

# SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University

SASNET Newsletter | SASNET | Research | Conferences | Education | Culture | Swedish Institutions | Travelling advise | Resources | Researchers database | My account | Log out

Basic page *Newsletter 162 – 20 May 2014* has been updated.

## Newsletter 162 – 20 May 2014

[View](#) [Edit](#) [Revisions](#) [Nodequeue](#) [Log](#)

Last updated: 20 May 2014

### SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK

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#### Contents:

- SASNET News
- Research Community News
- Educational News
- Conferences and workshops outside Scandinavia
- Conferences and workshops in Scandinavia
- Business and Politics
- South Asia related Culture
- New and updated information

#### SASNET News

##### • SASNET involved in discussions on Lund/Copenhagen collaboration

On 13 May 2014, Olle Frödin, SASNET deputy director in charge of research collaboration, and Axel Fredholm from the Department of Sociology, Lund University, went to Copenhagen to meet with Assistant Professor Manpreet Kaur Janeja at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Copenhagen University. Their aim was to discuss various cooperation strategies with regard to teaching and seminar activities.

##### • Indian culture in focus for second SASA/SASNET Fika without borders event

The South Asian Student Association (SASA at Lund University – the student body of SASNET – organises its second informal Fika Without Borders South Asia event in collaboration with SASNET on Wednesday 21 May 2014, 17.00–19.00. The programme

#### Navigation

- [Add News item](#)
- [Create new page](#)
- [Add Sasnet Researcher](#)
- [See content and pages](#)
- [Create URL shortcut \(alias\)](#)
- ▶ [Import](#)
- [Imported From NIAS](#)
- [Sammanställ ett nyhetsbrev](#)
- [Skapa verksamhetsrapport](#)
- [Open newsletter template](#)

#### SASNET Newsletters

- [Newsletter 162 – 20 May 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 161 – 29 April 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 160 – 4 April 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 159 – 14 March 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 158 – 17 February 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 157 – 24 January 2014](#)
- [Newsletter 156 – 19 December 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 155 – 20 November 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 154 – 22 October 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 153 – 2 October 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 152 – 5 September 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 151 – 19 August 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 150 – 17 July 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 149 – 19 June 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 148 – 20 May 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 147 – 30 April 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 146 – 4 April 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 145 – 28 February 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 144 – 5 February 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 143 – 11 January 2013](#)
- [Newsletter 142 – 10 December 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 141 – 17 October 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 140 – 27 September 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 139 – 31 August 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 138 – 9 August 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 137 – 18 June 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 136 – 22 May 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 135 – 3 May 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 134 – 4 April 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 133 – 8 March 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 132 – 9 February 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 131 – 16 January 2012](#)
- [Newsletter 130 – 19 December 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 129 – 24 November 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 128 – 28 October 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 127 – 11 October 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 126 – 2 September 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 125 – 12 August 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 124 – 13 June 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 123 – 13 May 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 122 – 7 April 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 121 – 18 March 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 120 – 15 February 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 119 – 20 January 2011](#)
- [Newsletter 118 – 30 December 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 117 – 14 December 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 116 – 12 November 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 115 – 22 October 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 114 – 5 October 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 113 – 7 September 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 112 – 17 August 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 111 – 24 June 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 110 – 21 May 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 109 – 23 April 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 108 – 9 April 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 107 – 12 March 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 106 – 10 February 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 105 – 29 January 2010](#)
- [Newsletter 104 – 2 December 2009](#)
- [Newsletter 103 – 6 November 2009](#)



includes presentations by Indian students at Lund University,



Shivapriya Bagchi and Lund India Choir perform at the SASA/SASNET event.

but the focus for this second event will be Indian culture, and feature a Bharata

Natyam dance performance by Shivapriya Bagchi from Kolkata; a vocal concert with the International Tagore Choir, singing Tagore songs; and delicious Indian food. Venue: Lund University External Relations (ER) building, Stora Algatan 4, Lund (entrance to basement hall from the parking lot to the left of the building). [See the poster.](#)

SASA holds these events once a month, and each time the focus is one of the eight South Asian countries, that is the member states of SAARC. Students and researchers as well as other interested people are invited in an informal way to share their knowledge and experience of the country in focus. The first Fika Without Borders South Asia event was successfully held on April 16th, with Nepal being the country in focus. [More information.](#)



Fika Without Borders events were popularised by participants in the "Social Innovation in a Digital Context (SIDC)" programme at Lund University. The concept comes from the belief that a coffee table gathering can bring together people from all over the world. Fika is a social institution in Sweden; it means having a coffee break with one's colleagues, friends, date or family. These simple egalitarian social interactions can help break barriers and change the world one fika at a time.

**- SASNET Seminar on Caste-based sexual violence in India**

On 26 May 2014, 18.00–20.00, Asha Kowtal, the General Secretary of the AIDMAM, All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (All India Dalit Women's Rights Forum), and Thenmozhi Soundararajan, documentary filmer, will give a SASNET lecture on their struggle to demand accountability and justice for the victims of caste-based sexual violence in India.

The AIDMAM, an initiative organised through the NCDHR, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, organized the month long Dalit Mahila Swabhiman Yatra (Dalit Women's March for Self Determination), in early 2014, spanning several States in India to demand accountability and justice for the victims of caste-based sexual violence. This historic multi-state march intended to put the State, media and society in the dock for the continued impunity of sexual assault and violence the Dalit women is subjected to in India.

The lecture will also tell how caste continues to persist today what it means to fight for social justice, here in Europe as well as abroad. Venue for the seminar: Social Sciences Students Union building, Paradisgatan 5 S, Lund (close to SASNET's office). All most welcome.



- Newsletter 102 - 20 October 2009
- Newsletter 101 - 2 October 2009
- Newsletter 100 - 4 September 2009
- Newsletter 99 - 23 July 2009
- Newsletter 98 - 11 June 2009
- Newsletter 97 - 26 May 2009
- Newsletter 96 - 30 April 2009
- Newsletter 95 - 6 April 2009
- Newsletter 94 - 10 March 2009
- Newsletter 93 - 4 February 2009
- Newsletter 92 - 14 January 2009
- Newsletter 91 - 5 December 2008
- Newsletter 90 - 3 November 2008
- Newsletter 89 - 3 October 2008
- Newsletter 88 - 15 September 2008
- Newsletter 87 - 21 August 2008
- Newsletter 86 - 10 June 2008
- Newsletter 85 - 20 May 2008
- Newsletter 84 - 25 April 2008
- Newsletter 83 - 27 March 2008
- Newsletter 82 - 27 February 2008
- Newsletter 81 - 30 January 2008
- Newsletter 80 - 14 December 2007
- Newsletter 79 - 29 October 2007
- Newsletter 78 - 9 October 2007
- Newsletter 77 - 14 September 2007
- Newsletter 76 - 13 July 2007
- Newsletter 75 - 20 June 2007
- Newsletter 74 - 29 May 2007
- Newsletter 73 - 27 April 2007
- Newsletter 72 - 17 April 2007
- Newsletter 71 - 6 March 2007
- Newsletter 70 - 9 February 2007
- Newsletter 69 - 9 January 2007
- Newsletter 68 - 11 December 2006
- Newsletter 67 - 9 November 2006
- Newsletter 66 - 17 October 2006
- Newsletter 65 - 20 September 2006
- Newsletter 64 - 25 August 2006
- Newsletter 63 - 20 June 2006
- Newsletter 62 - 24 May 2006
- Newsletter 61 - 28 April 2006
- Newsletter 60 - 7 April 2006
- Newsletter 59 - 9 March 2006
- Newsletter 58 - 23 January 2006
- Newsletter 57 - 17 November 2005
- Newsletter 56 - 20 October 2005
- Newsletter 55 - 22 September 2005
- Newsletter 54 - 15 August 2005
- Newsletter 53 - 30 June 2005
- Newsletter 52 - 19 May 2005
- Newsletter 51 - 19 April 2005
- Newsletter 50 - 18 March 2005
- Newsletter 49 - 21 February 2005
- Newsletter 48 - 20 January 2005
- Newsletter 47 - 23 December 2004
- Newsletter 46 - 25 November 2004
- Newsletter 45 - 2 November 2004
- Newsletter 44 - 5 October 2004
- Newsletter 43 - 17 September 2004
- Newsletter 42 - 27 August 2004
- Newsletter 41 - 15 July 2004
- Newsletter 40 - 15 June 2004
- Newsletter 39 - 11 May 2004
- Newsletter 38 - 14 April 2004
- Newsletter 37 - 10 March 2004
- Newsletter 36 - 17 February 2004
- Newsletter 35 - 27 January 2004
- Newsletter 34 - 7 December 2003
- Newsletter 33 - 13 November 2003
- Newsletter 32 - 13 October 2003
- Newsletter 31 - 12 September 2003
- Newsletter 30 - 12 August 2003
- Newsletter 29 - 11 July 2003
- Newsletter 28 - 12 June 2003
- Newsletter 27 - 13 May 2003
- Newsletter 26 - 17 April 2003
- Newsletter 25 - 17 March 2003
- Newsletter 24 - 12 February 2003
- Newsletter 23 - 21 January 2003
- Newsletter 22 - 19 December 2002
- Newsletter 21 - 15 November 2002
- Newsletter 20 - 24 October 2002
- Newsletter 19 - 26 September 2002
- Newsletter 18 - 6 September 2002
- Newsletter 17 - 9 August 2002
- Newsletter 16 - 11 June 2002
- Newsletter 15 - 13 May 2002
- Newsletter 14 - 8 April 2002

• **SASNET seminar on the Future of Afghanistan after 2014**



On Tuesday 27 May 2014, 17–19, Anders Fänge holds a SASNET seminar about the present situation and future challenges in Afghanistan.

It is co-organised by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA). The seminar is entitled *“Will Afghanistan be forgotten by the world?”*, and deals with what will happen in Afghanistan after 2014, when the



international military combat forces have left the country; the civil war continues; the development assistance decreases; and a new president is elected? It is certainly bound to be a future with many severe problems for an ill-fated Afghan people, but Fänge also points out some possible signs of hope. [See the seminar poster.](#)

Anders Fänge has 20 years experience of having worked in the country for SCA and the United Nations. He is currently a member of SASNET’s board. Venue for the seminar: Dept. of Sociology, conference room 1, Paradisgatan 5 G, Lund. All are welcome.

- Newsletter 13 - 14 February 2002
- Newsletter 12 - 8 January 2002
- Newsletter 11 - 5 December 2001
- Newsletter 10 - 23 October 2001
- Newsletter 9 - 12 September 2001
- Newsletter 8 - 22 August 2001
- Newsletter 7 - 18 July 2001
- Newsletter 6 - 12 June 2001
- Newsletter 5 - 9 May 2001
- Newsletter 4 - 4 April 2001
- Newsletter 3 - 1 March 2001
- Newsletter 2 - 1 February 2001
- Newsletter 1 - January 2001

• **SASNET seminar on India after the 2014 Elections**

SASNET invites to a seminar on *“India after the 2014 Elections”*, to be held in Lund on Tuesday 3 June 2014, 17-19. It focuses on Narendra Modi’s victory in the Indian elections, and what the political and economical outcome will be of the election results. These two aspects will be discussed by two leading



Scandinavian scholars in the field, namely Jørgen Dige Pedersen from University of Aarhus, and Kenneth Bo Nielsen from the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) in Oslo.



In his presentation on India’s economy after the election, **Jørgen Dige Pedersen** – Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at University of Aarhus – highlights the fact that the 2014 general election in India has been highly focused on the economic situation, and on the ability of the main candidates to either revitalize the economy or to ensure a better distribution of the available economic resources. The campaign for the BJP candidate Narendra Modi, in particular, marketed him as a

strong leader capable of steering the country towards increasing prosperity. The main argument has been his track record as a chief minister of the economically booming state of Gujarat. As the new prime minister, he is however sure to face the same economic problems as the previous one. He will find it is very different to lead a nation than to lead a local state, however big it is.

**Kenneth Bo Nielsen** – Researcher at the Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo – focuses on the political development after the elections. Not many political commentators had anticipated the full scope and magnitude of the BJP’s win at the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Riding the ‘Modi wave’, the party won a comfortable majority on its own and reduced the fragmented opposition to minnows; Prime Minister Narendra Modi will now lead a solid majority government while the opposition will not even have a formally recognized ‘leader’. But just how historic is the BJP’s win? And what will five years of majority NDA-rule mean for India?



In his presentation, Kenneth Bo Nielsen looks back at the election campaign and the massive Modi-mania of the Indian media. He will then analyse the election results and identify the winners, losers and underachievers in this year’s elections. Lastly, he will offer some preliminary thoughts on what five years of Modi-rule may mean for India, and for centre-states relations in particular.

The seminar is organised in collaboration with the Dept. of Political Science, Lund University. Venue: Edens hörsal, Paradisgatan 5 H, Lund. [See the poster.](#)

### • SASNET Inter-disciplinary Research Workshop focuses on Culture, Technology and Development

SASNET organises an inter-disciplinary research workshop on "South Asia: Culture,



*Technology and Development* 13 – 15 June 2014 in Höllviken, south of Malmö. Young scholars and researchers will present their papers in this workshop bridging the gap between Nordic researchers in various disciplines working on South Asia. Three eminent South Asia researchers will give keynote speeches at the workshop, namely Prof. Kirin Narayan and Dr. Assa Doron, both from the Australian National University (ANU); and Prof. Dhruv Raina from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. The workshop is co-organized by the Nordic Centre in India (NCI) university consortium, and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen, and will be divided into three main thematic sessions:

Session A: Methods, Fieldwork and Ethics in the South Asian context; Session B: Culture, Religion and Technology in South Asia; and Session C: Theory, Practice and Development in South Asia.

A clear goal of the workshop discussions is to create strong academic cooperation on South Asia between different disciplines in the form of joint publications or new research projects. Around 40 applicants whose abstracts have been accepted will participate.

[Full information about the 2014 Falsterbo conference.](#)

### • Nordic Centre in India consortium general assembly meeting in Gothenburg



On Monday 19 May 2014, the [Nordic Centre in India \(NCI\)](#) consortium held its yearly general assembly meeting in Gothenburg. The consortium consists of 17 member universities in the Nordic countries (6 in Sweden, 2 in Norway, 3 in Denmark, 5 in Finland, 1 in Iceland, plus NIAS in Copenhagen), with an aim to promote cooperation in research and higher education between the Nordic countries and India.



The meeting was hosted by the Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion, University of Gothenburg, represented by Dr. Clemens Cavallin. Helena Lindholm Schulz, the university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, made an introductory talk at the start of the meeting. SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund attended the meeting as a representative of Lund University.

From 1 January 2014, the NCI secretariat is based at the Umeå University in Sweden, with Dr. Rupali Bhalerao, analyst at Umeå University's Planning Office – and a SASNET networking partner – being the Chairman of the NCI board. Dr. Sirpa Tenhunen from University of Helsinki, Finland, is the NCI director in charge of the daily work. She joined the position in September 2013. Her work involves planning for the educational courses NCI run for Nordic students in India at different universities, for example in Hyderabad, Puducherry and Bangalore. [More information about NCI.](#)

### • Swedish MD behind Indian IT Software company visited SASNET

On 30 April 2014, Mikael Gislén, Managing Director of Chennai based Gislén Software Pvt. Ltd, visited SASNET's office in Lund, meeting



with deputy director Lars Eklund (photo). Mikael has been living in India since 1994, when he established his IT business company that works with Swedish/Nordic clients such as Sifo, Scandinavian Airlines, ABB and Swedish Match. The company now has 50 employees, out of which 40 p.c. are women. Mr. Gislén has also done academic work in Sweden, first at Örebro University and later at the Dept. of Informatics at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) in Karlskrona, writing about outsourcing projects – in particular focusing on problems that may arise when companies outsource work from Scandinavia to India. He has studied for example cultural differences, communication challenges, how to manage requirements, governance and overcome other cultural hurdles.



In 2010, Mikael Gislén published a BSc thesis in Economics entitled *“Getting better results through Offshore Software Outsourcing Relationships. A study of how to understand and overcome communication challenges in a Swedish – Indian perspective”*. It deals with how Swedish IT industry is using Software Outsourcing to other countries as a management strategy. He analyses specific cases of misunderstandings and challenges in the context of Swedish outsourcing to India. Since Indian IT companies have mostly worked with American clients and Swedish companies are relatively immature in their outsourcing strategies, both Swedes and Indians need to learn what it takes to successfully work together. [Read more about the thesis.](#)

• **More information about SASNET and its activities**

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

Research Community News

• **Doctoral dissertation on Identity and Alienation among South Indian Plantation workers**



Jayaseelan Raj from the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, Norway, defended his doctoral dissertation entitled

*“Burden of Stigma. Crisis, Identity and Alienation in a South Indian Plantation Belt”* on Thursday 15 May 2014, at 10.15. The opponents were Dr. Caroline Osella, SOAS, University of London, UK,



and Professor Don Nonini, Department of Social Anthropology, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. Venue: Auditoriet, Bergens Sjøfartsmuseum, Haakon Shetelig's plass 15, Bergen. [More information.](#)

The thesis concentrates on the specific socio-historical processes concerning the formation and social reproduction of tea plantation populations in South India. The major focus is on Tamils who migrated from the Tamil-speaking region in South India to newly-developed colonial plantations in the South Indian State of Kerala as indentured labour. The plantation Tamils, as they are known locally, belong to Dalit communities who have been segregated within Indian society for centuries. This outcaste social status allied with the identity of coolie – a lower grouping of manual labour– facilitated their marginal position as well as their reproduction as plantation labour force into the insulated space of plantations. Recent economic crisis in the Indian Tea Industry however induced significant changes in the plantation society. The crisis forced many of the plantation families to leave the plantations and look for alternative means of subsistence. This transformation of plantations is the key focus of Jayaseelan’s research. His concentration on tea estate workers addresses a significant section of the international Tamil Diaspora. This community contributed to the plantation labour in the West Indies, in South Africa, and in the Pacific as well as in South and South East Asia.

[More information about Jayaseelan Raj and his research.](#)

#### • Call for the European Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Programme



A Call for the 2015–2016 EURIAS Programme has been released. EURIAS – the [European Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Programme](#) – was initiated by NetIAS (Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study) in 2004, and receives funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme. It is an international researcher mobility

programme building on the strong reputation of the Institutes for Advanced Study for promoting the focused, self-directed work of excellent researchers within the stimulating environment of a multidisciplinary and international group of fellows.

The Programme offers 10-month residencies in altogether 16 Institutes for Advanced Study across Europe – mainly in the field of Humanities and Social sciences. They are located in Berlin, Bologna, Budapest, Cambridge, Delmenhorst, Edinburgh, Freiburg, Helsinki, Jerusalem, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Uppsala, Vienna, Wassenaar, and Zürich. The Swedish institute being part of the programme is the [Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study \(SCAS\)](#) in Uppsala.

Over the years, several South Asia scholars have been fellows at SCAS. Among them can be mentioned Amit Bhaduri from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi (1997); T. K. Oommen, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (1998); Veena Das, University of Delhi, and New School for Social Research, New York (1999); Swati Chattopadhyay, University of California, Santa Barbara (2007); and Krishnan Srinivasan, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata (2008). In recent years appear Professor Jyotirmaya Sharma from the Dept. of Political Science, University of Hyderabad in 2012; and again Krishnan Srinivasan for the academic year 2012/13. [More information about South Asia related activities at SCAS.](#)

EURIAS Fellowship Programme offers 44 fellowships (22 for senior researchers and 22 for junior ones) for the 2015/2016 academic year. The key target group is scholars from within the fields of the humanities and social sciences, but fellowships may also be granted to scholars in life and exact sciences, provided that their proposed research project does not require laboratory facilities and that it interfaces with humanities and social sciences. The Programme welcomes applications worldwide from promising young scholars as well as from leading senior researchers. Deadline for applications is 5 June 2014. [More information.](#)

#### • Doctoral dissertation about working unmarried women in Sri Lanka

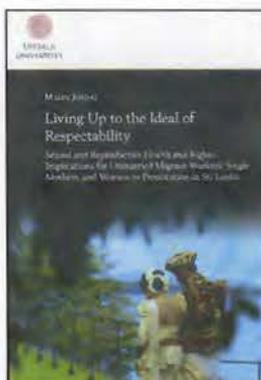


Malin Jordal from [International Maternal and Child Health \(IMCH\)](#), Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, will defend her doctoral dissertation on "*Living Up to the Ideal of Respectability: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Implications for Unmarried Migrant*

*Workers, Single Mothers, and Women in Prostitution in Sri Lanka*" on Friday 23 May 2014, at 13.00. The faculty examiner will be Senior Research Professor Jeanne Marecek, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, USA. Venue: Auditorium Minus, Akademigatan 3, Uppsala.

The thesis aims to gain a deeper understanding of relationships and sexuality of women at risk of social exclusion in Sri Lanka and the risk of violations of their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) that they might face. Findings revealed that the migrant women workers negotiated norms of respectability in a society that highly stigmatizes Free Trade Zone women workers, while the men identified conflicting constructions of masculinity existing in the FTZ.

The women facing single motherhood navigated oppressive and stigmatizing social forces, and the women in prostitution constructed themselves as respectable in opposition to their societal disvalue and marginalization. In order to retain an image of sexual innocence, unmarried women are likely to refrain from demanding or demonstrating SRHR knowledge and accessing services. [More information about Malin and her research](#), with a link to the full-text thesis.



#### • Indo-Swedish research collaboration on treating corneal blindness

The Integrative Regenerative Medicine Centre at the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKE), Linköping University, is involved in a collaborative research project on Corneal Blindness with the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India. In December 2013, the project entitled *“Regenerative Implants as an Alternative to Transplantation of Donated Corneas for Treating Blindness”* was selected for funding from



the Strategic Indo-Swedish Cooperative Innovation Programme, jointly administered by The Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT); the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA); and the Swedish Research Council (SRC). The project is led by Professor May Griffith at IKE.

Corneal Blindness is one of the most common causes of blindness in India. India in fact shoulders the largest burden of global blindness, about 3.5 million across the country with 30000 new cases being added each year. While many cases of corneal blindness is treatable by transplantation, within India. An estimated 35,000 corneas harvested every year, and only 60% of these are of sufficient quality for use whereas 150,000 are required annually to combat corneal blindness. [Read more about the Indo-Swedish research project.](#)

• **Swedish and Bangladeshi researchers collaborate to develop wheat varieties tolerant to salinity**



Researchers at the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, are

involved in a collaborative research project on molecular breeding of wheat varieties tolerant to salinity in Bangladesh. The research partner institution is the Department of Agronomy at Bangladesh Agricultural



University (BAU) in Mymensingh. In November 2013 the project, coordinated by Associate Professor Henrik Aronsson (*photo*), was given a Swedish Research Links grant for the three-years period 2014–16.

The project aims at developing new wheat varieties suitable for cultivation in Bangladesh coastal belts, by taking advantage of modern molecular plant breeding activities. The background is that Bangladesh is one of the countries under the maximum threat of climate change. It is expected that both salinity and drought conditions of the country will aggravate further, which will call for immediate development approach for newer plant varieties to sustain food production leading to food security. The project also involves Professor Olof Olsson from the Department of Pure and Applied Biochemistry at Lund University.

Separately, the Dept. of Biological and Environmental Sciences have launched a Linnaeus Palme Exchange Programme with BAU. Under the umbrella of this programme it is planned to use the expertise from Gothenburg to be fully exploited in assistance in training/teaching of a larger audience of scientists, postgraduate and undergraduate students of Bangladesh by being in Bangladesh for longer periods. [More information about the research collaboration.](#)

• **India related PhD position in Visual Studies available at University of Antwerp**

The Visual Studies and Media Culture Research Group (ViSMaC) of the University of



Antwerp, Belgium, announces a fully funded 4-year PhD research position within the framework of the project *“Defying Social Invisibility: A Transnational Study of*

*Empowerment And Social Intervention in the Field of Contemporary Digital Imaging Practices*". This is a transnational ethnography-based project focusing on Belgium, South Africa and India. It is being funded by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) and supervised by Dr. Paolo Favero (visual anthropologist) and Dr. Luc Pauwels (visual sociologist). Candidates should have a Master's degree in Anthropology, Sociology, Communication Studies, Urban Studies, Social and Cultural Geography (or any other degree relevant to the project) and preferably with distinction. The PhD scholarship starts on 1 October 2014. The appointment is initially for one year, but renewable for three (so four years in total to complete a PhD). Deadline for applications is 18th June 2014. [Full information.](#)

• **Time to apply for the DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme**

Applications for the DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme is open till 21 May 2014. This programme was initiated by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2010 as a new specific DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme. aims at promoting exchanges of people between Sweden and 16 Asian countries – including India and Pakistan – on a balanced basis. In this respect, DUO-Sweden requires that a PAIR (two persons) of undergraduate or graduate students who are currently enrolled in universities be exchanged in the framework of a cooperative project. Approximately 50 fellowships will be selected (that is 25 pairs) through the Duo-Sweden programme per year.



The programme is being administered by the Swedish International Programme Office for Education and Training, a government agency that promotes academic exchanges and cooperation across national borders. ASEM-DUO is an exchange programme for lecturers and students from Europe and Asia, where participating countries exchange one lecturer/student. The ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, commenced in 2001, has supported exchanges of professors and students in tertiary education field between Asia and Europe under ASEM domain. Students can study abroad between 4-6 months and lecturers can spend one month abroad. The DUO-Sweden Fellowship Program The exchange project must fulfill three requirements:

- 1) An educational institution in Sweden (home institution) and an educational institution in Asia (host institution) should have established an academic cooperative arrangement; and
- 2) The Swedish home institution has selected an EU national student enrolled at the home institution to send to the Asian host institution, and such selection has been accepted by the Asian host institution; and
- 3) The same Asian host institution has selected an Asian student enrolled at the host institution to send to the Swedish home institution, and such selection has been accepted by the same Swedish home institution.

[More information on the ASEM-DUO applications.](#)

• **Muhammad Yunus lectured at European Social Business Forum in Lund**



The Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus



participated in the first Social Business Week Sweden, held in Lund and Malmö 12-16 May 2014. The event was organised by Lund University along with regional partners. During five days the concepts of social business, social entrepreneurship, and social innovation were explored by and with academics, entrepreneurs, students, NGO's and public officials. The Social Business Week Sweden was divided into two events: The Social Innovation Lab, 12-14 May, offering a creative environment to learn more about social innovation and social entrepreneurship to gain the knowledge and tools necessary to get started with a social venture. On

Thursday 15 May, the European Social Business Forum took place at Medicon Village in Lund. Through presentations, panel discussions, and workshops the Forum elaborated on the relevance and implementation of social business in Sweden and the European Union. [Read more.](#)

**• Roundtable meeting with Muhammed Yunus at Lund University**

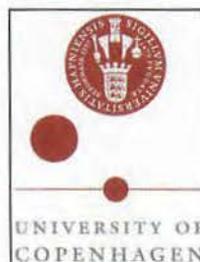
On 16 May 2014, Lund University organised a roundtable meeting with Professor Muhammed Yunus and Vice Chancellor Per



Ericsson to discuss how to promote social business and innovation in Sweden. A wide range of stakeholders including entrepreneurs, politicians and civil society representatives participated in the discussions, held at Pufendorfinstitutet. SASNET was represented by Anna Lindberg and Hawwa Lubna. [Read a report.](#)

**• University of Copenhagen invites applications for PhD scholarships on new South-South Connections**

The Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, invites applications for two 3-year PhD scholarships connected to the Centre of Global South Asian Studies (CGSAS) at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies. The positions are part of the collective research project 'Emerging Worlds: Ethnographic Explorations of new South-South Connections' funded by the Danish Council for Independent Research.



Emerging Worlds is concerned with the new South-South connections being forged within the Global South. It addresses the 'emerging worlds' of south-south dynamics by studying a new species of connections – produced through extractive economies, capital investments, development aid, migration – between the decolonized regions with special focus on India and Africa. What kind of possibilities, potentialities and contradictions does this fast evolving encounter entail? And how is this seemingly historic change to be theorized within the currents of postcolonial thinking and written into the history of the south? The PhD Scholarships relate to one or more of the following topics that explore the new connections: 1. Extractive economies based upon exploitation of natural resources; 2. Indian investments in Africa; 3. South based development aid interventions; and 4. South-South migration. [More information about the scholarships.](#)

**• 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**

**• Örebro University celebrates 20 years of India project**

The Social Work programme at Örebro University established an Indian-Swedish educational project in 1994. The SWEDEN-INDIA PROJECT as it is called – now administered by the [School of Law, Psychology and Social Work](#) – celebrated its 20th anniversary on Friday 16th May 2014. Örebro University and a few other Swedish universities every semester send students of Social Work for training in India, where the counterpart is the Orchid School in Pune, headed by Lakshmi Kumar. In November 2007, Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund from SASNET visited the Sweden-India Project in Pune, as part of their contact journey to India. [Read their report.](#)



At the jubilee function in Örebro, Indian Ambassador Banashri Bose Harrison participated with an introductory speech, Lakshmi Kumar spoke about the development of the project during 20 years, and representatives of Örebro University and

Mid-Sweden University shared their experiences. [Full information.](#)

• 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

#### • Uppsala seminar on Andaman shrine of Fazl-e Haqq Khairabadi



Jamal Malik, Chair Professor for Muslim Cultural and Religious History at Erfurt University, Germany, held a guest lecture at Uppsala University on Friday 16 May 2014. His presentation was entitled "*Andaman in Muslim Cultural Memory. The case of Fazl-e Haqq Khairabadi*". Among his many publications is "*Islam in South Asia: A short history*" (Leiden/Boston 2008). The seminar was organised by the [Institute for Linguistics and Philology](#) in collaboration with the Forum for South Asian Studies. Venue: Room 9-1016, Engelska Parken, Thunbergsvägen, Uppsala.

**Abstract:** The shrine of Fazl-e Haqq Khairabadi who died in 1861 in the Andaman Islands after deportation, has become an important venue for the peaceful encounter between Hindus and Muslims serving the Nehruvian project of religious and cultural pluralism. Over the years different sides have appropriated and reinterpreted this scholar and his records though: Muslim narratives, as well as, state departments have endowed Khairabadi and his material cultural manifestation, the shrine as a monument, with a major historical dimension in public debates. These appropriations and reinterpretations have produced notions of history that have also been serving different Muslim historical consciences for quite different reasons: His alleged involvement in the 1857 uprising and his detention in Port Blair (Andaman Islands) have become major fields of contested interpretation from within Muslim communities. The talk will reconstruct the nexus between 1857 and the deportation of freedom fighters to Port Blair, and their subsequent, important meanings for Muslim cultural histories.

#### • Vaasa conference on Indian Culture, Values and Justice

An international and interdisciplinary conference entitled "*Culture, Values and Justice*" will be held in Vaasa, Finland, 21–23 May 2014. It is organised by the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion in collaboration with the University of Vaasa; and the Institute of Cross Cultural Studies and Academic Exchange in Burlington, North Carolina, USA. The conference convener is Dr. Chandana Chakrabarti. Suggested subtopics include Ethnic Identity & Culture; Society, Culture & Consumption; Indian Civilization & Society; Cultural Shock; Society & Effect of Colonization; Reductionist Approach to Moral Responsibility; Archaeological Approaches to Society; Asian Society & Culture; Secularization of Religion; Culture & Postmodernity; and Cultural Roots of Environmental Problems. [More information.](#)



#### • Uppsala seminar on the geostrategic curse behind Pakistan's failed development

The Forum for South Asia Studies at Uppsala University invites to a seminar and book presentation on "*The Warrior State – Pakistan in the Contemporary World*" by T.V. Paul, James McGill Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The seminar will be held at Uppsala University's [Department of Peace and Conflict Research](#), Gamla Torget 3, Uppsala, on Friday 23 May 2014, 10.15–12.00.



Prof. Paul specializes in International Relations, especially international security, regional security and South Asia. His recent book *The Warrior State* was published by Oxford University Press in 2013. It focuses on the current situation in Pakistan, and asks why, in an era when countries across the developing world are experiencing impressive economic growth and building democratic institutions, Pakistan has become such a conspicuous failure? He untangles this fascinating riddle arguing that the "geostrategic curse" – akin to the "resource curse" that plagues oil-rich autocracies – is at the root of Pakistan's unique inability to progress. [More information.](#)

#### • Karlstad University seminar on Activism in the Tibetan Diaspora

Tenzin Tsundue, a Tibetan poet and activist who, after graduating from Chennai, South India, crossed the Himalayas on foot into forbidden Tibet, holds an open lecture at Karlstad University on Tuesday 27 May 2014, 10–12. The presentation is entitled *“Activism in the Tibetan diaspora”*. See the poster.



Tenzin lives out of his writing. He is based in Dharamsala, North India. He writes poetry and stories on exile life and struggle. His creative political activism and unique voice has attracted the world's attention. One of his stories, "My kind of exile" won a major literary prize in India for way to express 'the tragedy of being a Tibetan in this world'. "My kind of exile" won a major literary prize in India for it's way of expressing "the tragedy of being a Tibetan in this world".

Later on the same day, 27th May at 18.00, Tenzin Tsundue will give an open lecture on the topic of *“Poetry and Protest for a free Tibet”* at Värmlands Museum in Karlstad.

• **New books on Indian Foreign Policy to be presented at IFS seminar in Oslo**



The Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies



(IFS) invites to a half-day seminar on *“Indian Foreign Policy and Strategic Thinking”* in Oslo on Tuesday 27 May 2014, 08.30–12.30. At the seminar,

IFS will introduce two new books on India, and discuss India's relations with the wider world. The books are *“A Game of Chess and a Battle of Wits. The Making of India's Forward Policy 1961–62”*, written by Johan Løøv from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former research fellow at IFS; and *“India's Grand Strategy. History, Theory, Cases”*, co-edited by V. Krishnappa, Research Fellow at Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi. Both Løøv and Krishnappa will be present.

The seminar however also includes two high-class academic presentations. Professor John Garver, basically a China scholar from the School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, USA, will talk about *‘China–India Relations: Past, Present and Future’*; and Professor Harsh V. Pant from the Department of Defence Studies at King's College London, UK, will talk about *‘Perspectives on Indian Foreign Policy: Aligned or Non-Aligned?’*. Prof. Pant's research largely focuses on India's China policy and India's policy trajectory in Afghanistan. He is also working on issues related to Indian defence policy.



John Garver and Harsh Pant.

Dr Sunniva Engh, senior fellow at IFS will be the moderator. Venue for the seminar: IFS, Kongens gate 4, Oslo. [More information.](#)

• **KTH seminar on Energy Solutions for Sustainable Development**



The Division of Energy and Climate Studies (ECS) along with the division of Heat and Power (EKV) at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm is organizing a seminar entitled *“Energy solutions for sustainable development”* on 2nd June 2014, 13.00–16.00. This seminar discusses mainly the results of the feasibility study of a small-scale, biogas based poly-generation scheme for providing access to clean energy in the form of cooking

fuel and electricity, as well as arsenic-free drinking water. This research has been done at KTH along with local partners Grameen Shakti and Swedish local partner SCARAB and funded by SIDA. The local partners will share its experiences in disseminating new technologies and promoting energy access in Bangladesh.

The seminar will be chaired by Prof Semida Silveira, Division Head of Energy and Climate Studies. Participants from Bangladesh Embassy, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Swedish Environment Institute (SEI), Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Swedish Energy Agency (SEA), KTH (project team and researchers), Grameen Shakti- Bangladesh, SCARAB Development AB, Swedish biogas companies, and researchers from various universities have been invited in this seminar. Please confirm your participation before 25th May 2014, by sending a confirmation email to the project coordinator [Dr. Brijesh Mainali](#). Venue: Learning Theatre, KTH,

Brinellvägen 68. See the detailed programme.

#### • Stockholm University hosts Sixth Silicon in Agriculture conference

The 6th International Conference on Silicon in Agriculture will be held at Stockholm University 26–30 August 2014. It is being

6th Int. Conference on  
**Silicon in Agriculture**  
26-30 August 2014 in Stockholm, Sweden

organised by the the university's [Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences](#), the main coordinator is Associate Professor Maria Greger. This is the 6th conference and the first one to be held in Europe in this series. The conference is given each 3rd year and the previous ones were held 1999 in Florida, US, 2002 in Tsuruoka, Japan, 2005 in Uberlandia, Brazil, 2008 in Durban, South Africa and 2011 in Beijing, China.

The aim of this conference is to during three days discuss the latest knowledge and the state of the art of the important issue of using application of Silicon in agriculture.

Application of Silicon has shown to increase biomass production, resistance to several abiotic and biotic stressors as well as to diminish the content of several toxic elements and increase the uptake of some nutrients in crops. Its possible role as essential nutrient element to plants, animals and humans has long been discussed. Its possible essentiality can be put in relation to a decreased available Si level in arable soils, due to crop harvest and no Si application. The conference will therefore span from the Chemistry of Si fertilizers via Si influence on soil and plants to the influence of Si on crop nutrition for human and animals. Deadline for submitting abstracts is 20 May 2014.

[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

#### • Vienna Workshop on Mughal Empire under Shah Jahan

The [Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences](#) is organising a workshop entitled "*The Mughal Empire under Shah Jahan (1628-58) – New Trends of Research*" from 26 to 27 May, 2014. The workshop will bring together, for the first time, international scholars of the Mughal empire belonging to various disciplines for a discussion of the period of Shah Jahan. It is hoped that the meeting will widen the discussion and have a synergetic effect to intensify research on Shah Jahan. The Mughal empire under Shah Jahan still is one of the least studied areas of Mughal history, the attention of historians has been directed mainly to Akbar and Aurangzeb, most recently also to Jahangir. One of the reasons for this neglect is that major historical texts regarding Shah Jahan are still un-edited and un-translated.



Since 2009, a research focus on Shah Jahan has formed at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences with a project on the emperor's palaces and gardens (Ebba Koch) and a project on historiography centering on the court historian Qazvini, by researchers Florian Schwarz and Stephan Popp. [More information.](#)

#### • Toronto conference on study of Pakistan beyond tremors & terror

Three Canadian universities – University of Toronto, Ryerson University and York University – all in Toronto, jointly hold a conference on the theme "*Pakistan beyond tremors and terror: critical engagements with political, economic and cultural change*" on 29 – 30 May 2014.



As host to a daily onslaught of bomb-blasts, "honour killings", and "mob" violence, Pakistan regularly populates the pages of the international mainstream press. But these popular journalistic accounts often leave the impression that the country is embroiled in a spate of irrationality, violence and Islamic fundamentalism. Alternatively, liberal

Pakistanis, if they make an appearance in the drama, are celebrated as carriers of the torch of progress, challenging the dominance of religious conservatism with their unrivalled "toleration", their capitalist "development", and their support for the Pakistani state's military offensives and the broader "War on Terror". This is the narrative typically delivered to the world. Much of recent scholarly work on Pakistan too has been guilty of reproducing a crude and overly-narrow analysis of the country and its people, an analysis (if one could call it that) which seems to be more committed to promoting US foreign policy objectives than to stimulating any serious academic inquiry. The purpose of this conference is to challenge these views and bring together scholars and students whose research moves beyond these prevailing ways to a more complex understanding of Pakistan and its people. Call for papers is now open and deadline has been extended to 2 March 2014. More information available on [Pakistan Conference website](#).

#### • Japanese conference on Belonging and Sharing Borderlands

The Fourth Asian Conference on Asian Studies (ACAS) will be held 29 May – 1 June 2014 in Osaka, Japan. The conference is



organised by the International Academic Forum in conjunction with its global partners including the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia.

The theme of this year's conference is "*Borderlands of Becoming, Belonging and Sharing*". The aim of the conference theme is to open up discussion, critical reflection and analysis about emerging social, political and cultural identities that are formed at the intersection of multiple and multi-sited belongings and their expression and about the possibility of making them shared across differences.

Local, national and global cultures have been transformed by an intensification of human migration, mobility and multi-culture with multiple and complex claims of home, identity and belonging. Gloria Anzaldúa's idea of the borderland has become a critical conceptual rubric used by cultural researchers as a way of understanding, explaining and articulating the in-determined, vague, ambiguous nature of everyday life and the cultural politics of border-knowledge, border crossings, transgression, living in-between and multiple belongings. Borderlands is also about a social space where people of diverse backgrounds and identities meet and share a space in which the politics of co-presence and co-existence are experienced and enacted in mundane ways. This conference, which focuses on the borderlands of becoming, belonging and sharing, is therefore about examining how the culture of everyday life is regulated and contested across diverse political, economic and social contexts, and whether and how it creates spaces of belonging with others. Deadline for submitting papers is 1 February 2014.

[More information on ACAS website](#).

#### • Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute conference on collaborative research

The [Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute](#), based in Calgary, Canada, and New Delhi, India, is organizing a conference at the India International Centre, New Delhi on Friday 30 May 2014, to present collaborative research that has been completed, or is currently being undertaken, by Indian and Canadian



universities/research institutions in five focus areas. They are: 1.

Energy & Environment; 2. Public Health; 3. Food Security & Sustainable Development; 4. Bilateral Trade and Investment, and 5. Vocational Education. Papers are invited from faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and doctoral students from Shastri member institutions, as well as faculty/researchers from non-member institutions to present and share work that has been completed or is currently progressing in these five areas. The papers could be the outcome of research funded by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute or by other agencies, universities or research institutions. The organisers particularly encourage submissions that develop inter-disciplinary themes. [More information](#).

#### • Nineteenth International Euro-Asia Research Conference to be held in Yokohama

Following a number of conferences held in Italy, France, Ireland, Norway, Japan, China, Spain, Indonesia and India since 1994, the Nineteenth International Euro-Asia Research Conference will



take place in Yokohama, Japan (pictured right) on 30 May – 1 June 2014. The research conference is a joint undertaking between Yokohama



National University, Japan, the School of Asian Studies and Business Management Ca' Foscari University, Venice, the IAE of The University of Poitiers, France, The University of Pau (Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour), France, TELECOM Ecole de Management, France, The School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield, The U.K., and The University of Limerick, Ireland.

The Conference is intended to bring together researchers engaged in Management, Economics and related fields from Europe, Asia and other parts of the World. Research contributions addressing any aspect of "The impact of economic change on Asian business management" are welcome. This topic may cover among others the following sub-topics: *Dealing with the aftermath of the global financial crisis; Relocation abroad and relocation back home: European and Asian experiences; Developed versus developing countries MNCs in Asia: comparison of international strategies; SMEs internationalisation strategies – European and Asian perspectives; Information systems development and control evolution within MNCs.* Doctoral students are also strongly encouraged to submit papers for consideration. The first deadline for a one page proposal is 30 November 2013. [More information.](#)

#### • London conference on Kashmiris: Contested Present, Possible Futures

A one-day conference entitled "*Kashmiris: Contested Present, Possible Futures*" is held at Westminster University in London, UK, 2 June 2014, 09.30 – 18.00. It is jointly organised by the Emerging Powers programme, Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Westminster; and the Institute of Advanced Study, the Department of Sociology and the Connecting Cultures as well as the International Development Global Research Priorities Networks, at University of Warwick. This conference seeks to make sense of the contested presents of Kashmiris as a people and of the possible futures that put them, and not the nation-states of India and Pakistan, as the primary actor to be acknowledged and respected.



The conference follows a workshop held on 5 March at University of Warwick on "*Contested and Possible Sovereignities: The "State" in Kashmir*" ([more information](#)). The March workshop brought together scholars, media and creative practitioners, NGO spokespersons and policy-makers in a dialogic format in order to understand the complex dimensions of the practices of sovereignty in relation to state violence, religious nationalism, human rights, and a distinctive Kashmiri cultural history and identity. [Full information.](#)

#### • Kolkata Conference on Information Technology



Fourth International Conference on Advances in Information Technology and Mobile Communication – AIM 2014, will be held during 6 - 7 June, 2014 in Kolkata, India.

AIM2014 aims to bring together innovative academics and industrial experts in the field of Computer Science, Information Technology, Computational Engineering, Communication and Network to a common forum. The AIM conference is organised by the Association of Computer Electronics and Electrical Engineers (ACEEE) and sponsored by the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE). Prospective authors are invited to submit full (original) research papers; which are not submitted or published or under consideration anywhere in other conferences or journals; in electronic (PDF only) format through the Easy Chair Conference Management System website or via email to [aim.chair@gmail.com](mailto:aim.chair@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is **2 Mar 2014**. [More information.](#)

#### • London conference in honour of Simon Digby and his pre-Mughal India research



The SOAS South Asia Institute (SSAI) at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, organises an international conference to honour and celebrate the life, work,

and interests of the late Simon Everard Digby 9–11 June 2014. It is co-organised by the Simon Digby Memorial Charity. Venue: Kamran DJAM Lecture Theatre (Formerly G2), SOAS, Russell Square College, London.

Digby was an English oriental scholar, translator, writer and collector who was awarded the Burton Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society. He was considered to be the foremost British scholar of pre-Mughal India. This conference celebrates his vast and pioneering scholarship by focusing on the areas and materials he explored – coins, paintings, manuscripts another material objects, art history, Sufism, language and literary history, and travel. The conference brings together some of the most renowned scholars of pre-modern South Asia who knew Simon Digby personally as well as younger scholars who have been influenced by his path-breaking work. Papers will address the various aspects of his work and will discuss and apply "Simon's method", a unique mix of lapidary attention to objects and ideas with an intense awareness of the larger historical patterns that produced them and influenced their subsequent use. The conference is now open for registrations. [More information.](#)



#### • Second Hong Kong conference on Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia

As a follow-up to the 2010 conference on "Urban Ecologies in Asia", which was convened in Hong Kong ([more](#)



[information](#)), the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HKIHSS) will organise a new conference entitled "*Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II: Cities, Towns, and the Places of Nature*", on 9 – 12 June 2014.

The conference will investigate urbanism, nature, and ecological sustainability in Asian cities and towns, and explore the ways that urban social processes intersect with assessments of urban environmental order and disorder in specific cities by asking, how are relationships between urban environments and urban societies made, and made meaningful? How do biophysical properties, rules, and histories of nature matter in the city? How is the urban environment used to construct social identities and demarcate political spaces?

Papers will engage cases grounded in the cities and towns of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and south China and abstracts are invited in the following thematic areas: *the political ecology of the city, urban environmentalism, nodes and networks, and the social lives of infrastructure.*

All selected participants will be provided a round-trip economy airfare to Hong Kong, and up to six nights accommodation, as well as invitations to the conference dinner and associated field trips. [More information.](#)

#### • London conference on South Asian Screen Cultures in the 21st century

University of Westminster in London will hold a conference entitled "*Moving On: South Asian Screen Cultures in a Broader Frame*" 12–14 June 2014.

Venue: University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS.



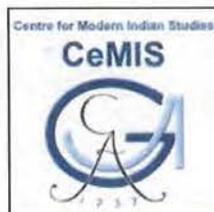
This interdisciplinary conference seeks to explore complex and nuanced screen archaeologies in which the past, the present and the future come together to pose new questions for South Asian Screen Studies in the 21st Century.

Indian Cinema has just celebrated the centenary of the release of Dadasaheb Phalke's Raja Harishchandra. It is now time to assess the ever expanding film archive and its new and rapidly proliferating manifestations.

The conference will particularly focus on the processes of dispersal, fragmentation and regeneration. These could pertain to screen technologies, film form, media artefacts, extra-filmic ephemera, sound objects, personnel, formal and informal markets, and the multilayered routes of screen travel. It is our hope that this conference can offer a venue to think about alternative genealogies, archaeologies, and interconnected archives. "Moving on" is fuelled by a desire to consider the moving image in the broadest context of region and time span. While centred on South Asia, the conference will also be focused on not limiting to screen objects produced in/by/for South Asians.

Rather they hope also to engage with transnational and transcultural journeys, institutions and cultural forms. Call for papers to be presented at the conference is open until 26 March 2014. [More information.](#)

#### • Göttingen workshop on Modern Histories of Indian Business



Center for Modern Indian Studies at the University of Göttingen in Germany is organising a workshop focusing on the theme *"Informal and Everyday Markets: Modern Histories of Indian Business and Entrepreneurship since the Nineteenth Century"* from June 18-20, 2014. The workshop aims to explore histories of Indian markets, business and entrepreneurship in the global as well as local context. It focuses on the informal and everyday

markets including labor and credit markets during the nineteenth and twentieth century which are so crucial for Indian business history but are seldom made a focal point of analysis. By inviting scholars to pay special attention to the informality of economic transactions and on the inter-personal characteristics of markets instead of their abstract nature, we hope to shed some light on markets that too often are left as conceptual black boxes and taken for granted. Markets are often described by their institutional set-ups and formal regulations alone, leaving their underpinnings on informal cultural values, social embedment, informal exchanges, traditional everyday interactions, and in some cases even illegal activities unaddressed. Deadline for submission of papers to be presented at the workshop is 15 February 2014. [More information.](#)

#### • International Symposium on Megacities to be held in Kolkata

An International Symposium on MEGACITIES will be held in Kolkata, India, 11 – 14 November 2014. According to United Nations statistics, a



megacity is defined to have a population of 10 million or more ([see a list of the current 32 megacities in the world](#)). During four days, world leading experts in architecture and city planning participate and give presentations. A Concluding Lecture entitled *"Need for research on Megacity"* will be given by Professor Shin Muramatsu from the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature, Kyoto and Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, Japan. Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations should be submitted before 31 July 2014.

The symposium is being organised by the Centre for Built Environment (CBE), an umbrella organisation of professionals from the government, university, private organisations and institutions. The symposium intends to discuss the megacity concept in a comprehensive way, and almost all megacities in the world will be presented for the first time – about the transformation and about its challenges and problems, prospects and future visions. How grandeur and splendour are seen with squalor and decay, with poverty and plenty. How utopian ideas come and how megacities take the challenges. Where and how future megacity will come? The symposium also includes special features and account of megacities in art, cinema and music. The organizers hope that the symposium should lead up to a resolution, that is called the Charter of Kolkata. [Full information about the symposium.](#)

#### • 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

#### • Börje Almqvist again exhibits his Afghanistan photos in Stockholm



The Swedish journalist Börje Almqvist, working for many years for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan inside Afghanistan from the 1980s and onwards, again shows his vast collection of photos from Afghanistan at an exhibition in Stockholm during the summer 2014. The exhibition, entitled "*Livet går vidare i Afghanistan*", will as usual be shown in the Orangerie at Vintervikens Trädgård in Aspudden, in southwestern Stockholm (metro station Aspudden).

Opening hours in May: Monday–Friday 11.00–16.00, Saturday–Sunday 11.00–18.00:

June–August: Every day 11.00–21.00.

More photos by Börje are found at

<http://web.comhem.se/borje.almqvist.photo/>

#### • Bharata Natyam performance by Kolkata dancer at Sagohuset in Lund



The Lund based Association of Indo-Swedish Cultural Exchange organises a performance with professional Bharata Natyam dancer Shivapriya Bagchi from Kolkata at Theatre Sagohuset in Lund on Saturday 24 May 2014, at 19.00. Shivapriya is trained in this classical Indian temple dance, with themes from Indian mythology related to Shiva, Krishna and other Hindu gods, but has also made her own choreography to music by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Tickets for the show cost SEK 100 and can be booked through Sagohuset, Sensus, Biljettbyrå and Kulturbolaget.

Earlier the same day, Saturday 24th, Shivapriya holds a workshop in Bharata Natyam. This is held at Theatre Sagohuset between 12 AM and 4 PM. The cost is SEK 500 (including entry to evening's concert). More details can be had from Lars Eklund, by mail or phone +46 (0)731 50 88 44.

[See the concert poster. Read more about Shivapriya Bagchi and her dance.](#)

#### • Spectacular Rabindranath Tagore programme at Uppsala University



A spectacular event in honour of

the Indian/Bengali Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore took place in Uppsala on Wednesday 7 May 2014. On this day, a bust of the poet – made by Ramkinkar Baij – was unveiled at the university's departments of Humanities, on Thunbergsvägen 3L, Engelska Parken. In recent years, statues of



Rabindranath Tagore have been raised in many places all around the world on initiative from the Indian embassies.

[See video from the ceremony.](#)



The ceremonial unveiling of the bust was carried out by Prof. Eva Åkesson (*photo*), Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University and HE Mrs Banashri Bose Harrison, Ambassador of India to Sweden and Latvia. The Tagore International Choir performed at the occasion. This Lund based choir, led by Bubu Munshi Eklund, sings rabindrasangheet, Tagore's songs in the original Bengali language. A large number of the Uppsala University researchers involved in South Asia related research – members of the

SASNET network – turned up for the occasion. SASNET itself was represented by deputy director Lars Eklund (also a member of the choir).

In the afternoon, an academic seminar programme with a cultural touch was held with three lectures on Tagore and his relation to Sweden. The speakers were Professor Heinz Werner Wessler from the Dept. of Linguistics and Philology; Dr. Ferdinando Sardella from the Department of Theology; and Dr. Anders Gerdmar from Nathan Söderblom



Speakers at seminar: Wessler, Sardella and Gerdmar.

Society. The Tagore International Choir again entertained with rabindrasangheet tunes, and so did the Uppsala Indian Choir.



(photo above) The programme was concluded with a fantastic dance performance by Asta Deboo. The Uppsala Tagore event was jointly organised by the Forum for South Asian Studies at Uppsala University (FSAS), and the Indian Embassy in Stockholm. [Read an article about the event by journalist Kouteya Sinha in Times of India.](#) Full information about the Tagore day on the FSAS web page. More photos on Lars Eklund's Facebook page.



Tagore International Choir in front of the Tagore bust.



Asta Deboo and the Ambassador.

#### • 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

##### • Swedish departments where research on South Asia is going on

This month there were 1 new department added to SASNET's list:

- ‡ [Integrative Regenerative Medicine Centre, Division of Cell Biology, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine \(IKE\), Linköping University](#)

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.

#### Best regards

Lars Eklund

#### Deputy Director in charge of Communication 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

Från: Lars Eklund lars.eklund@sasnet.lu.se  
Ämne: SASNET News Extra 2 June 2014  
Datum: 2 juni 2014 09:51  
Till: Lars Eklund lars.eklund@sasnet.lu.se

# SASNET

## Swedish South Asian Studies Network

### Copenhagen seminar on 2014 General Elections in India

The Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) at Copenhagen University invites to a seminar on "The 2014 General Elections in India: Results and Consequences" on Monday 2 June 2014, 15.00 – 16.30. NIAS has invited three India observers and a student of democracy to share their observations and expectations. Venue: NIAS, Room 18-01-08, Copenhagen University, Øster Farimagsgade 5. The panel consists of PhD candidate Rasmus Fønnesbæk Andersen, Department of Political Science, Copenhagen University; Jeppe Matzen, journalist, Weekendavisen; Mrutyunjai Mishra, blogger, Politiken and Times of India; and Kenneth Bo Nielsen, Researcher at Centre for Development and Environment (SUM), Oslo.

<http://nias.ku.dk/news/seminar-2014-general-elections-india-results-and-consequences>

### Jørgen Dige Pedersen and Kenneth Nielsen holds SASNET seminar on India under Modi

SASNET invites to a seminar on "Uncertain Future for Modi's India", to be held in Lund on Tuesday 3 June 2014, 17-19. It focuses on Narendra Modi's victory in the Indian elections, and what the political and economical outcome will be of the election results. These two aspects will be discussed by two leading Scandinavian scholars in the field, namely Jørgen Dige Pedersen from University of Aarhus, and Kenneth Bo Nielsen from the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) in Oslo. The seminar is organised in collaboration with the Dept. of Political Science, Lund University. Venue: Edens hörsal, Paradisgatan 5 H, Lund.

In his presentation on India's economy after the election, Jørgen Dige Pedersen highlights the fact that the 2014 general election in India has been highly focused on the economic situation, and on the ability of the main candidates to either revitalize the economy or to ensure a better distribution of the available economic resources. The campaign for the BJP candidate Narendra Modi, in particular, has marketed him as a strong leader capable of steering the country towards increasing prosperity.

Kenneth Bo Nielsen focuses on the political development after the elections. Not many political commentators had anticipated the full scope and magnitude of the BJP's win at the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Riding the 'Modi wave', the party won a comfortable majority on its own and reduced the fragmented opposition to minnows; Prime Minister Narendra Modi will now lead a solid majority government while the opposition will not even have a formally recognized 'leader'. But just how historic is the BJP's win? And what will five years of majority NDA-rule mean for India?

Read more about their presentations at the Lund seminar.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/sasnet/sasnet-seminar-india-after-2014-lok-sabha-elections>

### Uppsala workshop on the European Discovery of 'Hindi'

The Institute for Linguistics and Philology at Uppsala University organises a workshop on "Francois-Marie de Tours and the European Discovery of 'Hindi'" on Wednesday 4 June 2014. The Uppsala workshop will try to unite researchers working on the early Hindi grammatical traditions of Western scholars and travellers, missionary linguistics and the works on Hindi by François-Marie de Tours in particular. It will try to contextualize the scholarly erudition of the early research work on Indian languages in the wider scope of the European intellectual encounter with India in the late 17th and early 18th century, when several European East India trading companies were founded in several countries (including a Swedish East India Company), and the Catholic mission reached out from the coastal regions to many parts of the subcontinent and towards Tibet, while being caught up in the struggle on missionary strategies during the lifetime of François-Marie de Tours. Workshop participants include Ram Prasad Bhatt, Gerd Carling, Gunilla Gren-Eklund, Heinz Werner Wessler, Claus Peter Zoller and other invited scholars. The Inauguration and the keynote speech by Prof. Tej Krishan Bhatia on "The oldest grammar of Hindi: Language Documentation and Field Linguistic Perspectives" from 09.45 is open to everyone, whereas the rest of the workshop, due to the limited numbers of seats, is restricted to pre-registered participants.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/uppsala-workshop-european-discovery-hindi>

### Third SASNET/SASA Fika without borders event focuses on Pakistan

The South Asian Student Association at Lund University (SASA) – the student body of SASNET – organises its third informal Fika Without Borders South Asia event in collaboration with SASNET on Thursday 5 June 2014, 17.00–19.00. The theme country for this month's event will be Pakistan. Venue: Lund University External Relations (ER) building (basement entrance from parking lot to the left of building), Stora Algatan 4, Lund. SASA holds these events once a month, and each time the focus is one of the eight South Asian countries, that is the member states of SAARC. Pakistani students and researchers as well as other interested people are invited in an informal way to share their knowledge and experience of the country in focus. The first two Fika Without Borders South Asia events were successfully held on April 16th, with Nepal being the country in focus, and on May 21st with India in focus.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/third-sasnetsasa-fika-without-borders-event-focuses-pakistan>

### Lund University seminar on Women's Song Mythologies in the Western Himalayas

Professor Kirin Narayan from the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra lectures at Lund University on Thursday 12 June 2014, 15.15–17.00. The lecture is entitled "Everyday Creativity and Well-Being: Women's Sung Mythologies in the Western Himalayas", and is organised by the Dept. of Gender Studies, Lund University. The presentation focuses on the Kangra region in Himachal Pradesh state, where as in much of India songs have been traditionally chorused by groups of female relatives and neighbors to bring good fortune to rituals and celebratory events. Venue for the seminar: Dept. of Gender Studies, Allhelgona kyrkogata 14, hus M.

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se/content/lund-university-seminar-womens-sung-mythologies-western-himalayas>

Best regards,

**Lars Eklund,**

Deputy Director in charge of Research Communication

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