

SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University

[SASNET Newsletter](#) | [SASNET](#) | [Research](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Education](#) | [Culture](#) | [Swedish Institutions](#) | [Travelling advise](#) | [Resources](#) | [Researchers database](#)

SASNET Newsletters

Newsletter 144 – 5 February 2013

Last updated: 5 February 2013

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending an e-mail to [sasnet@sasnet.lu.se!](mailto:sasnet@sasnet.lu.se)



Contents:

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

SASNET News

• High-profile SASNET 2013 South Asia Symposium at Lund University



The 2013 SASNET South Asia Symposium at Lund University will be held on Wednesday 24th April 2013, 09.00–19.00. The theme for the Symposium is *"The Wonder that is South Asia"*, featuring eminent international scholars that will hold lectures on topics related to Bangladesh, India,



Dina Siddiqui



Ayesha Siddiqua

SASNET Newsletters

[Newsletter 144 – 5 February 2013](#)
[Newsletter 143 – 11 January 2013](#)
[Newsletter 142 – 10 December 2012](#)
[Newsletter 141 – 17 October 2012](#)
[Newsletter 140 – 27 September 2012](#)
[Newsletter 139 – 31 August 2012](#)
[Newsletter 138 – 9 August 2012](#)
[Newsletter 137 – 18 June 2012](#)
[Newsletter 136 – 22 May 2012](#)
[Newsletter 135 – 3 May 2012](#)
[Newsletter 134 – 4 April 2012](#)
[Newsletter 133 – 8 March 2012](#)
[Newsletter 132 – 9 February 2012](#)
[Newsletter 131 – 16 January 2012](#)
[Newsletter 130 – 19 December 2011](#)
[Newsletter 129 – 24 November 2011](#)
[Newsletter 128 – 28 October 2011](#)
[Newsletter 127 – 11 October 2011](#)
[Newsletter 126 – 2 September 2011](#)
[Newsletter 125 – 12 August 2011](#)
[Newsletter 124 – 13 June 2011](#)
[Newsletter 123 – 13 May 2011](#)
[Newsletter 122 – 7 April 2011](#)
[Newsletter 121 – 18 March 2011](#)
[Newsletter 120 – 15 February 2011](#)
[Newsletter 119 – 20 January 2011](#)
[Newsletter 118 – 30 December 2010](#)
[Newsletter 117 – 14 December 2010](#)
[Newsletter 116 – 12 November 2010](#)
[Newsletter 115 – 22 October 2010](#)
[Newsletter 114 – 5 October 2010](#)
[Newsletter 113 – 7 September 2010](#)
[Newsletter 112 – 17 August 2010](#)
[Newsletter 111 – 24 June 2010](#)
[Newsletter 110 – 21 May 2010](#)
[Newsletter 109 – 23 April 2010](#)
[Newsletter 108 – 9 April 2010](#)
[Newsletter 107 – 12 March 2010](#)
[Newsletter 106 – 10 February 2010](#)
[Newsletter 105 – 29 January 2010](#)
[Newsletter 104 – 2 December 2009](#)
[Newsletter 103 – 6 November 2009](#)
[Newsletter 102 – 20 October 2009](#)
[Newsletter 101 – 2 October 2009](#)
[Newsletter 100 – 4 September 2009](#)
[Newsletter 99 – 23 July 2009](#)
[Newsletter 98 – 11 June 2009](#)
[Newsletter 97 – 26 May 2009](#)
[Newsletter 96 – 30 April 2009](#)
[Newsletter 95 – 6 April 2009](#)
[Newsletter 94 – 10 March 2009](#)
[Newsletter 93 – 4 February 2009](#)
[Newsletter 92 – 14 January 2009](#)
[Newsletter 91 – 5 December 2008](#)
[Newsletter 90 – 3 November 2008](#)
[Newsletter 89 – 3 October 2008](#)
[Newsletter 88 – 15 September 2008](#)
[Newsletter 87 – 21 August 2008](#)
[Newsletter 86 – 10 June 2008](#)
[Newsletter 85 – 20 May 2008](#)
[Newsletter 84 – 25 April 2008](#)
[Newsletter 83 – 27 March 2008](#)
[Newsletter 82 – 27 February 2008](#)
[Newsletter 81 – 30 January 2008](#)
[Newsletter 80 – 14 December 2007](#)
[Newsletter 79 – 29 October 2007](#)
[Newsletter 78 – 9 October 2007](#)
[Newsletter 77 – 14 September 2007](#)
[Newsletter 76 – 13 July 2007](#)
[Newsletter 75 – 20 June 2007](#)
[Newsletter 74 – 29 May 2007](#)
[Newsletter 73 – 27 April 2007](#)
[Newsletter 72 – 17 April 2007](#)
[Newsletter 71 – 6 March 2007](#)
[Newsletter 70 – 9 February 2007](#)
[Newsletter 69 – 9 January 2007](#)
[Newsletter 68 – 11 December 2006](#)
[Newsletter 67 – 9 November 2006](#)
[Newsletter 66 – 17 October 2006](#)

Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Venue: Palaestra, Universitetsplatsen, Lund.

The invited speakers are Professor Dina Siddiqui, BRAC University, Dhaka; Professor Surinder Jodhka, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India & ICCR Guest Professor 2012/13 at Lund University; Professor Michael Hutt, Chair, SOAS, University of London;

Dr. Ayesha Siddiqi, Civilian Military Analyst and Political Commentator, Islamabad & previously Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University, USA; and Professor Jonathan Spencer, University of Edinburgh.

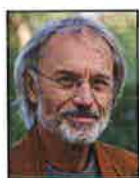


Surinder Jodhka Jonathan Spencer Michael Hutt



In a concluding panel discussion the Ambassadors of the South Asian nations represented in Sweden have been invited to participate in a dialogue with the speakers on the theme for the day – "The Wonder that is South Asia". The Symposium is followed by a cultural programme at the same venue featuring the Flute player Shantala Subramanyam (*photo*). The symposium hall has a limited capacity of seats. It is therefore necessary to register your participation no later than 10th April. [More information with detailed programme.](#)

• SASNET lunch seminar on child rights agents in Kerala



Professor Per Wickenberg, Division of Sociology of Law at Lund University, holds the first SASNET/ABF Thursday lunch seminar talk for the spring

semester 2013 on Thursday 7 February 2013, 12.30 - 13.30. Venue: Lunds konsthall, Mårtensstorget 3, Lund.

Per Wickenberg will give a presentation entitled "*SEE THE CHILD! Reflections on 10 years of Child Rights work in Education with 29 Change Agents in Kerala-India*", based on work experiences from a Sida-funded training programme on "Child Rights, Classroom and School Management", in which his department has been involved since 2003. The programme has so far trained about 500 participants from 28 different developing countries all over the world to become agents of change. In his presentation, Per focuses on the work that has been done by these Change Agents now active in the Kerala state in India. They work together supporting each other, and have also formed a national network. [More information.](#)



• Srilankan Ambassador Oshadhi Alahapperuma visited Lund University

On Thursday 24th January 2012, H.E. Mr. Oshadhi Alahapperuma, Ambassador for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Stockholm, visited Lund University on an invitation by SASNET. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. L.G. Dissanayake, Third Secretary (Commercial). *On photo.*



They first met Lund University researchers and academics involved in Sri Lanka related research and/or educational collaboration projects. A meeting was organised by the Division of External Relations, where Lund University researchers with Sri Lanka projects presented their projects. Representatives of the Lund University Commissioned Education (LUCE) also presented the Sida-funded advanced international training programmes that are administered by Lund University. Every year, a number of Srilankan professionals participate in these programmes. [More information about the Ambassador's visit.](#)

Newsletter 65 - 20 September 2006
 Newsletter 64 - 25 August 2006
 Newsletter 63 - 20 June 2006
 Newsletter 62 - 24 May 2006
 Newsletter 61 - 28 April 2006
 Newsletter 60 - 7 April 2006
 Newsletter 59 - 9 March 2006
 Newsletter 58 - 23 January 2006
 Newsletter 57 - 17 November 2005
 Newsletter 56 - 20 October 2005
 Newsletter 55 - 22 September 2005
 Newsletter 54 - 15 August 2005
 Newsletter 53 - 30 June 2005
 Newsletter 52 - 19 May 2005
 Newsletter 51 - 19 April 2005
 Newsletter 50 - 18 March 2005
 Newsletter 49 - 21 February 2005
 Newsletter 48 - 20 January 2005
 Newsletter 47 - 23 December 2004
 Newsletter 46 - 25 November 2004
 Newsletter 45 - 2 November 2004
 Newsletter 44 - 5 October 2004
 Newsletter 43 - 17 September 2004
 Newsletter 42 - 27 August 2004
 Newsletter 41 - 15 July 2004
 Newsletter 40 - 15 June 2004
 Newsletter 39 - 11 May 2004
 Newsletter 38 - 14 April 2004
 Newsletter 37 - 10 March 2004
 Newsletter 36 - 17 February 2004
 Newsletter 35 - 27 January 2004
 Newsletter 34 - 7 December 2003
 Newsletter 33 - 13 November 2003
 Newsletter 32 - 13 October 2003
 Newsletter 31 - 12 September 2003
 Newsletter 30 - 12 August 2003
 Newsletter 29 - 11 July 2003
 Newsletter 28 - 12 June 2003
 Newsletter 27 - 13 May 2003
 Newsletter 26 - 17 April 2003
 Newsletter 25 - 17 March 2003
 Newsletter 24 - 12 February 2003
 Newsletter 23 - 21 January 2003
 Newsletter 22 - 19 December 2002
 Newsletter 21 - 15 November 2002
 Newsletter 20 - 24 October 2002
 Newsletter 19 - 26 September 2002
 Newsletter 18 - 6 September 2002
 Newsletter 17 - 9 August 2002
 Newsletter 16 - 11 June 2002
 Newsletter 15 - 13 May 2002
 Newsletter 14 - 8 April 2002
 Newsletter 13 - 14 February 2002
 Newsletter 12 - 8 January 2002
 Newsletter 11 - 5 December 2001
 Newsletter 10 - 23 October 2001
 Newsletter 9 - 12 September 2001
 Newsletter 8 - 22 August 2001
 Newsletter 7 - 18 July 2001
 Newsletter 6 - 12 June 2001
 Newsletter 5 - 9 May 2001
 Newsletter 4 - 4 April 2001
 Newsletter 3 - 1 March 2001
 Newsletter 2 - 1 February 2001
 Newsletter 1 - January 2001

• SASNET lecture on Ambedkar and his Buddhist Perceptions



Associate Professor Raj Sekhar Basu from the [Department of History, University of Calcutta](#), Kolkata, India, holds a SASNET lecture at Lund University on Wednesday 27 February 2013, 15.15–17.00. The theme for his lecture is "*Ambedkar and his Perceptions of Karl Marx and Buddha*". The seminar is co-organised by the [Dept. of Sociology](#). Venue: Seminar room 1, Dept. of Sociology, Paradisgatan 3, Lund.

Raj Sekhar Basu is currently serving as an Visiting Indian Professor at the [Indian Studies Centre at Mykolo Romeris University](#) in Vilnius,

Lithuania. There he holds the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair in Contemporary Indian Studies on a two year assignment. He is specialised in the social history of the lower castes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, having written two books and a large number of articles in national and international journals.

In his Lund University seminar, he focuses on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – renowned Indian political leader mobilizing the Dalits during the freedom struggle, besides being a jurist and economist and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He was also a revivalist for Buddhism in India, after leading his followers to convert from Hinduism to Buddhism in 1956. He discusses the interpretative models provided by scholars involved with the study of Ambedkar's brand of Buddhism. In fact, there would be attempts to deal with Ambedkar's own interpretation of Buddhism and to explore whether it was linked to his efforts to establish ethical foundations of the Dalit movement in postcolonial India. Prof.



Basu is interested in explicating the reasons why Ambedkar decided to seek a conversion to Buddhism, since it was not only opposed to caste hierarchy but possibly provided a framework for a society based on the principles of non-discrimination, equity and respect. The main intention would be to establish the point that Ambedkar favoured Buddhism to Marxism, possibly for the matter that it was more liberal and flexible in mobilizing the socially deprived masses in favour of a more egalitarian socio-political system.

• SASNET's role in promoting collaboration highlighted in Delhi

SASNET Director Anna Lindberg is currently on assignment in India, mainly visiting universities and institutes in connection with a research project about Asian students who travel to other Asian countries to seek higher education. She is however also in India as a representative of SASNET.



On 30th January 2013, Anna visited the Swedish Embassy in New Delhi and had a fruitful meeting with Ambassador Harald Sandberg



Inderjeet S. Basra and Andreas Muranyi Scheutz along with Anna Lindberg.

(photo to the left); Andreas Muranyi Scheutz of the Office of Science,

Innovation, and Growth Analysis; Cecilia Rahm, General Manager of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, India; and Inderjeet S. Basra, Assistant Programme Manager at the Embassy. Their discussion concerned SASNET's role in promoting collaboration in higher education and research between Swedish and Indian universities. Ambassador Sandberg indicated that the report *Framtid med Asien: Förslag till en svensk Asienstrategi*, published by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998, is still valid: Sweden still lacks expertise about South Asia in many areas. He was pleased to hear of Lund University's willingness to finance SASNET, and that SASNET remains a national network. He emphasized the need for collaboration among Swedish universities in promoting educational opportunities for Indian students in Sweden, and the importance of working with Swedish companies who have a presence in India to create internships and scholarships.

On 1 February 2013, Inderjeet Basra and Andreas Muranyi Scheutz showed Anna the

Management Development Institute in Gurgaon (MDI), a private business school that has been in existence for approximately 35 years and was the first internationally accredited such school in India. The possibility of arranging a joint symposium with MDI at Lund University on a topic such as "*India as an international trade partner in the global economy*" in the fall of 2013 was discussed. [Read Anna's full report from the meetings in Delhi and Gurgaon.](#)

• Researchers in Gävle collaborate with Bangladeshi university

SASNET NETWORKING PARTNER

SASNET Networking partner: [Department of Business and Economic Studies, University of Gävle](#). Contact persons: Professor [Akmal Hyder](#),

and Associate professor [Maria Fregidou-Malama](#).

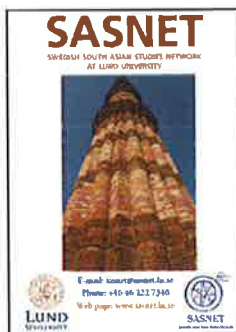
The department Studies is involved collaboration in with the [American International University-Bangladesh](#) (AIUB) in Dhaka. It includes collaborative research projects, academic development programmes, exchange of researchers, academic staff and students, and exchange of publications, reports and other academic information. A Linnaeus Palme exchange programme is running since 2009, and students have been on Minor Field Studies tours to Bangladesh. The contact person on the Bangladeshi side is Professor Anwar Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor at AIUB.



Professor Hyder himself leads a research project dealing with sustainable business relations in culturally distant countries. This study explores the impact of cultural differences on forming and applying business relationships within international business establishments. It aims to develop network theory by introducing the concept of cultural differences and also examine the applicability of a cultural network model in describing how networks are built, developed and sustained in culturally distant countries. Read more about the Dept. of Business and Economic Studies.

SASNET tries to keep track of all South Asia related research at the Swedish universities, and in our database we have information about approximately 300 departments where some kind of South Asia related research and/or educational collaboration projects with institutions in the eight South Asian nations is going on. Among our networking partners, we will each month present one or two of these departments and the researchers working on South Asia related projects. [Go for SASNET's list of Swedish departments.](#)

• What is SASNET actually doing?



The Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) is an interdisciplinary platform based at Lund University that promotes education, research, and information about the countries of South Asia: – Afghanistan; – Bangladesh; – Bhutan; – India; – Maldives; – Nepal; – Pakistan; – Sri Lanka. It was established in January 2001.

We act as a national open network resource connecting researchers and academics working on projects related to South Asia at universities throughout Sweden and the Nordic countries. Our Internet gateway disseminates information on South Asia-related education and research being conducted at

300 Swedish university departments, and we publish a monthly on-line newsletter that circulates to 2,700 recipients worldwide. Besides, we arrange South Asia related lectures and seminars at Lund university, collaborate with other Nordic and European networking institutions, engage in international mobility programmes, and keep a library at the Lund University office, with academic South Asia journals and a collection of doctoral dissertations. [Read about the background of SASNET, and see our January 2013 folders.](#)

• SASNET invited Lund University researchers for discussion

On Tuesday 15th January 2013, SASNET held a lunch brain storming meeting where all interested researchers and other staff at Lund University working with South Asia related projects in any field were invited to discuss possible interdisciplinary South Asia related projects to launch, visions and future collaborations. SASNET's Director Anna

Lindberg gave a brief presentation of the history of SASNET and informed about the future purpose and role of SASNET now that Lund University has announced that it will allocate resources in support of SASNET for the period 2013–2015. Gunilla Carlecrantz, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Networks at the Division of External Relations at Lund University, talked about the division's work towards the South Asian region, emphasizing the importance of the region for Lund University and also of the contribution that SASNET provides regarding this work. Maria Lindblad from the International Marketing and Recruitment at Lund University, informed about joint efforts by Lund University, Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg and Linköping University to attract Indian students to Sweden. [More information about the brainstorming meeting.](#)

• Hawwa Lubna SASNET's Maldivian resource person at Lund University

Hawwa Lubna is a Maldivian student at the Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies (BIDS) at Lund University. On Wednesday 23 January 2013, she visited SASNET's office in Lund to discuss with Lars Eklund a proposal of hers to increase SASNET's collaboration with the Maldivian community of students and researchers. Lubna now offers to assist us in such efforts to establish a strong relationship with Maldives, a country still lacking good academic research into its history, politics, social structures, culture and economics. Even if it exists, there is no coherent aggregation of those research work in one place.

Furthermore, Lubna is willing to work closely with SASNET to build up its resource base on Maldives. Her background as a journalist in Maldives for past three years – with the [Minivan News magazine](#) – has given her good knowledge on contemporary issues in Maldives and connections to good resources and information. Her vision includes creating an online platform where all publications on Maldives can be found, maybe through SASNET. She also hopes that SASNET should enhance its academic cooperation with the Maldives National University (the only university in Maldives opened in 2011), on similar terms as has been achieved with universities in India. (SASNET's Lars Eklund and Staffan Lindberg visited Maldives in 2002, [read their travel report](#), and Lars again visited Maldives in 2009, [see his report](#)).



• More information about SASNET and its activities

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

Research Community News

• Research funding transferred from Sida to the Swedish Research Council



Funding for Swedish research of relevance to low and middle income countries has been transferred from Sida to the [Swedish Research Council](#) beginning in 2013. It will have at its disposal SEK 170 million of the state international development budget for funding of Swedish research of relevance to low and middle income countries. Sida was previously in charge of these funds. This change was adopted by the Swedish parliament at the beginning of December 2012.

Programmes that are part of funding of Swedish research of relevance to low and middle income countries (U-forsk), as well as Swedish Research Links, will thereby be handled entirely by the Swedish Research Council. The rationale for this transfer is to ensure the best possible scientific quality of these activities.

These *u-forsk grants* belong to the most important ways of financing Swedish research projects related to developing countries, including South Asia – see SASNET's databases from 2003 onwards. The aim has been to establish and maintain a knowledge base of relevance to aid and development issues, plus capacity for developing country research in Sweden.

Deadline for applications for the period 2013–2014 was

South Asia related
projects given
U-forsk grants

– In 2003

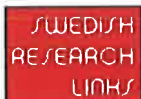
– In 2004

Tuesday 3 April 2012. The funding decisions will now be made by the Director-General of the Swedish Research Council.

These decisions were published on 23 January 2013. Only one South Asia related project was awarded a grant, namely Anders Olofsgård, Stockholm School of Economics: Collective Action and Community Development: Evidence from Self-Help Groups in India, SEK 3,2 m. See the decision list.

The Swedish Research Council will issue a new call for applications for U-forsk this year. The exact date of the call for applications has not yet been set. There will not be any major changes in the terms and conditions of funding compared with those of previous years. Additional information regarding the 2013 call for applications will be available soon.

- In 2005
- In 2006
- In 2007
- In 2008
- In 2009
- In 2010
- In 2011



Regarding the Swedish Research Links programme, the decision will not mean any changes for researchers submitting applications. The Swedish Research Council has been handling this programme for several years, even though up until now, Sida has been responsible for the funds. [More information.](#)

• **Uppsala University establishes ICCR Chair on Indian Studies**

On January 22, 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Uppsala University and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for a Chair of Indian Studies in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences at Uppsala University. The agreement involves visiting professors from India, who will be residing at Uppsala university for one semester and participate in academic activities at various faculties. The Embassy of India, the Forum for South Asia Studies and the Secretariate for International Relations at Uppsala University were instrumental in promoting this partnership.



The MOU was signed by the Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson and the Ambassador of India Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison at Universitetshuset (see photo). The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Anders Malmberg and Vice-Rector for the Domain of Humanities and Social Sciences Margareta Fahlgren.

The [Forum for South Asia Studies](#) was represented by Vice-Chair Ranjula Bali Swain, board member Heinz Werner Wessler, and the Forum's coordinator Ferdinando Sardella. The MOU will improve the visibility of research and education on South Asia at Uppsala University and consolidate the University's presence among academic institutions in India.

• **Karolinska Institutet and Aga Khan University collaboraion enters new phase**



The [Division of Global Health at Karolinska Institutet Medical University](#) in Stockholm focuses on health problems that are big in the world but small or non-existent in Sweden. Many know the division by its earlier acronym, IHCAR. It is part of the Department of Public Health Sciences. Since the start in 1984 it has developed extensive research in several fields within international health.

This multidisciplinary division pursues research and education in collaboration with researchers in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa. IHCAR has practiced the successful sandwich PhD system for many years, that has resulted in a large number of theses by PhD candidates from among other third world countries, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. A special relationship exists between KI and

Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, Pakistan, with research and research training collaboration going on since 1992. Nine of the faculty at AKU Karachi currently have PhDs from KI, all have returned to Karachi and three of them hold interim chairs. The new AKU PhD program of 2013 now opens a new phase in the collaboration. Phase one has led to faculty development in research supervision. It includes supporting the AKU:s own programmes regarding coursework whenever needed and asked for – online or by occasional visits; and providing co-supervision between different departments of KI whenever needed and asked for. This increases the number of competent supervisors – and their equipment. The team at KI in charge of the AKU collaboration consists of Prof. Olle Söder and Prof. Emeritus Bo Lindblad. [More information.](#)

• Ashok Kaul to be installed as ICCR Professor at University of Gothenburg



Ashok Kumar Kaul, Professor of Sociology at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) will be



inaugurated as the first Visiting Indian ICCR Professor at the University of Gothenburg on Thursday 14th February 2013, 14.00–16.00. An inauguration seminar will be held at Lilla Hörsalen, Humanisten (Faculty of Arts), Renströmsgatan 6, Gothenburg. Prof. Kaul will stay at the university for five months, being based at the [Department of Literature, History of Ideas, and Religion](#).

At the inauguration seminar, Prof. Kaul will be welcomed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Helena Lindholm Schultz. Indian Ambassador, Mrs. Banashri Bose Harrison will give an introductory speech, and Dr. Clemens Cavallin will give a presentation on "Cooperation with Indian universities at the Faculty of Arts. [See the complete programme.](#)

Ashok Kaul has a doctorate from BHU, and thirty years of lecturing and research experience at a number of universities in India and internationally. Originally coming from Kashmir, Prof. Kaul has written a book entitled "*Kashmir: Fractured Nativity (Closed Options, Open Possibilities)*". It was published by German publisher VDM in 2009, and an edited version "*Kashmir: Contested Identity*" was published by Rawat Publications in India in 2011. [More information about the book.](#)

• Doctoral dissertation on Chinese and Indian Regions and the Global Flows of Innovation



Monica Plechero from the Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE), and the [Department of Human Geography](#), Lund University defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "*The Changing Geography of Innovation – Chinese and Indian Regions and the Global Flows of Innovation*" on 11 December 2012. The thesis deals with how Chinese and Indian firms are upgrading their innovation capabilities to go internationally, and how regional and global linkages are effecting firms' capacity to compete in the global market. Faculty opponent was Associate

Professor Andrea Morrison, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. [Read the full-text thesis.](#)

Her main research topic concerns global innovation networks and different forms of globalization of innovation in developing countries. She is particularly interested in studying firms located in emerging Regional Innovation Systems. In these last years she has been involved in several projects on globalization of innovation with partners in Europe, China, India, South Africa and Brazil. [Read an article entitled "Indiska och kinesiska företag i innovationsfronten"](#) at Lund University web site.

• Dissertation Reviews presents unpublished doctoral theses

Founded in 2010, Dissertation Reviews is a new site that features overviews of recently defended,

Dissertation Reviews

unpublished doctoral dissertations in a wide variety of disciplines across the Humanities and Social Sciences. Its goal is to offer readers a glimpse of each discipline's immediate present by focusing on the window of time between dissertation defense and first book publication. Each review provides a summary of the author's main arguments, the historiographic genealogy in which the author operates, and the main source bases for

his or her research.

The reviews are also anticipatory, making educated assessments of how the research will advance or challenge our understanding of major issues in the field when it is revised and published in the future. As an example, a new interesting 2012 dissertation entitled "*Cosmopolitan Encounters: Sanskrit and Persian at the Mughal Court*", by Audrey Truschke (*photo*), Columbia University, USA, was reviewed and posted on 15th January 2013, and has a link to the full-text thesis. [More information](#).



Dissertation Reviews also features reviews of and guides to archives, libraries, databases, and other collections where such dissertation research was conducted, to help scholars improve their ability to undertake current and future research. The Editor in chief is Thomas S. Mullaney, Associate Professor of Modern Chinese History at Stanford University, USA. Dissertation Reviews has a special Field Editor for South Asian Studies. That is Rebecca Grapevine, Graduate student at the Department of History, University of Michigan, USA. [Go for Dissertation Reviews](#).

• Uppsala University announces position as Professor of Indology

Uppsala University announces a position as Professor of Indology specializing in the languages and cultures of modern South Asia. He/she will be based at the [Department of Linguistics and philology](#), and have an overarching responsibility for research and PhD study programmes in the subject area as well as their advancement, besides teaching and supervising on all levels. Development of national and international networks should also be prioritized. The main specialization is Hindi and the cultural conditions of South Asia. Other modern languages spoken in the region, and competence in early language stages and Sanskrit, are also regarded as qualifications. The ability to teach in Swedish or English is a requirement. If the appointee commands only one of these languages at the beginning of the appointment, he/she will be expected to be able to teach in the other language as well within two years.



Deadline for applications is Monday 18th February 2013. [More information](#).

• Vacant position as Associate Professor of Modern South Asia Studies in Oslo

The Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages at University of Oslo invites



applications for a position as Associate Professor of Modern South Asia Studies. The holder of the position is expected to initiate, contribute to and lead research on topics relevant to modern South Asia studies at the Department, to supervise MA and PhD candidates and to participate in teaching and in exam setting and evaluation at all levels. Both the South Asia studies programme and other programmes may be relevant. The holder is also expected to carry out administrative duties in accordance with the needs of the Department.

Deadline for applications is 1 March 2013. Expected start date is 1 January 2014. [More information](#).

• Time to apply for Aarhus University's Indo-European mobility programme

The first call for scholarships for the Indo-European Erasmus Mundus Action 2 mobility programme IBIES is now open. The Interdisciplinary Bridges for Indo-European Studies (IBIES) Consortium is led by Aarhus University Denmark. The first call includes 22 fully funded PhD scholarships for Indian students interested in pursuing a PhD at Aarhus University or at any of the other 5 European universities in the IBIES consortium. The application is open until 1st of March 2013. [Read the Call for applications](#).



The aim of IBIES is the promotion of Indo-European higher education, to support the improvement and enhancement of scholars' career prospects as well as the promotion of intercultural communication and understanding through cooperation with the partner countries. IBIES supports mobility at all level of higher education, including both mobility for students (undergraduate, master, doctoral and post-doctoral) and for staff

(academic and administrative).

The IBIES network in the frame of the Erasmus Mundus programme will see to the further enhancement of the individual student, researcher or teacher in order to improve not only their knowledge, qualifications and skills but also to strengthen the cooperation between India and EU and contribute to the development of these societies. The Interdisciplinary Bridges for Indo-European Studies (IBIES) consortium has been selected for funding under the Erasmus Mundus Programme Action 2 Strand 1 and External Cooperation Window. [More information.](#)

• Postdoctoral Fellowship at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University

The Harvard University South Asia Institute (SAI) in USA offers postdoctoral fellowships in South Asian studies to recent PhDs in the humanities and social sciences for the Academic Year 2013-2014. Each



postdoctoral fellowship will cover a 10-month period, beginning September 1, 2013, with a stipend of \$50,000, health insurance coverage for the grantee, and roundtrip travel funds. Postdoctoral fellows will be provided office space, access to the libraries and resources of Harvard University.

Residence in the Cambridge/Boston area and participation in SAI activities are required during the appointment. Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to present through the SAI Seminar Series. During the term of appointment, postdoctoral fellows will have the option to teach one course, or co-teach an existing course with a current faculty member. Applicants must have received their PhD degree in 2008 or later in South Asia Studies in any area of the humanities or social sciences. Those who are chosen to receive fellowships must have completed all requirements for the PhD degree by July 1, 2013. Deadline for application is March 1, 2013. [More information.](#)

• Swedish National Agency for Higher Education split into two new authorities

From 1 January 2013, the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket) has ceased to exist as a public authority. Its operations has been transferred to two new public authorities:



the Swedish Higher Education Authority (Universitetskanslersämbetet) and the Swedish Council for Higher Education (Universitets- och högskolerådet). The Swedish Higher Education Authority has got the role to look after the Swedish universities and university colleges, and evaluate the quality of higher education and the right to issue exams. It is led by the Swedish University Chancellor, Professor Lars Haikola. [Go for the web site](#) (in Swedish only).



The second new authority has a role to play regarding admissions, applications for studies etc., and is also in charge of international collaboration. [Go for its web site](#) (in Swedish only)

Websites in English for the Swedish Higher Education Authority and the Swedish Council for Higher Education will be produced later this year, but for the time being interested are referred to the former [Swedish National Agency for Higher Education's English website.](#)

• 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

• 2013 NCI summer courses on Contemporary India and Nature-Society Interface

The Nordic Centre in India university consortium organises two short term summer courses for Nordic students in India during the summer 2013, one based at Hyderabad and the other at Bangalore. The courses are as follows:



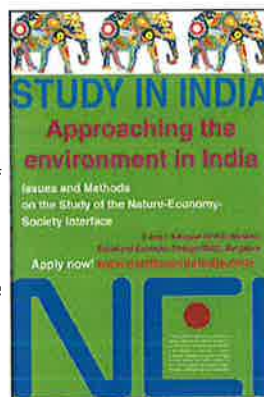
Contemporary India. An Interdisciplinary Introduction Course.
This course is being held for the 11th year at the University of



Hyderabad during the period 30 June – 27 July 2013. It is tailor-made for 50 Nordic students and introduces issues of politics, culture and economy. It consists of the following five parts:

- Introductory course
- The diversity of India
- The political system and questions of identity
- Globalisation and the economy focusing on the city of Hyderabad
- Development, environment and human rights, and
- Indian literature and cinema.

Approaching the Environment in India. Issues and Methods in the Study of the Nature-Economy-Society Interface. This course is being held for the 7th year at the **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)** in Bangalore during the period 7 July – 3 August 2013. Capacity: 22 students, getting an introduction to recent theories and methods in the study of contemporary environmental issues in India.



Both courses are available in the 7.5 ECTS variant and the 10 ECTS variant. The course structure remains the same with the exception of additional coursework for students opting for the 10 ECTS variant.

Typically each member university within the NCI consortium has their own deadline, so there is no general overarching deadline for receiving students nominations. But NCI wants to receive the names of interested students and their details by March 31st, 2013 so that the students, host institutes, and NCI have enough time to make practical arrangements for the course. Interested students can also independently approach NCI if they have missed their university deadline.

Given the unequal demand among the member universities and with the goal of filling all the seats being offered in the three courses NCI has changed the limit of nominations. The number may be more than just three students as was the earlier practice. If there are more students than required for the course NCI will look at member university/institute representation and the academic qualifications of the competing students to finally decide who gets selected.

More information on the NCI web page, <http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/> or directly from the Programme Manager, Ms. **Christabel Royan**.

• **Three students won Challenge Yourself India 2013 competition**

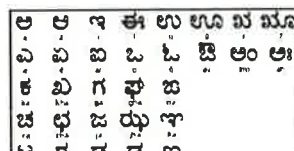
Three Indian students won the first prize in the Challenge Yourself India 2013 competition, jointly organised the Swedish Embassy in Delhi, the Swedish Institute, and three Swedish universities – Lund University, Linköping University and Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. The winners are Raghavendra Selvan from Bangalore, Rudra Pratap Singh from Guwahati and and Sowmya Krishnaraj from Chennai.

Raghavendra won a full scholarship to study a two-year master's programme in Communications Engineering at Chalmers. Rudra Pratap will study a two-year master's programme in wireless communication at Lund University and Sowmya will study a two-year master's programme in statistics and data mining at Linköping University. The scholarship includes tuition fee, living expenses, health insurance and a travel grant. The total monetary value of the scholarship is nearly INR 3.6 m. The students received their awards from the Ambassador of Sweden to India, H.E. Mr Harald Sandberg. The competition attracted over 5 000 participants. The online competition was created, marketed and run by Student Competitions, a Swedish company founded in 2010 by students. [More information.](#)

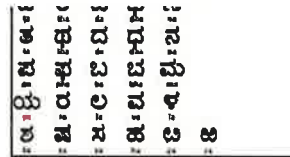
• **Würzburg University organises Kannada language course in Bangalore**



The Kannada Winter School "Language and Culture of Karnataka", organized by the Chair of Indology, Würzburg



(Karnataka Study Centre), will take place in Bangalore, India, 4 – 16 March 2013. Kannada – the Dravidian Language of the South Indian state of Karnataka – is a classical Indian language spoken by more than 60 million people today and distinguished by a rich literary



history. The course will provide an Introduction to the Kannada Language through an extensive program combining spoken Kannada with reading, writing and grammar skills. The students will gain insights into contemporary Kannada, acquire practical language skills and learn to apply these in realistic everyday situations. Subject to personal effort, students should be able to speak basic conversational Kannada and read and write the Kannada script after their successful participation in the course. Deadline for registration is 4 February 2013. [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

- Helsinki seminar on Ethnographic Fieldwork in Sikh Diasporas

On Thursday 14 February 2013, the Nordic Center in India (NCI) and University of Helsinki organize a seminar on "*Ethnographic Fieldwork in Sikh*



Diasporas". The speakers include Prof. Hanna Snellman (Ethnology) at University of Helsinki, Dr. Laura Hirvi (Ethnology) from University of Jyväskylä, and Dr. Kristina Myrvoid (Religious Studies) from Lund University. Venue: Room F205, Unioninkatu 38 F, Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland.

The seminar is organized in connection with the NCI Board Meeting the following day, on Friday 15 February, 2013. [See the seminar program.](#)

- Copenhagen seminar with Stephen P Cohen on the India-Pakistan dispute

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and Asia Research Centre, Copenhagen



Business School (CBS) invite to a seminar on "*The India-Pakistan Conundrum*", on Friday 15 February 2013, 9.30–11.45. Venue: Main Auditorium, DIIS, Strandgade 71, ground floor, Copenhagen.

The seminar takes its starting point in Stephen P Cohen's forthcoming book "*Shooting for a Century: The India-Pakistan Conundrum*" (Brookings Press, 2013), which is one of the few comprehensive overviews of the India-Pakistan dispute, that, according to the book, is unlikely to be resolved or normalized in the next 35 years.

This seminar will dissect the key actors on all sides of the conflict, including the Pakistan army, examine the implications of a continuing stalemate, and look at theories that explain why this conflict persists, and strategies that might avert a larger conflict or, improbably, move the two states towards normalization. The seminar will feature speeches by *Stephen P. Cohen*, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, USA; Professor *Anthony D'Costa*, Copenhagen Business School; and *Mona K. Sheikh*, Postdoc, DIIS. [More information and registration.](#)

- CBS launches volume on Transformation and Development in India and China

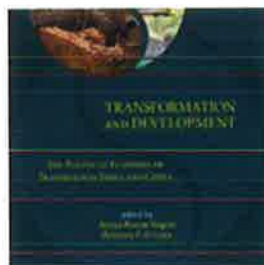


The Asia Research Centre at Copenhagen Business School (CBS) invites to the launch of "*Transformation and Development: The Political Economy of*



Transition in India and China" (Oxford University Press), a volume of essays edited by Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Anthony P. D'Costa.

In this volume, more than a dozen leading political economists share their expertise to provide a nuanced and critical appreciation of the process of Transformation and Development in the two largest and economically fast growing nations. Both countries are contributing to the realignment of the world economy at a time when advanced capitalist countries are reeling under a severe financial crisis. Yet both India and China in the process of transition are characterized by deep rural poverty, unprecedented forms of inequality and social and economic imbalances, excessive reliance on volatile export markets, brutal land grabs, and forms of 'crony' capitalism. [More information.](#)



The book launch takes place on Tuesday 19 February 2013, 15.00–18.00. Venue: Room Ks54, Copenhagen Business School, Kilevej 14, Frederiksberg (closest metro station is Fasanvej). The event is free of charge, but registration is required. [More information about the book launch.](#)

• Copenhagen conference on Speculation in India

A three-day conference on *"Speculation in India: Imaginaries of Indian economies"* will be held in Copenhagen 28 February – 2 March 2013. Scholars of disciplines such as Anthropology, History, Sociology, Indology and Economics working with India, are invited to participate to present research on speculative practices and the dealing with uncertainty, in the present and past. The conference is being organized by Dr. Stine Simonsen Puri at the Center for Comparative Cultural Studies at University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with the Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies. The keynote speaker will be Arjun Appadurai, Goddard Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University, USA.



Along with the narrative of the growth of Indian economy there is It focuses on an increasing amount of speculation in India, addressing both aspects of speculation, namely speculation as a way of dealing with the uncertainty of the future through economic risk-taking, and speculation, which concerns information gathering and imaginaries which are formative of time. The interrelationship between the two sides of speculation is captured in the relationship between economy and the production of knowledge.

Despite the title, the seminar is however not restricted to studies on practices of trading, hedging or wagering manifested in for example the futures markets of stock exchanges. Rather, what is in focus are the imaginaries of the uncertain future, and the practices and devices used to attempting at calculating and taking advantage of the future. Whereas the focus is on the economic drive in the speculative practices, of as much interest are the social, cultural, moral and existential scales through which we can understand different aspects of speculations. [Full information.](#)

• Norrköping workshop on Indo-European ICT flows and networks

An Indo-Swedish research workshop on *"Reverse and intensified globalisation – the case of ICT. Flows and networks of trade, FDI, skilled labour, students, knowledge and ideas from India to regions in Europe"* will be held in Norrköping, Sweden, on 6–7 May 2013. The theme for this workshop is inspired by research debates challenging what may be summarised as the school book image of globalisation and international division of labour between the 'Global North' and 'Global South' in a given



hierarchical order. The workshop is organised by the [Centre for Municipal Studies](#), Linköping University, Campus Norrköping in collaboration with the departments of Computer and Systems Sciences, and Human Geography, Stockholm University; and the International Institute of Information Technology (IITB) in Bangalore, India.

The Norrköping workshop will be followed up with another workshop to be held in India in November 2013. The research workshops will also be followed up with seminars with actors outside the academy (including companies, trade organisation and politicians and other organisations with interest in relations of ICT activities between India and Europe). Deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday 8th March 2013. [Full information about the Norrköping workshop.](#)

• **Caste in focus for University of Oslo's 5th Annual Contemporary India Seminar**

University of Oslo hosts its 5th Annual Contemporary India Seminar, "*Caste Today*", on Thursday 12 September



2013. This year's seminar is organised by Geir Heierstad, Kenneth Bo Nielsen and Uday Chandra with support from the Department for Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS); the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM); the Network for Asian Studies; and the Nordic Forum for South Asia (NoFSA).

The reason for choosing Caste as the seminar theme is the fact that once being a staple of Indian sociological and political analysis, caste has today been curiously marginal in recent academic discourses on India. The contemporary marginality of caste owes undoubtedly to the opening up of new areas of study concerning gender, neoliberalism, conflict, development and more. Yet caste continues to be a significant force in Indian society and politics, taking on new guises even as older pervasive hierarchies continue to seep into the present. To interrogate caste in contemporary India in its many forms and aspects, this seminar invites papers from scholars working on this subject across disciplines. Participants are encouraged to address the contemporary workings of caste, and the practices and ideas associated with it, from an empirical point of departure. Contributions from younger scholars are particularly welcomed. As are papers that deal with the significance of caste in parts of India such as West Bengal, where caste hierarchies are generally seen as 'weak'; or among social strata where the influence of caste is believed to be on the wane or subject to important transformations.

Deadline for abstract submission is 1 May 2013. [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

• **London conference on Space and Spatiality in South Asia**



An international, interdisciplinary conference on "*Space and Spatiality in South Asia*" will be held at The British Academy in London 7–8 February 2013. It

is being convened by Professor Clare Anderson (*photo*), School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester, UK. Venue: British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London.



The 'spatial turn' is now well established across the academic disciplines, with historians, anthropologists, political scientists and geographers exploring how concepts of space and scale – and their interconnections – might inform our understanding of a range of cultural and social formations. The conference will showcase South Asian Studies scholarship in this cutting edge research area, and help us to think about what constitutes "South Asian Studies" as a field of enquiry. Speakers will explore the significance of the 'spatial turn' for South Asian Studies; work through, across and potentially beyond academic disciplines as well as geographical borders. The conference will address questions such as: what can a focus on space and spatiality illuminate in the South Asian context? What does it reveal about South Asia as a bounded, geographical unit? How does it help us to think about the value of South Asian Studies?

Sessions will include: • Borders & Border Making; • Modernism, Architecture & Urban Space; • Islands, Forests and Colonial Spaces: the Andaman Islands; • Space & Scale in Rural, Everyday & Religious Life; • Islands, Bays & Ports; and a keynote lecture on 'Space and Place in British Imperial History Writing' by Professor Alan Lester.

This event is the second part of a series of events interrogating the relevance and

importance of South Asian Studies in the UK, and assessing the state of, and future prospects for, South Asian Studies. The event is free to attend, but registration is required, please RSVP to internationalpolicy@britac.ac.uk in order to reserve a place.

• **Sikholars 2013 conference on Sikh and Punjab studies to be held at Stanford**

The Sikholars Conference on Sikh and Punjab Studies 2013 will be held at Stanford University in California, USA, 16–17 February 2013. The conference is sponsored by the [Center for South Asia at Stanford University](#) and the [Jakara Movement](#).



For the past four years, the Jakara Movement has created a forum for budding scholars and researchers, working on various projects Sikh, to come together, share, and challenge each one another. The previous Sikholars conferences has attracted young scholars from over three continents and twenty-five universities. With topics ranging from Khalistan to Unix Coding, from sex-selective abortion to diasporic literature, from Nihangs in the court of Ranjit Singh to the North American bhangra circuit, from Sikh sculpture and architecture to representations of masculinity in Punjabi films, the widest possible range of those pursuing graduate studies on Sikh-related topics is encouraged. While all topics are welcomed and panels will be formed around their various themes, there will be two panels for special consideration. The *Challenge of Caste Panel* will explore the issue of caste amongst Sikh populations: From ethnography to sociology, from internet studies to musicology, from history to anthropology, any number of approaches to the question of caste, whether located in South Asia or the diaspora are welcomed. Due to the widespread interest and demand from attendees, there will also be a special panel devoted to technological entrepreneurship. This *Technology and Entrepreneurship Panel* will be limited to three panelists for this inaugural year. Abstracts should be submitted before 15 December 2012. [More information.](#)

• **New Delhi conference on Literature and Marginality**



The [School of Humanities at the Indira Gandhi National Open University \(IGNOU\)](#) in New Delhi, India, organises an international conference on "*Literature and*

Marginality: Comparative Perspectives in African American Australian and Indian Dalit Literature" on 20–22 February 2013.



The notion of marginality is generally employed to interpret and analyse socio-cultural, political and economic spheres, where disadvantaged people struggle to gain access to resources, and equal participation in social life. The superstructures of race in Africa, Australia, USA and caste in India inform, deform, and complicate the identities of the marginalized along lines of gender, class, and family structure.

The purpose of this bilingual (Hindi and English) conference is to contextualize marginality in an Inter-disciplinary framework with reference to the past and with its possible effects in the future and also provide a comparative platform of literary study between Dalit, African, Australian and American discourses. Although the chief concern will be to review literature on marginality and figure out the points of coming together and departure in terms of marginalized writings, scholarly contributions from every domain are invited so that the inter- or multi-disciplinary approach can authenticate the main theme. Deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 January 2013. [More information.](#)

• **US workshop on Energy History in Asia**

The Energy History Project at the Joint Center for History and Economics is organising a workshop on "*Energy History in*

Energy History Project

Joint Center for History and Economics
Harvard Center for the Environment

Asia", on February 21–22, 2013 at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The meeting is part of an ongoing series of events on the global and comparative history of energy.

The workshop will reexamine the history of Asia



from the perspective of what might be called the "new history of energy", an approach in the making that builds on earlier research on energy history and energy policy, in order to better account for the particular characteristics and uses of different energy sources, from fossil fuels to renewable alternatives to human and animal labor. The workshop will place energy at the center of inquiry in Asian history, and will ask how energy production and consumption interacted with larger social and environmental processes. It will also explore how a focus on energy makes it possible to reconsider



well-known narratives within national and regional histories. How, for example, might the Great Game in Central Asia, the Vietnam War, Indian Independence, or the Great Leap Forward in China look when viewed from the perspective of energy? The notion of "energy" is defined broadly and the organisers welcome proposals related to Asia — also defined broadly — from across disciplines and specializations. Much of the published research in energy history has come out of studies of North America and Europe. Narratives of this sort have, however, just begun to be written for Asia. The organisers seek to bring together historians of Central, South, Southeast, and East Asia who are working on projects that speak to the concerns of this new field. The workshop opens in the afternoon on February 21 with a keynote talk by John McNeill, University Professor, Georgetown University, and will proceed into a full day of paper presentations. [More information.](#)

• Islamabad conference on Problematics of Qur'an Translations in the Subcontinent

An International Conference on Problematics of Qur'an Translations in the Sub-Continent will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, 26–28 February 2013.

It is being organised by the [Islamic Research Institute \(IRI\)](#) at the International Islamic University in Islamabad and its departments of Translation and Interpretation, Faculty of Arabic; and Tafseer & Quranic Sciences, Faculty of Islamic Studies. Abstracts should be submitted before 5 July 2012. Translation of the Quran has been a challenging task from its very inception. The challenge originates in the peculiar linguistic and stylistic features of Quranic language which requires contextual and extra-contextual considerations. Hence efforts to translate Quran pose numerous theological, linguistic & legal questions and problems that need to be carefully studied & analyzed keeping in view the Quranic sciences and various translation theories & approaches such as Philological, Communicative, Socio-semiotic & Hermeneutics. The region of the sub-continent has distinctive place in terms of very early attempts & multiplicity of languages to which the text of Quran is translated. [More information.](#)



• New York Graduate Conference on the notion of Paradigm

The Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies (MESEAS) at Columbia University in New York, USA, holds its annual conference for graduate students 28 February – 1 March 2013. The 2013 MESAAS Graduate Conference will focus on "*Paradigmatic Conflict and Crisis: A Graduate Student*



Conference on the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa", focusing on the notion of paradigm, a frequently used and studied concept in the humanities and social sciences, and invites students to share their successes, challenges and unanswered questions relating to the employment, reliance upon and analysis of this concept. Abstracts should be submitted before 15 January 2013. [Read more.](#)

• Brussels seminar on Higher Education in India

The Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) organises a seminar on "*Higher Education in India. Recent Developments*



and Relations with Europe" in Brussels, Belgium on Thursday



14 March 2013. ACA is a dynamic think tank in the area of international cooperation in higher education. Its goal is to promote innovation and internationalisation of European higher education while maintaining a global outreach. ACA's activities include research and analyses, evaluations, consultancy for private and public bodies, advocacy, publications, and much more. The Academic Cooperation Association is a not-for-profit pan-European network of major organisations responsible in their countries for the promotion of internationalisation in education and training. The Swedish Institute represents Sweden.

The seminar will focus on the present state of Indian higher education, from the prestigious IITs and IIEs to run-of-the mill Indian tertiary institutions. It will also look at approaches to and examples of cooperation in the tertiary sector between India and the European Union. Invited speakers include Pawan Agarwal, Planning Commission, Government of India, who will talk about "Indian higher education. The state of play and future prospects"; and Ruth Kattumuri, India Observatory, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, who will talk about "Partnerships with Indian universities: how to start and run them". [More information.](#)

• New Jersey Conference on the Study of Religions of India

The Conference on the Study of Religions of India (CSRI) will hold its Annual Meeting at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, USA, 27 – 30 June 2013. The conference theme is *"Not Quite Divine: Co-stars and Supporting Casts in South Asian Religions"* and the deadline for submission of abstract proposals is March 1, 2013.

Possible topics related to the conference theme include investigations of a range of demi-deities, saints, spirits, ghosts, and demons. Papers may analyze near divine entities as described, invoked, and/or experienced in oral and textual narrative; artistic, musical, and theatrical expression; and ritual, mystical, and possession practice. Participants might also examine debates regarding the divine natures of saintly humans or the processes of apotheosis involving – but not limited to – human heroes, movie stars, and topographical features. CSRI is a forum of exchange for scholars engaged in the academic study of the religious traditions of India in both native and diasporic contexts. It provides scholars a leisurely, collegial environment in which to present their work. Emphasis will be placed on informality among peers. Committed to critical and creative inquiry, the conference is not an advocacy forum for the religions of India and does not endorse or proscribe a particular point of view. [More information.](#)



• New Delhi conference on Violence in Indian History

The [Archive India Institute](#) in New Delhi, India, hosts its Second Annual International Conference on *"Violence in Indian History"* on 1 November 2013. The conference themes will be Political



Authority and Violence; Violence in Religion and Religion in Violence; Violence in Caste and Caste in Violence; Violence in Gender and Gender In Violence; Representation of Violence in Literature and Performance; and Nationalism, Modernity and Violence. Deadline to submit abstract proposals is 15 March 2013. [More information.](#)

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

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

[South Asia related culture in Scandinavia](#)

• Great South Asian films at 36th Göteborg International Film Festival

South Asia has been quite well represented at the 36th Göteborg International Film Festival (GIFF), this year held from 25 January till 4 February 2013. Several feature films



from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were screened. Besides, a number of highly interesting documentary films on Afghanistan were included in the extensive programme, and also a documentary from Nepal. SASNET's Lars Eklund saw some of the highlights among the South Asian films. One of them was Mira Nair's latest film, *"The Reluctant Fundamentalist"*, based on Mohsin Hamid's novel with the same name. It is an extraordinary joint Indian/Pakistani/US film production.



He was also much impressed by *"Filmistaan"*, a highly interesting comedy about an Indian film worker who accidentally is kidnapped by Taliban and brought over to Pakistan, where he however develops strong friendly links with the common village people. The film has a message that people on both sides the partition border are same, they sing the same songs, and enjoy the same Bollywood/Lollywood movies.

Among the many excellent documentaries, *"No Burqas Behind Bars"* stands out as a fascinating Swedish production by Nima Sarvestani on women's situation in Afghani prisons, which is less horrifying than one could expect. The prison actually provides a secure zone away from violent husbands from whom they have run away (and for that crime they have received long prison terms). [Read more about the 36th Göteborg International Film Festival.](#)

• Himal Southasian resurrects as a quarterly book magazine

From January 2013, the Kathmandu based magazine Himal Southasian resumes publication in a hard-copy form after a gap of more than one year. This eminent pan-Southasian magazine is however transformed from a monthly magazine to a book-format quarterly. The editor, Kanak Mani Dixit, promises that Himal Southasian will continue its commitment to the long-form journalism that Himal has stayed with over the last quarter century. The content of Himal Quarterly will remain largely the same as the earlier monthly, but it will be more theme-based. Independent and more immediate pieces and commentaries will migrate to Himal Online at www.himalmag.com.

The re-launch of Himal as a quarterly will happen in New Delhi on 24 January, with historian Romila Thapar doing the honours. The cover theme of the inaugural quarterly – titled "Are we sure about India?" – looks at the challenges India the nation-state faces six-and-half decades after its making. India is the region's largest country and dominant presence. Only an India at ease with itself, its identity, and its calling can provide sustenance and comfort to its own people, and to the people of Southasia as a whole.

These and other issues are addressed by contributors, who include historian Romila Thapar, human-rights lawyer Nandita Haksar, Northeast scholar Sanjib Baruah, and civil-rights activist Sumanta Banerjee. Samira Khan writes about her diminished identity in the wake of Mumbai's anti-Muslim riots; Madhushree Mukherjee critiques the dominant model of 'development'; Shivam Vij contests the narrow nationalisms that undermine India and Pakistan. Prashanta Tripura writes on becoming Bangladeshi; Yameen Rasheed on the relationship between Islam and politics in the Maldives; and I P Adhikari on electoral practice in Bhutan's fledgling democracy. The inaugural Himal Quarterly also includes Gopalkrishna Gandhi's lecture on "Leadership in Southasia", delivered on the occasion of Himal's 25th anniversary.

[Full 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

• New book on Medical Encounters in British India

A volume on *"Medical Encounters in British India"* has been released by the Oxford University Press. It is edited by Professor Deepak Kumar, History of Science and Education, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi; and Raj Sekhar Basu, Associate Professor at the Department of History, University of Calcutta – and currently ICCR Indian Visiting Professor at the University of Vilnius.

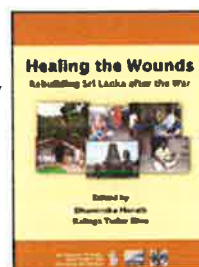
The volume explores the nature of interactions between the East and the West in the field of medicine. It brings into focus conditions and historical processes through which there was an interaction between the social and medical domains, particularly under the rubric of colonialism. It discusses India's medical tradition and the challenges it faced when modern medical system entered the country; the exchange of knowledge between India and the west; and the influence of local medicinal knowledge on its colonial counterpart. The exchange of ideas and that of tradition was not a simple journey but rather a long and tortuous trajectory which was characterized by both assimilation as well as initiative which sought to differentiate one set of ideas from another. The level of interaction was seldom smooth and it was often ridden with the languages of dominance and hegemony. Through specific examples and case studies, the book also analyses various ailments and the changing medical domain from the point of view of the existing social norms/conditions. [More information.](#)



• New book on healing wounds after the war in Sri Lanka

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka (ICES) announces the publication of a new book entitled *"Healing the Wounds - Rebuilding Sri Lanka after the War"*. The book is edited by Dr. Dhammika Herath at the [Division of Peace and Development Research \(PADRIGU\), School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University](#), and Kalinga Tudor Silva, Professor of Sociology at the University of Peradeniya.

Rebuilding the war-ravaged communities in Sri Lanka and healing the conflict survivors who continue to suffer from the wounds of the war present a major challenge for Sri Lankan society as it embarks on post-war reconstruction. While considerable progress has already been made regarding resettlements of IDPs and rebuilding physical infrastructure, corresponding efforts to rebuild the communities and heal the social and emotional wounds of the war have been lacking. Based on research conducted among the affected populations, this volume makes a strong case for addressing the root causes of the war and rebuilding the war-torn communities with a view of achieving demilitarization, sustainable peace and human development. [See release flyer.](#)



• Swedish departments where research on South Asia is going on

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

- ‡ [Centre for Municipal Studies, Linköping University, Campus Norrköping](#)

Constantly added to the list of research environments at Swedish universities, presented by SASNET. The full list now includes nearly 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/webmaster
SASNET/Swedish South Asian Studies Network

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

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

The network is financed by Lund University.

Postal address: SASNET – Swedish South Asian Studies Network,
Scheelevägen 15 D, SE-223 70 Lund, Sweden

Visiting address: Ideon Research Park, House Alpha 1 (first floor, room no. 2040), in the premises of the Centre for East and South East Asian Studies at Lund University (ACE).

Phone: + 46 46 222 73 40

E-mail: sasnet@sasnet.lu.se

Web site: <http://www.sasnet.lu.se>

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending an email to sasnet@sasnet.lu.se!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next > last »



SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network/Lund University

Address: Scheelevägen 15 D, SE 223 70 Lund, Sweden

Phone: +46 46 222 73 40

Webmaster: Lars Eklund

 Follow SASNET on Facebook!



