



CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY
South Asia
Annual Report 2018-2019

About the Center

Mission

The Center for Contemporary South Asia (CCSA) promotes research, teaching and public engagement on key issues of modern South Asia in an interdisciplinary framework and in a historically and culturally grounded manner.

About

CCSA is based at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. The Center supports faculty, graduate and undergraduate research and teaching on the region and is home to the South Asian Studies concentration.

CCSA functions within the larger framework of the Watson Institute, which is seeking to define a new approach to regional studies for the 21st century. Anchored in the social sciences, this new approach is problem driven, comparative and multidisciplinary. Our multidisciplinary will include sustained interaction of social scientists with the humanities on the one hand and disciplines such as medicine and public health on the other.

Research & Programs

At this time, the Center's programmatic and research themes focus on inequalities, development, urbanization, democracy and pluralism & diversities.

Cover Image: Buddhist prayer flags in the Himalaya mountains, Annapurna Base Camp Area, in Nepal

Message from the Director

The Center for Contemporary South Asia completed its third year in 2018-19 at our new location in Stephen Robert '62 P'91 Hall, a major physical expansion of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs.

Over two semesters, weekly (and at times semiweekly) events showcased our unique multidisciplinary profile on campus, with talks from economists, artists and art historians, anthropologists, historians, film makers, philosophers and activists. Our programs covered the wide South Asia region. A recently launched South Asia in the World initiative provided seed grants for innovative courses, research and speaker series that encourage collaborations with Indian Ocean Studies, Silk Road Studies, African and Black Diaspora Studies.

The fall semester Jindal lectures were delivered by Menaka Guruswamy, the Supreme court advocate who led the charge in overturning India's colonial anti-sodomy law in the landmark decision of *Navtej Singh Jauhar v Union of India* delivered on September 6, 2018. The spring semester Jindal lectures were presented by the eminent historian and historiographer, Sanjay Subramanyam, under the title, *The Long Roots of Indian Capitalism: The Indian Ocean as a Framework*. Other program highlights were a teach in and discussion forum, Pakistan Elections Across Disciplines, and a screening and discussion of the film *Manto* with director Nandita Das.

Vazira Zamindar led the year-long seminar series Art History from the South with artists, curators, art historians, and historians to take on the visual turn in history, and the colonial and anticolonial history of institutions and practices of art. This series aligned with a Cogut Institute Collaborative Humanities graduate seminar co-taught by Zamindar and the distinguished Indian art historian, Tapati Guha-Thakurta.

The director of undergraduate studies, Sarah Besky took our undergraduate concentration to greater strengths this year with a growing number of concentrators and wide array of courses across humanities and the social sciences. We provided special



recognition to excellent undergraduate papers and theses, and four undergraduates won our summer fellowships for research or internship. Six graduate students were awarded fellowships for summer research and CCSA supported undergraduate and graduate led speaker series throughout the year.

We hosted two Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellows this year. Aruna Roy, one of India's most prominent activists—currently the President of the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW)—gave talks and participated in classroom discussions across campus, and worked on her book on the stakes of Indian democracy. Our other guest, the journalist Arijit Sen, developed his book project on Assam in the context of India's National Register of Citizens. The book will focus on families living on the shifting sandbars of the Brahmaputra and Beki rivers, and give attention to their helplessness as well as their resistance to being erased—expressed through different modes, including music and poetry.

We host two eminent Jindal speakers next year: Raghuram Rajan former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (2013-2016) and Mira Nair an award-winning director and cinematographer. Ashutosh Varshney returns next year as director with an exciting array of events and initiatives under his leadership.

Thanks to our vibrant CCSA community across campus. Your support and participation makes us who we are.

Leela Gandhi

Interim Director,

Center for Contemporary South Asia

John Hawkes Professor of the Humanities and English

OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series

To promote a serious discussion of politics, economics, social and cultural change in modern India, Sajjan and Sangita Jindal have endowed, in perpetuity, the OP Jindal Distinguished Lectures by major scholars and public figures.

Menaka Guruswamy FALL 2018

Menaka Guruswamy practices law before the Supreme Court of India. In her litigation practice in India, she focusses on large constitutional rights claims, and has successfully brought reform of the bureaucracy in the country, defended federal legislation that mandates that all private schools admit disadvantaged children and is amicus curiae appointed by the Supreme Court in a case concerning 1528 alleged extra-judicial killings by the military and security personnel. Most recently, she represented petitioners who challenged and successfully overturned India's 158 year sodomy law in the landmark decision of *Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India* delivered on September 6, 2018.

Dr. Guruswamy has practiced law in New York. She has advised the United Nations Development Fund, New York and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), New York and UNICEF South Sudan on various aspects of International Human Rights Law and has also supported the constitution-making process in Nepal.

Dr. Guruswamy read law as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University where she was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Law (D. Phil.) and as a

Gammon fellow for a Masters in Law at Harvard Law School. She has been Visiting Faculty at Yale Law School, Columbia Law School and New York University School of Law. Dr Guruswamy is also presently distinguished faculty at University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/Institute of Advanced Studies, Berlin for 2016-2017.

Her most recent publications include essays on Constitution-Making in South Asia, in *Handbook on Comparative Constitutional Law* (Edward Elgar, Forthcoming (2018) and 'Crafting Constitutional Values: An Essay on the Supreme Court of India', (*An Inquiry into the Existence Of Global Values*, Hart Publishing/Bloomsbury: (2015). She has written widely for newspapers including the *New York Times*, the *Indian Express* and *The Hindu* and is currently working on a book on South Asian Constitutionalism.



Featured above from left to right: Mary Anne Case, Teemu Ruskola, Menaka Guruswamy, Leela Gandhi

DECEMBER 4
The Jurisprudence of Freedom

Commentators:
Mary Ann Case, University of Chicago
Teemu Ruskola, Emory University

DECEMBER 5
*Choosing Between Destinies:
Designing Constitutional Institutions
in South Asia*



OP Jindal Distinguished Lecture Series

Sanjay Subramanyam Spring 2019

Sanjay Subrahmanyam is Distinguished Professor and Irving and Jean Stone Endowed Chair in Social Sciences, joined UCLA in 2004 from Oxford. Educated at the Delhi School of Economics, the first decade of his working career was spent (with brief interruptions in Philadelphia and Cambridge) teaching economic history and comparative economic development at the same institution, where he was named Professor of Economic History (1993-95). Thereafter, Subrahmanyam taught from 1995 to 2002 as Directeur d'études in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), where his position was on the economic and social history of early modern India and the Indian Ocean world. In 2002, Subrahmanyam was appointed as the first holder of the newly created Chair in Indian History and Culture at the University of Oxford, a position he held for two years.

After joining UCLA, Subrahmanyam served from 2005 to 2011 as founding Director of UCLA's Center for India and South Asia. He teaches courses on medieval and early modern South Asian and Indian Ocean history, the history of European expansion, the comparative history of early modern empires, and various aspects of world history. He continues to advise graduate students on Indian history, the history of the Iberian empires, and more generally on forms of "connected histories". Subrahmanyam was Joint Managing Editor of the *Indian Economic and Social History Review* for over a decade, besides serving on the boards of a number of other journals in the US,

UK, France, Portugal, and elsewhere. He was also one of the founding editors of the "South Asia Across the Disciplines (SAAD)" monograph series.

In 2013, Sanjay Subrahmanyam was elected to a Chair in Early Modern Global History at the Collège de France in Paris, and delivered a full series of lectures there over the year 2013-14. Since 2014 he continues to lecture as a long-term visiting professor, and has a regular media presence in France: TV interviews appear for example on MediaPart (May 2014), and on France Info (April 2015).

Sanjay Subrahmanyam's book *Europe's India: Words, People, Empires, 1500-1800*, appeared in 2017 from Harvard University Press, with a French translation in 2018. Another book, *Empires Between Islam and Christianity, 1500-1800*, has appeared in 2018 in the Indian edition and the US edition will appear soon.



Featured above from left to right: Sanjay Subramanyam, Shahzad Bashir, Manan Ahmed, and Seth Rockman

APRIL 23

*The Long Roots of Indian Capitalism:
The Indian Ocean as a Framework*

Commentators:

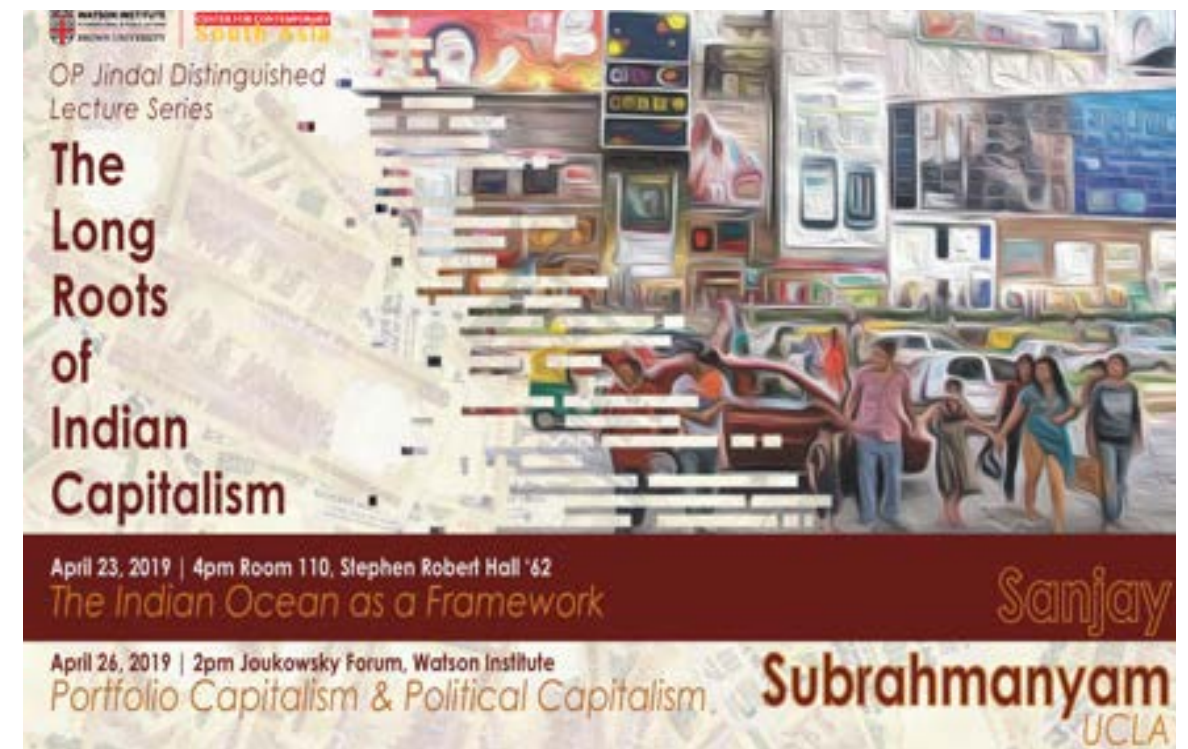
Manan Ahmed, Columbia University
Seth Rockman, Brown University

APRIL 26

*The Long Roots of Indian Capitalism:
Portfolio Capitalism and Political Capitalism*

Commentators:

Manu Goswami, New York University
Vazira Zamindar, Brown University



Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellowships

Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellowships enable major journalists, public figures and scholars working on India to undertake substantial projects while in residence at Brown. The fellowships are funded by a gift from Meera & Vikram Gandhi.

Spring 2019

In the spring of 2019, the Center hosted two Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellows: Arijit Sen and Aruna Roy.

While in residence at the Center from February to May, **Arijit Sen** made substantial progress on his book project on Assam in the context of India's National Register of Citizens.

At Brown in February and March, **Aruna Roy** generated dialog on Indian Democracy by giving two lectures, initiating discussion groups with students called charchas, and hosting a full day workshop titled, "Indian Democracy in Peril." The workshop gathered a core group of scholars to reflect on contemporary politics, governance and social change in India to look for answers to the question: Can real democracy in India be revived? Roy also produced a podcast, "Reflections on Fighting for Social Justice in India," on March 12.



Arijit Sen is a journalist, a large part of whose work is in India's northeast and the neighboring region. His current book project examines Assam in the context of India's National Register of Citizens. It investigates the lives of people who stare at possible statelessness, disenfranchisement and the threat of expulsion from what has been their homeland for generations. The book will focus on families living on the shifting sandbars of the Brahmaputra and Beki rivers, their helplessness as well as their resistance to being erased, resistance that is expressed through different modes including music and poetry. In 2018, Arijit worked on the Amnesty International India report on detention centres in Assam.

With Amnesty International's India office, Arijit has worked on communal violence in India with a specific focus on the riots in Muzaffarnagar. He worked on the team that created a tracker to document hate crimes against minorities in India. He has worked with the Rohingya in Bangladesh, and human rights defenders under threat in Manipur.

Before this, as a journalist, Arijit was based in India's northeast and is a three-time recipient of India's Ramnath Goenka Award in Journalism for his reporting from the region. His work includes a range of reports on the Naga conflict with interviews of different leaders of the militant movements; the Bodo-Muslim conflict in Assam;

the conflict in Manipur; the labour rights of tea plantation workers; the floods in Assam; coal mining in Meghalaya as well as reports from the Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim. His investigations on enforced disappearances and staged encounters in Manipur and a joint investigation on human trafficking in Assam received the News Television Award. Arijit has also written on the region for *TIME*, *Al Jazeera*, Oxford Analytica and the Women Under Siege Project.

Arijit earned his Masters in Human Rights Law from School of Oriental and African Studies on the Chevening Scholarship. He received the Gerda Henkel Fellowship from the Reuters Institute in Oxford University. He has collaborated with the Peace Research Institute in Oslo's Security in South Asia Project, and was a contributor to the book *India's Human Security: Lost Debates, Forgotten People, Intractable Challenges* (Routledge) in 2014. He was part of the SOAS International Human Rights Clinic working as a researcher with Child Soldiers' International in London for a report on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Yemen.

Meera & Vikram Gandhi Fellowships

Aruna Roy is one of India's most prominent activists. She was a civil servant from 1968 to 1975. In 1975 she resigned from the Indian Administrative Service to work with the rural poor in Rajasthan. Along with Nikhil Dey, Shankar Singh, and several others from the local community in Devdungri district, she collectively formed the MKSS Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (Organisation for the Empowerment of Workers and Peasants) in 1990. The MKSS played a pivotal role in drafting and advocating for the Right to Information Law which was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2005. She has also worked with campaigns for the access of the poor to constitutional rights for equality and justice: the Right to Work, Food Security and the Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties.

She worked as a member of India's National Advisory Council from 2004-06 and 2010-13. As member of the Council she played a crucial role in the passage of national legislations for the Right to Information and the Right to Employment law (MGNREGA) in 2005. The RTI is the first national legislation in which a peoples' campaign played such a significant role from enunciating the principles to drafting the law and over seeing it through parliament. Studies have shown that an estimated 8 million applications seeking information under this law are filed every year.

She is a prominent member of many democratic struggles and campaigns, and currently is the President of the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW). She was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2000, the Nani Palkiwala Award and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academia and Management in 2010, and listed as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by the *TIME Magazine* for 2011.

Aruna along with the MKSS Collective have recently published – *The RTI Story: Power to the People* - which tells the story of how ordinary people can come together and prevail against great odds, to make democracy more meaningful.

FEBRUARY 6

*Indian Democracy at Stake:
A Discussion with Aruna Roy*

FEBRUARY 26

*Charcha I: Diasporic Engagement
with South Asian Politics*

February 28

*Indian Democracy: The Role of Civil
Society and Social Movements in
Strengthening Democracy*

MARCH 12

*Reflections on the Fight for Social
Justice in India (podcast)*

MARCH 12

Charcha II: Indian Welfare State

MARCH 16

Indian Democracy at Stake: Workshop



Participants in Indian Democracy at Stake featured above from left to right (back row): Vrinda Narain, Ashutosh Varshney, Suchi Pande, Arif Hussen, Michael Levien, Patrick Heller, Rajesh Veeraghaven, Arijit Sen, Rajmohan Gandhi, Robert Jenkins. Front Row: Suraj Yengde, Archon Fung, Aruna Roy, Anindita Adhikari, Bhanu Joshi.



Roy engages with undergraduates in her charcha discussion series.



South Asia Seminar

This series of public lectures facilitates a convergence of figures from across the lines of academia, civil society, literature, public policy, and journalism to contribute to the discourse on contemporary South Asia.

FALL 2018

SEPTEMBER 21

Srimati Basu, UK College of Arts & Sciences
Looking through Marriage: Men's Rights Activists, Feminism and Vulnerability

OCTOBER 12

Ayesha Jalal, Tufts University
Can Muslims be Liberal? Insights from Colonial India

NOVEMBER 2

Elora Shehabuddin, Kings College London
Gender and Modernization in Cold War Pakistan: A Transnational History

NOVEMBER 8

Tapati Guha Thakurta, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta
A Goddess, a Chief Minister and a City: Reflections on a Festival-Mode of Populist Politics in Contemporary India

NOVEMBER 9

Alana Hunt, Artist
Cups of nun chai: A reading and discussion about Kashmir through an award-winning participatory art work and media intervention

NOVEMBER 30

Asma Abbas, Bard College
Raza Rumi Ahmad, Ithaca College
Sadia Abbas, Rutgers University
Sarah Khan, Yale University
Shahzad Bashir, Brown University
Pakistani Elections Across Disciplines

Pictured Below from Left to Right: Leela Gandhi, Shahzad Bashir, Sarah Khan, and Raza Rumi Ahmad



SPRING 2019

FEBRUARY 1

Roluapuia, Harvard University
The nation and its no(n)-violent history: Violence and counter-insurgency in Mizoram, Northeast India

FEBRUARY 8

Srinivas Reddy, Brown University
Poems of Empire: The Remarkable Reign of Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara (1509-1529)

FEBRUARY 15

Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley College
Making Financial Citizens? Gendered Livelihoods and Commercial Microfinance in Urban India

FEBRUARY 22

Sarah Khan, Yale University
Personal is Political: Gendered Preference Expression in Pakistan

MARCH 8

Finnian Moore-Gerety, Brown University
Between Sound and Silence in Early Yoga: Meditation on the Sacred Syllable 'OM' at the Moment of Death

MARCH 15

Jason Cons, University of Texas, Austin
Dakat Climates: Climate Change, Piracy, and the Politics of Capture in Bangladesh's Sundarbans

MARCH 19

Poulomi Saha, University of California, Berkeley
An Empire of Touch: Feminine Political Labor & The Fabrication of East Bengal

APRIL 5

Ankhi Mukherjee, University of Oxford
Psychoanalysis of the Oppressed, A Practice of Freedom: Free Clinics in Urban India

APRIL 12

Tariq Omar Ali, University of Illinois
A Local History of Global Capital: Jute and Peasant Life in the Bengal Delta

APRIL 19

Llerena Searle, University of Rochester
Power to the Karigar? Craft in Elite Indian Home Decor

Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics

The Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics approaches some of the big questions of politics, political economy and security, on which the South Asian region offers engaging perspectives. The series is co-sponsored by CCSA, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, and the MIT Center for International Studies.

SEPTEMBER 7

Francesca Jensenius, University of Oslo
Constructing a majority: A micro-level study of voting patterns in Indian elections

OCTOBER 19

Sonalde Desai, University of Maryland
Does Rising Education Lead Changing Gender Norms in India?

NOVEMBER 2

Vijayendra Rao, World Bank
The Contentious Politics of Teacher Transfers in India: A Way Forward

DECEMBER 7

Alyssa Ayres, Council on Foreign Relations
India on the U.S. Foreign Policy Agenda

FEBRUARY 8

Bilal Baloch, Lauder Institute
Crisis and Credibility: The Politics of Ideas in India and Developing Democracies

MARCH 1

Gowri Vijayakumar, Brandeis University
The Mobilizing State: HIV/AIDS and Sexual Identity in India

APRIL 12

Sarah Khan, Yale University
De Facto Suffrage: A Field Experiment to Improve Women's Turnout in Pakistan's General Elections



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

CHAIR

Ashutosh Varshney
Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and the Social Sciences, Brown University

CO - DIRECTORS

Vipin Narang
Associate Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Patrick Heller
Professor of Sociology and International Studies, Brown University

Prerna Singh
Mahatma Gandhi Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Brown University

Emmerich Davies
Assistant Professor of Education, Harvard University



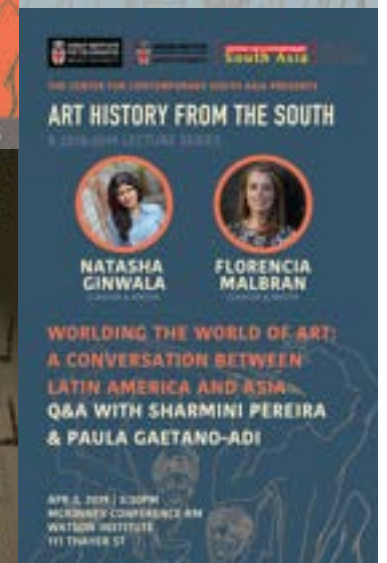
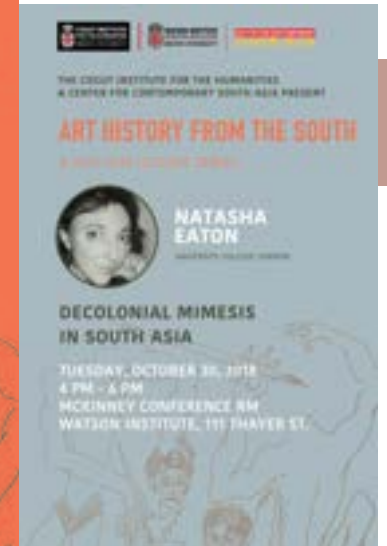
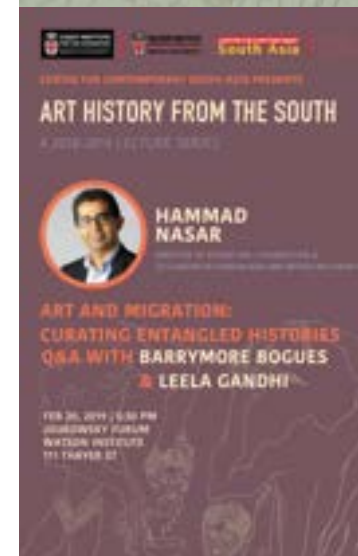
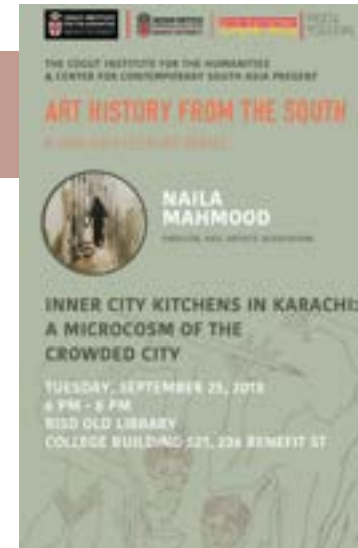
Art History from the South

In 2019 the Center hosted Art History from the South an interdisciplinary exploration lead by Vazira F-Y Zamindar.

It was a pleasure organizing Art History from the South for CCSA as a series that engaged artists, curators, art historians, and historians from the global south to take on the visual turn in history, and the colonial and anticolonial history of institutions and practices of art. As a series it also aligned with a Collaborative Humanities graduate seminar with the same title in the fall with a distinguished visiting professor from India, Tapati Guha-Thakurta, and we together organized an international symposium for Cogut Institute for Humanities entitled How Secular is Art? The Art of Art History in South Asia. The symposium was fantastic, vital, sometimes combative, and utterly engaged, as was a teach-in in the spring, Decolonizing the Museum, on the Sarr-Savoy report on the Restitution of African Heritage, that ran for four hours, with both the *Brown Daily Herald* and *Providence Journal* covering it. These and other events - which included the director of VASL arts collective from Karachi, an art historian associated with the seminal *Third Text*, as well as curators moving across the global south and north - helped built community around shared interests in 'art,' visual culture and their histories as it brought together faculty from different disciplines at Brown and RISD.



Vazira F-Y Zamindar
Associate Professor of History



Background image: Packed Joukowsky forum during Decolonizing the Museum

Book Adda

Adda means a site for collective deliberation in South Asia. This series features panel discussions of important new books written by our colleagues, or those significantly involved with us as intellectual interlocutors.



SEPTEMBER 28

Animal Intimacies

Author:

Radhika Govindrajan, University of Washington

Commentators:

Sarah Besky, Brown University
Brian Horton, Brown University
Alex Nading, Brown University
Aarti Sethi, Brown University



Left to right: Radhika Govindrajan, Sarah Besky, Alex Nading, Aarti Sethi, and Brian Horton



Center for Contemporary South Asia

BOOK ADDA

Radhika Govindrajan
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Commentators:
Sarah Besky
BROWN UNIVERSITY
Brian Horton
BROWN UNIVERSITY
Alex Nading
BROWN UNIVERSITY
Aarti Sethi
BROWN UNIVERSITY

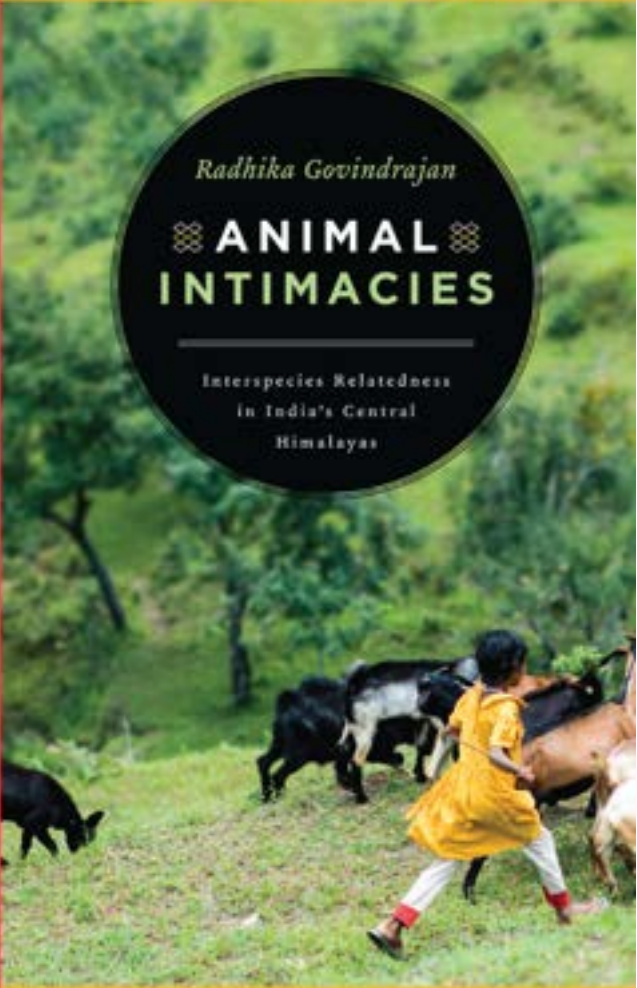
September 28, 2018 | 2PM
Joukowsky Forum
Watson Institute
111 Thayer Street
Providence, RI

  **South Asia**

Radhika Govindrajan

ANIMAL INTIMACIES

*Interspecies Relatedness
in India's Central
Himalayas*



Adda means a site for collective deliberation in South Asia

Films & Additional Programs

The Center continues to host film screenings and co-sponsor events with many departments across campus.

FALL 2017

OCTOBER 11

Sreeparna Chattopadhyay, Public Health Foundation of India
Oils, Oxytocin, and Obstetrics – Situating Changing Birthing Practices and Development Praxis in Rural Northeast India

OCTOBER 15

Isabel Hofmeyr, University of Witwatersrand
Shore-shaped Story: How Coast, Colony, and Custom House Conduct Literature

OCTOBER 26-27

International Symposium — How Secular is Art? On the Art of Art History in South Asia

SPRING 2018

JANUARY 30

Film Screening: We Have Not Come Here to Die

FEBRUARY 5

Somrita Ganguly, Fulbright Fellow
“An XL Sized Apology”: Poetry Reading & Performance

MARCH 7

Nandita Das, Filmmaker and Actress
Manto Screening

MAY 4

Teach-In – Working Across Boundaries: Approaches to Studying the Indian Ocean World through Space and Time



Featured Above: Nandita Das

Graduate Student Programing

GRADUDATE STUDENT INITIATED EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 21

Srimati Basu, UK College of Arts & Sciences
Looking through Marriage: Men's Rights Activists, Feminism and Vulnerability

OCTOBER 3

Queer Shorts and Conversations: Indian Supreme Court Decriminalizes Homosexuality

NOVEMBER 2

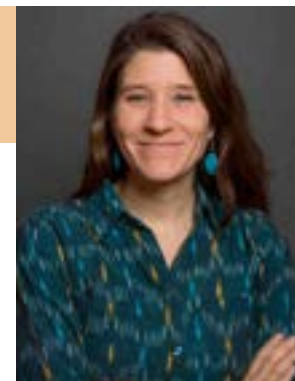
Elora Shehabuddin, Kings College London
Gender and Modernization in Cold War Pakistan: A Transnational History

FEBRUARY 15

Smitha Radhakrishnan, Wellesley College
Making Financial Citizens? Gendered Livelihoods and Commercial Microfinance in Urban India

FEBRUARY 22

Sarah Khan, Yale University
Personal is Political: Gendered Preference Expression in Pakistan



Andrea Wright, Graduate Student Liasion

GRADUDATE STUDENT SEMINAR

NOVEMBER 28

Brian Horton, Anthropology
The Police and the Policed: Queer Crossings in a Bombay Bathroom

FEBRUARY 8

Abilash Medhi, History
Land economy and the production of frontiers in colonial India: Indo-Afghan borderlands and the northeast in comparative perspective



Featured left: Srimati Basu

South Asian Studies & South Asia in the World

South Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary concentration in which students work across the humanities and social sciences, geographical locations and historical periods.

In Fall 2017, CCSA relaunched the South Asian Studies (SAS) concentration, adding a new introductory course, South Asia in the World course collaboration grants and appointing a new Director of Undergraduate Studies. This has reinvigorated student interest in the interdisciplinary study of the region, broadly defined.

Through their coursework, SAS concentrators work across the humanities and social sciences, geographical locations and historical periods. The concentration emphasizes both the diversity of South Asia as a region, as well as the long-term historical connections among people and places in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka.



Sarah Besky, Director of Undergraduate Studies

SOUTH ASIA IN THE WORLD COURSE COLLABORATION GRANTS

Faiz Ahmed, History
Islam in America: A Global History

Finnian Moore-Gerety, Religious Studies
Karma, Rebirth and Liberation: Life and Death in South Asian Religions

David Buchta
Goddesses and Women Gurus in South Asian Religion

Holly Shaffer, History of Art & Architecture
& **Shahzad Bashir**, Religious Studies
Cultures of Translation: Painting and Poetry across India, Iran, and Europe

Jeffrey Moser, History of Art & Architecture
Arts of Asia

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN SOUTH ASIA COURSE

Rajeev Kadambi, Political Science
SAST 0700: Introduction to Modern South Asia

Departmental Undergraduate Group (DUG) & Programing



*Kudrat Wadhwa '19
Not Pictured, Shraddha Khanna*

CCSA's DUG leaders inspired undergraduate driven programming that focused on creating informal learning environments where students could learn about the research and experiences of professors and postdocs, critically analyze popular culture by examining films and share their own research with the Brown community.

NOVEMBER 13

Finnian Moore-Gerety, Religious Studies
Meet the Professor

DECEMBER 13

CCSA Undergraduate Study Break

FEBRUARY 8

Info Session: South Asian Studies Concentration & CCSA Fellowship

FEBRUARY 14

Zainab Ramahi, UC Berkeley
From Kashmir to Palestine: A Comparative Analysis of Two Occupations

APRIL 18

CCSA Undergraduate Paper Prize Presentations

Visiting Faculty & Fellows



Finnian Moore-Gerety

In the fall of 2018, Finnian Moore-Gerety joined CCSA as a visiting assistant professor for a three year term. Professor Moore-Gerety works on texts, rituals, and the senses in South Asian religions, with a focus on Hindu traditions of India. He is especially interested in Sanskrit mantras: how they are performed, textualized, and passed on; how they are embodied and sensed; how they are reflected upon and interpreted; how they are transformed in the digital age; and how they influence identity, community, and heritage within religious traditions. He will teach classes in South Asian Studies, Contemplative Studies and Religious Studies.



Rana Dasgupta

Rana Dasgupta is an award-winning novelist born in the UK in 1971 and grew up in Cambridge. As an adult he lived in France, Malaysia and the US before moving to Delhi in 2000.

For three years, in collaboration with the Dean of Faculty, CCSA has teamed up with the Department of Modern Culture and Media (MCM) to offer new courses with a South Asian focus, taught or co-taught by Rana Dasgupta. In 2018, Dasgupta taught two courses, “Does Utopia Still Exist? Media, politics and the hope of something else,” in spring and, “In Order to Write About the Twenty-First-Century City, We First Have to Imagine it,” in fall.

Ramesh Ramanathan

Ramesh Ramanathan is a social entrepreneur, and works on urban issues in India. He is co-founder of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, a non-profit focused on transforming quality of life in Urban India. He is also Chairman of Janalakshmi Social Services, a not-for-profit social business holding company that has promoted enterprises in urban financial inclusion and urban affordable housing.

Ramesh works closely with government on urban issues in a pro-bono capacity. His current positions include being the National Technical Advisor, Government of India for the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, the country's flagship urban mission. Prior to his social initiatives, Ramesh held leadership positions with Citibank in New York and London, in the bank's capital markets business. Ramesh has an MS in Physics from BITS Pilani, an MBA from Yale University and a CFA from AIMR. In 2007, he was chosen as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



Swati Ramanathan

Swati Ramanathan is co-founder of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy — a thinker-practitioner “do-tank”— committed to transforming India's cities and citizenship. Janaagraha takes a systems approach to addressing urban challenges, working both with citizens at the grassroots, as well as with all three federal tiers of government. Ms. Ramanathan leads Janaagraha's innovations in technology for greater government accountability and citizen participation. She has received international recognition for ipaidabribe.com on retail corruption; and ichangemycity.com on hyper local citizen participation, most recently winning Google's Global Impact Challenge, 2013.

Ms Ramanathan is also Chairperson of Jana Urban Space Foundation, committed to improving urban planning and urban design in India's cities. She was honored by the Government of Rajasthan with the Rajyotsava Puraskar — Rajasthan's highest civilian award — for her work on the Jaipur 2025 Master plan. She has prepared the National Urban Spatial Planning and Development (NUSPD) 2013 Guidelines, for planning India's cities, at the behest of the Ministry of Urban Development, and the Planning Commission, Government of India.



Research Partnerships



JANAAGRAHA PARTNERSHIP WITH ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY & PATRICK HELLER

Professors Patrick Heller and Ashutosh Varshney received a grant of \$200,000 from the Ford Foundation for their ongoing project on Citizenship and Urban Governance in India. The grant allowed them to do research in several Indian cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Kochi. The research will be extended later to Northern and Eastern cities as well. In India, the project is based at Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy, Bangalore. Professor Siddharth Swaminathan (Azim Premji University), an annual visitor to CCSA and Watson Institute, is the third academician associated with the project, in addition to Heller and Varshney.

The project has two aims: (i) construction of various measures of citizenship, including a citizenship index - a measurable statistical index assessing the quality of citizenship across individuals within a city; and (ii) examination of the determinants of basic service delivery in urban centers.



AIIMS PARTNERSHIP WITH BHRIGUPATI SINGH

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Bhri Gupta Singh, is conducting a multi-year study with faculty at the All India Institute of Medical Studies (AIIMS), New Delhi. Professor Singh spent his 2015-2016 sabbatical year conducting ethnographic research on mental health and illness, as a Visiting Faculty member at the Department of Psychiatry at AIIMS. While Singh's proposal was framed around the cultural life of diagnostic categories, such as depression and anxiety, the actual research became wider in focus.

Patient interviews during ward rounds at AIIMS led Singh to a community clinic in the lower-income neighborhood of Trilokpuri (in East Delhi), described by news media as a "riot laboratory" of contemporary India. Forms of subjectivity, tensions and everyday life in this neighborhood became a major focus of Singh's research. In Trilokpuri Singh also continued his longstanding interests in spiritual healing, in particular working with a popular healer in the neighborhood known as "Sufiji," who took him on a journey to a Sufi Muslim shrine in Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, one of the leading sites for the treatment of mental/spirit afflictions in north India. Singh made numerous visits to Badaun with Sufiji, including one visit where they took along a team of psychiatrists from AIIMS to study the kinds of clinical diagnoses one might find among treatment-seekers in a shrine such as Badaun.

Gradually, Singh realized that the ethnographic journey between AIIMS, Trilokpuri, and Badaun was not random. Rather, in what is globally beginning to be called the "post-asylum era," this journey between hospital, home, and shrine is quite common and may even be the norm for mental health trajectories in India. To further examine concepts of the normal and pathological in popular culture, Singh also teamed up with a filmmaker to create an archive of film and media material related to mental health (available at indiancine.ma). Singh is now at work on his next book, tentatively titled Lunar Enlightenment: Essays on Life-Force.

Singh's research was funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the American Institute for Indian Studies, CCSA and the Watson Institute.

CCSA Summer Fellows

Projects selected represent a variety of research topics related to social, political, cultural and economic change in South Asia.

In 2018-2019 the Center awarded funds for research projects and summer internships to four undergraduates students and six graduate students. In the fall, student fellows from the previous year presented their work in two workshops. Faculty recipients presented in the spring.

RETURNING FELLOW PRESENTATIONS:

SEPTEMBER 14
Returning Graduate Fellow Presentations

SEPTEMBER 27
Returning Undergraduate Fellow Presentations

FEBRUARY 26
Nasifa Nur, Alpert Medical School & Kent Hospital
Analysis of Diphtheria Outbreak in Displaced Rohingya from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

MARCH 14
Aarti Sethi, Postdoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute
Mahadev's Gift: Men, Bullocks and the Community of Cultivation in Central India



GRADUATE FELLOWS



Danielle Falzon, Sociology
The Transnational Making of Climate Change Adaptation in Bangladesh



Esha Sraboni, Sociology
Making Meaning of Gendered Violence and the Law: Global Discourses and Local Realities in Bangladesh



Ieva Zumbyte, Sociology
Varieties of Public Childcare in Urban India



Imshan Dhrolia, Medicine
Motherhood in Limbo...Rohingya Mothers in Cox Bazaar Bangladesh



Nomaan Hasan, Anthropology
The Eventfulness and the Ordinarity of Violence in Uttar Pradesh, India



Sanne Verschuren, Political Science
Imagining the Unimaginable: War, Weapons and Procurement Politics

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



Alex Phillips '21
NIMHANS Internship on the Epidemiology of Substance Abuse



Kanha Prasad '21
Internship at The Wire



Huma Ramazan Ali '21
AIIS Persian Language Training



Liam Greenwell '20
Performance of Resistance: Art in Northeast India

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