

Nordic South Asia Network

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NORDIC SOUTH ASIA NETWORK

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Research Community News

• PhD thesis on Subaltern Urbanization and Census Towns in West Bengal

Srilata Sircar from the Department of Human Geography, Lund University, defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Between the Highway and the Red Dirt Track: Subaltern Urbanization and Census Towns in India" on Friday 9 December 2016. Venue: Världen, Geocentrum 1, Sölvegatan 10, Lörd. The faculty opponent was Tariq Jazeel, Reader at the Dept. of Geography, University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. Sircar has been supervised at the department by Prof. Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt. Abstract: In the 2011 census of India, more than 2500 settlements have been newly inducted into the category of 'census towns' – the lowest size-class of urban settlements in India. This is a staggering figure in light of the observation that a comparable number constituted the total number of all urban settlements recorded since 1900. Furthermore, it has been revealed through aerial images, that a vast majority of these new census towns are situated away from million-plus metropolitan areas and are parts of smaller settlement agglomerations. This geographical phenomenon of small-town based urbanization independent of state planning has been termed subaltern urbanization. The study was conducted in West Bengal – the state with the highest share of new census towns. The fieldwork was carried out in two towns in the south-western districts of West Medinipur (Garbeta town) and Bankura (Jhantipahari town). Read more...



• Tribhuvan University representatives visited Lund University

On Tuesday 6 September 2016, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Director, International Office, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, made a courtesy visit to Lund University, along with Hari Maya Sharma, Lecturer at Tribhuvan University and also a PhD Student connected to Aarhus University, Denmark. The visit was made in connection with a week-long stay in Denmark. Dr. Bhandari is in charge of the different collaboration programmes and MoUs that TU has with foreign universities, including several Danish universities, especially Aarhus, Aalborg and Roskilde.



Lars Eklund, Hari Maya Sharma, Bal Mukunda Bhandari and Elisabeth Axell.

In Lund Bhandari and Sharma met with Elisabeth Axell, Regional Coordinator for South and Central Asia at the Division for External Relations, Strategic Partnerships and Networks, Lund University, and SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund, both old acquaintances of Bhandari, who was involved in the 2012 Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Asia Regional mobility programme EMEA coordinated by Lund University (with TU being a partner university). More information about EMEA and other South Asia related Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programmes.

Lars also met Bhandari during an official SASNET visit to Tribhuvan University in 2012. Read more about the Kathmandu visit.

While at Lund University, a meeting was also held with Associate senior lecturer Henrik Davidsson at the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, discussing a Capacity Building project involving Tribhuvan University.

The current Danish-Nepalese collaboration projects are both partly funded by the Danish development assistance agency Danida. One project, MAGART, involves besides three Danish universities and Tribhuvan also one university in Kenya and one in Uganda.

A second project is The Platform for Stability, Democracy & Rights (PSDR). It has as its goal to strengthen human and institutional capacity in partner universities in line with the overall objectives of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) initiative, and with a specific focus on academic focus areas that can feed into three of the priorities identified in the newly revised strategy for Denmark's development cooperation, namely: 1) Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights; 2) Gender Equality; and 3) Stability and Fragility.

In Nepal, the Platform has identified three units as initial entry points for collaboration, namely the multi-disciplinary research institute Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) at TU, and two constituent campuses located in the Western Development Region, namely the small Gorkha Campus and the larger Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. [More information about the project.](#)

• SASNET board meeting approved organisational changes

On Monday 10 October 2016, the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) held its final board meeting as an autonomous unit of Lund University. On 1 January 2017, an organizational change took place, and SASNET merged with the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), and became a subdivision of CMES.

The focus of SASNET henceforth will be on South Asia related research and teaching at Lund University. The members of the board approved the new organisation, but added that they hope that SASNET's brand continues to be independent and suggested that a reference group should be appointed with representatives from several faculties. The Board also emphasized the importance of SASNET's national network function, and that it somehow may survive. SASNET should also be active in the upcoming new Asia strategy at Lund University.

Both Director Anna Lindberg and Deputy Director Lars Eklund have retired, Anna from 1 November 2016, and Lars from 1 January 2017. They were warmly thanked for their many years in SASNET service - Anna since 2007 and Lars since the launch of the network in January 2001. Dr. Andreas Johansson now takes over the chair position, and the board agreed to let Andreas become Acting Director (*ställföreträdande förreståndare*) already from 1 November. Two young post-doc researchers will also be employed as of January 1, 2017, on one-year project positions with a focus to seek external funding. Since SASNET merges with CMES, this meeting was also the final one for the board that has been in charge of business since 2013 ([information about SASNET's board](#)). From January 2017, the board of CMES takes over the responsibility.

[Read the verified Minutes from the October 2016 meeting](#) (In Swedish only).



Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund

• Forte announces research project grants in the field of ageing and health



In collaboration with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) has announced a joint call for collaborative research projects in the field of ageing and health. The call is open for joint proposals from research teams based in India and Sweden. The call will stimulate interdisciplinary, innovative, close to practice research in the field of ageing and health. Proposals may address one of the two themes: innovative and assistive technology studies or models of homebased care. Projects should be of 2-3 years duration and it is anticipated that a maximum of 4 research projects will be funded. The programme is an outcome of an MoU signed during President Pranab Mukherjee's official visit to Sweden in 2015.



Ewa Stålldal, Director General of Forte, along with Indian Ambassador Banashri Bose Harrison sign the MoU on 1 July 2015. Behind them Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Proposals must include both Swedish and Indian Principal Investigators. Sweden-based principal investigators must hold a PhD and be a scientist at a Swedish university, higher education institute (HEI) or at another research organisation that has been approved as an administrative organisation by Forte. India-based principal investigators must be working in a permanent position in an Indian medical college, research institute or university. Sweden-based principal investigators may apply for a maximum of 3 MSEK for the entire project duration. India-based principal investigators may apply for a maximum of 70 lakhs for the entire project duration. Deadline for applications is 17 January 2017. Full information.

• Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award to Shantiniketan researcher

Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul, Head, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India, has been conferred Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award with Medal for his outstanding achievement in individual contribution for National Economic and Social Development. The award was presented to him in a function held in the Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club of India, New Delhi on September 24, 2016. Dr. Paul is a Life Member of Indian Adult Education Association and the Vice President of the Association for World Education (AWE) – An International NGO with the consultative status of the United Nations. He is also closely associated SASNET. Dr. Paul has vast experience in the field of Rural and Community Development and actively engaged in Teaching, Research, Extension and Field Outreach activities. Dr. Paul has published nearly 100 research papers in reputed National and International Journals and also published 7 books in different Social Science issues.



• Researcher in the field of Media and Public Spheres wanted in Göttingen



The Centre for Modern Indian Studies at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is looking to fill the position of a Researcher (PhD or postdoctoral) working in the 'Media and Public Spheres' Research Cluster. This position should be filled by 15 January 2017. The position is offered within the framework of the DFG Priority Program "Proper Times of the Aesthetic. Time and Representation in Polychronic Modernity." [More information on the Priority Programme.](#) In addition to working on a research project (working title: "Religious times, media genres, and their technical execution: An ethnographic investigation of audiovisual media practices among Shi'ites in Hyderabad") the position's duties include participation in the interdisciplinary research cluster "Media and Public Spheres" at CeMIS. [More information on CeMIS.](#)

The successful candidate will hold a highly qualified PhD or M.A. or M.Phil degree in anthropology, sociology, South Asian studies or related disciplines. Knowledge of Urdu/Hindustani is an advantage. As many activities in the overall DFG priority program will be conducted in German, a willingness to acquire a working knowledge of the language is also expected. This position is designed to foster young researchers and scientists and gives the successful applicant the opportunity to pursue a doctoral or post-doctoral degree. Full information.

• **Copenhagen thesis on Sufi Muslims in Lahore**



On Friday 4 November 2016, at 14.00, Ida Sofie Matzen from the Institute of Anthropology at University of Copenhagen defended her PhD dissertation project entitled "Extremists of Love: Cosmological Activism among Sufi Muslims in Contemporary Lahore, Pakistan". Venue: Center for Sundhed og Samfund, Institut for Antropologi, Øster Farimagsgade 5, room 1.1.18. The evaluation committee consisted of Professor Heiko Henkel, Institut for Antropologi (chair person); Professor Nils Ole Bubandt,



Aarhus University; and Associate Professor Naveeda Khan, Department of Anthropology, The John Hopkins University, USA.

This thesis concerns the multiple political forms of Sufi Islam in Pakistan. Although scholars and locals have often associated Sufism with spiritual and folkloristic – and hence overtly apolitical – performances in and around shrines, the thesis explores how Sufi cosmological concepts and practices also amount to more or less explicit forms of political activities and visions. In this sense, the thesis is not only a study of how Sufism is interwoven with the formal politics of state, political parties, and official government. It is also – and primarily – a study of Sufism's inherent political potential, of Sufi politics in less visible yet notable and multifarious instantiations within as well as beyond the Pakistani state.

Based on twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork carried out between 2009 and 2012 among Sufi followers in and around Lahore, Matzen demonstrates that a focus on the multiple political forms of Sufi Islam is as relevant as ever. As Sufi shrines have been repeatedly targeted by attacks from terrorist groups, Sufis have concurrently been invoked by the Pakistani government and American think tanks as a bulwark against Islamist extremism. This thesis contributes to an understanding of an alternative – and in a distinctly non-violent sense, extremist – political culture in Pakistan. [Read more...](#)

• **Oslo University seminar connected to release of five new books on India**

On 3 November 2016, the Network for Asian studies (Asianetverket) at University of Oslo organised an interesting seminar combined with a book launch event for five recently published books on India. In the seminar, entitled "Modi and the Politics of Progress", the authors



and editors participated and based on their respective books they discussed current issues of caste, democracy, social movements, industrialisation and nationalism. The aim was search for an answer to the questions: What have Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government achieved so far, and where are they heading? The researchers and their books:

- Uday Chandra (Georgetown University, Qatar), editor of "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016) and "Staking Claims" (Oxford University Press)
- Geir Heisterstad (Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research), editor of "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016) and "India's Democracies" (Universitetsforlaget, 2016)
- Lars Tore Flåtten (University of Oslo), author of "Hindu Nationalism, History and Identity in India" (Routledge, 2016)
- Kenneth Bo Nielsen (Asianetverket), editor of "Industrialising Rural India" (Routledge, 2016) and "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016)
- Patrik Oskarsson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), editor of "Industrialising Rural India" (Routledge, 2016)

- Arild Engelsen Ruud (University of Oslo), editor of "India's Democracies" (Universitetsforlaget, 2016)
The seminar was held at the Centre for Development and Environment (SUM), University of Oslo. [More information.](#)

• **Copenhagen seminar on Talking with the Pakistani Taliban**



Dr. Mona Kanwal Sheikh from the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) held an Asia Dynamics lecture at University of Copenhagen on Friday 11 November 2016, 10.00-12.00. She spoke about "Talking with the Pakistani Taliban".

The question of whether governments should engage with talks with terrorist groups is at the center of international controversy due to attempts to negotiate with the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In spite of heavy criticism, both the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been reaching out to elements of the Taliban movements in Pakistan or Afghanistan, albeit with distinct agendas. This talk will focus on the case of Pakistan and draw out the counterinsurgency rationale behind talks with insurgent groups as



well as the potential conflict de-escalating effects of meeting with the militants. Sheikh will also draw on her own experiences from meeting militants in Pakistan, and what she has learned from her interviews with Taliban activists and leaders.

Mona Kanwal Sheikh has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen, and has later been a visiting scholar at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies at University of California Santa Barbara and the Center for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley. She has recently published a book on the Pakistani Taliban movement ("Guardians of the Religious Mind of the Pakistani Taliban, Oxford University Press, 2016). [More information.](#)

• **Lars Eklund visited University of Chicago**

After attending the 45th South Asian Studies conference at Madison, Wisconsin, 21-23 October 2016, SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund did not return immediately to Sweden ([read his report from Madison](#)). Instead he travelled to the nearby metropolitan city of Chicago in order to visit the University of Chicago and its Center for South Asian Civilizations and Culture (SALC), located in the impressive and beautiful late 19th century building Foster Hall. The SALC Department offers graduate and undergraduate programs with a focus on the study of the textual traditions of South Asia and its languages as a basis for a fuller understanding of the civilizations of the Indian subcontinent and surrounding areas. He met Gary Tubb, Anupama and Guru Ramakrishnan Professor, Chair of the SALC Department (and a renowned Sanskrit scholar); Associate Professor Whitney Cox; Associate Professor Rochona Majumdar; and Assistant Professor Thibaut d'Hubert. [Read more...](#)



• **PhD thesis on Finnish business leader's India experiences**

Narashima Boopathi Sivasubramanian from the Department of Management at University of Vaasa, Finland, defends his doctoral dissertation entitled "Managing across cultures with Cultural Intelligence Quotient (CQ) - Study of Finnish business leaders experience in India", on Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.00. Vene: Auditorium Kurtén (C203, Terävöivi), University of Vaasa.

Sivasubramanian's doctoral thesis aims at testing the theory of Cultural Intelligence Quotient (CQ). Dissertation looks at CQ level of Finnish leaders who are leading business in India and investigates how CQ is used by them in overcoming cross-cultural challenges. Two years ago he received as a PhD student "The Best Paper" award at the International Conference on Global Business, Economics, Finance and Social Sciences which was held in Chennai, India. The paper was entitled "A detailed comparison of Finland and India through Hofstede & GLOBE study". [More information.](#)



• **Pakistani activist against bonded labour visited SASNET**

On Wednesday 23 November 2016, Liaqat Javed, Executive Director for the Backwards Rehabilitation and Improvement Commission Pakistan (BRIC), visited SASNET at Lund University. Javed had come to Lund – as part of a Sweden tour – on invitation from the regional outfit of ABF, Sweden's largest adult non-profit educational organisation and a collaboration partner of SASNET. His mission is to share his experiences from workers' rights among brick kiln workers in Pakistan. Being born in a family of bonded labour

information on the procurement of surgical instruments and the developments in Pakistan in a Swedwatch report from February 2015. [Go for it.](#)

conferences outside Scandinavia

• **Cambridge MUSA conference on Negotiating Technologies**



The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) at SOAS, University of London, UK, arranged a Workshop on Negotiating Technologies, 14-15 October 2016. The MUSA Workshop was organized in collaboration with CEIAS, Paris & the Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge, and was held at Trinity College, University of Cambridge.

One session was devoted to South Asian Muslims & the History of Science & Techniques. The narrative locating the birth of modern science in the European 'scientific revolution' of the 16th and 17th centuries has long been challenged. Many, like Joseph Needham on China or Seyyed Hossein Nasr on the Muslim world, have highlighted that other parts of the world were, at particular times in history, more advanced technologically than Western Europe. To disprove Western claims of superiority, the role of Muslims in the preservation of Greek knowledge or in mathematical and technological innovation is often contrasted to the situation in medieval Europe. What about South Asia? How have South Asian Muslims – whether erudite or illiterate, princely counsels or craftsmen – taken part in knowledge production, not as isolated inventors, but as persons both inscribed in a social setting and yet connected much beyond it? [More information.](#)

• **45th Annual University of Wisconsin-Madison Conference on South Asia**



The 45th Annual Madison Conference on South Asia was held 20-23 October 2016. This year's theme was DECAF. The conference, sponsored by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's, attracted over 750 scholars and specialists on South Asia, coming from countries all over the world and much of the United States. This year the Joseph W. Elder keynote lecture at the conference was given by Professor Radhika Coomaraswamy, former under-general secretary from Sri Lanka, and the 2016 Plenary Address speaker was Pankaj Butalia.



The Annual Conference on South Asia invites scholars, students, professionals, and anyone interested in research on the region to Madison, Wisconsin, for a four-day event featuring research panels and roundtables, lectures and addresses, film screenings, booksellers, association receptions, and other special presentations. This year, SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund participated in the Madison conference, also representing the European Association for South Asian Studies, EASAS, an organisation for which he serves as the Treasurer. Afterwards he spent four days in Chicago, visiting the University of Chicago. [More information.](#)

• **Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Young Scholars in Halle**

The Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Students and Young Scholars was held in Halle (Saale), Germany, 28-30 October 2016. It was being organised by the South Asia Seminar of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The aim of the conference was to provide an interdisciplinary venue for students and young scholars who focus on the Bengal regions in their studies. The conference committee consisted of Stefanie Beine, Carmen Brandt, Kirsten Hackenbroch, Ludwig Merker, Paul Rupchus, Franziska Strich, and Boris Wille. A large number of highly interesting papers were presented, among them two contributions by Scandinavia-based researchers, namely Tiyasha Sengupta from Syddansk Universitet in Odense, presenting a paper on "The Indian Bengali: Exploring Identity through a Critical Discourse Analytical Approach to Narayan Debanath's 'Bāṭul the Great'", and Isha Dubey from Aarhus University, presenting a paper on "Incipient Bengali Nationalism and Muhajirs in East Pakistan: 1948-1955". [Go for the full programme.](#)



• **Sanskrit workshop at the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville**

Dr. Rama Nath Sharma (Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii) presented a 5 day workshop on Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. This took place between 12-16th November 2016 in the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville, India. This was the 2nd year this workshop was held and the organisers extended an invitation not only for Sanskrit scholars but also for other researchers in the field of Linguistics, ComputerScience and many other disciplines. [More information.](#)

Registration: <http://www.dl.gtu/panini2016>

The India-China Corridor Spring School will be held in Guwahati, Assam, India, on 25-26 March 2017. The theme for the spring school will be "Modern Empires, Flows, Environments and Livelihoods", and it is jointly organised by Prof. Gunnar Cederlöf, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, the Linnaeus University, Sweden (lead faculty member); Prof. Arupjyoti Salkia, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; Dr. Mandy Sadan, Department of History, SOAS, University of London, UK; Prof. Em. Willem van Schendel,



Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Prof. Dan Smyer Yu, Director, Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies, Yunnan Minzu University, China; and Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Ashoka University, India. The Spring school is sponsored by IIT Guwahati, and the Swedish Research Council.

For the first time in three hundred years, India and China are rapidly emerging as global powers in a world economy gravitating from the Atlantic to the Asia-Pacific. Deep histories of interconnection have materialized via enormously varied ecologies and eco-zones, and a broad spectrum of politics across times of interaction, alliances, and warfare. Borders and boundaries have variably hardened, softened and moved, from the times of imperial Mughal, Manchu and British domination until the formation of the nation-states we know today. The transregional effects have not only cartographically reshaped the interconnected territories of the Himalayas, Northeast India, and the highlands of Southeast Asia. They have also engendered geopolitical perceptions of the eco-geological contiguities, and geo-economic alterations of traditional trade and religious networks between multiple nations and multi-centred ethnolinguistic societies. Deadline for the submission of applications was 10 November 2016. [Full information.](#)

Scandinavian conferences

NIAS conference on NORDIC Asian Studies in the 21st century

The Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen invited all Nordic colleagues in Asian studies for a conference entitled "NORDIC Asian studies in the 21st century - Stocktaking for the future" that was held 7-9 December 2016. The reason behind the conference is, according to NIAS Director Geir Helgesen, the paradox that even though the importance of Asia is fast growing and easy for all to observe, academics in the Nordic countries experience budget cuts, downgrading of Asian studies, sacking of colleagues, and difficulties in obtaining research funding. It is paradoxical, but it is happening. Moreover, it is happening while the interest in Asia for "the Nordic model" is growing.



Colleagues from the five Nordic countries are invited to inform about the current situation of Asian Studies in their country. Through this sharing effort, the aim is to map the actual situation in the region. A representative from one of the major Nordic research councils has also been invited in order to hear about their priorities and discuss possible new avenues in Asian Studies. The programme will consist of keynotes, panel debates, roundtables, informal discussions and networking. Colleagues who wanted to present a paper were invited to do so. Keynote speakers included Prof. Ummu Salma Bava from the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. [Full information about the NIAS conference.](#)

Stockholm seminar on Social Democracy and its implications for the Global South

The Forum for Asian Studies at Stockholm University organised an Open Seminar entitled "Reinventing Social Democracy - Implications for the Global South and Scandinavia" on Wednesday 5 October 2016, 18.00-20.00. Venue: Medelhavsmuseet, Fredsgatan 2, Stockholm. Among the speakers were Niraja G. Jayal (photo) from the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, India; Oile Törnquist, Oslo University; and the Economist Stefan de Vylder.



In an age of uneven development and growing inequality globally, this seminar discussed possibilities to reinvent a development model that combines democratic, economic development and social equality. The seminar brings together a number of noted scholars and practitioners to a dialogue on the findings of Törnquist and Harriss et al's pioneering book *Reinventing Social Democratic Development: Insights from Indian and Scandinavian Comparisons* (2016). Is social democracy an answer to development challenges in the Global South? What are the policy implications for the

Ms. Dea Busk Larsen, Masters student in Social Anthropology at Lund University; and Ms. Nashfa Hawwa, Masters student at the Environmental Management and Policy programme, also Lund University, have been selected by SASNET for a scholarship to be carried out in South Asia with the assistance of CREST, Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, in Kozhikode, Kerala, India. Dea will carry out her masters thesis work during early 2017, on a project entitled "Living Caste: Educated Rural Dalit Women's Lived Experiences in Urban South India", focusing on the informal sphere of young educated dalit women's lived experiences especially the aspect of migrating from rural to urban India. Dea has previously lived in the Indian states of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for 16 months in total.



Dea Busk Larsen and Nashfa Hawwa.

Nashfa has carried out her field work during the summer 2016. After a few weeks staying at CREST in Kozhikode, she has spent time in Male, the capital city of the Maldives, working on a project entitled "Establishing Deposit-Refund System in the Maldives - an ex-ante Evaluation". The project deals with the management of polyethylene-terephthalate (PET) plastic waste, a complex issue for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Maldives. This is because of the geographical complexity, small landmass, and lack of infrastructure and resources. Furthermore, changes from subsistence lifestyles to increased consumerism, increased imports, and population growth has escalated the number of PET bottles in the waste stream. While PET is deemed as the most optimal plastic for beverage bottles, and for recyclability, the Maldives lacks vital technical infrastructure to manage the PET waste in an environmentally sound manner. For her thesis, she seeks to conduct a research assessing the feasibility of implementing a deposit-refund system in the Maldives.

Call for news

Tea & Tabla - Indian Brunch concert in Malmö



Indian tabla player Abishek Mishra from Varanasi, currently on Europe tour performed in Malmö on Sunday 16 October 2016, at 12.00. Mishra is one of India's most promising tabla player and despite his young age played with several of the most prominent musicians in Indian classical music such as Shahid Parvez, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and brothers Rajan and Sajan Mishra. In September 2016, he appeared on one of India's biggest music festivals in Kolkata, a concert that was broadcast on television across India. He has an explosive and virtuoso playing style and to see him perform live is a real experience!

The concert was part of a brunch session at Blå Båten, Anna Lindhs plats in central Malmö, from 12 till 15, and besides Mishra, the Tagore Choir in Lund performed, and a delicious, home-cooked Indian buffet with vegetarian stews, grilled tandoori chicken and other goodies was served. To this steaming hot Indian chai tea and other beverages!

[More information.](#)

New and updated items

Lund University researchers analyses the Agrarian Change in India

Structural Transformation and Agrarian Change in India, by Prof. Göran Djurfeldt, and PhD candidate Srilata Sircar, both at Lund University. Routledge Studies in Development Economics, 2016.

The landlord and his emaciated labourer are symbolic of Indian agriculture. However, this relationship has now changed as large landowners have fallen from their superior position. This volume explores how this emblematic pair becoming a thing of the past. The two researchers investigate whether family labour farms are gaining prominence as a consequence of the structural transformation of the economy. They work alongside Weberian methodology of ideal types and develop different types of family farms; among them family labour farms that rely mainly on family workers, contrasted with capitalist farms that depend on hired labour. Agriculture is shrinking as a part of the total GDP at the same time as agricultural labour is shrinking as part of the total labour force. This book successfully criticizes popular narratives about Indian agricultural development as well as simplistic evolutionist, Marxist or neoclassical prognoses. It is of great importance to those who study development economics, development studies and South Asian economics. [Read more...](#)

Göran Djurfeldt is Professor in Sociology and a veteran development researcher who has worked extensively on India and sub-Saharan Africa. Srilata Sircar is based at the Dept. of Human Geography, and defended her PhD thesis on the issue of Social Transformation in Emerging Census Towns of West Bengal, India in early December 2016.



Subjects, Citizens and Law in North India

Subjects, Citizens and Law. Colonial and Independent India, edited by Professor Gunnar Cederlöf, Linnaeus University, Växjö; and Professor Sanjukta Das Gupta, Sapienza University of Rome. Routledge India 2017. This volume investigates how, where and when subjects and citizens come into being, assert themselves and exercise subjecthood or citizenship in the formation of modern India. It argues for the importance of understanding legal practice - how rights are performed in dispute and negotiation - from the parliament and courts to street corners and field sites. The essays in the book explore themes such as land law and rights, court procedure, freedom of speech, sex workers' mobilisation, refugee status, adivasi people and non-state actors, and bring together studies from across north India, spanning from early colonial to contemporary times. Representing scholarship in history, anthropology and political science that draws on wide-ranging field and archival research, the volume will immensely benefit scholars, students and researchers of development, history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and public policy. [More information.](#)



Best regards

Lars Eklund

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