

SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University

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Last updated: 9 September 2014

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK

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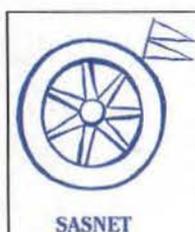
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SASNET News

- Call for SASNET 2015 Conference on Structural Transformation of South Asia



Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) at Lund University invites South Asia researchers to a three-day international conference on the



Gita Sen, Arlie Hochschild, Ruth Kattumuri, Zoya Hasan and Abram de Swaan.

Asia researchers to a three-day international conference on the

structural transformation of South Asia. It is entitled *"South Asia in Transformation: World of Slums, Global Power Houses or Utopias? Migration, labour, and family changes in a dynamic region"*, and will be held at Lund University 20–22 May 2015. Keynote speakers are Gita Sen from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India (and Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard, USA); Arlie Hochschild from University of California, Berkeley, USA; Ruth Kattumuri, London School of Economics, UK; Zoya Hasan, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR); and Abram de Swaan, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The purpose of the conference is 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. Each of these aspects is often studied in isolation despite the fact that they are deeply interrelated.



Further, the conference explores interrelated social and economic aspects of sustainability simultaneously and targets a process whose outcomes will be felt across the world, given the sheer population size of South Asia. For global sustainability purposes, it is crucial to map the current state of affairs and explore different development possibilities and scenarios for this region. Papers that compare South Asia with other regions are welcome. Abstracts should be submitted before 15 November 2014. [Read the Call for papers and panel chairs.](#)

• Four SASA/SASNET Fika without borders events remaining for the fall 2014



The South Asian Student Association at Lund University (SASA) – the student body of SASNET – organises a series of informal Fika Without Borders South Asia events in collaboration with SASNET. SASA holds these events once a month, and each time the focus is one of the eight South Asian countries, that are the member states of SAARC. The first four Fika Without Borders South Asia events were successfully held on

April 16th, with Nepal being the country in focus, on May 21st with India in focus, on June 5th with Pakistan in focus, and on August 26th, with Maldives in focus.

- [More information about the Nepal event.](#)
- [More information about the India event.](#)
- [More information about the Pakistan event.](#)
- [More information about the Maldives event.](#)

Four countries remain, and therefore another four Fika Without Borders events will appear during the fall 2014. Most of them – except the Sri Lanka event – will be held at the same venue, the ground floor at Lund University External Relations (ER) building, Stora Algatan 4, Lund (entrance from parking lot to the left of the building).

The events always draw a mixed crowd of Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and other international Lund University students and researchers, and each time a number of students and researchers from the country in focus are invited to share their knowledge and experience of their country in an informal way. The programme also includes cultural performances and food. All are welcome.

The remaining schedule for the fall 2014:

– Tuesday 23 September 2014, 17-19: **Sri Lanka.**

(Venue for this seminar: Social Science Students Union building, Paradisgatan 5 S, Lund)

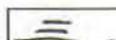
– Friday 10 October 2014, 17-19: **Afghanistan**

– Thursday 30 October 2014, 17-19: **Bhutan**

– Thursday 20 November 2014, 17-19: **Bangladesh**

• Read reports from successful 23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies in Zurich

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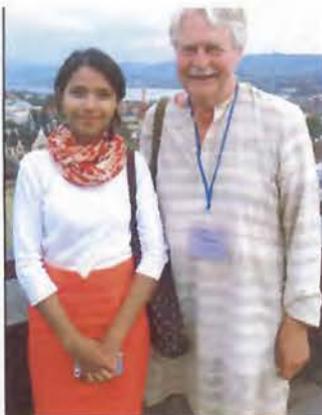


European Conference on South Asian

Studies (ECSAS) was successfully held 23 – 26 July 2014 at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. It consisted of 51 panels, focusing on diverse issues ranging from *"Video varieté: the cultures and forms of new visual media in South Asia"*, to *"Mafia(s)' and politics in South Asia"*.

The hosts for the 23rd ECSAS were the Department of Geography and the University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe, both at the University of Zurich, operating under the auspices of the European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS). [Full information about the 2014 ECSAS conference.](#)

The ECSAS has met regularly since 1968, and has provided an important opportunity to discuss current research and scholarship on topics relating to South Asia within the humanities and social sciences. SASNET was represented at the 2014 conference in Zurich by Lars Eklund and Hawwa Lubna. [Read more in the SASNET report.](#) [Read also Lars Eklund's detailed personal report from the four-day conference.](#) [Now, also read also Hawwa Lubna's interesting conference report.](#)



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• SASNET initiative behind ICCR professorships at Lund University 2010-2014



An ICCR professorship programme was run at Lund University during four years, 2010–2014. The programme was an outcome of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council

for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Lund University, that was signed on 22 June 2010 by Mr. Balkrishna Shetty, former Indian Ambassador to Sweden, and Prof. Per Eriksson, Vice-Chancellor, Lund University. The agreement was valid for four years, with a new Indian Professor being selected each year. It has now come to an end.



Balkrishna Shetty and Per Eriksson.

SASNET was actively involved in finalizing the ICCR professorship programme at Lund University, with strong support from the Embassy of India in Stockholm. In April 2010, SASNET's director, Dr. Anna Lindberg, participated in an official Lund University delegation to Delhi ([more information](#)), where final negotiations were held with representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, regarding the proposed Indian visiting guest professorship at Lund University.

The first ICCR guest professor was Prof. Lipi Ghosh from the Department of South and South-East Asian Studies at Calcutta University, Kolkata. She spent the period November



ICCR Professors at Lund University 2010-2014, Lipi Ghosh, G K Karanth, Surinder Jodhka and Kalyan Sankar Mandal.

2010–March 2011 at the Centre for Gender Studies. [More information.](#)

A new ICCR Visiting Professor, Gopal Karanth from the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, arrived at Lund University in September 2011. He stayed for the full academic year 2011–12, and was hosted by the [Department of Sociology](#).

The third ICCR Visiting Professor was Surinder Jodhka, Professor of Sociology at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi. He was installed on Friday 12 October 2012, and stayed till end of June 2013. Prof. Jodhka was hosted by the [Dept of Political Science](#).

The fourth and final ICCR Chair Professor at Lund University, staying for the academic year 2013/14 till the end of June 2014, was Professor Kalyan Sankar Mandal from the

Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC) in Kolkata. He was, just like Prof. Karanth, hosted by the [Department of Sociology](#).

• Sarod concert with Somjit Dasgupta at Lund Culture Night

On invitation by SASNET, Sarod musician Somjit Dasgupta from Kolkata, India, performs at the Lund Culture Night 2014, to be held on Saturday 20 September. Dasgupta is a musician devoted to preserving the tradition of playing Hindustani classical music on string instruments belonging to the family of which the most popular today is the Sarod. He has inherited his playing



techniques from his late mentor and guru Shri Radhika Mohan Moitra, a famous Sarod player and a foremost musician of our times.



As a child he was fascinated by a large collection of musical instruments that his grandfather had kept in his estate in what is now Bangladesh. He now has a large collection of old instruments himself, and besides performing at concerts, Dasgupta frequently travels to Europe giving lecture-demonstrations, and contributing to museum exhibitions at Sangeet Natak Akademi (New Delhi), Cité de la Musique (Paris), Horniman Museum (London), and Queen Elizabeth Hall (London). He serves as Eastern India Coordinator for the construction, acquisition, and restoration of musical instruments at Sangeet Natak Akademi. He also lectures at the universities of Calcutta, Vienna, Berlin, and Leipzig. [More information about Dasgupta.](#)

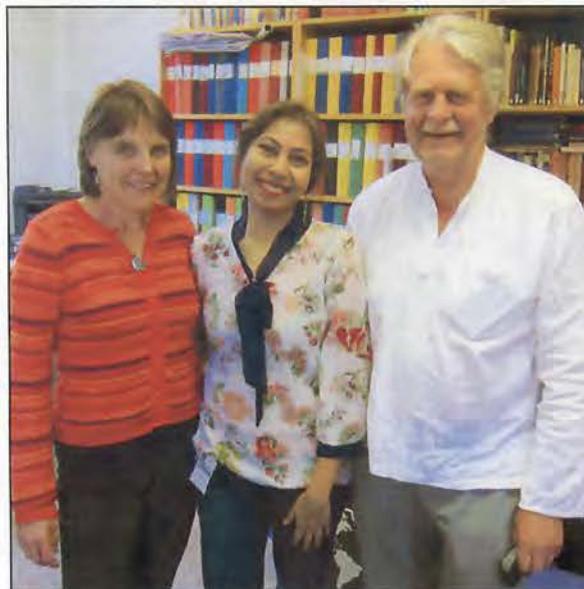
At the Lund Culture Night, Somjit Dasgupta will first give a lecture with photos and drawings on old traditional Indian musical instruments, after which follows a concert of Sarod recitals.

• Indian film studies researcher scholarship holder at Lund University

On 1 September 2014, PhD candidate Sanchari De from the Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India, visited SASNET's office in Lund and met Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund (*photo*).

Sanchari spends the full academic year 2014/15 at Lund University's [Department of Communication and Media \(KOM\)](#), being an Erasmus Mundus scholarship holder through the EMINTE Indo-European mobility programme.

Her research interest is related to digital media, political mobilization and information



aesthetics, and during her mobility period in Sweden she will give guest lectures related to Indian media and film, digital media and political engagement, and write two chapters of her thesis focusing on the Shahbagh movement in Bangladesh, in particular on how the activists make use of new digital media. She will also explore the possibilities to establish teaching and research collaboration between KOM and her home department at Jadavpur University.

In India, Sanchari De is also affiliated to the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in New Delhi, with Prof. Ravi Sundaram being her co-supervisor, and

she is a recipient of the prestigious CSDS-ICSSR fellowship for her research. She has already presented her research at various international conferences/seminars/symposia in India, Singapore and the USA. [Read more...](#)

• **SASNET attended breakfast meeting with Swedish Ambassador to India**

In collaboration with the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi, and Business Sweden, Sweden India Business Council (SIBC) organised a series of breakfast seminars with Sweden's Ambassador to India, Mr. Harald Sandberg, together with Ms. Fredrika Ornbrant, Swedish Consul General in Mumbai; and the Trade Commissioner Ms. Anna Liberg (*photo below*).



Fredrika Ornbrant, Harald Sandberg and Lars Eklund at the breakfast seminar in Malmö.



The seminars were entitled "Narendra Modi – the first 100 days", and

were held in Stockholm on Monday 18th August 2014

(venue: Business Sweden, World Trade Center, Klarabergsviadukten 70); in Gothenburg on Thursday 21 August (venue: Lindholmens Science Park, Lindholmospiren 3-5, "Demostudion"); and in Malmö on Friday 22 August (venue: Invest Skåne, Dockplatsen 26). The seminars were all held in the morning from 08.00 till 10.30. [More information.](#)

SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund attended the Malmö seminar, along with a fairly big crowd of Swedish business people involved in India related business, and members of the Indian community in Malmö/Lund. The main attraction was of course the speech by the Ambassador, who happens to be Sweden's high representative not only to India but also to Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives



Ambassador Harald Sandberg in conversation with Shisher Kumra, an early networking partner of SASNET at Lund University, now working for Sustainability Support Services in Malmö. SIBC President Robin Sukhia by his side.

and Sri Lanka. Harald Sandberg has a good knowledge of the economic and political development in India, and his presentation about the new government in India and its policies was most informative. He was followed by Fredrika Ornbrant who made a presentation of the western states Maharashtra and Gujarat, and also Goa, that is her main working field, and finally Anna Liberg informed about business possibilities in India. Currently more than 160 Swedish companies have established themselves in India.

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

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

Research Community News

• **SASNET report from Young South Asia Scholars Meet Workshop in Zurich**

The fourth annual Young South Asia Scholars Meet (Y-SASM) Workshop



was held from 21–22 July 2014 in Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. It was scheduled right before the European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) that takes place in Zurich from 23 to 26 July 2014 ([Read ECSAS 2014 report](#)).



The theme for the 2014 Y-SASM Workshop was *"Rethinking Inequality in South Asia"*. The workshop was organized jointly by the chair for the History of the Modern World (GMW) at ETH and the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Göttingen. Total of 17 participants from European universities and from South Asia joined the workshop.

The Y-SASM workshops have the declared aim of providing young scholars working on South Asia with a platform for presenting their own research and interacting with scholars from various disciplines. Thereby, it offers an opportunity to establish research networks across the German-speaking region and beyond. SASNET was represented at the workshop by Ms. Hawwa Lubna. [Read her detailed report from Y-SASM](#).

- Uppsala University collaboration in final Erasmus Mundus Asia Regional mobility programme

ERASMUS MUNDUS Action 2- Partnerships

In the final call of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programme, the European Commission's Education,



Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) decided to give funding to four Asia Regional mobility programmes including South Asia. Decisions were taken in the end of June 2014 ([more information](#)). The 2014 Asia Regional mobility programmes are open for students on undergraduate, master, doctoral and post-doctoral level as well as for university staff in academic or administrative position, both incoming scholarships to European universities and outgoing scholarships to Asian universities.

This time, Uppsala University is the only Swedish university involved, being a member of the EXPERTS IV ASIA consortium, coordinated by Karl August University in Göttingen, Germany. More information about the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 scholarships at [Uppsala University's Erasmus Mundus Asia web page](#).

The following South Asian universities are full members of the EXPERTS IV consortium: Kabul University, Afghanistan; Khulna University, Bangladesh; College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan; University of Pune, India; Maldives National University in Male; Pokhara University, and Tribhuvan University in Nepal; University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan; and University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

South Asian associated partners include Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan; South Asia Institute of Advanced Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal; Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India; Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, India; and National Centre for Cell Science, also in Pune.

Three other Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Asia Regional mobility programmes with South Asian consortium members were selected, they are coordinated by University of the West of Scotland in Paisley, UK; City University, London, UK; and Università Degli Studi del Sannio, Benevento, Italy. [More detailed SASNET information about the 2014 Asia Regional lots](#).



No India lots were announced in this final call for Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programmes, but **the four**



India lots selected last year (2013) are now fully running. One of the programmes (**EMINTE**) is coordinated by Lund University with

Uppsala University being a co-partner, and another programme lot (**NAMASTE**), coordinated by Göttingen, also includes Uppsala University. [More information about these India lots](#), and also the 2013 Asia Regional lots.

- West Bengal Minister visited Arsenic Mitigation researchers at KTH

Mr. Subrata Mukherjee, Minister in Charge,



Department of Panchayat and Rural Development and Public Health Engineering, Government of West Bengal, India, visited the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm on



Friday 22 August 2014.

Subrata Mukherjee in the middle, Prof. Prosun Bhattacharya (first from left) and Prof. Gunnar Jacks (third from right) were his hosts at KTH.

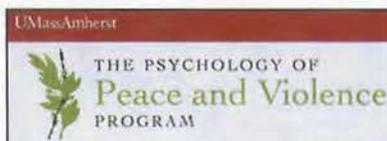
The minister, who also works for UNICEF visited the [KTH-International Groundwater Arsenic Research Group \(GARG\)](#), [Department of Sustainable Development Environmental Science and Engineering \(SEED\)](#). The purpose of the visit to KTH was to pave the way for extensive collaborative research and implementation of the methods of Sustainable Arsenic Mitigation developed by KTH-International Groundwater Arsenic Group, and the Department of Public Health Engineering and the International Center for Drinking Water Quality at Kolkata. The formal Memorandum of Understanding will be formally announced through a Press Conference by the Minister-In Charge on 10th September, 2014.

The delegation also included Mr. Saurabh K Das, Principal Secretary, Departments of Panchayat & Rural Development and Public Health Engineering, Govt. of West Bengal, India; Mr. Animesh Bhattacharya, Director WSSO & Officiating Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Govt. of West Bengal, India; and Mr. S. N. Dave, WASH Specialist, UNICEF, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.



From Left to right (front row): Animesh Bhattacharya; Ms. Bimla R. Chander First Secretary (Commercial and Head of Chancery, The Embassy of India); Mr. Subrata Mukherjee (Minister in Charge, Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development and Public Health Engineering, Govt. of West Bengal); Professor Ramon Wyss (Vice-President, International Education, KTH); Professor Prosun Bhattacharya (Coordinator of the KTH-International Groundwater Arsenic Research Group, Department of Sustainable Development, Environmental Science and Engineering, KTH); Mr. Saurabh K. Das (Principal Secretary, Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development and Public Health Engineering, Govt. of West Bengal); Mr. S.N. Dave, WASH Specialist, UNICEF Kolkata; Ms. Aphonsa Loudordoss (Adviser, India, KTH International Office). Back row: Dr. Mattias von Brömssen (Ramböll Sweden AB); Mohammed Hossain (National Coordinator, Sida-SASMIT project, Sustainable Arsenic Mitigation); Professor emeritus Gunnar Jacks (Department of Sustainable Development, Environmental Science and Engineering, KTH); and Professor Rajeev Thottapallil (Director of International Affairs for India, KTH)

• Stellan Vinthagen Professor in The Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance



Stellan Vinthagen from the School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University has been named Inaugural endowed chair Professor in



The Study of Nonviolent Direct Action and Civil Resistance at University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA. Vinthagen is not only a researcher on conflict transformation and civil disobedience, but also an internationally known Swedish peace activist with 30 years of experience in nonviolent action and strategy planning in peace, justice and environmental movements. A \$2.8 million endowment from a family committed to the cause of social justice will fund Vinthagen's position and related activities and support scientific research that can provide guidance to people across the globe who seek to improve their societies through nonviolence. The family wishes to remain anonymous. As part of his outreach, Vinthagen aspires for UMass Amherst to publish a comprehensive annual report on direct, nonviolent actions similar to reports describing trends of violent conflicts and wars. "The key is to develop

practical and critical knowledge and guidelines that will facilitate more effective struggles against injustices and domination, in the U.S. and around in the world,” Vinthagen said. In this new position, Vinthagen will also become an integral member of the university’s Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, and he will lead the program’s expansion to address issues of nonviolent action and civil resistance. The program trains scientific researchers who are committed to preventing and reducing violence and conflict, and who seek to bridge the gap between academic research and its application. Program students and faculty partner with non-governmental organizations locally and internationally, and translate their work for policymakers and practitioners to facilitate conflict resolution, reconciliation and peace building. [Read more...](#)

• New Director in charge of the Nordic Centre India Liaison Office in Delhi



Samrat Schmiem Kumar (*photo*) has been appointed as the new Director at the [Nordic Centre India \(NCI\)](#) Liaison Office in New Delhi from 1 September 2014. Samrat joins the NCI from Oslo University where he spent 3 years as Doctoral Research fellow at the



Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages. Samrat has broad experience in development and management of education and research activities in India. Since 2008 he has been Academic Coordinator for undergraduate course in Peace and Conflict Studies, Kulturstudier/University College Oslo, and during the period 2009 – 2011 he was Programme Manager for its courses run in Pondicherry, India. [More information about Mr. Kumar.](#)

Samrat will take over the major tasks from Sirpa Tenhunen (Director of NCI until 31 July 2014), who has now joined University of Jyväskylä, Finland, where she is teaching Anthropology full time at the Department of History and Ethnology. She was appointed as a senior lecturer but will be on leave for two years and work as a professor. [More information about NCI.](#)

• Sri Lanka much ahead of rest of South Asia in terms of Human Development



The Human Development Report 2014 was launched in Tokyo on 24 July 2014. The report, *Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience* highlights the need for both promoting people’s choices and protecting human development achievements. It takes the view that vulnerability threatens human development, and unless it is systematically addressed, by changing policies and social norms, progress will be neither equitable nor sustainable. [More information about HDR 2014.](#)

As usual a comparative [Human Development Index](#) is included in the report. It gives statistical comparisons between 187 countries of the world. In the HDR 2014,

Sri Lanka climbs significantly from position 92 till 73, continuing to be No 1 in South Asia, and the only country to be placed in the category of High Human Development countries.

Maldives ranks second, as no. 103, up by 1 position since last year, India is ranked as no. 135 (up by 1), Bhutan as No. 136 (up by 4) and Bangladesh as No 142 (up by 4), all these four nations are placed in the Medium Human Development category of nations. Next comes Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan, ranked to share the positions no. 145, 146 and 169 respectively, belonging to the Low Human Development category of nations, even though Nepal has gone up 11 positions and Afghanistan by 6.

Just like previous years Norway tops the worldwide HDI list, this year before Australia and Switzerland. Sweden ranks as no. 12 (down by 5 positions since last year). [Study the Human Development Index 2014.](#)

• IIAS seminar highlights the importance of Seminar magazine



Seminar Magazine is an excellent Indian monthly in-depth magazine published in New Delhi. In the ferment of post-independent India, in





1959, the late Raj and Romesh Thapar (*photo*) gave birth to a seminal platform of



fearless debate, Seminar. Every month, the magazine voices a range of viewpoints on an issue that dominates the consciousness of the Indian public. Opinions expressed have ranged from Janata to Congress, from Sarvodaya to Communist to Independent. And the non-political specialist too has voiced his views. In this way it has been possible to answer a real need of today, to gather the facts and ideas of this age and to help thinking people arrive at a certain degree of cohesion and clarity in facing the problems of economics, of politics, of culture. Ramachandra Guha has characterized Seminar as "an indispensable national institution". [Go for the Seminar web page.](#)

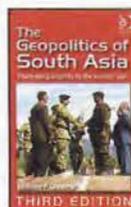
Celebrating its 50th anniversary at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) in Shimla, South Asia's most influential thinkers recently debated the role of institutions like Seminar on the state of public discourse and its impact on the future of the Indian polity. The discussions have been documented by India Alive, and will soon be available on Amazon. It offers the reader an opportunity to be a part of this seminar and reflect on the burning questions raised by Nayantara Sahgal, Shyam Benegal, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Ramachandra Guha, Sunil Khilnani, T.N. Ninan, Salman Khurshid, Shiv Visvanathan, Amita Baviskar, C. Rammanohar Reddy, Hameed Haroon, Kamal Hossain, Kanak Mani Dixit, among others. If you order this India Alive publication, you will also receive a complete library of Seminar magazine on a CD-ROM – celebrating fifty-five years of ideas. [More information.](#)

• Distinguished Geographer Graham Chapman passed away



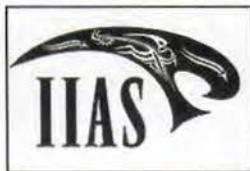
On 31 August 2014, Graham Chapman – distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography from Lancaster University, UK, passed away. Being a Cambridge trained geographer and systems theorist – he was appointed in the early 1970s to a junior position in South Asian geography at Cambridge alongside the great South Asianist, B.H. Farmer. In 1988 he moved from Cambridge to a professorial post at SOAS before becoming in 1994 chair and head of the Department of Geography at Lancaster, where he was based until his retirement in 2008.

Chapman was a champion for the holistic study of South Asia, writing prolifically about the region as a whole, its history, environment, agriculture, urbanisation and geopolitics. His definitive *'Geopolitics of South Asia from the early empires to the nuclear age'* is into its third edition. Besides, he devoted himself to Area Studies through his long Presidency of the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS). Graham Chapman also had close and long ties with Scandinavia and Scandinavian institutions, including SASNET – a networking venture he was very much involved with from the beginning. He was one of the key participants at the Global Networking workshop that SASNET held in Lund 27–28 August 2001 ([more information](#)), and some years later he was the keynote speaker at the second Falsterbo conference on South Asian Studies for young Nordic scholars that SASNET organised in August 2010 ([more information](#)).



[Read an obituary posted by BASAS.](#)

• IIAS announces fellowships for Asian studies



The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, Netherlands, invites outstanding researchers from around the world to apply for a fellowship to work on an important piece of Asian studies research in the social sciences and humanities. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. They also welcome researchers who would like to work on a collaborative grant

proposal or develop their PhD thesis into book publication. The deadline for applications is 1 October 2014.

IIAS particularly wants to attract researchers focusing on the three IIAS clusters 'Asian Cities', 'Asian Heritages' and 'Global Asia'. However some positions will be reserved for outstanding projects in any area outside of those listed. Applications that link to more than one field are also welcome. Applicants must have fulfilled all requirements of the PhD. If you are a PhD candidate at the time of application, you may also apply, provided that you graduate within 6 months after the application deadline. If you are applying for

a grant from IIAS to cover your research period in the Netherlands, the fellowship will be tenable for a maximum period of 10 months. [Full details.](#)

• Postdoctoral research fellow positions on rained agriculture in Hyderabad

The [Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network \(RRA\)](#) is seeking two to three postdoctoral research fellows to join its research team at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, India. The fellows will support the RRA research agenda and help with generating evidence to improve the nature, amount, and delivery of public investments in rainfed agriculture, leading to improved livelihoods and well-being. The postdoctoral research fellows will be based at the RRA research node at the Indian School of Business, and report directly to Professor Ashwini Chhatre, Research Coordinator, RRA Network. The fellows will work as part of an interdisciplinary collaborative team of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, research associates and assistant, and students. Responsibilities of the research fellows: – Coordinate research in one or more of the following areas: 1) Dynamics of agricultural livelihoods; 2) Public policies in support of agricultural development; 3) Value chains and agricultural commodity networks; 4) Food security and sovereignty; and 5) Climate change vulnerability and adaptation. – Contribute to data collection and analysis: Data includes: 1) Primary quantitative data collection in more than 200 villages across six states; 2) Acquisition and compilation of secondary data in different formats and at multiple scales and frequencies; 3) Qualitative case studies on focused questions and comparative qualitative data from diverse locations across India.



The positions are scheduled to start on November 1, 2014, but the starting date can be negotiated to accommodate reasonable delays. We will begin reviewing applications from September 15, 2014. Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. [Full information.](#)

• Asha Mukherjee guest professor at University of Gothenburg

Professor Asha Mukherjee from the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, India, will be a guest professor at the [Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion \(LIR\)](#), University of Gothenburg between 22 September and 22 October 2014. During this time she is also invited to the Universities of Uppsala and Lund to give lectures. [More information about Prof. Asha Mukherjee.](#)



During the last years, Prof. Mukherjee has been an active partner in the go:India project at University of Gothenburg (more information). Currently Prof. Mukherjee, Prof. Marzenna Jakubczak from Krakow University, Poland, and Prof. Åke Sander at LIR are in the process of putting together an anthology in the honour of the late Prof. Joseph O'Connell, University of Toronto, Canada. This noted scholar of world religions, specialized in the religions of South Asia, passed away in 2012. His distinguished academic career included teaching appointments at Oxford University, Visva-Bharati University, India, and the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he was instrumental in the establishment of its Department of World Religions and Culturel.

• SAI invites applications for Political Science South Asia professorship

The South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University in Germany invites applications for a position ranked as a Full Professorship (W3) in "Political

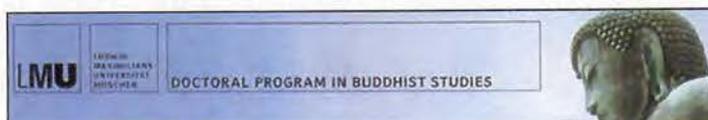


Science South Asia" to be filled by October 2015. The successful candidate will succeed Professor Subrata K. Mitra, who now retires. The candidate is expected to cover the complete spectrum of the discipline in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and have research and teaching experience with a clear focus on the region of South Asia. He/she should also have a research expertise in at least one of the following fields: comparative politics, international relations, or democracy and party system analysis. Knowledge of a South Asian language is advantageous. Besides, the candidate would be expected to participate in inter-departmental research projects and to collaborate with other departments at the South Asia Institute as well as with the Heidelberg Centre for

Transcultural Studies. The application deadline is 30 September 2014. [Full information.](#)

• Two PhD scholarships for dissertation projects related to Buddhism in Munich

The Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-



Universität in Munich, Germany invites applications for two PhD scholarships for dissertation projects related to Buddhism. Deadline for applications is 15 September 2014, and the start of scholarship will be Spring semester 2015 or later. Duration of scholarship is 3 or 4 years, the scholarship donor is German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The selection process comprises two stages: Applications are sent to the Doctoral Program in Buddhist Studies in Munich. The program will select promising candidates, who then have to submit their materials to the DAAD. Subsequently, an election committee chosen by the DAAD decides upon the successful candidates. It is expected that the successful candidates will be chosen and informed by February or March 2015. The prerequisites for application are non-German citizenship (foreign applicants should not have lived in Germany for more than fifteen months at the time of their application), a Master of Arts or Magister Artium degree or equivalent, excellent knowledge of at least one Buddhist source language, outstanding qualifications in the subject, and fluency in English. [More information.](#)

• New Council leads the European Association for South Asian Studies



The European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS) has got a new

council for the coming two years. Elections were held during the [23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies](#) in Zurich, Switzerland, 23-26 July 2014. New President is Professor Martin Gaenzle from the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna, Austria; incoming



Vice-President is Professor Alessandra Consolaro from Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici at Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy; and the third and final office bearer, the new Treasurer, is Lars Eklund from SASNET/Lund University, Sweden, at your service. *Photo of the office bearers to the right.*

The outgoing office bearers – Roger Jeffery, University of Edinburgh, UK; Margret Frenz, Oxford University, UK; and Heinz Werner Wessler, Uppsala University, Sweden – remain as council members, along with Danuta Stasik, University of Warsaw, Poland; Samiksha Sehrawat, Newcastle University, UK; Kunal Sen, University of Manchester, UK; Nicolas Jaoul, CEIAS Paris, France; Martin Fuchs, Universität Erfurt, Germany; and Rosa Maria Perez, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE -IUL), Portugal.

The main role of the EASAS board is to support the planning of the biannual European conferences by the host university selected (the July 2016 conference will be organised in Poland by the University of Warsaw), but it also supports other initiatives regarding South Asian academic studies in Europe, for example by providing funding for workshops, and organising PhD workshops. For its administration, EASAS keeps a small office in Bonn, Germany. This is managed by Dr. Anne Schnellen. [More information on EASAS web page.](#)

• Swedish Right Livelihood Award Foundation opens College Campus in Mumbai



On 20 May 2014, the Right Livelihood Award Foundation in Stockholm



_____ announced Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, India, as the seventh Campus of the Right Livelihood College, and the first in South Asia. The Right Livelihood College (RLC)



chaired by TISS will be hosted by the [Centre for Livelihoods and Social Innovation](#) (chaired by Dr. Swati Bannerjee) at the School of Livelihoods and TISS. It will provide a learning-cum-innovation platform to create synergies between the Centre's research, teaching, policy engagement and praxis with the work of the "Alternative Nobel Prize" Laureates in the fields of livelihoods, social innovation, social justice, rights and empowerment.

This will be taken forward through the research initiatives of the post graduate students of the M.A programme in Social Work in Livelihoods and Social Entrepreneurship, public lectures by the Right Livelihood Laureates at TISS and the "Right Livelihood Scholar in Residency Program", which will see Laureates teach and interact with TISS students and faculty for a period of one to four weeks.

Anwar Fazal, Director of the Right Livelihood College and 1982 Right Livelihood Laureate, says: "This is a great move forward for the Right Livelihood College. TISS is an outstanding institution with an excellent reputation in the region and globally, and it will be a befitting 'home' for our 19 Right Livelihood Laureates based in South Asia. We look forward to exciting synergies and research projects to emerge from the interaction of the Laureates with TISS researchers and students."

The Right Livelihood College was founded in January 2009. It is a capacity building initiative of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, which awards annually the so-called "Alternative Nobel Prize". The RLC aims to make the knowledge and experience of the Right Livelihood Laureates accessible to all. The existing campuses also include Lund University Center for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) at Lund University. [More information.](#)

• Meagre results from efforts to increase research collaboration with India

In spite of ambitious efforts and huge investments to develop academic collaboration between a major Norwegian university, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, and Indian universities, not much has actually materialised. In 2011, NTNU – Norway's primary institution for educating the nation's future engineers and scientists – organised a



nine-day Indian Festival in Trondheim, including conferences, seminars, workshops and cultural events. It was a direct response to the Norwegian government's new strategy for strengthening collaboration with India, that put special emphasis on research collaboration. In February the same year a delegation of 40 NTNU staff, researchers, and students travelled to India. Research groups within strategic areas such as maritime research, energy, health, ICT, and architecture were included, as well as the Trondheim symphony orchestra. Altogether they visited 20 Indian educational and research institutions and signed three MoUs.



Three years later, the Norwegian university newspaper (Universitetsavis) reports on the meagre result of the investments made. Tone Woie Alstadheim (*photo*), senior advisor to the NTNU Vice Chancellor in charge of the university's international collaboration, blames that the outcome of the efforts have been rather small. She puts the blame on the lack of funding for India related projects from the Norwegian funding agencies.

– I have a feeling that India is not prioritized. There is definitely an interest for collaboration with Indian research institutions, but there is a limit what you can realize without money.

The limited results from the 2011 efforts has also led to a certain weariness among

researchers towards new collaborative initiatives. [Read more in the Universitetsavis article](#) (in Norwegian only).

• TISS Programme Coordinator scholarship holder to Lund University

On 20 August 2014, Jennifer Mujawar, Programme Coordinator at the International Students Office, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, India, visited SASNET's office in Lund. She was accompanied by Henrik Hofvendahl, Program Officer at the Strategic Partnerships and Networks, Division of External Relations, Lund University (*photo together*), and they met Lars Eklund, Anna Lindberg and Linda Hiltmann from SASNET.



Ms. Mujawar is staying for a month at Lund University as a scholarship

holder through the **EMINTE** (Erasmus Mundus INdia To Europe) Scholarship Programme, one of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2

Partnership programmes decided upon by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) in July 2013 ([read more about the EMINTE programme](#)).

EMINTE is a consortium consisting of 20 universities, 10 European and 10 Indian, and being coordinated by Lund University. The European partners include Uppsala University, and SASNET is an Associate partner. The mobility programme is now running, and altogether 10 scholarship holders are coming from India to Lund during the academic year 2014/15 (two each for masters programmes, PhD programmes and postdoc fellowships, plus four academic staff).

Before joining her work at the TISS International Students Office, Jennifer Mujawar was a Research Assistant at the Centre for Women's Studies. Her research interests are Gender and Sexuality, Women and governance, Women in Media, and Violence against women. She is pursuing a PhD on inter-caste and inter-religious love marriages in India (something which still only amounts to 6-7 % of all marriages in India).

• Appointment of new ICHR chairman forebodes rewriting of Indian history?



In the end of June 2014, the Government of India appointed Yellapragada Sudershan Rao as new Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical



Research (ICHR). This is India's premier body that funds historical research, and critical voices have raised warnings that the appointment of Rao is the first attempt by the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government to rewrite the country's history.

Sudershan Rao is a long-time believer of the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva agenda and a professor of history at Kakatiya University in Warangal, Telangana. His appointment has been resented by professional historians who see it as a step to Hinduise history writing. During the NDA's term in government at the Centre during 1999-2004, its Human Resource Development Minister Murli Manohar Joshi had initiated far-reaching changes in history writing by appointing historians associated with the Sangh Parivar in various institutions, censoring significant scientific historical projects such as "Towards Freedom", and commissioning a complete overhaul of history textbooks in schools.

The history rewriting project has been an integral part of the Sangh Parivar's agenda for

many years now as Hindutva activists believe that Indian history writing is greatly influenced by Marxists and "pseudo-secularists" who present a Eurocentric and colonial view of India. Joshi attempted to rework history to provide a "true perspective of Indian history". Instead of trying to interrogate the evolution of the subcontinent's society and economy in the last many centuries through textual, archaeological, and other accepted tools of social sciences, the Sangh-affiliated historians have viewed history through the prism of Hindutva. Professional historians affiliated to premier Indian universities have, time and again, proved that the Sangh Parivar's history-writing project is marked by a tremendous lack of time-tested historical methodologies and, often, gross factual inaccuracies. More importantly, Sangh-affiliated historians have tried to further give simplistic, folklore-based explanations for significant periods of history and dismissed any complex interpretation and inquiry. [Read more in article by Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprashasta in Frontline, 22 August issue.](#)

• New Director for Stockholm International Peace Research Institute



On Thursday 21 August 2014, the Swedish Government appointed Ambassador Sven-Olof Petersson as new Chairman of the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#). Mr Petersson's previous positions include Director of the Ministers Office and Director-General for Political Affairs



at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He has served at the embassies in Algiers, Beirut, Dar es Salaam, Strasbourg and Washington DC, and been Head of the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union. Most recently he served as Ambassador in Canberra, Australia.

SIPRI is a leading peace and conflict research institution. The Institute, an independent foundation established in 1966, conducts studies and scientific research on matters concerning international peace and conflict management. SIPRI publishes a great many reports and papers, including the SIPRI Yearbook on armaments, disarmament and international security. [More information about SIPRI.](#)

• 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

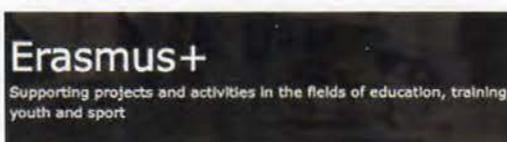
• European Higher Education Fair India 2014 in Delhi, Bangalore and Kolkata

The European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) India 2014 will be held at three places, in New Delhi 30 November – 1 December; Bangalore on 3 December; and Kolkata on 5 December. The EHEF India fairs are supposed to promote a European identity and European Higher Education in India by providing a platform for European Union Member States and Higher Education Institutions – including Lund University and other Swedish universities – to showcase their education opportunities and facilities. The aim is to give Indian students and parents the opportunity to collect valuable information and practical insights about the broad range of study opportunities and resulting career prospects available in Europe. It also gives a possibility for European Higher Education Institutions and academic authorities to forge relationships with Indian students and institutions. [More information.](#)



• Erasmus Mundus programme becomes Erasmus+

The popular Erasmus Mundus programme, run by the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, is now transformed into what is called



Erasmus Plus. Erasmus Mundus was set up as a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education in Europe with the first phase operating between 2004 and 2008, followed by the second phase from 2009 to 2013. Its third phase, beginning in 2014 and lasting till 2020, has been rechristened Erasmus+. Aspirants from all over the world can apply to the programme. However, an offer of admission from one of the member universities is required to apply for the scholarship. Erasmus+ replaces seven programmes bringing together the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da

Vinci, Comenius and Grundtvig); the Youth in Action programme; five international cooperation programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink, the programme for cooperation with industrialised countries); and a new sport action. [More information about Erasmus +.](#)

Under Erasmus Plus, students can choose to pursue Master's and doctoral programmes at any of the partner universities. Master's candidates spend two years at two universities. For some programmes, students can undertake their final research programme at a third university. The courses are designed in such a way that they can tap the specialised academic resources of two European universities. In India, 71 students have already been selected as a part of the Erasmus+ programme. While 52 students are going for Master's programmes, 19 are going for doctoral programmes. [More information.](#)

• Lund University teachers develop collaboration with Kerala

In late August 2014, Dr. Mia-Marie Hammarlin and lecturer Andreas Mattsson, both teachers of Journalism at the Department of Communication and Media (KOM), Lund University, visited the University of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, India. The main purpose of their visit was to apply for a Linnaeus-Palme-scholarship for a long term mutual exchange programme with the Department of Communication and Journalism (DCJ) at University of Kerala. They had inspiring meetings and discussions with the staff at DCJ on how to develop such relations, as well



Andreas Mattsson and Mia-Marie Hammarlin.

as issues related to real-time journalism and media ethics. During the week-long stay in Thiruvananthapuram they also met with Dr Achutsankar S Nair, the head of the International Office at University of Kerala, and T P Sreenivasan, the Vice-Chairman and Executive Head of the Kerala State Higher Education Council. [Read more.](#)

• Lund University student completed internship at CREST



Michaela Nummenpää from the Welfare Policies and Management program at Lund University completed her two-month long fieldwork at the Kerala-based Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) in Fall 2013. CREST is an autonomous institution under Government of Kerala, India. It has been conceived as a national institute of humanities, science and professional studies, addressing the needs of the Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalized communities of India while integrating with the informational society.

During her stay at CREST from November 2013 to January 2014, Michaela Nummenpää studied marginalised groups and how they have experienced access to higher education, as part of her Masters thesis research. She also had the opportunity to learn and teach at the center with a group of researchers and students from interdisciplinary backgrounds.

– The most interesting part of the internship is being able speak with the people from marginalised groups and listening to them directly, says Michaela Nummenpää. She graduated from Lund University in June 2014.

SASNET has previously coordinated internships with CREST, providing Lund University students to visit the center and complete their fieldwork. In Spring 2012, Emelie Rohne and Lizzie Sagrelus, third year students at the Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies (BIDS) at Lund University were accepted to do field work for their BA thesis at CREST) in Kerala, India. In 2009, Petra Bergquist – a student at the Masters Program in Gender Studies, Lund University – was selected for Internship at the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation.

CREST takes interns from reputed institution from India and abroad for short term assignments lasting up to four months to assist the faculty in student counseling, small group tutorials, and providing communication skills. Students interested in applying to CREST are encouraged to contact SASNET. [Follow CREST website for more 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

• ISDP Forum on Sub-regional Cooperation between China and South Asia

The Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) in Nacka organised a ISDP Forum seminar with Professor Dai Yonghong, Research Professor of International Relations and World Economy at



Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), and Director of Center for Myanmar Studies at Sichuan University, China, on Thursday 4 September 2014, 10.00 – 11.30. He spoke about *"China and South Asia: Sichuan and Tibet's Role in Sub-regional Cooperation"*. Prof. Dai is currently staying at ISDP as guest researcher, focusing on Competing and Cooperation Games Among China, US and India in Myanmar and China's Strategic Options. Venue for the seminar: ISDP, Västra Finnbodavägen 2, Stockholm-Nacka. Much attention has been focused on President Xi Jinping's "Silk Road Economic Belt" initiative connecting China with Europe through Central and West Asia, as well as that of establishing a "Maritime Silk Road." Part of China's opening up and development strategies, both intend to create economic belts for win-win cooperation and mutual benefit. Rather less studied but of crucial importance for China is increasing channels and cooperation with the eight countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) – home to 1.5 billion people. Adjoining this region, the provinces of Sichuan (as the largest economy in west China) and Tibet (with the longest border with the SAARC countries) have the potential to play an important role in sub-regional cooperation by participating in the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" and "Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar Economic Corridor" (BCIM) Initiatives. This can benefit both Sichuan and Tibet (and so China) as well as the SAARC countries in realizing the goals of political stability and economic development. [More information about the ISDP Forum.](#)

• Umeå University highlighted its India related collaboration



On
Thursday
4

September 2014,
13.00–17.00, Umeå
University organised an
India Day open for
students and employees
of the university. This
was to highlight the fact
that since January 2014,



Umeå University is responsible for the secretariat at the Nordic Centre of India (NCI). The day was devoted to present the university's cooperation with India and to establish new networks. The day commenced with a presentation by the Indian ambassador Banashri Bose Harrison. Venue: Naturvetarhuset, Ljussgården and N420, Umeå. Two eminent Scandinavian researchers were invited for the occasion. Associate Professor Clemens Cavallin from the Dept. of Religious Studies, Gothenburg University, gave an overview and reflect upon contemporary India; and Associate Professor, Uwe Skoda, Aarhus University talked about "Industrialization and its links with/impact on religious festivals". 14:30 Swedish Business in India. Rupali Bhalerao, Chairperson for NCI and Samrat Schmiem Kumar, new Director NCI, New Delhi, of course also participated in order to promote NCI. [More information.](#)

• Dipak Malik lectures on the challenges facing India after the election

Professor emeritus Dipak Malik from Gandhian Institute of Studies in



Varanasi, India, will lecture on *"India: Challenges Ahead"* at Brokiga Bengalen Butik in Stockholm on Wednesday 17 September 2014, at 18.00. Malik is a public intellectual and political analyst besides being an academic. In his lecture he will speak about the recent elections in India and the expectations the new government is facing. Entrance fee SEK 100. Venue: Brokiga Bengalen, Södermannagatan 50, Stockholm.



The shop was established in 2011 by Dr. Christina Nygren, Department of Musicology and Performance Studies, Stockholm University. It is open Monday-Friday 12.30–18.30, and on Saturdays 12–16. [Download the current event poster.](#)

Professor Malik has been a member of SASNET's South Asian reference group and has a strong attachment to Lund and other Scandinavian universities.

• Oslo lecture series on on Indian women in modern times



Gail Minault, Professor of History and Asian Studies at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, USA, will hold four public guest lectures at University of Oslo 10–18 September 2014. The lectures focus on Indian women in modern times. They are all held at Georg Morgenstiernes hus, Blindern, Oslo.



She received her PhD in South Asian History from the University of Pennsylvania, and is the author of: *The Khilafat Movement: Religious Symbolism and Political Mobilization in India* (NY: Columbia University Press, 1982); *Secluded Scholars: Women's Education and Muslim Social Reform in Colonial India* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1998); and *Gender, Language and Learning: Essays in Indo-Muslim Cultural History* (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2009). [More information.](#)

The first lecture on **Wednesday 10 September**, is entitled *"Indian Women: Women of Paradox"*, which is an overview of women's roles in modern India from the emergence of social reform movements in the 19th century, through the independence movement, to the post-colonial era that brought greater legal and political rights to women, but also severe social problems. It will point out some themes that will be covered in subsequent lectures.

Second lecture on **Thursday 11 September**, is entitled *"Indian Social and Religious Reform Movements and the Status of Women"*, discussing important reform movements in India, and leading reformers, in the 19th century and their importance for the status of women and emerging political issues.

Third lecture on **Wednesday 17 September**, is entitled *"Women's Education and Social Reform among Indian Muslims"*, on the fact that while movements for social and religious reform among Hindus are relatively well-known in historical studies, reform among Indian Muslims has received relatively less coverage.

The fourth and final lecture on **Thursday 18 September**, is entitled *"Women's Roles in the Indian Nationalist Movement and the Post-Colonial Women's Movement"*, focusing on how women played an active role in the Indian nationalist movement, especially after Mahatma Gandhi brought non-violent protest into the movement for Indian freedom. In the post-independence period, women's legal and economic rights have improved, but many problems remain.

• Joint Malmö/Roskilde conference on media, communication and social change



A conference entitled "Voice & Matter" will be held at Malmö University, Sweden, and Roskilde University, Denmark, 17–20 September 2014. Voice and Matter, with the subtitle "Glocal Conference on Communication for Development" is

the fourth annual Communication for Development event arranged by Ørecomm, a cross-border centre for research in the field of Communication for Development, run by researchers at Malmö University and Roskilde University. This year the conference merges with Roskilde University's biannual scientific conference, Sunrise.

The four day event is a mixture of academic conference and cultural festival, open to anyone with an interest in the relationship between media, communication and social



change. One of the keynote speakers is Sheela Patel (*photo*) from Mumbai, founder and Director of the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC), an NGO that has



been working since 1984 to support community organizations of the urban poor in their efforts to access secure housing and Basic amenities, and seek their right to the city. Other invited speakers include Associate Professor Paula Chakravartty from the Gallatin School and the Department of Media, Culture and Communications of New York University, USA. Her research and teaching interests span comparative political economy of media industries, postcolonial and critical race theory, and social movements and global governance. Her current two main research projects include: a book manuscript on the politics of digital inclusion in Brazil and India; and a project on mediated activism in India, China and the Middle East. [Full information about the conference.](#)

• Lund University seminar on Violence against women in India

Associate Professor Nishi Mitra from the [Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences \(TISS\), Mumbai, India](#), gives a guest lecture at Lund University on Tuesday 23 September 2014, 12-14. Dr. Mitra will speak about "*Violence against women in India: Issues and Interventions*". Venue: Board room, Faculty of Law, Lilla Gråbrödersgatan 4, Lund. As the organisers will serve lunch sandwiches, it is necessary to register your attendance before 18th September. Dr. Mitra has come to Lund as a scholarship holder through the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programme [EMINTE](#), coordinated by Lund University. She is staying for one month, being affiliated to the Law and Vulnerabilities research group at the Faculty of Law. [More information.](#)



• Copenhagen roundtable debates on new South-South relations

The Centre of Global South Asian Studies at University of Copenhagen invites to a series of roundtable debates on "Southern



Futures. Thinking through Emerging Markets" 25-26 September 2014. Speakers include John Comaroff, Harvard University, and Ravinder Kaur, University of Copenhagen. The workshop is the first launch event of the new research programme '*Emerging Worlds: Explorations in new South-South Connections*' funded by the Danish Council of Independent Research (FKK) during the period 2014-2018. Venue: South Campus, KUA1, Njalsgade 136, 2300 Copenhagen S, Building 27, Room 27.0.09.

The Global South is undergoing a dramatic transformation in the eyes of the world. It has not only been given a new name – emerging market – that signals fresh territories found desirable by global investors and policymakers, it also hints at escalation and acceleration in the pace of history long deemed to be locked in a static temporal space. The seductive sign of emerging market now stands for extractable natural resources, cheap techno-friendly labor and a vast consumer base waiting to be fully untapped. Most of all it stands for the magical promise of economic 'growth' that has become a much longed for and elusive goal in Euro-America after the financial crisis. In a series of roundtable debates, we will rethink the language of 'rise' and 'emergence' of Africa, this after a decade of 'rising' Asia, and the ways in which it breaks down the established epistemic constructs. What might this transformation mean for Africa when new Afro-Asian connections through investments and business enterprises are fast redrawing the Global South. And what might this new Global South tell us about the future of capitalism itself. [More information.](#)

• Doctoral course on Consumption, Capitalism and Everyday Life at University of Oslo



The Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at University of Oslo invites applications to the doctoral course '*Consumption, Capitalism and Everyday Life: Understanding the Social Dimensions of the Growth Imperative*' run by its

research area unit on Energy and Consumption, and the SUM Research School. The course will be held 8 – 10 December 2014. The application deadline is 15

September. The principal objective of this PhD course is to connect "development studies" and "consumption studies". It approaches the linkages between consumption and socio-economic change from different disciplinary perspectives, drawing on theoretical approaches as well as cases from the global North and South in an attempt to understand the many connections and disconnections between development and consumption. The interdisciplinary nature of the course will appeal to doctoral students from a variety of backgrounds, such as anthropology, sociology, geography, political science, development studies, economics and political economy. Lecturers include Alan Warde, Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester, UK; Richard Wilk, Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University, USA; and Hal Wilhite, Professor of Anthropology, SUM, University of Oslo. [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

• **Melbourne seminar on "New" India in the Making**

On Wednesday 9 September 2014, the Australia India Institute and the School of Social and Political Sciences, at the University of Melbourne, Australia, presented a Research Symposium on Contemporary India entitled 'A "New" India in the Making: Myths, Realities, and Ideals'. Speakers included Anthony P. D'Costa, the Chair and Professor of Contemporary Indian Studies, University of Melbourne (previously working at Copenhagen Business School); and Devleena Ghosh, the Director of the Indian Ocean and South Asia Research Network at the University of Technology Sydney.



Much has been written about a "New" India, which is a cumulative and tumultuous experience of the ongoing shifts and tensions in the economy, society, the collective and individual consciousness, and expectations. However, the content of this new India remains undefined and contested, constantly pulled and pushed by the multiple forces of the past and its unformed future. India's history and its immediate destiny are redefined and reinvented in the present with an "authentic" vernacular view that crosses, melds, and interacts with an increasingly "global and modernist" one. The net result is a "New" India that presents an ensemble of myths, realities, and ideals that are neither static nor settled. In this research symposium, three scholars critically examine different social sites of a "New" India with an interdisciplinary, historical, and humanistic ways. Venue: Australia India Institute, 147-149 Barry Street, Carlton VIC 3053, Seminar Room. [More information.](#)

• **Hyderabad researchers at work conference on Literature and Culture.**

The Centre for Comparative Literature at the School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad, India, organise a Researchers at Work Conference (RAW.CON 2014) on



"Literature and Culture; Expanding Horizons: New Paradigms of Knowledge Production", 10 - 12 September 2014. This will be the fourth Researchers at Work Conference, which is an initiative which broadly focuses on Literary and Cultural Studies. In the previous years, this conference looked at various issues of literatures, cultures and modernities. This year it proposes to explore new frontiers of knowledge production so as to understand how they contribute to research and analyses. The conference is exclusively for full time or independent 'research scholars', thus graduate, post-graduate students, senior teachers are humbly requested not to apply. [More information.](#)

• **Brighton conference on Radical Narratives of 'Race', and Resistance**

University of Brighton, UK, organises an interdisciplinary conference entitled "*Reparative Histories: Radical Narratives of 'Race', and Resistance*" on 11-12 September 2014. The conference marks the inauguration of the Research Group, 'Representation: 'Race', Culture and Identity'. Confirmed keynote speakers are Dr Priyamvada Gopal (University of Cambridge), and Dr Brian Kelly (Queen's University, Belfast). This interdisciplinary

conference addresses the role of historical representation in shaping radical cultural, aesthetic, and political meanings of 'race'. Celebratory conceptions of identity, e.g. 'hybridity', 'transnationalism', and the 'global', developed within the abstracted frames of postmodernism often fail to account for the nature and complexity of contemporary processes of identity formation, or for their contested political mobilisations and contexts. The conference is interested in critical historical and cultural representations that are rooted in particular histories and cultures and their legacies in the contemporary moment. Researchers interested in exploring how histories of transatlantic slavery, anti-slavery, colonialism and anti-colonialism are mobilised to support contemporary and conflicting political arguments about diversity, immigration and 'race'? What roles can contested, radical and resistant narratives play within dominant and/or redemptive historical, cultural or literary discourses? What role does imaginative fiction, film or other forms of artistic representation have in reconstructing contested pasts? The conference will be held at the Grand Parade Campus, University of Brighton. [More information.](#)

• Pune conference on Fourth World Literature & Culture

The Higher Education & Research Society, based in Mumbai, India, organises an International Conference on "*Fourth World Literature & Culture*" in Pune on 12 – 13 September 2014. Although Fourth World is seemingly restricted to mean a stateless,



poor and marginal nations, it also embraces millions of the inhabitants of all small nations, groups working for their autonomy and independence at all levels from the neighbourhood to the nation, minority groups whether ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious, and those in the fields of peace action, ecology, economics, energy resources, women's liberation, and the whole spectrum of the alternative movement that are struggling against the gigantism of the institutions of today's mass societies and for a human scale and a non-centralized, multifarious, power-dispersed world order. The indigenous social movements could be seen as site of power for such nations are everywhere demanding the right to self-determination.

Venue for the conference: Government of Maharashtra's Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Mahalunge/Balewadi, on the Mumbai-Pune Highway. All accepted papers will be published online in the Journal of Higher Education & Research Society: A Refereed International. [More information.](#)

• Thane Conference on the 900th Anniversary of Bhāskara



To honour Bhāskarācārya, India's celebrated mathematician and astronomer, on the 900th anniversary of his birth, [Vidya Prasarak Mandal \(VPM\)](#) is organising an International Conference between the 19-21 September 2014 at Thane, Maharashtra, India. VPM is an educational trust, established to provide educational facilities to the city of Thane. Starting with a modest beginning in 1935, it has now grown into an educational society which caters to the needs of about 15,000 students in the Thane campus, from kindergarten to post graduation in different disciplines of science and humanities, including law and polytechnic. Most of its institutions are affiliated to Mumbai University.

Bhāskarācārya was born in 1114 in a family of scholars who cultivated Jyotisa as a family tradition for several generations. He mastered all the traditional branches of learning and made valuable contributions to mathematics and astronomy through his writings. Comprehensive treatment of the subject, careful organization of the material, lucid exposition and high poetic quality of his works made them near-canonical in the subsequent centuries. Bhāskarācārya works were studied throughout the country and several commentaries were composed on them. Themes discussed at the conference includes Bhāskarācārya's Life and Times, Inscriptional and other Evidence; *The Lilāvati*, its importance and influence on subsequent writings; Bhāskarācārya's legacy and more. [More information.](#)

• Olomouc conference on Asian Art and Archaeology in 2014

The Board of the European Association for



Asian Art and Archaeology (EAAA) invites to its first EAAA conference to be held at Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, 25–27 September 2014. It will be jointly organized by the EAAA and the Department of Asian Studies (KAS) at Palacký University. The conference is generously supported by Palacký University, as the 8th conference of cultural anthropology of South and Eastern Asia.



Palacký University in Olomouc is the second oldest university in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest in Central Europe. Drawing on more than 400-year tradition of higher education it is nowadays a renowned centre for teaching and research. Olomouc is the capital of the region of Central Moravia and belongs to the oldest cities of the Czech Republic. The conference aims to open a dialog between scholars of Asian art and archaeology and to offer a platform for the presentation and discussion of recent research, and form new research approaches and methods in Asian art and archaeology. Papers on art and archaeology of China, Japan, Korea, South and Central Asia, as well as papers on art theory and methodology, are invited. Deadline for submissions is 15 November 2013. [More information.](#)

• London Symposium on South Asian Youth Cultures and Fashion



London College of Fashion is holding a conference entitled "*Contemporary South Asian Youth Cultures and Fashion Symposium*" at London University of the Arts from 25 – 26 September, 2014. The keynote speakers for this conference are Professor Rachel Dwyer of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and Dr Rajinder Dudrah of the University of Manchester.

The conference is organised by Lipi Begum, lecturer at London College of Fashion and Rohit K Dasgupta, doctoral candidate and associate lecturer at London College of Communication. It is supported by London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London.

Dynamic growth and an expanding middle class are making South Asian (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) consumers among the most confident in the world. A large part of this includes the increasing consumption of fashion and related products amongst the youth. Whilst there has been some study of South Asian fashion and dressing cultures within history, anthropology, cinema and diaspora; there has been little work that has looked at the transnational implication of contemporary changing cultural and economic environments on dressing cultures on the youth in South Asia and its diasporas. Dress in India and more largely South Asia is used to instigate change, question national identities and assert power. In this international interdisciplinary symposium the organisers are aiming to extend and question the role of clothing cultures within the changing transnational discourse of consumerism, sexuality, faith, politics and media technology within the youth in South Asia and the diasporas. [More information.](#)

• Japanese Association for South Asian Studies invites to 27th Annual Conference

The Japanese Association for South Asian



Studies (JASAS) invites participants to its 27th Annual Conference, to be held at Daito Bunka University, Higashimatsuyama Campus in Saitama-ken on 27 – 28 September 2014. The proposals from abroad are open to non-members of JASAS. No registration fee is required. More information to be provided by the [Takako Inoue at JASAS Annual Conference Office.](#)

JASAS was founded in 1988. As a nation-wide academic body, JASAS holds annual sessions and publishes Journal of the Japanese Association for South Asian Studies (JJASAS) (from 1989) and International Journal of South Asian Studies (IJSAS) (from 2008). JASAS helps maintain scholarly communication among its members, as well as contacts between Japanese researchers and research organizations and their foreign counterparts.

• Hamburg Indological Graduate Research Symposium

The Sixth International Indological Graduate Research Symposium (IIGRS 6) will be held at the University of Hamburg, Germany, on 6 – 7 October 2014. M.A. students, PhD candidates and early stage researchers who have completed their PhDs within the past five years are invited to send their abstracts no later than 29 June 2014. All papers dealing with any indological research centered around the study of texts in their original language will be considered by the selection committee. [More information.](#)

• Interdisciplinary comparative seminar on Balkans and South Asia at Ohio State University



Ohio State University's Sawyer Seminar Conference 2014 will focus on the theme "*Imagining Alternative Modernities:*

Interventions from the Balkans and South Asia".

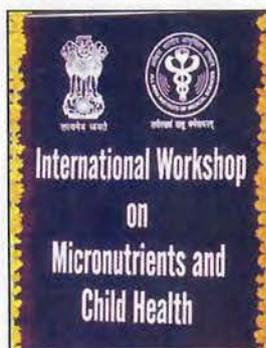
The conference will be held at Ohio State University Campus in Columbus 9–11 October 2014. The conference completes and complements a series of interdisciplinary activities in 2013-14, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the John E. Sawyer Seminars on the Comparative Study of Cultures grant program. On the surface, the Balkans and South Asia might seem to have little in common. However, despite many specific differences, they share similar dilemmas of linguistic, religious, cultural, and ethno-national complexity, similar turbulent political developments associated with

imperial, post-colonial, and Cold War legacies, and a similar diversity of responses to these historical and contemporary challenges. Both areas have seen a mixing of people through migratory settlement, conquest, contact, and trade. But both have also experienced periods of reaction to cultural hybridity: a radical unmixing of people through partition and population exchange. The impact of these upheavals is seen in the direct violence of war and devastation, but also through crises on the levels of language, religion, and other modes of culture and human creative activity.

Proposals for paper presentations from any disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective within the humanities and social sciences addressing one or more of the following themes in the Balkans or in South Asia, or comparatively between the two regions: 1. Violence, Gender, and Human Rights, 2. Nation, Religion, Language, and Secularism, 3. Minorities, State, Language, and Citizenship and 4. Postcolonial and Postsocialist Perspectives on Neoliberalism. [More information.](#)



• 2nd International Workshop on Micronutrient and Child Health in Delhi



The 2nd International Workshop on Micronutrient and Child Health (MCHWS-2014) will be held 3 – 7 November 2014 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, India. It is being organized to update the participants about the recent advances in the field of Micronutrients and Child Health, and feature presentations and discussions on Magnitude of the Iron, Iodine, Vitamin A and Zinc deficiencies; their Health Consequences, Methodology of their Assessments, Strategies for Prevention & Control; Micronutrients Supplementation to improve child morbidity & mortality and related issues. The 1st International Congress on Micronutrient and Child Health (MCH-2009) was organized

in November 2009, in which more than 1000 delegates participated.

A large pool of scientific evidence is being generated globally on issues related to Role of Micronutrients in reduction of morbidity and mortality and Promoting Child Health. There are many important issues like Interaction between Micronutrients Supplementations when given simultaneously; Prevention of IDD amongst Pregnant Mothers; Iron Supplementation in Malaria Endemic Area; Micronutrient Supplementation for Prevention

of Diarrhea and Respiratory Infections; Micronutrient Fortification of Foods-Rationale, Application and Impact; Micronutrient Fortification of Complementary Foods; Iron Supplementation in Early Childhood: Health Benefits and Risks; Effect of Iron Supplementation on Mental and Motor Development in Children; Vitamin A Supplementation and child survival etc.

All Research Abstracts presented will be published in Indian Journal of Community Health. [More information about the MCHWS-2014.](#)

• Singapore conference on Islamic Cosmopolitanism in Asia



A conference on *"Wild Spaces and Islamic Cosmopolitanism in Asia"* will be held in Singapore 14 – 15 January 2015. It is jointly organised by the Asia Research Institute at National University of Singapore (NSU), and the International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding at University of South Australia. It focuses on the issue of whether state and non-state efforts to distribute Muslims in time and space allowed for the containment of religious populations, or contributed to new manifestations of diversity and mobility? Did the contests between containment and connection generate new social, political, and ethical frameworks that might be construed through the explanatory framework of "Islamic cosmopolitanism"? The objectives of this conference are to articulate flexible definitions of Islamic cosmopolitanism across Asia, examine historically and ethnographically the dialectic between Muslim and non-Muslim diversity on the one hand, and map the re-constitution of Muslim beliefs, practices, and networks at the blurry boundaries of spatial and regulatory enclosure as a technique of power. Abstract should be submitted by 24 September 2014. [More information.](#)

• Ahmedabad Conference on Creativity and Innovation at Grassroots

The third International Conference on Creativity and Innovation at Grassroots (ICIG) will be held in Ahmedabad, India, 19–22 January 2015. It is being organised by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. The first ICIG was held in January 1997 leading to establishment of Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN) and later National Innovation Foundation (NIF). The second ICIG was held in China and India in December 2012 to connect creative pursuits around the world. The third ICIG aims at pooling insights from research, policy and practices in education, technology, institutions, culture, conservation and governance. The policy makers and corporate leaders will find conference as a unique platform for engaging with open innovation community promoting dialogue and partnership between formal and informal sector of science, technology, services and society. Abstracts should be submitted by 30 September 2014. [More information.](#)



• ICAS 9 to be held in Adelaide, Australia

The ninth International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 9) will be held in Adelaide, Australia, 5–9 July 2015. It will be hosted by an internationally networked team of experts, spearheaded by Adelaide's three leading public universities: University of Adelaide, Flinders University, and the University of South Australia. 1,500 to 2,500 Asia specialists are expected to attend. ICAS 9 boasts two new formats aimed at promoting publications/dissertations by convention participants: the Book Presentation Carousel and the PhD Pitch. The submission deadline for proposals of individual Abstracts, Panels, Roundtables, and Book and Dissertation presentations is 10 September 2014.



The ICAS Book Prize (IBP) was established by the International Convention of Asia Scholars in 2004. It aims to create an international focus for publications on Asia while increasing their worldwide visibility. The biennial ICAS Book Prize is awarded for outstanding English-language works in the field of Asian Studies. The five awards are: Best study in the Humanities; Best study in the Social Sciences; Best dissertation in the Humanities; Best dissertation in the Social Sciences and the Colleagues' Choice Award. In addition to the Awards, the Reading Committee can award Accolades to publications

with particular merit.

ICAS is the premier international gathering in the field of Asian Studies. It attracts participants from over 60 countries to engage in global dialogues on Asia that transcend boundaries between academic disciplines and geographic areas. [More information on ICAS 9.](#)

• **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

• **Fourth Incredible India Cultural festival in Uppsala**

The "Incredible India" cultural festival is held in Uppsala for the fourth year during the fall 2014. This year the festival is spread out over a longer period. It is as usual organised by [Kulturum](#) in collaboration with the Forum for South Asian Studies at Uppsala University (FSAS), and with support from the Embassy of India. The festival invites you to filmshows, classical concerts, theater, exhibitions, lectures, Indian market, food etc. Uppsala Stadsteater shows a comedy entitled "*Colour Correction*", which is a unique Swedish-Indian cooperation in the form comedy examining the situation of women in India today, on 5–6 September.



On Saturday 20 September, a concert will be given by Shantala Subramanyam Group, playing her bamboo flute accompanied by Akkarai Sornalatha on violin. One week later, on 27 September, a concert will be given by Sri Somnath Roy Group. [Full information about the 2014 Incredible India festival in Uppsala.](#)

• **Two September 2014 programmes with International Tagore Choir in Lund**

For the second year in a row, the International Tagore Choir ([Indiska Kören i Lund](#)) will perform in the beautiful Allhelgonakyrkan on 2014 Lund Culture Night, to be held on Saturday 20 September. The choir, led by Bubu Munshi Eklund, has a repertoire consisting of songs by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore (*Rabindrasangheet*), sung by Swedes in Bengali language. Indian classical dancer Keya, Head of Kala Bhavan dance school in Lund, will be a guest artist. The programme starts at 18.30. Venue: Allhelgonakyrkan, Bredgatan 34, Lund. [More information.](#)



One week earlier, on Saturday 13 September 2014, the Tagore Choir will participate in a grand street music festival in Lund entitled "Håll musiken igång", involving 13 Lund based choirs and orchestras performing at various places in the city centre. The Tagore Choir will perform at Domkyrkoplan, outside the Lund Cathedral, between 11.00 and 11.45; and at Lilla Fiskaregatan from 13.10 till 13.40. [More information.](#)

• **Vide variety of artists at Stockholm Sangeet Conference 2014**

Stockholm Sangeet Conference 2014 will be held on Thursday 28 September, and include Indian artists like Sri Somnath Roy Ghatam Group; Tabla



player Abhijit Banerjee; Sarod player Sudeshna Bhattacharya; and Sarangi player Sabri Khan. This is Sweden's largest festival for Indian classical music and dance, being held every year since 2007. The organizers of Stockholm Sangeet Conference wish to make a permanent platform for Indian classical music in Sweden like to present a number of the finest international and Swedish-based artists within today's classical Indian music and dance scene.

The festival also features Sweden based artists, such as Tabla player Suranjana Ghosh, and dancers Ulrika Larsen and Edith Humble (Odissi), and Pauline Reibel and Anna Bolmström (Bharatanatyam), to be accompanied by musicians Stian Grimstad and KG Westman on Sitar, Kalle Lotta Mossige Norheim on Harmonium, and Hugo Widén on Tablas. SSC also presents a marionette dance performance from Rajasthan for children and families by Shafiq Khan at Stallet, Stallgatan 7, Stockholm on the night before, 27th August.

Stockholm Sangeet Conference (SSC) is presented in co-operation with Farhang Förening, Stallet Folk & Världsmusik and Musikaliska with support from Stockholms Stad and Indian Embassy. Venue: Södra Teatern, Mosebacke Torg, Stockholm. [More information.](#)



• Combined Indian art and poetry exhibition in Malmö

An exhibition combining Indian poetry and art is run at Galerie Holm in Malmö 30 August – 14 September 2014. Oriyan-Swedish poet and medical doctor Rabinarayan Dash, residing in Lund, has written striking poems about the Goddess Kali, to which Kolkata artist and scribe Amitava Bhattacharya, schooled at Kala Bhavan, Viswa Bharati University, Shantiniketan, has made beautiful paintings. The exhibition is entitled "*Kalima – den svarta modern*", and was inaugurated on Saturday 30 August at 14.00 with a



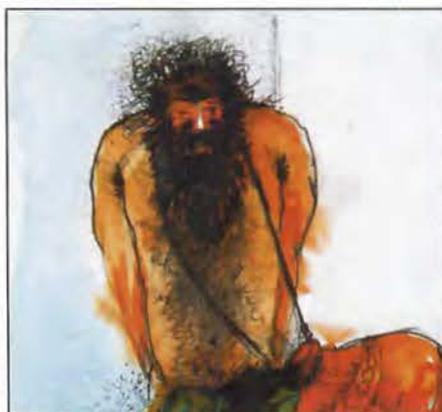
presentation by Felicia Selmer.

Rabinarayan Dash was present and read a few of his poems (*photo*), but the artist Amitava Bhattacharya was unable to come over from Kolkata. Bubun Munshi Eklund sang a few spiritual Tagore songs. Lars Eklund from SASNET was among the audience.

Opening hours henceforth are Wednesday-Friday: 13-17, and Saturday-Sunday 13-16. Address: Gråbrödersgatan 5, Malmö. [More information.](#)

• Indian Dalit art exhibition inaugurated in Upplands Väsby

An art exhibition entitled "*Voice for the Voiceless*" is held at Väsby konsthall, outside Stockholm, 30 August – 21 September 2014. Works by three eminent artists with an Indian Dalit background – Savi Sawarkar (*one of his paintings shown to the right*), Preetam Casimir and P.K. Mahanandia (the latter living in Sweden since many years) will be on display, along with works by another Indian artist, Swetapadma, showing "Tribal Art", traditional painting often made by Dalits.



The exhibition also includes paintings by Finnish-Swedish artist Sarianna Kranz, focusing on Dalit women in her art. On top of this, Danish



photographer Jacob Carlsen also participates with a series of photos depicting the life situation of Dalits in India, especially the vulnerability they are still encountering in society.

The exhibition gives expression to these problems, but also the growing pride within the Dalit community (previously called untouchables) for their own distinct culture and its manifestations in literature and art.

The exhibition was inaugurated on Saturday 30 August

2014, 11–17. Dr. Eva-Maria Hardtmann from the Dept. of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, held an inaugural speech, and then followed a dance performance by Sanaya Singh (*photo to the left*). Venue: Väsby Konsthall, Optimusvägen 12, Upplands Väsby. The exhibition is co-organised by the Dalit Solidarity Network Sweden. [More information](#).

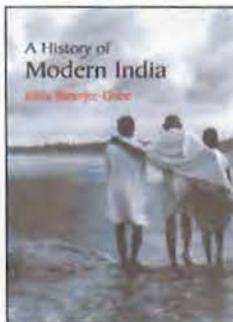
• **Information about South Asia related culture in Sweden/ Scandinavia**

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

New and updated items on SASNET web site

• **Comprehensive account of modern Indian history**

"*A History of Modern India*", by Ishita Banerjee-Dube, published by Cambridge University Press 2014. The book provides an interpretive and comprehensive account of the history of India between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, a crucial epoch characterized by colonialism, nationalism and the emergence of the independent Indian Union. It explores significant historiographical debates concerning the period while highlighting important new issues, especially those of gender, ecology, caste, and labour.



The work combines an analysis of colonial and independent India in order to underscore ideologies, policies, and processes that shaped the colonial state and continue to mould the Indian nation. While it does not forego chronology, it does away with the conventional demarcation of political processes and socio-cultural histories in order to portray the multi-faceted nature of social worlds. This book, masterfully, provokes readers to reflect and interrogate, and strive for newer ways of understanding history. Strikingly employed visual tools—historical maps, old photographs, posters and imaginative time-lines complement the core narratives. This book will appeal to the scholars, students of history as well as the general readers alike. [Read more...](#)

• **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.

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