring new empirically based findings and developing theories on the causes of poverty, especially urban poverty or poverty at the interface between the urban and rural. We welcome critical perspectives which pay attention to the intersection between micro and macro levels of analysis, including ethnographic methods and local case studies with relevance for larger issues as well as larger-scale studies with theoretical implications for micro-level research. Full information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/jyvaskyla-conference-povertys-consequences-urban-developing-world>

Anthology about Tagore's importance worldwide to be presented at Brokiga Bengalen

Brokiga Bengalen Butik at Södermannagatan 50 in Stockholm invites to its first event for the fall semester 2015, a book release function devoted to "Rabindranath Tagore: One Hundred Years of Global Reception", an anthology edited by Martin Kämpchen, Imre Bangha and Uma Das Gupta, and published by Orient BlackSwan in 2014. It contains thirty-five essays by Tagore experts narrating how the Bengali Nobel Prize Laureate was received worldwide, informing about translations, the impact of Tagore's visits, and his subsequent standing in the world of letters. Read more... <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/anthology-about-tagores-importance-worldwide-be-presented-brokiga-bengalen>

The well-informed chapter on the response in Scandinavia is written by Dr. Mirja Juntunen (Miriya Malik), previously connected to the universities of Stockholm, Uppsala and Aarhus, and she will be presenting the book in Stockholm. The function takes place on Tuesday 25 August, from 6 PM. More information about the event.

Brokiga Bengalen Butik was launched in 2011 by Dr. Christina Nygren from the Department of Musicology and Performance Studies, Stockholm University. The shop focuses on selling Bengali goods, but is also a place for cultural events such as concerts and lectures. It has been successfully managed from the start by Mr. Sirajul Islam, who currently is fighting a case against the Swedish Migration Board that recently decided that Mr. Islam should be deported immediately from Sweden back to his native country Bangladesh. An appeal has been delivered, and several articles in support of Mr. Islam have been published in Swedish media protesting against the decision.

Gothenburg photo exhibition part of India Unlimited 2015 festival

As part of the India Unlimited Festival, organised by the Embassy of India in Stockholm and Gothenburg, a photo exhibition entitled "The Indian Tiger: A Close-up Through The Lens Of Babi Nobis" will be inaugurated at the Municipal Library of Gothenburg at Götaplatsen 3, on Monday 31 August 2015, at 17.30. The Ambassador of India, Banashri Bose Harrison will be attending the function, and so will Mr. Tom Svensson, noted Swedish conservation photographer. Thanks to 'Rang', guests will also enjoy a short Indian cultural programme. More information. <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/gothenburg-photo-exhibition-part-india-unlimited-2015-festival>

India Unlimited 2015 has been consisted of many events. Here are the Highlights, summarized by the project coordinator Sanjoo Malhotra:

- Year began with 300+ attendance of Seminar on Swedish Technologies & Make in India: New Opportunities" at Stockholm School of Economics with Mr. Amitabh Kant, State Secretary, Indian Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion,
- In May, Indian food, yoga, travel, fashion and culture Mega festival NAMASTE STOCKHOLM drew over 12,000 participants – inaugurated by Minister Masala Gandhi – presenting Karnataka as focus state; opened Cinema India presented eight films

inaugurated by Minister Vidarera Chandru – presenting Karnataka as focus state, second cinema Indian presented eight films showcasing Gender and Diversity; Past Forward Design exhibition at Millesgården received over 2,500 visitors.

- In June, largest Indian business delegation with representatives of CII, FICCI and many companies arrived to Sweden along with President Subrata Mukherjee, the first Indian president to visit Sweden. Business seminars in Stockholm and Gothenburg with the broad theme "Make in India: Grow with India", covering among others Smart Cities, Space, Life Sciences, and Innovation, attended by over 1,200 people.
- President Mukherjee gave keynote address at main seminar at Uppsala University, attended by Swedish royal family.
- Sparkling speakers like Mathematician Simon Singh held seminar at Nobel Museum, and RBI Governor Dr. Raghuram Rajan lectured at Stockholm School of Economics.
- Bollywood Culture Evening at World Culture Museum in Gothenburg attended by over 500 people.
- In August, Deepa Naira Rasiya charmed Stockholmers with her crossover music during the Stockholm Cultural Festival on India's Independence Day.

Best regards,

Lars Eklund,

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