



South Asian Studies Conference
April 27-29, 2007

Organized by ASPAC and the South Asian Studies Alliance
Sponsored/Hosted by Loyola Marymount University

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Cover art "Elephants"
By Mohammad Yasin, India, 1986
East-West Center Permanent Collection



Welcome!

Welcome to Los Angeles and Loyola Marymount University. For the past forty years Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC), the Pacific Coast affiliate of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), has organized an annual conference devoted to networking, collegiality and scholarship about Asia. Meanwhile, South Asia scholarship as increasingly turned away from AAS.

Last year the ASPAC board approved an “Initiating Committee” to organize a South Asian Studies Conference and committed to the project for three years. Professor Christopher Key Chapple arranged for Loyola Marymount University to sponsor the event. Numerous institutions and individuals also stepped forward to help with time and resources. Special thanks are owed to:

- Dinesh and Kalpana Patel Foundation
- Mr. Navin Doshi
- Foundation for Indic Philosophy and Culture
- Southern California Consortium for International Studies
- Religious Studies Department, California State University, Northridge
- Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon
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- Magazine Clothing Co. (110 E. 9th St., Ste B-870, Los Angeles, CA 90079)
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for their generous financial support.

Also deserving recognition for their tireless support are my colleagues on the organizing committee:

- Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont-McKenna College
- Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
- Paul Hanson, California Lutheran College
- Dean McHenry, Claremont Graduate University
- Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Finally, the John Mortimer novel *Summer's Lease*, set in Tuscony, has an essential character nicknamed “Mr. Fixit” for his uncanny ability to solve any problem British tourists might encounter summering in their Italian villas. The receptionist at LMU Extension, Peggy Bobreer, a real-life Ms. Fixit. Without her help we would all be lost.

Network. Relax. Share. Enjoy the conference.

William G. Vanderbok
ASPAC President
Conference Chairperson

LMU Welcome

Panel Sessions

Throughout the conference University Hall 1859 may be used as a “Quiet Room” for sitting, reflecting, resting.

Friday Morning, April 27, 2007

Session 1 (Plenary): 8:00-9:30 Friday

Video Conference on *South Asia Engaged*

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

At LMU

Dr. William Vanderbok, ASPAC President, moderator

Dr. Stanley Wolpert, University of California, Los Angeles

Mr. Gunjan Bagla, Amritt Ventures

Via video conference

Ambassador B.S. Prakash, Consul General of India, from San Francisco

Mr. Larry Schwartz, Consular for Cultural Affairs, US Embassy, New Delhi, from India

British Association for South Asian Studies, from London

9:30-10:00 Friday

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Coffee and Registration

Session 2: 10:00-12:00 Friday

Panel 2A: God, Goddess and Puja

(sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Northridge)

University Hall 1775

An Embodiment of the Goddess

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont McKenna College.

Online Puja: God Posters on the WWW

Natalie R. Marsh, Miami University Art Museum.

The Six Pointed Hexagram

N.S. Valluvan, Independent Scholar.

The Role of Hindu Goddesses in the Rebirth of Goddess Worship in the West

Tim Ward. Independent Scholar.

Moderator/Discussant

Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Panel 2B: Metropole's Impact on Colonial India.

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Liberal Toleration as the Herald of Religious Fanaticism in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Jakob De Roover, Ghent University

Photography and the representation of famine in India, 1876-1945
James R. Ryan, University of Leicester.

Mobility, Nobility, and the Politics of European Architecture in Late 19th Century Hyderabad
Alison Mackenzie Shah, University of Colorado at Denver.

Caste and the Legal Code in Colonial India: 1772-1883
Dana Lightstone, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Moderator/Discussant
Alka Patel, Independent Scholar

Friday Afternoon, April 27, 2007

12:00-1:30

Hosted Lunch

University Hall 1762 A&B, 1775 (overflow, if needed)

Remarks

Peter J. Kovach, Diplomat in Residence, University of California at Los Angeles

Session 3: 1:30-3:00 Friday

Panel 3A: Politics of Place

University Hall 1762 A&B

Discourses of Power and Resistance: The case of Delhi Water Reform Project
Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University

Discourses of Power and Resistance: The case of Delhi Water Reform Project
Community Participation and NGOs: Water Management in Bangladesh
Kumiki Shuto, University of Bristol, UK

Breeding Prosperity: Politics of Fertility and Economic Development in India's States
Siddharth Swaminathan, La Sierra University

Moderator/Discussant
Dean McHenry, Claremont Graduate University

Panel 3B: Art, Authority and Ideology in India.

University Hall 1775

Mauryan Art, Authority and Ideology: The Royal Artisans (Raja Kumbhakaras) of the Mauryan Kings

Katherine Anne Harper, Loyola Marymount University

Formulation of Royal Space through Representation and Ideology in Pre- colonial India

Nalini Rao, Soka University of America.

Art and Power in the Colonial/National Interchange

Debashish Banerji, Pasadena City College.

Moderator/Discussant

Robert Brown, University of California Los Angeles

Panel 3C: Globalism and Ideas in Asian Political Economy.

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Globalism and Ideas in Asian Political Economy

Ravi Roy, Claremont Graduate University.

Neo-Liberals in India

Arthur Denzau, Claremont Graduate University.

Moderator/Discussant

Surupa Gupta, Whittier College

3:00-3:30

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Coffee Break

Session 4: 3:30-5:00 Friday

Panel 4A: Bollywood as a Lens on India

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Lucknow Ki Sar-Zameen (Lucknow from Head to Toe): Naming ‘the Muslim’ Through Citation in Bollywood’s Lucknow Muslim Social Films

Usamah Ahmad, Simon Fraser University, Canada

India Shining? A Reading from Bollywood

Meenu Gaur, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Moderator/Discussant

Ken Silverman, President, Interactive Teamworks

Panel 4B: Philosophy of the Yogavasishta.

University Hall 1775

Dreams, Fictions and the Quest for Morality

Menaha Ganesathasan, University of Hawaii, Hilo

The Concept of Abhasa in Yogavasishta

Sthaneshwar Timalinha, San Diego State University

The Philosophy of Nature in the Yogavasishta

Christopher Key Chapple Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

Moderator/Discussant

Katherine Anne Harper, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Panel 4C: Focus on Sri Lanka.

University Hall 1762 A&B

Where Have All The Vedda (Vanniyaletto) Gone? Sri Lanka Cultural Heritage Revisited

David Blundell, University of California, Los Angeles

Problems and Prospects for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, The Case of Sri Lanka

S.W.S.B. Dasanayaka, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Pentagon to Hexagon: Recalling Cultural Capital

Chandima Daskon, University of Otago, New Zealand

Moderator/Discussant

Paul Hanson, California Lutheran University

Saturday Morning, April 28, 2007

See page 13 for the schedule of documentaries. Screening will take place all day long, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, in University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Session 5: 8:30-10:00

Panel 5A: Politics, Identity and Party

University Hall 1218

Do Elections Foster Separatism? The Case of Telangana

Dean E. McHenry, Jr., Claremont Graduate University

Escaping India: An Explanation of Pakistan's Middle East Orientation

Aparna Pande, Boston University.

War and Conflict in South Asia: Problems and Prospects

Raj Kishore Singh, University of Agra.

Beggars of Lahore

Sheba Saeed, Birmingham University, UK.

Reappraisal of the Arthashastra of Kautilya

Night Queen Pankaj, Banaras Hindu University.

Moderator/Discussant

Panel 5B: Religious Narratives

University Hall 1222

Anthropology of Economy in the Sikh Concept of kirat karn

Zbigniew Igielski, Skarbek Graduate School of Business Economics, Warsaw.

From Royal Palaces to Tribal Jungles (The long journey of the Dhola-Maru narrative)

Aleksandra Szyszko, Warsaw University, Poland

Historical and Pictorial Evidence for Jain Monks at the Mughal Court

Rochelle Kessler, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena

Affirmation of the Body, Affirmation of the Soul: Jainism Engaged and the Ensuing Transformations

Andrea R. Jain, Rice University

Moderator/Discussant

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont McKenna College

10:00-10:30

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee Break

Session 6: 10:30-12:00

Panel 6A: Gender and South Asia

University Hall 1218

Gender and Development in India: Are Theory and Practice Out of Synch?
Bipasha Baruah, California State University, Long Beach.

Portuguese Periodicals from India (1821-1961): Images of Women in "Recreio de Damas"
Liladhar R. Pendse, University of California, Los Angeles

Moderator/Discussant
Karen Leonard, University of California, Irvine

Panel 6B: *Press and Empire: The British and India 1857-1947*

University Hall 1222

Indians Writing in the Metropole's Victorian Press
Julie F. Codell, Arizona State University

An Imperial Information Community? The Empire Press Union, Imperial Press Conferences and India
Chandrika Kaul, University of St Andrews, Scotland

The Literary and Socio-economic Impacts of the Calcutta School-Book Society in 19th Century Bengal
Shahla Young, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Russian Revolution and Its Early Impact on India
Abha Trivedi, Lucknow University

Moderator/Discussant
Stanley Wolpert, University of California, Los Angeles

Saturday Afternoon, April 28, 2007

12:00-1:30

Free Time

Session 7: 1:30-3:00

Panel 7A: Nationalism and Imperialism in the Writings of Damodar SarDesai.

University Hall 1222

The Guru and the Disciple: What Damodar SarDesai Prepared Me to Learn

Oliver B. Pollak, University of Nebraska

A. Madhaviah and Modern Tamil Humanism

Sita Anantha Raman, Santa Clara University

Modernism in India: From Le Corbusier to Louis Kahn and Beyond

Ravi Kalia, The City College of New York

Nehru's Gambit: Damodar SarDesai on Indian Foreign Policy

Roger D. Long, Eastern Michigan University

Moderator

Arnold P. Kaminsky, California State University, Long Beach

Discussant

Brenda Joseph Ness, Santa Monica College

Panel 7B: Evolution in Theology (Because of travel uncertainties this panel may be cancelled and participants redistributed to other panels)

University Hall 1218

Cultural and Religious Exchange between Asia and Europe before Christianity

Wolfgang Keim, Independent Scholar, Germany

Among the Buddhists: Intra-School Debate in Tibetan and Indian Buddhist Traditions

Ritual or No-Ritual: Mimamsakas and the Buddhists in Classical India

Kasinath Nyaupane, Mahendra University, Kathmandu

One or Many: Dialogue between Advaitins and Dvaitins with Regard to the Nature of Reality in Classical India

Jeffrey Ruff, Marshall University.

Moderator/Discussant

Phyllis Herman, California State University Northridge

Panel 7C: Rethinking Religion in India

University Hall 1226

Presenter

Jakob De Roover, Ghent University. A discussion of the Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap, Ghent University, Belgium and the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures, Kuvempu University, India, five-year conference cluster on "Rethinking Religion in India."

3:00-3:30

University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee Break

Session 8: 3:30-5:00

Panel 8A: The South Asian Diaspora.

University Hall 1218

Is There a Second Diasporic Generation? India's Hyderabadis Abroad

Karen Leonard, University of California Irvine

Brahman and Hindu Communities in Bangkok: A Comparative Study of Indian Settlements in Thai History

Dulyapak Preecharushh, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

On Redefining 'Culture' in the Context of Transnational Hinduism: A Case Study of the Changes and Continuities in the Indian Culture at the Malibu Hindu Temple at Los Angeles, USA

Mugdha Yeolekar, Arizona State University.

Moderator/Discussant

Bidyut Mohanty, University of California, Santa Barbara

Panel 8B: Contemporary Violence.

University Hall 1222

Regional Terrorism: The Relationship between Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) and Jemaah Islamiah (JI) and the Implication for Regional Security

Mohd Mizan Aslam and Jim Veitch, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

The Spirit of Terrorism

Geoffrey Cook, Editor, Pakistan Weekly (Berkeley, CA).

Appropriation and Creation: Maoism in India and Nepal

Rose Sayre, City University of New York, City College

Networking Through Religion: The Case of Malerkotla

Karenjot Bhangoo, George Mason University

Moderator/Discussant

William Vanderbok, ASPAC President

Affiliate Group Meeting: **East-West Center Association, Southern California**

University Hall 1226

5:30-6:30

Reception

University Hall 1859

Hosted by the Southern California Chapter of the East-West Center Association
Musical performance by Pandit Radheya Prasad

6:30-8:30**Conference Banquet**

(separate ticket purchase required)

University Hall 1772 A&B

Engaging South Asia: Reminiscences and Reflections.

Pratapaditya Pratapaditya Pal, keynote speaker

Sunday Morning, April 29, 2007**Session 9: 8:30-10:00****Panel 9A: The Limits of Indo-American Cooperation.**

University Hall, 1222

US-India Cooperation: Limits and Constraints

Ram Roy, California State University Northridge

Domestic Political Constraints in India

Parks Riley, California Polytechnic State University Pomona

Panel 9B: Round Table Discussion: Making Documentaries in South Asia**Discussants**

Michael Arlen, *Arising Light*

Benjamin Kalia, *Arising Light*

Sheba Saeed, *Beggars of Lahore*

Debra Kaufman, *A School of Their Own*

Moderator/Facilitator

Aneetha Ranjan, Independent film and documentary producer

10:15

Area tours: assemble by the flagpole at the main entrance to University Hall for transportation

Documentaries

Saturday, April 27, 2007

Ahmanson Auditorium: Each documentary will be followed by approximately 20 minutes of Q&A, normally with the producer of the film.

8:30 **The Miseducation of Pakistan.** Farooq Hamid, Whittier College, discussant
A nation's future hangs in the balance when it cannot educate its youth. Using a journalistic approach, *The Miseducation of Pakistan* explores the country's appalling public education system. Schools with no teachers, schools overflowing with garbage, schools under the open sky, without drinking water or electricity; this is what most students of public schools in Pakistan can look forward to. Little wonder that a vast majority of primary school graduates can't even be considered literate by international standards.

All the while, a corrupt hierarchy of officials and school staff line their pockets with funds meant for educating the nation's children and powerful feudals deny the children of their peasants the right to even a basic education, while sending their own offspring to the best schools in the country and abroad. And no one is held accountable. The film also brings attention to the rise of madrassas or faith-based schooling. Using in-depth interviews and shocking footage, the filmmakers reveal a country where quality education is reserved only for a chosen few, while millions of children are denied the chance of a future.

9:30 **A School of Their Own.** Directed by Debra Kaufman

In remote Nepal, the Riverside School is a unique educational environment that educates low-caste and tribal children, half of whom are girls. There, children flourish in an environment free of the caste system, gender prejudice, and violence found in government schools - and in their society at large.

Follow the school's struggle to stay afloat during the bloody ten-year civil war in which children are caught in the middle. The police accuse them of being Maoist rebels while the rebels themselves forcibly draft children over twelve years old into their army. Though Nepal is currently enjoying a tenuous peace, the future is uncertain. Through in-depth interviews and stunning footage, *A School of Their Own* shows how children, even in the most extreme circumstances, can lead a nation to a better future.

10:55 **Arising Light.** Produced by David Blundell. University of Cal., Los Angeles
This presentation introduces a documentary historical feature film project on Dr B. R. Ambedkar commemorating the 50th anniversary of his embracing Buddhism in Nagpur, India. This ushered in a new path for social welfare in India. On December 6th 1956 he passed away in New Delhi. Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956) rose from the dalit "undercaste" community (untouchables) in India. He educated himself in India and the West and became a national leader in India's struggle for equality and justice. Dr Ambedkar framed the Indian constitution making it a secular state and helped provide national emblems of state, in particular the Asoka lions, and the dharma wheel on the flag. The film traces Ambedkar's life and his struggle for constitutional civil rights.

11:45 Celestial Music of Pandit Lalmani Misra Rags: Sindura, Tilang, and Bhupali. Laxmi G. Tewari, Sonoma State University
DVD has been released by Laxmi G. Tewari and the Music Department of Sonoma State University. To the best of my knowledge, it is the only visual media available on the playing of Vichitra Vina. The late Dr. Misra is accompanied on Tabla by Pandit Chote Lal Mishra, a disciple of the late Pandit Anokhe Lal Mishra of Varanasi. Tambura is played by Mrs. Carolyn Tewari.

1:30 Awakening.

Awakening documents the social and economic empowerment of women in Afghanistan and India whose roles have traditionally been restricted by their cultures. Awakened to new possibilities through education and access to micro-loans these women are redefining their roles in society. In Bihar, India's poorest state, Sister Mary Lobo organizes village women into groups where they learn to save small sums and invest their capital as a group. In Afghanistan, the nation's first woman-led micro-finance institution believes the nation's long-term success is dependent on women's economic freedom.

2:50 In The Shadow of the Towers: Tourism and Modernity in Western Sichuan. Produced by Jay Hubert. Beijing Film Academy.

Towers of an unknown origin dot a remote region of Tibet, making it become a tourist destination in recent years. In response, a new hospitality industry is springing up and altering the lives of those living in the area as they attempt to provide "authentic" Tibetan experiences in line with the expectations of tourists. Local government is directing this change by subsidizing family enterprises most likely to meet tourist expectations, thereby raising tensions in a region undergoing rapid social and economic change.

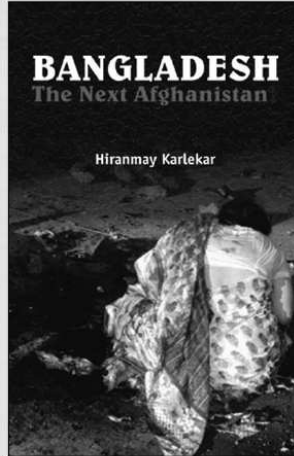
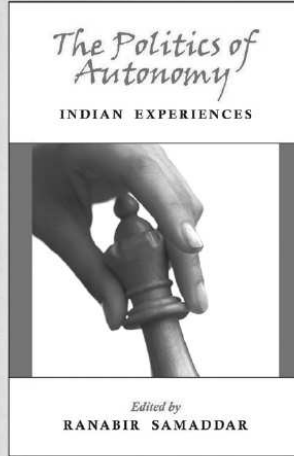
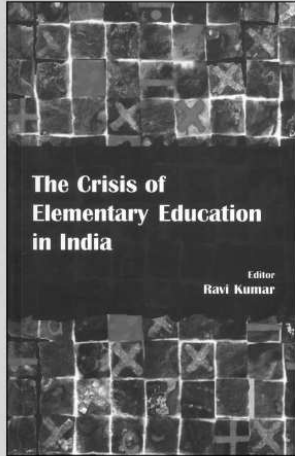
3:50 Beggars of Lahore. Produced by Sheba Saeed. Birmingham University.
This audio-visual dissertation investigates why there are so many beggars in Lahore, the second largest city of Pakistan. The begging phenomena is a complex problem. The documentary provides a balance of images with a traditional documentary format of talking heads which is required to conduct an examination of what could be done to provide a solution to the begging problem.

Participant Index

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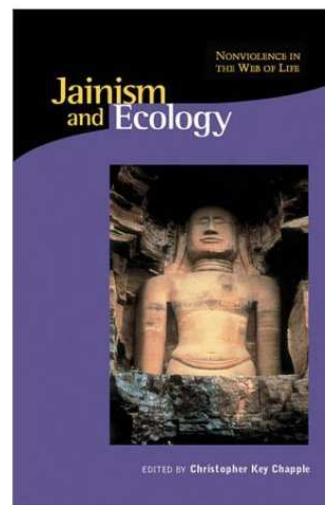
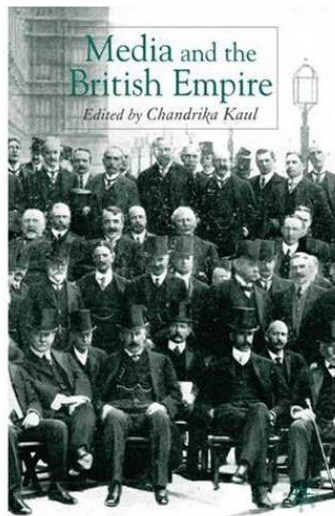
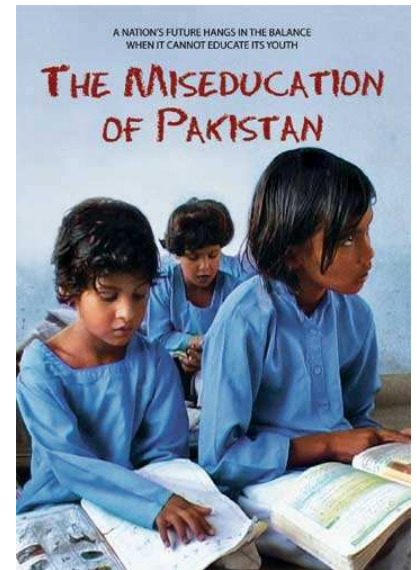
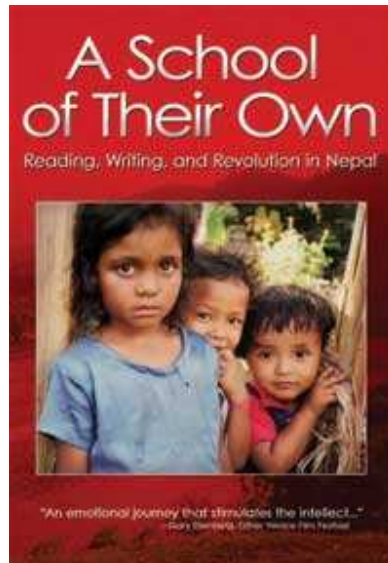
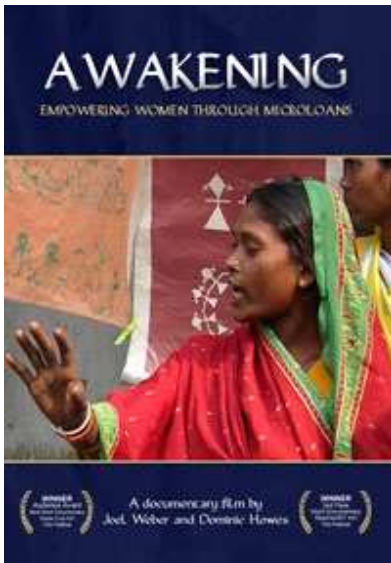
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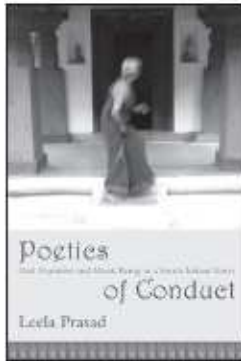
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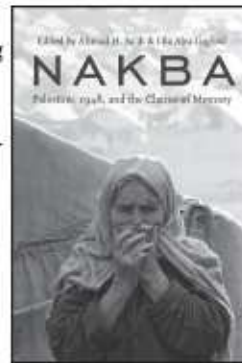
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